



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

MAY 2018



*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19*

**God Brings Peace, New Members, Anniversaries, and  
More Celebrations & Mission Opportunities to FPC This Spring.**



**Dear Members and Friends of FPC,**

Our Sunrise Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April ushered in a remarkable spring and Easter Season replete with Resurrection-power blessings from the Risen King to all of us who love Him and his communion at FPC. The following are simply some of the celebrations of Resurrection grace that He brought to us in April or now *will* bring to us in this month of May:

- April 8 - On the Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrated the *Kirkin'* of the Tartans **and** welcomed wonderful new members into our church family.
- Then, late Thursday, April 12 - God delivered a word of peace and freedom to us via the highest court in this state. The Supreme Court of Mississippi issued an historic decision with a precedent-setting majority opinion – rejecting the appeal of the Presbytery of St. Andrew that sought to reverse (a) the Chancery Court's ruling that FPC owns its property and (b) the Chancery Court's enjoining of the Presbytery from the Presbytery's desire to discipline FPC's pastor and other leaders.
- On Sunday, April 15, we humbly but joyfully thanked God our Liberator for this message of ministry freedom and a clear invitation/call of peace for all who are open to the peace and joy of God's great deliverance.
- God brought "Peace" to my

*[Pastor's Letter continued on Page 2]*

*Photos above:* We welcomed new members on Tartan Sunday, April 8 [see Page 2]; and Mary Martin Fair, Addison Rackley, Jay Cook, Bailey, and many others in Wednesday Night Fellowship following the music program on April 25. *Photo at right:* Led by Kathy McGill, Vivian Cade, and Ashleigh Murdock, FPC's Children's Choirs present their spring music program on Wednesday night, April 25.



*[Pastor's Letter continued from Page]*

office window: In the week following the Supreme Court decision that served bringing the Lord's message of peace for his Church, He also sent a mother dove to the window of my church office to begin making her spring nest my windowsill. Given the Biblical symbolism and the remarkable timing and of "my" spring dove and her new nest, I named our new church office resident "Peace." I also gave thanks, further, for the actual presence and power of his Spirit in his First Presbyterian Church and, indeed, in all of us whom He has called to New Life in Jesus!



- On Wednesday, April 25, and again on Sunday, April 29, our Children's Choirs closed a great month, singing *Siyahamba* ("Marching in the Light of God")!
- May 6 marks a special Day of Thanksgiving for the 197<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inaugural Sunday worship service on May 6, 1821, of the Mayhew Mission that led to our congregation.
- On May 13, we will celebrate Ascension Sunday and Mother's Day not only in worship but also in our Brunch Fellowship and annual Ascension Sunday Balloon Release.
- On Pentecost Sunday, we will welcome Rev. Bob Wilbur as our Guest Preacher, and our new University Ministry/CCO Assistant Minister Ben Jackson will be with us to plan for the upcoming school year of our mission to and with the students of Mississippi State University.
- On May 27, we will further celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FPC's "Dedication Sunday" – that great Sunday in May 1938 when celebrated the satisfaction of remaining mortgage on the new Sanctuary Building [completed in 1924] by burning the mortgage and fully dedicating the previously-completed Sanctuary solely to the ownership and glory of God.

What an ongoing array of miracles and reminders of the resurrection power, peace, and freedom with which God *has* blessed us in the past and *is* blessing us this amazing 2018 through Christ our Lord! Now let us follow Him in the redeeming freedom and mission opportunities He gives to us.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,  
*Martin W. Lifer III*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### Welcome New Members to Our Church Family:

**Thomas and  
Anne Marie Gregory**



**Maggie Cresswell**



**Christie  
Jones Lawrence**



**Tyler & Katelyn Wolfe, and their  
daughters, Abigail and Madeline**



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS (CONTINUED)

As we celebrated the birth and the birth-day (April 2, 2018) of Henry Lawrence Harrington, we also looked ahead to the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, May 6, of longtime FPC member Boswell Kennard (born May 6, 1918).

