

March, 2023

Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



Brother Stuart Bland
912-237-7188
Fccglennvillepastor
@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





Valentine Dinner

February 12, 2023



The first ever Valentine dinner was held by the youth of our church. What a wonderful success it was! The Fellowship Hall was decorated in lovely fashion with white tablecloths, rose and heart centerpieces, and romantic music playing in the background. A gentleman host greeted each who entered with a smile, a rose, and an invitation to get their picture taken at the photo station. The food was superb, as supported by well-known food critics everywhere. It was an evening to remember!

So proud of these youth!!



THE EVENING'S COOKS, SERVERS, HOSTS

Back Row: Saylor Howard, Chloe Carlson, Emmie Claire Parker, Anna Howard

Front Row: Adam Bland, Wesley Joya, Cooper Carlson



Jaylyn Fuller....Cheerful Kitchen Worker

Luke Parker & Gracie Thompson



Logan Carlson (AKA Essay Contest Placer!)
Griffin Carlson (AKA Math Mania champ!) SUCH multi-talented kids we have at GFFC!

Chloe Carlson....Plating Spaghetti for the diners. This gal also took 2nd place FCCLA Competition! Now onto State!



Uh-oh...Looks like Wesley Joya got caught EATING on the job. Give the boy a break, Brother Bland! He's still growing!!!



Soul Mates



Family Love...He just changed gals!

Christian Men's Fellowship



The CMF met for a delightful breakfast a couple Sundays ago. The good smells wafted through the entire church! Scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, and more....a menu better than any restaurant around! And it was all prepared by the men of our church. The “program” was eating, socializing, and getting to know Pastor Stuart Bland! Neil shared devotions with the group that morning. Brother Stuart then told a little about himself, and shared his goals for the church. He welcomed input from the members.

We are excited to hear what this group of men have planned next! Join them, as all men are welcome! Young or old...you are encouraged to be a part of this Christian men's group.

Megan, our very efficient office administrator, lets members know when activities are held through the phone “Churchcast” announcement system.

Chairman...Neil Parker

- **MARCH gathering...March 26, 2023
8-9 AM COME HUNGRY!**



*If you haven't checked out the new website for our church yet, please do so.

fccglennville.com A new look, with lots of info!

- Teaching positions have been filled! (THANK YOU!) But it would be wonderful if we had some “back-up teachers.” Please let Bess Stone know if you could help in this capacity!
- The board has approved some painting and carpet replacement in the office areas of our church. It will be taking place in the next couple of weeks. Thank you Property Committee!
- You will notice a few new banners displayed in the sanctuary in days to come. Let the Worship and Education Committee know if you like them!

Welcome Michelle & Stuart Bland!



The CWF had a welcome luncheon for Michelle & Stuart Bland on Saturday, February 4, 2023. A group of 25 women attended and enjoyed a delicious meal together. Everyone introduced themselves to Michelle & Stuart, as well as let them know about many of the activities this group of women are involved in.

President...Linda Woods
Vice Pres....Amanda Durden
Secretary....Wanda Anderson
Treasurer....Vicky Odom

Please Know... All women are invited to join any and all activities of this group!

Wednesday Nights

What a great time this group of about 15 have talking about how to become closer to God. They meet in the "Old Fellowship Hall" from 6:30-7:30. They often have a video, and then discuss the lesson afterward. Leaders are Pat Brannen and Bess Stone. You are graded on the Pass/Fail system. You PASS with an A + if you come!!

Youth Group meets at the same time. Brother Bland meets with these Middle and High Schoolers. They have a grand time. It is a delight to see the basketball hoop getting used in the parking lot by this energetic group of young people! Bring a friend!

2023 Board Officers & Committee Positions

Board Chairperson..... Linda Woods
Board Vice Chairperson..... John Brannen
Secretary..... Bess Stone
Treasurer..... Scott Parker
CWF President..... Linda Woods
Property Chair..... John Brannen
CMF President..... Neil Parker
Sunday School Superintendent.... Cecil Branch
Worship & Christian Ed. Chair..... Bess Stone
Membership & Evangelism Chair.. Linda Woods
Clerk/Historian..... Pat Brannen
Stewardship Chair..... Scott Parker
Youth Director..... Bess Stone

Elders.... Harry Sands (Chair)

Shawn Odom, Bob Fischl, John Dubois

Deacons.... Robin Stewart (Chair)

Scott Parker, Neil Parker, John Brannen, Cecil Branch, Randy
Burkhalter, Burke Kennedy, Rickey Anderson



“Servant leadership is all about making the goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don’t work for you; you work for them.” M. Marti

The Pastor's Pen...

A ship was sailing at night when it received a radio message. The message was simple and clear. "I am directly in front of you, you must turn south." The captain of the ship did not want to turn south in the middle of the night or make any other changes to his ship's course, so he replied, "I am a Navy Captain, YOU turn north." The captain waited briefly and then received another message. "You are heading straight towards me, turn South."

The captain was irritated because of this conversation and that the other person was not respecting his authority. So he replied, "This is my final statement: I am a Navy Captain I will not turn South, YOU will turn north!" Then the Captain of the navy heard: "You turn south, for I am the Lighthouse!"

