

CHURCH CURRENTS

JUNE 2025

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

Phone: 478-452-9394 Cell: 478-443-5203

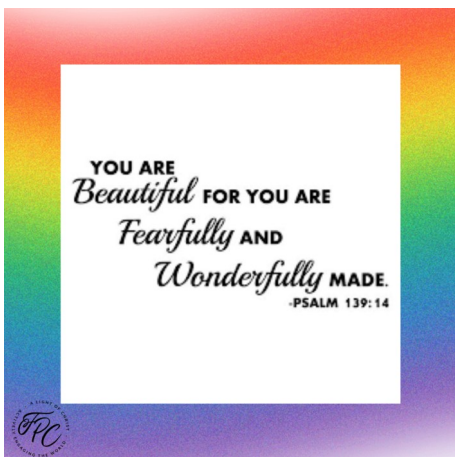
milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Join us on Sunday mornings
in-person or on Facebook Live

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061



First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 346 June 2025

Pastor:
Vacant

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Volunteers



Love one another.

The Psalmist speaks of his own creation by God with great marvel by saying that "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The same claim can be made by each one of us who walk the face of the earth because we're all made by God in the image of God. Each one of us is a miracle of God's handiwork despite our imperfections and ways we fall short of God's glory.

In God's wisdom, the church was established upon the firm foundation of Gospel teaching with Christ as the cornerstone of that teaching and that truth. God certainly knew that humans

were made in the divine image but also knew that we are different from one another.

Therefore, we sometimes disagree and argue and find ourselves divided, and that can happen in almost any walk of life and even in the church. Even though Christ reconciled the world to God and teaches disciples to love one another, we don't always find ourselves reconciled to one another across lines of demarcation that separate us.

As we navigate seas of conflict in life, perhaps nothing serves us better than being genuinely who we are. It is authenticity that is needed. It was said of Willy Loman in Death of a Salesman that he never really knew who he was. I hope that's not something said of us as God's children. If we don't know much else, let us remember who and whose we are.

In a world in which all of us are different from one another and yet are still children of God, let us exercise mutual forbearance when in the company of others. Let our desire be unity when such a thing seems so elusive and nearly impossible. We will never be uniform and it seems doubtful that is what God desires in the end. What God seeks from us is that we might be of one heart and mind and spirit in the face of all the things that might prevent that. What God desires is unity and not uniformity. Why? Because each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made and in need of the salvation only God can give us. For God so loved the world.

Beloved, let us love one another. ~ Administrative Commission

Administrative Commission First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville:

Kent Burel 678.525.9683 mkentburel@gmail.com,
Corey Ingold 770.490.6831 coreyingold62@gmail.com,
Meg Jackson Clark 770.301.6165 megjacksonclark@gmail.com,
Lynne Jordan 706.476.2951 lynneq.jordan@gmail.com,
John McCrosky 706.339.1559 johnemac6@gmail.com



Administrative
Commission

Vacation Bible School

July 21-25, 2025

9:00 - 12:00



Vacation Bible school will be a great week of fun including drama, singing, dancing and of course learning more about the Bible and how it is a road map for living! We encourage children 5 years old through seniors in high school to come all five days July 21 through 25 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We have lots of adult volunteers for arts and crafts, snacks, science, recreation, Bible study, music and more. So everybody bring your friends, cousins, grandchildren and more and we will have a blast!! ~Kathy Carroll

Be A VBS VOLUNTEER



Gabriella Ames, granddaughter of Bill and Ruby Werts, graduates from University of Arizona with degrees in Veterinary Science and Bio Chemistry. She will be in the Veterinary Program at Oregon State in the fall.



Masoma Odihe is a high school graduate from Baldwin High School. Graduation day was May 24, 2025. She plans to attend Augusta University to study Psychology.



