



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL FEBRUARY 2020



## Glorify God in 2020 at FPC:

**Join Jesus, as He Calls New Generations of Disciples and Leaders for Our Congregation, Our Presbytery, and Other Mission Partners!**



*From our Children & Youth Gatherings on Sunday Mornings (photo above at left),  
our 2020 Confirmation Class (photo below at right),  
and*

*FPC's NEXT-GEN Young-Adult Community Group – meeting Thursday Nights (center photo above),  
... to Our Newly-Ordained and Installed FPC Starkville (EPC) Elders and Deacons (photo at bottom, left),  
... to a*

*New Assistant Pastor Examined & Approved to Serve in our Presbytery (Dr. Michael Rhodes in photo at bottom, right), and  
Brian Lewis and John McGuirt, approved by Presbytery as New Ministry Candidates (photo above at right),  
God is blessing FPC Starkville and our EPC Presbytery. As Jesus says, **“Come, and see!”***

Dear Church Family and friends,

We are Starkville’s Church that preaches the Doctrines of Grace. Therefore, with the Westminster Standards and the very heart of the Bible, we affirm that our primary and highest purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him fully forever. God certainly blessed FPC in January, providing *many* ways, ministries, and worship services in which faithful FPC members and guests glorified and enjoyed God. We celebrated the ordination of new FPC officers, and we continued to follow through on our ministries to new generations of disciples, [Pastor’s Letter continued on Page 2]



[Pastor's Letter continued from Page 1]

while working with ministry partners as close to home as our own Central South Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and as far ranging – *and as strategically important* – as the Church's Ministry Among the Jewish People in Israel (CMJ Israel). I again give my thanks to and for all of you who in January helped us host the Winter Stated Meeting and worship services of the Presbytery [see photos on Page 3]. I give thanks, as well, for the grace and hospitality you extended in January to The Reverend Canon Daryl Fenton, Director of CMJ Israel, and The Reverend Pedro Santos, Director of the ministry of CMJ Israel in Yafo and Tel Aviv. [See the photos below of Rev. Fenton and Rev. Santos with us on Sunday, January 26, following our being able to introduce them and introduce the CMJ mission to our Presbytery the previous two days.] Further, I thank God for your ongoing support for Ben Jackson, for our University Ministry outreach, and for all students involved in the ministry. Specifically, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of so many from FPC in ensuring that we met all of the remaining scholarship and travel costs necessary to ensure that our group of 10 can travel to Pittsburgh this month and attend CCO's annual Jubilee Conference. [See Ben's letter – below -- of thanksgiving and prayer requests in this season of ministry & personal transition for the Jacksons.] Finally and importantly, from January into this month, we as a church family continue to celebrate the call to the Church Triumphant of beloved and longtime FPC members Billy Harrington and Paula Elliott – even as we continue to pray for God's comfort to Brenda Harrington and family, as well as to the Elliott family.

Now I invite you to join us for another fruitful month of Glorifying God in 2020. Join us on the Sundays of this month not only for soul-enriching worship, Bible Study, and fellowship, but also for more important ministry news for FPC and our future. In addition, I especially encourage you to prepare in the power and cleansing of the Holy Spirit for Communion Services on Transfiguration Sunday (February 23) and then on Ash Wednesday (February 26). As we then move into the season of repentance and renewal called "Lent," truly glorify and enjoy God by fixing your eyes in 2020 vision on Christ Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith.

Your pastor and friend in Jesus,  
Martín



**THANK GOD for an FPC's Mission Outreach, Including in Partnership with CMJ Israel and Through FPC's University Ministry!**  
Join us this month in special prayers for the Jacksons and for our Group of Ten we are sending to the CCO Jubilee Conference.



**February Ministry & Prayer Letter to FPC Starkville from Ben Jackson, Assistant Minister of the CCO/FPC University Ministry**

It is with a mix of great thanksgiving, deep sadness, and eager expectation that I write to you, as I begin the final full month of my ministry in the CCO/FPC Starkville partnership for campus ministry at MSU. Allison and I thank God for our past 19 months at FPC and MSU, celebrating how God has produced so much fruit in the CCO/FPC ministry to MSU students in such a short amount of time. God has greatly blessed us in so many ways by our time here. Yet, under the counsel of supervisors, mentors, friends and family, Allison and I will be transitioning away from college ministry in Starkville. God has made it clear that he is calling us out of this particular ministry and into a new beginning, to which Allison and I now look with eager expectation. Though in many ways our departure from our work with FPC to MSU feels premature, we are convinced that God delights in 'small beginnings' and has wonderful plans for us, for the students engaged in our ministry, and for those who will be reached in the future through your ministry here. We rejoice that God has moved in marvelous ways, and His work will continue.

