



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

OCTOBER 2017

SOLASSCRIPTURA
SOLAGRATIA
SOLAFIDE
SOLUSCHRISTUS
SOLIDEOGLORIA

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION
1517 - 2017

**SUNDAY TO SUNDAY THIS MONTH, CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION'S 500TH ANNIVERSARY—
IN FPC'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE STUDIES...**



Photo above left: J.B. Griffith will again be with us on Reformation Sunday (October 29) to share with our Children's Classes about the Reformation and Scot-Presbyterians' use of the bagpipes, as well as to play in our worship services.

Photo above right: The new **Women in the Word** Class led by Nancy Lifer joins our other Adult Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Groups each Sunday (9:45-10:30 a.m.).

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

Throughout this month, we will be celebrating a great anniversary in our faith heritage that will be marked on the final day. October 31 will mark the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's posting on *All Hallowed's Eve*, 1517, his 95 Theses ["*Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*"]. Although Luther in 1517 was simply calling for debate and reform *within* the Roman Church, rather than protesting for a departure *from* the Roman Church, the Institutional Church's responses and Providence soon led Luther and other Protestants at great risk to take a stand to condemn unfaithful practices and theology within *THE* Denomination of the West (Roman), to depart from that denomination, and to call the entire Church of Christ to repentance and reformation. Therefore, this month is popularly hailed as the 500th Anniversary of the birth of our Protestant Reformation.

For many reasons, this anniversary month is highly meaningful to us right now at FPC Starkville. In something of a reprise of the original Reformation, FPC Starkville – at great cost and risk – to join with many other faithful Christians and congregations in reaffirming our Christian, Protestant and Reformed/Presbyterian beliefs. [Pastor Lifer's Letter continued on Page 2]

**... AND IN SUNDAY WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP,
INCLUDING OUR ANNUAL FALL HARVEST FELLOWSHIP ON REFORMATION SUNDAY.
EACH SUNDAY AT FPC IS SPECIAL. DON'T MISS ONE AT FPC THIS MONTH!**

Photo below: FPC and DAR member Patsy Stuart joins with elders Carl Ivey, Bob Daniels, Peggy Johnson, and Pastor Martin Lifer to ring our Church Bell on Sunday, September 17 – marking another anniversary: the 230th of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

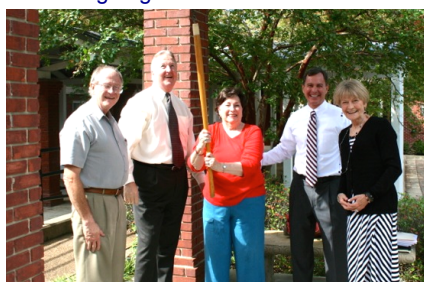


Photo above left: Elders Randell Foxworth, Jim Beaty, Dolph Bryan, Cecelia Cook, Harold Clark, Janice Kinard, Loren Zimmerman, and Bob Daniels clean and store Communion plates. *Above right:* Johnny, Maggie and Kate Fair, Craig Aarhus, Loren Zimmerman and many others enjoy last year's Harvest Fall Festival Fellowship Dinner.

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

God's Providence has led this church family and ministries as part of that process into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In the EPC's fellowship, theology, and mission work, Biblically faithful witness and process matter. We also cherish the great Protestant and Reformed watchwords, including the "five solas": *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, according to *Scripture alone*, and to the *Glory of God alone*.

That is why I am particularly rejoicing at the growth of our ongoing AND new Bible Studies and ministry initiatives at FPC. Come and participate – on Sunday mornings and during the week –so that you can be equipped to grow in knowledge and application of God's Word. May we each, like FPC as a whole, follow God's will for all of us to stand in his Word and to stand up for his Word, in accord with the great watchwords of the Reformation we celebrate this month!

Your pastor and friend in Christ,

Martin Lifer

God blessed us in bringing back Dr. Jon Sartelle to lead our Second Annual Christian Renewal Conference September 10-12. God also especially blessed us in bringing a healed and joyful Janet Sartelle to join John this year. Nancy and I particularly cherished our time with John and Janet in September.



Thanksgiving for Beckie Miller's service, and Welcoming Rita Usher as our new Pastoral Secretary and Office Administrator.

We give thanks for Beckie Miller's service over the past year as our part-time, interim secretary, and we welcome Rita Usher [photo at right] as our new full-time Pastoral Secretary and Office Administrator.



