

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

400 Jefferson Street • P.O. Box 1725 • Tupelo, Mississippi 38802 • (662) 842-5681 • [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 10

October, 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO, MS

### Someone Trusted the Church Last Night

On a cold, dreary December evening, several hundred people gathered at a large downtown church in Winston-Salem to celebrate the Christmas season. I had gone down a long hallway to help a small boy who was pushing against massive oak doors trying to get outside. The boy appeared to be about 2 years old. He was crying as if his heart would break.

I picked him up, thinking he belonged to someone at one of the Christmas parties. Investigation, however, revealed nothing.

I rushed outside and spotted an old-model car speeding away in the darkness. Gradually, it began to dawn on me that the child had been abandoned.

I made a few calls, and soon the church was filled with people wanting to help in any way they could. Within moments, the local TV stations interrupted their usual programs to ask if anyone knew the identity of the little boy. The next morning, one of the city's newspapers had the child's picture on the front page. Under the picture there was an article describing the events of the evening before. The reporter began his story with this striking line: "Someone trusted the church last night, and the church came through!"

It will be a long, long time before I can forget that newspaper headline. So much of the world's future depends on the faithfulness of the "People of God" to the "Great Commission." There is a deep hunger across our land as countless people grope for answers to the deepest questions of the human spirit. The message of Christ speaks to these questions, bringing hope and light to people who now stumble in the dark and live in despair. Our world will be changed as the hearts of people are changed. Evangelism is no longer an option for the church. It is essential to the survival of our world.

The line in that Winston-Salem newspaper is a haunting reminder of what the world expects of the church. "Someone trusted the church last night, and the church came through!" May that always be true!

*Olin*

### REMINDERS

- Church office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- Olin's sermons, from March 15 (the first Sunday of online worship) through September are available. Simply call the church office or send an email to [churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org) to request a copy of *Conversations During COVID-19: Sermons During a Time of Pandemic.*

**First  
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

400 W. Jefferson St.  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
www.firstprestupelo.org  
662-842-5681



**Ministerial & Program Staff**

The Reverend Olin McBride, Pastor

The Reverend Ron Richardson

Dr. Bob Taylor

Helen Curtis

Melissa McDuffie

Dr. Ray Harris

Danielle Ratliff

Kay Stanford

Eddie Baker

**CONTRIBUTE TO  
DISASTER RELIEF**

**U.S. Hurricane Sally Response**

To give by phone, call 800-872-3283.  
To send a check, please designate where you want  
your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

To donate to a different ministry, you can  
designate *Pacific Wildfires* or *Hurricane Laura*.



**Loneliness**

One of many concerns since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic is the matter of loneliness. With the mandate to stay at home, especially in the case of older people, I have wondered about our own homebound who have often needed to limit visitors to family only. Of course, people of any age must be on the side of caution to stay safe.

I have asked the question in my conversations with our older adults if loneliness is a problem. The question has brought about a pause as if the individual being asked had not really thought about this concern. I have yet to encounter the first person who answers with a “yes.” After receiving this response, I begin hearing individuals talk about various church members calling to check on them. Food is often brought to the home. Flowers are delivered. Ministry to our older adults is sometimes provided through committees or organizations within the church or as a part of a community service. There are also individual church members who take it upon themselves to provide a ministry if nothing more than sending a card to a homebound.

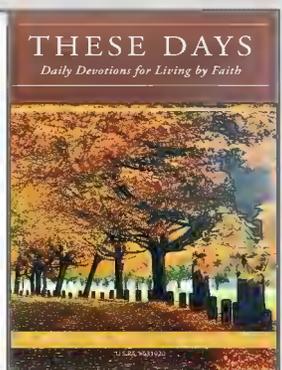
Loneliness in the general population has always been a problem long before coronavirus. One survey found that after the stay-at-home orders were instated, a third of American adults expressed that the feeling of loneliness was even more a part of their lives. Another research put the number at 47%.

Not having heard anyone complain about loneliness in our church speaks well of our membership being sensitive to the needs of our congregation, especially among our older adults. Calling, sending a card, taking food or flowers mean more than one can imagine, whether the person doing so knows the recipient or not. As proclaimed by the Apostle Paul, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13:2).” Angels among our older adults are unlimited.

**Ron Richardson**  
*Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*

*These Days* devotional booklets for October through December are here. If you would like to come by the church office and pick up a copy, please do, or we can meet you at the door if you would rather not come inside. If you prefer having a copy mailed to you, please call the office at 662-842-5681 or email

[churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org)



# Returning to In-Person Worship

The Session of FPC met on Monday, September 21 and approved beginning in-person worship with a starting date of October 18th at 10:00 A.M. We will be gathering in Stuart Garden on the 18th and 25th. We hope to have 75 people in worship. The gym will be used in the event of inclement weather. You will hear more about these plans in the coming weeks.

