

# First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

**September 2015**

## Pastor Drew's Views

### *The Great Ice Cold Water Giveaway*

We are a missional church. What does that mean? It simply means that Jesus said "Go!" so we "Go!" It's really that simple. It's the Great Commission (Matthew 28). Jesus and His disciples modeled this for us in the early church. It's how the gospel spread and the church grew. Believe it or not, the model is the same today. It is because of that commitment that you are seeing more opportunities to serve in our community from Sports Camp, Rushton's Hope, Habitat for Humanity and more.

Several of us tried an experiment on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. I called it "*The Great Ice Cold Water Giveaway*". It's based on Jesus saying that when we give anyone thirsty a drink, we are really giving it to Him (Matthew 25). Again, it's that simple. So, that's exactly, and very simply, what we did. We spent most of our time at Food Depot. After asking the store if it was okay, we just talked to people, gave them a cold drink on a very hot day, and shared why we were there in the first place. The reactions were all positive. The gospel was shared. One person even shared a very personal hardship she was facing. That's what it's all about! I just wanted you to know we introduced a little of who we are to the community, but most of all we introduced Jesus. I hope you'll join us next time.

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

### **Celebrate with us on Sunday, 9/27!**

It's time to celebrate our move to ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) and the completion of the pledge campaign to retire the debt. God has blessed us so much.

Let's celebrate what He has done!

9:30 a.m. ECO 101 class with Anna Kent  
11 a.m. Anna Kent in worship. Anna is the Director of Mission Affinity Groups for ECO.  
12:15 p.m. Celebration Luncheon and Program  
Catered luncheon in the Activities Center.  
No charge. Invitations are going out soon.  
Please RSVP by **September 20th.**



***Happy Labor Day on September 7<sup>th</sup>***

## *Congregational Care*

1. Monthly Potluck schedule. All meals will be on a Wednesday evening, eat at 6pm in the Activities building. Please have food in place by 5:45pm if possible. Ice tea and water will be available for all the meals.

**Sept. 9th, Oct. 7th, Nov. 11th, and Dec. 9th** are the dates for the monthly pot-luck dinners

Sept. 9th the CC Team will provide the chicken, grilled and fried will be available, reservations will be required so the correct amount of chicken will be available. Please bring side dishes, salad, or a dessert that go with chicken. Eddie Huffman will be teaching us line dances after dinner. Even if you don't want to (or can't) dance, join us and cheer on the dancers!

2. A workshop for the Greeting Card Ministry will be held on Monday September 14th, at 10am at the Church. Anyone interested in being part of this ministry is invited to attend. This is a growing ministry and a great opportunity to serve the congregation, but be able to do it on your schedule.

3. Attention all you guy golfers, another breakfast, golf out is being planned for this fall. More information to follow in the October newsletter.

4. Congregational Care Team is inviting anyone interested in serving our great congregation to join the team. Contact Janice Aiken at 770-227-6096 or Roy Villers at 770-617-4541.

Blessing to all,  
Your Congregational Care Team

### **Wednesday Night Potluck Kickoff**

The first Wednesday night potluck will be September 9<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center. It will start at 6 p.m. Mark your calendars and join us as Eddie Huffman teaches us line dancing!

### **Help Wanted!**

It's time for a new in-house pictorial directory. This will not be that directory experience you remember!

We are looking for someone to head up this project. If interested, contact the church office.

## *Facilities*

Many, many thanks to Emelie Tingle for the lovely arrangements in the narthex. She is so kind to share her love of nature and her gift for arranging!

Lou Baldwin

## *Youth*

Thank you for another great football meal this year!! The players and coaches really enjoyed the meal, and I think it helped fuel them to victory. It is always a great joy to serve the community alongside other members of this church. I am looking forward to many more opportunities to show the students of this community that First Pres loves them. Blessings-Seth Brown

# Missions & Outreach

## Quotes from our mission partners:

“Happy 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rushton’s Hope! Can you believe it? We were 8 years old on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Donations continue to flood us abundantly, but here’s an interesting twist: our future in the warehouse is uncertain. It will take \$300,000 to acquire the building and restore it to code. That’s just pocket change right? Actually, it’s less than that in God’s pocket!” – Ron Cook of Rushton’s Hope in Griffin

