



# FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church  
Crystal Springs, MS



## June 2020

### Elders Corner

First, we want to thank Dr. Shull & Beth for all they have done for us during their many years serving our church and community. God truly blessed us by sending them to us. **THANK YOU BOTH FOR EVERYTHING!** We want the congregation to know that we are working to safely reopen our church as soon as can. There will be changes that we will need to comply with when we reopen. We hope to have a date that we can reopen in the next few days. When that date is determined, we will inform the members of the church. Finally, the Pulpit Committee is continuing to work but we all could help them by praying for them as they search for a new pastor.

### Youth News

We are very pleased that the Lord has led us to a new student intern. His name is Wesley Presnall, and below you can read a short biographical introduction to him...

Wesley is a native of Meridian, MS, and he is a member of Northpointe Presbyterian church in Meridian. He is currently an associate member of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS. Wesley earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Mississippi State University, with an emphasis in biochemical processes. While in Starkville, Wesley was an associate member of Grace Presbyterian. While at MSU Wesley participated actively in RUF, and he served as a part of its ministry team for one year. Wesley was a member of Brothers Under Christ (BYX) fraternity his entire time as MSU. Wesley was introduced by a mutual friend to his fiancé, Aren Worrell, at an event that his fraternity sponsored in 2016, though they didn't start dating until 2018. Wesley proposed to Aren on February 29<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Wesley and Aren plan to be married in the summer of 2021, after she completes her first year as a med-student at UMMC. Wesley is currently finishing his first year in the M.Div. program at RTS, Jackson. Wesley is an avid outdoorsman who loves hiking, fishing, and hunting.

Wesley will be working primarily with the high school students, although he may undertake some additional duties on occasion, especially while we continue our search for a new Pastor.

Wesley officially begins serving at FPC June 1st but will not move into the little manse until renovations have been completed. Please welcome Wesley to our church to our church family, and pray for him and Aren, his fiancée.

### WIC News

It is summertime with hot days and scattered showers. June starts our new church activities, and hopefully we will soon be able to meet together in our sanctuary. I am sure we will need to have our masks and no hugging for a while.

Please keep Dr. Shull, Beth, Grant and Jada in your prayers as they begin their lives in Columbus, MS and Columbus, GA. I am sure they will keep in touch with us. Our plan is for Dr. Shull and Beth to come back for their reception probably toward the end of July, when we can gather in larger groups. We will need a Women's Ministry meeting in a couple weeks to plan for the reception. I will talk with the WIC officers about a date and get back to you about the meeting.

We also need to thank our deacons and elders for their work as they have been making lots of decisions about the church's needs and operations during this COVID-19 situation. Please keep our church officers and the pulpit committee in your prayers. Hope to see you soon!

June Birthdays: 2 Beth Shull; 10 Ashley Chisolm; 11 Susan Lee; 19 Sharon Lee; 29 Amy Blair

## Jim's Gems

This issue of Jim's Gems is different. The reason it is different is because it is the last time I will be writing this column. After 18 years of serving as your Pastor, the time has come for us to leave you. Of course this should be no surprise to any of you since we have been planning this for quite some time. That doesn't make our leaving any easier, however. For Beth and me it is with very mixed feelings that we leave Crystal Springs and First Presbyterian Church. While we are looking forward to whatever the Lord has in store for us in this next stage of our lives, we have a deep sense of sadness at leaving you. You, the individuals that make up this congregation, have become very dear to us. There are so many memories that flutter through my mind as I scan back over our time with you. There were times of great joy and praise for God's mercies – worshipping together, new people added to our fellowship, weddings and baptisms. But life in Christ's Church also includes trying times – grief over the death of beloved members, sicknesses, family struggles, challenges for the church, and saying farewell to families and individuals who move away. We have both rejoiced together and wept together. But that is the nature of serving Christ in a fallen world, and in all the various situations of church life we have found that the Lord is good and gracious. How faithful He has been to us!

Even though we are a small congregation we have been organized and have had ministries that are out of proportion to that size. I have always felt that this church could double in size and it would have the infrastructure and leadership to handle that growth without being too overtaxed. Such growth would be wonderful, but my challenge to you is to be faithful in following Christ and glorifying God, both individually and corporately. If you are regularly involved in the life of FPC I urge you to keep it up! If you are less involved I challenge you to show your love to Christ and His Church [which is the only human entity that will last forever] by stepping up and getting fully involved in the life of your church. And if you are someone who hasn't been involved in church in a long time, then now is the time to come back. I assure you that if you do you will be welcomed and loved.

Before too long you will have a new Pastor. Love him and his family, as you have loved us. Support and encourage him. Pray for him. Expect changes. Be patient. Don't dwell on the past too much. Learn from our mistakes and our successes, and build on them. William Carey, the pioneer missionary, said, "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God."

Please know what a joy it has been for me to have had the privilege of being your Pastor. I am humbled because I know my weaknesses, sins and failures, and yet God has been so good to us in spite of that. I will forever be thankful for these past 18 years with you. If you are ever in Columbus please come see us. Our phone numbers will remain the same. Our new address is 825 North 8th Street Columbus, MS 39701. And, Lord willing, we will return sometime this summer for a weekend.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace." [Numbers 6:24-26].

## Missions Minute

This month our regular \$1500 went to RTS General Scholarship Fund and \$300 to Engaging Disability With The Gospel. Please continued to pray for our missions during these trying times.

## Announcements

**There will be no Vacation Bible School.  
Our Daily Bread devotionals for June, July, August are on round table in the Fellowship Hall.**