

Church Currents



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
210 S. Wayne St
Milledgeville, GA 31061



A Note from the Pastor

As we step into the month of June, our community joins with neighbors near and far to recognize Pride Month. For us, this is not merely a civic observation or a modern trend; it is a deeply spiritual moment to reflect on, celebrate, and recommit ourselves to the gospel message of radical inclusion.

Throughout the Gospels, we see that radical inclusion is not an afterthought of the Divine—it is God’s primary way of being. God’s love does not wait at the door with a checklist of requirements; it throws the doors wide open. Whenever society sought to draw circles of exclusion, Christ consistently drew wider circles of embrace, tearing down walls of division and inviting everyone to the table.

As a community rooted in the Reformed tradition, we believe that the church is at its best when it reflects the vast, beautiful diversity of God’s creation. That is why we explicitly state that our church is a place where all are invited. We recognize, honor, and celebrate our LGBTQIA+ siblings, alongside individuals of every background, identity, and life experience. You are not merely tolerated here; you are an essential, beloved part of who we are.

This June, let us celebrate the truth that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made. May we continue to build a community where no one has to hide who they are to experience the love of God. Together, let us live out the radical hospitality of the Kin-dom, ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors knows they are home.



Rev. Mari

In this newsletter you can expect:

Session
Updates

Bicentennial
Events

Committee
Highlights

VBS



Photo Gallery

Treasurer's
Corner



Session Notes

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, SUSAN MCGILL, CLERK OF SESSION

- A motion to publish the Amazon wish list of hygiene and other products (i.e., donations) to the church and the community was approved.
- A motion to accept the bid by Baldwin Services, Inc., to install a 3-ton Gree mini-split heating/air system for \$9,179.89 for the nursery was approved.
- A motion to accept the guidelines recommended by the Finance Committee for operation of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund was approved.
- A motion to consider creating the position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries and have in place for Fall 2026 was approved.
- A motion to use the book *Poverty in the Promised Land* by Walter Brueggemann for the Wednesday night Study Group (led by Mari) was approved.
- The request to baptize Eleanor Naber-Allen, daughter of Andrew and Elise Naber-Allen, on July 5th, 2026 was approved.
- A motion to elect John Bradley as Commissioner to the NEGA Presbytery meeting on May 19th in Commerce, GA, was approved.



General Assembly

Following our Bicentennial celebration, Rev. Mari will be stepping into a different kind of service for the wider church. From June 22nd through July 4th, she will be out of the office to serve as a teaching elder commissioner representing our Presbytery at the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As a connectional church, we govern ourselves through councils of ruling and teaching elders rather than operating in isolation. The General Assembly is the highest council of our denomination, meeting biennially to prayerfully discern the mind of Christ for our collective witness, theology, and governance. It is a profound honor to bring the unique perspective of our ministry to this national gathering.

To help you understand the specific issues and overtures facing our denomination this year, we will have a special pre-GA bulletin insert on Sunday, June 21st. You are encouraged to read through it and hold the whole Assembly in your prayers during these two weeks—praying for wisdom and a clear vision as we follow the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Missions & Ministry



FPC Food Pantry

During May the Food Pantry served 33 households, including 6 new ones. We continue to prepare bags for 12 households each week and they are truly appreciated.

In-kind donations can be made on first Sundays or at any other time the building is open. If you drop off something in front of the pantry door, it will be put inside and inventoried before purchases are made that week. This conserves our funds. Please consult the list of suggested items on this page.

Thank you for your continuing support of this vital ministry!

-Donna Gautier



Food pantry items:

- Canned soups
- Canned pasta
- Canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned fruits and vegetables

Snack & Hygiene Pack Ministry

Multiple visitors rely on this ministry for relief. Donations of the following are greatly appreciated:

- Disposable utensil sets
- Vienna sausages, fruit cups, beef jerky, applesauce pouches, single serve items
- Mini hand sanitizers
- Tote bags and backpacks
- Clean socks and underwear

Use the QR to the left to browse our Amazon wishlist, which is tailored to those items requested by homeless visitors when they drop by. These items come directly to the church and can be donated anonymously.



Samaritan Ministry

We helped fifteen households in May through Samaritan Ministry! Clothing donations are being accepted; we now have a clothing rack in the Fellowship classroom at the end of the hall. Clean socks and underwear are a main request from our visitors.

