



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL SEPTEMBER 2019



Strategic Planning Committee, Board of Elders (Directors), and Many Faithful Stewards and Volunteers Cut the Ribbons and Spearhead a New Era of Vibrant Ministry for FPC.



Now, It's Time to Thank God and Honor What He Has Given to Us Through the Timely Improvements to HIS House on the Hill at 307 University Drive, and Through Calling Our Gifted New Ministry Staff and New Members to FPC This Eventful Year. *Worship, Fellowship, Learn, and Serve* in the Lord's House at FPC, and Join Us Also in Carrying God's Mission to the Community, Campus, and the World.

Then, Look Ahead to an Ultimate Super Sunday to Conclude the Month, as We Host on September 29 Our Annual Reformed Faith and Spiritual Renewal Conference in the Sunday Morning Services, as well as a Sunday Evening Service. Our Distinguished Guest Preacher of God's Word for this Year's Conference Will Be The Rev. Dr. Sean Lucas – Sr. Pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis, as well as the Chancellor's Professor of Church History at Reformed Theological Seminary. Dr. Lucas is the author of a number of excellent books addressing Presbyterian-Reformed faith as well as Major Reformed Theologians in American History – including *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories* and *God's Grand Design: The Theological Vision of Jonathan Edwards*.



Sean and his wife, Sara, have four children: Samuel, Elizabeth, Andrew, and Benjamin. *Sam and Elizabeth are undergraduate students at MSU and have worshiped often at FPC for the past two years.*

FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND YOUTH MINISTRY

August ushered in a new school year of new Sunday School rooms and groups (see photos directly below), and FPC's Children's Ministry Coordinator Ashleigh Murdock, two Co-Directors of Youth Ministry, Kirk Kinard and Reid Roberson, and several volunteers hosted FPC's second annual "Back to School" LOCK-IN, Friday night and Saturday morning, August 16-17. Now, there will be even more enrichment opportunities for FPC Youth and FPC children in September and throughout the fall.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC) WOMEN'S' MINISTRY NEWS

Women's Retreat (August 23-24).

Guest Teacher Rachel Reynolds led Spiritual Renewal Bible Study Friday Night and Saturday Morning on *The Fruit of the Spirit*, and Mande Lewis led the women in a Painting Opportunity focused on the theme of the Fruit of the Spirit.



WOMEN'S' MINISTRY NEWS (continued from Page 3)

FPC Women's Ministry Hosted Its Annual Luncheon and Meeting on August 10.



Monthly Circle Meetings:

- Sunday Morning will meet on 9/08, FPC 8 am, Parlor
- Monday Afternoon – 9/09 @ 1:30 Parlor
- Monday Night – 9/23 - @ 7 pm – Amy Weiskopf's home: 1305 Nottingham Rd
- Tuesday Night – 9/10 @ 6:00pm – Vivian Cade's home 104 Walden Way

September Mission – FPC/CCO University Ministry, Ben Jackson

September Bible Study Session – Introduction to STUCK by Jennie Allen

Special Event this Month: *Sip N See* (hosted for church family) Sunday, September 15, 10:30-10:50 a.m.

**CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS, WOMEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP NEWS – LOOKING AHEAD THIS MONTH:
THE *SIP & SEE* FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY BRUNCH, 10:30-10:50 A.M. ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.**



FPC FELLOWSHIP NEWS

PARTICIPANTS FOR FPC'S ANNUAL *TAILGATE & TEAM COLORS SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH* ON AUGUST 25 DECORATED FELLOWSHIP HALL WITH LIVELY DISPLAYS, AND THE CROWD FILLED THE HALL, WITH OVERFLOW SEATING NEEDED IN THE OUTDOOR PICNIC TABLES.



NOW, THIS MONTH — ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 22, JOIN US AT ROBINSON LAKE FOR OUR ANNUAL ***FISH FRY DINNER AND BLUEGRASS GOSPEL MUSIC FELLOWSHIP***



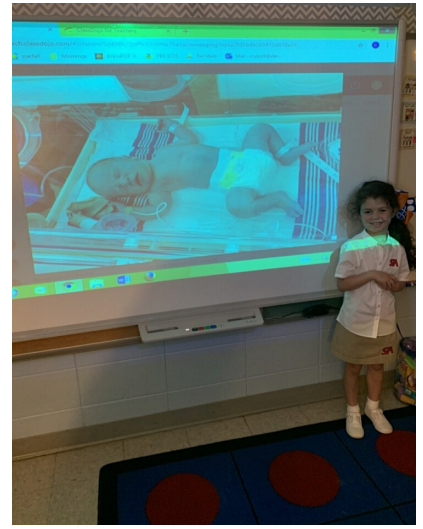
VIPs (Senior Adults)

