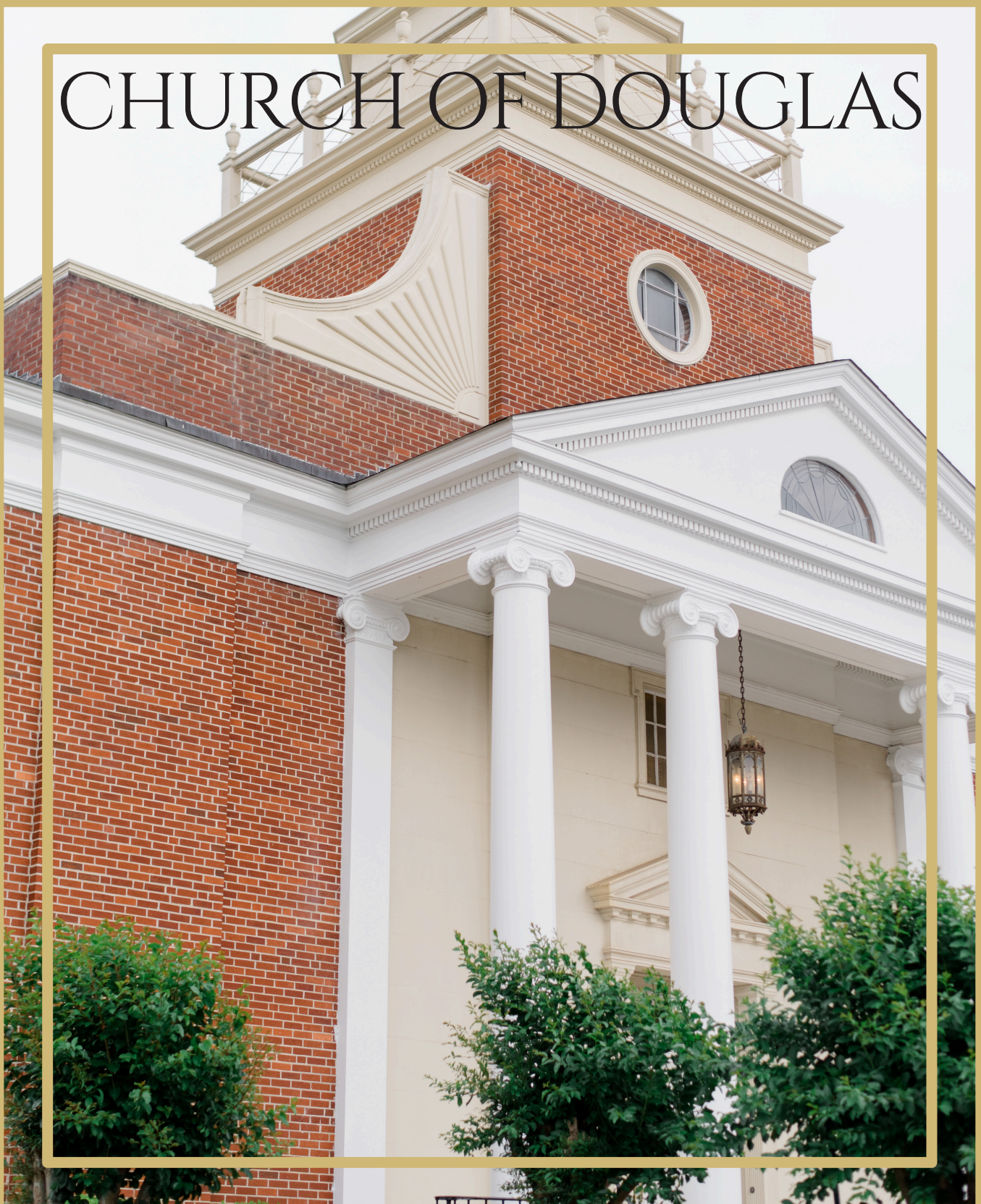


# FIRST METHODIST

# CHURCH OF DOUGLAS



NEWSLETTER



SEPT-OCT 2025





If you are anything like me, then you enjoy the retreat of the long-tenured heat of South Georgia in order to make way for the slow but steady advance of the Autumn season. Football games, pumpkin-spice objects, evenings by an outdoor fire, the need for functional bedding (non-decorative) in order to keep warm--all of these are features of the Fall that warm the heart. And the colors on display!! When I was stationed in Colorado, I was blessed to drive through the Rocky Mountains and witness the disorienting beauty of the Aspen trees at the height of their color, which was a blazing gold...it was enough visual majesty to make me have to pull to the side of the road more than once. I have learned through the years to recognize that the Lord has shown me His glory in times like that, because I know that He is the Author of all things in creation. More than that, I have come to believe that He arranged that experience for me to enjoy, because He loves me and desires that I bear witness to His majesty, both on earth and in the Kingdom's full expression in eternity. Just imagine...as beautiful as this world is, it is but a form and shadow of the beauty that is to come when Christ returns, and the Lord renews (literally makes it anew) His creation, and we are in glory with Him.

In His Service.



*Paul Elliott*

### FEATURED VERSE

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

# THE DENT FAMILY:

## A LEGACY OF FAITH, FAMILY, AND SERVICE AT FIRST METHODIST

The story of the Dent family's deep roots at First Methodist Church begins over a century ago, with the arrival of Reverend John Bugg Thrasher and his wife, Tallual, in 1921. Reverend Thrasher came to serve as the Methodist preacher, and he and Tallual settled into the parsonage, located right next door to the original Dent family home.

Among the Thrasher children was a daughter named Sarah. Not far away lived Ira Dent, a local pharmacist who walked each day to work at Dent Pharmacy. One day, as Ira passed by the parsonage, one of the Thrasher girls called out to him and invited him to stop by for a visit. He took them up on the offer—and it wasn't long before he came knocking, asking to see Sarah.

