

The TOWER

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

July 2018
Volume 48 Issue 7

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

*A Message From Our Interim Pastor...
The Reverend Dr. Olin McBride*

Five Balls

This was written by the C.E.O. of Coca Cola, Brian G. Dyson. It was used at Georgia Tech's 172nd Commencement Address September 6, 1991.

Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them- work, family, health, friends and spirit, and you're keeping all of these in the air.

You will understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls -spirit, family, health, and friends- are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life. How?

1. Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.
2. Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.
3. Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.
4. Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live ALL the days of your life.
5. Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.
6. Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us together.
7. Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.
8. Don't shut love out of your life by saying it is impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.
9. Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you are going.
10. Don't forget that a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
11. Don't be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.
12. Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved.

"Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way. Yesterday is History

Tomorrow is a Mystery, and Today is a Gift: that's why we call it- The Present"

Peace,
Olin



Olin challenged Nancy Brown Milam to a ping pong match during Elvis Festival. Tony Tannehill watches intense match!!

Session Digest

First Presbyterian Church (USA)

400 W Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS., 38804

www.firstprestupelo.org

662-842-5681



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

The Reverend Dr. 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

1. Melissa McDuffie will assume the duties of Interim DCE. She will continue as Interim Youth Director.
2. Heather Crotwell will assist Melissa with DCE activities and be primarily responsible for the elementary youth worship conducted during the regular worship services on Sundays.
3. Mike Thomas and David Williams presented the results of the financial audit performed for the year ending December 31, 2017.
4. The Preschool will have an operating deficit for the past school year of approximately \$7,000.
5. Teachers are in place for fall semester Sunday school and Faithbuilders.
6. Plans are underway for Camp FPC on Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12 .
 - We will have a guest speaker on Saturday and Sunday for the adults.
 - Plans are to focus on fun activities and fellowship with a brief Bible study session for the children on Saturday.
 - We will end Saturday with a barbeque provided by Kyle Rogers and Harris Rhea.
 - Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
7. Summer Youth schedule:
 - July 1 – Sunday Night Youth
 - July 7-14 – Montreat Youth Conference (no youth July 8)
 - July 15 – NO Sunday night Youth, Montreat recovery!
 - July 18-22 – Montreat Middle School (no youth July 22)
 - July 29 – Sunday Night Youth
 - Looking into a Back -to -School trip. Considering returning to Memphis (as we did in 2016), but will have more details next month. Dates for this trip are likely August 10-11.
8. Mission Café has been scheduled for August 19.
 - This year theme is A Taste of New Orleans.
 - Justin Carlisle has agreed to be responsible/prepare the meal again.
9. Gift from Alice Rogers - brass fender and and irons for McFadden Hall
10. Wheelchairs will be located by handicapped entry and Bolton Classroom.
11. Security committee is working on policies and procedures.
12. Checkout the new cabinet and shelves in the Bolton Sunday School Room. This is a great area for the bride and bridesmaids as they get ready for a wedding.
13. Olin McBride recommended Sarah Jenkins continue as 2018/2019 Treasurer and Cindy Faucette as Clerk.
14. Olin will lead the Bible study Walk Through the Bible. These classes will begin in August or September, with probably a morning class and a night class.

Self

One of our homebound shared an interesting observation with me recently. This person regularly watches the recorded worship services on television. The recording begins before the chimes are played. People are coming into the sanctuary, stopping to greet others who are already seated. Eventually there is movement toward pews with empty spaces. Chatter continues. It is noticed even as the minister, liturgist, and choir are coming down the aisle and people are quickly moving to a pew to find a seat. The thought shared by our homebound member is it seems worship is more about self than about God. The suggestion is we begin worship when we enter the sanctuary. This calls for reverence with a focus on God rather than self.

