



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JANUARY 2018



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

Be blessed this New Year in the Lord Jesus Christ!

In December, we opened the Advent Worship Season welcoming new members and hearing our Chancel Choir sing a beautiful Advent & Christmas cantata for our Christmas Mission Blessings Sunday, December 3. Following that Sunday morning were many more Worship, Fellowship, Mission, and Children's Ministry highlights.



Ultimately, of course, we celebrated Jesus' birth and the Good News of his coming to be the Messiah of Israel and the Savior for all people who believe in Him.

Now, this month, we move forward into a very New Year – as *(God willing)* the EPC Central South Presbytery approves the respective examinations of our Session and of me, and, correspondingly, votes to
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[Pastor Martin Lifer's Letter – continued from p.1]

receive FPC as now a full and voting member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) within the Central South Presbytery. [Presbytery leaders' examination of our Session, as well as our deacons-elect, will be 3:30 p.m., Sunday afternoon, January 7, in Fellowship Hall, and I welcome you to join us.]

With so many momentous events in just these first few weeks of the New Year, 2018 is truly going to be a year of major change, challenge, commitment, and celebration. Don't miss out on the latest news God will be bringing to us each Sunday and each week exciting times for FPC and at FPC!

As our officers learn and grow spiritually through this process of leadership training in the EPC, I also invite you to be consistently a part of one or more of our Discipleship Bible Studies. A great first step is to come consistently to one of our Sunday School groups in Sunday mornings. [See Page 5.] In addition, Wednesday Night Friends & Family Dinner, followed Men's Bible Study and Women's Bible Study, as well as Children's & Youth programs, will all get underway this month on January 17. Join us, and grow in God's Word.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,
Martin Lifer



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

On December 17, we had a Diapers & Wipes Shower for the Kemp family [photo at left] – as Leah and Edward moved into the final weeks of Leah's pregnancy with Edward's and her third child: an expected baby son.

We then closed 2017 worship celebrating the baptism of both Lucie and Elisha Tramel, the children of Eric and Laura Tramel. Grandfather Randell Foxworth served as the Elder-Sponsor. [See photo below, left]

We look ahead this month to Sunday, January 14 (11:00 a.m. Service) when we will baptize Bailey, the foster daughter of Jay and Margaret Cook [see photo and note below, right].



[The photo at the immediate left is of Bailey [bottom right corner of the photo] with Margaret and Jay Cook, together with Sam, Ashley, Jack Harrison, and baby Eleanor Myers.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP, DECEMBER 2017



God blessed us with glorious worship in December 2017, from the Choir and the Martin family opening the Advent Season for us on December 3 [see the photo at right] ... through December 24 worship on Sunday morning [in the photo below, left, the Rush family leads the Call to Worship and lights the 4th Advent Candle] and again the night of the 24th the Christmas Eve Service, followed by the post-Service gathering on the Hill for more carol singing by candlelight.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - DECEMBER 2017



Highlights from our very active Children's Ministry in December 2017 certainly included the Children's Choir musical program on December 7 [see the photos above] and the Family Advent Crafts & Fellowship Dinner Night on December 3 [see photo at immediate right and the photos below].



FPC MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY NEWS



Photo above: One of our Outreach Groups of Carolers on December 13, 2017, singing at the Claiborne. Photo above right: The Christmas Nativity Presentation by our FPC Childcare Center on December 7.



Enjoy *Friend-making* Fellowship & Bible Study Each Sunday Morning!



The new **Faith for Life** Sunday School group led by Pastor Lifer for members and guests not already in another class – meets in the **Chapel**, (behind the Sanctuary Chancel).

If you are not already in a Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group – join us for one of the following:

Adult Sunday School Fellowship Groups, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Crusader Class

(led by Jack Forbus, Ernie George, and other teachers – in the Fellowship Hall)

Discovery & Young Adult Joint Class

(led by Bob Daniels - in the Johnson Room of the Church Office Bldg.)

Faith for Life

(A newly-forming group, currently led by Pastor Lifer, for members and guests not already in another class – in the Chapel, behind the Sanctuary Chancel)

Joy Class

(led by Phil Gruchy – in the Parlor, 1st Floor, Sanctuary Bldg.)

New Covenant Class

(led by Jim Beaty – in the Main Room behind Sanctuary Balcony)

Women in the Word

(led by Nancy Lifer – in Room S-6, main Sanctuary Floor)

Tired of Chasing Perfection? Turn to Jesus!

We Saved You a Seat.

An Invitation for Women: Join us beginning January 17, 2018, on Wednesday nights after Friends and Family dinner in the Parlor for a 7-session DVD driven women's Bible study focused on increasing our capacity for meaningful friendships with other women. ***We Saved You a Seat*** is a study by Lisa-Jo Baker and friends from (in)courage, that explores our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Nothing shapes us like the impact of a friend - it's how Jesus radically and intimately connects with us. So instead of chasing perfection, overcome your fear of being known and find the courage to connect. To sign up and order a workbook, please contact **Only Hardin** obh2@msstate.edu



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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

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



Our Church Staff, their families, and our members who volunteer in the Church Office all thank you for being part of such a special Christmas in 2017, and now wish you a Joyful January in this New Year!

Church Pictorial Directory Coming Soon!

We are pleased to announce that our church will begin the process of putting together a beautiful, full-color, cutting edge digital directory. This directory will be professionally produced and will include full-color family portraits with names, addresses and telephone numbers of everyone who participates. It is very important that every family and/or member be included to assure a complete up-to-date directory.

A professional photographer will be taking professional portraits for the directory on **March 1-3**, at our church. **We need volunteers** to help in planning and preparation, and to act as Hosts/Hostesses when the families come to be photographed. **To sign up as a volunteer, please call Rita Usher in the church office, 323-1994.**

