



# FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church  
Crystal Springs, MS



## May 2018

### WIC NEWS

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2

Thank you for your response turning in your recipes!! We still need about sixty, so get them turned in as soon as possible. The committee is preparing a great activity very soon so that a finished book will be ready to print. The Women in the Church will be hosting baby showers over the next several weeks. Please check the bulletin boards and Sunday church bulletins for invitations with time, date and locations. On Wednesday May 2, 2018, Marna Walker and her guest will be visiting us during our Family Night Supper. They will discuss an opportunity for us to participate in a nursing home visitation project. Please come, bring your best dishes to enjoy, and show them the love of God and the hospitality we so enjoy sharing.

The next meeting of the Women in the Church is May 27, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Covered Dish Supper: May 2, Nancy Belknap/Waudean Jackson

Sanctuary Flowers: 6 Sharon Lee, 13 Jessica Davis, 20 WIC, 27 Tommie Barnhart

Nursery Schedule: 6 Stacey Lee/Jada Gilliam, 13 Richard & Betsy Batton, 20 Todd & JoAnne Davis, 27 Tommie Barnhart/Sue Lee

Happy Birthday to Renee Brister, Sue Lee, Estelle Stegall, Waudean Jackson, Jessica Davis, Hilda McGuire, Kenny Bowman, Brandon Davis, Danny Fielder, Keith Hood, Landon Kent, Bill Lee, Jim Shull, Tiffany Taylor, and Anthony Gorsuch

Happy Anniversary to Ben and Caitlin Ratliff

“May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way.”  
1 Thessalonians 3:16

### Youth News

As May comes around, I want to acknowledge our two graduates from the youth group this year: Jeb Blair and Branden Posey. Please be in prayer for these young men that the Lord would draw them to Himself and bless them with wisdom in transition to college and life on their own. Also, with summer right around the corner, we have Ridge Haven Summer camp coming up June 4-9. Please let me know if you have someone in mind who would like to come!

In Christ,  
Grant Gilliam

## **Congratulations Graduates!**

The month of May is the time for graduation for most high schools and colleges. In our church, Jeb Blair will be graduating from Terry High School on May 29 and Branden Posey will be graduating from Copiah Academy on May 11. Congratulations, Jeb and Branden!

## **Missions Minute**

In April, our regular \$1250 giving went to Mission to the World for Derek Ebbers. We also gave \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch and \$500 to Tag Kids' Club to help equip kids to share their Christian faith.

## **Jim's Gems**

Here is an important subject that is rarely considered even by church-going folks, especially younger adults: How should people decide what church they should join (not just attend)? On occasion, most of us have to make those kinds of decisions. It could be when we are young adults and just starting out on our own, or it could be when we are older, and circumstances require us to look for a new church (such as when we move to another town). What criteria should we use to help us determine where we should go to join a church family?

One thing we should not do in making such a decision is to be led by more superficial things: how many people are attending, how "exciting" the church is, how we feel about the "experience" of being there, whether friends or family go there, etc. Yet I sense that this is usually what people think about in this case. Let me suggest a few other, more important questions to ask when considering a church:

First, What does this church believe? There should be a statement of faith of some sort that clearly explains the church's basic convictions. Are such beliefs solidly based on clear biblical teaching? Are there any obvious deviations from historic Christian beliefs? Often you can find the answer to these things by consulting the church's website or by reading printed, official publications. Warning: Do not just ask a church member what the church believes! They might be correct and they might not.

Second, What are the church's priorities? Often you can find the answer to this by the actions of the church as much as any formal statement. Are their actual priorities the same as those of the Bible? For example, is the church committed to helping fulfill the Great Commission of the Church that Christ gave (Matthew 28:16-20)? Or does the church seem to be overly focused on merely maintaining its own existence?

Third, How do the members treat others? Is love evident? Are the people gracious, welcoming, humble, servant-like? How do they treat newcomers?

These are just a few things to consider, but I believe it is so important for our spiritual well-being and God's glory. So many churches are letting the world dictate to them what kind of church to be rather than God's word. We can be too easily persuaded if we are not careful and do our homework. This can be most clearly seen in the way people worship. Is there reverence and a humble spirit? Is the word of God predominant in worship? Think on these things.

## **Memorial Day Cookout**

You are invited to a Memorial Day cook out on May 28 at Danny and Sheila Fielder's home. We will eat between 4-4:30. Meat will be provided, please bring a side or dessert to share.

## **Upcoming Summer Activities**

- Youth trip to Ridge Haven Camp, North Carolina June 4-9
- General Assembly in Atlanta, GA June 12-15
- Vacation Bible School June 25-29