



The

TOWER

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

Only Fifty-Seven Pennies

Fifty-seven pennies that were found under a little girl's pillow when she died left their mark on Philadelphia. The girl wanted to enter a little Sunday school in Philadelphia years ago, and was told that there was not enough room. She began saving her pennies "to help the Sunday school have more room."

Two years later she became ill and died, and they found a small pocket book under her pillow with fifty-seven pennies and a piece of paper that had the following note written very neatly. "To help build the Little Temple bigger, so more children can go to Sunday school."

The pastor told the story to his congregation, and the newspaper took the story across the country. Soon the pennies grew, and the outcome can be seen in Philadelphia today. There is a church which will seat 3,300 persons, a Hospital, and a large Temple Sunday school. And it all began with a beautiful, dedicated spirit—and fifty-seven pennies. It takes concern and commitment and dedication and love to give one's self. In the words of Jesus at the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan: "Go thou and do likewise."

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

Quotes

At some point during my younger days, I began collecting quotes and have continued with this into my older years. While visiting older adults, I have discovered I am not the only one who enjoys quotes from various sources. Many of those visited have sent me their favorite quotes. I want to share a few I found funny, trivial, and wise:

From Church Bulletins:

- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

From Blond Men:

- A blond man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart." "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor. "No," he shouts, "This is her husband."
- A blond man's dog goes missing and he is frantic. His wife says, "Why don't you put an ad in the paper?" He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing. "What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks. "Here boy!" he replies.

Trivial:

- Went to the air and space museum and there was nothing there.
- This is my stepladder. I never knew my real ladder.
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then, it hit me.
- They're not going to make yardsticks any longer.

Wise:

- The best teachers are forever a student, forever learning.
- You cannot multitask efficiently.
- Instead of looking at exercise as a way to live a longer life, think of it as a way to feel as good as you can while you are here.
- No brain is stronger than its weakest think.

Thanks to older adults for sharing their treasures of quotes.

- Ron Richardson

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Trunk or Treat

I am excited to report that Trunk or Treat 2018, on Wednesday, October 31st from 5:30-7:00 p.m., will be bigger and better than ever!! Calvary Baptist and First Baptist have joined in the fun. We will have the addition of 7 bouncy houses on FBC grassy area across from Pegues, cotton candy, a hay maze at All Saints, along with chili dogs and drinks from FUM and popcorn, and hot chocolate or witch's brew from FPC. I am searching for 15 decorated FPC trunks to participate and TONS of candy/goodies to give away to the expected 2500+ children who will pass from Jefferson St. to Robins St. on Halloween night, a team to pre-pop and bag popcorn, and a team for hot chocolate/witch's brew. Several candy collection bins to fill and re-fill are already located throughout the church. Please email or call Lucy Nash if you are willing to host a trunk for the night at LPNASH@AOL.com or 687-1940.

"Trunk or Treat is one of our most fun memories. Just candy, smiles and fun!! And lots of polite children!! Come join us! ~ Gay and Travis Abney

Exciting News To Know...

Church-wide Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18 following the 11:00 service and will be combined with the Stewardship Celebration Luncheon and Olin's Installation as our new Pastor!



Our very own Margaret Anne Murphey has been chosen as the Grand Marshall of the Reed's Christmas Parade on Friday, November 30. FPC will host an Open House.

Session Digest...

