



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

APRIL 2018



transforming college students
to transform the world
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Ben Jackson Accepts Call to be Our New FPC/CCO Assistant Minister for University Ministry Outreach.

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

All praise and thanks to God our Father and the Risen Lord Jesus Christ for the good news arising from the great Good News that all has come together as we enter this month of April and this Easter Season:

- (1) God blessed us with a wonderful Holy Week of worship and fellowship.** *[See the photos above-far left of Grace Holditch at our Egg Hunt, and below right, as Ashleigh Murdock shares the Easter Good News. See, also, the middle photo above – as Tate Ferguson and Mary Cameron Martin join other FPC children in leading our Palm Sunday procession and Call to Worship.]*
- (2) On Good Friday, Westminster Seminary Graduate Ben Jackson called me to let me know that he is accepting the call to be our FPC/CCO Assistant Minister for University Ministry Outreach.** *[See the photo above right of Ben and his wife, Allison – with Dr. Jimmy Hardin and with me, at MSU’s Cobb Archeological Institute – during Ben and Allison’s March 17-19 visit to FPC and to MSU. See also further information in our Outreach/Mission reports on Page 3.]*

Now, following all that good news flowing from THE Good News, may we rejoice in our Heart for God!

Your pastor and friend in Christ,

Martin Lifer

Photo below: FPC’s Peggy Branch with James, John and Kay McReynolds – join Nita Reynolds in celebrating a very special birthday for Nita (on March 31).



FPC WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP



Church Family News and Celebrations in March included our Diapers & Wipes Shower for Zack, Hunter (and coming baby – Henry), and – as mentioned on Page 1 -- Anita Reynolds' Birthday Celebration and the church-wide Egg Hunts on March 31.

March Worship celebrations included FPC children's joining Pastor and Choir in the Palm Sunday Call to Worship [see photo - above left]. Easter Season Worship this month will include our Annual Kirkin' o' th' Tartans Sunday Worship in both morning services on April 8, and Communion Services on the 3rd Sunday of Easter Season, April 15.

Remember, also, to join us 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.).



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)



FPC Truly Has a Heart for God! Extra Giving to Easter Lily Surplus Mission Fund Provides Enough to Add Another New Church Pastor to Be Trained & Equipped Through Mission India. As indicated on the Easter Lily Order Form and in our appeal last month, the surplus (above the cost of the lilies) from the Lily Gifts is going toward our Mission Outreach goal of supporting Mission India ministers beginning new congregations in India. Today, we share a wonderful Good News report: Between (a) the surplus of the Easter Lily gifts **and (b) some members' generous giving toward this Easter Lily Mission Cause – we have received enough funds to provide fully through Mission India for the training of one of the Indian pastors we will be supporting this year to begin and new congregation for new Christians in India!**

Ben Jackson Accepts Call to be FPC/CCO Assistant Minister for University Ministry Outreach.

Following training early this summer with our EPC Ministry Partner, the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) – Ben Jackson, together with his wife, Allison Jackson, will be moving to Starkville and will begin his ministry for FPC and CCO – primarily in mission at MSU on weekdays, and at FPC on Sundays. Ben is the son of a PCA pastor and was born in Jackson, MS. However, his family moved to Stone Mountain, GA (Metro Atlanta) when Ben was a young boy and he primarily grew up in Stone Mountain. Ben is a graduate of the University of Georgia (Athens), where he was a student Bible teacher and leader for Reformed University Ministries (RUF). After graduating from UGA, Ben was for three years the campus ministry leader for RUF at UT-Chattanooga. Following those three years at UT-Chattanooga, Ben moved to Philadelphia for his seminary studies at Westminster Seminary. At Westminster, Ben earned his Master of Divinity, with a further degree and specialization in Christian Counseling. At Westminster, Ben also met Allison – an Ohio State University graduate who earned a Masters Degree in Christian Counseling at Westminster. Ben's interests and training for ministry outreach to students also include specialization in outdoor adventures.



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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



SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – GET YOUR PLAID ON... or other national faith & family vestments, and come prepared for our annual *Kirkin' o' the Tartans* – as a special celebration and time of family blessing in each of our morning services. Bagpiper Tim Gordon will play "*Amazing Grace*" and other music of our faith heritage at both morning services.

NOT SCOT? NO PROBLEM: Everyone is invited to participate, and the *kirkin'* will not be limited to Scot tartans. Members and visitors from all other backgrounds are invited to bring forward in the services other family-of-faith items (e.g., Family Bibles, crosses, or items bearing family seals).