

August, 2023

# Glennville First Christian Church Newsletter



*“It’s like the  
Sunday of  
Summer”  
Author Unknown*



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## Farewell to Nadine “Bootsy” Dasher



Good friends, Earl Dean Tootle (left) & Bootsy Dasher (right), enjoy each other's company. Both were GFCC members and lifelong friends.

It's never easy to say good-bye to loved ones. Bootsy Dasher, at 91 years of age, sure left behind a legacy with 18 grand children, and 31 great grands! She was a member of our church, but lived in Statesboro in recent years, so some may not have known her well. “Honorary” daughter Pat Brannen, and son-in-law, John, were definitely included as a part of her legacy, with many sweet memories. At Bootsy's funeral, her grandson, Shannon Middleton, shared funny and warm stories. He said she had a sense of humor and energy until the very end. One of her loves was that she loved to dance. Wouldn't it be great if we all could keep that mind frame!

### Song by LeAnn Womack...I Hope You Dance

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder,  
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger,  
May you never take one single breath for granted,  
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed,  
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,  
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,  
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...

I hope you dance...I hope you dance!

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance,  
Never settle for the path of least resistance,  
Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin',  
Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin',  
Don't let some Hell bent heart leave you bitter,  
When you come close to sellin' out reconsider,  
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance,  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

I hope you dance...I hope you dance!

*I love the words to this song. Hope you do too!*



# Back to School!

Teachers and students are soon to be in their respective classrooms to begin the task of learning! Teachers (of which we have many at GFCC!) will be back July 24th, planning, preparing, cleaning, organizing. Students report back on July 31st.



## How can you help your child succeed?

- Meet your child's teacher. Develop a partnership., and communicate with them! Go to the Parent-Teacher Conference! (Elementary, Middle, & H.School!)
- Get to know others at your child's school. The school nurse, the lunchroom ladies (right, Wanda?), the principal, your child's friends...they are all an important part of your child's life. Ask questions of your child to get to know these people.
- Make sure they get their homework done. This doesn't mean to do it for them. But help them when needed. Help them prepare for tests.
- Rejoice with them when they do well. Even if they don't get A's or "best in the class"...rejoice when they complete something challenging or IMPROVE. Everyone needs a pat on the back now and then!

## What if I don't have kids in school anymore?

- They are still OUR kids. We have precious kids in our congregation. Let them know they are loved! Pray for them (and their parents and teachers!). Talk to them and ask questions about their school activities and lives when you see them, in and out of the doors of the church. You have more of an influence than you may realize.
- And don't let us forget the TEACHERS! They are OUR teachers, as well. They have a giant job. They may see those "precious kids" more than parents, so they definitely need your prayers and encouragement. They see our sweet kids at their best (and worst!). You can criticize or uplift.





## Backpack Buddies...Here we go again!

**Amanda and Danny Durden** and the delivery team had a little bit of a break! They will be back at it now that school has begun. They need our help and support.

Our church has taken on a very important role, knowing there are children that DO NOT get healthy meals on the days that school doesn't meet. Healthy lunches, and breakfasts are offered during the week through the public schools, but those weekends and days when school has holidays, often leave them with nothing. That may be hard to believe, but it is very true in our community.



Last year many of our congregation helped out by giving a boost to this committee by donating dollars to help the budget. Food prices have soared, while the need still exists. The dollar buys much less. Thanks to all who helped, they didn't have to reduce the amounts of food that were given to middle school students to take home on Fridays.

Danny and Amanda make the money stretch as far as possible. It involves trips to Sam's, comparing prices, trunks packed with packaged items on sale. They are careful and frugal!

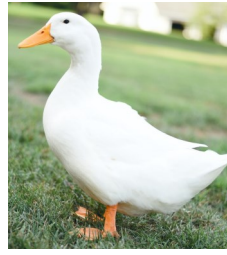
If you are able to spare a few dollars, please consider helping out again. You can put a check in the offering plate at church designating "Backpack Buddies" in the notation area, or hand it to Danny or Amanda.

Please know that any and all donations are APPRECIATED!



## The Duck & the Devil:

There was a little boy visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck.



Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked and grieved.

In a panic, he hid its dead body in the wood pile, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen. Then she whispered to him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry, but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally just smiled and said, "Well, that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help!

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's... he finally couldn't stand it any longer.

He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

- Original author unknown

### The Lesson:

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done... and the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.) ..whatever it is....You need to know that God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing..... He has seen your whole life; He wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven.

## Thank you to ...

All who brought food and helped in the kitchen for the funeral of Bootsy Dasher. It was greatly appreciated!

\*\*\*\*\*

### We are still in need...

\*Can you help by teaching "Children's Church" on a Sunday morning?

