



HAPPENINGS



on the Hill

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI • MARCH 2016

From Martin.....

I am not sure if the old saying that *March comes in like lion and goes out like a lamb* will hold true, but I know we rejoice in **THE Lamb of God Who is also The Victorious Lion of Judah**. Join us in celebrating His Good News this magisterial month at FPC: in real repentance as Lent concludes: in reverent awe during Holy Week special services; and in the Heaven-sent Hallelujahs for the Risen Jesus on Easter Sunday.

As I explained in last month's *Happenings on the Hill*, this is an "early" Christian Worship Year, related to an "early Easter" of March 27. March 27 is the first Sunday immediately after the first full moon (March 23 this year) following the vernal equinox (March 21). So this month let us weather the close of winter, survive spring break, and be ready for Palm Sunday at the close of our local spring break week!

Remember, especially:

Palm & Passion Sunday Services on March 20 – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m., with *Renew Fellowship* at 6:30 p.m.;

Holy Week Mid-Day Services and Fellowship Lunches on Holy **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday** (March 21-23);

Maundy Thursday Cantata & Holy Communion Service, Holy Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m.;

Easter Sunday Morning Worship and Fellowship – including the **Full, Traditional Services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**, the **Sunrise Fellowship Service (6:30 a.m.) at Robinson Lake**, and the **Easter Sunday Fellowship and Egg Hunt on Courtyards & Front Lawns (open to children of all ages) at 10:30 a.m.**



Join us *this Easter Sunday, March 27*, for joyous fellowship and worship in the Good News of Christ's Resurrection.

"For He has risen, as He said!" [Matthew 28:6b]

Easter Sunday 2015, FPC Easter Egg Hunt

Nurturing Joyful Faith & Compassionate Service

As we prepare to embrace the gospel grace in our most special of services this month, I thank God for his ongoing mission through you – our congregation and members – including through your special mission and outreach efforts, such as:

- **Good News from Our Support of the Honduras Agape Foundation (HAF).** In their recent visit to us, HAF President Michael Norton and Tejeras Mission Projects Director Maynor Castillo thanked FPC for funding the construction in 2015 of the first-ever restroom facilities for the Feeding and Education Center -- serving the poorest of the poor in Tejeras. Michael and Maynor also thanked our congregation so many FPC members for leading the way over the past six years to sponsor several meals each week to the impoverished children of Tejeras, and gave great reports on the further scholarship program helping lead to the higher education of a number of the poor children involved in the mission.

- **FPC University Student ministries and mission that serve and, in turn, are extended by faithful university students.** We are blessed by the participation of a number of students MSU and other colleges and universities in our area. Some of the students not only join us for worship, fellowship, and Bible Study but also serve as Sunday School teachers (e.g., Rachel Darden and Kirk Kinard). Some even continue to extend our mission and witness for Christ into the community. I was delighted to learn that FPC's Kirk Kinard is leading the devotions and prayers before local Upward Ministries children's basketball games, and I share with you a photograph of Kirk with FPC child Noah Templeton (see page 3). This month, for her spring break, FPC member and MSU student Kathryn Stringer will be working with CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) in the Dominican Republic — helping distribute water filters to impoverished household and sharing the Good News of Jesus. We will commission and pray for Kathryn at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on March 6. You can also read Kathryn's Thank You Letter (on Page 5) for FPC members' support of her mission.

God is bringing Good News and faithful mission and witness through FPC. May we also join in the joy of worshipping *and* serving this month the Lamb of God, the Lion of Judah – Jesus, our Lord!

Your pastor and friend in his grace,

Martin Lifer



Maynor Castillo with FPC member Jeff Foster — who has served on mission trips and in a number of other ways in FPC's ongoing mission work and support in Honduras.



Pastor Lifer and Hunter and Zack Harrington with Grace attending her 1st game at MSU Feb 2016.



Pastor Lifer with Honduras Agape Foundation (HAF) President Michael Norton and HAF's Tejeras Mission Projects Director Maynor Castillo.

Men's Fellowship

Dr. Chris Carter of UNC Chapel Hill — our guest speaker for the Veritas Forum outreach at MSU on February 25 — joined Pastor Lifer, Bob Daniels, and our FPC Men's Fellowship Group to discuss faith and politics at Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Feb 26, 2016.