Complaints such as this have been made about worship for as long as I can remember. Have they brought change? No. Are they legitimate complaints? Yes. Am I as guilty as anyone else? Yes. So much of what takes place in the world says life is all about us. When we come to worship and enter the sanctuary, we are to be reminded life is all about God. It is a time for reverence, which involves silence and thinking about how God fits into our lives. It is a time to listen for the voice of God. As the psalmist puts it, "Be still, and know that I am God" (46:10)!

When we come into the sanctuary, we are entering a holy space. We are to encounter God and not each other. There is a reverence manifested by silence observing how God rather than self is taking center stage.

Ron Richardson

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Preschool & Kindergarten News

August 13, 2018 9:00 a.m. -
Teachers' Meeting

August 13-17, 2018

Teachers' Work Week

August 16, 2018 9:00
a.m.-11:00 a.m. - Open
House

August 20, 2018 First Day of
School

Our preschool currently has openings for the 2018-2019 school year in the two-year-old class and in the kindergarten class. If you know anyone who may have an interest, please have them call or come by the church office.

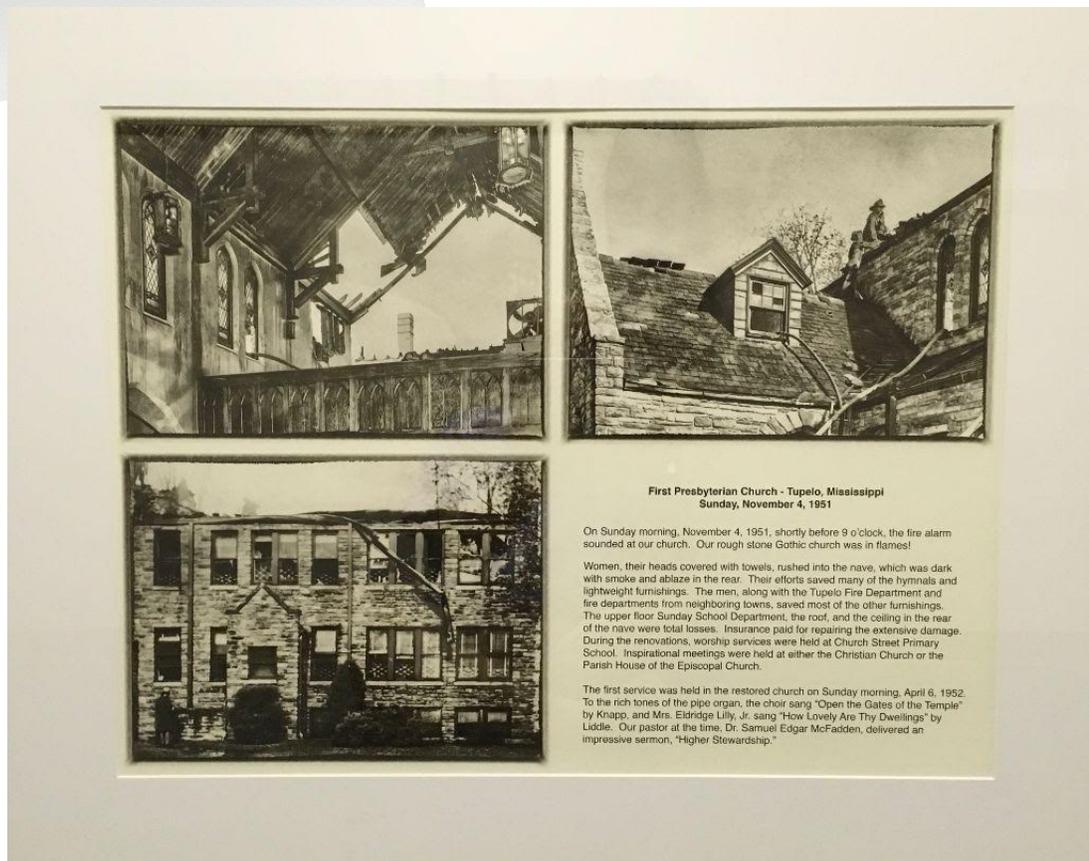
-Sunny Walters, Preschool &
Kindergarten

Photographs

Recently discovered and on display are photos of damage caused, on November 4, 1951, by a fire that destroyed the upper floor of FPC's Sunday School Department, the roof, and part of the nave's ceiling. Three photographs, restored and framed, now hang on the wall opposite our library; they capture the extensive destruction.

