

# JJ White Memorial

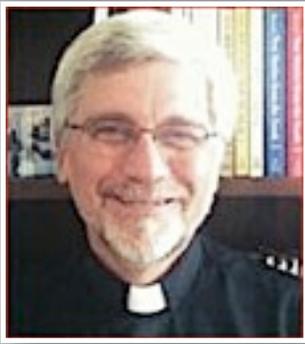
Presbyterian Church

August 2017



Flowers from Sue White's garden  
-arranged by Donna Smith

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Phillipians 4:6-7



# a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

## **When the Walls Come Down**

I was in my office on Sunday afternoon, July 20, when the roof of the Jubilee Performing Arts Center (JPAC) across the street collapsed. When I heard the strange sound, I rushed outside to be sure all was secure with the various parts of our buildings. It was evident that something had happened, but I couldn't see anything amiss here. What an eerie feeling it was to round the corner and see half of JPAC gone! My first thought, like many of yours, was to wonder who might have been in there. It didn't take long for the street to fill with people and the emergency responders to start arriving. We all breathed one huge collective sigh of relief when we heard that the JPAC Choir was in Jackson and that evening services for the congregation that meets there had been cancelled. With thankful hearts for that, those of us gathered there began to wonder what would be next. We got to see things we don't see every day in these parts: drones taking pictures, a busy intersection closed, emergency personnel doing what they do. It didn't take long for the stories to start. Some remembered when J. C. Penney was in that building. Others remembered going to dances and skating parties up on Kramer Roof. Still others told stories about when Louie Armstrong and other New Orleans musicians played there. After lots of those stories, the conversation turned to what would happen now. School was about to start. But not there anytime soon.

I guess it's natural for us to look back first when something unexpected happens. Much of the conversation we've heard about the ongoing unrest in our community has been about what a Mayberry-like place McComb used to be and how good it would be if we could get back to that somehow. That's not likely to happen. As wonderful a place as

McComb may have been back then, things are a lot different now. Jobs left with the closure of the railroad yards; people left to pursue careers in other places. The issues we face will not be helped by looking back. Just as JPAC is being forced to do, we must all look honestly at the present and begin the hard work of planning for a future that will, of necessity, be different than our past.

There are many other parts of our life together that involve change. If our faith will not sustain us in changing times, it will not provide much of a foundation for our lives.

Scripture comforts us with the assurance that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I believe that and encourage you to, too. But Jesus is the only thing I know that meets that criteria. Everything else about our life is changing. I remember when the first car I owned (a 1972 Ford Maverick) was the most luxurious vehicle I could imagine: shag carpeting, leather seats and roof--boy it was something! I think it cost less than \$3000.00. My little Toyota will soon be 18 years old and is nobody's idea of a luxury vehicle. It set me back considerably more than the Maverick did, and I hope to drive it for a while yet even without shag carpet, a GPS system, or video screens in the back seat.

As we wait to see what happens across the street, across our community, and in our lives walls will continue fall, but God will continue to be with us to guide us toward a future that will be different, but a time in which our faith in Jesus Christ who does not change will sustain us in a world that always does. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,  
Bob