Please contact Pat Henry or Bill Werts if you are interested in supporting this ministry. Thank you for your continued help.

The next disbursement of funds will be on **Tuesday, June 16 at 9:00 AM.**

Sandwich Squad

Sandwich squad prepared and dropped off sandwiches, water, apples, tangerines, and applesauce at the community fridge at Midway Hills Primary.

Join this ministry by staying after service on the last Sunday of the month. All are welcome!

Christian Education



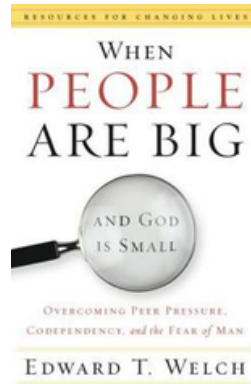
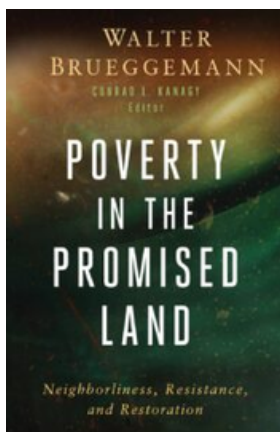
Bible Sunday School

The Bible Sunday School class is making an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. One of the longest books in the Bible, Jeremiah is critical to understanding the Judaism of Jesus' era. Before 587 B.C.E., the time when the book of Jeremiah was set, one theology was predominant and after that date, a totally different theology prevailed.

Our class is meeting in person (in the church parlor) every Sunday at 9:45 AM unless bad weather forces us to use ZOOM alone.

I hope a number of you will join us. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link.

Joel D. Burns



Fellowship Sunday School Class

We are studying *When People Are Big and God Is Small* by Edward T. Welch. This group meets in person every Sunday morning at 9:45. We would love to have you join us.
~Bill Werts

Wednesday Night Potluck & Study

The Wednesday night group meets in person for a great pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. Reverend Mari is leading us in a study of *Poverty in the Promised Land* by Walter Brueggemann. This book is a perfect fit for our "Matthew 25" church.

The pot luck begins at 6:30 P.M. If you do not wish to participate in the pot luck, the discussions begin about 7:00 P.M. Please join us!



d365

d365 is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format – **Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.**

The **Pause** step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion.

The **Listen** step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation. The **Think** step is the devotional thought by the week's writer.

The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God. The **Go** step is a call to action – launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

As you read the thoughts of the writers, think about your own response to the scripture for the day. Let the writer's words serve as background for your own conversation with God.

Youth Group News

What an incredible season it has been in the life of our youth group! We have been moving at a fast pace, and our youth have shown up with incredible leadership, energy, and grace.

We want to extend a huge thank you to the youth for planning and leading our worship service on May 31st. Pouring your hearts, voices, and creativity into leading the congregation in worship is a beautiful gift, and we are so grateful for your leadership.

After we wrap up Youth Sunday on May 31st, our regular weekly youth routine will shift into a more relaxed summer schedule. We won't meet every single week, but we have some fantastic special events lined up to keep us connected:

- **Vacation Bible School (June 29–July 3):**

This year is going to look completely different for us. Our older elementary and youth participants are going to use the musical *Godspell* as a creative lens to dive into the stories of Jesus. We will be prepping a portion of the show to present in worship on Sunday, July 5th, followed by an all-church picnic!

- **Summer Retreat at Calvin Center (July 20–23):**

Mark your calendars for later in the summer! We are heading out for a few days of rest, play, and spiritual renewal together.

Keep an eye out for group texts and emails for exact times, registration links, and other casual summer hangouts we pop onto the calendar. Have a wonderful start to your summer break!



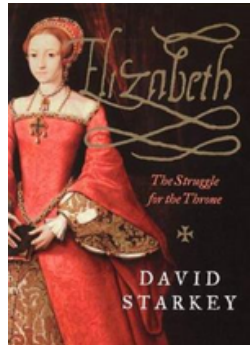
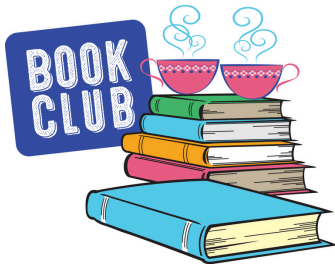
Celebrating Our Graduates

We want to pause and offer our deepest congratulations to our high school graduates:

- Hannah Erickson graduated from Putnam County High School and is going to Sewanee: The University of the South to study Business.
- Leland Erickson graduated from Putnam County High School and is headed to the University of Georgia to study Real Estate.
- Uriel Nwankwo, graduated from Baldwin County High School/GCSU Early College and Central Georgia Technical College, and is headed to Georgia Southern University to study Mechanical Engineering.