These photographs appeared by fortuitous accident earlier this year while church members sorted through boxes of old photographs. To describe the pictures as worn and weathered is an understatement.

Thanks to the efforts and expertise of Buddy McCarty, those tattered photographs are vastly improved, depicting a painful event in our church history. The congregation of FPC, with God's guidance, remains resilient despite perils of the past.



Property & Grounds Updating...



As many of you are aware there has been ongoing moisture penetration at the corners either side of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The defects have been patched and we hope the problems is now resolved.



Michael Davidson's, Architectural Stone Expert, applies special formulated paint to letters on the FPC Sandstone sign at front of Church!



Youth News... Reporting from Boston

As we type these words, we are on our Mission Trip in Boston. We have spent a week building relationships, serving in soup kitchens, sharing meals with homeless people, working with the elderly, cleaning and prepping a camp for a great summer for underprivileged children, and many other things. We have gotten our hands dirty; we have shared tears of joy with some we have met; we have had our eyes opened to God's big world, and we have grown closer together as a group and grown deeper in our faith. Our group consists of 12 fantastic youth and 4 brave leaders! We are here with other youth and adults from South Dakota, New Jersey and Michigan. Rest assured, we have educated them on such essentials like proper use of "y'all," the real definition of heat, and where Elvis was actually born! They returned the favor on proper use of snow shovels and what cold feels like! It's been such a great week, but I'll let them tell you....

"I met a man who was a messianic Jew at the soup kitchen, and it was really cool to talk about religion with him." -Carson Clark, upcoming senior

"My favorite part was working at the soup kitchen and meeting lots of new friends." -Kailan Reynolds, upcoming 7th grader

"My favorite part has been meeting new people, getting to do all the fun things, and exploring Boston." -Catherine Rogers, graduated senior

"I met Raul and he has been the sweetest man I have met so far. The most memorable thing is when we both cried together over the people who came here and how he has seen them deteriorate. Through this, God shows me that these are his children, hurting. But we all are loved, no matter where we are." - Elizabeth Fulgham, upcoming 11th grader

"One of my favorite things from this trip was the opportunity to eat at the soup kitchen with the people who normally eat there! It was so neat to hear their stories and be able to chat with them, they were all so nice and ready for a conversation with anyone." -Abbey Hastings, graduated senior

"So I really liked meeting Dylan. He was really nice and interesting. At the first of the week I thought he was going to be really rude, but he turned out really nice and a lot better." -Olivia Reynolds, upcoming 8th grader

"I have met an amazing woman named Jami, who has talked to me about her life and mine. The most memorable thing is working in the kitchen and just talking and listening to the members who were eating; also My Brother's Table (a soup kitchen where we served)." -Carli Hillhouse, upcoming senior

"I found being at My Brother's Table very inspiring. I talked to some of the people eating there and despite their situations, they had

good attitudes and were thankful for the things they had. I felt God's presence there speaking to those people." -Ansley Caldwell, upcoming senior

"My favorite mission part was serving at the soup kitchen!" - Magalie Martin, upcoming 9th grader

"I had so much fun with Jim at the work site I went to. He was such a nice guy with lots of good conversation." -Katelyn Fulgham, upcoming 7th grader

"My favorite part was working at Camp Creighton and preparing a camp for future campers who will be able to make memories of a lifetime. I already don't mind being in the woods, so clearing trails and moving leaves weren't a problem for me." -Ben Gibens, graduated senior

