



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JULY 2017



***“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!”***

***“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...!”***

***THE BLESSING OF BEING FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF A CHURCH TRUE  
TO JESUS OUR LORD AND TO HIS GREAT COMMISSION FOR US.***

Dear Church Family and Friends of FPC,

I continue to rejoice this summer in the blessings of being the Pastor of a congregation (you!) and a member of a larger church communion (The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, *a global movement of evangelical Presbyterians*) faithfully true to Jesus Christ and to the Great Commission He gives to us. Fruit from those blessings and faithfulness were manifest here at FPC during our Joyful June with inspired worship, renewing fellowship, and a truly amazing (and record-breaking) week of Vacation Bible School mission. [Continued on p. 2.]

*Photo above center:* A Group Photo of VBS children and Adult Volunteers on Thursday morning, June 15. *Photo below left:* Worshipers at the EPC General Assembly at Fair Oaks EPC join in glorifying God with the Fair Oaks EPC Chorus and Worship Band, following a commissioning of new international missionaries. *Photo below right:* Fellowship with VBS children during “Popsicles with Pastor Martin” on Tuesday, June 13.





[Pastor Martin Lifer's Letter – continued from p.1]

God blessed *and* challenged us, in particular, through bringing to us 168 children to participate in our VBS outreach mission over the course of June 12 through June 15; that was much larger number of children than any other number ever participating in a VBS at FPC Starkville. Yet God always provides when He challenges us to grow in faithfulness, and He truly provided through Children's Ministry Director Ashleigh Murdock and her team of (a) 40 FPC volunteer leaders and helpers and (b) FPC CC Director Amanda Corely and a number of her FPC CC staff. This ministry team responded to the challenge and mission opportunity – sharing the love and Good News of Jesus with that very diverse group of 168 children.

God then further blessed me the following week at the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of our new denomination, the EPC, which was hosted at the Fair Oaks EPC in Fair Oaks, California. I was already well aware that the EPC is well known not only for strong theological classic Reformed Christian Faith Essentials but also for passionate expression of evangelical worship and evangelical mission; however, that passionate worship and EPC members' hearts for mission were powerfully evident and inspiring in the General Assembly meetings and worship. [See the photos on Page 1 and 5.] Notably, further, the EPC understands itself as much more than a mere "denomination" but as what all the main materials of the General Assembly termed the EPC: ***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterians.***"

In response to such a joyful and missional June, therefore, I rejoice in the Good-News blessings this summer. I rejoice in joining with you in our ministry at FPC, and, now further, in our call to passionate worship and mission through the EPC. Enjoy Jesus' July, and let us prepare for even further faith-growth in the months ahead!

Your Pastor and friend in Christ,  
*Martin Lifer*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



*Photo above left: Dero, Adelaide, Sandy & Pat Ramsey celebrate Dero's 89th Birthday (the previous day) and Father's Day in worship at FPC, June 18.*

*Photo above right: Sam and Ashley Myers, together with their son, Jack Harrison Myers, hold Eleanor Jane Myers on June 13 (following Eleanor's birth the previous afternoon, June 12).*



*Photo below left: God blessed FPC's VBS with so many members willing to volunteer; here VBS Volunteers Jane Bobbitt, Rubye Guest, Lynn Zimmerman, Sara Wilson, and Ellen Mauldin enjoy a moment of fellowship.*

*Photo below right: Pastor Lifer with Tanner and Robin Fant following worship at FPC on Father's Day; the next week, Tanner participated in the Miss Mississippi Pageant, in which she was Second*



# FPC WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP



*Photo above left:* Our FPC Handbell Choir, led by Dr. Craig Aarhus, played the Offertory and other special music for our worship services on Father's Day.

*Photo above right:* FPC Children also sang VBS songs as part of our 11 a.m. worship service on Father's Day.



*Photo above:* Robby, Foley, Ann Carlton and Grace Holditch enjoying our VBS Fellowship Lunch on Thursday, June 15.

