

November, 2023

# Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



**HAPPY  
NOVEMBER**

*Remember that it's  
never too early to start  
being grateful for your  
blessings.*

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**There is always, always,  
ALWAYS something to be  
thankful for!**



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# Tell me something good!



John Denver Taylor was born September 28th at 3:01 p.m., at 8 lbs 5 oz! As you can see he is a beautiful boy ready to take on the world with a smile.

He gave mom & dad (Leanne and Zack) quite a scare, but after a few days at special care

nursery at Memorial Hospital in Savannah, this little guy is HOME! I hope this little family is celebrating with soothing John Denver music permeating their household, putting them in a “Rocky Mountain High” peaceful mind having their baby home. If you want to help out, join the meal train, so mom and dad don’t have to worry about fixing meals for a while.

- What a fun Christian Family Feud was held at our church! These pictures say it all!



Oh, and in case you are wondering, reports were that it was a very intense game. It was neck and neck until the bitter end. “It was all about the fellowship and fun,” said Marsha Sands . However, the facts are, .....that even though it mattered not what the score was (465 to 460)

.....**THE WOMEN WON!**

# Splinters from the Board

- ◇ Pruning of the trees around our church should be taking place in October by Brian Rogers.
- ◇ The congregational meeting membership passed the vote to resurface the parking lot.
- ◇ The congregation also unanimously voted to recarpet the sanctuary and recover and refurbish the pews .



- ◇ We have a new grill thanks to Shawn Odom and his generosity! He bought it, hauled it, set it up, and then cooked on it!! He can do it all! The grill was used for the first time by the men who cooked a meal for the winning team of the Christian Family Feud.

- ◇ We still need more candy to cover the Halloween events our church is involved in at (1) The Elementary School and (2) the community event at Cornerstone Church.
- ◇ Volunteers are needed for both events. It takes several to make these events successful. We want our kids safe while they're having fun!



**\*There are so many great things happening!**

# Happy Birthday, Stephanie!



Nothing is sweeter than letting “our Stephanie” know how much she is loved! This gal has been through some extremely tough times, along with her loving family. You won’t find another with the upbeat attitude and strong faith of this woman. Our church family took the opportunity to give her a “hug” in GFCC fashion!

Under the guise of being a surprise party for Jerri Mc (wink, wink), a crowd of about 70 people gathered in the church fellowship hall to say WE LOVE YOU! Cake and lots of food was on the menu, but more importantly was the hope that Stephanie got the message that this church family thinks Stephanie Branch is pretty great.

\*Cake made by daughter, Allison.



## THE WHOLE FAMILY....

Back Row: James, Freya, Cecil (AKA Grampa), AJ, Allison

Front Row: Roman, Stephanie (AKA Grandma), Gabe, Melanie



# HOME COMING November 5th

Join us at 10:00 AM

Featured Group  
DRIVEN Ministries

Message by Bro.  
Stuart Bland

BBQ Meal to Follow



## Please Pray for ....

- Those in our community who may be in the midst of the terrible happenings in Israel. Mr. Ronnie Griffin, Navy, is on the Gerald Ford Warship outside of Israel right now.
- Tim Wisdom, son-in-law of Marsha & Harry Sands, that decisions on his travel be safety minded.
- Those in continued peril in the Ukraine. Pray we don't get numb to the suffering of others.
- Those that are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip.
- Americans in Israel, that they may be safe.
- Anna Knight, who is in the Middle East close to the conflict.
- Baby Jacob, grandson of Jackie & Alex Lehman, that he can eat easier and continue to gain weight and improve.
- Those in our congregation that are struggling with health as well as personal issues.



## More.....

➡ You know a surprise birthday party is a success when Stephanie Branch brings a birthday card for Jerri Mc (The pretend birthday girl! ) Hahaha!

➡ The creativeness of Isiline Purvis and her sisters is surpassed by few. One such example would be seen at the entrance driveway to their homes on Love Chapel Road. It reads "Aunt Hill". Those girls are a HOOT!



➡ Please help our church sanctuary look festive for Christmas! Order a poinsettia from Linda Woods for \$25. Take it home after the holiday!

# The Pastor's Pen....

"The Battle in Prayer"

Matthew 26:41

*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

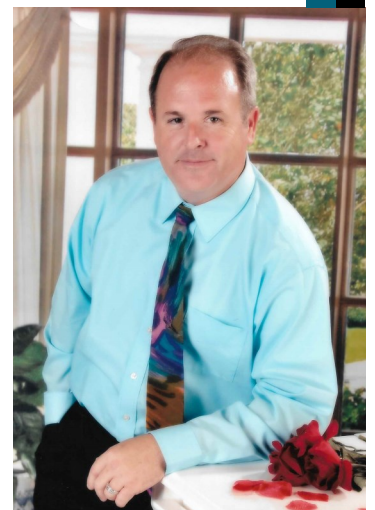
Do you realize that prayer can be a Battleground where the fight of faith is carried out? Do you recognize that your adversity, the devil, is on the rampage, seeking to wreak havoc in your life? This is why prayerless believers are often in danger of living defeated Christian lives - because they are easy prey for the enemy. It is only by maintaining a strong, intimate relationship with God that we are able to overcome his assaults.

So consider, is there a sin that is a stronghold on you? Have you fallen into certain areas so many times that you have almost written off the victorious Christian life?

If your answer to any of these above is "yes", then realize your enemy has a foothold in your life. But do not despair, you can have freedom from it! Engage the battle in prayer by the authority of Jesus name and the power of his shed blood and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, go with confidence to the throne of grace. Pray and listen to God. He will certainly give you victory that was already won for you by Christ at Calvary.

