



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



September 2017

WIC NEWS

"I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!"
Psalm 145:1-3

Wow! September is here, and the Women's Ministry is preparing this upcoming year's WIC Yearbook. Ladies of FPC, if you have not yet turned in your WIC form, please do so now. Copies of the 2017-2018 book will be ready for pick up by October 1, 2017. Thank you for your input and your faithfulness. Recipes are still coming in; please share yours. We have several monthly activities planned to enhance the quality of our cookbook. Please pray for success, and the Lord to be glorified in this project. Also don't forget! Brandon Davis and Jessica Pitts's wedding shower will be held September 09 in the fellowship hall. Registry info can be obtained from JoAnne Davis.

Covered Dish Supper: September 6 Dianne Ham/JoAnne Davis

Nursery: 3 - Allyn & Resie Taylor, 10 - Nancy Belknap/Stacey Lee, 17 - Beth Dickson/Sue Lee, 24 - Dianne Ham/Becky Smith

Flowers: 3 - Fran Cockroft, 10 - Traci Smith, 17 - Gwen Gallman, 24 - Dianne Ham

Happy Birthday to JoAnne Davis, Brandi Barwick, Juanita Brooks, Shannon Armstrong, Linda Whittington, Tim Blair, Ben Hardy, Bob Lee, Cole Neely, Bill Smith, Justin Davis

Happy Anniversary to Ken & Stephanie Newsome, Robbie & Janie Taylor

Youth News

Recently, through several different occasions, I have been directed to one of my favorite devotional sources there is: *The Valley of Vision*. I would like to share a part of the beginning prayer that is profound: "Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision." So much of the Christian life is learning that we are actually strongest in our weakness. Because in our weakness, we are dependent on our mighty, Triune God. We see that being in the kingdom of God is, in a sense, upside down to our worldly rationale. The one who is repenting, broken hearted, humble, who has nothing, bearing a cross, giving all, and in the valley, is the one who is pleasing to the Lord. What an encouragement for us to boast and be confident in our Savior and not ourselves! He is our help, and we have all we need and could even want in Jesus!

Fall 2017 holds some exciting ventures for the youth. For Sunday School, we will be studying the book *Rebels Rescued* which is an overview of reformed theology for students. On Wednesdays, once we finish the workbook, *How to Grow in Christ*, we will begin a study on 1 Peter. Be in touch in with me for some fellowship activities going on in September! Would you please pray for me and the youth ministry, that the Lord would continue to be with us and bless our time?

- Grant Gilliam

Missions Minute

Our monthly gift of \$1,250 went to the Grace Presbytery Benevolent Fund and \$200 to MNA for Anthony Gorsuch. The Mission Committee has been finalizing the arrangements for the MISSION CONFERENCE, which will be September 23 and 24. Please be praying for this and arranging your schedules so you can attend. There will be some very interesting speakers you will enjoy. There will also be a prayer vigil on Saturday, September 16. Please sign up for a 30 minute slot. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Missions Conference Schedule

Guest Speaker: Dr. Elias Medeiros, Harriet Barbour Professor of Missions
at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS

Saturday, September 16: Prayer Vigil, 6:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 23:

6:00 P.M. World-Class Supper (foreign dish)

7:00 P.M. Worship - Mission Report, Rev. Carey Hammett, Lagniappe Presbyterian Church, Bay St. Louis, MS
Message from Dr. Elias Medeiros

Sunday, September 24:

9:45 A.M. Mission Report, Rev. Tom Dickson, French Camp Academy

11:00 A.M. Worship - message from Dr. Medeiros

12:00 Noon Lunch in Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Worship - Mission Report, Mrs. Ronda Eady, Mississippi Job Corps
Message from Dr. Medeiros

New Member

Landon Kent has joined our church by profession of faith.
Landon is the son of Keith and Julie Kent and is currently a student at Co-Lin.

Deacon Nominations

Deacon Nominations will be accepted this month. Forms are in the Sanctuary foyer. Please turn them in to the office.

Jim's Gems

Chuck and Sharon Betters live in Delaware, where he is a PCA pastor. About a decade ago their sixteen-year old son left the Betters' home to drive his girlfriend to her house. They never made it there. There was a car crash and both teens were killed. Chuck and Sharon, both of whom love Christ deeply, have shared their story of their initial reactions and the remarkable lessons of grace they have been learning since that awful day. At the hospital, when they learned that both children were dead, Sharon turned to Chuck and beat on his chest. A few mornings later Chuck went for an early Sunday walk. He yelled out his rage to God and said he would not go to church that day. Sharon later said this was his way of beating on God's chest. Then the Lord moved Chuck to look at the house that was beside him, and pray for the people in that house (he knew who lived there). This was repeated as he continued down the street, praying for the neighbors who lived in those homes. By the time he arrived at his house, he was a changed man. The Lord heard Chuck's grief and rage, yet He did not ignore Him as if he had lost his faith.

Not all of us have experienced this kind of sudden and heart-rending loss, but some of us have. And some of us may experience some sort of terrible loss in the future. That's why we need to remember that both the sovereignty and the love of God go together. Chuck and Sharon have an audio CD interview in which they explain how the Lord upheld them, comforted them, taught them, and now uses them to help others. Their son was a professing Christian. Two separate witnesses who were at the scene of the accident told Chuck and Sharon that they found the son seated behind the wheel, hands across his lap, and a smile on his face. What could possibly explain that? The parents are both convinced that their son saw Jesus as he was dying. They mentioned Jesus' words in John 14 where we are told that Jesus will prepare a place for us, after which He will come and take us to himself.

Chuck and Sharon Betters' story may not be our story, but their God is our God, and He loves us far more than we can imagine. That love will lead Him to activate His plan for our lives, a plan that will seem to make no sense at times, but nonetheless it will produce rich benefits if we cling in faith to Christ, who endured infinitely greater sufferings on our behalf.

And by the way, I have the CD interview of the Betters' story if you wish to borrow it.

Projects

We are currently working on three projects that have been planned and will soon become reality:

1. Front handicapped ramp
2. New sound and recording system for sanctuary
3. New website

New Sunday School Year

A new Sunday School quarter will start September 3.
Adults will meet in their regular classes.

Visitors

The welcome team will deliver baskets. Contact Martha Mathews if you are interested in helping.