



HAPPENINGS

ON THE HILL

JANUARY 2017

***START STRONG WITH HEART SONGS!
INVITE AND
BRING FRIENDS HOME TO YOUR CHURCH***



Photo above: FPC members Jeff and Barbara Foster fellowship after worship on December 11 with friends who began attending FPC upon the Fosters' invitation – Ann Alford, together with her sons, Ledarius and Shaharris Alford – as they greet new members Missy, Holden and Audrey Walters.

Photo below: I welcome for their first visit to FPC on December 18 members of the Starkville High Girls' Cross Country Team – who had accepted my impromptu invitation to worship with us when these SHS CC runners were caroling in my neighborhood: Caroline and Kate Mattox, Lane Spradling, Regan Ruff, and Abigail and Shanika Musser.



Photo at right: Worshipers stream out of FPC's Sanctuary on Christmas Eve by candlelight – singing carols and carrying the Good News into our community. For more photos from Christmas Eve, see Page 3.

Dear Church Family and Friends of FPC,

Happy New Year! In accord with my New Year Sermon Series, I invite you to ***Start Strong with Heart Songs***. We actually begin Year of Our Lord 2017 with Moses' famous prayer – which should be our prayer (and the focus of any New Year's resolutions):

So teach us to number our days aright, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

God calls us as Christians to be wise and fruitful with each day of He gives us – always prioritizing in the Light of, and with reference to Eternity and Gospel priorities. So I encourage you to renew your commitment to be wise and evangelically hospitable members: *intentionally invitational*, along the lines I note in the examples highlighted in the photos and captions of this page.

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Photo above: Introducing to their church family on December 11 new members: Wallace and Gloria Cade; Dr. Megan Smith; Dr. Bruce Leopold; and Dr. Jack and Missy Walters, together with Holden, Audrey, and Ella Walters. For more photos on our new members and on other church family updates, see Page 4.



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Wise and faithful Christ-followers number and make the most of their days and of their relationships with other people who need prayer, with those who need Christian encouragement, and with those who either do not know Jesus or, perhaps, do know Him but do not have a church home. In many of the situations just mentioned, you will have opportunities to invite and host friends and acquaintances to God's House – Christ's Body – at FPC. As God's Word says, you are ambassadors for Christ. Serve, pray, speak, invite, and host well! May each of us "number our days aright, that we may present to God a heart of wisdom."

And so, may we all have a truly Happy New Year!

Your Pastor and friend in Christ,
Martin

Some Additional New Year Notes of Thanks:

As I celebrated at Christmas and now, as we begin this New Year, I give unending thanks to the Lord for my wonderful family, our faithful and loving church family at FPC, a faithful staff, and so many gracious volunteers in ministry in our congregation – including those who help in the church office and with the church grounds on a regular basis.

Photo above right: with Grace, Faith, and Nancy on Christmas Eve at FPC.

Photo at right: Children's Ministry Coordinator Ashleigh Murdock Presents an FPC Children's Ministry Appreciation Gift to a surprised Amy Aarhus on December 11, 2016.

Photo below: with Office Volunteer Coordinator Peggy Branch and some of our office volunteers - Peggy Moore, Jane Bobbitt, Kay McReynolds, and Jane Vemer.



Photo at Left:
Christmas Staff
Lunch on
December 20,
2016 – with
Jennifer
Blackbourn, Beckie
Miller, Nancy Lifer,
Ellen Mauldin,
Jeremy and
Ashleigh Murdock,
and Craig Aarhus.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT FPC



***WORSHIPERS AT FPC
ON CHRISTMAS EVE
... AND AGAIN ON THAT MOST SPECIAL
WORSHIP DAY IN THE SEASON –
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY –
... CELEBRATED THE BIRTH OF
THE KING OF KINGS
AND THE LORD OF LORDS!***

Photo at Left: Anita Reynolds, Lynn Zimmerman, and Peggy Branch rejoice in fellowship following a beautiful Christmas Eve Service.

Photo below: FPC Christmas Eve 2016 Carols by Candlelight on the Hill!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS!

