



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



May 2020

Deacons Corner

We are waiting for the structural engineer to determine if we can put a metal roof on the church and manse. Also, we have plans to replace the old fire extinguishers. The deacons have been praying for our church and the upcoming events that are set in place for this month. If anyone needs something done, please contact your deacons or your elders.

Todd Davis, Deacon Chairman - 601-260-3428

Elders Corner

The elders are trying to stay in touch with Church Members during the current Coronavirus situation. If there is someone needing something, please let us know so we can provide assistance. We are looking ahead to Church Activities that are currently scheduled and making plans as best as we can right now. The Elders have tentatively scheduled a Communion Service for 24 May 2020, since we have not had communion this quarter.

The Pulpit Committee is still searching for Dr. Shull's replacement. They ask for your prayers in this effort.

We have met with a very gifted and Godly young man, Wesley Presnall to fill the Youth Intern position. He has accepted our offer and will be starting on 1 June 2020. Wesley is a first year student at Reformed Seminary and really enjoys working with youth. He is a graduate of Mississippi State.

Missions Minute

This month our regular \$1500 went to MTW for Derek Ebbers, \$300 to Engaging Disability With The Gospel, and we were able to send \$2000 to Mercy House. Please pray for our missionaries during this time.

Youth News

Dear Church Family,

As you all are aware, I have taken a call as the full time youth director at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Columbus, Georgia. Lord willing, I will be ordained within the next year and will be assistant pastor at the church. It is hard to put into words just how much you all have meant to our family. From our first pounding party to our baby shower and just regular church fellowship, you all have loved us so well! Christ's love radiates from your actions, words, and attitudes. First Presbyterian Church will always be a special community to us. Thank you all for investing in a young aspiring minister, patiently listening to and receiving my teaching, befriending my family, and always meeting our needs. The Lord has used you all in my life and I praise and thank Him for the way he has worked in you all. I have said this to Jada many times, "I cannot wait to enjoy heaven with the saints of First Presbyterian Crystal Springs." I really do look forward to seeing and worshipping the One whom we love together in glory. Until then, keep looking to Christ, the one who loved you and gave himself up for you, and we will be back to visit when we come home.

In His Grace,
Grant

Jim's Gems

As we move into May all of us are still having to cope with the limitations we are living under due to the pandemic. While restrictions are very slowly being relaxed we will still be living different lives for probably a good while. This whole situation has – and will – challenge us in many ways. We need to be patient and flexible. It should be kept in mind that America has undergone worse challenges than this [wars, the influenza epidemic of 1918, the Great Depression, etc.]. And there is the very real likelihood that we will experience other hardships [such as the economy] even if COVID-19 goes away before long. I'm not trying to be all negative and gloomy, but I do believe that we need to be prepared for continued challenges, should they arise. Each of us needs to be diligent in keeping ourselves walking in God's grace and truth so we will stay grounded while all the craziness flies around us. One thing I am having to remember is that when I sense that I am getting tired of this way of living, or when I become irritated because I don't want to live with these interruptions to MY preferences and plans, I have to bring my struggles to the Lord and ask for more grace. And of course He will supply what I need each day.

It has been a strange blessing to not be able to worship together for the past month. Some of you have told me how much you miss coming to worship and other activities. I feel the same way. I am thankful, however, that so many of you are taking part in our "scattered" version of worship through live streaming on Face book. We will keep on doing that until we are told we can go back to our previous practices. In the meantime, don't waste the pandemic! Turn your extra time into times of learning, growth and service to others. Trust in the God who loves you and will only do to you what is best for you. If you doubt that, take another good look at the cross of Calvary and read Romans 8:32.

From the Fellowship Sunday School Class

Charles Dickens, *Tale of Two Cities*, starts with these familiar words "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I think we can all relate to the second half of that right now. Or, maybe Thomas Paine said it best, "These are the times that try men's souls." It's probably easier to look at our current situation as the worst of times or certainly as trying times. But while it may seem true, that is more of a worldly or secular view of our current events. How can we say it's the best of times? As Christians, we can remember a very fitting line by Robert Browning, "God is in His heaven, -All's right with the world!" What a reminder of God's Sovereignty. His complete dominion over all of His creation. Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still, and know I am God;" How reassuring it is to know God is in control. He wasn't caught off guard by what's going on. He's not worried if we have enough masks, gloves or ventilators. It's only natural for us to be concerned, even worried, but remember "... our hope is in the Lord..." Psalm 146:5-6 and thankfully not in governments or men.

To the members of the fellowship class, use this time to read ahead in our book. We were going to start Chapter 9. Begin your study there, take notes and write down questions for discussion when we get back together. If you're not in our class we would like to recommend the book we are studying, *Renewing Your Mind in a Mindless World: Learning to Think and Act Biblically*, by James Montgomery Boice. It's available from christianbook.com for \$14.98 shipping included. It is a really good book.

Pick a certain amount of time every day to turn off the news and the internet. During that time do a Bible study or start a new book by James Boice, Phillip Ryken, Jerry Bridges or any number of good Christian authors.

These are trying and unusual times but remember "This is a day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118:24. Stay safe and hope to see everybody soon.

WIC NEWS

There is not much church news that happened in April, but a lot of things happened! We cannot visit and worship in person, but we can worship on Sundays with Jim and each other online. It was wonderful to be led in worship by Dr. Shull and Grant. I am sure that we all have each other in our prayers daily. We should know pretty soon when we can all gather together for worship and when we can have regular activities and special events we are planning.

Tiffany Taylor and David King are married. If you have a gift for them, you can take it to the church and the family will pick it up. They had to change their wedding plans due to the Coronavirus situation.

Let us keep our church family in our prayers and reach out by phone and cards to keep in touch. When the shelter in our home ends, we will all have experiences to share. If you have a need, please don't hesitate to contact someone in the church for assistance.

May Birthdays: 3 Renee Brister; 4 Sue Lee; 7 Estelle Stegall; 22 Waudean Jackson; 24 Jessica Davis; 29 Hilda McGuire