

CHURCH CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2025

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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

milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



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

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

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion.





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 349 September 2025



Pastor:
Vacant

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:
Amy VanderGroef
(Temp)

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Volunteers

It is with much joy and excitement that the Administrative Commission and three Elders-elect would like to announce that an agreement has been reached with the Rev. Mari Turner to serve as Covenant Pastor for MFPC during the next three years. Rev. Turner is currently serving as Pastor for Dahlonga Presbyterian Church and already an active member of Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

By way of brief explanation, a Covenant Pastor relationship is a temporary pastoral relationship (Book of Order, G-2.0504, b.). Rev. Turner will serve for a 36-month duration to work on various goals that she will address with the help of Session members. Such goals include clarifying the congregation's mission and fostering unity as well as increasing congregational participation. Other goals include working toward financial stability and developing better policies and procedures for staff and for committees.

She grew up in Texas and holds a B.A. degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Additionally, she has earned both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia and has served congregations in Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia as well as Georgia, and all of them have been situated in college towns.

Rev. Turner is married to husband, Brett Turner and has two children, son John Steininger-Forbes and daughter Robin Turner. She also has a dog and two cats as well as a grand dog and grand kitty. In her spare time, she likes reading all kinds of literature and singing (she's an alto) and also enjoys arts and crafts activities.

Her time of service at Milledgeville First Presbyterian will begin on October 1, and she is excited to begin working in ministry among you. She brings a wealth of gifts and experience with her, and the Administrative Commission is both prayerful and hopeful she will be a blessing to the ministry of this congregation in Baldwin County and beyond it.

The Administrative Commission is certainly grateful that three Elders-elect (Andrew Allen, Becky Humphrey, and Bill Werts) participated in the interviews and process that has led us to call the Rev. Mari Turner to serve as Covenant Pastor for MFPC.

. The Administrative Commission

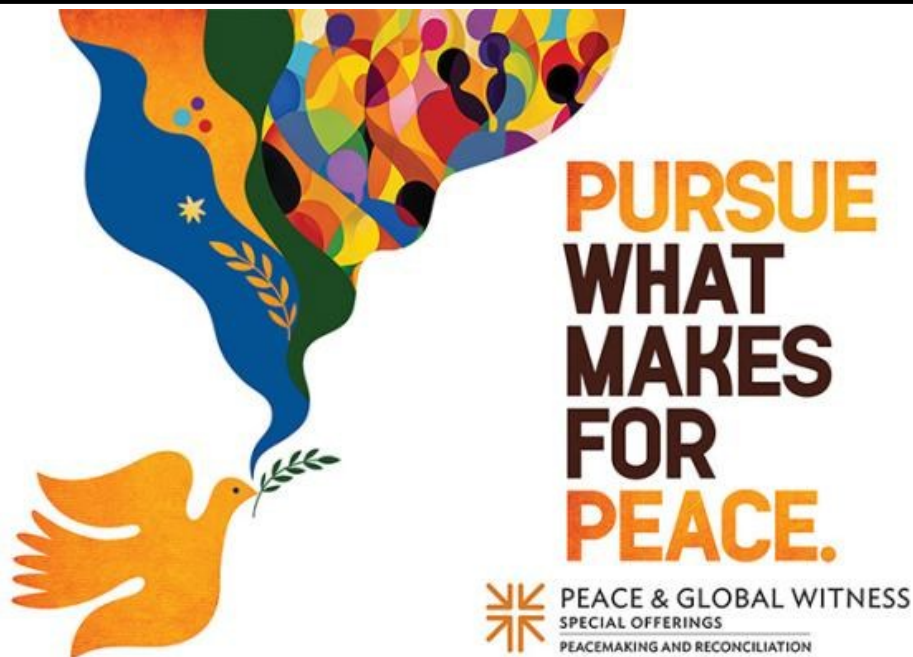
John McCrosky (Moderator), Meg Jackson-Clark, Kent Burel, Lynne Jordan, Corey Ingold

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**



September 7 ~ October 5

Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

- **25% retained by congregations to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities.**
- **25% retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level.**
- **50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.**

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

We are there—LET US BE PEACEMAKERS.

Let us be called the children of God, speaking boldly with moral conviction to the nation and to the world, building, with God's grace, a new moral order in the world community; and acting now for world peace, an enterprise of justice, an outcome of love.

