



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



September 2018

WIC NEWS

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! That your beloved ones may be delivered; give salvation by your right hand and answer me! With God we shall do valiantly; it is HE who treads down our foes.”

Psalm 108:5-6, 13

Congratulations to the Lee Family! Children are a precious gift from God, we are pleased to pray for their daughter and the family as they grow in love together.

Please turn in the WIC information sheets so the new yearly WIC book can be completed.

Family Night Supper : Dianne Ham/Jada Gilliam

Sanctuary Flowers: 2 Fran Cockroft, 9 Traci Smith, 16 Gwen Gallman, 23 Missions Committee, 30 Diane Ham

Nursery Schedule: 2 Allyn and Resie Taylor, 9 Nancy Belnap,/Waudean Jackson, 23 Dianne Ham/Becky Smith, 30 Traci Smith/Mary Posey

Happy Birthday to : JoAnne Davis, Brandi Warwick, Juanita Brooks, Shannon Armstrong, Linda Whittington, Tim Blair, Bob Lee, Cole Neely, Justin Davis

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

The next meeting of the Women’s Ministry will be October 28, 2018.

Youth News

The Newsletter update brings some bittersweet news with our youth group. We are thankful to God that they are continuing their life’s journey to go to college, but will miss seeing them as much as we have. Nonetheless, we can still be the Church to them. With some of the members of our youth group not only starting back at school , but also transitioning to a new chapter in their lives in college, would you please join me in prayer for them?

Also I am excited for this Fall. For one, we will be continuing our study through the book on Essential Christian Beliefs in Sunday School and I will be tag-teaming Wednesday Nights with Pastor Shull through the book of Malachi. Additionally, I am seeking to start a Young Adult Fellowship Group where we get together on Monday nights around 6:30 to reflect on the sermon from Sunday at the little manse. We will aim to start on September 17th. Please let me know if you are interested and remember “young” is a broad category. In other words many are welcome!

Missions Minute

In August our regular \$1,250 went to Grace Presbytery Benevolent Fund. Also \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch. The Missions Conference is approaching quickly. It is on September 22 and 23. Please be in Prayer that it will be well attended and a blessing for all of us as we see how the Lord is working. Reverend Larry Mills will be preaching during the services. Also giving reports on their Missions will be ; Clay Quarterman from MTW, Chaplin Don Malin, and Dr. Sal Pelicano from Beginning again In Christ. Please be in prayer for these men as they prepare for the conference.

Welcome to God's World!

August was baby boom time for area Presbyterians. Caitlin and Ben Ratliff [First Presbyterian , Hazlehurst] are now parents of Eliza Joy, who was born August 2nd. As most of you know Caitlin is our office manager. Sutton Darryl Neely was born August 8 to Cole and Amanda Davis Neely. And on August 23rd Sharon Laura Lee came into the world to her parents, Chris and Susan Lee. We rejoice in God's gifts of these covenant children to their parents! Keep each family in your prayers.

Missions Conference Schedule

Saturday, September 59th – Prayer Vigil [please use the schedule on the bulletin board to sign up for your 30-minute time slot]

Saturday, September 66nd – 6:00 P.M. – World-Class Supper [please bring a foreign dish with a card naming the dish and the country]; 6:45 – Opening Worship Service [Rev. Larry Mills preaching and missionary report from Dr. Clay Quarterman, Ukraine].

Sunday, September 67rd – 9:45 A.M.— Combined Adult Groups, report from Rev. Don Malin on Military Chaplains; 11:00 A.M. – Worship Service [Rev. Mills], with lunch to follow in the fellowship hall; 6:00 P.M. – Closing Worship Service [Rev. Mills and missionary report from Dr. Sal Pellicano, Beginning Again in Christ].

Nominations for Deacon

During the month of September members may make nominations for the next class of Deacons for FPC. At the end of each year three Deacons rotate off their term of service [which is a three-year term]. In December we will elect three men to serve in the Class of 2021, with their terms beginning in January, 2019. In order to nominate one or more men, please pick up a nomination form in the church office, and follow the direction given on the form.

Covenantal Convocation Retreat

The Women of Grace Presbytery will be having their Covenantal Convocation Retreat on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at FPC Hattiesburg. The cost is \$15.00 and it will be necessary to pre-register. The deadline for registration is September 20. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, and payment for the retreat can be paid to Sue Lee or Mary Posey.

Jim's Gems

Elsewhere in this newsletter you read about the babies who were recently born. They were described as "covenant children." We could say many things to describe these newborns [hair color, eyes, looks just like mom or dad, and of course, cute]. But God's description is the most significant: they belong to His covenant community [see Genesis 17:1-21]. What does this mean? It means that children of believers in Jesus Christ are privileged children, not in the financial or social sense, but by being set apart by God's kindness to grow up in a Christian environment where they are taught the glorious truths of the Gospel of Christ, the love and mercy of God, and the wisdom of God's Word. They receive spiritual care, protection and nourishment from their parents and from the church, of which they are outward members [until they profess faith in Christ]. The Bible often speaks of God's redeemed people as His covenant people, a covenant being a solemn and binding relationship between people. Marriage is a good example of a covenant relationship. So we should see the children in our church not just as future members in the formal sense of joining the church, but as those who already are a part of the covenant community even though they haven't come to faith in Christ yet. At the time of a child's baptism these great truths are emphasized, when both parents and members vow to provide a spiritually faithful environment in which the child can learn of Jesus' love and [hopefully] one day will become a committed disciple of Jesus him or herself. Pray for and love these children!

On a personal note, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of you who prayed, sent cards and memorials, and expressed verbally your sympathies and love after the death of my mother. Within a year and a half both my parents went to glory, and I am happy for them. They were both such faithful Christians. They loved Christ and His Church, and they taught their children to do the same by their words and their examples. I miss them greatly, but rejoice in their faithful service to God and to others. They leave the next generation of Shulls with a true sense of what it means to glorify God in the short time we have here in this world. I am a blessed man because of them.

New Sunday School Year

The first Sunday in September is the beginning of our church Sunday School year. Where it applies, children move up to new classes. If you have questions about what class your children are in you may contact Danny Fielder, who is the Sunday School Superintendent. During the summer the adults have met in a combined class. That class is being extended for about a month, as Grant finishes his study on Christian Beliefs. After this class is finished, the adults will resume their normal class arrangements. Remember to pray for our Sunday School teachers, and encourage those who do not attend to join in on the learning!