

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JUNE 2018



“Your gift will help lift the veil of darkness in the largest unreached nation on earth” Doug Barclay, Regional Director of Mission India – thanking us for FPC’s gift in May that will lead to the training this year of two new Indian church planters to begin evangelism and two new churches among unreached Indians.

FPC Ascendant in God’s Spirit: Historic May Leads into a Summer of Further Outreach and Joy.



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

God blessed his church family and his mission at FPC with a May filled with events of inspiring and historic significance. Truly landmark occasions included our May 6 Founder’s Sunday and our May 27 celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Dedicatory Sunday for FPC’s second Sanctuary Building. *The May 6 Funders’ Sunday was in fact the 197th Anniversary of the first worship of the Mayhew Mission, which led to the formation of FPC.* In addition, on May 13, we celebrated Ascension Sunday and Mother’s Day; on May 19-22, we welcomed Ben Jackson our new *Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach* for a brief time of meetings and house-hunting, before Ben returned to Pennsylvania for early-summer training and team-building with CCO in University Ministry; and all members of our church family were invited to the May 26 Worship Service for the Wedding of Will and Kayla Dunlap.

[Pastor’s Letter continued on Page 2]

Photos above left: Jeremy and Finley Murdock, Jay Cook, Edward Kemp, Glenda Clark, Carol Mobley, Gary Bardwell and others enjoy our Fellowship Brunch on Ascension Sunday & Mother’s Day. *Photos at right from top through flush right:* (1) Last June’s Children’s VBS group; (2) Jeff Foster and Duffy Neubauer share a laugh with Boswell Kennard on his 100th Birthday; and (3) Ben and Allison Jackson. *Photo below:* The worship service for the wedding of Will and Kayla Dunlap.



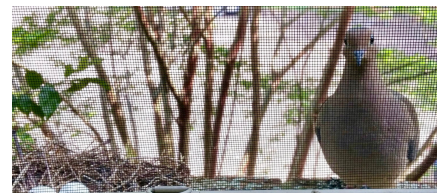


[Pastor's Letter continued from Page]

Now we look ahead to a fruitful June and summer's start that will include our major summer Fellowship Event at Robinson Lake (Sunday evening, June 10), our Children's Vacation Bible School (June 11-14), and the EPC General Assembly (June 19/20-22) at Hope Church in Memphis. I invite you to join me in all of these opportunities for fellowship and learning. Yes, in addition to hoping that you will be with us at Robinson Lake and helping us during VBS, you are welcome to attend some of the General Assembly gatherings; simply let me know about your interests, and we can follow up to register you as a guest – whether for one of the dinners with international missionaries or at various other special resource meetings.

Another note on Outreach and Missions: As you can also read in the exciting report on Page 5, God has blessed us through the provision of a matching gift to be able – through our Easter Season fundraising for Mission India – to support the training and equipping of not only one but now two church planters in 2018 for new churches with ministry outreach to people in India who do not know the saving light and truth of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Finally, before closing this letter, I share with you further updates about Peace's coming to our church office. As I mentioned last month – one day following the freeing decision by the Mississippi Supreme Court in April upholding the Chancery Court rulings against the Presbytery of St. Andrew that the FPC corporation owns the FPC property and that the Presbytery of St. Andrew could not "discipline the minister" and the elders of FPC – a female dove I named "Peace" began making a nest on my office window sill. In last month's newsletter, I included the beginning story of Peace, her nest, and the eggs she laid there in the latter part of April. I also posted a couple of photos, including one of Peace looking at me while, to the left, I/we could see her two eggs. Well, after a long wait, on Mother's Day (yes, Mother's Day) apparently sometime during the 11:00 a.m. Service, the eggs finally hatched. The photos at right begin with the old, April photo of Peace and her eggs, and then the photos show the progress of the feeding and growth of the two young doves. Eventually, on Tuesday morning, May 22, the young doves flew out and never returned to the nest. I believe that, in the same way, we as a church family are beginning to leave the nest to grow and to take off for the future God has for us. The coming months and years promise to be freeing and inspiring.



