

The

TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MS

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

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

A Message From Our Interim Pastor...
From the Pastor

Perhaps my favorite Christian author is Thomas Merton. Thomas Merton (1915-1968) is arguably the most influential American Catholic author of the twentieth century. His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, has sold over one million copies and has been translated into over fifteen languages. He wrote over sixty other books and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolence, and the nuclear arms race. More of his writings are being found and published even to this day.

Thomas Merton was born in Prades, France. His New Zealand-born father, Owen Merton, and his American-born mother, Ruth Jenkins, were both artists. They had met at painting school in Paris, were married at St. Anne's Church, Soho, London and returned to France, where Thomas Merton was born on January 31, 1915.

After a rambunctious youth and adolescence, Merton converted to Roman Catholicism while at Columbia University, and on December 10, 1941 he entered the Abbey of Gethsemani in rural Kentucky, a community of monks belonging to the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists), the most ascetic Roman Catholic monastic order. I had the pleasure of spending two weeks at this Abbey in 2010. An amazing experience. I plan to return next year. If you are interested in any of his writings, please stop by my office for a chat.

During his last years, he became deeply interested in Asian religions, particularly Zen Buddhism, and in promoting East-West dialogue. After several meetings with Merton during the American monk's trip to the Far East in 1968, the Dalai Lama praised him as having a more profound understanding of Buddhism than any other Christian he had known. It was during this trip to a conference on East-West monastic dialogue that Merton died, in Bangkok on December 10, 1968, the victim of an accidental electrocution. The date marked the twenty-seventh anniversary of his entrance to Gethsemani.

I share with you one of his prayers that I read almost daily:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing."

Pause and mediate on those words of Thomas Merton.

Peace,
Olin

*First
Presbyterian
Church (USA)*

400 W Jefferson St.
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**MINISTERIAL &
PROGRAM STAFF**

The Reverend Olin McBride
Interim Pastor

The Reverend Ron Richardson
Dr. Bob Taylor
Melissa McDuffie
Teresa Nichols
Dr. Ray Harris
Danielle Frerer
Allison Neal
Sunny Walters
Kay Stanford
Eddie Baker

Home

The patients I visit in any health care facility will invariably say at some point, “I want to go home” followed with, “There is just no place like home.” Any time I have been away from home visiting family, on vacation, or for business purposes, call it homesickness or whatever; I usually get to the point when I know I am ready to go home before my plans are to do so. Come to think of it, I remember while on the job looking at my watch or any clock wanting to know how much longer before I could go home. Having guests in our home can prompt these same curiosities. It is often said, “Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days” (Benjamin Franklin). This is a way of saying, “I want my home back.”

Home is a special place in our lives. We like the privacy, having our own schedule of when to do things, being able to dress up or down, and having our choice of meals and mealtime. Most important, we like the feeling of home when there is love and support with the presence of other family members. This is the reason I believe we want to be home. We associate home with God, our source of love. Jesus said, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (John 14:23).

Our challenge in this association of God and home is to keep in mind that God does not live in a geographical location. Sure, God is a part of our physical homes. This presence is also with us in all aspects of our lives. We are to stay aware that we cannot section off God’s power into some safe aspect of life. We cannot reserve one place for God and another place for us. The home of God does not belong to generals and armies, kings and rulers, or Wall Street. It belongs to a Lamb who was slain and calls us to follow him and to be at home with him. The Spirit of Christ is always calling us to go home because, indeed, there is no place like home.

Ron Richardson

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Church Directory

If you have any changes for the Church Directory, (address, phone, cell phone, email, etc.) please contact the church office. Deadline is September 21.

Mission Cafe

Mark your calendar for A Taste of New Orleans with Chef Justin Carlisle on Sunday, August 19. We will serve green salad, chicken and sausage gumbo with rice, muffaletta pinwheels, and zydeco chicken. Dessert: banana foster bread pudding. Children's menu: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with chips. All donations support the Cuba water mission and the Guatemala water and medical missions. We ask that you pay what you normally pay for Sunday lunch out with your family. If you can't make it to lunch, you can still donate to the mission trip! Take-out is available.