Let us pray,

Loving God, help us as we work to pursue peace. May we see your face in those we meet in our neighborhoods and around the world. Show us how we might be bringers of peace to the tapestry you created for all people. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**



CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

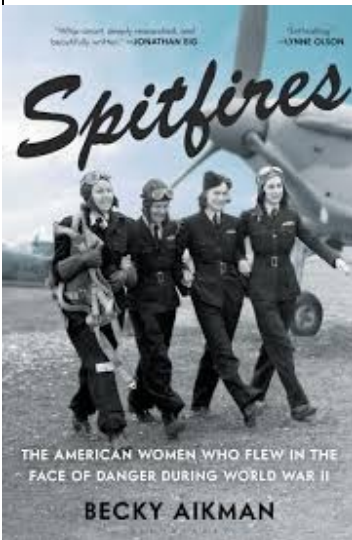
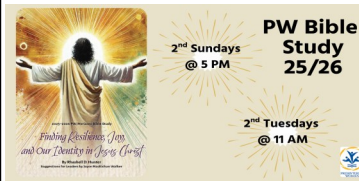
A signup sheet is available in the kitchen if you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary to honor a special occasion or to remember someone. Please contact Becky Humphrey (478) 457-5349 if you have any questions or need any assistance.

The Presbyterian Women are starting their yearly bible study again this fall. The group meets each month on the **second Sunday at 5:00 PM (September 14th) and the second Tuesday at 11:00 AM**

(September 9th) so that people who are unable to meet during work hours have the opportunity to join at a different time.

This year's Bible Study is about finding

resilience and joy in Christ. Make plans to join them!



The book selection for September is another book about women serving in World War II. This book is entitled *Spitfires: The American Women Who Flew in the Face of Danger During World War II* written by Becky Aikman. Using diaries and personal interviews, the author follows the stories of nine women who served during WWII, piloting the most dangerous aircraft of the war through the treacherous skies of Britain. Denied the opportunity to fly for their own country when the US entered WWII, twenty-five daring young women aviators went to England in 1942, becoming the first American women to fly military aircraft. They ferried fighters and bombers to English airbases and returned shot-up wrecks for repair, many of them losing their lives in the process.

The book selection for October is *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Goodwin was a twenty-four year old graduate student at Harvard when she was selected to join the White House Fellows where she worked directly with President Johnson. She later joined the White House staff, building a relationship with Johnson that allowed him to share candid insights about his presidency. After his presidency ended, she assisted him in writing his memoirs and to organize his papers for the presidential library. From this position of friendship, trust, and respect, she presents an intimate, compelling portrait of Lyndon Johnson, revealing the thirty-six president in all his vibrant, conflicted humanity. She probably knew him more intimately than anyone outside of his family, and that fact is evident in this insightful biography that she has written about his life and accomplishments as president. The First Presbyterian Church book club will meet on Thursday September 11th at 2:00pm in the church parlor. Come join us as we have another thoughtful discussion about women serving in World War II. ~Millie Murphy

The church
has left
the building.

Gone
Outreaching!

MISSION AND MINISTRY

The church
has left
the building.

Gone
Outreaching!



The Milly Free Fridge continues to help those families and individuals who experience food insecurity in our community. With such hot weather, consider filling the fridge with bottled water.

Make plans to join us Sunday, September 28th to help feed our neighbors 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.

We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

Samaritan Ministry

We helped three families this month through Samaritan Ministry. We hear so many stories of lost jobs, lowered wages and illness that have negatively impacted these families searching for help. 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, September 16 at 9:30 AM.



Food Pantry served 48 households in August and it could have been more; we had to turn away 4 people one day. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry with your in-kind and financial donations as well as your prayers. The folks we help are always so appreciative and we hear "God bless you" so many

times. The reply is "He certainly has".

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for announcement of an October fundraising event for Food Pantry and Samaritan Fund that everyone who attends should enjoy. ~ Donna Gautier



Homelessness Awareness Club of Milledgeville is a multi-generational organization here in Milledgeville dedicated to educating ourselves and our community about homelessness. We will meet in the fellowship hall on September 7th from 1:30-3:00. Please join us and help make a difference! Thank you!

Co-founder, Teri Anne Bradley

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





September



31 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship

1 7:00 Oconee Recovery
Commission



All Recovery Meeting

2 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



7 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service w/
Communion Ron Gilreath



8 7:00 Oconee Recovery
Commission
7:00 MSG



All Recovery Meeting

9 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
11:00 Presbyterian Women
Bible Study
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



14 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service—
Emily Cheney
1:30 Homeless Awareness
Club



15 7:00 Oconee Recovery
Commission



All Recovery Meeting

20 7:00 MSG

16 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
and Samaritan Ministry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



21 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service—Ron
Gilreath

22 7:00 Oconee Recovery
Commission



All Recovery Meeting

27 7:00 MSG

23 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
7:30 NA



28 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service—
John Lamsma
12:00 Milly Sandwich Squad