The Ezra Project- June 10 at 7:00PM

The Old Testament book of Ezra tells the story of how the people of Israel rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem after they were allowed to return from being exiled in Babylon for over 50 years. As you can imagine, the temple was in a state of disrepair. I thought about this story after I had made careful observations of the interior and exterior of our building here. How long does it take for a steel door frame to rust all the way through leaving gaping holes? How long does it take for a wooden baseboard to rot leaving holes big enough to put my hand inside the wall? It takes awhile. Our building needs significant repairs. We hired a company that restores historic buildings. They have provided us with a detailed estimate of the needed repairs. On **June 10, at 7:00pm** we will gather to review the document that we have purchased and think about how we respond. The needs of our building weren't created overnight and they won't be repaired overnight. It's time to take the first step toward making our facility shine like the historic building it is. It's time to get a vision of our building for the next 100 years. ~ Kent Burel



Please plan to attend our congregational dinner on **June 18th** at **6:30 PM** for an evening of food and fun as we welcome the summer season and learn more about one another. Reverend Dale and Marlene Chaplin will be joining us. Reverend Dale will be our speaker and facilitator. **Please RSVP to the church office** before June 13th if you plan to attend.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED JUNE 2 - 6

The AC has approved closing the church office during the week

of June 2 through 6 so that Lois Callendar can help transport and chaperone the youth trip to Montreat. Although Lois will have the church computer with her, she will only tend to time-sensitive office tasks, as her main responsibility for the week is to attend to the needs of the youth.

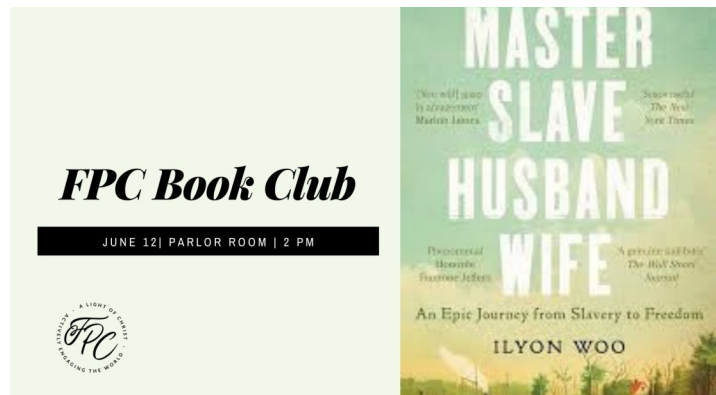
~ John McCrosky

The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet on the second Thursday, June 12th, at 2:00 pm in the church parlor. The book selection for the month of June is *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo. This book is a narrative about the Crafts, Ellen and William, an enslaved couple that escaped bondage from Georgia in 1848. With light-skinned Ellen disguised as a disabled white gentleman and her dark-skinned husband, William, posing as her manservant, they managed to successfully hide in public on their 1,000 mile journey to the North. They travelled on steamboats, carriages, and trains without detection in their escape from enslavement to freedom.

The book selection for July is *Red Scare: Blacklists, McCarthyism, and the Making of Modern America* by Clay Risen. The author, an award winning writer of history and a *New York Times* reporter, tells the story of McCarthyism and the Red Scare based in part on newly declassified sources. He brings to life the politics, patriotism, courage and delirium of those years by sharing the lives and experiences of known historical figures affected by these scare tactics and blacklisting. *Red Scare* takes the reader to a fuller understanding of what the country went through in a time of moral questioning, conspiracy mongering, and political and cultural backlash that speaks directly to the divisiveness of our contemporary times.

Come join us on June 12th for a stimulating discussion of a book that has its beginning in Macon, Georgia. You are welcome to join in our discussion, even if you have not read the book.

~Millie Murphy





MISSION AND MINISTRY



The Milly Free Fridge continues to help those families and individuals who experience food insecurity in our community. As the weather gets warmer, consider filling the fridge with water .

Make plans to join us Sunday, June 29th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge .

Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks.



CHOOSE
kindness

Samaritan Ministry

We were able to help all the families who came for assistance this month. Thanks to your generosity, five families were able to retain their utilities. This outreach and assistance for the community remains vital to our neighbors in need during these uncertain times.

Thank you for your continued help.

The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, June 17 at 9:30 AM.

Food Pantry was as busy as usual in May, with 42 households assisted. We continue to add families and to run out of prepared bags regularly, often in less than 15 minutes. Twice during the month I had family responsibilities which made it necessary to get substitutes for distribution day; thanks to Joel Burns and to my GC students those went smoothly. I have appreciated having Brandi Brown assist with shopping several times, as well. If anyone else would care to volunteer for some of these tasks, please let me know.