Children's Church

Children's Church has been an amazing experience. We have adapted the Babylon VBS curriculum for each Sunday. The children have learned about the life of Daniel and how God was faithful even when times were tough. Each week the Bible story is presented in creative ways, and the children play games and make crafts. The last week for the Babylon experience is August 5. Starting August 12, Children's Church will meet in the extended session room (in the preschool area). This is for preschool children-2nd graders. The children will learn about the different parts of worship. We will sing hymns, learn about the Bible, and of course play and create. This is an exciting time in our church, and a wonderful opportunity for our children!

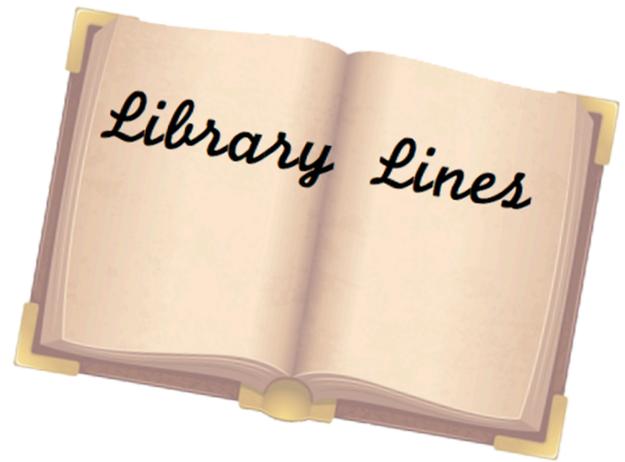
Preschool- So Much More than Playtime

FPC Preschool is out for the summer, but soon classes will begin and the halls and classrooms will buzz with fun and learning. Preschool has often been thought of as a place for young children to play and learn while Mom enjoys a few hours to herself. Studies have shown that a quality preschool program provides much more than that. Preschool can have lasting effects on everything from elementary school learning to graduation rates. Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi, says, "Increased access to high-quality early childhood education is one of the key drivers of rising student achievement in Mississippi." One study shows that 90% of brain development takes place from birth – Age 5.

The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. Children in our area who have access to quality early childhood education is quite low. FPC serves a need by having a preschool – a need that when met, could have a lasting impact on a child's life, and ultimately on the community. Preschool - so much more than playtime.

-Lori Robertson

Library books have a wealth of spiritual help about living a Christian life.



LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT ALL ABOUT YOU.

"You must realize that the Christian life is not a matter of self-effort. The secret of successful Christian living is 'Christ in you.' The Christian life is not a matter of just lifting ourselves by our own bootstraps." *Billy Graham Answers Your Questions*

A CHRISTIAN BUSINESS

"Are you careful . . . to keep to moderation in the pursuit of business, that it may not absorb your time and energy to the hindrance of your service to God?" *Diligence in Love* by Daisy Newman

A CHRISTIAN HOME

"Are you endeavoring . . . to make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who dwell therein and to all who visit there?" *Diligence in Love* by Daisy Newman

FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY

Charlie Brown explains to Linus his feeling: "You see, Linus, . . . it goes all the way back to the beginning. The moment I was

born . . . they took one look at me and said, 'Not right for the part.'" Power for Living says this feeling "is a lie, constantly whispered to us by the devil, to convince us we are . . . not precious to God," and that "despite what the world says, God loves us and we are special to Him." *Power for Living*

LIVING WITH THE FAITH WE DEFEND

Beyond Opinion addresses the difficult questions: challenges from youth, Islam, Eastern Religions, science, evil, and suffering. (Parents may want to zero in on the chapter on youth.) *Beyond Opinion* by Ravi Zacharias

HOW TO PRAY

"Prayer is conversation with God while driving to work or awaiting an appointment or before interacting with a client." *Before Amen* by Max Lucado

BIBLICAL FACTS

There is a beautiful new book in the library filled with pictures, charts, maps, and time lines. It will give a depth of understanding about the Bible. The pictures are awesome!