“One of the great joys of the past few years in Turkey is seeing God at work in the lives of individual Turkish believers—calling them first to Himself, then calling them to be workers in the harvest field in their own country! Seeing these events take place is an incredible answer to prayer. We presently have close to 40 nationals on full-time staff (in our ministry overall) but we are hoping and praying for many more.” – Ralph and Elaine Elliott of Campus Crusade for Christ International

### Missions and Outreach Announcements FPC’s Missional Handbook

Take a look at our new Missional Handbook. Jesus said (Matt 28: 18-19. NLT) “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” This is the Great Commission; He wants us to serve. He said in Luke 22:27 (NLT) “...For I am among you as one who serves.” He served, why can’t we? What’s stopping us from getting out of our comfort zones--Is it fear? Depend on the Holy Spirit to help you overcome fear.

Some people don’t serve at missions because they don’t know what is expected of them once they get there. FPC supports ten local missions in Griffin. They need our help. The Missional Handbook details in the first pages what types of duties and activities each mission expects of a volunteer – this takes away the fear of not knowing. Identify a couple missions that interest you and then read the detail in the pages that follow. We also highlight an Internet ministry (page 11) that you can do from the comfort of your home. We also have several working teams within the church that need your help (page 12).

The Great Commission commands us to GO -- not just sit in the pews on Sundays. Jesus wants us to GO tell the Gospel story – in other words, to be obedient to His command. Please help provide services to the needy in our community this week!

For those without Internet service, ask Millie to provide you a hard copy or take one from the Narthex if not marked “Narthex Copy.” Also, the handbook may be found on the FPC’s website at: [www.fpcgriffin.org](http://www.fpcgriffin.org)

**Note: The Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> Faith and Family Parade and Celebration listed in the Handbook has been cancelled by the organizers**

### Join the Missions and Outreach Team

Want to contribute your time and talents to FPC’s Missions and Outreach Team? We have vacancies and need you! Speak to any member of the team, they are: Bill Day, Pastor Elling, Bill Farr, Bob Gordon, Andy Musser and Marion Musser.

### New Address

Vircher & Daphne Floyd  
Apt. 201  
2000 East West Connector  
Austell, GA 30106

# Christian Education

The Sunday school kick off was great! Thanks to all who cooked, set up, and cleaned. And thanks to all of you who attended. It is so good to fellowship together over a meal. Especially when that meal is pancakes!

Perhaps the highlight of the morning was watching the children cross the bridge to their next grade level. It is so encouraging to see these young disciples grow in Christ.

Many of you signed up for Sunday school classes, so we are seeing signs of growth there too. The more of us who attend Sunday school, the more we grow as the body of Christ. If you aren't there, you are missed.

If you haven't made a commitment to a Sunday school class yet, it's not too late. We start with coffee at 9:45. Please join us.

### Three Adult Sunday morning classes started August 16<sup>th</sup>

1. **New class!** Wendi Kirby and Herb Ziegler will teach *Anxious For Nothing* by John MacArthur. Stress has become a part of daily life, but John MacArthur believes that peace is not only possible, it’s also a divine mandate. The class meets in the Parlor.
2. **The Bledsoe Class** will be coordinated by Russell Johnson. The study will be *King’s Cross* by Tim Keller. King’s Cross is Keller’s revelatory look at the life of Christ as told in the Gospel of Mark. In it, Keller shows how the story of Jesus is at once cosmic, historical, and personal, calling each of us to look anew at our relationship with God. This class meets in the Bledsoe Room.
3. **The Covenant Class** will be coordinated by Eddie Huffman and Robin Reahard. The class meets in the Traylor Room.

The Explorer Class meets in the Library at 10:00 am

**Join us for coffee fellowship each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.  
Classes begin at 10 a.m.**

### Church-wide Memory Verse for September

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

# Ladies’ Bible Study

Griffin Bible Study (a community Bible Study for women) meets on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. The study this year is the book of ACTS. Please come join us if you can. If mornings do not work for you we now have a Tuesday night group that meets at the home of Meredith Thacker (915 Springer Drive) at 7 p.m. If you have any questions please call Ina Jones 770-228-9718.