Dr. Carter discusses faith and politics at the Men's Fellowship Feb 26 2016



Dr. Chris Carter with Pastor Lifer and Bob Daniels at Men's Fellowship Feb 26 2016

FPC University Mission



University Student Fellowship Lunch at FPC



Cat Buffington and Friends Enjoy Some Winter 2016 Snow at VCU

Kirk Kinard with Noah Templeton - devotion before Upward Game, Feb 2016





MEMBER NEWS

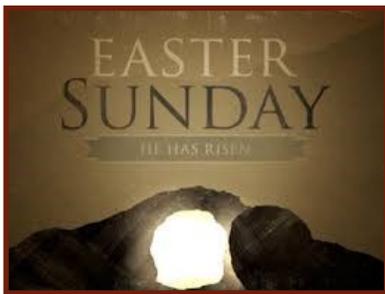


Come help do some “Spring Cleaning” around the church on Saturday, March 5 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Men of the Church and FPC Childcare Center parents are teaming together to spruce up the exterior of the church campus and the playgrounds. Charlie Weatherly and the MOC are providing breakfast to all volunteers. Bring lawn tools, pressure washers or just yourself as we join together on a day of fellowship and service. In case of rain, the work day will be moved to March 26. For more information, please contact Jimbo Hearnberger or Edward Kemp.



Maundy Thursday Service, March 24th at 7 pm



- ⇒ Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, @ Robinson Lake
- ⇒ Coffee and Juice will be available by 6 am @ Robinson Lake
- ⇒ Please bring simple breakfast food to enjoy before and after the service fellowship
- ⇒ FPC Service @ 8:30 am
- ⇒ FPC Service @ 11 am

COME TO THE WATERS

Bible Study Lesson –“Streams of Mercy – Forgiveness”

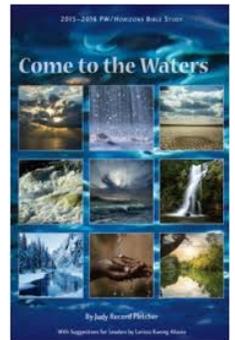
SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 35:1-2, & 5-7; Psalm 51:1-12; Matthew 6:12

LESSON FOCUS : Christians forgive and are forgiven. We will discuss forgiveness and streams of mercy we receive from Jesus, our Lord.

DATE: March 31 – 5th Thursday (delay is due to Spring Break Week and Holy Week services.)

TIME:6 pm

LOCATION: Parlor @ FPC



In Memoriam

Robert “Bob” M. Scholtes
May 28, 1928 – February 6, 2016



In Memoriam

Patsy Weeks Peeples
April 9, 1930 – February 22, 2016





MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS



Dear FPC Family,

I cannot thank you enough for all the support I have received thus far in preparation for my mission trip to the Dominican Republic. I became passionate about overseas missions during my trips to Honduras with our church and have been aching to go on another trip like it. Without all of your support, this trip would not be possible. Thank you so much for not only your generous donations, but for your kind words and prayers. Having a family to cheer me on means the world to me and makes me even more enthusiastic about going to share the Lord's love. I will be leaving on March 12 and returning March 17, and I cannot wait to come back and share stories with all of you. Thank you all so much again!

Love,

Kathryn Stringer



Tejeras Meal Program

During March, meals for the children have been sponsored by the following donors:

- March 2: Chris and Meredith Shapley in honor of Catherine's birthday
- March 4: Thomas and Elcy Philip
- March 9: Ellen Mauldin
- March 11: A member of our congregation
- March 16: Rex and Anne Buffington in honor of Catherine's birthday
- March 18: Saunders and Jordan Ramsey in honor of Dero and Adelaide Ramsey
- March 23: Pat, Laura, and Jack Bryan in memory of Sam and Jane Polk
- March 25: Colleen McKee
- March 30: A member of our congregation



From the Adult Discipleship Team

What is the difference between disciples and apostles?

Several times in past issues of “Happenings,” we have referred to Christians as “disciples” of Christ, defining them as “learners” or “followers” of Jesus. During His ministry, Jesus called disciples to be learners of the truths that He taught, but out of all of His disciples, who probably numbered in the hundreds, He called Twelve to be “Apostles” (Mk 3:13-15). Every apostle is a disciple, but not every disciple is an apostle. By definition, *apostles* are commissioned to speak for and with full authority of the one who sends them. In other words, Jesus sent His Apostles to represent Him, with His authority to *make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that (He) had commanded them* (Matt 28:18-20). Their writings and teachings, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:16-17), became the New Testament, the authority of Jesus, the Gospel of God. What a blessing for us! I encourage you, as a disciple, to take some time each day to explore God’s Word.

—Allen Johnson

Children's Ministry



Palm Sunday

- Children will line up on the front steps of the church at 10:45.
- During the 11:00 service, Ms. Kathy will lead the children as they sing songs from Wednesday night choir.



Easter Sunday

- We will have the FPC Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 am.
- We will hide the eggs during Sunday school.
- There will be cookies and fellowship in the breezeway.

