



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
GRIFFIN

# NEWS

*December 2019*

## **Pastor Drew's Views:** *Merry Christmas!*

Luke reports the shepherds saying, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about!" This Christmas, try to imagine what God gave up when He came into our world as a baby. Philippians describes it as emptying Himself so that He could be with YOU. He did it to feel what you feel, to hunger, thirst, suffer, to rejoice like you do. He did it to save you.

Try not to go through motions this Christmas. Try harder than ever to trust the only God who did that for you. What a gift!

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

Website: [www.fpcgriffin.org](http://www.fpcgriffin.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

## **THANK YOU FROM THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE!**

The facilities committee wants to thank everyone who helped with our clean-up days and numerous projects this past calendar year. Many volunteer hours have been donated by many hands. Without you, we would have accomplished little. Please make a New Year's resolution to remain or become active with the committee. The committee will be making plans for next year in the coming months.

Thank you, Michael Biddle, Chair

## **THANK YOU OUTGOING ELDERS!**

Well done, good and faithful servants! Thank you Art Hammond, Debbie Hammond, Mike Biddle and Bill Baldwin for your faithful service. New elders Gary Hollums, Jim Skinner, Lou Baldwin and Andy Musser will begin serving in January. Please pray for them!

# Mission, Outreach, & Evangelism

Jesus said "Go", so let's GO! Here are some opportunities to serve together with unconditional "agape" love (sign ups in the Narthex or just call the church office):

## Abundant Life Soup Kitchen

We will serve together again at the soup kitchen on Tuesday, 12/17 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you haven't tried this yet, it is a great opportunity to serve in our community with the love of Christ and also get the word out about who we are.



## Back the Blue

Back the Blue has served free coffee and a Chick-fil-a biscuits to first responders since August. We are doing this monthly now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Back the Blue will be back on 12/10.

## Christmas Day Outreach

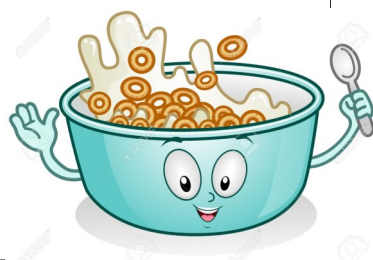
We will serve 500-1000 meals in the community on Christmas Day. We will need cooks, help with delivery, clean-up, etc. Please contact Becki Brown if you are willing to volunteer!

## Mission Trip at FPC!

Hey, please be in prayer for a possible upcoming mission trip. It's time to serve! More details to come.

## Cereal Sunday

The first Sunday of each month, FPC Griffin has the honor to participate in "CEREAL SUNDAY". We ask members to bring bags or boxes of dry cereal and place them in the grocery cart located in the Narthex, near the wing of the Children's hall. This FOOD PANTRY ministry provides many poor and homeless individuals a nutritious meal that can either be eaten dry or with milk. Please bring cereal on Sunday, December 1st.



## Quotes from one of our mission partners:

"Thank you so much for your recent donation to Mission: Hope! Your support is such a valuable part of our work!"

"The ladies here at Christian Women's Center greatly appreciate the monetary donation you gave! God bless!"

"The Young Lives ladies say 'thank you!'"

Our church is currently giving to 8 local ministries and 6 International ministries and to Thornwell Children's Home in Clinton S.C. Listed below are the percentages from our offerings that go to each ministry:

5 Loaves and 2 Fish Food Pantry	7%
Habitat for Humanity, Griffin	7%
Christian Women's Center	7%
Spalding Samaritans	7%
Young Life	5%
Young Lives	5%
Rushton's Hope	7%
Backpack food 4 Kids	7%
Thornwell Home	5%
Serge - George Mixon	15%
Cru - Ralph Elliott	3%
Frontier Fellowship - Cody Watson	7%
International Messengers	5%
Mission Hope	7%
Emily Elling- Youth with a Mission	4%
Special purpose	4%



We hope to be giving you information about each of these ministries in the coming months.