Thank you for continuing to keep this ministry in your hearts as we help to lighten the load for some of our neighbors. All donations are appreciated. ~Donna Gautier



Food Pantry staples list:

Canned soups;
canned pasta;
canned ham;
tuna; salmon;
and chicken;
boxed mac & cheese; grits;
oatmeal; and/or cereal; peanut butter & jelly;
canned fruit and vegetables





June

1 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
Youth leave for Montreat
11:00 Worship with communion
1:00 UMC Bridge



2 Office Closed all week
7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



All Recovery Meeting

3 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



Narcotics Anonymous



8 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Pentecost Worship
1:00 UMC Bridge



9 6:30 PFLAG
7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



All Recovery Meeting



10 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:00 Ezra Project
7:30 NA



Narcotics Anonymous



15 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
1:00 UMC Bridge



16 6:30 PFLAG Quarterly Meeting
7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



All Recovery Meeting



17 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



Narcotics Anonymous



22 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
1:00 UMC Bridge

23 7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



All Recovery Meeting

24 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



Narcotics Anonymous



29 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Milly Sandwich Squad
1:00 UMC Bridge



30 7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



All Recovery Meeting



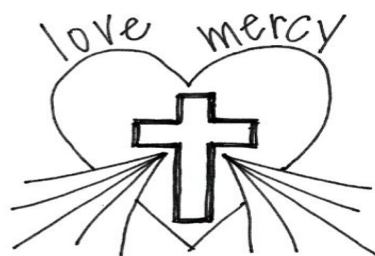
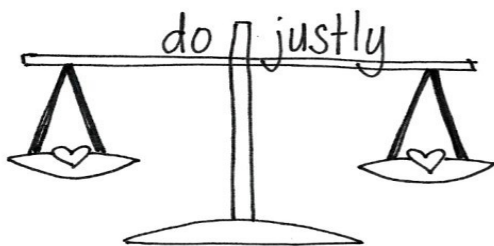
WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

2025



4 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	5 7:30 NA 6:00 IOBI	6	7 Youth Return from Montreat 7:30 NA
11 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	12 2:00 FPC Book Club 7:30 NA	13	14 6:30 PFLAG Movie Night 7:30 NA
18 6:30 Congregational Dinner	19 5:00 LIR 30th Anniversary 7:30 NA	20	21 7:30 NA
25 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	26 5:00 Bicentennial Committee 6:00 IOBI 7:30 NA	27	28 7:30 NA



Operations: The church office is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please call the office for an appointment

Liturgists for June:

June 1 & 8

Melba Burrell

June 15 & 22

Donna Gautier

June 29 and July 6 Jan Hoffman



Liturgists

**CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
**10:15am, Craft
Room Upstairs**
YOUTH GROUP
**12:00pm, Youth
Room**



If you are interested in doing Children's Time, please let Gloria Burns or Anne Smart know. We want to continue this ministry to our young people.

Nine members have volunteered to help on a rotating basis to staff the nursery. Two adults must be present per our church policy.

Nursery Schedule for June:

June 1 Charles Burrell/Sherry Henry

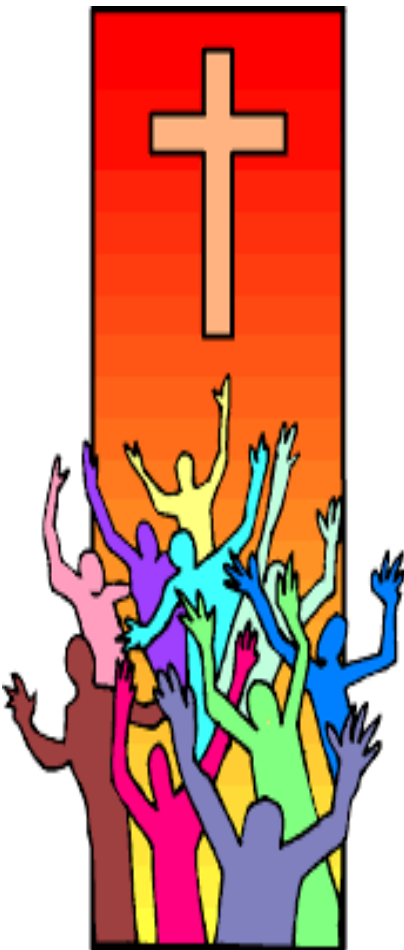
June 8 Laurie Peebles/Anne Smart

June 15 Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill

June 22 Nancy Miller/Gloria Burns

June 29 Joel Burns/Anne Smart

If no young children are present, adults do not need to go to the nursery. If adult volunteer cannot attend said date, please contact another volunteer to switch. Thank you to the volunteers for helping with this ministry. ~Anne Smart



