



Happenings on the Hill August 2020



BOLD, FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP Lays the *Groundwork* for Renewing Our Mission Efforts in the 2020s!



FPC Session Confirms *God's Call* of Dr. Cynthia Booker to FPC's Ministry Staff As Director of the FPC Christian Preschool, Continues FPC's Active Role in Expanding Local Mission *in 2020* & the Decade Ahead, and Sets the FPC Annual Meeting for **Sunday, August 16.**

Dear Church Family and friends,

God's Word warns us against fearfully or foolishly wasting the time He gives us. Yes, that Biblical Word is definitely pertinent *in the Year 2020*. A fool tries to cling to his life or to wring it for his own pleasure. In contrast, **the faithful man or woman trusts God and steps out boldly to serve God's glory.** Christians live *actively for the Lord*, knowing that our days *and our eternal destination* are in His hands. Jesus bluntly says that our temporary lives aren't worth "protecting," if we are forfeiting our souls by valuing our *so-called lives over Him*. The Lord of Life in fact calls us every day to deny ourselves, follow Him, and bear fruit for his Kingdom. [See Mark 8:34-37] This is why the Apostle Paul calls us to "redeem" ["make the best use of"] our time for the Lord's purposes, because these days are evil. [Ephesians 5:16-17]

Understanding that God's Word about "*Redeeming the Time*" is so applicable to us in 2020, I rejoice to share with you that
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Photo above left: Dr. Cynthia Booker – who joined our church Ministry Staff on July 27 to lead and implement the new ministry plan of the renamed and refocused FPC Christian Preschool.

Photo above right: Reid Roberson and Faith Lifer help our Youth Ministry and Local Mission teams on July 12 in laying the landscaping groundwork for the two new Starkville Habitat for Humanity homes on Azalea Lane.

Photo at left: FPC children on the Hill for one of the July Water Games Days led by Ashleigh Murdock, our Director of Children's Ministries.

Photo at right: FPC's Collier Martin leads us in the worship of God on the Lord's Day, July 26.





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God inspired FPC's Session members and other boards and ministry teams to be *consequentially* active and fruitful this summer. Examples of our Session's consequential actions include the following, which were adopted on Sunday, July 26:

- (1) Reconstituting and planning to reopen what was formerly our "Childcare Center" as the "FPC Christian Preschool" – under focused Christian educational and health-safety (CDC-advised) standards.
- (2) Hiring Dr. Cynthia Booker to our own FPC's Ministry Staff as Director of the Christian Preschool. *Cindy's doctorate is in Early Childhood Education Leadership, and she has superb experience both in teaching at the University level (currently at Univ. of Arkansas) and in leading a Christian Preschool.*
- (3) Agreeing to Partner with Child Evangelism Fellowship of Mississippi (CEF MS) – not only looking toward future outreach at Starkville Academy and Starkville area public schools, but also planning for the immediate inclusion of CEF MS Preschool Curriculum with the overall curriculum of the FPC Christian Preschool.
- (4) Calling the (2020) Annual FPC Meeting to be held on Sunday, August 16, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary – at which meeting (a) members and guests will hear ministry and budget reports and (b) active, voting members will elect the next Nominating Committee.
- (5) Implementing the Guidelines for the FPC Nominating Committee and Elections, which the Session and Board of Directors finalized in June, and nominating to FPC members for election on August 16 the following nominees to serve as proposed members of the Nominating Committee: Dolph Bryan, Leah Kemp, Perry Rackley, and Amy Weiskopf (for the four At-Large positions); Janet Bardwell (Diaconate representative); and Jim Beaty and Brien Henry (Session representatives).

These are exciting times for worship, mission, and Bible Study at FPC Starkville. If you have not yet had the pleasure of personally meeting and welcoming Cindy Booker to our ministry team, then please be sure to do so in the coming days. In addition, I look forward to seeing you in Wednesday Bible Study and in Lord's Day Worship on the Sunday's of this month – especially on August 16, for worship at 9:30 a.m. (one Service only that Sunday), followed by our Annual FPC Meeting.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,
Martin

I thank God for sublime moments at the close of July, as we look ahead to his grace for us in August:

- (1) Collier Martin's heartfelt singing of "How Beautiful" in our worship services on July 26. *I took the photo at the immediate right, as Collier paused between verses.*
- (2) *On Tuesday, July 28, I drove my mother to Waynesboro, TN, to meet my sister. Being that close to the Natural Bridge in the region above the town, I enjoyed a short hike to the Natural Bridge. In the caverns at the foot of the bridge, I took the "selfie" photo at the far right.*



FPC Youth Ministry Continues Summer Activities and Welcomes New Youth Leaders Madison Adcock and Mattie Mason.



FPC continues special summer mission emphasis with LOCAL Mission Saturdays.

We give special thanks for FPC volunteers including those pictured below (Craig & Jack Aarhus, Joel Downey, Faith & Martin Lifer, and Reid & Madeleine Roberson) for helping with the Habitat for Humanity landscaping project for the homes of new Habitat-Partner Owners Courtney Smith and Keyana Triplett. In the photo in the bottom right corner, FPC's Amanda Henry & Pastor Lifer join Ms. Smith & Ms. Triplett inside Courtney's new home just before the dedication of that home.



... and, remember, we need another type of "mission work" every Sunday on the Hill:



Even if you are not ready or able to help with local mission projects, we also need help with the mission of opening our doors each Sunday for worship. WE NEED USHERS for the 9:30 a.m. Service and then others for the 11 a.m. Service.

To volunteer (or to learn more about this ministry) please contact Kathy Wright in the Church Office via email or phone.





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Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Kathy Wright in the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to info@fpcstarkville.org. *In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:*

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor mwlifer3@gmail.com

Kathy Wright, Pastoral Administrative Assistant info@fpcstarkville.org

Cheryl Ewing, Church Financial Secretary (part-time in office) cheryl@fpcstarkville.org

Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director aarhus@bellsouth.net

Dr. Cynthia Booker, Director of FPC Christian Preschool

Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator aabmurdock@gmail.com

Reid Roberson, Pastoral Intern, Coordinator of Youth Ministries & Coordinator of University Ministries reidrob97@gmail.com

Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

Noa Hardin, Communications & Social Media Facilitator noahardin@gmail.com

If you are unable to participate *in-person* in one of our Sunday worship services, then join us for Lord's Day worship on-line – *via* (1) the 9:30 a.m. **Vive Stream on FPC Starkville Facebook**, (2) the posted Video on our Facebook Page *any time after 9:30 on Sunday morning*, or (3) The posted Video on our FPC Starkville EPC YouTube Channel by approximately 11:15 a.m. **Sunday [for any time thereafter].**

FPC's Children's Ministry has stayed active this summer with (1) Sunday School Message Posts on Our FPC Facebook Page, delivered by Children's Ministry Director Ashleigh Murdock [teaching about the Ten Commandments], (2) Further Catechism teaching on the Ten Commandments, (3) Sunday Worship morning Childcare for Infants, Preschool & Kindergarten-Age Children, and (4) Water Balloon Games and other summer-fun events [see photos below].