# Important Dates

## September Birthdays

3 - Lanier Dunn  
 4 - Wyatt Hamby  
 6 - Carolyn deBruin  
 9 - Denny Jones  
 9 - Helen Wiley  
 13 - Ginny Singley  
 13 - Thomas Skinner  
 19 - Dorothy Craig  
 23 - John Allison  
 25 - Dorothy Graham  
 28 - Judy Hamilton  
 28 - George Hollender  
 30 - Kent Bugg

## September Anniversaries

9/7/1962 - Wayne & Angela Griggs  
 9/8/2001 - John & Bryan Aldridge  
 9/9/1961 - Doug & Pat Brown  
 9/10/2011 - Francois & Carolyn deBruin  
 9/14/1952 - Richard & Jane Gaston  
 9/18/1970 - Chip & Robin Reahard  
 9/30/1988 - Wayman & Freddie Hutson

**We will celebrate Communion  
 on Sunday, September 6.**

## September Session Meeting

**Prayer Meeting September 13th at 9:00 am.  
 Everyone is invited to attend.**

The church office will be closed Monday,  
 September 6, in observance of Labor Day.

## Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting on  
 September 13<sup>th</sup> after worship. The purpose of the  
 meeting is to elect our Nominating Committee  
 for this year.

**Mark your calendars! Kirkin' of the Tartans Sunday is October 25<sup>th</sup>.**

# Worship Ministry

## Funeral Pall

A "pall" is a covering for something, and a funeral pall is a covering for a casket. They came into common use during the Middle Ages and were originally made of bright colors. Later palls were made of black cloth, but today, a pall is usually white. In its truest definition, a flag draped on the casket of someone who was in the military is a form of a pall.

The white is to symbolize joyful triumph over death brought about by the Resurrection. It is usually decorated with a cross signifying the sovereignty of Christ over sin and death on the cross.

The term "pall bearer" comes from this also to signify those who are carrying the casket.

First Presbyterian Church owns a pall that is available to anyone who wishes to use it for a funeral of members of this congregation. It is off-white with burgundy braid around the edges and a cross outlined in gold and burgundy down the center.

The pall was a gift to the church from Liz Ann Lawrence in loving memory of her parents, Adm. & Mrs. Robert Ellis.

# Service Opportunities in September

## Children's Message

9/6 - Sid Esary  
 9/13 - Wendi Kirby  
 9/20 - Drew Elling  
 9/27 - Ashley Moran

## Elder in Charge

Bob Gordon

## Ushers

Diane Gordon, Capt.  
 Ruth Allison  
 Judy Hamilton  
 Joe Ingram  
 Bill Baldwin, alternate

## Communion Servers

### September 6

Bob Gordon, Captain  
 Janice Aiken  
 Joe Bailey  
 Marion Musser  
 Tom Hamilton  
 Diane Gordon  
 Kyle Johnson  
 Louis Thacker

## 2s and 3s Nursery

9/6 - Cheyenne Sewell & Ashley Moran  
 9/13 - Roy & Leslie Villars  
 9/20 - Vince & Karen Kiley  
 9/27 - Christo & Becki Grobbelaar

## Church History

One of our church members is in the process of compiling a church history. The Annual reports are a great source of information. If you have any of the annual reports covering the years prior to 2002, she would love to borrow them. Please contact the church office. We can make a copy and return yours immediately.

## Special Thanks

Dear First Pres. Family,

Thank you so much for all of the cards of encouragement you have shared with me over the past two months. Your visits, your prayers, and kind words have been used by the Lord to bring much comfort to me and my family. This has been a tough and un-fun road to walk; however, knowing my church family was interceding on my behalf brought much peace! I love you all and am very thankful for your faithfulness in being The Body of Christ to me.

Love, Kyle & Johnna

I wish to thank each one of you who participated in driving me to Emory during my 7 weeks of chemo and radiation. It was a great relief for Elsa to be spared the daily trips. Your prayers, calls, food and cards meant so much to both of us. I am really blessed to be part of this loving, prayerful and wonderful church congregation. Thank you all; we love you!

In Christ,  
 Bill Farr

Dear First Pres. of Griffin,

Thank you for allowing our youth mission team to spend the night in your gym. We are so grateful for your hospitality and hope that you know how blessed we were that you opened your doors to us.

May God bless you and keep you as you continue to offer Christ with open doors to those in need.

Peace,  
 Rev. Paige Ann Miller

P. S. You have a great youth pastor, team member, and man of God in Seth Brown. He is the real deal!

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS (1978-1991)

After moving to the "new" church building September 17, 1978, the membership continued increase; the manse was redecorated; and plans were begun to build an Activities Building. Lay Renewals were held in March 1980 and September 1988 and a Wednesday Morning Breakfast Devotional Group was formed which is still meeting.