2025 Montreat Youth Conference June 1 - 7

The theme for this year's conference is "Light My Path." How does God light the way for youth who are building

community and becoming actors of change? This is the guiding question we will unpack this week, drawing from Psalm 119, as we engage in worship, lively music, times of Sabbath, and practices of gratitude and fun.

Our group will join the youth from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens to build community as we explore all that Montreat has to offer.

Please pray for each participant and their leaders while on our annual pilgrimage to the mountains of North Carolina: Astrid Callender, Emily Carson, Hannah Nwankonta, Uriel Nwankonta, Masoma Odihe, Josefa Tchamna, Maxime Tchamna, Nathan Tchamna, Laurie Peebles and Lois Callender

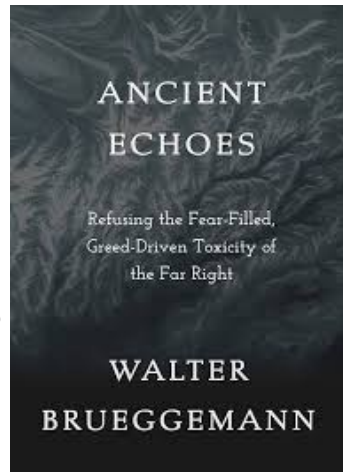


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. This conveniently allows us to study and learn in an informal manner from the comfort of our home computer, on a tablet or on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM**. We are studying *Ancient Echoes, Refusing the Fear-Filled, Greed Driven Toxicity of the Far Right* by Walter Brueggemann. The discussion in the first two sessions has been lively. 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



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.

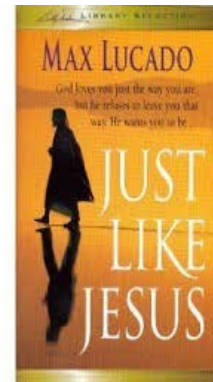
The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God.

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.

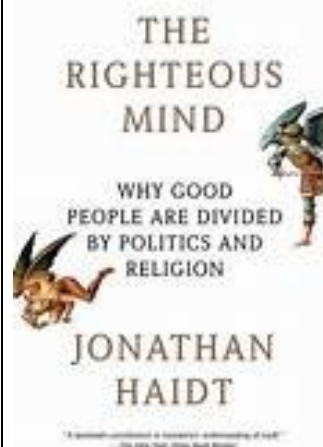
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are studying *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. This group meets in person in the parlor room **every Sunday morning at 9:45**. We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts



WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. We are discussing *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. This complicated but well written book investigates the hidden reasons people make decisions.



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. ~Joel Burns

Green Initiative

The church is re-starting its recycling program this month. Recycled materials will be collected on Wednesday evenings from the marked trash can in the mud room adjacent to the kitchen. An updated list of accepted items is listed below as well as on the lid of the trash can. For convenience, the county now uses single stream recycling; items no longer need to be separated. Items should be clean and dry, free of food debris. Extra blue bags are located in the pantry cabinet next to the refrigerator; please make sure that a blue bag always lines the can. Plastic grocery bags need to be recycled separately; a container (for recycling) is now hanging on the wall in the kitchen near the ice machine. We hope to add more information in the future for recycling batteries and LED lights.



Accepted items for Single Stream Recycling:

Flattened cardboard, paperboard, brown paper bags, and newspaper, magazines, office paper, junk mail, and phone books, plastic bottles with 1 (PETE) and 2 (HDPE) in the center of the recycling symbol; these include items such as soft drink bottles, water bottles, some food containers, milk jugs, cleaning products. Glass bottles and jars, steel cans and aerosol cans, aluminum cans, foil, and pie tins

NOT accepted are plastic numbers 3-7 such as yogurt and margarine containers, most disposable cups, and Styrofoam

If you have any questions, please contact Susan McGill or Becky Humphrey.



