

April, 2024

Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



*“In order to have a rainbow...you
gotta have a little rain sometimes!”*



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Tell Me Something Good!



Ava Mincey

- This girl is no stranger to us, for sure. She is always helping her mom in the church nursery, and seen at her Lemonade Stand all over Glennville, and beyond! Her little business has raised many dollars for research for Alzheimer's, a charity that is close to her heart. Recently Ava Mincey represented Tattnall High School through FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America) at a competition. She had to present her business plan and goals to a group of judges, including how she came up with the idea, beginning difficulties, and how she evaluates its success. This girl WON District 9 in the Entrepreneurship category. She advanced to the State competition in Athens, GA March 16-19 where she won silver. She is already planning for next year's competition!

- Five year old Maggie Grace Bland was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church, Sunday, February 25th. She is the granddaughter of Michelle and Stuart Bland, daughter of Jordan and Morgan Bland...and we all feel like she belongs a little bit to our congregation, too! She has shared her sweet voice with us on several occasions.

COME VISIT US ANYTIME, MAGGIE!!

- By now, I think most of us know how busy this church is on Wednesday nights! FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDIES, YOUTH ACTIVITES, YOUNGER KIDS ACTIVITIES, YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE... something for everyone! We have to mention a big thank you to the Men's Group for cooking up a fantastic meal for everyone on Feb. 21st, the Women's Group for cooking up a great meal the week before, and Jerri Mc for cooking up SO MANY great meals!



Proud Grandparents, Stuart & Michelle, with Maggie Grace Bland

- If you want to see a professional at work, you should have seen Tracie Stewart teach 13 little people at Wednesday night's activities. She even dared to bring out the MARBLES for a little game! Tracie may be retired from teaching 30 high school students at a time, but she hasn't lost her touch with this age group either!
- Then there is Yesenia Joya who is a regular at teaching these youngsters on Wednesday nights. FIFTEEN little energetic bodies joined her class. This is such a wonderful thing to see our church growing with these young people...our future!
- **THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT KEEP THIS CHURCH HUMMING!!**

Tell Me MORE good stuff!

- Having the Joya family a part of our church, has made our family richer in many ways. Yesenia has been a wonderful helper in many Sunday School classes for the kids, the whole crew cooked supper for everyone on a Wednesday Bible Study night, and the boys have been active in all sorts of activities... just to name a few ways. Wesley (the oldest of the boys) added a new skill to this list! Do you know what a **Quinceanera** is?

Me either! Expedia tells us...

The most important aspect is "a religious ceremony, in which the young woman or man has their faith reaffirmed and rededicates themselves to God. This is seen as the most important part of the quinceanera, because naturally God is thought of as being more important than any other aspect of life"

It is a Hispanic tradition usually accompanied with a party including music, food, and dancing! Wesley's cousin, Gizella, was introduced to family and friends in a gorgeous dress, with her **dance partner, cousin Wesley Joya!** If you want to see the whole dance, go to FB on Yesenia's page. It was better than "Dancing With the Stars"!! What a wonderful tradition!



- It is wonderful to see grandchildren and other family members join us in church activities. Laney and Stone Stephens have joined us all many times. This year **Laney** was selected among the 3rd grade students who competed in Math Mania, representing Glennville Elementary at the competition March 24th in Metter, GA. She placed 12th out of 24. Yay for this "Mathlete"!

Laney, Mom Sarah Stone

- We LOVE seeing new faces among our church family. **Randi Alderman, and her two children, Ashton and Ivy** have been joining us on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Ashton, 6th grade, and Ivy, 8th grade, are home schooled and Mom works in Claxton as a Dental Hygienist. Be sure to say HI and introduce yourselves when you see them! We're so happy to have you join us!
- We are so happy to hear that **Gavin DeHart**, Megan and Norman Bergeron's son, is on the mend after a terrible 4 wheeler accident on 3-15. God was definitely with him, as it could have been so much worse. He made it through surgery and multiple "repairs" and now onto healing! He is young, strong, and has family and friends with strong faith. Please keep him in your prayers as his body and bones heal!



The Pastor's Pen....

Last month at our Wednesday night Bible study, we studied a very important topic entitled "I am a church member". If you were unable to attend the study and would like a copy of the book, feel free to reach out to me.