Mark Matthews came as organist in May 1980 and remained until January 1983. Others who have served as organists since 1983 are Mrs. Jana Baxley, Mrs. Peggy Chandler, Mrs. Sue Martin, Mrs. Carolyn Wells and Mrs. Joyce Kirby. Mr. Jim Capel began as choir director in 1982, and was followed by Mrs. Sylvia Hollums in 1989.

Ina Nelson (Mrs. Ralph Jones) served as our Director of Christian Education until 1984. Nancy Patterson (Mrs. Doug Hertha) became the next Director until July 1989. Cissie Perry from St. Louis, Missouri, accepted the position in April 1990. Because of the growth of families in the church, including teenage and younger children, a Youth Director, Scott Gosnell, was added to the staff in June 1990.

On August 24, 1980, the congregation voted to build the Activities Building. It was completed in July, 1981. Members of the Activities Building Commission were: Doug Tingle, Chairman; Al Smith, Treasurer; John Allison; David Battson; Charlotte Thacker; Sid Esary; Arthur Forrer; Sam McAdams; Joann Chapman; Jim Mitchell; and Eva Sullins. The Trustees of the Church were Harold Tonkin, Tom Lewis, and Arthur Forrer.

Reverent Forest L. Traylor, Jr. retired July 1, 1982. He and his family had been a part of the Griffin Church family for thirteen years during which time he led us through a period of growth and change. Dr. Robert Ramey of Columbia Seminary and Dr. Gary Jones, President of Woodward Academy, served as Interim Pastors until Reverend Spencer R. Frye was installed as our pastor July 10, 1983.

Church membership continued to grow to more than 550 members necessitating the expansion of Sunday School facilities. Programs were started to nurture the church family; to provide spiritual growth of the members; and to reach out into the community to individuals, families and groups in need of assistance.

The First Annual Missions Conference was held in February 1985. Missionaries and lay workers involved in local and world missions programs came to share news and information about their work giving the members a better insight into what is involved in these programs and how to provide more support and encouragement. The Church supported Reverend and Mrs. James Maner in Brazil, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Grubbs in Korea, Jean Wilfred Albert in Haiti, Dr. and Mrs. De la Torre in Zambia, Bob and Linda Dukes from Worldwide Discipleship, Robert Johnson in Mozambique, and Presbyterians for Renewal. Many of our members were involved in missions in various parts of the world. Dr. Denny Hall worked with Medical Missions in Africa; Dr. Bill Baldwin made several trips to Haiti to help in the field of optometry; and Dr. George Mixon worked in veterinary medicine in Kenya. Several of our students participated in missions: Bobby Erwin and Chris Parker in Mexico; Jodie Olsen in Spain; Michael Erwin in Alaska; Hugh Hall in Zaire; Dee Reynolds in Egypt and Spence Frye in Haiti.

A major change in the government of the church was the move, in 1990, to combine the Diaconate and Session into one body. The Diaconate with twelve members and the Session with fifteen members became the Session with eighteen members January 1, 1991.

The 150-Year Heritage of Faith was celebrated November 27, 1991.

By: Janice Kenmore Skelton

### It was a great day on August 9, 2015!

Bernadette Todd, nationally known missionary and speaker, joined us in worship on August 9<sup>th</sup> with her husband Jeff. It was a great day. 144 of you were there, and at least 3 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Praise God! We also raised over \$1500 to support their ministry. If you haven't already, check out her website at [www.bernadettetodd.com](http://www.bernadettetodd.com).



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## Be Involved

We will have a  
**Rushton's Hope Day**  
on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will meet there at 9 a.m. and serve until around noon. We will talk to folks, share the gospel, prepare and serve a meal and more. If you would like to try something new or stretch yourself, talk to Pastor Drew.

### Women of the Church

Please make plans to attend our first Bible Study  
**Monday, September 14, 10:15 am,**  
**Fellowship Class Room.**

We cannot meet the first Monday as church will be closed for Labor Day holiday.

Scripture to be studied: Genesis 1:1-2:4  
Bring your Study Book and Bible

Also, bring some kind of container with water in it.  
Let's see how many different type containers we will have.  
Be creative!!!!

**All women are invited.**