



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL AUGUST 2018



**August Advance!**  
**As God Blesses FPC Starkville with A Heart for Him,**  
**God in Turn Gives us *HIS* Heart:**



**- *HIS* Heart for Our Multi-Generational Church Family at FPC;...**

**- *HIS* Heart for FPC to Lead  
the Way in Serving Christ's  
*Good News* to an Entire  
COMMUNITY...;**



**STARKVILLE, Miss. (WCBI) – An OCH Regional Medical Center employee got the surprise of a life at work Wednesday.**



**... and - *HIS* Heart for FPC to Lead  
the Way in Serving Christ's Good  
News to an Entire CAMPUS,  
*Transforming Students to Transform the  
World!***



transforming college students  
to transform the world  
[www.ccojubilee.org](http://www.ccojubilee.org)



Dear Church Family and Friends,

While all of 2018 continues to an amazing year of new beginnings and blessings for FPC Starkville, but August 2018 promises to month especially rich in miracles flowing from the Lord Who declares: "Behold, I am making all things new!" I hope you do not miss the Lord's visitation and the new mission ground He breaks in our midst at FPC this very month. I most certainly encourage you to be with us each Sunday. Each August Sunday will be remarkable, beginning with special celebrations on August 5 and August 12. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, we introduce Ben Jackson as our Assistant Minister for FPC/COO University Ministry Outreach, and he will preach first sermon for FPC (at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. Services). August 12 will include our Sunday morning Tailgate/Team Colors Brunch Fellowship (10:25-10:50 a.m.) and Rally Day, as new classes for Children's Sunday begin.

Finally, however, before looking totally ahead in the upcoming joys of this month, I pause to reflect upon the poignant range of celebrations, joys and tears, with which God blessed our church family and blessed me personally in July. As noted below also, this past month:

I joined the Wesikopf family and our larger church family in celebrating the birth of – and personally greeting – Charles Weiskopf. A few days later, I joined the McKell and Wade families in grieving the death of out beloved brother, Jimmy McKell, while simultaneously celebrating his homecoming with the Lord. From birth to death and eternal homecoming calls, God blessed us and touched my heart.

Later in July, as I prepared to celebrate Nancy's and my Wedding Anniversary, I received news that our beloved friend Janet Sartelle had died. Most definitely as in the death of Jimmy McKell, Janet's passing was ultimately cause for great joy and celebration – even in the face of our temporal grief. Further, when I was able to speak with my dear fiend Rev. John Sartelle the next day, he assured me that – now that Janet had passed – all was joy for him. In light of all these events, though, I can testify that I was especially thankful to be able to celebrate a special Anniversary with Nancy just a few days after death temporarily separated that very beloved mentor-couple for us: Janet and John.



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



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS (CONTINUED)

**Charles William Weiskopf was born Tuesday night, July 10, 2018 – to Lee and Amy Weiskopf [and to big sister Julia].**



**FPC Longtime member,  
General James R. (Jimmy)  
McKell:**

**Born March 21, 1927; Joined the  
Church Triumphant July 18,  
2018.**



# FPC FELLOWSHIP

**THE CHURCH-WIDE MONTHLY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MET ON JULY 24 AT THE HOME OF KRISTEN (AND KYLE) SKINNER.  
ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH!**



**THE VIP (VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIANS) FELLOWSHIP GROUP FOR ALL MEMBERS & GUESTS 65-YEARS+ HAD A GREAT LUNCH AND FUN FELLOWSHIP FOR ITS MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY (ALSO ON JULY 24).**





## FPC FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)



**FPC's Annual "TAILGATE"/ TEAM COLORS BRUNCH**  
*comes early this year –*  
**on our Rally Day Kick Off for the Children's Ministry Sunday School:**  
**SUNDAY, August 12**



**SHOW OFF YOUR TEAM'S COLORS SUNDAY, AUGUST 12,** and join us for brunch at the extended Fellowship Time, 10:25 – 10:50 a.m. Weather permitting, tables will be set up in the Eastside patio & breezeway for you to decorate with your favorite collegiate team's colors and special team symbols & memorabilia. You are welcome to help add to the Brunch Tables by bringing a favorite snack to share with others in our fellowship.

**Children's Ministry Sunday School Rally Day Is Also August 12.** Children – Join us on August 12 as **our new season of Sunday School** begins for us to grow together in God's love and God's Word.



# OUTREACH MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Some of the photos and message on Page 1 already highlight some of the ways God has blessed this summer and will further bless this month FPC's Local Mission Outreach. Some of the highlights in July certainly included when:

- Nancy Lifer (Vice President of Starkville Habitat for Humanity and Chair of the Family Selection Committee) joined FPC's Joel Downey and other Habitat leaders in bringing the great news of the very-surprised OCH employee, Erica Rice, that she had been selected to become a Habitat partner and homeowner.
- FPC and our Men's Cooking Team hosted the Ecumenical, Interracial Christian Men's Prayer Team, together with Dr. Eddie Peasant, Superintendent of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Consolidated School District as the faith-based Kick Off to the School Year on July 25.
- Charlie Weatherly and I represented our church's outreach, as we joined the Ecumenical Prayer Team in greeting and praying for all teachers and other staff of the Consolidated School District at their Convocation at Greensboro Center Thursday morning, August 2 (see photo on Page 1).



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. In July, after further frustrating developments and delays in Turkey's criminal trial of Pastor Andrew, he was – thankfully – finally allowed to leave his crowded prison cell and to go home under house arrest. Please continue to pray for Pastor Andrew, as we await possible further developments prior to the scheduled October resumption of his trial.

As Pastor Lifer and Elder Jack Forbus also reported at the Annual Congregational Meeting on July 22, FPC support will now be providing for the education and equipping of six (yes – 6!) 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. This is a remarkable development through the faithful giving of God's faithful stewards at FPC and, of course, all truly through his grace. All thanks be to Him!







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First Presbyterian Church  
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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)

**Ben Jackson**, Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach    [bdjackson8@gmail.com](mailto:bdjackson8@gmail.com)

**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 Blackburn**, 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)

**Amanda Corley**, Child Care Director    [fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org)

## FPC WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

**This month, we return to our regular Sunday morning schedule that includes two worship services for the Lord's Day (currently still at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.) and Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m.**

## FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we prepare for Rally Day on August 12, we still needed We a few more Children's & Youth Sunday School Teachers for Every-Other Sunday Rotations this Fall Semester.



*TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING to teach Children's or Youth Sunday School this coming fall semester, please speak with Ashleigh Murdock, Pastor Lifer, or Rita in the Church Office,... or contact Ashleigh directly via email at [aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com).*