

December, 2023

Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter

Hello
December
You're the last
One so be
The *Best* one.



Brother Stuart Bland

912-237-7188

Fccglennville

pastor@gmail.com

Church Address

9224 GA Hwy 23

Megan Bergeron

Church Office

Administrator

(912)237-1398

Amanda Durden

Church Pianist

Susan Kennedy

Church Organist

Diane Fischl

Newsletter Editor

920-366-1570

fischldiane@gmail.com

What a FANTASTIC Homecoming!



Music, Worship & Food!

We were so very fortunate to have had The Driven Quartet join us for our 89th Homecoming. What an absolute JOY To hear their voices harmonize together on this very special occasion.

They shared testimonies, shared talents, And even shared humor! They are a fun-Loving group that filled the sanctuary with Lively, uplifting music. After the service, the crowd moved to Harrison Hall to enjoy A FEAST of Brunswick Stew, Roast Pork, Chicken, and every dessert, vegetable, and Casserole you can imagine!!



Thank you to all of the hands that prepared this wonderful array of foods! There are so many people to thank. This is truly a welcoming church!



What can I give????

We all love to give gifts to those we love. And, of course we want it to be special and memorable. There is that “money thing” to consider as well. It’s easy to get caught up in the thought that, the more I spend, they’ll know I love them LOTS. Unfortunately, it doesn’t always work that way!

I know commercials show someone receiving a diamond necklace, over the top with joy. Or kids screaming, jumping up and down hearing they are going to Disney. Or how about the little kids surrounded by towers of toys . The more toys, proof your parents love you, right? Wrong!

The experts tell us that the best gift of all that we can give our children, is our TIME. Uninterrupted, focused, one-on-one time with those we brought into this world. Playing games with our kids, experiencing fun activities together, going places together...those mean more than how much money we spend on a toy.

In fact, psychologists tell us that spending more than you can afford makes gift giving a burden, that can cause all sorts of painful situations afterward. The worry about how you will pay for things once the bills come, take the joy of giving away for sure!

So, what CAN you give, that comes from the heart, and is full of the love you want to express? Here are some thoughtful ideas:

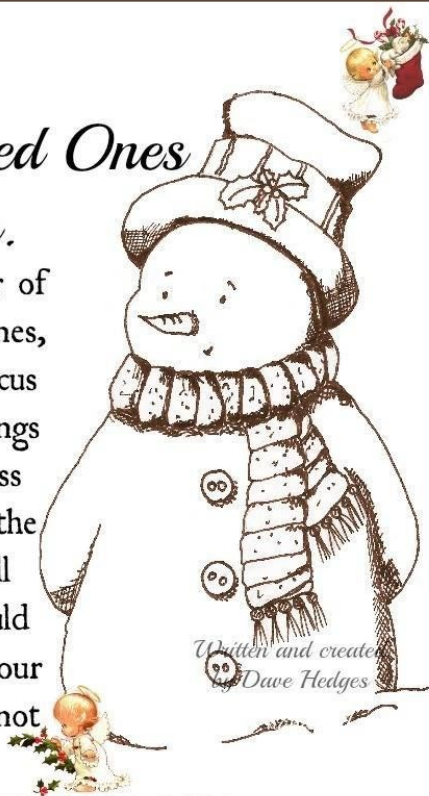
- ◆ A “coupon” book, filled with things you will do for your loved one. (Wash the dishes, put all the Christmas decorations away...)
- ◆ Set aside a special day to be with a certain someone. (Go fishing with Grandpa, make cookies with your aunt)
- ◆ Make something with this intended recipient in mind. (Check out Pinterest!)
- ◆ Frame a photo with you and your loved one.
- ◆ One idea that many parents have found helpful is the “3 rule gift guide”. Give something they WANT, something they NEED, something to READ.

Whatever the gift, remember to keep your HEART in the gift, rather than the WALLET!



Remembering Our loved Ones This Christmas.

Christmas can be a difficult reminder of the love we shared with our loved ones, our soul mates, our life partners. Focus on the love you shared and the feelings that made you smile, not the sadness and pain of their loss. That love is the most wonderful and powerful of all emotions and is something that should be treasured. Share the love inside your heart for those loved ones that will not be with us this Christmas.



DAVESWORDSOFWISDOM.COM



When you have lost a loved one it's often the holidays which are the hardest times.

Things like Birthdays, Anniversaries and Christmas can be the worst.

Remember to pray for those that struggle during the holidays.



More.....

➡ Congratulations to Aline Troha for being recognized for being the oldest member to be present at Homecoming! 92 yrs YOUNG!

➡ Glenda Geiger ran away with TWO awards at homecoming! One for 62 years of being a member of GFCC! The other for having the most family members present at Homecoming!

➡ Another couple was recognized for coming the furthest to this event! They traveled all the way from South Carolina to hear the Driven Quartet!

➡ Reminder to get your \$25 in to Linda Woods if you'd like to order a poinsettia for the Christmas service!

The Pastor's Pen....

"Recognizing your gift"

The sermon presented on November the 19th on "gifts", God has given you a gift to glorify him and to serve others. Let's take a minute and look at some gifts that he gives us.

The gift of:

Forgiveness: forgiving others, to be forgiven, reconciled, or brought back into a right relationship with God.

Prophesying: is proclaiming God's truth.

Ministering: is serving and meeting the needs of others.

Teaching: is presenting God's word and explaining how the Lord teaches us to apply His word to our lives daily.

Exhorting: appealing to others to live out the Christian life and showing them how to do so.

Giving: involves practical expressions of time, treasures and talents that are marked by generosity and faithfulness.