God blessed us in December to welcome new members [pictured below, in the order named: **Wallace and Gloria Cade; Dr. Bruce Leopold; Dr. Megan Smith; and Dr. Jack and Missy Walters, together with Holden, Audrey, and Ella Walters.**



FPC celebrated inspiring Christmas Homecoming Updates from Cameron Beaty and Stirling Foxworth in worship on Christmas Sunday 2016.



Photo above: The Keenagers' Christmas Fellowship at Nelson and Beverly Jones' home.



Photo below: William and Mary Gresham Henry blow out the candles on the Birthday Cake for Jesus.Christmas Morning at FPC 2016.



FPC MISSION

CHANCEL CHOIR AND FPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS LEAD OUR DECEMBER MISSIONS EFFORTS WITH FPC'S CHRISTMAS MISSIONS BLESSINGS OFFERING



Photo at right: Dr .Craig Aarhus leads the Chancel Choir, Jennifer Blackbourn, and Guest Musicians in the Christmas Missions Blessings Sunday Cantata on December 11, 2016.



Photo above: Choir Fellowship Lunch for Christmas Missions Blessings on Sunday, December 11, 2016.

THE CHRISTMAS MISSIONS BLESSINGS SPECIAL OFFERING

+Our Session (Board of Elders) approved **The Christmas Missions Blessings Offering** to be directed toward additional FPC support of the following missions and missionaries that our church has supported through the years: **Starkville Habitat for Humanity; Helping Hands (of Starkville/Oktibbeha County); the Palmer Home Mission;** as well as **Aretta Zitta** and **Chip Bobbitt**, two "Children of the Church" who serve overseas.

Thank you for your generous response, FPC members and friends!

THANK YOU, FPC MEMBERS, FOR BEING ANGELS THIS CHRISTMAS BY FULFILLING THE ANGEL TREE MISSION PROJECT

Thank you for responding to the request of our Session, our Missions Committee, and the FPC Childcare Center Board of Directors by again focusing our *Christmas-Presents* help to individual families on the **dependent children of our FPC Childcare Center Staff**. *You provided 11 requested Angel Tree gifts!*

TEJERAS MISSION MEAL PROGRAM

Sign up to sponsor one or more meals in 2017 for the impoverished children of Tejas – whom we reach with nurture and the Good News of Christ twice each week through this special mission. *The 2017 Meal Sponsor/Donor Calendar is still available on Sundays in Fellowship Hall.*

When sponsoring a meal, **please make your check for \$80 payable to Honduras Agape Foundation or HAF and note on the check "Tejas."** You may place your check in the offering plate on any Sunday, take it by the church office, or mail to the church (307 University Drive). If you have any questions about this program, please contact Michele Rackley at 662-418-2410 or rack2479@bellsouth.net.

Donors for January 2107 meals for the children, so far, are:

January 4: Members of our congregation
January 6: Ellen Mauldin in honor of Dr. Mark Mauldin on his birthday
January 11: Murry Mullenax
January 13: Nelson and Beverly Jones
January 20: Dero Ramsey in honor of Adelaide's birthday
January 25: Pat and Laura Bryan in honor of Jack's birthday



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First Presbyterian Church
307 University Drive
Starkville, MS 39759

Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer or Secretary Beckie Miller in the Church Office -Monday through Friday - at the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to Office@fpcstarkville.org. In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:

FPC and FPCCC Ministry Staff- email addresses

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, *Pastor* mwlifer3@gmail.com
Ashleigh Murdock, *Children's Ministry Coordinator* aabmurdock@gmail.com
Dr. Craig Aarhus, *Music Director* aarhus@bellsouth.net
Jennifer Blackbourn, *Organist* jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com
Kathy McGill, *Children's Choir Director* katherinemcgill@hotmail.com
Ellen Mauldin, *Church Librarian* mem3@bellsouth.net
Amanda Corley, *Child Care Director* fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org



FRIENDS AND FAMILY RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

JOIN US FOR WINTER-SPRING SEMESTER
FRIENDS & FAMILY
WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP DINNER,
CHILDREN'S CHOIRS AND BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY,
YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, AND
WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES,
AS WELL AS CHRISTIAN PARENTING CLASS —
ALL BEGINNING ON JANUARY 18.