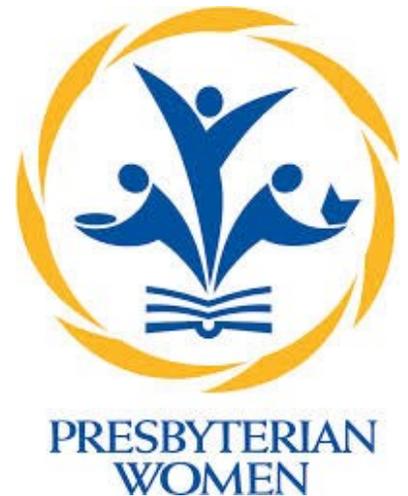
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Some of you have been around long enough to remember rolling bandages to be sent overseas for medical assistance where needed. We have an opportunity to help in a similar way this month. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance warehouse in Arkansas needs replenishment of the hygiene kits that are given out in disaster situations. The Coordinating Team voted to collect items for these kits, which will be delivered by Hardie Frankel from our presbytery to the warehouse later this month. A collection box is located in the church office, or you can take items to your circle meeting this month. Each kit should contain the following: Hand Towel, Wash Cloth, Wide-tooth comb, Nail Clippers, Bar Soap (bath size in wrapper), Tooth Brush (in original single packaging), 6 standard band aids; place all items in a one gallon zip-lock bag. Circles can elect to put these together at their March meeting if they'd like to, or supplies donated to the church office box will be assembled in bags during Friends and Family on Wednesday, March 23.

Yes – Easter is happening very early this year! Look at your calendar and volunteer to help at one of the Holy Week luncheons Monday-Wednesday March 21-23. Janice Kinard has graciously volunteered to lead this effort and needs volunteers to help each day from about 10:30AM-1PM. Even if you can only stay a portion of that time, please consider volunteering. Contact Janice at Janice.Kinard@ms.usda.gov. We will also need volunteers to bring food items for some days, but we'll get those volunteers at the March circle meeting, or you can contact Janice to offer to help with food.

Circles Meetings & Reminders:

March Mission – Support for Seminary Student, Clay Warden/Least Coin
March Lesson – *Mary, Mother of Jesus: Moving from Comfort to Courage*
Lesson Leader – Nancy Lifer (thanks for going a 2nd round, Nancy!)
3/01 5:30 PM – PW Coordinating Team meeting – Johnson Room
3/06 8AM – Sunday AM Circle – Parlor
3/07 1:30PM – Monday Daytime Circle – Parlor
3/08 6PM – Tuesday Evening Circle – Marquita Beaty – 103 Clairmont Circle
3/21 7PM – Monday Evening Circle – TBA
3/21-23 – Holy Week Services and Luncheons
3/24 – Maundy Thursday Service
3/27 – Easter



As we approach the cross this month, take time to consider the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ anew. It's easy to take this sacrifice for granted, especially if you were reared in the church. Look at the Easter gift from a fresh perspective!

—Michele Rackley

HAPPENINGS

on the Hill

First Presbyterian Church PCUSA

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E-mail: staff@fpcstarkville.org

Church Staff

Dr. Martin Lifer.....Senior Pastor

Vicki Schramm.....Church Administrator

Kim Beatty.....Church Secretary

Amy Aarhus.....Children's Ministry
Coordinator (on leave through March)

Ashleigh Murdock.....Acting Children's Ministry
Coordinator (through March)

Dr. Craig Aarhus.....Music Director

Kathy McGill.....Children's Choirs

Jennifer Blackbourn.....Organist

Ellen Mauldin.....Church Librarian

Amanda Corley.... FPC Child Care Director

Sunday Schedule

Worship (Sanctuary) - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:45 to 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship - 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Worship (Sanctuary) - 11:00 a.m.

Deadline for next issue:

Friday, March 18th by 5:00 p.m.

E-mail articles/photos to:

Kim Beatty: kbeatty@fpcstarkville.org

Or

Liz Stringer: estringer@eastms.edu

First Presbyterian Church

307 University Drive

Starkville, MS 39759

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



Easter Lilies will decorate our Sanctuary for our Easter worship services and are available to order at a cost of **\$14.00** each. If you would like to buy a lily in honor or memory of someone, please complete the information below, make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, and place the form in the offering plate.

March 13 is the deadline for ordering.

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

NO. OF LILIES: _____ **AMOUNT PAID:** _____

NAME(s) for HONOR or MEMORY (*Please circle one*):

View the newsletter online at www.fpcstarkville.org; click on Bulletin & Newsletter; then click Select by Date to find the newsletter for the current & previous months.