

The

TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

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February 2018

Vol. 48 Issue 2

From the Interim Pastor...

Ron McDougald, interim pastor of FPC Starkville, reminded me of a little book by Browne Barr about churches and the people who are part of them. It is called “High Flying Geese. Unexpected Reflections on the Church and its Ministry,” perhaps one of the best “parables” about how we might live our lives together through the church.

Here are some examples that may have meaning for some of us: 1-Geese fly in formation. Barr says that scientists have learned that as each bird flaps its wings, the whole flock adds at least 17% greater range. When we share a common direction and a strong sense of community (like here at FPC), we can get to where we are going easier and quicker because we are traveling on the uplift of one another.

2-A second lesson from the geese is that when the lead goose (point person, committee chair, elder, etc...) becomes tired, that goose rotates to the back of one of the “wings” and another goose moves to lead the formation. They take turns...and if you ever watch them flying, it is almost a seamless transition. It eliminates the “honking from behind,” because every “goose” gets the opportunity to take the lead.

3- Barr says that studies have shown that when a goose gets sick, wounded by gun shot, or just falls behind...another goose (or two) automatically joins the hurt one and will even follow it down until the hurt one is able to fly or finally dies. Then they will launch out and catch up with the formation. I doubt this one needs any explanation.

As we begin a new year of shared ministry at FPC...perhaps these lessons can serve as a model for how we “fly together.”

Blessings,
Olin

Laughter

One of the best pastoral visits I can make with our homebound is when the visit includes times of laughter. This has recently occurred on several occasions. I am always amazed how circumstances can make room for a sense of humor. The word “homebound” signifies confinement. If laughter is found here, it can be found anywhere. I deeply admire those who can be funny at any time, much less when facing limitations beyond their control and still laugh.

An elder who went with me to serve communion one day was distracted by some humorous comments made by the person being served. This caused the elder to leave behind the container of bread used for communion. When the time came to serve the next member, there was no bread. Close by on a table was a package of nabs. The elder proceeded to open it and broke off a small piece of cracker to be used as the bread. It was a time for the homebound and servers to laugh.

Laughter found a place with another homebound who began talking about our Interim Pastor Olin McBride and his children’s sermons this person watched on TV. There was admiration expressed for the way children are so captivated by the tools Olin uses to communicate with the children.

Laughter followed with the naming of a wheelbarrow, firecrackers, and dog.

I have observed laughter being a part of various programs at the church, in session meetings, and during and after worship. Theologian Karl Barth once said, “Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.” If laughter means we are a happy church then, Psalm 146:5-7 is descriptive of who we are: “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.” It is well known that laughter is good for our health. It is also good for the soul as it motivates us to be the church.

Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Session Digest

1. The Sistahood class is beginning the Adam Hamilton video series, Making Sense of the Bible.
2. The Confirmation Class will be taught using the same curriculum as last year, We Believe, led primarily by Melissa McDuffie.
3. A pancake dinner will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, as there will be no meal on Ash Wednesday.
4. Watch for information about a Lenten Family event on a Saturday morning (date to be determined), with breakfast and faith building activity(ies).
5. Twenty-one Starbucks Christmas gift cards were sent to college students in December.
6. Lunch will be served to the family and out -of -town friends following the service for Fraser Hunter on February 3.
7. Front doors and breezeway doors will open prior to 8:30 worship on Sundays. Volunteers will monitor these doors during 8:30 worship. All other doors will open at 9:40 and doors will be locked at 11:15 until general security issues have been addressed.
8. Melissa McDuffie has requested that Youth Sunday be May 6, 2018. In lieu of Youth Sunday the first Sunday in May, Communion will be served on the second Sunday, May 13, 2018.
9. Olin McBride will be out of town March 6 – 12. Ron Richardson will preach on March 11.

Preschool & Kindergarten News

Preschool/Kindergarten Registration Now Open! We currently have space available in all of our classes for the upcoming 2018/2019 school year. Preschool classes are offered for children ages 2, 3 and 4 as well as for Kindergarten. Interested persons may call or come by the church office, and they will be put in contact with a representative from the preschool.

FPC's preschool programs provide early childhood education and care for children in a loving, Christ-centered environment. Preschools such as ours have been shown to help children develop a range of skills that make them ready to learn when they start school.

Youth

The Youth are looking forward to getting back into the routine!! Christmas holiday and snow days have been a nice break, but we have several exciting things coming up!

Our Confirmands kicked off their journey through Confirmation with a retreat at Hopewell January 14-15. It was a great retreat with lots of laughs, Low Challenge Course, and especially good discussions on what we as Presbyterians believe! These youth are Magalie Martin, Lindley Gibens, Wilkes Jarrett, Mazzie Cooper, Olivia Reynolds, Ashton Posey and Jenkins Wells. Please pray for these youth as they explore their own faith and consider their responsibilities as members of Christ's Church!