The book pointed out all the areas of being a true church member from a biblical standpoint. Especially with serving others, encouraging others, bringing the entire family to church, praying for each other and praying for the pastor and the leaders. These are just a few topics.

So, my question now is...Does Jesus have "all of you"? Does Jesus have access to your whole heart? Does He have a say in everything you think, express, and do? As your Savior, He wants you to realize that there are things in your life that the devil will tempt you with. What we must do is not give into those temptations and allow God's walls of protection to surround us. Our weak areas are the areas where you need him the most, because they are the ones that cause you to struggle and fall.

I can almost imagine that even today when you're reading this, you may have some feeling of hopelessness, anxiety, or maybe simply saying "Lord what do I need to do"?

The answer to this is found in Jesus, and Him alone. The deeper relationship that you have with Him, the stronger you will be and the stronger you will grow. Draw close to Him. Say "Jesus, here is my heart. I am willing to unwrap myself before you, my soul, my spirit, and everything that I am. I don't want to hold anything back." There is a true, victorious path to freedom and healing if you will simply rely on Jesus and do what He has called us to do.

Pray with me...

Jesus, I want you to have all of me, every part, including the ones that are painful. Search me, see if there will be any wicked way in me and lead me to draw closer to you. In Jesus name. Amen.

*Yours in Christ,
Brother Stuart*



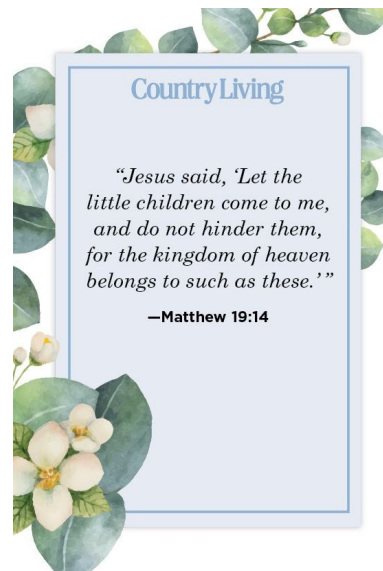
Baby Dedication Sunday, April 14

We will be having a Dedication of our youngest babies and toddlers on this Sunday! If you would like to have your child included in this expression of love to the very youngest in our church family, please contact Pastor Stuart!

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.”

Psalm 127:3

Please let us all rejoice with you and your precious “gifts from the Lord”!



Ladies' Night Out!

A great time was had by ALL! Seventeen ladies gathered at Folsom Farms to enjoy a meal together (THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE!). It was a sweet time to laugh and fellowship. No speaker, no agenda, just enjoying the company of some pretty great ladies from our church.



*There was a male intruder, that was quickly apprehended by our trusty CWF president. So many mothers in our group ensured that the appropriate punishment was given. A time out in the corner, and a stern talking-to was given!

**Stay tuned for the announcement of the NEXT Ladies Night Out!
We'd love to have you! (If you are a LADY!)**

Scott and Michelle Parker



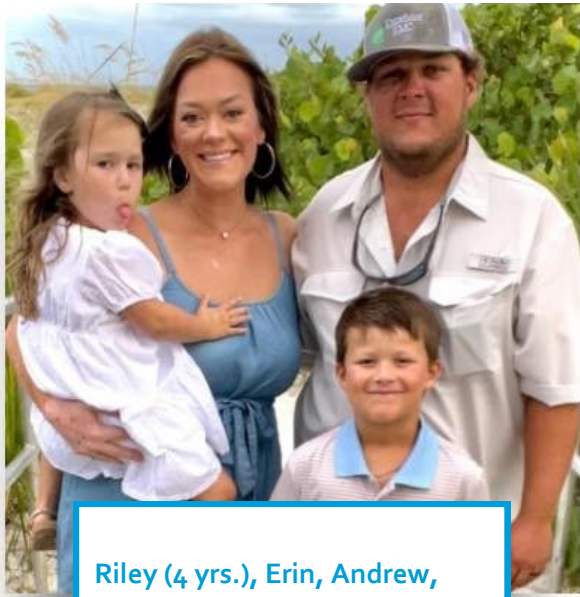
Scott and Michelle have been building blocks of this church for many years. Scott grew up in this church. Michelle joined after marrying Scott. They have been involved members for over 31 years! That is quite a history! They haven't been members in name only, either. These "building blocks" have been active members, always showing up and eager to roll up their sleeves and dig in.

