

June, 2023

# Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



A good father is  
one of the most  
*unsung,*  
*unpraised,*  
*unnoticed,*  
and yet one of the  
*most valuable*  
assets in our society.

*-Billy Graham-*

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



# “Hat” Sunday



Why all the hats, you ask? Several reasons.

1. These gorgeous hats have been sitting in closets & its time to come out!
2. It's May. Society got rid of May Baskets and May poles, so we now have May hats.
3. To show support for the Kentucky Derby.
4. **In Honor of Mrs. Mary Kicklighter, who was famous for her hat collection!!!**





## Who Doesn't Love a Parade???

What a parade at the 2023 Onion Festival! You can be proud of the float that represented our church! Many hands were involved in the building of it.

**Adult Supervisors :** Linda Woods, Jennifer Carlson

**Adult Engineer:** Phil Carlson

**Super-Duper Builders:** Chloe Carlson, Cooper Carlson, Anna Bender, Steven Jordan, Abby Jordan, Emmy Claire Parker, Emmy Anderson, Jack Anderson, Luke Parker, Zack Anthony

**Cheer Leaders:** Bobbi Grace Anderson, Elin Anderson, Logan Carlson, Griffin Carlson

(If I missed anyone, forgive me!)



Jack Anderson and "his" tractor.  
(Thank you Grandpa Ricky Anderson for LETTING him call it his tractor!)



## And Then There's This...

Grandma Susan Kennedy and Speedy Gonzales grandson, Mack, WON their age categories in the 1 mile Fun Run at the Onion Festival! What a duo!

And when Susan crossed the finish line, (who, by the way, is no stranger to looong running competitions!) there was Mack waiting for her saying "What took you so long Nana?" What a little comedian!





## World Turtle Races Continue!

What a crowd there was at the 2023 Turtle Races! Our church has sponsored this little competition for the Kids that come to the Onion Festival each year. It was begun by Jerrell and Isiline Purvis, and friend Ed Swedler.

The “race track” was built by them, and is still used today.

It has been refurbished several times, but remains as popular as the Indy 500 racetrack in Indianapolis! Begun in 2002, it is a highlight of the festival!

This activity takes several helping hands to be successful. \*The “turtle gatherers”, who collect as many turtles as they can for those children that weren’t able to catch one on their own, keep them healthy and happy, and bring them to the festival, ready to race. \*Then there are those that help all of the kids register for the activity. \*There are the carpenters that set up the race track (and take it down after the day’s excitement is over). \*The score-keepers...so we know who wins each heat! \*The turtle handlers (who had better wear gloves!) who deliver the proper turtle to each contestant. \*And lastly, but of no less importance...The MC, who must diligently prepare his voice for this extremely competitive event, being careful not to show any favoritism! (Good job, Pastor Stuart!) As you can see it takes many hands to pull this off!

Thank you to ALL who helped. We couldn’t have done it without you!



Ted the Turtle says “I’ve been training for this all year!”





## Thank You...

*Sandra Ray*, for the wonderful Children's Message during the church service on May 7th, 2023! You did a splendid job telling the kids sometimes there are things



that...

"You can't go around it. You can't go under it. You can't go over it. You just gotta go through it" And God will help you do it!

It wasn't just the kids that needed this message!

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## An Invitation (Just in case you've forgotten)...

- ◆ You are invited to adult Sunday School classes. The teachers of those classes will welcome you with open arms! 9 a.m. Sunday mornings (Glenda Geiger, Lisa Burkhalter/Pat Brannen, Isiline Purvis)
- ◆ Classes for our Youth (Susan Kennedy/Michelle Bland, Yesenia Joya/Pastor Bland & helpers) also 9 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Bible Studies at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Please feel free to volunteer to cheer up our sanctuary with flowers on any Sunday. It can be in honor of a loved one, an anniversary, or just "because". Please contact the church if you have a date you'd like to do this.
- ◆ Would you like to sing in a 4th of July musical celebration? Sign up at church! Plans are to have the program during the church service on June 25th.



## Say it Again!

Pastor Bland has mentioned several times that if you would like to provide special music during the church service, please let him know. We know there is hidden talent among our membership. Time to share it!

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### Did you notice?

We have UPDATED toilets ! Thank you so very much Property Committee! No longer will you find the nursery -school- sized toilets in our church!

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### Thank You

We enjoyed the beautiful flower decorations donated and displayed in church by Bess Stone & Family. What a sweet way to honor your Dad.





## Youth Group Activities

What a grand time the Youth Group had on their boat trip and fellowship time together! The first try, ended in postponement due to the weather. This group didn't give up though! The second try was a charm.