FPC's VIPs, led by Amy Aarhus & Peggy Branch, hosted their 2d Annual **Back-to-School Pizza Party & Games Night Fellowship with Children, Youth, and Families on Wednesday, August 28.**



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

On August 4, we celebrated a Diapers & Wipes Shower for Emily and Lane Simmons and their children (see photo below at left) – as the family looked ahead to the imminent birth of Harrison Lane Simmons. On August 16, Emily gave birth to Lane's and her third child and first son, **Harrison Lane Simmons** (see photo the middle below). On that same day in her classroom, Lane's big sister Ava was able to show a photo of her just-newborn brother to her class (see photo below, at right). The previous week, we gave thanks as well for the birth of **James Wellington (Wells) Beaty**, born to Rev. Cameron and Emily Beaty on Friday, August 9, in Dallas.



FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY



"I was so encouraged they wanted to adopt me that I cried," said a CCO student, celebrating with me news of our first adoption in our prayer-doused Adopt a Dawg program launch. Shortly after a church-wide invitation, several FPC congregants have stepped forward offering to mentor and/or adopt one or more MSU grad or undergrad students for the duration of their degree. It's so exciting to see God putting these relationships in place at just the right time! One willing couple shared how they are still in touch with students they opened their home to over 20 years ago, noting how mutually enriching and life-giving such relationships can be.

As we invite students into a ministry of multiplication to bring others to Jesus (and Jesus to others), we have the privilege and joy of fostering and training a core team of leaders -- our first leadership retreat was so sweet, kindly hosted by Robert and Debbie Cooper.

We excitedly look forward to new and continuing Bible studies on campus and at FPC, several of which begin after Labor Day. We also look to our follow-up student welcome event, CCO Welcome Cookout at Robinson Lake on Sunday, September 8th, 4-7pm. Note also our CCEF Conference on Anxiety, October 11-13 in Birmingham (students and non-students welcome).

Please pray for:

- Salvation and thriving for new students we have had the privilege of meeting, both through referrals and spiritual-interest surveys -- we are in need of more laborers in following up with them and inviting them to fellowship with Christ and his church both on and off campus.
- The thriving of three new adoptions and mentorships at FPC. Would you also consider adoption/mentorship?
- Allison's long, difficult and limiting recovery from left ankle surgery.
- Thanksgiving and prayer for new student contacts, including: Hardy Dale Verner, Will Larsen, Robert Kolbila, Lamisi Mahami, Molly Lambert, William Quinlen, Garrett Monroe, Gage Allen, Madison Scott, Tonia Brown, Kyla Hooks, Sarah Hobbs, Tanner Thurman, Mattie Mason, Stephen Martin, Jonathan Duarte, Annie Wepfer, Daniel Martinez.

Thank you for:

- Your prompt and generous response to our appeal for student scholarships to the CCEF conference!
- Praying for God to foster deeper relationships in FPC through Adopt a Dawg and Mentor A Dawg.
- Your quick support for the Jacksons as we weather Allison's second ankle surgery this year.

If you would like to give particularly to my personal ministry through the CCO, visit: ccojubilee.org/benjackson



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Rev. Joe Nasvytis, Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries jwnasvytis@yahoo.com

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

Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director aarhus@bellsouth.net

Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator aabmurdock@gmail.com

Kirk Kinard, Co-Director of Youth Ministry kirkkinard@gmail.com

Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Co-Director of Youth Ministry reidrob97@gmail.com

Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

Rita Usher, Pastoral Administrative Assistant office@fpcstarkville.org



FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS (continued from Page 7)



FPC Mission Leaders Break Ground to Lead Starkville Habitat for Humanity!

FPC's Nancy Lifer - President of Starkville Habitat for Humanity -(above, at left) and **Deacon Joel Downey - Starkville Habitat for Humanity Executive Director** (above photo, at far right) join **MSU President Mark Keenum** and New Homeowner-to-be **Keyana Triplett** and family members for the Groundbreaking on Tuesday, August 13, of the 11th Maroon Edition Habitat Home.