TREASURER'S CORNER

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As I have said a couple of times, we have many repairs we need to make to the facilities. We have a contractor's bid for all the work and it is staggering. We will try to see how we can make the necessary repairs. Please remember this when you think about your contributions.

Please support the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry. All of our work is an effort to follow the example of Jesus. ~Joel D. Burns, Acting Treasurer

<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
Contributions	\$17,732	\$14,571	\$81,725
Other Income	\$688	\$689	\$2,755
Total Operating Income	\$18,420	\$15,260	\$84,480
Total Operating Expenses	\$23,484	\$24,491	\$92,644
Net Operating	-\$5,064	-\$9,231	-\$8,614
 <u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>			
Contributions	\$4,615	\$3,959	\$15,310
Expenses	\$2,645	\$3,085	\$9,925
Net Designated	\$1,970	\$874	\$5,385

Building and grounds has experienced good progress on a number of items in April and May.

- Our new insurer added a stipulation to our new policy that all limbs within 15 feet of our building would be trimmed so that they would not cause damage to the building should they fall. We hired a contractor that performed the needed maintenance. We sent pictures of the completed work to the insurance company and have been advised that we are now in compliance for the new policy.
- We hired a company called Garbutt Construction to assess the need of our building and make recommendations for properly restoring our facility. Their assessment is now finished. You can read their entire report to us by [clicking here](#). A meeting to review and discuss the document is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. You can also visit our website and click on the button under Building & Grounds.
- We have made significant upgrades to our IT infrastructure. We changed Internet Service Providers and have upgraded the network capability in the church. The wireless network is more available and significantly faster. The new network id is FPC Mesh. Ask Lois for the network password. We are continuing to investigate how to enhance the network and save costs. Stay tuned!

We are grateful to the volunteers that have worked to clean up and enhance the appearance of our church. Thanks to Melba and Charles Burrell, Pat and Sherry Henry and their granddaughter, Bella, Bob Carroll, Gloria Burns, Becky and Will Humphrey, Bill and Ruby Werts, and Carrie, Heath and Aubrey Cook. Thank you!



Bicentennial Planning Committee

Plans are progressing as we move toward our bicentennial anniversary. Several key decisions were made at the last meeting; most importantly, we have selected the overall theme, **“200 Years of Faith in Action.”** An article announcing the theme and a brief synopsis of the church founding has been submitted to both the Baldwin Bulletin and Union Recorder, hopefully to be published near the 199th anniversary (June 11, 2025) date. Some preliminary decisions have been made regarding activities as well as discussions about budget. Our goal is to have a slate of planned activities and budget requirements for the session by the beginning of August. If you have any ideas or suggestions for activities that you would like to see included in the celebration, please contact any of the committee members: Donna Gautier, Ruby Werts, Rosemary Begemann, Pat Henry, Joel Burns, Anne Smart, Jennifer Flory, Margaret Ivester, or Susan McGill.



Prayer Request



Church Family:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
 Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
 Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall
 Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall and surgery
 Ellen Thompson, recovering at home from broken hip

Extended Family:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
 Wesley Applebury, completed cancer treatments and showing no sign of the disease, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030**
 Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home
 Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
 Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis
 Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer
 Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
 Peter Hall, Gini Wilkerson's brother, ongoing health concerns
 Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma
 Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
 Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
 Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, recovering from back surgery
 Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
 Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Harrington House in Macon
 Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
 Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
 Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home
 Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns
 Paul Schrage, Carrie Cook's father, ongoing health concerns
 Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
 Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
 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 Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

Limited Mobility

Helen Danuser

Military Service

Will Deason
 Rebecca Elangwe
 (Both are Reservists)



May the God of hope fill you with
 all joy and peace in believing, so
 that you may abound in hope by the
 power of God's Spirit.



ROMANS 15:13 (NRSV)

In Assisted Living:

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
 Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
 Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin, GA 31021
 Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
 Runette Pounds, The Cottages, 1010 Fernwood Dr, Rm 206, Milledgeville, GA 31061
 Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Anniversaries

June 25~ Bill & Jennifer Flory
June 25~ Bill & Ruby Werts
June 30~ Bob & Kathy Carroll



Birthdays

June 4~ Nancy Miller
June 8~ Gloria Burns
June 17~ Deanna Bivins
June 28~ Anne Dennis

