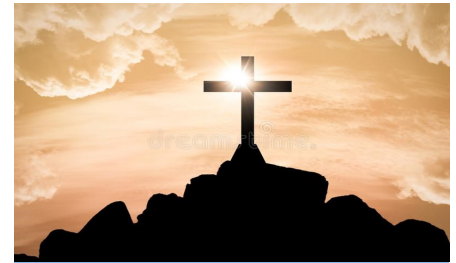


February, 2024

# Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



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## Advent Sundays...



The Stewart Family



The Dubois Family

We had such a full newsletter last month, that we couldn't squeeze in our last two "Advent Families"! To have involvement of our church families, spanning over 3 generations, is very special!



## Meet Our New Youth Director!

Mrs. Lindsay Lee was recently hired to be our Youth Director! We are so happy to have her take the reins for our Middle School and High School age youth. We have been looking for a leader in this area, and so excited that we are seeing more of our young people getting involved.

Lindsay will be handling Sunday School classes for these ages, as well as Wednesday Night Bible Study for this group. Lindsay is very suited for working with youth, as she has been a participant as a youngster herself at GFCC, and as an adult, a supporter, and volunteer at Camp Kicklighter for many years.

She has moved back to the Glennville community with her husband, 10 yr. old daughter and infant son. She was baptized in this very church, bringing things full circle.

Welcome, Lindsay!

If ever there is a need to contact her:  
FCCglennvilleyouth@gmail.com



Lindsay Lee

### SAVE THE DATE:

**WHAT: Valentine Banquet**

**WHEN: Wednesday Evening, February 14th**

**WHO INVITED?: YOU!**

**SPONSORED BY: Your Youth**

*Sign up for your time slot for an evening of good food and fellowship! (And perhaps romance?) Stay tuned for more info to come!*



## Tell Me Something Good!

**Logan Carlson**, 4th grader extraordinaire, won the Young Author's competition for her grade level! Her story involved skipping school and being chased by a tiger! We are so proud of you, Logan! (And glad that tiger didn't get you!)

**Stephanie Branch** ...has been seen WITHOUT her oxygen tubes as well as walking unaided! This lady is a fighter, and a living example of prayers answered.

**Margie Dasher**...has braved the weather and brightened the Builder's Sunday School class with her presence. Her health problems haven't kept her away!

**Jerri McKinley**... is out of the hospital and gaining strength at home. Sister, Pat Brannen, has threatened her with imprisonment if she doesn't slow down. Husband, John, is doing his best to contain her, but if you know Jerri at all, that is NOT an easy job!

**Carpeting**... and padding is in the building! We are closer to getting our sanctuary a face lift with new carpeting and refurbished pews. So many good things are happening at GFCC.

**Wednesday Night Activities**... have been absolutely wonderful! Last count was 56 people in attendance! The **CWF** provided the dinner on the January 17th, and it was GREAT! Spaghetti, salad and a wonderful selection of desserts was on the menu. **Linda Woods and Wanda Anderson** wish to thank all of those that brought desserts and helped with the set up and clean up. Wednesday night Ladies' Bible Study and Men's Bible Study have been a high point for everyone.



# The Pastor's Pen....

## Knowledge

Proverbs 2:1-6

1. My son, if thou wilt receive my words, And hide my commandments with thee; 2. So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thine heart to understanding; 3. Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, And liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4. If thou seekest her as silver, And searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5. **Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD**, And **find the knowledge of God**. 6. For the **LORD** giveth wisdom: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Real Faith accompanies knowledge of the word of God. We often pray for faith but what we actually need is knowledge of God's word. When the knowledge of God's word comes, faith will automatically be there. You could pray forever to have faith, but if you don't get any knowledge of God's word, you will never get faith. Read God's word, feed on it, meditate on it and remember Romans 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