\*We are also looking for Wednesday Night Elementary Age teachers!

Please let Bess Stone know if you can help out with either of these needs.

912-432-2473

**Thank you in Advance!**

## Coming Soon...

Back to School Lunch.....Following the church worship service on Sunday, **August 27th**, we will have a lunch for all. It will be Hotdogs, watermelon, peanuts and ice cream!

Pencils for Kids.....Our church will be delivering pencils to the middle school for use by students that need one. This might seem like a simple little thing, but having been a teacher myself, I'll tell you, not a day went By, that at least one student didn't say "I don't have a pencil." We will keep in contact through the school year, as well, to see IF and WHEN other school supplies might be needed.

FCC Fun Day.....**Friday, July 28th**. This is for Middle and Elementary students. Bouncy houses and water...and Food....no better combination! Bring a friend and wear a swim suit!

Speaking of Wild Kids.....The older youth are planning a trip to The Clubhouse **July 29th**. Sounds like great fun!



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

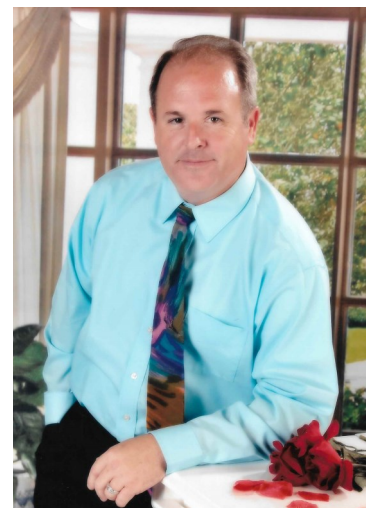
Hey, FCC Family. I pray that everybody is having a wonderful summer, enjoying this nice cool weather that we're having in the 90s every day, in beautiful, Glennville. What a great time to spend with family and friends over these summer months. I look forward to seeing each of you on Sundays, until we resume our normal Wednesday activities on August 2nd. May these times be precious memories for all of us. Times that we should remember together, and times that are never forgotten when spent with family and friends.

But there is one thing that we should forget, and that is sin. Sin can be devastating, it can mess with our emotions and thoughts. But, for us as Christians, we shouldn't spend time feeling guilty. We should strive to confess it and ask for forgiveness.

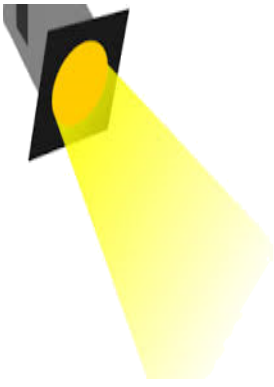
King David was a "man after God's own heart", yet he was caught in adultery with Bathsheba. Instead of asking for forgiveness for his guilt, he tried to cover up his sin and murder was committed. When David finally confessed his sin, God stepped in and offered his forgiveness.

Writing to the Colossian church, the Apostle Paul portrayed God's forgiveness as "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us", (Colossians 2:14). The Greek word used for handwriting refers to the handwritten certificates of debt signed by debtors. The debtors would erase the debt off the parchment of paper once paid in full. God's forgiveness was paid in full on the cross of Calvary and it's permanently erased all of our sin. If we confess it. Don't allow lingering sin to rob you of the blessings that are yours. Your debt has been erased and when you bring up a past sin, God has no idea what you're even talking about. What a wonderful thought!

*Yours in Christ,  
Brother Stuart*



# Spotlight on Cecil and Stephanie



Cecil and Stephanie Branch may look like a pretty normal couple, but upon a closer look you'll find they are very colorful and full of more experiences and surprises than you can imagine! They have led, and continue to lead, a very busy and eventful life never letting the obstacles thrown in their way stop them.

Cecil (AKA Robert) and Stephanie were married September 25, 1999 in the backyard of their home in Tison. Cecil says he picked that day, as it was the first day of hunting...and that way he'd always remember their anniversary. (This gives you a clue as to his sense of humor!)

**Stephanie** calls herself an "Air Force Brat". Her Dad served in the AF and was responsible for their family spending years in Denver, CO, New Mexico, and lastly East Liverpool, Ohio. She has two sisters, and two parents who are staunch supporters and have been familiar visitors to GFFC. Stephanie began her career right out of high school in the Army. She served from 1989 through 1997, having been in Dessert Storm and Vigilant Warrior. Duties included every kind of clerk you can think of, including Legal, Postal, General, and Motor Pool, to name a few!