Remember our shut-ins.  
Send a "Thinking About You" card or note.

Here is a list of our members who are not able to get out and about.  
Remember them in your prayers, send them a card, give them a call, drop by to visit.  
Let's don't forget them!

Darlene Chipman  
Pruitt Health Monroe  
4796 Highway 42 North  
Forsyth, GA 31209

Donna Krepps  
1705 Oak Knoll Road  
Griffin, GA 30223

Anne Mixon  
Brightmoor Assisted Living  
3223 Newnan Rd.  
Griffin, GA 30223

Richard & Jane Gaston  
1809 Maple Drive  
Griffin, GA 30224

Marty Lang  
201 Crosstown Drive  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Michael & Maggie Rockholt  
1211 Pebble rock Road  
Hampton, GA 30228

Ione Kelly  
3223 Newnan Rd., P-9  
Griffin, GA 30223

Richard Turner  
929 Springer Drive  
Griffin, GA 30224

# Congregational Care

Members enjoyed a luncheon after worship November 11 recognizing our veterans and kicking off our Shoebox ministry. And November 24, after the Community Thanksgiving Service, a group of about 40 had Bob Gordon's delicious chicken soup, salad prepared by Bonnie Pfrogner and Lou Baldwin and Debbie Hammond's brownies and were ready to decorate the church.

**YOU ARE INVITED!!**

**December 11: POTLUCK SUPPER** after the Children's Program. **Please bring a main dish or side dish to share. A Happy Birthday to Jesus cake will be our dessert.**

**December 15: Churchwide Christmas Festival at 6PM** in the Activities Center and, weather permitting, in the Pavilion. Enjoy Christmas music presented by a Brass Quintet with Mike Biddle and friends; singing carols; hot chocolate, mulled cider, cookies and s'mores. **IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE BRING 3 DOZEN COOKIES. WE WILL KEEP ONE DOZEN FOR OUR FESTIVAL, SHARE A DOZEN WITH FUTRAL ROAD ELEMENTARY AND A DOZEN WITH STEPPING STONES.**



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2019** **Declare His Glory Among the Nations** Psalm 96:3

50 Shoeboxes were delivered to Crestview Baptist Church,  
and 17 were completed online for a grand total of 67!!

THANK YOU to all you participated in this wonderful outreach. Each shoebox gives Samaritan's Purse the opportunity to reach one more child with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Often these boxes become the seeds for new churches in places that have never been reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Remember: PRAY! ASK GOD TO USE YOUR GIFTS AND THE CHURCHES WHO HAND THEM OUT TO BLESS BOYS AND GIRLS AND SHARE THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AND THE GREATEST JOURNEY, DOORS FOR THE GOSPEL ARE BEING OPENED WORLDWIDE!**

# Did You Know???

**The Arts (and More) are Alive in Griffin!**

**Griffin Ballet Theatre:** November 29, 20 and December 1 – **The Nutcracker**

**Griffin Choral Arts:** "Revealed" – December 12

**Main Street Players:** Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some) – December 4-15

**Griffin-Spalding Art Association:** Art Gallery on the first floor at the Welcome Center; painting with Art Association members Thursdays (10a-2p) at First Methodist Christian Enrichment Ctr.

**Griffin Academy of Music** ([facebook.com/griffinacademyofmusic](https://www.facebook.com/griffinacademyofmusic)) – students of all ages can learn to sing or play guitar, bass, ukulele, piano, drums, violin or cello.

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December Meal Coordinator is Mimi Johnson.

Remember to contact the church office, Debbie Hammond, Bonnie Pfrogner or Bill Baldwin if you know of someone in the congregation who may need a call or visit.