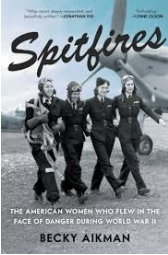


29

30

2025



3 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	4 6:00 IOBI 7:30 NA 	5	6 7:30 NA 
10 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	11 2:00 FPC Book Club  7:30 NA	12	13 7:30 NA 
17 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	18 6:00 IOBI 7:30 NA	19	20 7:30 NA 
24 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	25 7:30 NA	26	27 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 September:

September 7 & 14

Glory Nwankonta

September 21 & 28

Cecilia Odihe





YOUTH MINISTRY



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15am, Craft Room Upstairs



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 September:

Sept. 7 Charles Burrell/Nancy Miller

Sept. 14 Gloria Burns/Sherry Henry

Sept. 21 Anne Smart/Laurie Peebles

Sept. 28 Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill



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

BICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee members are working hard on planning next year's bicentennial celebration.

A slate of activities to celebrate FPC's 200 years of Faith in Action is almost finalized.

Our focus is not only on our past, but also on our present and future roles in the community. We start the new year off with a kickoff in January, and then special services beginning April 12 and concluding June 14, 2026. These special worship services will highlight our musical heritage, history, and service to the community; in addition, these will provide numerous opportunities for fellowship, both within the congregation, community, and presbytery. We hope to have a detailed program of activities and the corresponding budget approved as soon as possible by the incoming session; once approved, we will share detailed plans with the congregation, hopefully early October.



Susan McGill and Margaret Ivester, Co-Chairs



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

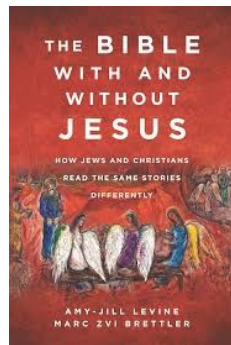


ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you ever thought about the difference between a Jew and a Christian reading the same passages in the holy scriptures? The Bible Sunday School class is studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. This book helps us start to see the Jewish perspective on the holy scriptures we call the Old Testament. Our class continues to meet via ZOOM, allowing us to study and learn in an informal manner from the comfort of our home computer, on a tablet or on our smartphones. We join in lively conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM.**

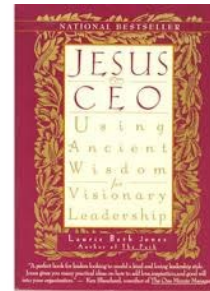
I hope a number of you will join us. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link.

~ Joel D. Burns



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are studying *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership* by Laurie Beth Jones. 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



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.

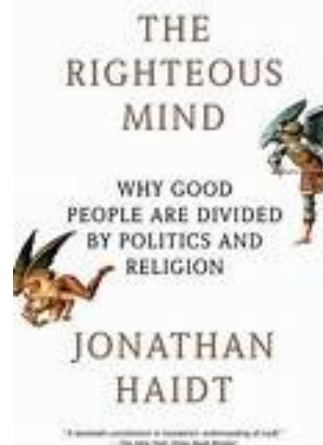
The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. We continue our inquiry into *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. This thought provoking 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

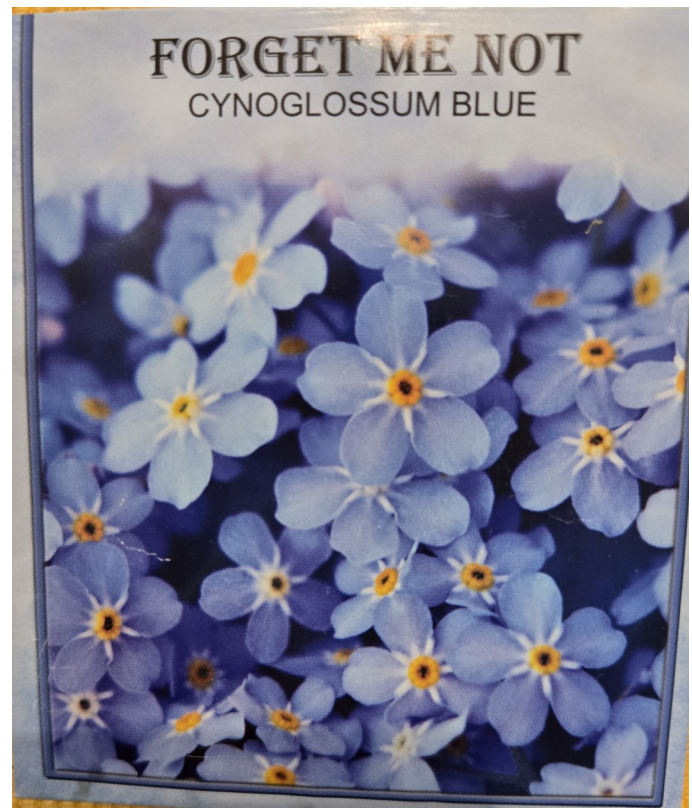
Save the date: Friday, October 3

As part of First Friday and as an awareness and fund raiser for Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry, we will host a piano concert in our sanctuary on this date.

