



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL OCTOBER 2019



## ***The Point Is to Point Upward!***

The Westminster **Larger Catechism** begins a great summary Biblical Truth Scriptural by focusing us on the *main thing* for us: man's "chief end" (primary goal & purpose) is to **glorify God and fully to enjoy Him forever**. So the point of life is to point upwards.

God certainly inspired us to point upward throughout a super September of worship, fellowship, study, and mission This **Happenings on the Hill** records some our those September highlights – including the September 15 *Sip 'n See Sunday Presentation & Brunch*, the September 22 *Fish Fry Dinner and Bluegrass Gospel Fellowship* at Robinson Lake, and the 4<sup>th</sup> *Annual Reformed Faith & Spiritual Renewal Conference* on September 29 (featuring powerful sermons from Dr. Sean Michael Lucas).



Sisters in our wonderful church family reminded me during a special September that the point is to *Point Upward*: from Cattie Taylor, with whom we celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday on September 27 (see photo above, at left), and some of the youngest daughters in FPC – Esther Downey at the September 22 Fish Fry Fellowship (photo below, at right), as well as Abigail and Elizabeth Ella Fountain – with father and mother, Andrew and Elizabeth Fountain (photo above, at center);... to young girls (and boys) in our church who so joyfully bound up the hill and front steps on the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights (see Madeline Rackley and many friends in the photo below, at left) and Amy Weiskopf (with Charles) and Virginia Coleman, as well as Pastor Joe Nasytis (photo below, at right).

In addition, this **Happenings on the Hill** looks ahead to an **October of Outreach**, in which the point definitely is to *Point Upward*: to glorify God in his Kingdom Mission. That goal clearly applies to our major October Outreach activities, including:

- The **FIRSTConnect Lunch** Nancy Lifer, Jeremy Murdock, and our ministry staff and membership teams are hosting on October 6 for a group of current visitors and new FPC members, as we invite them to grow Christian faith and discipleship through becoming members of our church family.
- FPC's ongoing sponsorship of two new churches of the Free Church of Scotland (the Haddington Community Church and the Charleston Church Plant in Dundee) AND the mission visit this month by the Outreach Mission Team that will be on the ground in Scotland this month to work with those new churches [continued on Page 2]



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and their pastors, Rev. Ali Sewell (in Haddington Community Church) and Rev. Andy Robertson (in the housing-project district of the inner city of Dundee known as the “Charleston Scheme”), as well as participating in the annual meeting in England and Scotland of the UK Partnership (the joint mission in which FPC is a partner, which is seeking to revitalize Christian faith and outreach to the predominantly non-Christian people of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century United Kingdom. [I invite you to read and respond to Ali’s Prayer Letter printed below.]

- FPC’s annual Reformation Sunday celebration on the morning of October 27, coupled with our annual Harvest Festival Fellowship that afternoon and evening.

So this month, I encourage to join in supporting the Lord’s Outreach through FPC, and to *Point Upward!*

Your pastor and friend in Christ,

*Martin Lifer*

In my initial mission groundwork trip to Scotland this spring – staying with our friend Rev. David Meredith, Mission Director of the Free Church of Scotland – the dramatic statue of John Knox next door to David’s offices in Edinburgh also reminded me that the point is to Point Upward! See the photo below right, as well as photos below right from a worship service we shared with the Haddington Church on April 28.

## SEWELLS’ PRAYER LETTER

Sunday 1st September we celebrated one year since the launch of Haddington Community Church - our 1st birthday! It was a great celebration and a busy service with a baptism and 18 people coming into membership in the church. We also continued looking through Mark’s gospel at Jesus’ call to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. It was great to be able to celebrate while also encouraging one another to continue the often challenging life of being a disciple of Jesus.



Our goal this year is that we would continue to become more involved in the community, and that each one of us would deepen relationships with people outside the church, that in time God might use those to allow us to share Jesus as the reason for the hope that we have. It’s humbling after what can seem like a busy service with plenty of people coming to the church to drive home and realise that there are thousands of people in Haddington who don’t know about Jesus and probably don’t even know we exist as a church. Lots of work still to do!

Family-wise, Emily has really enjoyed starting school and has settled in really well. Louisa is still 2 and a half and making her opinions know!



### Specific ways to pray for us:

1. Teenagers: We’re involved in a new SU group at Knox Academy High school beginning on 18th September. Please give thanks for this great opportunity and pray that young people from our church and others, as well as their friends might come along. Please also pray for an after church group we’re starting for S1-3, that they’d feel really connected to the church, and that they’d be able to see the bible’s wisdom on issues relevant for them.
2. A potential office space/community hub has become available for rent in the town centre. It’s an ideal location, although a serious financial commitment. Please pray for wisdom as to whether this is the right thing at this time, and if it is that things might progress smoothly.
3. Give thanks for God’s faithfulness throughout our first year at as a church. Please pray that he would continue to protect us as a church and keep us united as his people, and that this gospel unity and love for one another would itself commend the gospel to those around us, that they too might want to hear more about what we believe and in time would come to know Jesus for themselves.