We are aware that many churches are have already started in-person worship with small gatherings and some have not. With Covid-19 numbers rising in 28 states and Mississippi showing increased cases the past two weeks, we feel this date is best for our church family. The sanctuary will be undergoing some major renovations beginning in a matter of days. With the help of many experts, we have discovered the main reason for water intrusion. The back wall of the sanctuary and each side will have extensive work done to prevent leakage. David Williams, chairperson of the Administrative Committee has a detailed description, below, of the renovation work in the sanctuary. Our best guess is to, perhaps, return to the sanctuary for worship the first of November.

## Administrative Committee

Dear Fellow Members:

As many of you know our church has had long term, continuing problems with moisture/water intrusion in our sanctuary, especially on the south wall, as well as the connecting east and west walls. In 2019, at the recommendation of the Property and Grounds Committee, the Session approved the hiring of a forensic architectural firm, CxGBS, to locate the source(s). That report which indicated multiple moisture problems was received and examined. It is now time to begin the remediation process.

The Session, at its September 21 meeting, on the joint recommendation of the Property and Grounds and the Administrative Committees, approved the hiring of Innovative Construction Management, LLC as general contractor to oversee this process at a cost not to exceed \$180,000. This cost includes inspection visits by CxGBS during the repair process which will likely take eight to ten weeks. It is hoped that repair could begin by the first week in October. Significant scaffolding will be required in the chancel area of the sanctuary. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we attempt to resolve this long term problem.

**David Williams**  
**Chairman - Administrative Committee**

## Youth

Our youth are enjoying the feeling of “normal” as we began meeting on Wednesday nights in September! We are socially distanced and wearing masks, but we are together and it feels good! Meeting twice a week gives us a chance to stay together as a big group once and split into our junior and senior high groups once. It also gives us the opportunity to focus on in-depth Bible study during our Wednesday night meeting and enjoy a more laid-back, casual experience on Sunday nights.

Our Sunday nights in September continued to be well attended! One Sunday night we assembled “COVID packets” to be passed out to the guests at Saint’s Brew. These packets included some essential things like masks, gloves, antibacterial wipes, band-aids and some goodies like a pack of nabs, Hershey kisses and a hand written note from our youth! It brought a reminder to our youth how fortunate we are to simply have access to the things that help keep us healthy like masks and being able to wash our hands as often as we please! I am always proud of the group that shows up for nights like these! I mention a “service project” and I can guarantee almost everyone is coming! I have said it before and I will say it again, these youth make us proud!! We also collected snacks for the children at the Hilldale Apartment Complex and again the generosity of this congregation showed! It took three trips to my car to get all of the snacks to their destination!

We are looking forward to some “fun opportunities” for our children of all ages in October, so keep your eyes open! More details to come!

**Melissa McDuffie**  
**Director of Youth and Christian Education**

# Session Digest

1. The session met Monday, September 21 in the Fellowship Hall.
2. We express Christian Sympathy to the families of Freddie Chiles, Ruth Ann Wilcox, and Ray Thornton.
3. Christian Education met recently. Heather is looking at new ways of reaching the kids with "WeeKirk". Melissa is meeting with the youth on Sunday nights and will begin meeting with them on Wednesday nights with the help of Sarra Godwin and Corey Littrell. We will begin an adult Bible study starting on September 27. There will be two times offered—11:30 a.m. on Wednesday and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. It will be a six-week study. Melissa is sending out information this week. Social Distancing and CDC guidelines will be followed. Melissa is also ordering family devotionals for all families with children between kindergarten and 5th grade. Alice and Leslie have been working on FPC Connection, which is the new logo that they are using for mailings and Bible activities that they are sending out to the K-5th graders.
4. Congregational Care Committee met, and the Marthas continue to deliver meals to our church family. Shepherds have been assigned to new members. We are planning a Fall Blood Drive. PW Council met, and some Circles will begin meeting in October in accordance with Government and CDC guidelines. We contributed, along with our Youth, to Indivisible NEMS September project in helping Youth and Hilldale Apartments with snacks and feminine needs. PW gave three Lifetime Memberships into PW PCUSA to Lisa Nichols, Kathy Wallace, and Sarah Young for outstanding service/dedication to the work of our church. The PW Fall Gathering was attended by 54 people. A meal was provided by Honey Baked Ham and PW, and an overview of the new Bible study was presented. We also provided a meal to five drive-through members.
5. Fellowship Committee met, and they will provide a fall and spring supper for UKirk at Ole Miss. Trunk or Treat has been cancelled for this year. Fellowship fed 120 coaches and players on THS Football Team on September 18 with a boxed carryout meal.
6. Outreach/Missions Committee met and are working on plans to participate in Operation Christmas Child, with possibly a drive-through pick up and drop off of packages. A fall fundraiser for local and international missions and our youth will take place October 24. It will be a mini family photography session by Faith Riley. More information will be announced later.
7. Property and Grounds jointly with Administrative Committee got approval to begin work on the water intrusion issue in the sanctuary. This will be a four to eight-week project.
8. Columbarium Committee added a non-member fee to the Columbarium policy. The price for members is \$1,500 per person and the non-member price is \$2,000 per person with two persons maximum to a niche.
9. Worship Committee will begin planning two Sunday outdoor, in-person worship services. One will be on October 18 and one on October 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Stuart Garden.