*Yours in Christ,  
Brother Stuart*



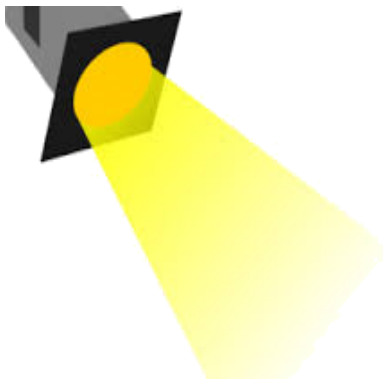
# Our Church Leaders



- Shawn Odom.....Chairman of the Board
- Neil Parker.....Vice Chairman
- Bess Stone.....Board Secretary
- Linda Woods.....Treasurer
- Cecil Branch.....Sunday School Superintendent & Property
- Robert Fischl.....Stewardship, Missions & Benevolences
- Linda Woods.....CWF President
- Neil Parker.....CMF President
- Bess Stone.....Youth Coordinator
- Lindsay Lee..... Youth Director
- Pat Brannen..... Historian
- Elders.....\*Harry Sands (Chair)
  - \*Shawn Odom
  - \*Robert Fischl
  - John Dubois
- Deacons..... \*Ricky Anderson (Chair)
  - \*Burke Kennedy
  - \*Randy Burkhalter
  - \*Cecil Branch
  - Neil Parker
  - Robin Stewart
  - Scott Parker
  - John Brannen
  - Andrew Parker
  - Tyler Stewart
  - Ben Odom
  - Luke Parker
  - Brad Odom
  - Adam Bland (Jr. Deacon)
- Trustees.....Vicky Odom
  - Rickey Anderson
  - Robin Stewart
  - Scott Parker
  - John Brannen

**\* Denotes Board Members**

# Spotlight on Jennifer & Phil Carlson



## Meet the Carlsons

**Phil and Jennifer Carlson** met in 2001 and married in 2002 at First Christian Church. They met while Jennifer was teaching in Hinesville and Phil was stationed in the Army at Fort Stewart.

**Phil:** Phil is the youngest of seven children who moved around as a child, but calls Boise, Idaho his hometown. After serving in the Army, Phil trained to become an EMT. He worked with Medstar and later the prison system as a medic until the birth of their first child. Currently, he is the owner of "You Name it Home Improvement" and works remodeling homes. He is a skilled carpenter.

**Jennifer:** Jennifer joined FCC 35 years ago at the age of 10. She is a 7th grade math teacher at South Tattnall Middle School. This is her 23rd year teaching with the majority of that time at Reidsville Elementary School. She has spent a lot of time working on college degrees and certifications making education a priority. Her undergraduate degree is in early childhood. A masters degree in Middle School Math and ELA. A specialist degree in teaching and learning. She added onto her certification in the following areas: Gifted, Middle School Science, Teacher Leadership, and Educational Leadership.

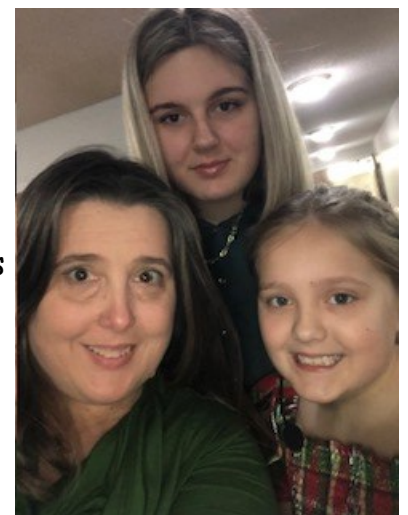
The first four years of their marriage, Phil and Jennifer were praying for a family. Although there were 3 losses along the way, the family was blessed with 4 children: Chloe (17), Cooper (13), Logan (9), and Griffin (7).

**Chloe** is a senior at Tattnall County High School. She is in dual enrollment taking college classes at Southeastern Tech. She works part time. She was on the TCHS volleyball team her senior year. She is a very responsible young lady who enjoys spending time with her best friends and traveling. She enjoys being an active member of the youth group and helps on Sundays with the sound booth. She plays piano and is looking forward to graduation in May.