1. A total of 50 students are enrolled in our Preschool Program.
2. Stewardship updates to remember -
 - Session members will pledge on October 28.
 - Consecration Sunday is November 4.
 - Pledge results will be announced at Thanksgiving luncheon on November 18.
3. The Communication Subcommittee, formerly housed under Stewardship, will be moved to Congregational Care. Park Dodge has agreed to chair the subcommittee. Members are as follows: Buddy Stubbs, Grayson Robbins, Sam Pace, Park Dodge, Leslie Geoghegan, and Allie Neal.
4. The youth will feed the guests at the Salvation Army November 11. Youth will meet early to cook and prepare the food and will serve at 5:00 at the Salvation Army gym.
5. With Olin's surgery, Wednesday nights have been rescheduled. The proposed schedule is...
 - a. November 7 – Parkgate Pregnancy Center
 - b. November 14 – TBD, possible mission project with Thanksgiving approaching
 - c. December 5 – Advent (and possibly Epiphany) Lesson by Olin
6. The Youth will study the Lord's Prayer as a break in the study of Genesis. The plan is to go through the prayer phrase by phrase, line by line, discussing the significance.
7. The Senior High Sunday School finished it's Adam Hamilton and is now watching the movie Soul Surfer and the "I Am Second" video by Bethany Hamilton (on whom the movie is based). They will continue with movies and "I Am Second" videos until Advent. Movies may include "Paul, Apostle of Christ" and "Same Kind of Different as Me."
8. The youth will go to Atlanta over Spring Break (March 8-12) for the 1:8 Experience. This is a unique mission opportunity through Mission Hope (Ben Mathes), where youth and participants are immersed in local mission and educated on international mission. The cost to the youth will likely be \$150.
9. Congregational Care hosted a wedding shower for Danielle Ferrer (Ray Ratliff) Sunday, September 30.
10. October 31 - Trunk or Treat still needs candy and trunks.
11. November 18 - Thanksgiving Luncheon will combine with Stewardship and Olin's Installation Celebration. Tom Bryson, brother of Steve Bryson, will be the guest minister for worship.
12. Plans are under way to renovate the men's bathroom with our having to meet handicapped requirements. Instead, we will bring bathroom outside Olin's office to handicapped standards. Full report on this later.
13. Approved changes to the use of the Christian Life Center. Policy may be viewed in the office.
14. Two Cents a Meal will be taken up immediately after Children's Sermon on the first Sunday of the month.
15. Moving to one service at 11:00 beginning November 4 (when Olin McBride returns from medical leave) until January 6 (nine Sundays), Sunday School time will not change.

Youth News...

With cooler temperatures and more excuses for fires and chili, it's getting easier and easier to believe that fall is coming and Thanksgiving with it! Teenagers and youth often get a bad reputation for "not being grateful enough" or for not appreciating the things they have, and maybe that's fair. It's tempting for the youth to compare their friends to others' friends and feel like they aren't as popular, to compare their grades to others' grades and feel like they aren't as smart, to compare their looks to others in their class and feel not as pretty, to compare their clothes to their classmates' and feel like they don't have the "right" things- the list can go on and on. It's no surprise that this age struggles to "give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thessalonians 5:18). I'm sure if we think for a minute, many of us can remember this struggle from being this age!

But isn't the harsh truth that we all sometimes fight ungratefulness and comparison? That maybe this isn't only a teenage season? Don't we all have seasons when we can't help but look at our friends, co-workers and neighbors with a bit of longing for what looks like greener grass on the other side? The neighbor's house is so much more festive looking than ours; your co-worker seems able to buy the whole store for their children or grandchildren, and it not faze them financially; your friend seems to have it all together between hosting parties and having the perfect outfit for everyone. Comparison really is the thief of joy!

As an opportunity for perspective, the youth will participate in two mission projects this month – shopping for and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child (November 4) and preparing and serving a meal to our neighbors at the Salvation Army (November 11). Any time we take the focus off of ourselves and put it on someone in need, we can't help but appreciate the many things we have. I pray this season is one that is full of moments of gratefulness for all of us – children, youth, and adults. I pray that our eyes are opened especially to the many opportunities to be thankful that we overlook! I pray that we all live as those who "give thanks in all circumstances" and that gratitude becomes second nature so that it isn't restricted to one season! This thankfulness, this appreciation will lead us to Joy – and right into the message of Christmas!

Melissa McDuffie

Interim Youth Director

The Sparkle Box- A New Christmas Tradition

Christmas pajamas, Advent Wreaths, sharing the Christmas story, and big family gatherings are just a few of the many traditions we share at this special time of year. Start a new tradition this year with The Sparkle Box by Jill Hardie.