Friends, regardless of who you are or what ship you're steering, the lighthouse will never adjust to you. It doesn't matter how powerful you are, how much education you have or what success you have had. If you are a ship in conflict with a lighthouse, the lighthouse will win every single time.

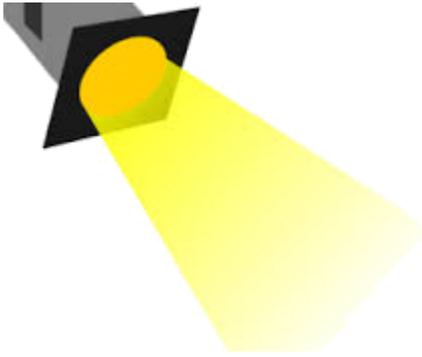
Unfortunately, many of us do not understand and believe we are setting our own course. By making our own decisions, we expect everything and everybody else to adjust to us, including God. If you and God are not seeing things the same way, you must adjust to **Him**. God will never adjust to you. If you want to call your own shots go make your own world! This is God's world, and what he says, goes!

Many of us like to tell God where we want Him to go and what we want him to do, forgetting that **He's** the lighthouse. **He** directs our paths. **He** guides our ways. Just as the Captain was causing chaos, when we won't surrender our thoughts and our words to God we can expect negative outcomes as a result.

*Yours in Christ,
Brother Stuart*



Spotlight on the McKinley Family



John and Jerri McKinley live on Birdford Lake Road in the country. There's a neat little camper in their yard, ready for a road trip. You might see John washing or tinkering with his truck in the yard. It is a safe bet that Jerri is in the house cooking something fabulous, or outside picking up pecans. These two are rarely idle. Likewise, their pint-sized dog, Lizzie is racing around with excess energy. John and Jerri have filled this church with their boundless energy for well over 50 years, and continue to do so today!



John and Jerri married 53 years ago in the GFFC when it was housed where Restoration Pointe Church is today. They married on John's 3-day pass from the Army! Jerri scrambled to make her dress, her Aunt Lois and Isoline Purvis made the wedding cake, and her sister & family helped with ALL the preparations, getting it done in a WEEK!! Little niece, Susan Brannen (now Susan Kennedy) can be seen in their wedding pictures holding her flower girl bouquet. Their marriage began a whirlwind of following John where his Army career took them.

John's 21 year career in the Army is one he is rightfully proud of. It's hard to keep track of his many titles. But, much of his time was spent as a UH1 Helicopter Crew Chief. Truthfully, though, they "put him in any job they needed him", as his skills were invaluable! John had a tour to Vietnam, served in several States, and about 9 years total in Germany. He was a Military Police, trained Vietnamese in helicopter weapons at Hunter Airfield, served as Chatham County Police, ran an automotive business in Richmond Hill and Jesup, and worked at Smith State Prison after retiring (if you call that retiring!).



Jerri was by no means your fragile little Army housewife. She started with her first job after Cosmetology School in hair dressing. In her words though, “It was just too boring”! This girl needed a bigger challenge. I guess that’s not too surprising when you hear that she loved to race cars (actually John’s fancy, hot car, was what first attracted Jerri to John!), scuba diving, and all sorts of “exciting” things! She did not sit around and do her nails while John served his country.

Some of Jerri’s “jobs” included *working for the Dept. of Family and Children’s Services, *working in Civil Service which involved responsibilities in supplying the Embassy and Commissary, and even owning and operating a restaurant!

And during all of this activity in their lives, Jerri and John welcomed two sons into their lives while in Germany! John bragged about sneaking into the strict German hospital to see Jerri and their newborn. Imagine John being chased by a German nurse!

Children Kris, Joe, and Jason, live in Mississippi, Savannah, and Pooler respectively. They complete the family with 4 grandchildren. Family get-togethers are often (usually) held at John and Jerri’s with their giant kitchen table overflowing with scrumptious foods.

The McKinley’s giving nature overflows to this church of ours’s. Jerri has organized funeral meals for families for many, many years. She has served as Chief Cook for so many events, it’s hard to even count. She is quick to add that she can’t take all the credit, as John is also in the kitchen washing, lifting, carrying, and doing whatever needs doing! She puts on many miles delivering meals to those who may be sick or unable to get out. Even more special than the meals she brings, is the time she spends visiting with those whose doors she walks through.

During a very difficult time in their lives, Jerri spent over 3 months in the hospital battling cancer. They can’t emphasize enough, how important this church was during this life and death struggle. “This church is my family and my home.” Jerri says.

ABOVE....John’s “Military Wall”! Not seen on the OTHER wall in this same room, is Jerri’s library!! It gives Glennville Library a run for the money!

TO THE RIGHT....Jerri tries out her new “Noodle Maker Attachment” that John gave her for Christmas. She needed a new challenge. She said the new toy beats making noodles BY HAND!



God does not call
only the qualified.
HE qualifies those
that are called!



Calendar of Events for March 2023

March 26.....CMF Group meets for breakfast, 8-9 a.m.

Church Services

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Sunday morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Youth Mtg. at 6:30 –7:30 p.m.

Glennville First
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA
30427

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



“March comes in like a lion,
And out like a lamb!”