Pastor Stuart Bland gassed up his boat, yelled "All Aboard!" and pushed off from Jaycee Landing in Jesup, traveling all the way to Shellman Bluff. His passengers were: Chloe Carlson, Cooper Carlson, Emmy Claire Parker, Adam Bland, and Jordan Whitlow.

They stopped along the way to see an old railroad track (no longer in use) that "swivels" in the river! They continued on and went through Rifle Cut, a shortcut to Darien, Georgia, dug in the early 1800s. This canal is approximately 15 ft wide and 9 feet deep at high tide.

They enjoyed a meal at Skipper's in Darien, and then continued on to Shellman's Bluff. It was a rich day for everyone, seeing Georgia's river and coastline by boat.

To Pastor Bland's credit, he didn't lose one single passenger on this outing. In fact, he GAINED a youth from another church boat, that jumped ship to join this fun crew!

There was a little incident, however, that MAY have been a total accident. Adam Bland was being generous (ahem, very likely ordered by his father) and while pushing off the boat from the dock at Skipper's, poor Adam went for an unplanned swim!

In the spirit of Christian love and forgiveness, NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED AT THIS TIME! (wink, wink)





## *The Pastor's Pen...*

Job 42:7—"And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words into Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz, the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee and against they two friends: for you have not spoken of me the things that is right, as my servant Job hath."

Have you ever received directions to a friend's house in the form of a hand drawn map? If you trust in the squiggly lines drawn, follow them to what you believe is the right destination, only to end up lost?...what went wrong? Maybe If you had looked at a map, you might have seen that side road that your friend forgot to draw! What he believed was correct directions, caused you to be lost.

While we encourage and comfort our friends, we want to be very sure that we use the best map...the word of God. When Job was suffering, his friends started out well-intended in their efforts to comfort him, but when they began to rely on their own wisdom, they took a wrong turn.

Our encouragement must include wise biblical counsel, that includes the truth that comes straight from the heart and mind of God. When we rely on human truth, we offer our friends a false road map that will send them in the wrong direction. Encourage and comfort your friends today by using the truth found in God's word!

*Yours in Christ,  
Brother Stuart*







## Award Season....In Glennville!

This is definitely award season in Glennville! Pictured are Emmy Claire and Mom, Angela Parker. EC played 2 sports and still kept over a 90 average in all classes! We have young people working hard during the school year who are being recognized at the end of the year celebrations. We celebrate WITH you! Let them know that this “village” of supporters in our church are the cheerleaders for “our” youth!



Anda Odom



Darby & Caroline Sanders



Grandma and Grandpa  
with Ella Kate Bland

## Busy Little Beavers ...

...Held their end of the year program at our church this year! The parking lot was overflowing. Jenni Lane was lined with cars. Parents and Grandparents couldn't wait to get inside and see what sweet songs and activities were going to be shared on this evening. What a wonderful thing to have our church provide the facility for such a loving activity! This building has been a home for weddings, reunions, funerals, showers, graduation parties, as well as our Sunday services, board meetings, CWF gatherings, CMF breakfasts, Bible studies, and many, many more activities! We are glad to have this building FILLED with activities. To be able to share this building with our members and their families is one small way to minister. We appreciate the Property Committee and their efforts to keep things beautiful and maintained. We appreciate our members who help to clean up after activities and are good stewards with the material things we have been blessed with! If you would like to use our church facilities for an activity, call Megan at the church office. She will be sure to help you!



# What a TREAT it was!!

May 21, 2023



Maggie Bland



Jordan and Morgan Bland and daughter Maggie

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**Sad to Say....**Our trip to The Encounter and Creation Museum had to be cancelled due to falling short on numbers. We needed 11 more seats to be filled to offer the price for travel, entrance, and lodging. **HOWEVER....**we will try again in the Fall! If you can find some friends to help us fill that bus, we'll all be on the road with excitement!

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## Anger and the Damage it Causes...

Once, there was a young boy who had difficulty controlling his anger. Whenever he got angry, he would blurt out whatever was on his mind, regardless of how it may have hurt those around him.

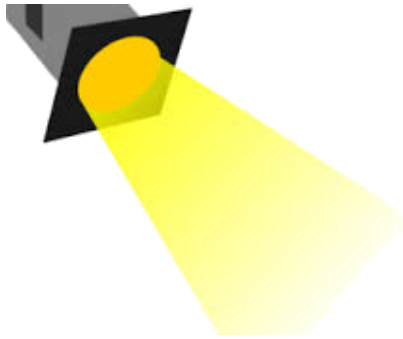
His father gave him a hammer and some nails, telling him that whenever he got angry he should hammer a nail into the backyard fence. Initially he used up half of the nails in the first few days, but eventually he was able to reduce his usage until his temper was under control.