"Something God has taught me was to find ways to be grateful in everything. It surprised me how many people who were not ungrateful or rude in the soup kitchen. Seeing all these people who were struggling just made me very thankful for parents who have raised me in a very good environment and have given me opportunities to better myself." -Lucy Wells, upcoming 11th grader

"I've enjoyed getting to know Bonnie, who is the "retired" Director of Integrated Clinical Solutions. She takes care of four mentally disabled men who have spent most of their lives without a home. Cleanliness, cooking skills and other skills to keep them self-sufficient are hard to teach, and she does an incredible job caring for them." -Mary Kate Robbins, brave leader/Boston expert

"Most enlightening is how God provides happiness to all, no matter their physical or mental abilities or socio-economic status." - Grayson Robbins, who now drives like a local

"Seeing relationships of all kinds form and strengthen." -Lori Robertson, expert beaver dam remover

"My takeaway from this trip will be all the times I watched our youth (and everyone we are with) take initiative to introduce themselves to complete strangers, to step up and do dirty or hard work, to pray over our meals, and so many other things. They have represented us so well, and you should be so proud!!" -Melissa McDuffie

From the bottom of all our hearts, thank you all so much for your financial support and for your prayers. These youth know they are loved by each of you!!!



Gifts, Memorials & Honoraria

In memory of

William A. Billups

Judy Griffie (Undesignated)

William & Lucy Hilbun (Outreach/
Mission)

Ray & Annette Thornton
(Guatemala)

David Williams (Guatemala)

John Head

Freddie & Mary Ann Chiles (Capital)

George & Wanda Dent (Guatemala)

Judy Griffie (Undesignated)

Ray & Annette Thornton (Guatemala)

Sarah Young (Guatemala)

George Hariston Nash

Judy Griffie (Undesignated)

Ed Neelly

Billy Hodges (Guatemala)

Chris & Meg Hodges (Guatemala)

Frank & Kim Hodges (Guatemala)

Gray & Joanna Megginson
(Guatemala)

Britt & Alice Rogers (McMillan
Institute)

Carroll E. White

George White (Memorial Garden/
Landscaping)

In honor of

Dan & Frances Brasfield

Brad & Katie Dunn (Guatemala)

Birthdays

July

1. Deanna Richardson * Frances Sheffield

2. Melonie Counce * Bill Dickerson III *

Tony Tannehill

3. Al Wallace IV * Sally Threldkeld

4. David Henson

6. Louis Armour * Kyle Rogers

7. Olivia Hastings * Drew Lockett

10. Amanda Green * Rochelle Wallace * Allan
Smith

12. Beverly Chappell * Joanne Posey * Tucker
Erickson

14. Matthew Jackson Cayson

15. Byron Fellows * Leath Johnson

17. Lori Robertson

19. Retta Maxwell

22. Cooper Murphey

23. Doug Maxwell

24. Maureen Miller

25. Faye Bruce

26. Kristen Whitten

28. Larry Hazel * Sam Pace

29. Heather Ingram * Susan Boone * Isaiah
Barbour

30. Steve Bryson

August

1. Walker Gibens

3. Vivian Fleming

4. Audrey Robertson * Camp Murray Hunter

Anniversaries

July

7. Hugh & Bea Lockett

8. Andy & Heather Crotwell

9 Hank & Garra Owens

15. Tom & Jenny Hewitt

19. Barry & Ginger Mark

20. Clarence & Sue Shepherd

25. Britt & Alice Rogers

26. Bill & Camille Caples

28. Bill & Lori Dickerson

30. Butch & Trica Cockrell

August

1. Dan & Frances Brasfield

June 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.