*Photo at right:* Cookout Fellowship Dinner Sunday night, June 11, at the Robinson Lake Pavilion.

*Photo below:* Jack Aarhus, Tabor Mullen, James Rackley, and many friends enjoying our Paint Run to "kick off" VBS Week and the June 11 Fellowship at Robinson Lake.





**FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MAJOR SUMMER MINISTRY PROGRAM AND  
OUTREACH MISSION –  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS), JUNE 12-15  
BROUGHT GOD'S GOSPEL TO 168 CHILDREN!**



*Photo at left: VBS Volunteers Kathy McGill & Caroline Hearnberger help children set up for VBS crafts.*

*Photo at left: FPC children Audrey & Ella Walters, Collier Martin, Finnley Murdock, and many friends and guests join in Opening Worship for VBS.*



*Photo above left: FPC's John Michael VanHorn teaches children about God the Holy Spirit.*

*Photo above right: Pastor Martin shares popsicles with FPC's Carson Mullen, Finnley Murdock, Nolan Langston, and many other friends and guests at VBS.*



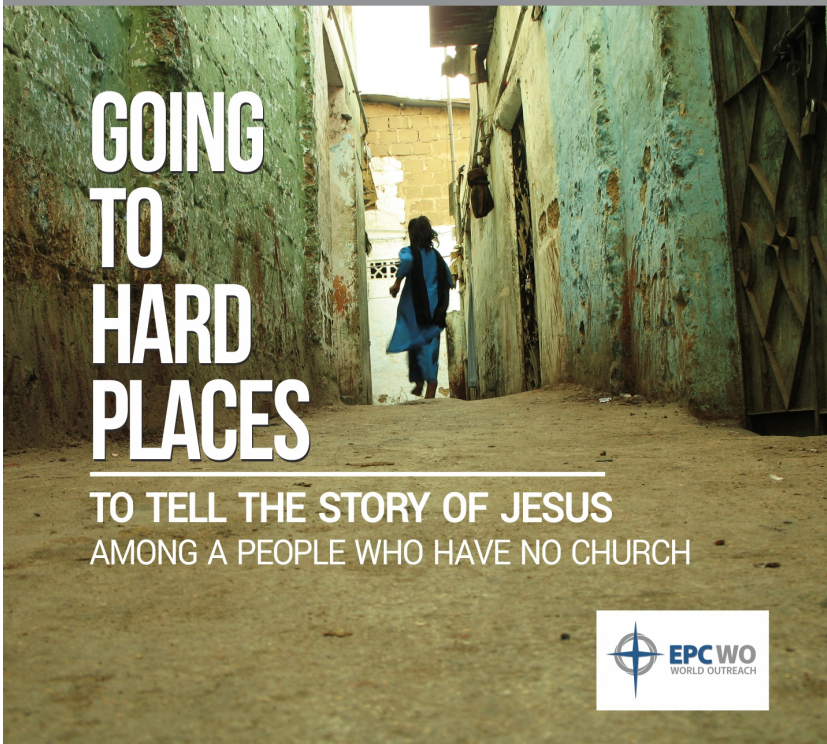
*Photo below left: FPC's Caitlyn Rackley and other leaders join with the children in a vibrant Closing Worship for VBS on Thursday, June 15.*



# FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS



## EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



As God has called FPC Starkville to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (“EPC”), so He now calls FPC to increasing involvement and support for the EPC’s very active and growing numbers of missionaries and evangelical mission efforts to people and nations in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and East Asia. In the photo above, worshipers at the EPC’s 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly applaud and praise God during the commissioning on June 22 of new EPC missionaries.



***If you would like to sponsor a Tejas Meal this year,*** 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.





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

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

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

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

*Photo at right:* FPC's Edie Kemp leads friends in a Game-Lesson about walking together – at VBS on Tuesday, June 13.

*Photo below:* FPC's Caroline Hearnberger and Foley Holditch help Pastor Martin and Laura Rackley serve popsicles on Tuesday, June 13.