We are so incredibly proud of each of these young people, and our prayers go with them as they head into this next part of their journey.

Congregational Fellowship



First Presbyterian Book Club

Thursday, June 11 @ 2:00 PM in the Parlor

The book selected for the month of June is a biography of the queen of England, *Elizabeth: The Struggle for the Throne* by David Starkey. In this book the author concentrates on Queen Elizabeth I's formative years from her birth in 1533 to her accession to the throne in 1558. Starkey shows how her experiences of danger and adventure formed her remarkable character and shaped her opinions and beliefs. Here also is a fresh look at the rivalry between the daughters of Henry VIII, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. Starkey's close attention to detail and vivid storytelling combine to produce a narrative that reads like a novel. Meticulously researched, *Elizabeth* is a masterpiece of biography. It is often said that history provides the exact person needed for the times. One could say this about Queen Elizabeth I.

The book selection for the month of July is *Sea of Grass, the Conquest, Ruin, and Redemption of Nature on the American Prairie* by Dave Haig and Josephine Marcotty. *Sea of Grass* is a vivid portrait of the American prairie. This book describes one of the world's greatest and most important landscapes in North America. The Prairie is an ecological marvel, a lush carpet of grass that stretches to the horizon, but the constant expansion of agriculture threatens what remains. Today, industrial agriculture continues its assault on the prairie, plowing up one million acres of grassland a year. The authors provide a vivid portrait of a miraculous ecosystem that makes clear why the future of the region is of essential concern far beyond the heartland.

Join us for an enlightened discussion of Queen Elizabeth I on June 11th.



Presbyterian WOMEN

Presbyterian Women

The final meeting of the year was held on May 12 with lunch following the meeting at Aubri Lane's. The Presbyterian Women continue the effort in keeping the grounds up. New spring plants were planted with funds collected from the women and other church members. More work needs to be done to keep the grounds looking good. So give if you can. Leave the money in the church office and designate it for "PW grounds upkeep".

There will be two work days. **Saturday, June 6 from 9 until 12** and **Monday, June 8, from 9 until 12**. Please come with gloves and small yard tools if you can help.





Vacation Bible School June 29-July 3 & July 5

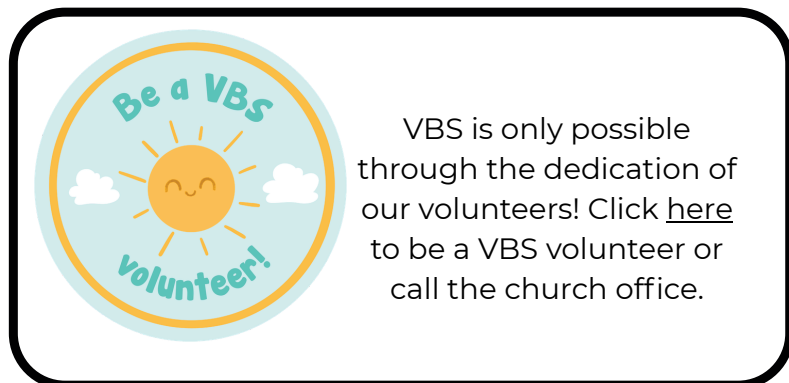
Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! From Monday, June 29th through Friday, July 3rd (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM), our church building will be alive with energy as we ensure all children and youth know they are valued and loved by God.

This year, everyone will explore foundational Biblical themes—including Jesus' Baptism, the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, Matthew 25, and the Last Supper—tailored by age group:

- Pre-K through Younger Elementary: Engaging themes through interactive Bible stories, crafts, games, and daily snacks.
- Older Elementary and Youth: Exploring these same scriptures through a creative drama and music lens using the musical *Godspell*.

VBS Sunday & Picnic (July 5th): During morning worship, the youth will share a portion of *Godspell* with the congregation, followed by a church picnic.

Registration is officially open, and all are invited! Scan the QR code or [click this link](#) to register a child so we can plan for snacks and supplies.



SCAN ME!