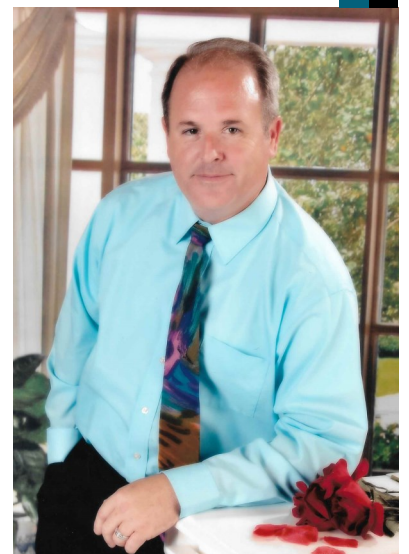
Leading others: includes accountability, diligence and consistency over time.

Mercy: involves expressing compassion that points to God's loving kindness in His free offer of forgiveness, which is made possible through Jesus.

This is a list that is very brief, but it is important that you recognize the gifts you've been given, embrace it and then seek to grow in it.

If you don't know how God has gifted you to serve him, reach out to me and together we can find the answer.

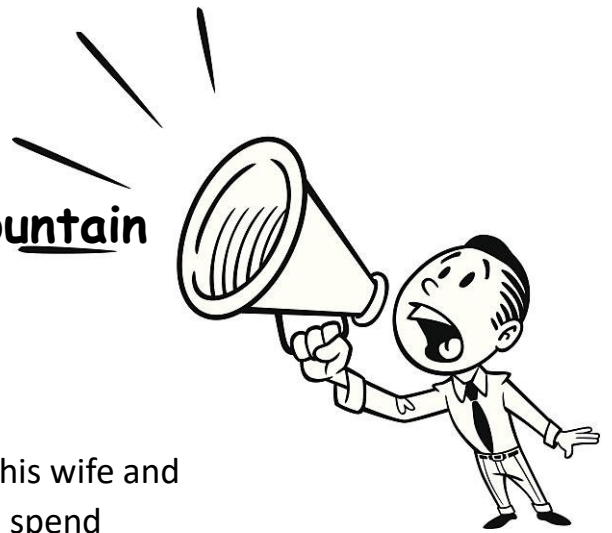
*Yours in Christ,
Brother Stuart*



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.



Trunk or Treat at the Elementary School, Fall in the Field at Cornerstone....our church was there! Candy galore, and wonderful helpers.

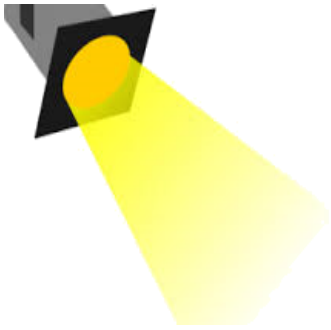
Sure looks like the only one that followed directions about wearing costumes was Linda Poodle Skirt Woods!



And then there was the instruction before taking the picture.."OK everyone, make a funny face!" Good job, Wanda! At least you listened!

BIG THANK YOU to Bess Stone for organizing all of the decorations, and everyone who brought candy and stuffed bags!





Spotlight on Some of our Kids!

“The best way to see Christmas is through the eyes of a child”

If you could give your Mom & Dad any Christmas gift in the world, what would it be?

Elin Anderson: “ I’d give them love, clean my bedroom, and not fight with my sisters or brother for a whole week!”

Colin Mincey: “I’d give them a vacation to Mexico...without me”

Jaazel Joya: “I’d clean the whole house without even being asked.”

Griffin Carlson: “ A trip to Hawaii!”

Laney Stephens: “I’d give my mom a whole day to rest and my Dad a shirt with me & my brother’s names on it.”

Lydia Summers: “I’d make Chicken Alfredo for them because they really love it.”

How do you think Mary & Joseph felt when they knew their baby would be born in a barn?

Ava Mincey: “Probably pretty scared, but joyful at the same time.”

Jorge Joya: (Yesenia said he was still a kid!) “I’d be worried, but still feeling very special “

What do you think Jesus’ parents wanted their baby to grow up to be? When do you think they realized he was so special?

Emmie Claire Parker: “ Probably what every parent wants. That he would be a productive, honest, and hard-working citizen! I think they realized how special he was when he performed his first miracle!”

If you could give Jesus a Christmas gift, what would it be?

Angel Joya: “ A new outfit to wear and new sandals. Maybe red or blue.”

Stuart Bland (Michelle said he hasn't grown up yet) “ I'd give him my everything.”

What kind of toys do you think Jesus had to play with when he was a little boy? What games do you think he liked to play?

Stone Stephens: “He probably played with sticks and stones and leaves. I think he liked running games, too.”

Noah Joya: “ I think he liked to play hide and seek with his brothers and tag too!”

What makes Christmas so special to you?

Bobbi Grace Anderson: “That we get to be together with my family and celebrate Jesus' birthday.”

Logan Carlson: “Spending time with my big family, eating together, playing games, going to MiMi's”

If you knew Jesus was coming to Christmas dinner at your house, what special meal would you want to make him?

Aiden Parker: “I'd make Him Chicken Alfredo, cause I think he'd like it” (What is this with Chicken Alfredo??)



Calendar of Events for December 2023

December 17, Sunday.....Smoky Mountain Christmas Musical Program...10 a.m., luncheon & Church Christmas party following service.

December 24th, Sunday....10 a.m. service

CountryLiving

*"Seeing is believing, but
sometimes the most real
things in the world are
the things we can't see."*

—The Polar Express

Glennville First
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA 30427

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**"Christmas doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."**

Dr. Seuss