

July, 2023

Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



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Thank You For Your Service

There are those among our congregation who have served in our country's military. We thank them for all that they given of themselves to protect our freedoms. The freedom to worship is one of those we greatly value. They don't expect gifts or glory. However, they certainly deserve our respect and appreciation.

Stephanie Branch.....Army
Joy DuBois.....Marine
John DuBois.....Marine
John McKinley.....Army
Harry Sands.....Army
David Stone.....Army
Robert Fischl.....Navy



Let's celebrate
— JUNE 25TH —
GOD BLESS THE USA CANTATA
**** RED, WHITE & BBQ ****
Join us this Sunday to celebrate our country and our veterans. Our cantata is sure to have you singing along . Stay after church to enjoy food and fellowship as we enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring a side dish if you can.
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HWY 23
GLENNVILLE, GA
10:00

What a grand program it was, with efforts from so many to make it a very special morning.

Pastor Stuart worked so hard to coordinate so many people and talents. Bess Stone ,Linda Woods and Tracey Stewart made the church look MARVELOUS!

And all the talented soloists put the frosting on the Cantata !!



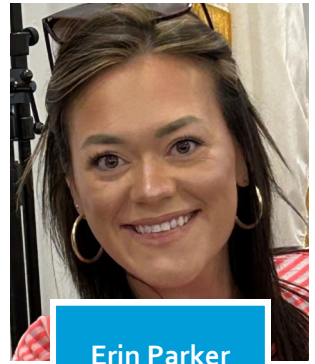
Danny & Amanda Durden



Jennifer



Emmy Claire Parker



Erin Parker



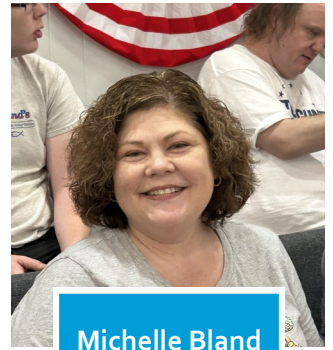
Luke Parker



Vicky Odom



Linda Woods



Michelle Bland



Volly Nelson



Adam Bland

Our Wonderful Soloists!



Pastor Stuart....the conductor, choir director, organizer, sound technician, power point producer, equipment operator, encourager, and electrical engineer!



What Have Our Youth Been Doing?

Well, for one thing....

Dennim Mincey graduated from Statesboro High School! Dennim is the son of Yolanda and Anthony Mincey. Mom, Yolanda, has been our church Nursery Director for over 15 years. Dennim was presented an engraved bible at our recent church service, to help him remember his “village of friends and supporters” at FCC. Dennim was the recipient of the Jim Simmons Memorial Scholarship and will be attending East Georgia State College in the fall, where he will also be playing baseball! We all wish you the very best as you pursue your dreams, Dennim!



Once Again.... Little Maggie Bland made our worship service so very special by sharing two beautiful songs with the congregation on June 10th. Her sweet voice carried a message through each song, reminding us that we should never hide our light under a bushel!! And then again on Father’s Day, Maggie (and Mom & Dad) shared a special song.



Camp Kicklighter Participants... Thank you for prayers! Our youth and counselors had a wonderful camp experience!

Elin Anderson Chloe Carlson Ava Mincey
Cooper Carlson Logan Carlson Birdie Jo Lee
Counselors: Zac Taylor, Lindsay and Ben Lee

*If I missed anyone, please let me know!

Our Church Welcomes a “Permanent” Pastor

We no longer have a “probationary” pastor! Pastor Stuart Bland has formally accepted the position of “REAL” pastor at our church after a unanimous vote by the congregation!

Stuart has served our church for 6 months while deciding if it was a good fit for their entire family...as our church also decided if this was an agreeable arrangement from the membership viewpoint. The answer was a resounding “YES”!!

We are looking forward to a long, healthy relationship with this special family. Welcome to Pastor Stuart, Michelle, and Adam. Your time, talents, and leadership are fulfilling a definite need for our congregation. We hope our membership makes you feel at home, as well.



Updates.....