For fear of getting things out of order, let me just run down a few of her other career endeavors (in no particular order!) She worked at the Naval Satellite Tracking Station until the AF took over its operation (I didn't even know they had one!), worked at Ft. Stewart for several years as their IT Tech/Cyber Security specialist while managing to get degrees in Industrial Manufacturing and Electronic Technology (and graduating with a 3.98 GPA!!!). Oh, and she also squeezed in there somewhere being the mom of two, (AJ, 32, very eligible!, runs AJ's Handyman Construction Business...Allison 31, owner of "Caked by the Bell" a custom cakes and confections business & married to James) and now grandma to 4 (Melony-10, Gabriel-8, Roman-7, Freya-almost 2). Steph is a member of CWF, Membership and Evangelism Committee, Builder's SS Class, and was a member of the Miss Mary Circle.



**Cecil** was born and raised in Brunswick. He has 2 sisters, 1 brother, and 1 deceased brother. He quit school at 16 and went immediately to work for Coastal Wood Products in Glennville, making telephone poles. Later he took a job as a correctional officer at Smith State Prison. He credits this job for helping him to find the love of his life (Steph of course!), as he always stopped at the Convenience Store after his shift, where she also worked (forgot to mention this one). Somewhere in there he also did some schooling getting his GED, getting degrees also in Electrical Engineering, Welding, Industrial and Residential Refrigeration. He worked for Claxton Poultry in refrigeration, worked for Ft. Stewart in security, and most recently is known as “Glennville’s handyman” (fixing, remodeling, painting, also working with AJ on many projects!) Cecil had a daughter, now deceased (Rebecca) and a son,(Robert-45) and 7 grandchildren. Cecil is a Deacon and the Sunday School Superintendent for our church, and member of the Builder’s SS Class. He’s also served as Property committee Chair as well as CMF Chair.

When I asked this couple what their “claim to fame” might be, Stephanie showed me a trophy she’d won placing 2nd in the Powerlift & Bench Press where you do the squat lift, bench press and dead lift. She’d dead lifted 200 lbs.! Cecil proudly claimed “And, I was her coach!”

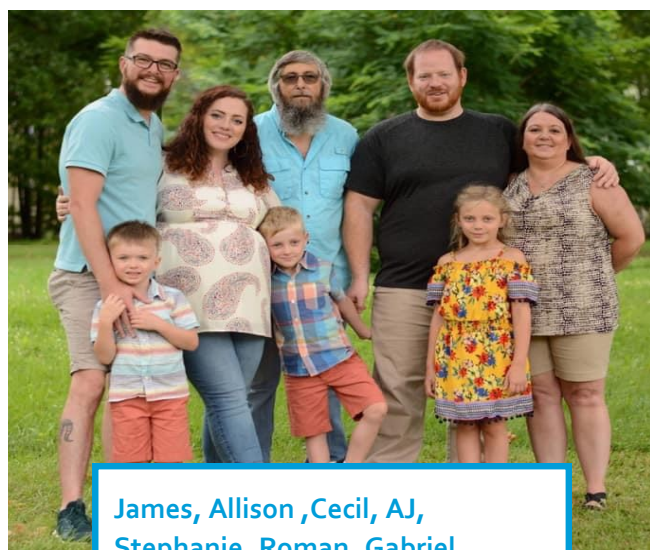
Truthfully though, their claim to fame is much, much more. Cecil has survived two serious heart attacks along with prostate cancer, and ongoing lung issues from working in refrigeration. Surgery, treatments, rehab, have not been easy, but you’ll never hear him complain.

Stephanie was diagnosed a year ago with Stage IV adenocarcinoma of the lungs after having over a year of undiagnosed problems where the cancer grew cutting off her esophagus, limiting eating, swallowing, and speaking. The battle is far from over, as she continues to undergo treatments including immuno therapy, chemo, and radiation. And Steph continues to have the warmest smile, doing whatever she can, whenever she can. This is one tough couple, who still manages to have a heart for others!!

“So, do you two have any hobbies?” I asked.

***“Hmmm. Not really. We don’t have a lot of extra time. I guess our hobby is helping people. We just really like helping people when we can.” Cecil***

Now that sure sounds like living out your faith, doesn’t it?



James, Allison ,Cecil, AJ,  
Stephanie, Roman, Gabriel,  
Melony, Freya. (not born yet!)



## Calendar of Events for July 2023

July 28.....FCC Fun Day, Elementary & MS youth

July 29.....The Clubhouse....Older Youth

July 30.....CMF Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Aug. 2, Wednesday...Women's Bible Study, New series,  
Men's group begins again

Aug. 27,Sunday.....Back to School Lunch, following  
Church Service

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Sunday morning Worship at 10 a.m.

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

Glennville First  
Christian Church

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*Give every day the chance to become the most  
beautiful day of your life. Mark Twain*