Many of you are familiar with Presbytery Youth Council (PYC). This is a group in our Presbytery made up of youth who work diligently to plan and lead a retreat for their peers. Our church has three members of PYC - Carli Hillhouse, Carson Clark and Ben Gibens. Camp Hopewell will host a Senior High PYC Retreat January 26-28 and a Junior High PYC Retreat February 16-18. If your son or daughter is interested in attending, please let Melissa or Jamie know!

The Youth will again partner with the Water Mission Teams to bring you Souper Bowl Sunday! I hope you will join us after the 11:00 service on February 4 for a bowl of warm soup. To-go bowls will be available early.

A HUGE "Thank You" to Margaret Parker for her donation and DELIVERY of a pool table for the youth to enjoy in the basement! I am sure hours of fun and fellowship are in its future!!

Melissa McDuffie, Co-Interim Youth Director

Catch-a-Dream Foundation

Marty Brunson of Catch-a-Dream Foundation will be our guest on Wednesday, February 23 at 6:15 p.m. following dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Catch-A-Dream is a national charitable, non-profit, foundation that provides once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing trips to children age 18 and younger, across the United States and Canada, who suffer from life-threatening illnesses. Through these adventures and exposure to outdoors-minded people who care, the program instills in these children a message of encouragement at a time when they need to know that hope does indeed exist.

Thank You

To my wonderful church family.

My family & I were so overwhelmed by the response to our needs during our Christmas crisis. The fire happened at 3:00 a.m. Sunday morning, and by nightfall all behinds were covered and warm. Your prayers, calls, notes, food, clothing and money were so appreciated and used very well. The 3 children (& adults as well) had a great Christmas and hardly knew there was such a crisis. We still have a ways to go, but we'll get there. We felt your caring, loving support and thanked God for each of you.

Love to all,

Bonnie

Fellowship Committee

Fellowship Committee did not meet in January. Our next Fellowship event will be the Easter Brunch during the Sunday School hour on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

Gifts, Memorials, & Honoraria

In Memory of

Scott Nicholson

George Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Betty Nash (Landscaping)

Elsie McCoy Hartgraves Bornman

The Ralph Hartgraves Family
(Congregational Care)

Ann Arnold & Bill Ratliff (Congregational
Care)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Betty Nash (Pastor's Discretionary)

Mike & Daintry Thomas (Congregational
Care)

Dot McDuffie

Betty Nash (Chancel Choir)

Wilson Reeder

Betty Flynn (Youth)

Rud & Debra Robison (Youth)

Bill & Scarlett Reeder (Youth)

Betty Nash (Worship)

Nancy Robison

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Dr. Rud Robison

Betty Nash (Guatemala)

Joe Rutherford

Steve & Lucy Nash (Outreach/Mission)

David Williams (Outreach/Mission)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Mark & Helen Monts (Outreach/Mission)

Sarah Young (Pastor's Discretionary)

Sylvia Shaw

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Water Mission)

Sarah Young (Pastor's Discretionary)

In Honor of

The Boerner Family

Lin Joiner (Water Mission)

The Burluson Family

Lin Joiner (Water Mission)

Robin & Cindy Faucette

Mark & Helen Monts (Guatemala)

Danielle Frerer

Buddy & Mary Stubbs (Music)

John & Carolyn Gaston

Mark & Helen Monts (Pastor's
Discretionary)

Leslie Geoghegan

Mark & Helen Monts (Music)

Anne Marie Goad

Travis & Gay Abney (Columbarium)

Doug & Tina Maxwell

Mark & Helen Monts (Fellowship)

Martha Jo Patterson

Betty Flynn (Congregational Care)

Grayson & Bess Robbins

Mark & Helen Monts (Worship)

Tony Tannehill

Mark & Helen Monts (Music)

Bob Taylor

Buddy & Mary Stubbs (Music)

Birthdays

February

2. Andy Lockett * Bethany Hazel
3. Ben Eakes
4. Hank Owens * Chris Thompson * Bill Henson
7. John H. Parker
8. Leslie Burks * Joey McDuffie
9. Joel Zimmerman
11. Lanta Craig
13. Emma Counce * Abbey Hastings
15. Bill Deas * Will White
16. Emma Kantack
17. Lucy Nash
18. Betty Castles
19. Bess Robbins
20. Bennett Mark
23. Lilah Kate Ray
24. Lauren Nichols * Meagan Loden
26. Britt Rogers III
27. Laurie Teague
28. Daintry Thomas * Benjamin Hunter * Katherine Johnson

March

1. Evelyn Croxton * Henry Seiler * Jessica Fulgham
2. Jon Arnold
3. Lorena Phyfer
4. George Seiler * Mike Black
5. Robin Faucette

Anniversaries

February

1. Byron & Bettie Fellows * Sammy & Annalyn Perryman
3. Dwight & Sarah Hardison
4. Jim & Lisa Nichols
16. Chris & Holly Rogers
20. John & Betty Castles
21. Robin & Cindy Faucette * Lewis & Mel Whitfield
27. George & Wanda Dent

January 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.