**Cooper** is an 8th grader at South Tattnall Middle School. He enjoys playing tennis and spending time with friends. He was baptized in 2023 and began his walk with Christ.

**Logan** is in 4th grade. She is talented in many areas. She recently showed her talents in singing and acting in the church play. She is looking forward to doing more things like that in the future. She plays rec softball and loves all animals and babies.

**Griffin** is in first grade. He is excelling in all subject areas. He is a soccer star on the field. He loves all sports, but soccer is where he shines brightest. He represented his class in Math Mania last year and has been the student of the week multiple times this year.





**The biggest trial** the Carlson's experienced in their marriage was during the pregnancy and the first months of Griffin's life. At 30 weeks, it was determined that Griffin would be born very sick with a condition called Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH). His diaphragm had not formed correctly leaving a large hole in the left side. The diaphragm divides the chest cavity from the contents of the abdomen and is the muscle that helps the lungs function. Having a hole in the diaphragm caused his stomach and intestines to be suctioned up into his chest. His stomach was sitting on his left lung causing untold damage to the lung which brought up questions about the quality of life he would be able to have. His heart was also displaced towards his ribs and rotated 45 degrees. They were told that he would not be able to be born in Savannah because they did not have the equipment or team of doctors that could save him. Half of the babies with this

condition do not survive and those that do have lifelong medical issues.

With 10 weeks to delivery, Jennifer was sent to Atlanta to be under the care of doctors at Emory and Egleston's Children's Hospital. The list of possible problems that Griffin would have at birth and throughout his life was long and overwhelming. There were 30 doctors and nurses in the operating room when he was born due to the severity of his condition. He was put on life support at birth to bypass his lungs until after he could have surgery to move his intestines and stomach and build a patch to close his diaphragm. This surgery happened at 6 days old. They told the family to plan for the potential of the following problems: his intestines could be tangled and not getting oxygen requiring dead bowel to need to be dissected, his lung may not have viable tissue or been cut from blood supply or too small to function, his heart may have unknown issues, blood clots and brain bleeds due to life support and medications that were required. All of these issues and more were prayed over specifically. The plan was to be in the hospital after birth for 4 to 6 months. Phil and Jennifer were warned that he would never be able to run and play like other kids. His lungs wouldn't allow it. He would be a very sickly child in and out of the hospital with every illness he caught. **However, that was not God's plan.**

God blessed Griffin with a quick recovery. Every possible situation that the family braced themselves for did not happen. He did not have to go on the ECMO heart bypass. His lung was viable and grew even after birth. His intestines were all healthy and viable. His heart was not damaged nor did it have any abnormalities. He recovered in record time. No blood clots formed. No adverse problems from all the medications happened. Nurses visited from other departments of the hospital to come and meet this "miracle child" that they had heard talk about all over the hospital as nurses shared his amazing story. He was home in 28 days! God is good! He answered every prayer and met every need. If you didn't know his story, you would never guess that Griffin has Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia.

**"I encourage you when you look at Griffin to see a walking testimony of the power of prayer and the amazing work of God. He is still performing miracles!"** *Jennifer Carlson*

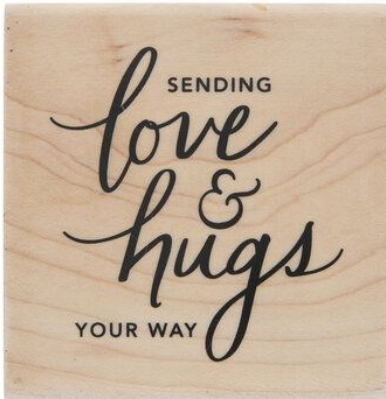
## Calendar of Events for February 2024

February 14, Wednesday Evening.....Valentine Banquet, Sponsored by the Youth, Sign Up for time slot!

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