



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



November 2018

WIC NEWS

On November 17, 2018, we will have a wedding shower for Brittney Batton at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. She is registered at Everyday Gourmet, The Pine Cone, William Sonoma, and Bed Bath & Beyond. The wedding will be at our church on January 19, 2019. There are a few ladies that are visiting ladies at the Copiah Living Center. If anyone is interested in helping with this ministry, Marna Walker will come and give some training. There are some residents there that do not have people to come visit them. We are still gathering more recipes for the cookbook.

Our next Women's Ministry meeting will be November 25, 2018.

Family Night Supper: Sue Lee, Gwen Gallman

Sanctuary Flowers: 4 Waudeen Jackson, 11 Stephanie Newsome, 18 Linda Whittington, 25 WIC

Nursery Schedule: 4 Julie Kent, Jada Gilliam, 11 Betsy and Richard Batton, 18 Beth Shull, Mary Posey, 25 Beth Dickson, Sue Lee

Happy Birthday to Karen Thomas, Gwen Gallman, Richard Batton, T.J. Smith, and Dalton Taylor

Happy Anniversary to Winston & Waudean Jackson, Tim & Amy Blair, Brandon and Jessica Davis

Youth News

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all of the snacks that y'all have donated for young adult fellowship! We greatly appreciate it and the fellowship has been a blessing. The November dates for young adult fellowship are November 12th and November 19th. Encourage anyone you may know to join us on these dates at 6:30 at the little manse as we reflect on the Sunday sermon.

Also, the youth group is going through the book of Ruth in Sunday School. Please continue to join me in prayer for the ministries of our church!

In Christ, Grant Gilliam

Missions Minute

In October, our regular \$1,250 went to MNA Chaplains Support. We also sent \$200 to Anthony Gorsuch. He is in Delaware planting a church and needs our prayers.

Thanksgiving Schedule

Sunday, November 18—Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00 P.M., place to be announced

Wednesday, November 21—No Wednesday evening activities

Thursday, November 22—Church Office will be closed

Jim's Gems

Leprosy is horrible. To hear or read descriptions about it is tough enough, but to actually have that disease is almost unbearable. We know about leprosy from both the Old and New Testaments and may think that it is one of those diseases that has been eradicated [like polio]. But there are still people today who have leprosy, most of whom live in leper colonies.

Why do I bring this up? Because of the parable Jesus told about ten lepers who were healed by Him [Luke 17:11-19], and what this parable teaches us about giving thanks. Jesus healed all ten after they begged Him to show mercy to them and make them well. They did the right thing here. They admitted to Jesus that they were in a desperate, wretched condition, and appealed to Jesus for healing, believing that He could heal them. After they were healed they left. While the text doesn't say so directly it would seem plausible to assume that all ten were thankful for this miraculous cure of their awful condition. Yet only one of the ten turned around, went back to Jesus, fell before Him, praised Him loudly and thanked Him. This was especially powerful because Luke says this man was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans did not get along, yet Jesus did not let this get in the way. Then Jesus asked aloud why the others did not come and do the same. Why didn't they?

There is a difference between being thankful and telling the source of your blessings that you are thankful. True thanksgiving includes the same attitude that the healed leper demonstrated when He came back to see Jesus. You and I have even more reasons to humbly praise and thank the Lord than this leper did. Why do I say that? Because we who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have been healed of a disease that is far more serious than leprosy. When Jesus saves us He heals us from the pain and anguish of our sin. One of the old Puritans wrote a book with the title **The Plague of Plagues**. He was writing about sin. Our natural spiritual condition is our greatest disease. Think of all the damage our sin causes in our relationships to God, to ourselves and to others. As a Pastor I see this far too often. But once we admit our condition and run to Christ for mercy, as these men did in Luke 17, Jesus will heal us of the leprosy of our souls.

Then what do we do? We spend our lives glorifying God by praising Him and thanking Him. Yes, we should express our gratitude to God for our material and physical blessings, but the one thing we should give thanks for above all else is our salvation. What mercy He has shown us! The disease that does the most damage to us and others, and will stay with us forever if left untreated, has been eradicated by the sheer grace of God! The more that sinks in, the more thankful we will be, and the more we will give thanks to God, as this one leper did. It's Thanksgiving season this month. But we should not let a day go by without coming to Jesus in praise and thanksgiving because He has healed us of the plague of all plagues. "Bless the Lord, o my soul...who heals all your diseases" [Psalm 103:1-5].

New Office Manager

As many of you know our Office Manager, Caitlin Ratliff, is stepping down from her position to be at home with her new daughter, Eliza. Her last day was November 1. She wanted to express her appreciation to Pastor Shull, the officers, and everyone in the church for making her feel like a part of the church family.

This month, Karen Hodges has taken over as the new Office Manager. Karen is married to Jay, the music minister at First Baptist Hazlehurst, and they have three children: Ann Marie (19), Nathan (14), and Jayson (8). Originally from Greenwood, Mississippi, they have lived several different places and are now settled in Hazlehurst. She has previous administrative experience as a church secretary and we are very happy to have her on our staff. Please feel free to contact her if you have any needs or questions. She will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday morning, 8:30-11:30 AM.

Deacon Elections

We have received Deacon nominations. The congregational meeting to elect Deacons will be December 2, 2018.

Men's Breakfast

There will be no Men's Breakfast during the months of November and December. We will resume in January 2019.

Sermons Available

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