



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JUNE 2017



*From Our Miraculous May to This Joyful June:*  
**Welcome to God's New Summer in the SON for FPC!**



Dear Church Family of FPC,

God's Word commands us: **"Make every effort to keep the Unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."** [Ephesians 4:3] In turn, a wise Reformed maxim that arose among Dutch Reformed Protestants during the latter 17th Century -- in response to years of religious conflicts and wars -- states: **"In Essentials, Unity. In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."** This maxim is the preface to FPC's "Essentials of Our Faith" and is often included together with the "Essentials of Our Faith" Statement of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (the "EPC"). The EPC's motto, which actually sets the tone for EPC theology and EPC polity, is this maxim *combined with* the final phrase *"Truth in Love,"* which comes from Ephesians 4:15.

**"In Essentials, Unity. In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity; Truth in Love!"**

We thank God for the Unity of his Spirit so manifestly at work on Miracle May 7 in the Body of Christ at FPC. You came together as a congregation united in affirming FPC's call and future. Specifically, at your Momentous May 7 Meeting, your vote was *unanimous* to join the EPC. **How far the Lord has brought FPC in healing and hope over the year!** The Lord led FPC to what was *not only* a Momentous May 7 Meeting *but also* a Miraculous Movement of the Unifying Spirit. **All members stood to vote as One in Christ.**

**Rejoice, and give all glory and thanks to God!** Now, in response to your unanimous vote, the Session has begun the process with the Central South Presbytery for FPC to become a member-congregation in the EPC.

Your Pastor and friend in our One Lord,

*Photo above left: Emily, Lane & Ava Simmons present Ashlyn Rose Simmons at the Sip & See Brunch Fellowship on Sunday, Miracle May 7.*

*Photo top right: Yes, that is a real rainbow [not "photo-shopped!"] God recently sent over FPC during this season of grace.*

*Photo above right: FPC members, guests, and children rejoice during our Ascension Sunday Balloon Release – looking ahead in faith and hope to God's plans for FPC.*



*Photos at left: (1) Pastor Lifer baptizes Sam White on Ascension Sunday, May 28 -- the morning on which Micah and Kelly, as well as Avery, were also baptized. (2) FPC members & guests come together to celebrate our Momentous May 7 – here at the Sip & See Fellowship on April 2, 2017.*



# FPC WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

## ... MORE MAY HIGHLIGHTS, ...

Pastor Martin and Nancy Lifer joined Boswell Kennard and a number of other FPC members to celebrate Boswell's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday on May 6 – as part of a special Birthday Fellowship at the Oktoc Community Center.



### A Big Thanks to All Members of Our Women's Ministry Fellowship Team Who Prepared and Hosted Our Wonderful *Sip & See Fellowship Brunch* on Sunday, Miracle May 7!

Some of the team members in the photo below include Meredith Beaty, Amanda Henry, Emily Ferguson, Jackie Mullen, Leah Kemp, Margaret Cook, and Foley Holditch. Team members not pictured include Jennifer Rush.



*Photos above: FPC adults – including Anita Reynolds, Sarah Wilson, and Beverly Jones – and FPC children enjoy the Sip & See Fellowship Brunch.*

*Photo at left: Jennie Beth and Justin Chance Present Daughter Annabelle Evelyn at the Sip & See Fellowship Team (May 7)*





# FPC WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGES 1 & 2)

... WITH MAY HIGHLIGHTS AND JUNE NEWS



*Photo at left: The Gamel and McKenzie families celebrate Mother's Day Sunday worship at FPC on May 14.*

*Photo at right: Pastor Lifer baptizes Avery White on Ascension Sunday, May 28 -- the morning on which Pastor Lifer also baptized Micah and Kelly, as well as Sam. [See photo on Page 1 of Sam's baptism.] We welcome the White family into our church family at FPC!*

## JUNE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE INCLUDES OUR MAJOR FELLOWSHIP EVENT AT ROBINSON FOR THIS SUMMER:

**A HAMBURGER COOKOUT FELLOWSHIP DINNER AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL KICKOFF CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY NIGHT, JUNE 11, BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M.**



Join us Sunday, June 11, 5:30 p.m., at Robinson Lake, for our **main special Fellowship event for this summer: a church-wide cookout and kick-off for our Children's Vacation Bible School**. We will have a **color/powder run** and then have a hamburger dinner. **Parents, please have your children wear old white t-shirts and old shorts or pants for the color/powder run!**

Our Children's Ministry and Fellowship Ministry Teams are providing the main food (including **burgers, iced tea, lemonade, and water**). **However, if you would like to do so, please bring side items or desserts -- supplement our dinner!**