Pray for God to make you a prayer Warrior and give you Victory over the enemy stronghold.

*Yours in Christ,  
Brother Stuart*



# The Homecoming - Smokie Mountain Christmas

December 17, 2023

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**



Michael, a successful New York lawyer, returns with his wife and their kids to a bed and breakfast in his hometown to spend Christmas with his mom and his sister (Christy) and her country bumpkin husband with whom they have nothing in common. This humorous and heart-warming story will strike a familiar chord with anyone who has ever spent Christmas with their extended family. The musical is a warm, homespun flavor to this charming story of family and faith.

”

## Sprucing Up for Homecoming!



First Christian Church has been a busy place these days!

Shown is Property Chair, John Brannen power washing the wall and all of the nameplates of church members that are mounted on the Memorial Wall in front of the church.

This wall was erected in 2010 to hold names of charter members as well as placards containing the names of members who have died.

Prayer benches surround the wall and cross offering a quiet and private place to reflect on all of the gifts these people have given us in their lifetimes on earth.

## Spotlight on Neil & Angie Parker



Neil and Angela Parker live in Glennville in an area often referred to as “The Parker Hill”. Neil brought his beloved Angie here, and 22 years later they are still here with their two great kids, contributing to this community and our church!

Neil found **Angie** at a surprise birthday party of a mutual friend, and the rest was history! She was born and raised in Nashville (Georgia that is!) with one sister and one brother. She is fortunate to still have both parents who still live in Nashville. Angie is a teacher at South Tattall Elementary School and has been working as a teacher for over 30 years now, declaring, “I’m not done yet!” She has taught Pre-K, 2nd grade, 5th grade, and now is the EIP (Early Intervention Program) teacher at STES. A graduate from Valdosta State with a Masters degree from NOVA University, she is definitely a valued teacher in Glennville. Angie has been a very active Worship & Education committee member, Vacation Bible School volunteer, CWF member, board member, and a Sunday School teacher.

**Neil** is a native of Glennville, being from a family of 3 boys (Scott, Kelvin brothers) . Neil’s dad, Billy Parker, passed away 2 years ago, while Mom, Brenda, still lives in Pine Harbor and visits often. Her warm smile brightens the “Parker Pew” quite often & we all love it!

Neil has been, and continues to be a very integral part of the workings of this church. He is a past president of the board (several times!) , as well as CMF Chairman, Property Committee past Chairman, a Deacon for many years, and a worker whenever called upon! It may not be a secret to others, but Neil is our secret weapon if our church ever decides to organize a men’s baseball team. He played college baseball for 4 years, and was feared when he got up on the mound! He attended ABAC (Agricultural school) in Tifton, Georgia, and Thomas College in Thomasville, GA.

Presently Neil is a co-owner of Parker Brothers Electric and HVAC and works at DPW with the Pegasus Support Services taking care of all of the HVAC needs at Ft. Stewart.



This couple's crowning glory, is their two children! Emmie Claire (EC) is an 8th grader at STMS where she is a cheerleader, tennis player, Honor student, and National Jr. Beta Club member. She has been a lover of dance for several years as well. You'll often find her helping out in the sound booth during services.

Luke, 19 years old, works for GC & E at Ft. Stewart, where he is a communications technician. He is an accomplished drummer and has a golden, deep voice that goes supremely well with his guitar talents. Both EC and Luke have shared their vocal talents with our congregation (& we hope they'll do it often!)



This Parker family loves to spend time with each other! Watching Luke and EC participate in sports, fishing, hunting, shopping, watching UGA football...the key word in all of this is family.

*"We have loved the people in this church and how they care for each other, having felt it ourselves at the loss of Neil's father. We are excited with the direction our congregation is taking and the connections being formed as we strive to be a Christ-centered church."*

*Neil & Angie*

# Skydiving !!!.....October 21, 2023

Ten daring youth left on the Bland Bus to go indoor skydiving in Jacksonville, Florida. Two brave chaperones went with them!! (Michelle and Stuart Bland!) They “flew”, they ate, laughed, played Uno, and **thankfully TEN youth returned home!!**



A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

*“This was an amazing group of kids! I’ve been around a lot of young people in our time of ministry and work, and this group is*

*one of the most well-behaved we’ve ever worked with. Kudos to all of their parents and GFCC!” Michelle Bland*





Luke Parker (Dubbed our Official GFCC Drummer!!) has added that special touch to our worship service. He is giving a BEAT to our voices as we raise them in song. We've got a pep in our step, and a joy in our hearts heightened by his drum sticks and his rhythm!

**THANK YOU LUKE!**

## **Big Things are A-Happening at GFCC!**

Brian Rogers and Property Chair, John Brannen, confer as they begin the task of trimming the stately Live Oak Trees encompassing our church property. It was a beautiful October day for this task!

The Board and our congregation voted to take on this job to ensure the safety of those coming to our church. Many branches were hanging very low, and many roots are up-rooting the pavement, making it dangerous to walk any distance across the parking lot. Above all, we want to maintain and keep these beautiful trees healthy!



## Calendar of Events for November 2023

**We'd LOVE to see  
you in church!!!**



November 5.....Homecoming! Registration, 9 a.m.,  
Church Service, 10 a.m., Meal  
following the service

Sunday morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Youth Mtg. at 7:00 p.m.

Glennville First  
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA 30427

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**GOD-FIDANCE....Knowing that I can't, but God can!**