



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

DECEMBER 2017



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

'Tis the Season indeed! Be with us this month in:

PREPARATION!



Join us each Sunday in **Advent Worship**, and read **SOLI DEO GLORIA**, our congregation's daily **Advent devotional** – that you may be spiritually prepared for Christmas, for New Year ... and for Christ's Return!

Also, prepare through your prayerful **FIRST THINGS FIRST 2018 Stewardship Commitments** for a faithful, fruitful, and blessed New Year ahead.

'Tis the Season indeed! Be with us this month in:

INVITATION!



Photos at left:

Kevin and Emily Daniels welcome Ell Mauldin tour Fellowship Brunch, and Session members welcome new members to our congregation – November 19.

'Tis the Season indeed! Be with us this month in:

CELEBRATION!

Don't miss this joyful month of Good News celebration! [Pastor Lifer's letter continues and concludes on Page 2.]



Photo at left: Melanie, Trace & Lucy Love, together with other members and guests, enjoy our **First Things First** Thanksgiving and Commitment Fellowship Brunch, Sunday, November 19.

Photo at right: Missy Walters and a celebrating group of adults and children on our float share Good News about the Season in the Starkville Christmas



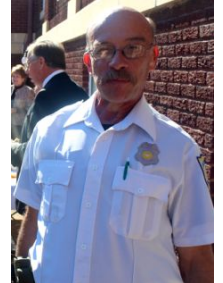
[Pastor Lifer's letter continued from Page 1]

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of our church family. Then, looking ahead, please mark *your calendar* in accord with this month's Advent and Christmas Season Calendar of FPC's worship services and many of our other gatherings for the season, and please note the updates we will provide each Sunday. In addition, please join us in some of our mission activities, special offerings, and outreach [see Page 5]. In all this, may God bless you in an inspired Advent and a Merry Christmas of Preparation, Invitation, and Celebration!

Your pastor and friend in the Messiah,
Martin Lifer



Give thanks for and welcome FPC's new Security Steward on Sunday mornings, Paul Brennan, a retired US Navy veteran, a member of the Capital Security Team, and a very gracious Christian man – who loves being with us at FPC.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS.

***PLEASE EXTEND YOUR PERSONAL WELCOME TO THEM ON
CHRISTMAS MISSIONS BLESSING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3.***



Rilda Cox



Shane and Merzamia Clark



Lee, Amy, and Julia Weiskopf



Malcolm and Gloria Gentry



Derick and Pam Metts

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 2017

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR FPC

Dec 3	11 am	Christmas Missions Blessings Service - one morning Worship Service featuring FPC Cancel Choir singing <i>Were You There on That Christmas Night?</i>
Dec 3	5 pm	Family Advent Night - Fellowship Hall; Christmas crafts for Adults & Children
Dec 6	6 pm	Children's Christmas Musical Drama (Sanctuary)
	6:30 pm	Pizza Fellowship Dinner -fun for all in the Fellowship Hall
Dec 9	10am - 12:30 pm	Parents' Morning Out - Fellowship Hall; Kids have pizza and Christmas fun so parents can shop!
Dec 10	8:30 & 11	2nd Sunday of Advent Worship Services (11 a.m. Service will include Children's Choir Christmas Music)
Dec 10	4:30 pm	A Star(k)filled Christmas – City Hall Plaza; songs, Scripture, live Nativity, and more
Dec 17	8:30 & 11	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Services
Dec 24	11 am	4th Sunday of Advent – one morning Worship Service
Dec 24	6 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (Childcare available)
Dec 31	8:30 & 11	Christmas Season Sunday Worship Services



Photos above: - Once again, Craig Aarhus, Jennifer Blackburn, and our Chancel Choir lead the congregation in Advent and Christmas Season music; and
- Nelson and Beverly Jones will once again host the Keenagers' Christmas Fellowship Lunch!

Photo at left: Kathy McGill, Vivian Cade, and Ashleigh Murdock are getting our children's choirs set for the FPC Children's Choirs' Christmas Musical.

Photo below: Join us on the front steps following the conclusion of our Christmas Eve Service for further candlelit carol singing.



FPC FELLOWSHIP

November Fellowship highlights included our ***FIRST THINGS FIRST Thanksgiving & Commitment Sunday Fellowship Brunch*** on the East Courtyard. Sunday, November 19,... as well as our float-building fellowship on Sunday, November 26, and then our celebration at the Starkville Christmas Parade on Monday night, November 27.



FPC MINISTRY AND MISSION SUPPORT NEWS

We broke all our previous records (by a lot) in receiving at FPC and then delivering to Samaritan's Purse Mission 305 Gift Boxes for Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child* project. *Special thanks to PKA fraternity and to Tri Delta Theta sorority for pitching in with us this year!*



Our Men of the Church also hosted a breakfast for Sammy Shoemaker's Interdenominational School Prayer Warriors (a mission outreach and prayer support group for our local schools) and led another mission fundraiser for Father's Child Mission in Starkville.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Help us Ring the Red Kettle Christmas Bell to Raise Funds for the Salvation Army Mission Campaign!

FPC remains responsible for getting volunteer bell ringers to take one-hour shifts on **Saturday, December 23** (9am to noon, 2-7 pm). **Please** – *individually or with family members or friends* – **sign up for an open one-hour slots on the sheets posted on the chalkboard in the Fellowship Hall.**



Important FPC and Church-Rights Mission Reminder:

Hearing Before the MS Supreme Court on December 13: Earlier this fall, the Mississippi Supreme Court (MSC) granted the request by attorneys representing FPC Starkville for oral arguments in the MSC's review of the case of *Presbytery of St. Andrew v. FPC Starkville* and of the Chancery Court decisions in favor of FPC — scheduling to hear oral arguments on Wednesday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m. Remember to mark your calendar, pray for God's continued wisdom, help, and grace in this process of faithful stewardship, and — if you can — join elders, deacons, and other members to attend the hearing at the MSC. [The hearing will be in the MSC Chambers on the second floor of the Gartin Justice Building, 450 High St., Jackson.]

BE AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS! Buy gifts for our FPC Child Care Center workers' dependent children. **Tags with suggested gifts and sizes are on the Angel Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall.** Please take one or more of these tags from the tree, buy and wrap the gifts, and then bring the wrapped gifts (tags attached) to the church office **by Tuesday, December 19.** *The gifts will be distributed to the FPC Child Care Center workers December 21.*



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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 Blackbourn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

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

Ellen Mauldin, Church Librarian mem3@bellsouth.net

Alexis Thibodeaux, Student Ministry Assistant for Youth & SOS alexis.nicole.thibodeaux@gmail.com

Chris Bertrand, Facilities Manager cjb763@msstate.edu

Amanda Corley, Child Care Director fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org

MAY THE LORD BLESS WITH A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**BE WITH US FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP BEGINNING AT
5 P.M. ON CHRISTMAS EVE
AND THEN CONTINUING
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE ON SUNDAY
MORNING, DECEMBER 31.**