His father then asked him to remove one nail for each day he didn't lose his temper. When he had removed the last nail, his father said to him, "You've done well, but can you see the holes in the fence? The fence will never be the same. Just like that, when you say mean things in anger, you'll leave a scar."

*The moral of the Controller Anger story is: Anger is one of the most harmful weapons, similar to a knife. The wounds will mend after using it, but the scars will endure.*



# Spotlight on Glenda Geiger



Glenda Geiger has been a steadfast member of the First Christian Church for 60 years. Always more comfortable in the background, rather than the “spotlight”, this lady continues to embody the spirit of a true servant of God.

Glenda was born in Mendes, GA to parents Olen and Valerie Waters. She was one of 4 children. Oldest brother, Ronald, died in 1992, while youngest brother, Joey and his wife, Susan, still live in Mendes. Sister, Rhonda, lives in the Glenvue Nursing Home.

Glenda attended Mendes School until the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and then was bused to Glennville High School. Glenda’s own grandfather, Joe Waters, owned two school buses, as well as the Gulf Gas Station in Mendes. How many kids could say their grandpa took them to school every day?

Glenda’s dad was into transportation as well, having worked 34 years for the Department of Transportation before retiring and running the Gulf Station after the death of his father.

Glenda and Louis met in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. They graduated in May, 1960, and married 5 months later, October 4, 1960! Kinda reminds you of the song by Johny Cash and June Carter...“We got married in a fever, Hotter than a pepper sprout”, huh? They were married “61 years and 10 months”, notes Glenda with a smile. Louis died July 4, 2022, after several years of battling dementia, with Glenda at his side. Many afternoons were spent driving Louis around country roads in Glennville while singing along with familiar church hymns on the radio.

Louis worked for the Engineering Division for the State of GA and Georgia Power Company for several years before going into business for himself as a Tree Surgeon before retiring.

Glenda has had a demanding career taking her into the world of contracting. She started off by working for the County Extension Office for 5 years, before going to work at Fort Stewart in 1966. From clerk typist, she advanced several times to being appointed Chief of the Contracting Administration Division of the Directorate of Contracting. This is a mouthful... but also a job full of extreme responsibilities! She was in charge of about 14 people as well as all types of contracts from as low (?) as \$25,000, to UNLIMITED amounts of dollars. She represented the Government Court when a contractor appealed her decisions, did a lot of travel for the government for schools, training, court cases, and on-site observations ..to name a few of her duties.



And this lady still found time to serve as President of CWF, Membership and Evangelism Committee, the Annie Carr Circle, the Church Board, and best of all, Sunday School Teacher to the Builder's SS Class for over 50 years! She is a remarkable woman!

Believe it or not, Glenda even squeezed in some hobbies! She loves hunting, fishing, traveling, and reading. Fishing is at the top of the list, though. Her wish to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, was to go fishing. Her admitted thrill in life, was catching a 36" Bass on that trip. Even Louis had never caught one that big!

Difficult times do not play favorites, as Glenda knows well. One very heartbreaking time in her life was the loss of their firstborn 14 month old daughter, Anne. She was born with a blockage in her intestine, and was operated on at a day old. Seemingly, all was fine, until she very suddenly got sick, fell into a coma, and was gone into God's arms. When Louis died in 2022, Glenda's faith, once again, has been her strength.

God is good, though, as even after losing Anne, Glenda and Louis were blessed with another little girl, Kimberly. Kimberly married Brian Blocker, giving Glenda two grandsons. Youngest grandson, Mark lives in Atlanta and is a PA with the Young Minds Psychiatry Team. Oldest grandson, Matthew and his wife, Kayla, live closer and have blessed Glenda with twins, Ames and Mattie. "They are 2 yrs old and the joy of my life!" shared Glenda.



*"My life has been a lot of ups and downs, happy and sad...but the permanent thing in my life is Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, now and forever more!"*

## Calendar of Events for June 2023

June 18.....Father's Day

June 25.....4th of July Cantata

### Church Services

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Sunday morning Worship at 10 a.m.

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

"My father didn't  
tell me how to live.  
He lived, and let me  
watch him do it."-  
Clarence Kelland



Glennville First  
Christian Church

9224 GA Hwy 23

Glennville, GA 30427

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*"Every day may not be good...but there is good in every day." Alice Morse Earle*