



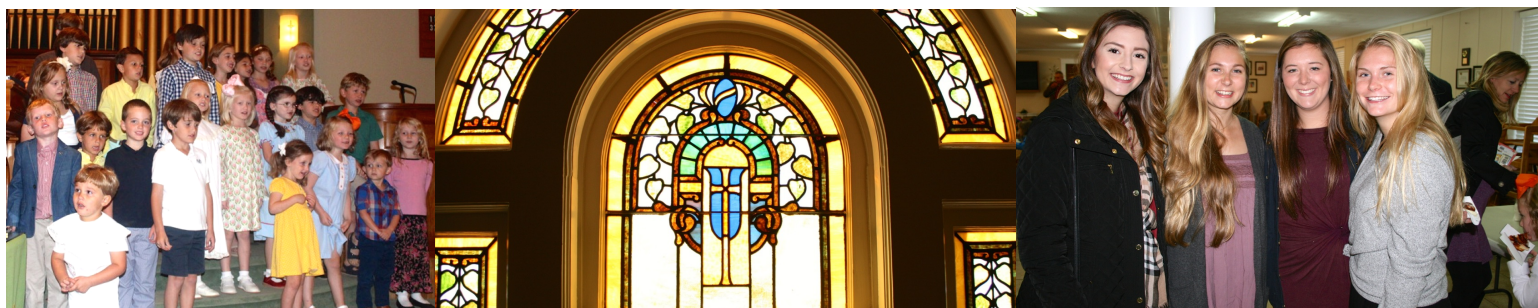
# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

NOVEMBER 2017



***“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”***

Matthew 6:33



## ***First Things First 2018***

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

*Who* comes first for us? *What* comes first? We answer not really so much with our feelings but with our faithful commitments and follow-through. We answer with *where* we actually *go* and *what* we actually *do* – daily, weekly and annually.

...Because it matters how we start. It matters what is non-negotiable for us. It matters what we make happen no matter what else comes. It matters how we begin each week (Sunday morning), as well as how we begin and then carry through with our first love, time, money, and efforts.

Jesus calls his people “disciples.” By God’s grace, “disciples” are by definition *disciplined*, *consistent*, AND *joyfully blessed* in following His Word to put God’s Kingdom and God’s Righteousness first. **I thank God for the ways you have put Him first in 2017 *First Worship*, *First-fruits Tithe*, and *First Serve*!** He has blessed his First Presbyterian Church this great year through many faithful disciples.

Now, in this month of Thanksgiving, we also ask you to help us plan to put the Lord and his Church First in the year ahead. I encourage you to believe, love, and honor our Savior by affirmatively committing to ***First Things First in 2018***. Please pray for God’s inspiration, and may you make inspired, God-pleasing priorities for 2018 in each of these three key areas of faith and discipleship!

This month, please complete your cards accordingly, and offer them to God in one or more of our Sundays of worship this month (... or deliver your cards to the church office). I look forward to seeing you on the Lord’s Days of this, as we together love, thank, and honor God first each week!



Since the earliest days of Christian faith, God has called and blessed believers and churches to begin the week in Lord’s Day worship, fellowship, and discipleship. *Pictured above left: FPC Children’s Choirs begin Sunday Worship singing to the Lord on Oct. 22. Above right: Alexis Thibodeaux, Audrey Thompson, Kelsie Daniels, and Shelby Thompson enjoy our Sunday Fellowship Gathering. At right: John Michael & Avent Van Horn and Peyton & Catherine Fandel at the FPC Harvest Festival Sunday, Oct. 28*

**Remember to Join Us at Our *Commitment Sunday Fellowship Brunch* on the East Courtyard Sunday, November 19, 10:25-10:55 a.m.**





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

In addition – if you have not yet been able to do so – be sure to meet and welcome three wonderful new members of our ministry team: Rita Usher, our full-time Pastoral Secretary in the church office; Chris Bertrand, veteran of the U.S. Marines and MSU senior serving now as our part-time Facilities Manager; and Alexis Thibodeaux, MSU senior now serving as our part-time Student Ministry Assistant for Youth and SOS Ministries.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,

*Martin Lifer*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



FPC celebrates baby Joshua Silas Wagner, born (September) to Rev. Jon and Elizabeth Wagner, and the grandson of Robert and Debbie Cooper.



Chris Bertrand



Alexis Thibodeaux



We celebrated on October 8 the baptism of Eleanor Jane Myers, the daughter of Sam and Ashley Myers.



**"Let the little children come to Me!"** Jesus' command is definitely obeyed and fulfilled at FPC!

We grieve the death (October 31) of longtime FPC member and community and national leader Jack Wallace, and we pray for the Lord's comfort to Jack's beloved wife and FPC member Mary Jo Wallace. At the same time, we rejoice in the call of the Church Triumphant in the Communion of Christ for Jack.





**CELEBRATING THE 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION  
AND OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL FELLOWSHIP – CONCLUDED A GREAT  
OCTOBER 2017 FOR FPC!**









# FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS

Remember to prepare and bring to FPC your Gift Boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child by Commitment Sunday, November 19.



We are blessed to host each Tuesday and Thursday night Casserole Kitchen – providing fresh and warm meals to people in need from throughout our community. If you would like to volunteer to help, then please speak to Loren Zimmerman or Rex Buffington at CK or Sunday mornings, or speak with or leave a message for Pastor Lifer or Rita in the Church Office. *Pastor Lifer took the photos below when working in October with Girl Scout Troop 2032 in the troop's provision of a meal.*



By far FPC's most substantial mission outlay from regular FPC giving and the annual budget is to provide the FPC Childcare Center to the community. Thank you, FPC stewards, for making this mission possible. *Pictured at right: The 2016 FPC CC children's Thanksgiving Program.*







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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](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)  
**Rita Usher, Pastoral Secretary & Office Administrator** [office@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:office@fpcstarkville.org)  
**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)  
**Alexis Thibodeaux, Student Ministry Assistant for Youth &SOS** [alexis.nicole.thibodeaux@gmail.com](mailto:alexis.nicole.thibodeaux@gmail.com)  
**Chris Bertrand, Facilities Manager** [cjb763@msstate.edu](mailto:cjb763@msstate.edu)  
**Amanda Corley, Child Care Director** [fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org)

**Mark your calendar and plan to come, join Dinah Clark and the team that decorates our Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Seasons:**

**8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary on *the Monday Morning Following Thanksgiving:***  
*this year the time & date being*  
**8:30 a.m., Monday, November 27.**