Children's Books

About children, God's creation: *You Are All Kinds of Wonderful* by Nancy Tillman

About parents' love for children: *I'd Know You Anywhere, My Love* by Nancy Tillman

The amazing influence of teachers on students: *The Art of Miss Chew* by Patricia Polacco

God hears children's prayers: *I Talk to God about How I Feel* by Stormie Omartian

Remember David and Goliath? David mentions Goliath only two times; he mentions God nine times.

"Are you four times as likely to describe the strength of God as you are the demands of your day?"

Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado

Nannette H. Comer, Librarian

Youth News...

July has been a busy month for our youth. A group of 20 youth and adults spent a week (July 7-14) in the mountains of Montreat, NC with Presbyterian youth from all over the country, deepening our faith and growing closer to God as we explored the theme "Lift Every Voice". A huge thank you to all who provided delicious food for our trip, who sent us with money to buy food, and who prayed for our safe travels and time there. Also, thank you to Julie Gibens, Lori Dickerson, Shea Rogers and Stephen Hazard for their leadership that week! We had a fantastic time, as always!

On July 18, a group of 6 youth left for Maryville, TN for the Montreat Middle School Conference. This is an excellent opportunity for our junior high students to get a taste of Montreat and explore their faith! We are actually here now and are very much looking forward to a great week as we learn more about what it means to be "Living Mosaics."

Our annual Back to School Trip is to Birmingham this year! We will welcome our upcoming 6th graders as we spend an overnight in fellowship and community August 10- 11. More details to come, but this will surely be a fun -filled trip complete with many laughs and great times as in previous years! We will return in time to join our church family for dinner August 11 at Camp FPC.

Melissa McDuffie

Interim Youth Director



Troop 3 News...

This July, Troop 3 went to summer camp at Kia Kima Scout Reservation, a 700+ acre regional camp near Hardy, Arkansas. Although it was unusually hot for a camp in the mountains, we still had a great time. We canoed down the South Fork River and managed to stay mostly upright despite numerous shoals and rapids along the way. On Wednesday, we hiked to the mountaintop chapel for a mid-week interfaith worship service and a breathtaking panoramic view of the area. On Thursday, our scouts participated in the Trailblazers program, climbing to the top of Masera Mountain to sleep under the stars beside a natural spring. Amid all this activity, our scouts still found time to relax and

just have a good time together.

I am very proud of our little Troop—from a group of 450 scouts comprising 18 different Troops, Troop 3 was selected for the "Golden Dustpan" Award, which recognizes the Troop with the best campsite for the week. Although there were four Troops with perfect inspection scores, Troop 3 won the award based on the creativity and uniqueness of our camp gadgets.

Scouting is open to all boys aged 11 to 17 years old. We meet in the Scout Hut on Monday night at 7:00 P.M., and welcome new members.

Bob Lence,
Scoutmaster

Christian Education

It will be a year of learning and deepening faith at First Presbyterian Church. We have an excellent group of teachers who will lead our children and youth during the Sunday school hour. They include:

Preschool (2 years – Kindergarten) Location: first floor of Education Building (hallway across from library)

Teachers: Ann Godwin, Chauncey Godwin, Alice Rogers, Heather Ingram, and Jackie Haguewood

Elementary
Grades 1-3

Location: 2nd floor Education Building

Teachers: Judy Armentrout, Leslie Geoghegan and Lisa Nichols

Grades 4-5

Location: 2nd Floor Education Building

Teachers: Taneill Barbour and Tish Wallace

Jr High

Grades 6-8

Location: Junior High (D109) Classroom in hallway across from gym

Teachers: Jim Ingram and Sandy Henson

Sr High

Grades 9-12

Location: Basement

Teachers: Trey Leeke, Taylor Neal and Kristi Hillhouse

We hope you will join to one of the adult classes offered. You will find a variety of teaching styles from which to choose.

