



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



July 2018

WIC NEWS

“Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ”
Ephesians 5:15

Due to the July 4 holiday, the Covered Dish Supper will be cancelled for July. We would like to remind everyone that Susan Lee's baby shower will be held on July 7 at Nancy Belknap's house at 1:00 P.M. There will be a quarterly luncheon on July 15 immediately following the worship service. The next meeting of the Women's Ministry will be July 22, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Sanctuary Flowers: 1 Jean Eady, 8 Sue Lee, 15 Traci Smith, 22 Dianne Ham, 29 WIC

Nursery Schedule: 1 Dianne Ham/Becky Smith, 8 Sue Lee/Stacey Lee, 15 Beth Shull/Mary Posey, 22 Chris & Susan Lee, 29 Allyn & Resie Taylor

Happy Birthday to Robbie Bowman, Julie Kent, Sharon Berch, Jack Brister, Daniel Curtis, Lewis Posey, and Ben Ratliff.

Happy Anniversary to Grant & Jada Gilliam, Cole & Amanda Neely, Chris & Susan Lee, and Richard & Betsy Batton.

Youth News

June was a busy but richly-blessed month. From Ridge Haven to VBS, the Lord has been faithful to our church in working in the hearts of the youth and children of our church. Thank you, everyone, for your prayers and encouragement. Next, in July, be on the lookout for a flamingo forecast! ;)

In Christ, Grant Gilliam

Missions Minute

In June, our regular \$1250 giving went to David Thomae with Mission to the World and \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch. We also gave our quarterly gift of \$75 to Palmer Home for Children.

Quarterly Luncheon

Our Quarterly Luncheon will be July 15 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service. Please bring a salad, sandwich, or dessert to share.

July 4th Holiday

The church office will be closed July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday. There will be no Wednesday night activities that evening.

Jim's Gems

Two hundred and forty-two. As of this July 4, 2018, that's how long the United States of America has been a nation. Although we can take this long life of our nation for granted, we should remember that very few nations or kingdoms have lasted that long during the course of history. We have many reasons to be thankful for God's merciful providence to our nation, both in its beginning and in its life through these nearly two and a half centuries.

But - here we are living as followers of Jesus Christ in 2018 in the USA. Clearly, much has changed in our country since it's founding. Many changes have been wonderful, such as advancements in science, medicine and technology. Spiritually, however, it's a different story. Many Christians bemoan the downward slide America has taken, and for good reason.

So how should we then live (to borrow a phrase from Francis Schaefer) when Christianity is increasingly being ridiculed, misrepresented and preferably silenced by many today?

Keep in mind the wrong ways to live in our country as believers. We are not to retreat and be silent. We are not to complain and hopelessly live as if all is lost. We are not even called to turn America into a "Christian Nation." Instead, we are to faithfully follow God's Word and cling to His promises. We must obediently do what God has taught us: glorifying Him in all of life, loving Him and others, exhibiting His truth and grace in a needy land, repenting of our sins (not just pointing out the sins of others), and demonstrating the transforming power of the gospel to our fellow citizens.

We must not lose sight of the fact that as much as we may love our country and are thankful to live in it, America is NOT the most important country for us. We are citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20 and Hebrews 11:10, 16). We belong to a kingdom that is unshakable and eternal (Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 11:14). Practically speaking, this means we should make sure we don't become so concerned about America that we fail to remember we belong to an even more wonderful country, one that will be perfect and will last forever. In the meantime we pray for the United States, we seek to be salt and light in our spheres of influence, and we seek to reach and disciple as many as we can to exercise their dual citizenship - citizens of a temporary nation on earth, but far more importantly, citizens of the everlasting kingdom of God in heaven.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to the following for helping us have a great Bible School:

- Madelyn Grace Moore
- Grace Kitchens
- Olivia Wilson
- Sue Lee
- Susan Lee
- Beth Dickson
- Jim Shull
- Grant Gilliam
- Shelley Curtis
- Daniel Curtis
- Sara Claire Armstrong
- Beverly Hood
- Mary Posey
- Riley Furr
- Katie Ashlyn Jones
- Nancy Belknap
- Danny Fielder
- Caitlin Ratliff
- Waudean Jackson