The Sparkle Box is the moving story of an uncommon gift and how giving to others shows a little boy the true meaning of Christmas. Matthew 5:40 says, "And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Join us as we seek ways to encourage our children and each other to give Christmas gifts to the most important of all, Jesus.

We will share this precious gift at The Preparation on November 28. All children will receive a book and activity ideas for families to share.

Please join us! Adults, as well as children, are welcome!

Troop 3 News

Troop 3 is on the move! Since our long-term camp in July, where we won the “Golden Dustpan” award for having the best campsite out of 23 troops present that week, we have been busy. In August we visited the Browning Cretaceous Park, where we searched for fossils from 65 million years ago. We found shark teeth, a sting-ray tooth, some plant fossils, mollusk shells, and a Mosasaur tooth—the Mosasaurs were the top-tier predators when Mississippi was an arm of the Gulf of Mexico.

In September we visited the McWane Science Center in Birmingham, where we learned many things, from how to pet a live shark to practical hands-on physics. We even learned the optimum arc for a basketball to go in the net. After our McWane visit, we camped at Rickwood Caverns—a huge cave in north Alabama.

Troop 3 is open to boys aged 11 to 17. We meet on Monday nights from 7:00—8:30 PM in the Scout hut behind the sanctuary. We would love to have you join us!

Bob Lence, Scoutmaster

For Your Information...



Honoraria and Memorials that need acknowledgements sent before Christmas need to be received in the office by December 12.

Any receipts that have not been submitted for reimbursement need to be submitted by December 14.

Please remember that to receive contribution credit for 2018, your contributions must be received in the church office by, or postmarked by, December 31, 2018.



Olin invited Mildred Grubbs to be on Presbytery commission to install him on Sunday, November 18th. Olin also presented Mildred Grubbs with an Honorary Church Membership Certificate.



Thank You!

North Mississippi State Hospital patients were very appreciative of the BINGO prizes provided by Presbyterian Women. Thank you for making them feel cared about! They got the message that they are cherished children of God!

Finding the Perfect Gift!

I know we are surrounded by pumpkins and pilgrims and Indians this month, and it feels a bit early for talk of presents and wrapping paper and Christmas trees, but we will begin our Advent season this year on Wednesday, November 28 with "The Preparation"! Christmas is such a busy season and to feel like everything is perfectly ready requires a lot of preparation. We will begin this process as our Wednesday Night program that evening with three "stations" set up around the church, and you may choose any one(s) you like. We will prepare our gorgeous sanctuary and building with hanging of the greens, wreaths and decorating our Christmas Tree. We will prepare the toys collected from our "Clean Out the Toy Box" campaign by cleaning and packing them to be shipped to our brothers and sisters in Mexico. (This was included in last month's Tower, but is an opportunity for our children to go through their toys thinking of others less fortunate than themselves and selecting toys to be sent to children in border towns in Mexico. Collection bins will be located around the church during November.) We will prepare ourselves by creating a "Sparkle Box". Based on the book *The Sparkle Box* by Jill Hardie.

This is a way to help us refocus during the holiday season. Meant to be placed in plain view, the Sparkle Box is to be added to throughout the Christmas season with simple strips of paper. The strips may express such things as "made and handed out Christmas cookies to the garbage men," "gave each cashier at Kroger a Hershey kiss," "wrote a note to a neighbor," "drew a picture for someone in the nursing home", and the list can go on and on. Each time you complete a task (and there is no right or wrong number of tasks), you write down what you did and simply drop it in your box. The hope is that with all that competes for our attention and the attention of our little ones during Advent, this will be a way to ground ourselves in the true meaning of Christmas during the hustle and bustle. We will continue to add strips of paper to our Sparkle Box until January 9. On Wednesday, January 9 we will celebrate Epiphany (the day set aside to remember the visit of the wise men). For our Epiphany service, we will bring our Sparkle Boxes as a gift, just like the wise men, to Jesus and dedicate these simple strips of paper during our service. We hope you will join us on November 28 as we prepare ourselves and our church for Christmas! And don't forget our Epiphany service on January 9!