MINISTRY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Wednesday Night Friends & Family Fellowship Dinners began September 20 and continue each Wednesday night this month. Join us for good food but, more importantly, for a great opportunity to catch up with longtime friends and to make new friends in our church family.



The FPC Women's Ministry Fall 2017 Retreat provided spiritual renewal as well as practical education and encouragement on faithful stewardship of soul, mind, AND body for tall women who participated. We give thanks for the leadership of the coordinating team for the Retreat, including:



Ashleigh Murdock, Michelle Rackley, and Orly Hardin.



Photo at left: Peggy Johnson leads The **Thursday Women's Bible Study** in its introductory session on September 28. **The group meets each Thursday this month and through November 9, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, and is studying Steadfast Love by Lauren Chandler.** To sign up, contact **Peggy Johnson** at johnsonpeggyp@gmail.com or at 323-8765.

FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

SPECIAL MISSION GIVING Opportunities through FPC:

In addition to your regular tithe or offering, Help Christian Relief Efforts in Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricane *Maria*:

(1) Support the EPC Hurricane-Relief Mission Fund of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) - for Direct Aid to and through Puerto Rican & Caribbean congregations and the Presbytery of Florida & the Caribbean. Please indicate on the Memo line of a check to FPC – **“EPC – Maria Relief.”**

(2) Support Franklin Graham’s Samaritan’s Purse mission organization, helping many in greatest need with emergency supplies together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, while also providing chaplaincy and pastoral ministry. In your check or other means of giving to FPC, indicate the following on the Memo line of a check or other means of giving **“Samaritan’s Purse – Maria Relief.”**

(3) *If you would like to give to help both the EPC’s and Samaritan’s Purse’s efforts equally, you may simply make one special gift under the designation “Mission Relief – Maria;” we will send half of your gift to each organization.*

Ongoing Response for Mission Work in Texas following *Harvey*: You certainly may also still continue to give through FPC toward the EPC and/or Samaritan’s Purse relief efforts in Texas and Florida & the Caribbean, respectively – in the aftermath of the unprecedented hurricane and flood devastation and damage to much of the coastal areas of East Texas, as well as to Houston, from Hurricane Harvey,... and in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma for Florida and the Caribbean. Simply indicate on the Memo line of your check to FPC:

- (a) “EPC – Hurricane Harvey Relief” or “Samaritan’s Purse - Hurricane Harvey Relief,” ... or just “Harvey Relief” in order for your gift to be shared equally between EPC and Samaritan’s Purse Mission efforts in response to damage from Hurricane Harvey; and
- (b) “EPC – Hurricane Irma Relief” or “Samaritan’s Purse - Hurricane Irma Relief,” ... or just “Irma Relief” in order for your gift to be shared equally between EPC and Samaritan’s Purse Mission efforts in response to damage from Hurricane *Irma*.

Tejeras Meals

Some dates in 2017 remain without a sponsor for the Tejeras Meal – to provide a meal to impoverished children in Tejeras, Honduras. ***If you would like to sponsor a Tejeras Meal this year,*** 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 speak with Rita Usher in the Church Office –Monday through Friday – at the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to 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

Rita Usher, Pastoral Secretary & Office Administrator office@fpcstarkville.org

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

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

Jennifer Blackburn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

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

Ellen Mauldin, Church Librarian mem3@bellsouth.net

Amanda Corley, Child Care Director fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org



Remember on Reformation Sunday to join us for special worship services that morning (8:30 & 11:00 a.m.) and then for the Fall Harvest Festival in the afternoon and evening at Robinson Lake.



HELP PROVIDE THE NEW *WORSHIP HYMNAL* FOR FPC - TO THE GLORY OF GOD

At the request of our music leaders and our Worship Committee, the Session has unanimously approved providing to FPC *The Worship Hymnal* to enhance our worship of God. We invite you as member or friend of this congregation to help provide the new hymnals to the Glory of God – by making a dedicated donation of \$25 per hymnal. All dedications will be “to the glory of God,” but we welcome you to add an *in-honorarium* or an *in-memorial* note with each hymnal. Please complete the information below, make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church (write “hymnals” on the Memo line), and place the form in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail your form and check to the church office.



Name _____ or (circle) “member of FPC” or “friend of FPC.”

No. of Hymnals _____ Amount Paid _____

NAME(S) FOR **HONOR** OR **MEMORY**:

HONOR _____

MEMORY _____