# BIBLE STUDY

**IN-PERSON AT FPC (Reservations required)**

*Choose the day that works for you!*

**SUNDAY at 5:00 P.M. OR WEDNESDAY at 11:30 A.M.**

**To make reservations or ask questions, please contact Melissa McDuffie at 662-871-2046 (call or text) or [mcduffiemel18@gmail.com](mailto:mcduffiemel18@gmail.com).**

***Beginning Sunday, September 27  
and Wednesday, September 30***

## **In-Person Bible Study Opportunity!**

With the positive response to opening the sanctuary for prayer and meditation, the Christian Education committee is offering an in-person Bible study for any adults who would like to join us! Please check out the details:

- Each session will be offered during two time slots – Sunday (beginning September 27) at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday (beginning September 30) at 11:30 a.m.
- Please feel free to bring your own lunch/dinner if you wish.
- Temperatures will be taken upon entering building.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be set up throughout the space.
- Masks must be worn while in the building and social distancing standards observed.
- Restrooms will be available. Please have no more than one person in the bathroom at any given time.
- All participants will be asked to enter and exit through the “gym door”.
- Please make reservations or ask questions by contacting Melissa McDuffie at 871-2046 (call or text) or [mcduffiemel18@gmail.com](mailto:mcduffiemel18@gmail.com).
- Participants may be asked to help “wipe down their area” with disinfecting wipes at the conclusion of each session.

We completely understand that some people are still uncomfortable with in-person meetings and respect that. We look forward to a time when we are all able to be back together as the body of Christ and celebrate small steps toward that end. Take care of yourselves!

*Christian Education Committee*

## Presbyterian Women

Your Presbyterian Women and the Marthas continue to deliver homemade meals to members of our church. It is such a fun way to minister to our own congregation and to spread God's love to each other.

The PW Fall Gathering was a HUGE success! We had just over 50 in attendance, and everyone stayed for the meal and the overview of the Bible Study for this year. PW scrapbooks created by Judy Billups were on display. Each page was full of fun fill memories of all the events of years past. These scrapbooks will be available in the Library when the Church reopens.

We collected an offering, along with our Youth, to support Indivisible NEMS with their September Project—supporting children and youth at Hilldale apartments with some special needs through a Social Worker.

Lifetime PW Memberships were presented to Lisa Nichols, Kathy Wallace, and Sarah Young for their dedication and commitment to work of the women of the church. It was a great surprise!

Some Circles will begin to meet in October. Please check with individual Circle leaders about your group, and watch for emails and announcements in the weekly news and bulletin. Circle leaders will have extra books to share.

*Lucy Nash*  
*Moderator*

## Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee met September 8. We voted to finance a meal in the fall and spring for a UKirk meeting at Ole Miss. We also fed the Tupelo High School football team (120) on September 18. The food was delivered to the high school cafeteria, and they won their first game.

We learned that Trunk or Treat has been cancelled until 2021.

Our next meeting is Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Stuart Garden. Our next project, our Thanksgiving Luncheon (November 22), will be discussed.

*Ann Godwin, Chairman*

**Tupelo Downtown Trunk or Treat**

**CANCELED**

**FOR A SAFE & HEALTHY TUPELO**

**2020**



Is your contact info up-to-date?



Do you have a new address? Email? Phone number? Please update your new information with the church office by calling us at 662-842-5681 or sending an email to: [churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org).