On-going Events/ Reoccurring Programs November 2018

Sundays

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

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

8:00 p.m. AA, 12 & 12 Group Mtg.

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Faithbuilders
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:15 p.m. Bible Study
7:05 p.m. Chancel Choir

Fridays

Noon AA 12 & 12 Group Mtg

Gifts, Memorials & Honoraria

In memory of

William A. Billups, Jr.
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Deborah Haynes Clark
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Alice Cobb
Steve & Lucy Nash (Fellowship)
Jackie Haguewood (Capital)
Bill & Camille Caples (Pastor's Discretionary)
Susan Boone (Pastor's Discretionary)
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

David Crawford
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

John Head
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Claire Herndon
Bill & Camille Caples (Pastor's Discretionary)
Dan & Frances Brasfield (Pastor's Discretionary)
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Johnny Hodges
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Robert Jarrett
Britt & Alice Rogers (Landscaping)

Ed Neelly
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Hugh Purnell
Dave & Diana Randall (Fellowship)
Priscilla Veazey (Fellowship)
Britt & Alice Rogers (Fellowship)
Susan Boone (Fellowship)
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Keith & Dot Randle
Bill & Camille Caples (Pastor's Discretionary)
Dan & Frances Brasfield (Pastor's Discretionary)

Ralph Shultz
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Polly Thomason

Bill & Camille Caples (Pastor's Discretionary)

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Dr. Fayette Williams

Dr. John Faust (Scout Hut)

Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Haydel Jr. (Scout Hut)

Mr. & Mrs. William Ray Reed, Sr. (Scout Hut)

David & Valerie Sarver (Scout Hut)

Britt & Alice Rogers (Boy Scouts)

Mike & Daintry Thomas (Memorial Garden)

Sandy Henson (Scout Hut)

Helen Boerner (Scout Hut)

Susan Boone (Scout Hut)

Howard & Sara Hinds (Scout Hut)

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hester (Scout Hut)

Dan & Frances Brasfield (Scout Hut)

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

Virginia Wood

Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba)

In honor of

Lori Dickerson

Jackie Haguewood (Capital)

Evelyn Tompkins (Columbarium)

James L. Vadan (Columbarium)

Dr. & Mrs. Bob Davis (Preschool)



Birthdays

November

1. Pam Armour * Mitzi Moore * Virginia Toliver
2. Jean Magee * Ginny Parker
3. Ansley Caldwell
4. Sarah Helen Beckham * Justin Carlisle * Chauncey Godwin , Jr. * Wade Spires * Jenkins Wells
5. Isabella Posey
7. Ana Morgan Beckham * Bob Taylor
8. Charlie Gratz * Abby Heavner * Kathryn Martin * Margaret Jarvis * Sally Kate Collins * Guy Conway
12. Kristyn Martz * Drew Robertson
13. Diana Schmoeller
14. Sallie Kate Ray
17. Joe Chappell * John Fleming
18. Mildred Grubbs * Virginia Mills
19. Lori McDaniel * Gia Ellis
20. Glen Davidson Sr. * Louise Gable * Ray Harris
21. Harris Faucette
24. Clarence Shepherd * Sabo Walker
25. Sarah Jenkins * Pete McMurry
26. Ellen Walker
27. Owen Leeke
28. John Michael Ray
29. Bob Black * Neil White * Norma Cother
30. Leslie Geoghegan * Joy Hyatt

December

1. Taylor Neal
2. Jackson Caldwell * Bert Hershfelt

Anniversaries

1. Grayson & Bess Robbins
6. Doug & Tina Maxwell
8. Travis & Gay Abney
18. Malcom & Cindy McAuley
21. Drew & Lori Robertson
25. John & Wendy Parker
29. Michael & Mary Margaret Gratz

FPC is moving to one service at 11:00 a.m. beginning November 4 (when Olin McBride returns from medical leave) until January 6. Sunday School time will not change.

