



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL AUGUST 2017



Dear Church Family and Friends of FPC,

As I have been emphasizing throughout our current sermon series, **Be a Barnabas** [i.e. an encourager to others], my prayer and goal for us is that of Paul's for the Roman Church and incorporated in Holy Scripture as Romans 15:5-6:

*May the God of patient endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one heart and voice glorify the God and Father of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

[Letter continued on Page 2]

Speaking of Living in Harmony and Mutual Encouragement – I Invite You to Be a Part of Our Weekly Morning Fellowship Time. Catch Up with Longtime Friends and Make New Ones, Including New Members Such as Jack Atkins (pictured at right).

**Welcoming New Member Jack Atkins.** On his birthday, July 2, we welcomed new member Jack Atkins.



Sunday Fellowship Time on July 30. *Photo at left* – Peggy Johnson, Janet Bardwell, and Lynn Zimmerman  
*Photo at right* - June & Myles Carpenter, Dolph Bryan, Craig Aarhus.

### Back-to-School Mission Work at FPC: “Stuff the Bus!”

*Photo below at left:* FPC's Hunter Harrington (Team Coordinator) and Betsy Luke join with other Junior Auxiliary Volunteers for a brief break from their "Stuff the Bus" Charity Project for Back-to-School Provisions for Children in Need in Starkville.FPC Fellowship Hall, July 29, 2017.

### Thanks for FPC's Peggy Branch and Her 14 Years as Office Administrator of Starkville Habitat for Humanity, and Now Welcoming FPC's Amanda Henry as the new Office Administrator.

We join **FPC's Joel Downey (Executive Director of Starkville Habitat for Humanity)**, the Habitat Board of Directors, all other Habitat volunteers and homeowners, as well as the Starkville & MSU communities in thanksgiving for **FPC's Peggy Branch** and her fourteen years of gracious and faithful service on the staff of Habitat. Peggy has now retired from Habitat, and the Board hosted a special thanksgiving celebration for Peggy on July 20.

We also congratulate **FPC's Amanda Henry**, who has begun her own service as the **new Office Administrator of Starkville Habitat for Humanity**. Further, we give thanks and pray for Joel and for Amanda, together with the Board, as they continue a great tradition of mission and service to our community through Habitat.

*Photo below, center and right:* Amanda Henry and Peggy Branch, at FPC on July 23; FPC member and Habitat Volunteer Ross Collins with Peggy at the celebration on July 20.

**[See Page 3 for more Mission Ministry information and updates.]**



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

In this “*Back-to-School*” month, I thank God for: (1) a blessed summer – including our FPC Vacation Bible School that exceeded all previous VBS weeks in levels of participation and faith-response; (2) my opportunity to participate in an inspiring General Assembly and mission gathering for four new denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; (3) my family’s chance to take our first get-away family vacation since coming to FPC over three years ago [and what a wonderful vacation!]; and (4) you, as well as all of ministry opportunities ahead of us in this new “School Year” and ministry season. I look forward to learning with you and to growing with you in the Lord. Yes, learning: as followers of Jesus, we are all disciples and, by definition, all still in school as we follow Jesus – learning and growing in his Way and his Word. So welcome to the *School of the Spirit!* I also invite you to join me for a special three-week Adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights, August 23 – September 6:

***Is God in Control?  
Is God Right?  
How Do We Answer with a “Yes,” for God?***

Join me on Wednesday nights in the Fellowship Hall, 6-7 p.m., beginning August 23, as we learn from God’s Word and further discuss the Reformed Faith professed particularly by the EPC. This special session should be an excellent way for each of us to learn and grow in clarity about what we believe and how we should then live.

Our **Children’s Choirs and Children’s, SOS, and Youth Wednesday Night Discipleship Activities will begin as well on Wednesday night, August 23.** We will then look ahead to the fall season of Friends & Family Fellowship Dinners – beginning in September – and to our **Christian Faith & Life Conference on September 10-12, again led this year by Dr. John Sartelle.**

Your Pastor and friend in Christ,  
*Martin Lifer*



My family was blessed on our special summer vacation in early July through the hospitality of FPC’s Mike and Sandy Jackson in their home in Forti dei Marmi, Italy.

*Photo above left:* Artistic depiction by early Christians (in the catacombs outside Rome) of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

*Photo above center:* Mike and Sandy on a visit to a church in San Gimignano.

*Photo above center:* Nancy, Grace, Faith and I in St. Peter’s Basilica.

*Photo below left:* Historic Christian Worship Site at the Mamertine Prison, Rome – Where the Apostles Paul and Peter Were at Different Times Held Before Their Respective Martyrdoms.



# FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS

## The Mission of Casserole Kitchen Recognized with a 2017 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award for Outstanding Faith-Based Collaboration Initiative.



FPC's Loren Zimmerman and Billy Harrington (photo above), and a group of representatives of many of the churches and other groups that participate in providing meals and Casserole Kitchen gather at FPC (photo below) to celebrate CK's receiving a 2017 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award.



Junior Auxiliary Volunteers were hard at work in the FPC Fellowship Hall, July 29 (photo below) on the "Stuff the Bus" Charity Project for Back-to-School Provisions for Children in Need in Starkville.



## Tejeras Meals

During July, meals for the children were sponsored by the following donors:

July 7: A member of our congregation.

July 12: Joe and Carol Mobley in honor of Gloria Romero and her family. Gloria is the cook for Tejeras meals and for church members on mission trips to Honduras.

July 19: David and Ellen Boles

July 21: Anonymous Supporters

July 26: Anonymous Supporters

July 28: Supporter of mission outreach in Honduras

This month, meals for the children have been sponsored by the following donors on the listed days:

August 2: David and Ellen Boles

August 4: Will & Meredith Martin in honor of Jim Beaty's Birthday

August 9: Member of our congregation

August 11: Supporters of mission outreach in Honduras

August 16: Michele and Perry Rackley in honor of Madeline Rackley's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday

*Other days remain open with a need for sponsors this month. If you would like to sponsor a Tejeras 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.*

## Starkville Habitat for Humanity Mission Celebration for Peggy Branch (and her family) on July 20 – Recognizing her 14 Years of Mission Service.





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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*  
[aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com)

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)

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

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

Spiritually Prepare for – and  
The Join Us at the Lord's  
Table –  
for Holy Communion  
Services (8:30 & 11:00 a.m.)  
Sunday, August 20.



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOING  
TO  
HARD  
PLACES

TO TELL THE STORY OF JESUS  
AMONG A PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CHURCH