That visit sparked a romance, and eventually, Ira and Sarah married. They built a home together (now the Edward Jones office) and raised a large family of seven children: Wylene, Sarah Beth, Ira Jr., Annelle, Robbie Sue, Harriet, and Joel. Tragically, their daughter Sarah Beth passed away in an automobile accident at around the age of three—a loss the family carried with grace and deep faith.

While the children were still young, the Dent family developed close relationships with the pastoral families at First Methodist. The girls often babysat for them, and the entire family actively participated in church life, forming bonds and memories that would last a lifetime.

The Dent children were raised at First Methodist, attending Sunday School, singing in the choir, and participating in countless church activities. Sarah herself, along with her daughters, also sang in the choir over the years. All six children were eventually married at First Methodist, a testament to their lifelong connection to the church community.

Annelle, Robbie Sue, and Harriet formed the “Dent Trio,” singing together and adding joy to many church gatherings. Sarah (Mrs. Dent) also served the church in a professional capacity, working part-time for several years as the visitation secretary. Joel worked on staff during two summers while attending South Georgia College, assisting with the youth and children's ministries. Later, he continued his education at LaGrange College and graduated from Emory University Seminary. Annelle also served the church as secretary during the ministries of Rev. Frank Robertson and Rev. McCoy Johnson. Both Joel and Ira Jr. went on to follow their spiritual callings and served faithfully in the South Georgia Conference, further strengthening the family's legacy of service and faith.

After their children married and moved away, Ira Sr. suffered a stroke in the 1970s. He lived for several more years before passing away. Mrs. Sarah continued to live on her own after his death, supported by the deep bonds of love from her family and church.

The Dent family remains forever grateful for the love, support, and community they experienced through First Methodist. Their story is one of dedication, service, and an enduring faith that has touched many lives over the decades.

# MARY BOSANQUET FLETCHER: A VOICE THAT COULDN'T BE SILENCED

As we move through the fall season—a time of reflection and renewal—we turn our hearts to one of Methodism's most remarkable pioneers: Mary Bosanquet Fletcher, a woman whose faith and courage helped shape the future of the church.



