



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



August 2017

WIC NEWS

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus."
1 Corinthians 1:4

The summer season is nearly finished, school will begin very soon. It is our prayer that you had opportunities to work, play, rest, and pray, all of which will bear fruit for God's glory. Our Tea Tasting and recipe collection on July 15th was a great success! Thank you ladies for your hard work and fellowship shared. We need only one hundred more recipes before we begin to edit and prepare the book for publishing. ALL entries must be in by August 10th. We are all in for a wonderful treat. These cookbooks will make beautiful gifts and Christmas presents. There will be many recipes in the book from precious ladies who are now in heaven, much prized and enjoyed by all of us over the years. You will want a copy for yourself too.

August 2 is Family Night Supper, giving us an opportunity to enhance the Women in the Church Grace Gift for 2017. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg will be the recipient of this year's gift. RUF will use the funds for campus outreach. The Campus Minister, Ben Shaw, will visit us and present the needs of RUF during dinner. Please pray and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He leads us all in giving this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity and prayers for our college students!

The next WIC meeting will be August 27, 2017, at 4:30 pm. We have a very full agenda. Prayer will begin at 4:15 pm for those who wish to join together prior to the meeting. The forms for our yearly WIC book are ready. Please pick one up from the church office or foyer. They must be returned before August 27, 2017.

Covered Dish Supper: August 2 Traci Smith & Sue Lee

Nursery: 6 - Richard & Betsy Batton; 13 - Tim & Amy Blair; 20 - Keith & Julie Kent; 27 - Todd & JoAnne Davis

Flowers: 6 - Julie Kent; 13 - Ruth McGuire; 20 - Laura Westmoreland; 27 - Sharon Lee

Happy Birthday to Danielle Fielder, Jada Gilliam, Dianne Ham, Linda Milner, Bo Lohman, Jo Reed, Beth Dickson, Becky Smith, Remley Gorsuch, Jean Eady, Ginger Bass, Sandra Thaxton, Faith Bowman, Hayden Kent, Jimmy Little, Ken Newsome, John Batton.

Happy Anniversary to Daniel and Shelley Curtis.

Missions Minute

Our regular donation of \$1250 went to MTW for Clay Quarterman. In addition, we sent \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch. We gave \$300 to help pay travel expenses for Ben and Maria Hardy on their mission trip to West Virginia. We also gave Dr. Bob Warren \$300 for his mission trip to Nicaragua. In addition, we gave MNA \$750 for Ashley Belknap, of which \$486.86 came from the children attending VBS. Don't forget our Missions Conference will be September 23-24, with guest preacher Elias Medeiros.

Youth News

August is a month that I think gets over-looked. It is the month that everyone, especially the youth, have been looking forward to all summer: back to school! I say that sarcastically. I remember wishing that summer could be just a little bit longer, but I think August can teach us a thing or two. Our attitude towards August and going back to school can help shed a light onto an important lesson about the Christian life. To borrow from the apostle Paul, as Christians we have “put off” our old self and old lifestyles, and “put on” Christ and his character. In his letters, Paul often tells Christians not to go back to the old self or the old patterns and passions of our previous life when we were lost in Adam, but as we are being sanctified by the Holy Spirit, to pursue the fruit of the Spirit in our new life in Christ. What I am getting at is this: what if we could apply the same attitude of, “I don’t want to go back to school, I’ve been enjoying summer so much,” to our Christian walk? What if we could say, “I don’t want to go back to those previous worldly desires and passions, because I have tasted and seen how good it is to trust and obey Christ”? As all analogies, I know this one can only go so far, but I think August can teach us something. As we reflect and remember the great desire to not go back to school, let us harness a greater desire to not go back to the sin we have been freed from by the blood of Christ.

Switching gears, to also help with the back to school blues, we will be having a bowling night in August. I’ll be in contact with the youth for further details. And we will be continuing our study on Wednesday nights, *How to Grow in Christ*.

- Grant Gilliam

Financial Report

Our year-to-date income has been \$113,280.21, while our expenses have been \$140,669.02. Our current balance for the general fund is \$14,536.69. We also underwent an audit in June and received a good report. Praise the Lord for how he has provided for our expenses and please pray that he would continue to do so.

Jim’s Gems

Our calendars tell us that each year is divided into four seasons of roughly the same number of days. Maybe so, but I’m skeptical. While I can’t prove it, I am convinced that the summer season is by far the shortest of them all. Of course this is perception, some of which is caused by the time when one school year ends and another begins. For many people summer ends when school starts. In any case, here we are, looking at the summer of 2017 in the rear-view mirror and gearing up for fall (even though it will still feel like summer until October). It’s a reminder that “He changes times and seasons” (Daniel 2:21).

The approaching end of summer also is a reminder of the changes in our church activities. After a very busy June things slowed down a bit in our church activities, but will be picking up again in September. The new Sunday School year will begin, including the return of adults to their regular classes. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, our annual World Missions Conference will take place in late September (mark the dates!). So it’s time for many of us to adjust our schedules. As you do, be reminded that each of us needs to be involved in the life of the Christ’s Church—to worship, grow, and serve for God’s glory.

Finally, allow me to express our deep gratitude for your thinking of us during the Pastor Appreciation evening recently. The generous gift and expressions of love mean so much to us. We consider ourselves highly favored by the Lord to be serving you at FPC Crystal Springs!

Website

A new church website is currently under construction. Be on the lookout for updates!