I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation for all the help I have had the past three years on the Congregational Care Ministry Team. There is absolutely no question that we are a very loving and caring congregation who step up to help each other almost without being asked. But, moreover, the members of this ministry team have gone above and beyond preparing meals; organizing, setting up for and cleaning up after events; and helping with "field" trips. My sincere thanks to Ruth Allison, Bill and Lou Baldwin, Tim and Becki Brown, Sharon Day, Rick and Georganne Dougherty, Diane and Bob Gordon, Karlene and George Hollender, Bonnie Pfrogner, Drew Elling and our Meal Coordinators (Bonnie Pfrogner, Robin Reahard, Becki Brown, Jane Bailey, Lynn Mitchell, Ruth Allison, Evelyn Ingram, Pat Brown and Mimi Johnson). **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY!!!**

We do need Meal Coordinators for February and May. Contact Bonnie Pfrogner if you are interested or have questions.

Many thanks also to Cindy Baynham and Tiffany Doran for the beautiful wreaths and cards for our shut ins.

May Your Christmas and New Year be Blessed!!!

# Youth

## Parents,

Can you believe that the youth are in their 7th week of our massive trek through the Bible called, The Thread. This study shows that all of Scripture is united in one message: God's redemptive work throughout the generations, as ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ.

While this curriculum is AMAZING and helpful in helping them understand God's Word, make sure your preteens and teens pick up a copy of the devotional book that goes along with the curriculum. It will help solidify what they learn in the classroom during the week.

## Other News:

Last month the youth had a PYF Family Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner was open to the youth, their families, and the youth staff members. We had such a WONDERFUL turn out! Thank you to all the parents who took the time to cook the side dishes and desserts, and the Johnson family for providing the turkey and ham! We might have to make this a yearly tradition!

Mark it on your calendar for December 4th - it's the youth's annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. It will be a fun time with a cookie decorating contest, gingerbread house building, and lots of other fun (and possibly messy games). December 11th will not be a traditional youth service due to the children's Christmas Pageant.

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## Hope Town Kids

## Parents,

It's the time of year when Christmas decorations begin to fill our homes. From the twinkling lights, to the sparkling stars, to the glittering snow, there is light all around us! The very first Christmas didn't have Christmas trees or ornaments, but it did have something special: light! Just like a star in the sky led the wisemen to Jesus on the very first Christmas, today our Christmas lights remind us to continue looking toward Jesus, the One we celebrate each Christmas. In this 4-week Christmas series, kids will discover the many ways God gets our attention and guides us toward Him: through His direction, through other people, through our Savior, and through the hope Jesus has given us.

## Important things to be on the look out for in the month of December:

The children of Hope Town Kids is working super hard to be ready for their Christmas Pageant on December 11th. We would LOVE to have everyone come out and support the kids and their hard work.

# Stewardship & Finance

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGE CARDS

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team would like to thank those who submitted pledge cards for 2020. It really helps us estimate what our income will be and whether or not the proposed budget appears attainable. We do understand that some folks prefer not to submit pledges, but certainly do contribute and are critical in reaching our financial needs. Typically every church also has to step out in faith that the necessary funds will be received when setting a budget, and ours is no different. As Presbyterian's, the Session is responsible for approving the proposed budget and your Stewardship and Finance Team will be monitoring receipts to determine if any future revisions might be necessary.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you and your families as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

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# Worship

## *Votive Candles are currently available for purchase*

We will continue this year celebrating the memory of those we love as well as those we wish to honor by lighting votives for them on Christmas Eve. With a donation of \$10 for each votive a card can be picked up in the church office ( a member of the Worship Ministry Team will be in the church office each Sunday) You can then forward the card to the recipient or family of the recipient that you are honoring.

### *Merry Christmas*

*A votive will be lit in your honor on Christmas Eve at the First Presbyterian Church in Griffin, Georgia. May you have blessings in abundance throughout the New Year.*

*Given by*

*Proceeds will go to Missions.*

The purchase of the votive is tax deductible since you will not actually receive the votive and the donation goes to Missions. A booklet will be available on Christmas Eve listing the names of those remembered or honored as well as the donor of the votive. Won't you start your Christmas shopping early and purchase a votive honoring a loved one and supporting Missions at the same time.