Born in 1739, Mary was raised in a wealthy London household, but her heart was drawn not to privilege, but to service. As a young woman, she embraced Methodism and began caring for orphans and the poor, turning her home into a haven of hope and healing.

But Mary's calling didn't stop there. She felt compelled to preach—a radical notion in her time. In 1768, she wrote to John Wesley asking if women could preach. His reply was historic: "If God has called you, then you must not hold back." With Wesley's blessing, Mary became one of the first officially recognized female preachers in Methodism.

She preached with passion, taught with wisdom, and lived with purpose. After marrying theologian John Fletcher in 1781, the two became a spiritual powerhouse, ministering together until his death in 1785. Mary continued her work for decades, leaving behind a legacy of inclusion, compassion, and bold faith. As we celebrate the changing seasons, let us also celebrate the voices that changed our church. Mary Bosanquet Fletcher reminds us that when God calls, no barrier—social, cultural, or historical—can stand in the way.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

02	Nancy Cross Amy Rowell
03	Avery Clements Alan Carter
04	Lauren Hayes
06	Graham Woodard
07	Todd Ursrey Holly Bagwell
08	Debbie Koeppler
09	Markey Cady
11	Jessica Fussell
12	Ingrid Roberts Karen Lindsey
13	Lori Hennesy Al Horner Glen Brown
14	John Wood
15	Cathy Hawks
17	Brad Riner
19	Michael Gaskins
20	Jaimie Smith Ginger Diamond
22	Rose Suttles Jim Cottingham
23	Steve Myers
24	Robert Wood Holley Hennesy
25	Lucas Benton
26	Margaret Spikes
29	Catherine Moya Bryan Wyatt
30	Carmen Gurley Dick Whitley Matthew Brown



01	Drew Abercrombie
03	Lu Tregellas
05	Zachary Anderson Josh Larkey Steve Wight
06	Greg Walker
07	Gerri Rozar
08	Vic Suttles
09	Pam Jenkins
10	Helen Roberts Lindsey Seagraves
11	Jane Abler Justen Kitchens Theo Clarke
13	Elton Brooks Rob Abler Gina Heidemann
14	Nathaniel Elliott
15	Travis Jenkins Amy Odom
16	Walker Welch Caroline Benton Hollyn Bennett
17	Sally Cottingham Joe Sports Larry Thomas Kaycee Hopwood Oliver Ursrey
18	David Roberts
19	Alyssa Morla
22	Mae Mae Neugent Jeremy Tarver
24	Steve Miller
25	Lane Preston Nancy Phillips
27	Austin Riner
28	Ann Ray Marsha Earnest
29	Grace Cunningham
30	Ryan Mayo Autumn Suttles

OCTOBER



# PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Leanne Peach  
Amy Hines  
Joe Sports  
Beverly Barbaree  
Vickie Lott  
Family of Braylon White  
Brad Riner  
Bill Sumner  
Virgil Hughey  
Carol Vaughn  
Georgia Vickers  
Shirley Smith Ring  
Patti Vick  
Terry Fesperman  
Audrey Smith Byrd  
Hub Daniel  
Pat Daniel  
Leila Morgan  
Barbie Myers

## Prayer Requests

As a faith community, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. Whatever you're facing - whether it's a cause for joy, a challenge weighing you down, or a particular intention you're holding close to your heart - we want to join you in prayer.