Alice Alexander † Caroline Biddle † Clyde Biddle † Warren & Heather Biddle † Doug Braff † Penny Cochran † Sarah Davis † Terry & Susan Davis † Will Davis † Melanie Deas † Danielle Frerer † Justin & Cy Flaherty † Susan Hyatt † Lin Joiner † Keely Kelso † Molly Lincoln † Cindy McAuley † Barbara McCullough † Corinne, Camille & David Pace, Jr. † John Ellis Ray † Becki Rhea † Emma & Emory Skates † Maurice & Stacy Singh † Bob, Meredith, Nate, Henry & D.J. Swanson † Rob Taylor † John Michael Walker † Jack & Mary Zumwalt † Keely Kelso

STAY UP-TO-DATE

by visiting www.firstprestupelo.org

First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS on Facebook

@1stPresTupelo on Twitter

Members Spotlight...



FPC women at B Jay and Elizabeth Nelson's wedding!

2018-2019 Committee Chairs

Administrative- Mike Thomas

Property & Grounds- Doyce Deas

Christian Education- Lori Dickerson

Outreach/Mission- David Carlisle

Congregational Care- Rochelle Wallace

Worship- Judy Thomas

Fellowship- Lucy Nash

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	9:00 a.m. T'ai Chi Chih 8:00 p.m. AA, 12&12 Group	No Services	7:30 a.m. Men's Meeting at Holiday Inn	Noon AA 12 & 12 Group Mtg

CAMP HOPEWELL

2018

DATE	EVENT	AGE	FEE
January 26-28	PYC Senior High Retreat	High School	\$125
February 16-18	PYC Junior High Retreat	Middle School	\$125
March 25	Open House (2pm-5pm)	All Ages	Free

SUMMER CAMP SEASON

June 4-8	Day Camp	Completed K-4th	\$190
June 10-16	Discovery 1 Explorer Treehouse Sherwood NEW Explorer Solve It! Diabetes Adventure Trip	Completed 1st-3rd Completed 4th-6th Completed 4th-6th Completed 7th-10th	\$370/470/570 \$400/500/600 \$400/500/600 \$550/650/725
June 17-23	Discovery 2 Explorer SPAQ (Sports & Aquatics) Adventure Times 3!	Completed 1st-3rd Completed 4th-6th Completed 7th-9th	\$370/470/570 \$400/500/600 \$595/675/750
June 17-20 June 20-23	Wee Bit 1 Wee Bit 2	Completed K-2nd Completed K-2nd	\$235/285/335 \$235/285/335
June 24-30	Type 1 Diabetes Adventures in Leadership	10-15 years of age 16 years of age	\$430/560/675 \$430/560/675
July 5-7	Diabetes Wee Bit	6-9 years of age	\$235/\$285/335
July 8-14	Discovery 3 Explorer Treehouse Sherwood NEW Explorer Rope & River Adventure Camp Construct	Completed 1st-3rd Completed 4th-6th Completed 4th-6th Completed 7th-9th	\$370/470/570 \$400/500/600 \$425/525/625 \$425/525/625
July 8-11 July 11-14	Wee Bit 3 Wee Bit 4	Completed K-2nd Completed K-2nd	\$235/285/335 \$235/285/335
July 15-21	Night Owl	Completed 4th-9th	\$400/500/600



HOPEWELL CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
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EMAIL: INFO@CAMPHOPEWELL.COM



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CAMPHOPEWELL.COM

CAMP HOPEWELL IS A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREW, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Summer
**CHILDREN'S
CHURCH**

for 3-year-olds - 5th graders

**CHILDREN WILL LEAVE
THE SANCTUARY AFTER
CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH
INCLUDES
SINGING, A BIBLE STORY
& A CRAFT OR GAME
RELATED TO THE SCRIPTURE.**

**BEGINS SUNDAY, JUNE 3
DURING THE 10 A.M. SERVICE**



CAMP
FAM

a fun & faith-filled weekend
for adults & children

Saturday & Sunday
August 11-12

Ages 3-103

→ VBS for three-years-old through fifth grade ←

→ Middle & high school activities ←

→ Guest Speaker for Adults: Jimmy Hardin ←

First Presbyterian Church
400 Jefferson Street P.O. Box 1725
Tupelo, Mississippi 38802

Address Service Requested

