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Issue 28

### **Six Lessons from my Sabbath Renewal Leave - Part One**

*This is an article that originally ran on DavidDonnan.com. I wanted to share it with you here. It has been broken up into two parts. Today are lessons 6-4 in descending order.*

I have been very blessed to have four consecutive weeks off in a form of spiritual sabbatical renewal leave from my local church. This time has been a gift for my family and I. It has been a fruitful time of rest where I moved outside the normal demands of pastoral leadership in order to make space for God to bring renewal. During my time away I worshipped each Sunday in a different congregation. My family and I traveled extensively spending time with family and enjoying God's creation.

Here are the top six lessons I learned on sabbatical.

#### **#6 A Deeper Appreciation for the Long View of Preaching.**

When I played high school football, I was obsessed with the team we were playing that Friday night. I would think about them, study film, and even write the opponent's school name at the top of my class notes so I could focus on them. Preaching can be of a similar intensity. The "term paper" is always coming each week. Even more than the pressure of a good grade is the responsibility to preach God's word faithfully.

Sitting with the congregation for weeks in a row was a reminder that Christian worship is deeper than the sermon (although please do not interpret this as a diminishing view of the sermon). Sermons absolutely have a role to play. Yet, there is so much more going on during worship. There is community, there is worship through song, there is confession and pardon, there is rhythm of gathering and sending out.

My hope as I return to the pulpit is fresh, relevant, faithful preaching. I also hope to have a renewed confidence in how God is working in so much more than just the preaching.

#### **#5 A Clearer Vision for my Calling**

This season of pondering [the future of Methodism](#) and Christianity has given me plenty of time to consider my calling. There has been a renewed understanding of how I am called to cheer on people for what God is doing in their life. I also have a clearer understanding of my role as someone, like all Christians, called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Specifically, how the Triune God who created the world and everyone in it. This God loves everyone and provides a path to eternal life here and now through Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sin. It is a free gift. No matter how good, smart, pretty, successful, or friendly you are, you cannot earn it. It is the greatest gift you can ever receive.

#### **#4 An Extending Gratitude to the Local Church**

While I have gotten clarity on my calling I have also grown in my gratitude for my local church. To all of our knowledge no one has ever been given a sabbatical leave like this before. It was new for me and for them. The Christ-followers at Glennville Methodist Church were very encouraging.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

A few years ago, I had a very traumatic church meeting where some trusted friends blindsided me and unloaded some frustrations on me again and again. That night I went home literally shaking. Even though it was over ten years ago I still think it is going to happen again.

Nothing could be further from the truth in almost all other ministry contexts I have served in. Particularly here I have received a bounty of prayer and encouragement. I wish everyone had a chance to serve and live in Glennville.

I also realize having a sabbatical is a privilege most churches and professions in America do not enjoy. I am extremely grateful to have had this unique benefit.

*Next week will be the final three lessons.*

Grace and Peace,  
David Wesley Donnan

# Choir News

## **Summer Schedule:**

Sunday Mornings - Meet in the choir room 30 minutes prior to worship (8:30 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m.)

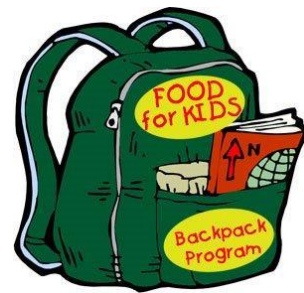
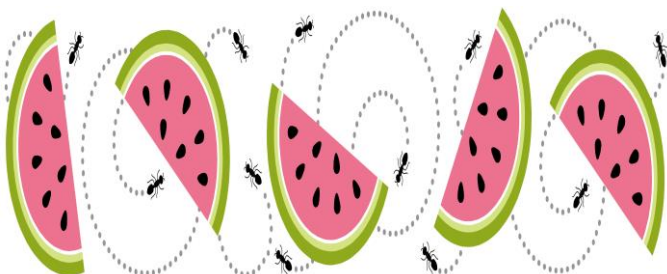
No Choir Practice on Wednesday Nights for July & August (We will resume this after Labor Day.)

Look forward to seeing you & God Bless!  
Mary Anne

"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus--sweetest name I know,  
fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go."

(Words & Music by Luther B. Bridgers)

*"So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit,  
but I will also pray with my  
understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I  
will also sing with my understanding." I  
Corinthians 14:15*



To continue our Backpack Ministry to children at the elementary school who don't have food for the weekends, we need your help. On a federal level, some new restrictions have been placed on how America's Second Harvest in Savannah (where we get the majority of our food at a very low price) can spend the money they use to purchase food for backpacks. This means it will cost us a lot more to provide food for these children. Your donation would be greatly appreciated so that we can continue this program. Any questions or if you're interested in helping pack bags contact Sharon Durrence at 912-237-0433.