2018-2019

Committee Chairs

Administrative- Mike Thomas

Christian Education- Lori Dickerson

Congregational Care- Rochelle Wallace

Fellowship- Lucy Nash

Property & Grounds- Doyce Deas

Outreach/Mission- David Carlisle

Worship- Judy Thomas

Please be in prayer for those going to Cuba October 23-31. The team consists of Robin Faucette, George & Wanda Dent, Glenn Thomas, Lisa Nichols, Mike Windham, Josefina Rayburn, and Jean Magee.



Library Lines

“If you don’t have doubts, you’re either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants-in-the-pants of faith. They keep it alive and moving.” ~Frederick Buechner *Wishful Thinking*

Frederick Buechner is an ordained Presbyterian minister and a well-known Christian writer who has published more than thirty books. The FPC library has fourteen. Buechner is very popular with this congregation, and in the October Tower, Olin uses Buechner’s thoughts on faith from *Wishful Thinking*. (One might think that Buechner is one of Olin’s favorite authors!) In his writings Buechner is, in William Wordsworth’s words, simply “a man speaking to men” about their own thoughts and in their own language. One can usually just flip through a Buechner book, stopping here and there to read a page or so. Writer John Irving says “Buechner is not without sting; he writes with the correct assumption ‘that the ultimate prudence is a kind of holy recklessness.’” Read him; you will be glad you did! (The Buechner books are found in the bookcase on the back wall of the library.)

A Few Buechner Thoughts

“The Kingdom of God - in the sense of holiness, goodness, beauty - is as close as breathing. . . . [it] is what we . . . hunger for above all other things. . . . We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. . . . It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.” (Dashes are added.)

“Part of the inner world of everyone is this sense of emptiness . . . and I believe that this in itself is a word from God, that this is the sound that God’s voice makes in a world that has explained him away.” *Secrets in the Dark*

“God does not give answers. He gives himself.” *Telling the Truth*

“Stop trying to protect, to rescue, to judge, to manage the lives around you . . . remember that the lives of others are not your business. They are their business. They are God’s business . . . Even your own life is not your business. It is also God’s business. Leave it to God. It is an astonishing thought.” *Telling Secrets*

The library has many fine sets of commentaries. One is *The New Interpreter’s Bible*. This is a handsome, quite expensive set of nine volumes. There is only one problem: Volume I is missing. Please keep your eyes open. I feel that it is somewhere misplaced somewhere in the church or accidentally incorporated into someone’s bookcase. The library needs Volume I!!!!

“If you have never known the power of God’s love, then maybe it is because you have never asked to know it - I mean really asked, expecting an answer.”

~Frederick Buechner *The Magnificent Defeat*

Nannette H. Comer, Librarian

October 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.

Durham Brice* Madeline Biddle* Thomas Billups* Melissa Cooper* Penny Cochran* Lark Caldwell* Lisa Moore Cook* Melanie Deas* Park, Mer, Rayne, Skye & Ocean Dodge* Bryan Ellis* Danielle Ratliff* Preston Gresham* Simms Haguewood* Micky James* Lin Joiner* Sam & Cecilia Marshall* Parker McCarly* Carolyn & Bill Moore* Bill & T.J. Moore* Cindy McAuley* Corinne & Lilly Pace* Josefina Rayburn* Becki Rhea* Emma Skates* Todd, Ava & Corinne Richardson* Bob, Meredith, Nate, Henry & D.J. Swanson* Carla Underwood* John Michael Walker* John Shields Wilson

STAY UP-TO-DATE

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Special Events/Programs

October 2018

Monday, November 5* 6:45 p.m. Circle 3/ home of Helen Monts 729 Highland Circle

Monday, November 12* 9:30 a.m. Circle 2

Tuesday, November 13* Noon- Circle 4 in Frances Sheffield Classroom

Sunday, November 18* Noon -Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon & Silent Auction in Community Life Center, Stewardship Sunday & Installation Service

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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FALL LINEUP AT FPC

October 24.....John Armistead

October 31Trunk or Treat

November 7Parkgate Pregnancy Center

November 14.....Advent Around the Church

November 21(Thanksgiving week)

November 28The Preparation

December 5Olin McBride

December 12Joy Gift

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