Library Learners: Library Learners is for those who have questions and concerns about faith and what it means to live and learn as a Christian today in light of our history and mission in Christ. It is a group-discussion format that tackles both theological and topical studies. This class meets in the library.

Leaders: Miriam Crowell and Julie Gibens

Damaged Angels: The re-introduction of our Men's fellowship class Damaged Angels offers a chance to relax and engage with one another over a cup of coffee. The class meets in the Rec-Room across from the gym.

Leader: Buddy Stubbs

Seekers: This lively group of various ages enjoys a good discussion! The class is studying the Gospel of John using *Barclay's Commentary* and meets in the Session Room (D107) on the hall across from the gym.

Leaders: Lori Dickerson and Rick Jones

Sista'hood: Sista'hood is a group of women study and discuss various topics related to life application of their faith. They meet in the Bolton Brotherhood Classroom (B110) classroom on the hall beside the library.

Leaders: Garra Owens and Cindy Faucette

Frances Sheffield Class: Named in honor of Frances Sheffield, who retired from teaching this class after many years of enlightening and edifying her students, this class continues to study various books on faith. They are discussing *The Question That Never Goes Away* by Philip Yancey and meet in the second classroom (B111) on the hall beside the library.

Leader: Aubre Wells

The Journey: This class is for anyone who would like to enjoy a time of fellowship with a short devotion over a cup of coffee. They will meet in the Stewart Clayton Classroom (B112) in the hall next to the library.

Coffee/Doughnut Procurement Person: Tish Wallace

The Lost Class: This class studies various books and DVD series about the Christian faith; they are watching and discussing *The Historical Jesus*, a DVD Lecture Series by Professor Bart Ehrman. They meet in Room (D106) at the end of the hall across from the gym.

Coordinator: Sarah Helen Beckham

Leader Emeritus: Mildred Grubbs

Gifts, Memorials & Honoraria

In memory of

John Head

Glen and Bonnie Davidson (Stuart Garden)

Kirk & Teresa Biddle (Stuart Garden)

Joe Rutherford

Glen and Bonnie Davidson (Stuart Garden)

In honor of

The Marriage of Abby Wallace & Brent Heavner

Alice Rogers (Mort McMillan

Institute)

Birthdays

August

- 1. Walker Gibens
- 3. Vivian Fleming
- 4. Audrey Robertson * Camp Murry Hunter
- 8. Greg Burks * Emily Johnson * Andrew Ray * Ivy Wells
- 9. George Dent * Toni Martin
- 10. Nannette Comer * Hugh Lockett * Kory Hunter
- 12. Marion Linde * John Hewitt Parker II * Tatum Dabbs

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- 13. Taylor Burks * Wanda Dent * Bill Reeder
- 14. Travis Abney * Lindley Gibens
- 15. Chris Rogers * Sue Shepherd
- 16. Marshall Jenkins * Flora Shultz
- 17. Eric Johnson
- 18. Michael Gable * Jan Taylor
- 19. Alice Cobb * Miriam Crowell * Rob Jarrett
- 21. Anne Crotwell
- 23. Jason McDuffie * Trey Phyfer
- 27. Debra Robison * Betty Henson
- 28. Chuck Carsten * Sally Scott
- 30. Reid Hardison * Neely Johnson
- 31. Judy Armentrout

Anniversaries

August

- 1. Dan & Frances Brasfield
- 9. Bob & Jane Black
- 12. Mark & Kim Bureson * Sam & Mary Pace
- 13. Carl & Nannette Comer
- 21. Richard & Leslie Hastings
- 26. Rudy & Jala Caldwell
- 31. Chauncey & Ann Godwin

September

- 1. Kirk & Teresa Biddle
- 3. Fayette & Mary Elizabeth Williams



Baptism

Andrew McAllister Godwin, Jr. was baptized on Sunday, July 22. He is the son of Mac and Sarra Godwin and the grandson of Chauncey and Ann Godwin.