Bicentennial Celebration



What a meaningful celebration this has been so far! We've enjoyed everything from Scottish bagpipes to Clyde Tipton's original compositions, explored the church's history from its Scottish roots to its founding by Rev. Joseph Stiles and Rev. John Brown and the dedication of the Sanctuary in 1906, and reflected on the lives of many who have served the church through the years. We've looked back on our history, celebrated our current ministries, and been inspired by our youth, the church's future.

In June we will conclude our celebration with three special events:

- On June 7th, our worship service will "Honor the Journey," highlighting some specific events over the last 200 years. Light refreshments will be served following the worship service.
- The Open House on June 11th will feature a medley of musical performances from our own talented members at 6:30 p.m. and our "Talk with Bob," an informal conversation with historian and former member Dr. Bob Wilson at 7:30 p.m. The church will also have several displays of historical items available as well as a new "Tour of the Stained Glass Windows" in the Sanctuary brochure. Light refreshments will be available.
- On Sunday, June 14th, we will mark this momentous milestone with a special bicentennial worship service. This service will honor our rich legacy of ministry, reflect the beautiful diversity of the people who make up our congregation today, and look forward with hope to the future as we praise God for generations of blessings. After the service, the celebration will conclude with a catered lunch; be sure to complete your reservations by June 5th.

Please register for the June 14th catered lunch by June 5th using the QR code or by contacting the church office at milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com, 478-452-9394, or 478-443-5203. Please also let us know how many people will attend.



Bicentennial Recognition from Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

Our bicentennial celebration was marked by a wonderful community honor. On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Baldwin County Commissioners made a special presentation to our congregation in recognition of our 200 years of ministry and service in this community.

The presentation took place at the beginning of their regular meeting at the Baldwin County Government Building. Rev. Mari opened the evening's meeting with prayer and members of the Session were present as we received this special recognition from our local civic leaders.



Commemorative ornaments are still available, \$15 for one or \$25 for two. Remember that 100% of the proceeds of their purchase goes to the Bicentennial Celebration. Direct contributions to the Bicentennial Celebration are welcome too!

Committee Highlights



Care & Fellowship

The Care and Fellowship Team has been busy keeping up with all the Bicentennial activities. On Mother's Day Sunday the focus was on the musical heritage of our church. Susan McGill and a group of volunteers provided refreshments for a time of fellowship with guest musician, Megan Gillis. Megan grew up in the church. It was a gift to have her share her talent in worship. On May 17th the theme was "Faith in Action". Displays on the tables in Fellowship Hall depicted our ongoing ministries – Food Pantry, Samaritan Ministry, Snack & Hygiene Packs, Sandwich Squad, Sharing our Space, and the Green Initiative (recycling). While reception food was enjoyed, members shared information about each of the ministries and how everyone can be involved in carrying on our tradition of showing our faith through our actions.

On Pentecost Sunday, the legacy and music of Clyde Tipton was highlighted. The music was grand and inspiring. It was a joy to have Laura Baarda preach and to have Dr. Dave share memories of working and singing with Clyde. Following the service, the Fellowship Team welcomed the Tipton family, guest musicians, past and present members, and friends to continue the celebration with food and conversation. It was quite an experience to see over 100 people - the past, present, and future of our church – sharing memories, rekindling friendships, and hopefully recognizing opportunities. It was a glorious day!! On May 31st, our youth were celebrated as they led the service, recent graduates were recognized, and food, fun, and fellowship followed the service.

As Susan McGill, chair of the Bicentennial Committee, mentioned in her article, there are three more occasions honoring the history of this church: June 7th – "Honoring the Journey" during our morning worship with a reception after the service; June 11th – Open House at 6:30 pm with music, Dr. Bob Wilson, displays, and cookies and lemonade; and finally, THE BIG DAY, June 14th. The day to celebrate the 200th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville with praise and worship. The Care and Fellowship Team is coordinating a catered lunch following the service. We want YOU to be a part of this grand occasion!! We must give the caterer a count by June 5th so please go to the church's website or call the church office to secure your place at the table.

Our Team wishes to thank Susan and the Bicentennial Committee members, our pastor, Mari Turner, and our administrative assistant, Jessica McQuain, for the thoughtful planning and coordinating of all the events. The Care and Fellowship Team has worked hard to complement their work by providing good food and opportunities for members and guests to get to know each other better and build community. We give God the glory and ask for His guidance as we continue to serve and look toward the future.