Margie Dasher...So happy to see Margie in church! She has had some difficult health challenges, but is one determined lady!

Stephanie Branch....Speaking of determined ladies, this one is a rare breed! Stephanie has remained strong with her valiant coach, Cecil, fighting this cancer opponent! She is undergoing another round of chemo as well as “immuno therapy”. She awaits a referral to Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

So many of our members need your prayers. Please be generous with those Prayers, hugs, and actions!

We Need....

- ♦ Volunteers are needed for Children’s Church each Sunday morning. It is intended for those little folks to get age-appropriate activities/messages during the “adult” worship service. Stories, craft activities, and music are all possible things to do with the kids! *Likewise, Wednesday evenings (while Bible Study is taking place) we need volunteers for our younger participants. Please let Bess Stone know if you can help to fill either of these needs!

“Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”



A Note From Jordan and Morgan Bland....

Following our time at GFFC, we will be serving at Vacation Bible School at Calvary Baptist Church in Glennville before departing for Lake City, Florida.

We will also be serving at Northside Baptist Church by assisting with their Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship. It is also their hope to build up the young adult church attendance by beginning a young adult Bible study that we will be teaching during the Sunday School hour. We will kick off our time at Northside by leading their Vacation Bible School music and conclude our time with leading music for their Old Time Camp Meeting.

We will be volunteering at different organizations during the day, and will also be reaching out to other churches to provide Saturday or Sunday evening worship services as well as assistance with Vacation Bible Schools.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time serving at First Christian and thank you all for your kindness and encouragement!

Jordan and Morgan (And Maggie!)



*You have no idea
how much your
help has meant to
us. Thank you so
much for the
extra hands.*

Parade

We have certainly been the recipients of a gigantic gift by having Jordan, Morgan, and little Maggie Bland be so involved in music during their time with us at GFCC. Not only did they help with music, they also were generous with their teaching talents. We send our good wishes and prayers with them as they continue on their journey!

Thank You!

The Pastor's Pen...

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, All Ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

If you are wondering if God wants to meet with you, if it's okay even after all you've done wrong, or times you've already approached Him about a matter, you should know for certain, **He** does. The Savior always welcomes you into His presence, regardless of how you're feeling or what mistakes you've made. Always.

Unfortunately, the emotions of embarrassment, fear and failure can keep you from realizing this, which is one of the reasons the evil one will tempt you to sin. The devil knows that if he can get you to rebel against the Lord, you'll feel so guilty about it, that you'll avoid His presence altogether. The more that satan can get you to focus on your shame and inadequacy, the easier it is for him to keep you from the one who takes it away!

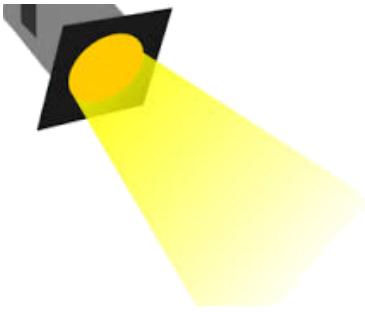
God wants you. Always. Don't avoid Him for any reason. Instead go to Him. Often. Pray to Him. Turn from your sins, and accept His Grace. His loving arms faithfully await you, **ALWAYS**.

Remember, Jesus takes away all your pain and your shame.

*Yours in Christ,
Brother Stuart*



Spotlight on Shawn & Vicky



You will know that Shawn Odom is at GFCC if you see his truck parked there! It is usually pulling a trailer loaded with equipment of some sort (maybe a backhoe, fuel tank, compressor, you just never know), and the back of the truck is loaded with tools of all sorts, (hoses, electrical wire, ladder, and a few rakes and shovels). He is always prepared! Vicky may be in the passenger seat, but he often comes from a job, so she has to come separate!



This couple is a busy duo for sure. And they have been generous with sharing their talents with our church. They have two sons, Brad and Ben. Brad and his wife, Shae, have blessed them with two beautiful granddaughters. Anda (named after Shawn's mother) is 5, and will be attending Kindergarten at Busy Little Beavers in the fall. Brae is 3 yrs. old, and will also be a school girl at Busy Little Beavers in the fall.