# Memorials, Gifts, & Honoraria

## IN MEMORY OF:

### **Betty Black**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

### **Billy Burks**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

Betty Nash (General Memorial Fund)

### **Dickson Caldwell**

Bobby & Martha Dale (Memorial Fund)

### **Freddie Chiles**

Sarah Helen Beckham (Cuba Mission Fund)

Kirk & Teresa Biddle (Clean Water Fund)

Susan Boone (Cuba Mission Fund)

Martha Cheney (Cuba Mission Fund)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

Betty Nash (Cuba Mission Fund)

Jim & Lisa Nichols (Cuba Mission Fund)

Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Ministry Fund)

Dr. & Mrs. Virgil Strickland (Cuba Mission Fund)

Glenn & Mary Thomas (Property & Grounds Fund)

Edna Sue White (Cuba Mission Fund)

George White (Cuba Mission Fund)

Neil & Jill White (Cuba Mission Fund)

Sarah Young (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **Richard Coggins**

Mary Ann Chiles (Cuba Mission Fund)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

Jim & Lisa Nichols (Cuba Mission Fund)

Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Ministry Fund)

### **Clara Dickerson**

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

### **Jenny Hewitt**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

Betty Nash (General Memorial Fund)

### **Gray Megginson**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

### **Penny Nichols**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

### **John Payne**

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

Jim & Lisa Nichols (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **George Michael Ray, Sr.**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

### **Sue Shepherd**

Sarah Helen Beckham (Music Fund)

Kirk & Teresa Biddle (Columbarium Fund)

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Ministry Fund)

Edna Sue White (Cuba Mission Fund)

George White (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **Chris Thompson**

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **Ruth Ann Wilcox**

Louis & Pam Armour (Handbells Fund)

Susan Boone (Handbell Fund)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala Water Mission)

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba Mission Fund)

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Choir Fund)

Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Ministry Fund)

Glenn & Mary Thomas (Property & Grounds Fund)

Sarah Young (Music Fund)

### **Virginia Wood**

Betty Nash (Library Fund)

## IN HONOR OF:

### **Camille Caples**

Frank Baker (Christian Education Fund)

### **Cindy Faucette**

Premier Prints (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **Robin & Cindy Faucette**

Chauncey & Ann Godwin (Cuba Mission Fund)

Betty Nash (Cuba Mission Fund)

### **First Presbyterian Church Office Staff**

Betty Nash (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

### **Jackie Haguewood**

Betty Nash (Congregational Care Fund)

### **Ron Richardson**

Louis and Pam Armour (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 2

10:00 A.M.

Prepare for home communion as part of online worship

Streaming on our YouTube Channel

# MISSION FUNDRAISER: *Family Photography Weekend*

Faith Riley Photography Mini Sessions  
Saturday, October 24 • \$75

Proceeds go to international mission trips  
& a planned youth mission trip

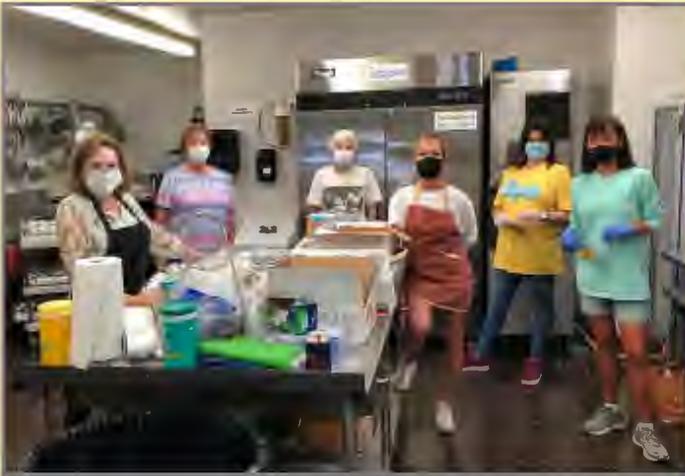
Participants sign up for 15-minute slots on our church grounds and receive a portfolio of 10-15 pictures to choose from. Sitting fee includes 3 PDF images.

An estimated 2 week turn around on the images will allow families to use the photographs for Christmas cards or order prints for Christmas gifts.

Church members, friends and family are invited to participate.



**SIGN UP FOR A PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION!**



***Let's play football!***  
The Fellowship Committee met recently to prepare meals for the THS football team.



The Worship Committee had a meeting on September 13 in Stuart Garden, social distancing of course!



FPC members recently assisted at St. Luke UMC's food pantry.