# We serve in December

## Children's Message

December 1 - No Children's Message  
December 8 - Drew Elling  
December 15 - Jennifer Elling  
December 22 - Lou Baldwin  
December 29 - Hannah Lentz

## Worship Assistants

December 1 - Roger Soons  
December 8 - Tiffany Doran  
December 15 - Mike Biddle  
December 22 - Cindy Baynham  
December 24 - Ina Jones  
December 29 - Frank Taylor

## Just a reminder

The church leadership team/staff meets most Tuesday mornings from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. If we don't answer the phone, please leave a message and we will call you back soon.

## December Elder in Charge

Bill Baldwin

## Church Hour Nursery Age Limits

The nursery during the church hour is for children in Pre-K and below. No child older than 4 should be in there. This is for the safety of our toddlers.

Thanks for your cooperation,  
Your CE Ministry Team

## Communion Servers December 1st

Bill Baldwin, Captain  
Art Hammond  
Debbie Hammond  
Bill Day  
Jim Skinner  
Becki Brown  
Tim Brown  
Roger Soons  
Russell Johnson  
Bonnie Pfrogner



Trey Jones, Captain  
Joe Bailey  
Ed Springer, Jr.  
Katrina Springer  
Jane Bailey, Alt.

# Dates & Stuff



12/2/1980 - Joe & Evelyn Ingram  
12/22 - Michael & Wendy Biddle  
12/27/1968 - Ted & Lynn Spencer  
12/28/1968 - Bob & Diane Gordon



3 - Shelby Thacker  
5 - Bill Johnson  
7 - Roger Soons  
7 - Wendy Biddle  
9 - Wendi Kirby  
9 - Brad Singley  
9 - Charlee Anne Key  
12 - Tom Baynham  
15 - Harold Walton  
19 - Mike Biddle  
22 - Jim Graham  
24 - Louis Thacker  
28 - Trey Jones  
28 - Elizabeth Webster  
31 - Charlotte Thacker

**Wednesday Night Supper** will be on Wednesday, 12/11 along with the Children's Christmas Program. The program will start at 6 p.m. followed by dinner. As usual, bring a dish to share.

## Christmas Festival

Join us on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and caroling! Invite a friend to help us celebrate!

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us to worship the newborn King on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Men's Breakfast at Chick-fil-a** will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of November at 8 a.m. (12/4 and 12/18). Join us and invite a friend!



The next regular Session meeting will be Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be the last meeting for our outgoing members: Art Hammond, Debbie Hammond, Mike Biddle and Bill Baldwin. Thank you for your service! We might even have cake!

## The First Sunday of Advent will be December 1<sup>st</sup>!

Please prayerfully prepare for the season.

**Communion** will be served on Sunday, December 1st. Please prayerfully prepare to receive the sacrament.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

Newsletter deadline for the January newsletter is December 23rd.



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1349 Macon Road  
Griffin, GA 30224

*All is Well*

By. Michael Barrett and David Angerman

The Chancel Choir is preparing a new Christmas Cantata, *All is Well* for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. This cantata combines traditional carols with some contemporary Christian seasonal selections. The music and words tell of the wonderful birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who is the fulfillment of God's promise to the world. Please invite your family and friends to join us on December 8 at the 11:00 a.m. service. The following narration from the Cantata serves as a sign of the wonderful message contained within.

Be filled with the spirit of hope, for God Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel—"God With Us!"

In a small village this maiden will deliver her Child and He will be the ruler of heaven and earth. This will be a great miracle—the sacred moment the world has longed and prayed for.

This gentle young woman will hold the future in her arms and cradle the very Son of God close to her heart.

Sylvia Hollums, Music Director