The photos at right are: (1) Henry on the day of his birth, (2) Henry a few days later at home with parents Zack and Hunter Harrington and with sister Grace – visited by Pastor Lifer; and (3) Boswell Kennard with FPC's Joe & Carol Mobley at Dudy Noble Field on Saturday, April 28, following Boswell's having thrown the opening pitch at the Daimond Dawgs' Saturday game vs. Texas A&M.



## FPC WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

FROM EASTER SUNDAY ...



THROUGH TARTAN AND OTHER BELL-RINGING SUNDAYS IN APRIL...



... ON TO FPC 197<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY/FOUNDERS' DAY SUNDAY (MAY 6), AND THEN ASCENSION SUNDAY & MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 13),



... WITH PENTECOST SUNDAY (MAY 20) AND TRINITY/80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SANCTUARY-DEDICATION SUNDAY (MAY 27) STILL TO CELEBRATE DURING THIS MONTH!

# FPC DISCIPLESHIP AND OUTREACH/MISSION NEWS

In April, FPC began another new ministry for the Young Adults God is bringing to our mission:

The Post-Grad Young Adult Small Group Bible Study & Fellowship Small Group.

In addition, Mission leader Dr. Garth Gilmore taught at Wednesday Night Friends & Family (April 11), and Pastor Lifer met with approved the completed studies of our older children's Worship & Communion Class, which was led by Janice Kinard.



## FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

From an Inspired Spring

(Including Great Bible Study, Music, and Fun on Wonderful Friends & Family Wednesday Nights)...



... to an Exciting  
Summer,  
Beginning with  
Vacation Bible  
School Next  
Month!

**VBS 2018 Sign-Up is Open!**

For children Ages 4 years-old thru Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders

***SHIPWRECKED! RESCUED BY JESUS***

**June 11-14, 2018; 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
at First Presbyterian Church**

VBS Kickoff and Summer Fellowship: June 10, 4:30 p.m. at Robinson Lake

Web site for registration: [www.vbspro.events/p/fpc2018vbs](http://www.vbspro.events/p/fpc2018vbs)

# MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This spring, being part of the EPC – a Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches - continues to challenge and to facilitate our commitment to Christ's Mission regionally, nationally, and internationally. As we connect further with EPC international missions sharing the Good News of Jesus to nations and people groups among whom Islam is the majority religion, we continue to pray for persecuted EPC missionaries, including Pastor Andrew Brunson, who is imprisoned in Turkey.



We are also inspired and blessed to be a member congregation of the EPC Central South Presbytery, which is sponsoring not only a medical mission to Syrian refugees living outside of Beirut, Lebanon, but also a several urban new church developments with a call to interracial mission. Among such NCD missions from the past decade is an NCD that is now a self-sustaining congregation, the Downtown Church (EPC) in Memphis. The Downtown Church meets in the historic Clayborn Temple, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. held several key civil rights rallies and prayer services in the 1960's and where City of Memphis Sanitation Workers met in 1968 to begin the "I Am a Man" movement.

Now, Downtown Church has been meeting for the past several years in the Clayborn Temple as a growing, racially-integrated EPC congregation for Sunday worship and for life-changing mission outreach particularly to the children and youth of the impoverished neighboring community. On April 27, the Downtown Church hosted our spring Presbytery Meeting.



## FPC/CCO Assistant Minister for University Ministry Outreach.

**Ben and Jackson Will Be With Us on May 20, Looking Ahead to the Beginning of Ben's Full-time Ministry at MSU and FPC, Beginning Later this Summer.**



To learn how you can help and become involved in this new and central outreach mission of our church, meet Ben and Allison Jackson on Sunday, May 20, and contact Tabor Mullen or Pastor Lifer.



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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)  
**Chris Bertrand**, Facilities Manager [cjb763@msstate.edu](mailto:cjb763@msstate.edu)  
**Amanda Corley**, Child Care Director [fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org)

Members of our Children's Choirs singing at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, April 29.