July Visitors

Please welcome our visitors every Sunday and encourage their return. Should they desire information about our church, please direct them (if possible, escort them) to the Elder of the Day after the service.

Martha Jane Ellis Blanch * Susan Connell * Windham & Maddie Connell * Penny Cochran * Melanie Deas * Will, Amanda & Julia Davis * Bryan Ellis * Mrs. Nancy Ellis * Olivia Fox * Danielle Frerer * Mac & Sarra Godwin * Preston Gresham * Lindsey Groome * Lindsay & Bess Henson * Meri Weller Hutson * Lin Joiner * Keely Kelso * Joy Kilburn * Michael & Missy Lunford * Cindy McAuley * Anne McFarland * Barbara McCullough * Gordon Pace * David & Camille Pace * Susannah, Corinne & Lilly Pace * Georgia & Emory Pitcock * Becki Rhea * Brad Rogers * Margaret Ellis Rogers * Emma Watson Skates * Stephanie Sims * Bob, Meredith, Nate, Henry & D.J. Swanson * John Michael Walker * Mel Whitfield * Jerry Lamar Kantack * Cash Murphey * Brian & Catherine Whiteacre * Lexie, Jude & Lindsay Godwin * Jerry & JoAnne Bradley

STAY UP-TO-DATE

by visiting www.firstprestupelo.org

First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS on Facebook

@1stPresTupelo on Twitter

Member Spotlight...



Emily Jarrett receives portrait of our church during her 'Going Away Dinner'. The Jarrett family will be missed greatly at FPC

Special Events/Programs * August 2018

Saturday & Sunday August 11 & 12* Camp FPC

Sunday, August 19 * Noon -Mission Café

Monday, August 20 * Session Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. T'ai Chi Chih</p> <p>8:00 p.m. AA, 12&12 Group</p>	<p>No Services</p>	<p>7:30 a.m. Men's Meeting at Holiday Inn</p>	<p>Noon AA 12 & 12 Group Mtg</p>



a fun & faith-filled
**Saturday &
Sunday**
August 11-12

Please join us for Camp FPC, a weekend of fun & fellowship for all ages. Our youth will enjoy their annual back-to-school trip and will return in time for our Saturday evening meal. Children will enjoy VBS activities while the adults meet with our guest speaker, Jimmy Hardin. All ages will prepare food boxes for those in need around the world. Kyle Rogers and Harris Rhea will provide their "world famous" barbecue for Saturday's supper. On Sunday morning, children meet their new Sunday school teachers and adults meet again with Jimmy Hardin.

We hope you will be a part of this exciting kick-off for fall at First Presbyterian Church.

◆◆◆ Schedule ◆◆◆
Saturday

- 1:30-3:30 Mission project: all ages pack food boxes
- 3:30-3:45 Light Snack
- 3:45-4:45 Adults: Speaker Jimmy Hardin in Sanctuary
- 3:45-4:15 Children: Bible Story/Craft
- 4:15-4:45 Children: Recreation
- 5:00 Youth return from Birmingham
- 5:00-6:00 BBQ supper

Sunday

- 8:30-9:30 Worship - Blessing of the Backpacks
- 9:45-10:45 Adults & Youth: Combined Sunday School with Jimmy Hardin in Fellowship Hall
Children: Regular classes begin
- 11:00-12:00 Worship - Blessing of the Backpacks



2018 Mission Cafè
p r e s e n t s

*A taste of
New Orleans*

with chef

Justin Carlisle

Sunday, August 19

Green Salad

Chicken & Sausage Gumbo with Rice

Muffaletta Pinwheels

Zydeco Chicken

For dessert: Bananas Foster Bread Pudding

Children's Menu: PB & J Sandwiches & Chips

All donations go to support Cuba water mission,
Guatemala water & medical missions.

Cost: We ask that you pay what you would normally pay
for a Sunday lunch out with your family. And if you can't
make it to lunch, you can still donate to the mission trip!

Take out available.

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