Scott is a Glennville native. Since a child, he has been a part of this church and its activities. When this church had a Men's Baseball team, the "Parker boys" were a valuable asset! Games drew large crowds from churches anxious to see who could beat that First Christian Church team. Scott has been on the church board for over 20 years, a record rarely seen! He has served in many positions, including Deacon, Treasurer, Property Committee, Trustee, Budget Committee, CMF (men's fellowship), and more.

Scott is also partner in Parker Brothers Electric Incorporated. He has been seen on high ladders in our church doing all sorts of tasks involving his many skills. He is also a regular at Fort Stewart, likewise putting his broad array of skills at work. There he is depended upon as their Instrument Mechanic.

Michelle hails from nearby Claxton. Scott and Michelle met through mutual friends. Her "claim to fame" (even though it has been a tightly guarded secret) was her reign as the 1988 Rattlesnake Queen! But she was also a high school cheerleader, and has used those cheerleading skills, promoting our church and its activities. Michelle was also on the church Women's Softball Team. She is quick to say "I wasn't very good", but I'm sure she was just being humble. Add to this list of her involvement is being Youth Director at GFCC for several years, Camp Kicklighter Director of Juniors for 4 years, President of CWF and now member, and Bible Study Group member. In our community, she has been active in the Tattnall Co. Shriner's Ladies Auxiliary, Tattnall Co. Kiwanis, and Christmas at Home.

Michelle is a 4th grade teacher at South Tattnall Elementary School. She has taught 6 years to Kindergarteners, and now 13 years to the 4th graders, making 19 total! She is quick to say she loves her job! Recently, Michelle was appointed to the ELA (English, Language Arts, Reading and Writing) Committee which definitely coincides with her love of reading.



Riley (4 yrs.), Erin, Andrew, Aiden (8 yrs.)

Michelle and Scott have two sons, Brandon and Andrew. They all live close with their families, hence the label "Parker Hill"! Andrew and Erin have given these doting grandparents, Aiden, 8 years old, and Riley, 4 years old. Aiden is following in grandpa's steps and loves baseball. Riley is the church's little socialite. Andrew works with brother, Brandon, at SE Electric



Brandon and Natalie with 7 months old Townes

Contracting. Brandon and Natalie recently added little 7 month old

Townes to the family. He, like his cousin, Riley, is a very happy, social little guy. He makes our pastor work hard to get our attention during sermons! Brandon is the owner of SE Electric Contracting. Natalie works in the family business, Agritech Building Systems.



Any spare time this family may have, they love to spend at Jekyll Island, or at Michelle's grandparent's farm in Claxton on Lake Oconee. Scott will be found fishing any chance he gets, and if he can squeeze in some golf, that's double the fun. Michelle loves to read, and sneak away to Disney World in Florida whenever the opportunity arises.

More than anything, though, they love spoiling their 3 grandchildren to pieces!

← Aiden, Riley, Townes

Welcome to these NEW MEMBERS!

Left to right: Ava Mincey, Adam Bland, Michelle Bland, Stuart Bland, Cooper Carlson, Shae Odom



These six individuals officially joined our church March 3, 2024. They have already contributed so much to this church family. We look forward to their continued involvement! Congratulations! (and to US for having them!)

It is TIME.....

It has been far too long since we have had an updated Church Directory! This family needs to know WHO we are, ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, CHILDREN... And what each of us looks like! How can we be a family if we don't know our brothers and sisters?

So, beginning on Easter Sunday, March 31st, we will BEGIN this project! It will continue for 3 or 4 Sundays. April 7th, 14th, and perhaps 21st, giving opportunity for EVERYONE to get your family together to come to church for a picture to be included in the directory. Come, and after each service, our "in house" photographer will snap your picture, and you can be on your way! Please spread the word, as we'd like to have a complete directory, making it easy to communicate with others in our church family!



Oh Baby!...

Baby boy Bland is HERE! Morgan and Jordan Bland and big sister, Maggie are thrilled with Micah's entrance to this world. At 8 lbs. and 13 oz, this guy is ready to join the ranks of the Bland crew. Grandparents, Stuart and Michelle couldn't wait to get their hands on him!