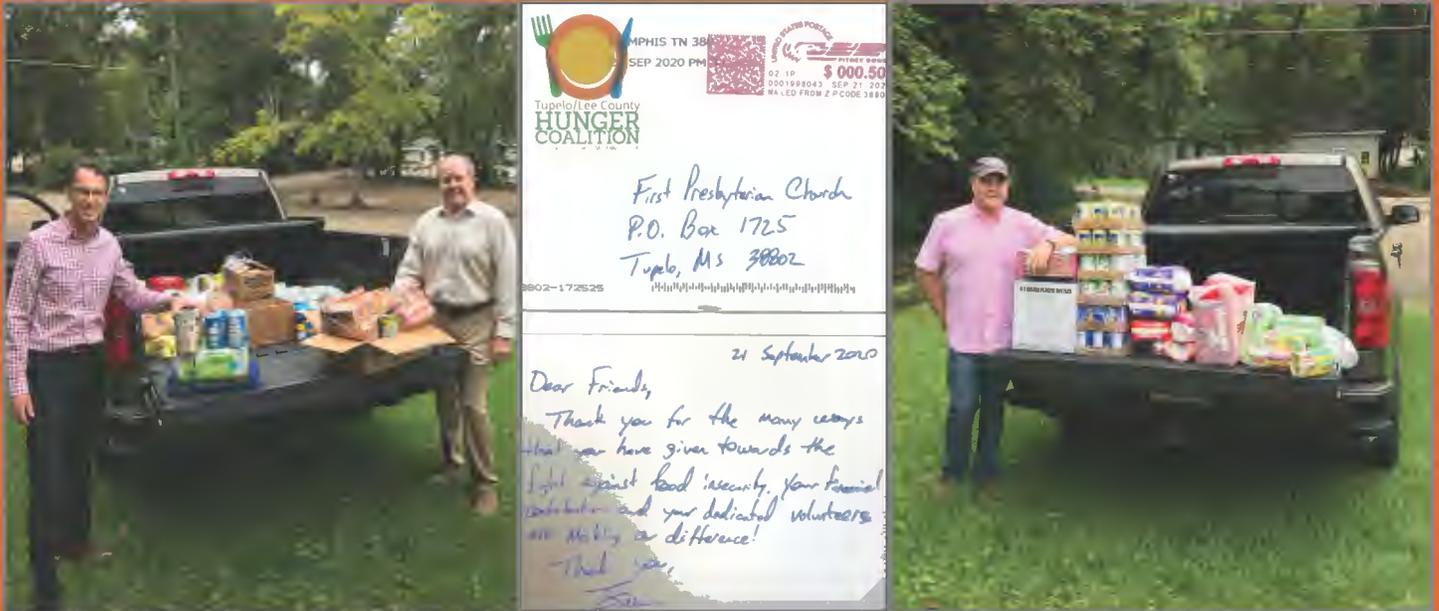


Lots of happy FPC faces helping out at Helping Hands Food Pantry!



Snacks were donated to children at Hilldale Apartments.

# Fill the Preacher's Truck!



Last week, FPC filled the preacher's pick-up truck with enough canned goods to make two deliveries to benefit the Tupelo/Lee County Hunger Coalition.

## T'ai Chi Chih

Ron Richardson leads a group in T'ai Chi Chih at the Columbarium on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Join us!



# PW Fall Kickoff





PW Fall Kickoff



# OCTOBER

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

				1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Fellowship Comm. Stuart Garden</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:30 a.m.— Bible Study</p>	8	9	10
<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Admin. Committee in McFadden Hall</p> <p>5:30 p.m.— Committee Meetings</p> <p>7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih</p> <p>12:00 p.m.— Circle 4, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:30 a.m.— Bible Study</p>	15	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 p.m.— Session Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30 a.m.— Bible Study</p>	22	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:30 a.m.— Bible Study</p>	29	30	31

# October Birthdays

2 Jim Ingram Jamie Ingram	11 Cathy Dunaway Jae Ingram Mary Evelyn Maxwell	22 Henry Martin Lewis Whitfield
3 Lou Ann McCarty	12 Perry Clayton Ann Godwin	23 Jimmy Crockett
4 Cindy McAuley Erin Stubbs	13 Ray Thornton	25 Bobbie Carsten Charles Reece
5 Claudia Neelly	15 Lee Reeder	26 James Paul Perry
6 Sherron Somerville	17 John Gaston, Sr.	29 Betty Nash
7 Louise Horton Grayson Robbins	18 Malcolm McAuley	31 Meg Curtis Lawson Phyfer
8 Buddy McCarty	19 Katelyn Fulgham	
9 Rud Robison	21 Margaret Anne Murphey	

# October Anniversaries

2 Tom & Judy Billups	19 Sam & Pat Agnew	25 Mike & Margaret Gratz
3 Kevin & Liz Rose	21 Steve & Lucy Nash Trey & Lorena Phyfer	26 Leighton & Julie Gibens
9 Jim & Heather Ingram	24 Jack & Aubre Wells	
13 Mac & Sarra Godwin		