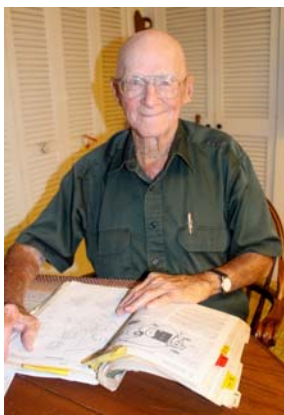


*Photos above left and at right: FPC members, guests, and children rejoice during our Ascension Sunday Balloon Release.*



# CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## BIRTHDAYS, GRADUATIONS, AND MEMORIES IN MAY



*Photo above: FPC's Boswell Kennard celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday on May 6. See also the Photo on Page 2 of the Birthday Party for Boswell on May 6.*



*Photo at left: Bradley & Elizabeth Douglas with their daughter, Sawyer Elizabeth Douglas, on May 2 (morning), after Sawyer's birth on May 1.*



*Photo above right: Pastor Lifer, with Melanie and Trace Love, speaks to and prays with Starkville Academy's 4th Grade Classes on their final day of the spring semester, May 25, 2017 – remembering Trace's father, (FPC's) Bud Love, who died the previous month of this school year.*



*Photo at left: Madeline Rackley celebrates her FPC Childcare Center Graduation on May 11, 2017.*

*Photo below: **Phi Beta Kappa Book** signed by Faith Lifer and the several other students at Wofford inducted into the nation's premier academic honorary society.*

**Congratulations to all FPC members who graduated this spring from various schools** – including to all of our graduates from Mississippi State University, among them (*pictured below left*) Presidential Honors program Scholar Jack Bryan, and Wofford Honors Graduate Faith Belle Lifer (*pictured below right, with Pastor and Nancy Lifer*).





# FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MAJOR SUMMER PROGRAM, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) IS THIS MONTH – MONDAY – THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 12-15.



Contact Ashleigh Murdock,  
Children's Ministry Coordinator –  
[aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com) –  
to register your children, or to  
volunteer.

*Photo at left:* Children Ministry Director  
Ashleigh Murdock teaches from the  
Good News of Jesus to the over 100  
children who participated in last year's  
VBS.

*Photo below right:* FPC CC children  
enjoy the Kick-off of the FPC CC  
summer program with Snow Cones &  
Games Day on Friday, June 2.

### The First Presbyterian Church Childcare Center ("FPC CC")

*is* FPC's most substantial mission  
program and the most substantially-  
funded mission effort through regular  
giving and the Operating Budget of FPC.

**FPC CC has begun its summer  
program ministering to over 135  
children. Thank you, FPC members  
and other regular givers to our church.  
*You make this mission possible!***



### Sponsors for Meals this Month for our Tejas Meal Ministry for Impoverished Children in Tejas, Honduras:

June 2: Michele and Perry Rackley in honor of  
Addison Rackley's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday  
June 7: A member of our congregation  
June 9: *[open date – needing a sponsor]*  
June 14: David and Ellen Boles  
June 16: Supporter of mission outreach in Honduras  
June 21: Adelaide Ramsey in honor of Dero Ramsey's  
89<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 17<sup>th</sup>  
June 23: *[open date – needing a sponsor]*  
June 28: Supporter of mission outreach in Honduras  
June 30: *[open date – needing a sponsor]*

***If you would like to sponsor a  
Tejas Meal on one of the open  
dates this month or for a later date  
in 2017, there are some dates  
available. Please send a check for \$80  
made out to Honduras Agape  
Foundation to Michele Rackley, PO  
Box 826, Starkville, MS 39760 or  
leave in the church office or put in the  
Offering on Sunday.***



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

**JUNE 2017**

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](mailto: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](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com)

**Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator**  
[aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com)

**Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director** [aarhus@bellsouth.net](mailto:aarhus@bellsouth.net)

**Jennifer Blackburn, Organist** [jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com)

**Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director** [katherinemcgill@hotmail.com](mailto:katherinemcgill@hotmail.com)

**Ellen Mauldin, Church Librarian** [mem3@bellsouth.net](mailto:mem3@bellsouth.net)

**Amanda Corley, Child Care Director** [fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org)

In FPC's June 2016 VBS, over 100 children came to FPC to worship and to learn about Jesus Christ and his Good News. Our summer VBS ministry is this month, June 12-15. To support this vitally important ministry though volunteering and/or through your other resources, ... or to register a child to participate, please contact Ashleigh Murdock, *Children's Ministry Coordinator* – [aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com).

