



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



December 2018

WIC NEWS

December is here, and there are so many ways God has given us to serve one another through sharing cards, meals, and visits especially with our members who are having health problems or cannot worship with us on Sundays. Most of all, pray for each other as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. We are still gathering recipes for the cookbook, which is an ongoing project until we get enough recipes. JoAnne Davis is typing the recipes and when we have enough, we will have a meeting to pick out the cover and inserts.

Our next Women's Ministry Meeting will be January 13, 2019, at 4:00 pm since the Sunday night worship service will be starting at 5:00 pm

Family Night Supper: Tommie Barnhart, and Beverly Hood

Sanctuary Flowers: 2 Sue Lee, 9, 16, 23, 30—Christmas

Nursery Schedule: 2 Stephanie Newsome/Sharon Lee, 9 JoAnne & Todd Davis, 16 Amy & Tim Blair, 23 Dianne Ham/Stacey Lee, 30 Brandon & Jessica Davis

Happy Birthday to Shannon Smith, Mary Posey, and Deline Taylor

Happy Anniversary to Bo Lohman, Beverly Hood, and Maria Hardy

Youth News

Greetings Church Family! December is upon us. I would like to inform you all about several events going on. First, the Young Adult Fellowship will be having a Christmas party on Monday December 10th at the little Manse. We will be wearing tacky Christmas sweaters and singing Christmas hymns courtesy of Daniel Curtis coming to play the guitar for us. Secondly, we are planning to go caroling on Friday December the 14th to sing carols to widows and shut-ins. It always is a blessing, and come even if you can't sing, like me! In Youth Sunday School we have completed our study through Ruth and will begin a new study this December on the Person of Christ. We will study to the scriptures regarding the incarnation and virgin birth, the humanity of Christ, the divinity of Christ, and the unity of Christ! Please join me in prayer for all of the event going on in the life of our church!

In Christ, Grant Gilliam

Missions Minute

This month our regular \$1250 support went to French Camp. We also sent \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch.

Jim's Gems

Tis the season – yes the Christmas holiday season is upon us once again. And a big part of the season involves the exchanging of gifts between friends and between family members. There is a double benefit when these exchanges take place: there is the benefit of receiving gifts, but also [and arguably more importantly] there is the benefit of giving. A major reason we experience joy at Christmastime is because of gifts and giving. But none of this, wonderful as it is, compares to the greatest Gift from the greatest Giver. The Apostle Paul expresses it precisely in Romans 8:32:

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

We can scarcely begin to grasp the enormity of such a statement, can we? Yet there it is, boldly declaring that God the Father willingly allowed His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be nailed to a Roman cross in order to bear the guilt of His people's sins. We must understand that God was under no obligation to give His Son to provide for our salvation. We were totally at His mercy because we did not deserve such an amazing gift. Yet He did this for us nonetheless. What lavish love is this! We deserved the worst [eternal punishment], but God gave us the best [eternal life through His Son]. No gift can compare to this.

Yet even this is not the end of God's giving, as this verse goes on to tell us. Having given us the greatest of all possible gifts in the person of His own Son, we are now reminded that God will also graciously give us all things, meaning all good things for our spiritual and eternal good. Our God is a giving God! And should we not also be free in our giving, since God has given us the greatest gift of all? We are called to be gracious, generous and loving towards others, whether they deserve it or not [in many cases they won't].

So rejoice in what God has given you, dear believer in Jesus. No matter what earthly gifts you receive from others [which we should appreciate], you already possess the greatest gift of all. You have eternal life in Jesus Christ!

Deacon Elections

The congregational meeting to elect Deacons will be December 2, 2018.

Christmas Worship

We will have a Christmas Worship on December 16, 2018 at 5:00pm. Open House at the Manse will follow. There will be a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm.

Men's Breakfast

There will be no Men's Breakfast in December. We will resume in January 2019.

Sermons Available

Sermons are now available for download on the website, fccrystalsprings.org. Copies of the sermon on CD are also available from the church office.

Wednesday Night Activities

There will be no Wednesday night activities on December 26, 2018.