



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL FEBRUARY 2019

First Presbyterian Church
307 University Drive
Starkville, MS 39759

MORE FPC DISCIPLESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Women in the Word Sunday Class

(led by Nancy Lifer – in Room S-6, main Sanctuary Floor)

hosted a festive Sunday Brunch Fellowship to begin their new study this year of ***Faith: A Bible Study on James for Women***, by Keri Fulmar. Like other Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Groups, the Women in the Word Class meets each Sunday 9:45-10:30 a.m.



FPC's Men's Ministry Group hosted festive and spiritually renewing Men's Retreat February 1-2. *Photo below:* Jay Cook and Jeremy Murdock at the opening dinner of the Men's Retreat early Friday evening, Feb. 1.



VIP* Valentine's Luncheon on February 15

It's time to have some fun! We are having a **VIP* Valentine's luncheon on Friday, February 15th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall**. Bring a photo (or photos) from your wedding. © If you like, you can bring photos of your parents' wedding too. We will have a wonderful lunch and will share our photos and stories of our lives and loves. Please call the church office (662-323-1994) by Monday, Feb. 11, to R.S.V.P. We hope to you can join us!

***VIP** is the acronym for "Very Important Presbyterians" and is our fellowship group all members & friends who have already celebrated their 65th Birthday at some point :0) !



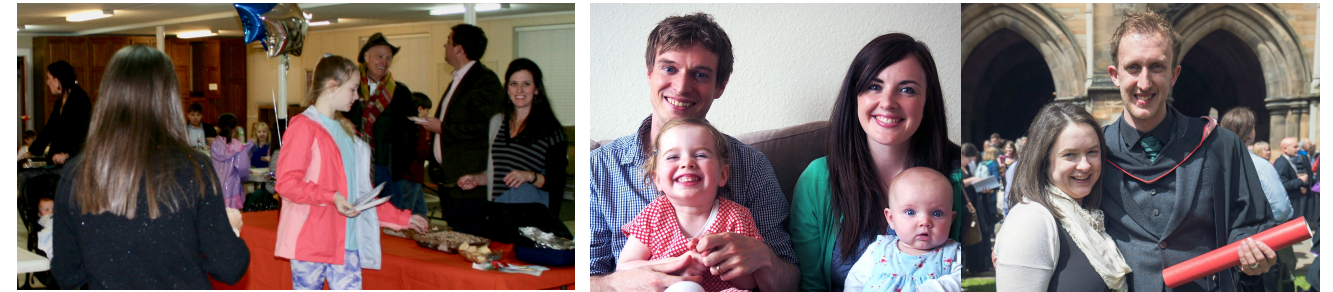
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FPC GETS PERSONAL IN CELEBRATING GOD'S GOOD NEWS: from Bibles Presented at Dedications of Habitat Homes, ...



Dear Church Family and Friends of FPC,
Welcome to February and to the theme not only for our February Lord's Day worship services and sermons but also for all our ministries – **GETTING PERSONAL: GOD'S SAVING LOVE**. We'll focus on the Good News of God's love for us and on how we can be set free to live faithfully in that love for God, for our brothers and sisters in the Church, for our neighbors, and for the world. (Continued on Page 2.)

...to Birthday Celebrations at Friends & Family Wednesday Fellowships, to Partnering with our Missionary Church-Planter Pastors in Haddington and Dundee, Scotland,...



to Baptisms and Parents' Covenant Commitments – We Get Personal Celebrating God's Good

News! *Photo at top right:* I present a Family Bible to Chelsey Jones at the Starkville Habitat for Humanity Dedication of the Jones Family Home on Jan. 25. *Above left:* Laura Rackley and family host a Birthday Celebration for Cal as part of our Friends & Family Fellowship on Jan. 23. *Above photos at middle and right:* Rev. Ali Sewell (pictured with his wife & children) is the Church Planter we support (and will be visiting this fall) in Haddington, and Rev. Andy Robertson (pictured with his wife at his seminary graduation) is the Church Planter we support (and will be visiting this fall) in Dundee. *Photos immediately below:* Celebrating the baptism of Bounds Rackley on Jan. 27. *Photos on final row:* Celebrating the baptisms of Charles William Weiskopf and Esther Hall Downey on Jan. 20.



(Pastor's Letter continued from Page 2.)
In fact, God brings into focus for us every week in our church family, worship, and ministry opportunities the Good News of his love for us and ways we can truly glorify and enjoy Him through actively and personally loving Him, for our brothers and sisters in the Church, our neighbors, and the world.

For instance, on the final Friday of last month (January 25), I was blessed to conclude the morning by joining FPC's Joel Downey, Amanda Henry, Nancy Lifer and other Starkville Habitat for Humanity leaders. In connection with your (FPC's) mission commitment to and partnership with the Habitat Mission, I offered prayers of dedication and presented the gift of a Family Bible to Chelsey Jones and the Jones family -- as we dedicated the Jones Family Home.

After the Habitat Home Dedication, I drove to Selma, Alabama, for the beginning afternoon of our two-day EPC Central South Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting. At that meeting, hosted by my friend Rev. Steve Burton and the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, I was blessed by personal loving fellowship with brothers and sisters from our presbytery and with other brothers in the faith whom I helped welcome -- including Charles Johnson. Charles was a young veteran just back home in 1964 from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army when he became a young leader in the Civil Rights and Voting Rights marches with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma in 1964. Charles is now Head Deacon of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Selma (where MLK preached, and from which he led the Civil Rights efforts in Selma).

A week later, on the first morning kicking off this month (February 1), I was inspired by the first 2019 meeting of FPC's new Strategic Planning Team. Then I was further blessed to close the first day of this month that evening in the brotherly fellowship of so many faithful men in our church family, as we gathered for the opening night of our Winter 2019 FPC Men's Retreat.

I can assure you that God has confirmed to me through all of this that his love and plans are personal and powerful for us. I hope and pray you, in response, will *personally* be part of that story this month!

Your pastor and friend in Christ,
Martin

Church Family News - Continued



In January, while grieving our loss, we more importantly celebrated as well the call of Thelma Gentry to the Church Triumphant.
Thelma Elliott Gentry
August 3, 1929 – January 15, 2019.



Amy Aarhus and family likewise in late January grieved the death of Amy's grandfather, John Lewis Folsom, Sr., while more importantly celebrating his life of faith and his homecoming with the Lord.
Finally, we rejoiced at the close of January for the continued healing



First Presbyterian Church's Outreach & Mission Partnerships

In addition to our many international mission partnerships overseas (including our support of church-planting pastors in India and in Scotland) we get personal in God's love through Local Mission Ministries, (including the FPC Childcare Center and Casserole Kitchen), we get personal through partnering with Local Mission Ministries (including with Starkville Habitat for Humanity, Father's Child Ministries, and Rev. Marcus Richmond & Servanthood Ministries International),...



... we get personal through partnering with Regional and National Mission Ministries (including the Palmer Home for Children and the French Camp Academy), as well as being a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Central South Presbytery (EPC) and all of the EPC's and presbytery's mission outreach and fellowship.



During the Central South Presbytery (EPC) Winter Meeting at the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Selma, AL (January 25-26), Rev. Steve Burton and Rev. James Perkins joined in an ecumenical mission discussion, and Dr. Lifer welcomed and fellowshiped with Deacon Charles Johnson of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church.