The guest artist is Glen Hunter, who did a concert series at FPC 13 years ago in support of Cafe Central, and he has offered to perform again for the community's listening pleasure. He is calling the program "Forget Me Nots" as he plays 40 radio, stage and screen favorites from the past century.

Drop in anytime between 6 and 8 to listen to a few - or all - of his selections and just try to resist the temptation to hum along - betcha can't do it!

Opportunities will be available to make cash or check contributions, or to donate via PayPal or the church's QR code.



TREASURER'S CORNER

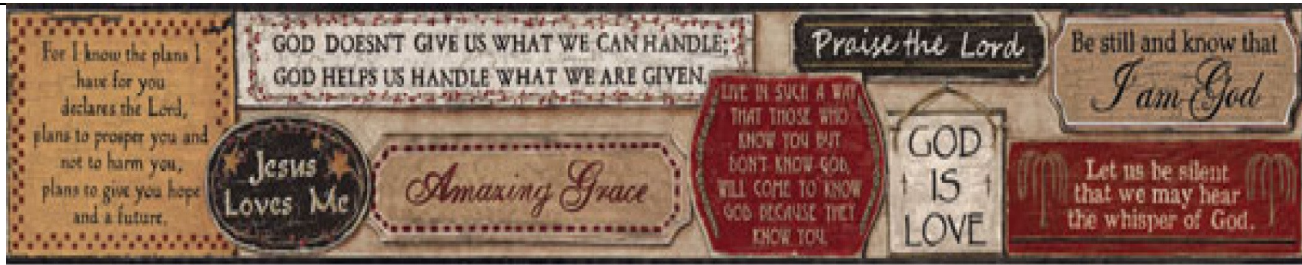
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last month I told you that summer had been hard on our finances. I am pleased to see that some of you responded to the message. With the new session about to be installed we will probably begin to spend on our building repairs.

Remember to 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>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
Contributions	\$18,934	\$12,007	\$125,445
Other Income	\$688	\$688	\$4,820
Total Operating Income	\$19,622	\$12,695	\$130,275
Total Operating Expenses	\$20,162	\$13,423	\$148,912
Net Operating	-\$540	-\$728	-\$18,637
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>			
Contributions	\$3,438	\$4,712	\$26,866
Expenses	\$2,440	\$3,650	\$18,196
Net Designated	\$998	\$1,062	\$8,670



The Administrative Commission is thankful to report to the MFPC congregation that we project to ordain and install two new classes of Elders on October 5 at the morning worship service. Your Elders-elect have been very diligent in their preparation as we have met with them for training sessions both in person and via ZOOM. That time of preparation is nearing an end, and they will assume office as of October 5.

We also sent notice to all of you about the Rev. Mari Turner, the person we feel God is choosing to lead MFPC as Covenant Pastor for the next three years. She will lead the Session as its Moderator but will also assume general pastoral duties in everything from worship leadership to outreach and pastoral responsibilities. Her wealth of experience and many gifts for ministry makes her an ideal candidate for this position at this important time as you approach your bicentennial celebration. She will begin her duties among you on October 1 and officiate as the Elders-elect are ordained and installed her first Sunday. There is a lot of good news to bring and much to celebrate, and we are delighted to share these things with you.

We recognize that our time as the Administrative Commission for MFPC is nearing an end, but it's not yet over. We want to make sure your new church leaders including your new Covenant Pastor feel equipped to assume their duties and do the work God has called them all to do.

The Administrative Commission is grateful for the work of Amy VanderGroef stepping in when Lois left to provide some continuity in the church office. We're thankful also for those of you who have continued to "be the church" and have kept working and serving in the various ministries that are so important to MFPC. It has surely been challenging to have so many different ministers preaching each week, but we feel confident that the Rev. Mari Turner will bring a sense of continuity that is needed and will help the church to grow spiritually and otherwise. May God continue to walk with this congregation as you celebrate 200 years and many more.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Church Family:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Frida Ituka, recovering from knee surgery
Ellen Thompson, recovering at home from broken hip

Extended Family:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
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
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
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
Maddy Reeves, Pat and Sherry Henry's granddaughter, diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes
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

Military Service

Will Deason
Rebecca Elangwe
(Both are Reservists)



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

September 1~ Kate & Roy Phillips



Birthdays

September 4~ Joseph Dean
September 9 ~ Frankie Holder
September 14~ John Bradley
September 14~ Ellen Thompson
September 16~ Susan Tipton
September 19~ Stephanie Azahar
September 19~ Iain Flory
September 19~ Erin Smith