Mr. David Wright is in need of 3 people willing to be a witness to his training of Fiddler in order for Fiddler's renewal as a service dog.

If you are willing to help with this please contact Mr. David Wright at (907) 312-6652.

# Remembering You on Your Special Day!



## July 16 – July 22

16	Monty Strickland Hannah Dasher Kayleigh Hunter	20	Hagan Banks Sharlene Randall
17	Lance Durrence	21	Debbie Roderick Debra Rutkowski
18	Ryan Barney Faith M. Yarbrough Landynn Brown Will J. Sheffield Kathleen Shuman	22	Kelly Durrence Olga Oliver Alan Whiten
19	Seth Fravel		



## July 16 – July 22

22	Timothy & Karen Bland
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If we do not have your family's birthdays and anniversaries, please call the Church office at 654-2587.

## Prayer Concerns

### CRISIS

#### •Georgia Kate Anderson

✠Mark Gridley Dement Family  
David C. Walker  
Jennie Huffman  
LeAnne Durrence  
Phyllis Durrence  
Brock Heath  
Stanton Browne  
Sharlene Randall  
Joshua Sanchez  
David Webster  
Michael Groover  
Rusty Bradley  
Tiff Tootle  
Bob & Deb Rutkowski & Families

#### •Barney Durrence

Brenda Faye Donahue  
Kevin McIlwain  
Tammy Fincher  
Michelle Bland  
Peyton Bland  
David Holland  
Mike Mullins  
Patsy Ray  
Wendell Durrence  
Sue Mullins  
Theresa Anderson  
Andrew Cammack  
Kimberly Bray  
Our Government's Leaders

#### •Railey Sheffield

Lucinda Wright  
Gloria Johnston  
Debbie Waters  
Judy Bland  
Jason Grooms  
Stephanie MacNeil  
Unrest at Smith State Prison  
Hollie Shelton  
President, Jimmy Carter & Roselyn  
Johnny Johnston  
Andy Callaway  
Jimmy Roberts  
Cindy & Lee Sheffield

#### •Irene Kenner

Kaycee O'Neal  
Mike Folsom  
Gray Williams  
Martea Brannen  
Ellie Kate Turner  
Rick King  
Carol Strickland  
Vickie Branch  
James Whiten  
Shane Barnard  
Theresa Andrews  
Stacy Chambers  
Autumn Underwood

### GENERAL

Jack Sampson  
Connie O'Neal  
Dale Kicklighter  
Johnna Porter  
James & Jenna Roberts (Missionaries)  
Lloyd Jones  
Cayson Guy

Karen Browne  
Andrea McNeal's Grandson  
Darrie Randall  
Mike Lopez  
Pam Dasher  
Bobby Cary  
Betty Barrow

Angie Anderson  
Earl Boyette  
Rob & Deborah Durrence  
Peace for Ukraine  
Cindy Bradley  
Coleman Bohannan  
Margaret Danner

Patsy Durrence  
Rhonda Hutchinson  
Gene Banks  
Lee Branch  
Jane Thompson  
Melvin Sprout

### MILITARY

Travis Randall  
Chad Jordan  
Duston Mancel

Jeric B. Heflin  
Alex Santacruz

David White  
Justin Dean Coleman

Jeremy Chase  
Tyler Gillette

#### • New Names / ✠ Hospital

#### ✠ Families of Deceased

Names will remain on the Crisis List for 2 weeks then will be moved to the General List for 2 weeks.

Once remaining on the General List for 2 weeks they will then be removed unless the church office is otherwise notified.



**Glennville Methodist Church  
Worship Attendance**

	<u>July 2</u>	<u>July 9</u>
9:00 a.m.:	55	50
Children's Church:	0	11
Sunday School:	40	40
11:00 a.m.:	36	37
*Online:	0	0
Total in Person Attendance:	84	98
Total Attendance	84	98
Youth Group:	0	0
Children's Extra Hours:	18	18

*\*We use a formula to determine the number of online viewers:  
confirmed viewers x 2.65 = number to report as attending.*



**All activities will run 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
unless noted.**

**Wednesday, 07/19 - Pool Time Party**

**Wednesday, 07/26 - Splash Pad & Mini Golf**

***Children & Youth mark your calendars today  
to join us for these times of fun & fellowship!***



One of the ministries our church supports through budget givings is the United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR). This agency provides needed relief money and supplies to persons affected by natural disasters in the United States and throughout the world. If you would like more information on UMCOR and the services they provide, please visit the UMCOR website.