Your pastor and friend in Christ,

Martin Lifer

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

As a church family, our experiences of joy and sorrow run the full gamut. In May, we celebrated the 100th Birthday of FPC's Boswell Kennard on May 6, and on that same Sunday celebrated a Diapers & Wipes Shower for Peyton and Catherine Fandel – looking ahead to the expected birth this summer of the Fandel's first child. As this month of June was just begins, though, we grieve with Alice Dawson the death on June 1 of FPC's Mike Dawson, while, in the faith, we also rejoice in the Call of the Church Triumphant for Mike and the blessing of eternal communion in the Risen Christ.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Photo at right:
Pastor Martin Lifer
leads Will Dunlap
and Kayla White
Dunlap, as the
couple makes their
Marriage Covenant
Vows to God and
to each other in
their Wedding
Worship Service in
our FPC Sanctuary
on Saturday, May
26. Will is the son
of FPC members
Mike and Beth Ann
Dunlap.



FPC FELLOWSHIP

ANOTHER WONDERFUL ASCENSION SUNDAY/MOTHER'S DAY FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH



Join Us
Sunday, June 10
4:30-7:00 p.m. at FPC's Robinson Lake
for
**Our Annual Early Summer Freedom
Celebration Lakeside Fellowship**
Children's Paint Run and Kick-off for Summer VBS



FPC WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Plan for Unified Worship Services at 10 a.m. for Our July Sundays.

Next month we will have a **single, unified Lord's Day Worship Service** beginning at 10:00 a.m. on each of the **five Sundays of July (1, 8, 15, 22 and 29)**. In addition, our **Children's and Youth Sunday School** will *not* meet during July; however, we will provide childcare during the 10:00 a.m. Services in July. Beginning Sunday, **August 5**, we will resume our **regular Sunday morning schedule of two services** at 8:30 and 11 a.m., and our full **Sunday School** schedule will be back at 9:45-10:30 on Sunday mornings.

FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Ministry VBS
Monday- Thursday, June 11-14
(8:30-11:30 a.m.)

SHIPWRECKED! RESCUED BY JESUS

For Ages 4 years-old thru Rising 6th graders

Sign-Up at fpcstarkville.org
or go to this web site for registration:
www.vbspro.events/p/fpc2018vbs

Children's Paint Run and Kick-off for Summer VBS
The Church-Wide Summer Fellowship at Robinson
Lake on June 10!



OUTREACH MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES



On May 3, Dr. Lifer led the Starkville Gathering for the National Day of Prayer, ... and he hopes more pastors and FPC members may be willing to come together for unified prayer next year.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 3, 2018

✦ PRAY FOR AMERICA ✦

UNITY

OUTREACH MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

(CONTINUED)

FPC SPECIAL EASTER GIVING FOR MISSION INDIA LEADS TO THE FUNDING THE TRAINING OF TWO NEW CHURCH PLANTERS IN 2018!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP FURTHER IN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IN THE MOST POPULOUS AND STILL LARGELY UNREACHED NATION IN THE WORLD – PLEASE CONTACT DR. LIFER OR ELDER JACK FORBUS, CHAIRMAN OF THE OUTREACH TEAM.



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Elders Ernie George and Dr. James Long Join Pastor Martin Lifer as Commissioners from FPC to the 2018 General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church –



June 20-22 at Hope Church in Memphis. Please pray for these leaders as they serve the Lord and FPC at this key meeting for Mission Planning and in votes that will affect the future of the church and its mission.



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.

Checley Jones and Family Move into Starkville Habitat for Humanity's 2018 Apostles' House.



Each Year, FPC assists Starkville Habitat for Humanity with the building of the Apostles' House. We are also blessed to have FPC member and Deacon **Joel Downey** serve as the Executive Director of Starkville Habitat, FPC member **Amanda Henry** to serve as **Administrative Assistant**, and FPC members such as Ross Collins (longtime volunteer) and Nancy Lifer (Vice President and Chair of Family Selection Committee) to volunteer for Habitat. *In the photo at left*, Joel, Amanda, Pastor & Nancy Lifer, and other Habitat leaders join Checley Jones in a Thanksgiving celebration on June 1– as Checley and her family moved into the



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JUNE 2018

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

Ben Jackson, *Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach* bdjackson8@gmail.com

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

Chris Bertrand, *Facilities Manager* cjb763@msstate.edu

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Join us on Sunday Mornings at FPC to begin your week with the Lord and celebrating Good News!