In the midst of transition, we are committed to finishing well. We will continue our established ministry rhythms on campus, including bringing many of our students to CCO's Jubilee Conference February 21-23. **We happily report that eight students are set to attend Jubilee (as well as Allison). In our first year, two students attended; thus, we are thrilled for the Lord's movement to bring many more this year!** They are Mattie, Sarah, Madison, Audrey, Sam, Hannah, Kelsy, and Madeleine. We will process and celebrate the conference with students and congregants, prepare students to lead the rest of the semester, and exit on March 8th. We prayerfully hope that this will mean ending on a high note in praise to Lord and in the service of the students, our congregation, and all other partners engaged in the ministry.

**Please join us in prayer:** first and most importantly, thank and glorify God for his blessings on us and the CCO/FPC ministry, including through faithful church leaders and student leaders; ask God's help, that Allison and I will faithfully celebrate in Christ's joy and, at the same time, gracefully grieve and process through our transition with students, caring for them well; seek for students to grasp the bigger picture of Jesus' kingdom movement in their midst; for Jubilee to be a catalyst for gospel growth in our students and the thousands of others attending; ask for God's wisdom in Allison's and my search for our next calling in this redeployment.



**Thanks for All Who Served and Glorified God in Helping Us for the First Time Ever Host at FPC a Stated Meeting of our Central South Presbytery, Jan. 24-25.**

*Pastor Lifer's Special Commendation for a Great Display of Multiple Talents Goes to Jimmy Hardin, Who Gave Presbytery Members a Tour of His Archeology Lab at MSU... and then Helped Jeff Foster and Jay Cook Fry Catfish & Hushpuppies for the Friday Night Dinner!*



**Children's Ministry and Youth News:  
Our Children's Ministry Enjoyed a Great Fellowship Trip for Ice Skating in  
Tupelo on January 16.**

*Now FPC's Youth Group Looks Forward This Month to an  
Overnight Trip to the WINTERJAM Christian Concert in Birmingham  
(Concert & Hotel Stay-over on Sunday Night, February 16)  
and to the  
Youth Confirmation Retreat at French Camp  
(February 28-29).*



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  
**Rev. Joe Nasvytis, Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries** jwnasvytis@yahoo.com  
**Kathy Wright, Pastoral Administrative Assistant** info@fpcstarkville.org  
**Cheryl Ewing, Church Financial Secretary (part-time in office)** cheryl@fpcstarkville.org  
**Ben Jackson, Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach** bdjackson8@gmail.com  
**Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director** aarhus@bellsouth.net  
**Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator** aabmurdock@gmail.com  
**Kirk Kinard, Co-Director of Youth Ministry** kirkkinard@gmail.com  
**Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Co-Director of Youth Ministry** reidrob97@gmail.com  
**Jennifer Blackburn, Organist** jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com  
**Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director** katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

**FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry**

Janice Kinard, Moderator

The Women's Ministry Coordinating Team will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 4, Noon, in the Johnson Room of the Church Office Building.

**FPC Women's  
Ministry Hosted  
Another Fun,  
Faithful  
Fellowship.  
The January  
Women's  
Fellowship was on  
Friday evening,  
January 31,  
at The Grill's  
Upper Room.**



**Mission for the month -  
FPC Youth Ministry, led by Faith Lifer, Kirk Kinard, and Reid Roberson**

**Bible Study Lesson: Prepare and read Matthew 6:25-34**

Sun, 1/12 @ 8:00 am, location: Parlor

**Sunday 2/09 @ 8:00 a.m., led by Brenda Koenig, in the FPC Parlor**

**Monday 2/10 @ 1:30 p.m., led by Sara Wilson, in the FPC Parlor**

**Tuesday 2/11 @ 6:00 pm, at the home of Nancy Lifer, 107 Little John Lane**

**Monday 2/17 @ 7:00 p.m., at the home of Amy Weiskopf, 1305 Nottingham Road**

February 2020						
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Wednesday, Feb 26th 2020

**Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins**