# Senior Ministry

The following are Senior members or family of members  
Please take time out of your schedule to pray for, send a  
card to or visit these loved ones.

It will be a blessing to their day as well as yours!

**Glennville Nursing Home**

Edsel Thompson     Velma Salter

**Griffin House**  
**Journey Side**  
Claxton, GA  
Shirley Hearn

**The Fountains in Cartersville**  
Cartersville, GA  
Richard Flournoy

**The Lodge at Bethany**  
Statesboro, GA  
Dot Bogardus

**The Gardens**  
Statesboro, GA  
Jane Thompson



**Glennville Methodist Church Greeter Schedule**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Will & Angelynne  
Sheffield**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Larry McLeod &  
Jimmy Beasley**

**July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**David & Daniel Smith**





**Sunday, 07/16, Time TBA -**  
 The Gathering Place; Speaker -  
 Clemson Quarterback

**Sunday, 07/23, 6:00 p.m. -** The Porter's Pool

**Sunday, 07/30, Time TBA -** Movie Theatre



**Sunday, 07/16, Time TBA -**  
 The Gathering Place; Speaker -  
 Clemson Quarterback

**Wednesday, 07/19, 7:30 p.m.** Bible Study

**Sunday, 07/23, 6:00 p.m. -** The Hearn's Pool

**Wednesday, 07/26, 7:30 p.m.** Bible Study

**Sunday, 07/30, Time TBA -** Movie Theatre



Listed below is the altar flower schedule for this month.

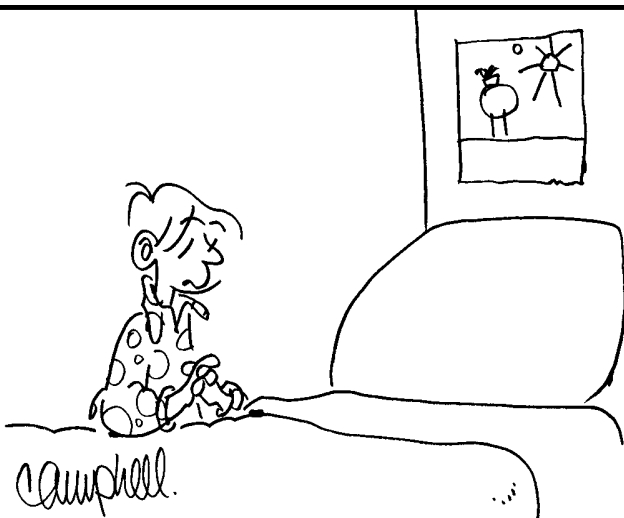
<b>16</b>	<b>Brenda McLeod</b>
23	LeAnne Durrence
30	



The Glennville Methodist Church is in search of a Thrift Store Coordinator.

As most everyone knows the thrift store is a wonderful part of our minstry to the Glennville community. Not only does the store provide a nice, clean place to shop; it also provides funds for help in other areas of our ministries. The thrift store also provides items free of charge for those who are in need.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this position please contact Jason Whitlow at (912) 237-4765



"I minded my mother, ate my spinach, and did my homework today. But you won't tell the guys, will you?"

**Bible Quiz**

What does God compare to rain "watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater"?

- A. The justice of the nations
- B. The work of God's people
- C. The message of Isaiah the prophet
- D. God's word



GLENNVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

# The Vessel

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 4 Ways You Can Connect:



**1. Worship.** Join us for worship on Sunday mornings. We have 2 services: 9 and 11AM in the sanctuary (masks are available) with a nursery provided for both services. and 9AM online at [www.glennvillemc.com/worship-online](http://www.glennvillemc.com/worship-online); [youtube.com/glennvillemc](https://youtube.com/glennvillemc); [facebook.com/glennvillemc](https://facebook.com/glennvillemc); and [twitter.com/glennvillemc.com](https://twitter.com/glennvillemc)

**2. Call a Member.** Call a church member. Check on them and spend some time chatting. Consider calling someone you don't know as well. If you are a member of the church, we can get you a copy of the most up-to-date contact information for our church membership.

**3. Giving.** Your giving matters to God and the church! If you are able, please continue to give. You can give at any of our in-person worship services. You can also mail your tithes and offerings to the church. If you use online banking, you can also instruct your bank to send a check to the church.

**4. Serving the Community.** Jesus said we are the salt of the earth. Salt isn't meant to stay in the shaker, it's meant to be poured out. If you are able, find a way to serve. Help someone who can't get out; write a note to residents in assisted living; assist someone with technology. Find a way to continue making a difference for Christ in our community!