Daddy Brad works at Daniel Family Farms in Evans Co. while Shae is a math teacher at South Tattnall Middle School. Uncle Ben works with Shawn in the family business. Ben is single (yet!) and enjoys going to the coast and spending time with friends. Anyone that knows these Odom sons know they have a tremendous work ethic...and are not afraid of hard work!

Vicky and Shawn were married in April of 1988 at First Christian Church. Shawn attended FCC since childhood. Vicky became a member in 1989. Since the very beginning, both have given time and talents to this church.

Shawn is a “home grown” boy, having been born and raised on a farm in Glennville. He has one brother, Shane. Shawn went to Pinewood Christian Academy having played football and basketball. After high school he worked with his uncle, Louis Geiger, in the tree surgeon business. He also plowed fiber optic cable all across the country, worked at Georgia Pacific Saw Mill, worked for a contractor on Ft Stewart, and for the last 16 yrs has been self employed as a utility contractor. Shawn has served as a deacon, elder, board member, board chairman, CMF member and property committee chair. He has also taught Sunday school and Children’s Church.

Vicky was born in Claxton, but moved around with family during her childhood years. She has an older brother, Gregg, and a younger sister, Deborah. Her mom and stepdad are still living both being 83 yrs. old. She was a cheerleader for 5 years. Vicky is a good match for Shawn, as she is no stranger to hard work. She worked on the family farm (knows how to pick tobacco!) and at the family country store during her summer, worked at Cherokee Rose Country Club until taking a job at the Hinesville Bank in 1986. She also traveled with Shawn in the cable business until moving home and beginning work at the Glennville Bank in 1990. You will still find her there as Assistant Vice President of Loan Operations. Vicky has served on pretty much ALL committees at different times, including: CWF, choir, board member, church treasurer, Sunday school teacher, Church Trustee, and Children’s Church. Both Shawn and Vicky are there supporting activities whenever possible, which often means helping in the kitchen, fixing or repairing...you name it, they are there!

Vicky and Shawn especially enjoy time with their kids and granddaughters, whether it’s RV trips, going to the beach or riding bikes. While working with Vicky’s dad in the fiber optics cable



Anda and Brae

business, Vicky & Shawn traveled to Oregon, California, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee, North & South Carolina and Florida. Shawn and Vicky still have that traveling bug!

Their faith has taken them through some hard times, as it has many. Shawn lost both parents, a difficult time for anyone. He additionally fell off a roof shattering his left leg and ankle, resulting in many months off from work. Vicky knows what it is like to care for an elderly father with dementia, and the many challenges that go along with this. Her father is now deceased.

“If hard times teach you anything, it is to treasure your family...the family with your parents, children and grandchildren, as well as your church family.”

Calendar of Events for July 2023

July 4, Tuesday.....Independence Day

July 13, Thursday.....Board Meeting

July 16, Sunday.....Drop-In Baby Shower for Brandon & Natalie Parker, Fellowship Hall

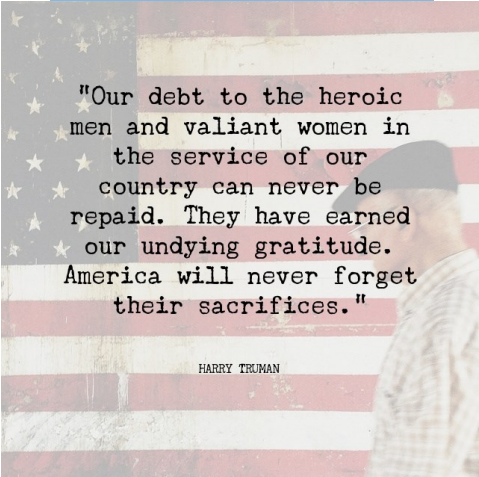
July 29, Saturday...Drive-Thru Prayer Session, 8-11 am

Aug. 2, Wednesday Night Activities will resume

Church Services

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Sunday morning Worship at 10 a.m.



"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

HARRY TRUMAN

Glennville First
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA 30427

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

"Silent Gratitude isn't much good to anyone!"

Gertrude Stein