Deacon Ordination

March 10th, marked a very special day for four fine young men who were installed as Deacons in our church. Family and friends attended to join in this celebration. These candidates attended several classes over the past months to educate them on their new role and responsibilities. A luncheon followed the service to give all a chance to congratulate them!



(L-R)
Pastor Stuart
Andrew Parker
Ben Odom
Brad Odom
Tyler Stewart

This group of new Deacons was surrounded by the entire board after their ordination. Prayers were shared by several.



COMING UP ...May 5th....

The day you've all been waiting for! **HAT DAY** is back again! Gone are the days of choosing your seat in the sanctuary behind the lady wearing the smallest hat. Let's bring it back for one Sunday! Have some fun! Find (or make) the most attention-getting hat you can think of. Bring out the peacock feathers and giant bows. Men, come on and get in on the action! I've seen some pretty clever top hats and derbies! Don't any of you have a visor cap with a propeller on it? It's in honor of Mary Kicklighter, the Queen of Hats! Let's make her proud as she's looking down from above!

***Did you Know.....**Ms. Mary Kicklighter's Birthday was May 5th. That's why this date was chosen for HAT DAY! Anyone that knew her was aware of her high energy. She played piano for the church and had no patience for songs that were sluggish. She also was the pastor's time-keeper and made sure he did not have sermons that went too long... as she'd start to play the closing hymn and cut him off! (Brother Stuart, aren't you glad Amanda hasn't picked up that practice?) I'll bet there are some others that could share some funny stories about this lady! Above all, she had a hat collection that would rival Ms. Kitty on Gunsmoke! Sundays were her favorite day, and so special that she brought out her finest hats to wear on the Lord's Day!*

Palm Sunday ... Captured in Pictures



Our pastor, Brother Stuart, and “first lady”, Michelle provided the inspirational music on this day. The choir performed an Easter Cantata directed by Brother Stuart, and Michelle organized the youth to sing “Be a Palm Waver” What a wonderful morning, reminding us all the real meaning of Easter!



Soloists during the cantata: Amanda Durden, Wanda Anderson, Erin Parker, Tracie Stewart, Danny Durden, Jennifer Carlson, Vicky Odom, Michelle Bland, Adam Bland, Diane Fischl, and Luke Parker.

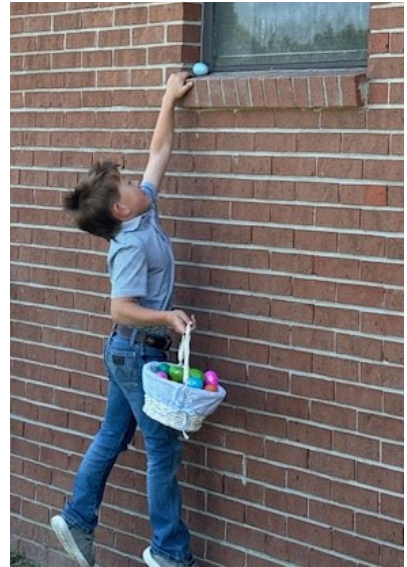
Narrators: Shawn Odom, Neil Parker, Robin Stewart, and Pat Brannen.

Thank you ALL!

To the right is a seldom captured picture of the Easter Bunny (AKA Hop-a-long Ben Odom). He was caught changing the light bulbs in the children’s playground. He knew it’d be late before he got around to hiding Easter eggs for the big day, and he noticed how dull they were. (If you’re wondering, his stocking cap hides his ears, and he stuffed his tail in his jeans!) So clever and thoughtful, that Easter bunny!



And then the Easter Egg Hunt...



*Where flowers
Bloom... so does
HOPE!*



Calendar of Events for April 2024

March 31, April 7 & 14... Picture-taking after Worship Service for
Church Directory

April 14, Sunday... Baby Dedications during Worship Service

May 5, Sunday... HAT DAY! Get ready!!

May 12... Mother's Day

Weekly...

Wednesdays.....6 p.m., Fellowship Supper, 7 p.m., Bible Study for
Men & Women's groups, Youth meet

Sunday.....9 a.m., Sunday School Classes for all ages
10 a.m., Worship Service

Glennville First
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA 30427

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

*"Children are the living messages we send to a time we
will not see." —Neil Postman*