-Becky Humphrey, Chair of Care & Fellowship Committee

Committee Highlights



Worship Committee

New worship service volunteer assignments are now available through the rest of 2026! Please check [here](#) or scan below for more information!



Property Committee

This past month a minisplit heating/air system was installed in the nursery. The previous system was 39 years old and had to be replaced.

Work continues on gutter extensions and repairing old water damage inside the front door opposite the office.

For those able and willing there will be two workdays at the church to spruce up the grounds. The first is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6 from 9 to 12** and the second one will be on **Monday, June 8 from 9-12.**



<p><i>Nancy Miller - 6/4</i> <i>Gloria Burns - 6/8</i> <i>Jenny Moore - 6/12</i> <i>Michael Phillips - 6/14</i> <i>Deanna Bivins - 6/17</i> <i>Amy Smith - 6/27</i> <i>Melba Burrell - 6/30</i></p>	<p><i>Bill and Jennifer Flory - 6/25</i> <i>Bill and Ruby Werts - 6/25</i> <i>Lynn and Steve West - 6/27</i> <i>Bob and Kathy Carroll - 6/30</i> <i>Gerald and Karen Grimes - 6/30</i></p>
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Please send the church office your birthdays and anniversaries so we can celebrate with you.














JUNE

	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p>All Recovery Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 6:00 Board of Commissioners 7:30 NA</p> 
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>9:00-12:00 PW Work Day 7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p>All Recovery Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 NA</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Bicentennial Worship Service 12:00 Lunch</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p>All Recovery Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Samaritan Ministry 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 6:30 Session meeting 7:30 NA</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p>All Recovery Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 NA</p> 
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00-12:00 VBS 7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p>All Recovery Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00-12:00 VBS 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 NA</p> 



JUNE

<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Have a Mug with Mari 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00-12:00 PW Work Day 7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Have a Mug with Mari 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>2:00 FPC Book Club 6:30 Bicentennial open house</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>17</p> <p>6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 PFLAG Movie night 7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>

Operations: The church office is open Mon - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Please call the office for an appointment (478) 443-5203 or (478) 452-9394.

Photo Gallery



We were blessed to have members of the Lounsbury family present for our performance of the playlet written by Libby Lounsbury in 2001.



What a spread! Care and Fellowship outdid themselves with the reception after the Music of Clyde Tipton Service.



Our graduates were honored at the May 31 reception after leading service for the day. The kids really are alright!



PW's last lunch of the spring was enjoyed by all. See you ladies in August!



Tag us on social media or send your photos to 478-443-5203 or milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com to be featured next month!

Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY:

Min Lindsay, recovering from surgery
Sherry Henry, recovering in Atlanta
Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Rebecca McQuain, Jessica McQuain's grandma, cancer diagnosis and surgery
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing with a cancer diagnosis
Judy Tufts, Susan McGill's stepmother, tibial head fracture
Murray Nelson, homelessness, financial struggles, better relationship with Jesus
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care
Bob Bishop, Mari Turner's father, in rehab hospital
Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Ivester, heart attack
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, at home with health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards' son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210
Frankie Holder, Pruitt Health-Marietta, 50 Saine Dr. SW-Rm 215, Marietta, GA 30008



Welcome to Susan McGill's newest grandbaby,
Arlie Katherine, daughter of Kerry and Andy
Strickland, born May 28!



Treasurer's Corner

	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>		
Contributions	\$20,570	\$16,478
Other Income	\$4,710	\$339
Total Operating Income	\$25,280	\$16,818
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$29,169</u>	<u>\$18,525</u>
Net Operating	(\$3889)	(\$1707)
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>		
Contributions	\$2,903	\$4,677
Expenses	<u>\$2,674</u>	<u>\$19,260</u>
Net Designated	\$229	(\$16,290)

Note that this total includes the cost of phase 1 roof repairs!

During May we continued to receive the kind of financial support we need to fund our ministries. As summer approaches we will still need everyone to remember their commitments. The hot months are traditionally a difficult time for church finances. Let's make it different this year.

Remember that your support of the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry is the only way these ministries are possible. All of our work follows the example of Jesus.

Joel D. Burns
For the Finance Committee

Thank you for reading!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MILLEDGEVILLE	478-452-9394 478-443-5203 (CELL)
www.fpcmilledgeville.org milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com	210 S WAYNE ST MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061