Thanks again for your prayers, if you’d like to know any more please to get in touch,

Ali, Julie, Emily, and Louisa.



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

## FPC WOMEN'S MINISTRY HOSTED ITS ANNUAL *SIP & SEE* FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

The Women's Ministry and Pastor Martin Lifer gave thanks to God for – and introduced to the Congregation: Elizabeth Ella Fountain, Abigail Fountain, daughters of Andrew & Elizabeth Fountain; Sadie Grace Massingill, daughter of Allen & Alex Massingill; and Harrison Lane Simmons, son of Lane & Emily Simmons.



## FPC WOMEN'S MINISTRY SIP & SEE FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY BRUNCH *(photos continued from Page 3)*



## ADDITIONAL CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

On September 8 – a week prior to the Sip n' See Sunday Brunch and Presentation of FPC babies born in 2019 – our church family celebrated a Diapers & Wipes Shower for Anne Marie and Thomas Gregory [see photo below, at left]. The birth of Thomas and Anne Marie's first child, a son, is expected early this month.

On Thursday evening, September 12, the Lord called longtime FPC member Charles Atkinson home to the Church Triumphant. Sunday afternoon, September 15, FPC hosted a Service in Celebration of the Resurrection through Jesus Christ and in Thanksgiving for the life and faith of Charles Atkinson. Following the primary service at FPC and the graveside service at Odd Fellows Cemetery, FPC's Women's Ministry and Pastor Lifer hosted our beloved Roxene Atkinson and her family for a Sunday evening dinner in the Fellowship Hall. [See the photo below, at right, of Roxene and her granddaughters, Maggie and Hannah.]



## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

FELLOWSHIP TEAM HOSTS FPC'S ANNUAL **FISH FRY DINNER AND BLUEGRASS GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP AT ROBINSON LAKE ON SEPTEMBER 22, AND PLANS FOR ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENT ON OCTOBER 27.**

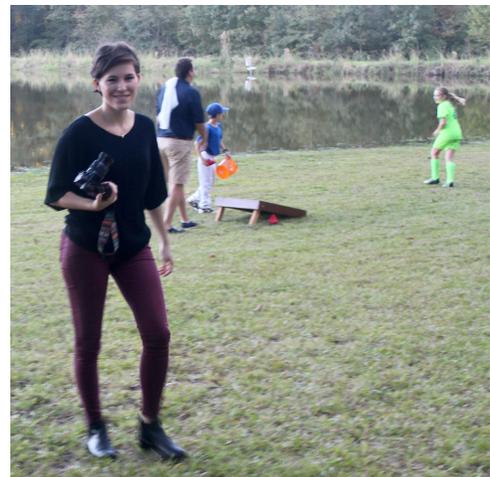


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**JOIN US AT ROBINSON LAKE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 27,  
FOR FPC'S ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL!**



**WEDNESDAY FRIENDS & FAMILY FELLOWSHIP DINNERS AND ENRICHING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, YOUTH MINISTRY, AND ADULT DISCIPLESHIP STUDIES, AS WELL AS CHILDREN'S & ADULT CHOIRS.**



*Photo at left: Joe Nasvytis, FPC's Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries, introduces the Wednesday night Adult Discipleship Bible Study for this fall semester: **Emotionally** **Healthy** **Spirituality.***

**SUNDAYS AT FPC! BEGIN YOUR WEEK IN THE WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WE SHARE IN CHRIST'S FAMILY AND MISSION AT FPC STARKVILLE.**



**FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS (continued from Page 2)**

In one of FPC's core and longstanding local mission commitments, we were blessed to provide to Starkville Habitat for Humanity another substantial mission gift (a second \$10,000 gift in 2019) to support the annual Apostles' House to be built for a family in need. *In the photos below, Pastor Lifer presents the check to Habitat Board President Nancy Lifer and to Habitat's Executive Director (and FPC Deacon) Joel Downey on September 29.*





# 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](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)

**Rev. Joe Nasvytis, Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries** [jwnasvytis@yahoo.com](mailto:jwnasvytis@yahoo.com)

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

**Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director** [aarhus@bellsouth.net](mailto:aarhus@bellsouth.net)

**Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator** [aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com)

**Kirk Kinard, Co-Director of Youth Ministry** [kirkkinard@gmail.com](mailto:kirkkinard@gmail.com)

**Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Co-Director of Youth Ministry** [reidrob97@gmail.com](mailto:reidrob97@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist** [jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com)

**Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director** [katherinemcgill@hotmail.com](mailto:katherinemcgill@hotmail.com)

**Rita Usher, Pastoral Administrative Assistant** [office@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:office@fpcstarkville.org)



***Worship God and Grow in Faith Each Sunday at FPC, and Remember to Make Plans to Be with Us for Our Annual Harvest Festival Celebration at Robinson Lake on Sunday Afternoon, October 27.***

