



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

MARCH 2018



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

We gave thanks and confirmed it all on February 25: We are now officially received, recognized, and renewed in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The Lord has truly blessed you, my beloved First Presbyterian Church Family! Thank you, also, to all of you who gave of yourselves to make our EPC Reception Sunday Worship and Thanksgiving Banquet on February 25 so beautiful and joyful.

Now, following that fantastic celebration that was the culmination not only of the month of February but also, really, years of faithful sacrifice and commitment to Christ – we make our way into March. As the worship calendar happens to set this year, this will be in many ways our most meaningful month of worship in the year – culminating with Holy Week. Come to Christ, come to the Cross, and know the grace of Communion in the Lamb of God. I pray that your personal devotions, your public witness, and your worship, Bible Study, and fellowship in God's House at FPC this month will be filled with God's blessings and renewing grace.

I hope that you will make your time for the Lord in his House each Sunday morning, and further, if possible, I hope you may be able to participate in one or more of our special Holy Week services and fellowship opportunities. [See the Holy Week Schedule notes on Page 4.]

Your pastor and friend in God's Lamb, Who takes away our sin,

Martin Lifer



Photos above (left): SOS and Worship Class member Lydia Vinson leads our congregation in an Affirmation of Faith; and SOS and Youth Group members and leaders at the Winter Jam Christian Contemporary Music Concert on Thursday night, February 22.



Photo Above: Some of the members of our great Fellowship Ministry Team at the EPC Reception Sunday Banquet. *Photo below:* Larry & Wanda Anthony and Zack, Hunter & Grace Harrington Enjoy Friends & Family Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner.



WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AT FPC

Remember to join us Wednesday Nights for *Friends & Family* Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner this month, ... and please join us as well each Sunday morning for our Fellowship Gathering (10:30-10:50 a.m.)!



Photo above:
On Sunday Night February 11, Members and guests enjoyed a festive Church-Wide Valentine's-Theme Pot-Luck Fellowship.



FPC CELEBRATES EPC RECEPTION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25!



Photos above and at left: Joe Brown and Ernie George joined 180 other members and guests enjoying great food and even greater thanksgiving at our EPC Reception Sunday Fellowship Banquet.

Tate Ferguson leads us in God's Call to Worship on EPC Reception Sunday.

Marquita Beaty, Loren Zimmerman, Peggy Moore & Lynd Forbus were some of the team of volunteers on the clean-up crew following our EPC Reception Sunday Fellowship Banquet.

FPC MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY NEWS

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

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)

MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Photo at right: Ruth Baareman, Director of the Starkville Pregnancy Care Center, speaking at the Center's March 1 Annual Banquet, shares the good news of the center's helping over 40 "Red Rose" children be born in 2017. Pastor gave the opening prayer for the Annual Banquet, several FPC are founding sponsors of the mission, and a number of FPC congregational and ministry leaders



TEJERAS MEAL

SPONSORS Needed

(Mission meal for children in Tejeras, Honduras)

If you would like to sponsor a Tejeras Meal in 2018, please send a check for \$80 made out to Honduras Agape Foundation to Michele Rackley, PO Box 826, Starkville, MS 39760, or in the church office, or you may place your check in the Offering.

Additional Opportunity for a simple way to help a MISSION Ministry:

Aluminum Cans for Father's Child Ministry- The Men of the Church and the Crusaders SS Class invite you to bring your aluminum cans to FPC. Place them (bagged in small or large plastic bags preferred) in the blue covered trailer located on the north side of the church. Periodically the cans will be crushed and taken to a recycle firm in West Point for which we are paid \$.55 per pound. Funds generated along with donations collected will be given to the Father's Child Ministry in Columbus, which supports needy children from the entire Golden Triangle area. Please pass the word to friends and to other churches in the community. Thanks for your support of this ministry.



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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 info@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



Chloe Hardin leads the Call to Worship, February 18, 2018.

HOLY WEEK WEEKDAY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP – PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 25) AND RESURRECTION SUNDAY (APRIL 1)

HOLY MONDAY-WEDNESDAY DAILY WORSHIP

(SANCTUARY, NOON-12:30 P.M.)

FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

MID-DAY PREACHERS:

REV. LARNZY CARPENTER, FBC LONGVIEW– MONDAY
REV. WARING PORTER (FPC CORINTH) – TUESDAY
FREDDIE RASBERRY - WEDNESDAY

HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING
FRIENDS & FAMILY DINNER 5:15 P.M.
AND
6 P.M. HOLY WEEK ADULT BIBLE
STUDY



SATURDAY MORNING EGG HUNT, MARCH 31

- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EGG HUNT, GAMES & SNACKS

RESURRECTION SUNDAY (APRIL 1)

**CLASSIC EASTER SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY AT
8:30 & 11 A.M.**

AND

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST - AT
ROBINSON LAKE OR*THE FPC SANCTUARY**

(*TBD – DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER. PLEASE STAY POSTED THROUGH THE CHURCH EMAIL NOTICES, OR THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE BEFORE GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, MARCH 29, 7 P.M.,

**WITH A HOLY WEEK
CANTATA SUNG BY FPC'S
CHANCEL CHOIR**



GOOD FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, STATIONS OF THE CROSS SERVICE, 9 A.M.

**ECUMENICAL, COMMUNITY SERVICE
BEGINS AT FUMC –
WITH FPC HOSTING STATIONS –
AND CONCLUDING AT ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