Please email your prayer requests to:  
shantae.douglasfirst@outlook.com,  
katelynn.douglasfirst@outlook.com,  
or scan this QR code



## Stay in touch

[pastor.douglasfirst@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.douglasfirst@gmail.com)



912-384-4404



[shantae.douglasfirst@outlook.com](mailto:shantae.douglasfirst@outlook.com)

[katelynn.douglasfirst@outlook.com](mailto:katelynn.douglasfirst@outlook.com)

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

Dr. Joel & Joyce Dent of Dublin, again request your prayers not only in the death of his sister Annelle Dent McDuffee on June 14, 2025 in Okatie, SC. But also the death of his sister Robbie Sue Schneider on July 18, 2025 in Huntsville AL. We are so grateful for the love and guidance of this Douglas First Methodist Church which nurtured all of the Dent family through the years. God bless you ALL. Joel & Joyce Dent, 1819 Pine Forest Circle, Dublin, GA 31021

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

1975

2025

The family of  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Griffin  
request the pleasure of your company  
at a Reception  
in honor of their  
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary  
Sunday, the twenty-first of September  
two thousand and twenty-five  
from two until four o'clock in the afternoon  
First Methodist Church  
Robertson Hall  
Douglas, Georgia







2025

# September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 <div>★ <b>LABOR</b> ★ ★ <b>DAY</b> ★ ★ ★</div>	2 Staff Parrish Meeting 6:00 pm Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	3 CHILDREN'S CHOIR 5PM SUPPER 5:30 PROGRAMMING 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	4 HANDBELLS 5PM	5	6 Youth Back To School Bash	
7 Children's Choir Performs Christmas Play Tryouts 5 pm (Robertson)	8 Connect Class 5:30 pm (Pennell)	9 SGA GMC 10am-2pm (Robertson) Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	10 CHILDREN'S CHOIR 5PM SUPPER 5:30 PROGRAMMING 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	11 HANDBELLS 5PM Methodist Women 6:00 pm (Robertson)	12	13	
14	15 Finance Meeting 6:00 pm (Pennell)	16 Circle 7 6:00 PM (Pennell) Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	17 CHILDREN'S CHOIR 5PM SUPPER 5:30 PROGRAMMING 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	18 HANDBELLS 5PM	19 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	20	
21 Don & Penny Griffin's 50 Year Anniversary Celebration	22 Admin Council 6:00 PM (Pennell)	23 Card Ministry 10 AM (Pennell) Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	24 GMC Awakening 5:30 PM Park Ave Church, Valdosta NO MNS & NO ADULT PROGRAMMING YOUTH PROGRAMMING 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	25 HANDBELLS 5PM	26 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	27	
28 Christmas Play Rehearsal 5pm Ice Cream Social 5pm	29	30 Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	<div><div>CHRISTMAS PLAY TRYOUTS</div><div>Christmas Play Tryouts</div><div></div></div>				

# OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Christmas Play Rehearsal 5 pm	29	30 Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	1 CHILDREN'S CHOIR: 5PM SUPPER: 5:30PM PROGRAMMING: 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	2 HANDBELLS 5PM	3 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	4
5 Children's Choir Performs Christmas Play Rehearsal 5 pm	6 Connect Class 5:30 PM (Pennell Room)	7 Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	8 CHILDREN'S CHOIR: 5PM SUPPER: 5:30PM PROGRAMMING: 6PM CHOIR 7 PM Youth Pumpkin Carving 6PM (Refuge)	9 HANDBELLS 5PM	10 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	11
12 Christmas Play Rehearsal 5 pm	13	14 Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	15 CHILDREN'S CHOIR: 5PM SUPPER: 5:30PM PROGRAMMING: 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	16 HANDBELLS 5PM	17 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	18
19 Christmas Play Rehearsal 5 pm	20	21 Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm Circle 7 6:00 PM (Pennell Room)	22 CHILDREN'S CHOIR: 5PM SUPPER: 5:30PM PROGRAMMING: 6PM CHOIR 7 PM	23 HANDBELLS 5PM	24 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM (Pennell) Blanket Ministry 11:00 AM (Robertson)	25
26 Christmas Play Rehearsal 5 pm Charge Conference 6PM (Sanctuary)	27	28 Card Ministry 10 AM (Pennell) Young Adults Bible Study 7:30 pm	29 Trunk or Treat 5:30 pm-7 pm CHOIR 7 PM	30 HANDBELLS 5PM	31 TRICK OR TREAT	1