Michael & Laura Ashley * Mazzie Cooper * David Craig * Melanie Deas * Jean Elmore * Danielle Frerer * Jerri Lamar Kantack * Kelly Kelso * Cindy McAuley * Robert, Michelle & Rob McAuley * Robb & Katherine Marlar * Barbara McCullough * Olivia & Kailan Reynolds * Becki Rhea * Bob, Meredith, Nate, Henry Swanson * Emma Skates * Fred Tabbiolo * John Michael Walker * Kelsey & Kristen Whitten * Makensie Bright * Caylee Davidson * James & Margaret Glover * Mark & Dee Ann Glover



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 4
Fellowship Hall

A variety of
heart-warming soups,
bread & desserts

Hosted by the Outreach Mission
Committee & Youth Group

Proceeds benefit
water missions &
youth projects

*And there shalt be no trash talking of teams.

Catch-A-Dream

Adult Faithbuilders

Wednesday, February 7 • 6:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Marty Brunson

Catch-a-Dream Foundation

Catch-A-Dream is a national, charitable, non-profit foundation, that provides once-in-a-lifetime dream hunting and fishing trips to children across the United States and Canada, age 18 and younger, who suffer from life-threatening illnesses. Through these adventures, and exposure to outdoors-minded people who care, the program instills in these children a message of encouragement at a time when they need to know that hope does, indeed, exist.



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper



Tuesday,
February 13
5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Reservations
appreciated,
but not required.

the journey begins



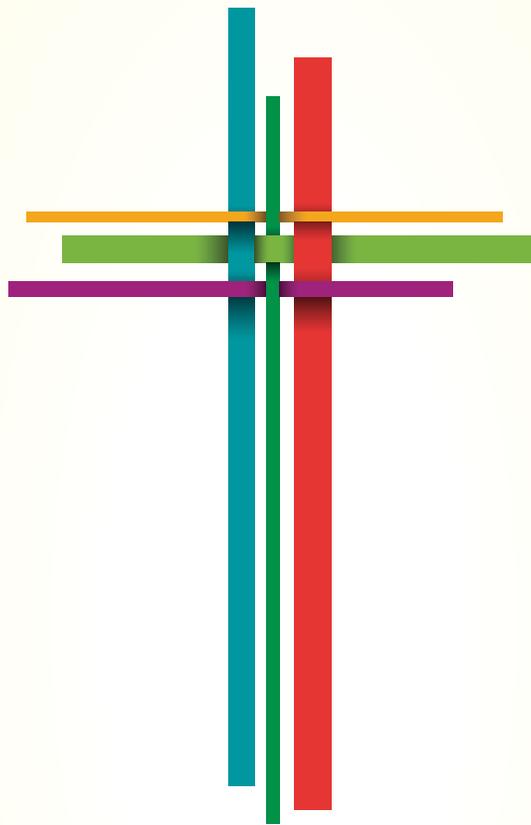
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Wednesday

February 14

12:10 & 6:15 p.m.

FPC-TUPELO



Tupelo Ministerial Association

presents

Lenten Luncheon Series

Thursday, February 15

Lawndale Presbyterian Church | 1500 Lawndale Drive

Thursday, February 22

Calvary Baptist Church | 501 West Main Street

Thursday, March 1

First United Methodist Church | 412 Main Street

Thursday, March 8

The Church at Trace Crossing | 1181 West Main Street

Thursday, March 15

First Presbyterian Church | 400 West Jefferson Street

Thursday, March 22

Saint Luke United Methodist | 1400 Clayton Avenue

The community will gather at noon.

A light lunch will be served

Donations accepted to offset the cost of lunch

First Presbyterian Church

400 Jefferson Street

P.O. Box 1725

Tupelo, Mississippi 38802

The Church Calendar February 2018

Sundays

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Mondays

2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3

Tuesdays

11:00 a.m. Mary & Martha Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA,12&12 Group Mtg.

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Faithbuilders
5:15 p.m. Tower Ringers
5:30 p.m. Supper Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Bible Study
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursdays

7:30 a.m. Men's Meeting (Holiday Breakfast)

Fridays

Noon AA 12&12 Group Mtg



Special Events/Programs February 2018

Sunday, February 4* Noon Souper Bowl Luncheon

Monday, February 5* 6:45 p.m. Circle 3 meets at Margaret Parker's home

Monday, February 12* 9:30 a.m. Circle 2 home of Ann Monaghan

Monday, February 12* 5:30 p.m. Committee Meetings

Tuesday, February 13* Noon Circle 5 in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 19* 5:30 p.m. Session Meeting