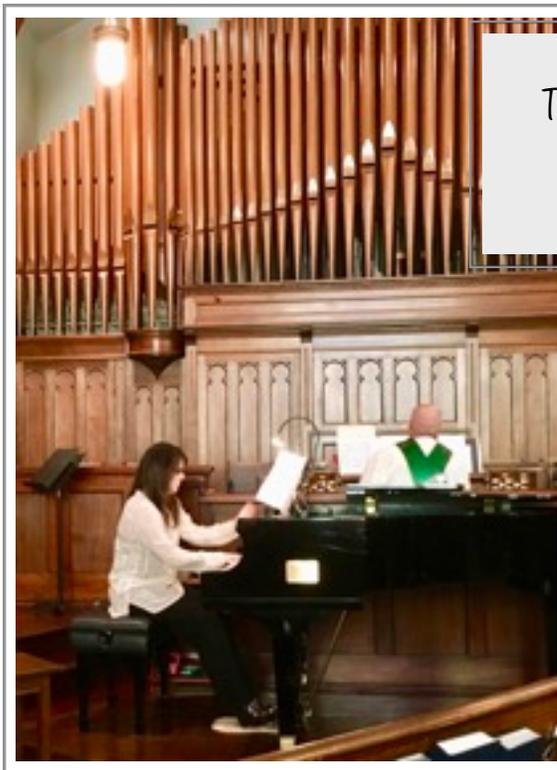


# Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

## Here We Go Again!

How we got to August so quickly will remain one of life's greatest mysteries, I guess. Seems only yesterday the choir was scrambling around to get out of Sunday School in time to run through the morning anthem before worship began, and now here we are getting ready to begin that Sunday morning mad dash again. We will resume choir rehearsals on Wednesday, August 23, the same evening other Wednesday activities resume. I've picked out some new and old things for us to sing and, believe it or not, have begun to look at music for Advent and Christmas! I look forward to getting back into our regular schedule. I welcome new singers. Be assured that you don't have to be an accomplished singer to sing with us. Reading music is not a requirement, but we certainly won't turn you away if you can. We rehearse in the choir room on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm or as soon as we pull away from Bible study after supper. We'd love for you to add your joyful noise to ours. If you're not sure you want to commit, come and try singing with us for a while and see how it goes. We try to do a variety of styles of music, some old favorites and some that are new to all of us. If you'll let me know you're coming, I'll have a folder prepared for you when you come. I look forward to a new year of making music together!



Thank you to Jennifer Sanders and Roger Price for providing such glorious music on a recent summer Sunday and other times throughout the year!



# JJ White MPC Vacation Bible School 2017



The Kids enjoyed ...

- \* learning
- \* singing
- \* creating
- \* snacking

Thanks to Ally Allred for her leadership of this event and for all the adults, youth and children that helped make Bible School 2017 a success!





*A Special Birthday Celebration*  
*Plan to join us for a special birthday party for members of our congregation who have reached and exceeded their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday afternoon, August 6, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*  
*There will be cake and punch. Members of our Youth Group will be here to serve our honorees, and we will all enjoy spending time celebrating with these who add so much to our congregation's life.*  
*Honorees this year include Emily Austin, Ralph Brock, Eileen Cato, Libby Robinson, and Bess Simmons.*  
*Please plan to join us for this celebration.*

### **Presbytery Meets**

The Presbytery of Mississippi meets twice a year. The next meeting will be Friday and Saturday, August 11-12 at the Briarwood Church in Jackson. Elder Noggin Wild, Clerk of our Session, and our pastor will attend meeting. This meeting will include the Rev. Jan Edmiston, current Co-Moderator of General Assembly as our guest and preacher. In addition to the regular business of Presbytery there will be a get acquainted and question and answer time with Rev Edmiston. Please keep this meeting in your prayers. Some participants in the Presbytery will enjoy a golf outing on Friday morning before the meeting convenes Friday evening.

### **Session Meets**

The Session held its regular meeting for July on the 16th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Ally Allred, Robbie DeCoux (by telephone), Suzi Drummond, Pat Randall, and Margy Wicker and Bob Phelps, Moderator, were present. Elders Kathy Harbour, Will Kimmel, Kennon Singley, and Noggin Wild were excused.

### **Actions taken at the meeting include:**

- Election of Suzi Drummond to serve as Clerk in Noggin Wild's absence.
- Approved the agenda, minutes of the meeting on June 11 and the Treasurer's Report.
- Reviewed the calendar of upcoming activities.
- Acknowledged the receipt of a laptop computer from Chance Connelly of Computers by Chance.
- Heard the report of the Christian Education Committee including upcoming Vacation Bible School plans and upcoming activities for youth and children.
- Heard a report from the Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee including plans for the 90+ Birthday Party on August 6.
- Approved a recommendation from the Property Committee to change lawn care providers effective immediately.
- Heard a report from the Worship Committee including plans for Backpack Blessing on August 6.

The Session meets monthly. The August meeting will be on the 13th at 6:00 pm. If you have questions or items for discussion, please see Bob or another member of the Session. Please keep these who guide the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.

# Wednesday Night at J J White

Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule Resumes...

Wednesday, August 23, will be the day we resume our regular Wednesday evening schedule for this school year. This mid-week time is an important time of learning and community building for many in our congregation. Here are some things you need to know as we resume this ministry:

5:30 pm - Supper: We'll gather for supper in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be using volunteer cooking teams again this year. The sign-up sheet and the guidelines for preparing, serving, and being reimbursed for expenses are in the Church Office and in the sanctuary on Sundays. Look at your calendars and see when you can put a team together to provide a Wednesday meal.

6:00 pm - Groups for Children, Youth, and Adults

Right after supper, we'll have activities for children, youth, and adults.

**Adult Bible Study:** We'll engage in an interesting study for adults. It's called The Faith of A Mockingbird. It's based on Harper Lee's novel To Kill a Mockingbird. Each week we'll look at a character in the novel many us read in school, Scout, Atticus, Tom Robinson, and Boo Radley, and see how we see faith at work in their lives. If you have time to re-read the novel between now and the beginning of the study that'll be good. For those interested, we'll watch the movie together on Sunday evening, August 20, in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for information about time and other details. We won't have time see the movie on Wednesdays so plan to join us for this viewing on Sunday night .

Children and Youth will have special activities beginning on August 23, too. Bring the whole family.

6:30 pm Choir rehearsal resumes. We look forward to the return of the choir to our worship service this month.

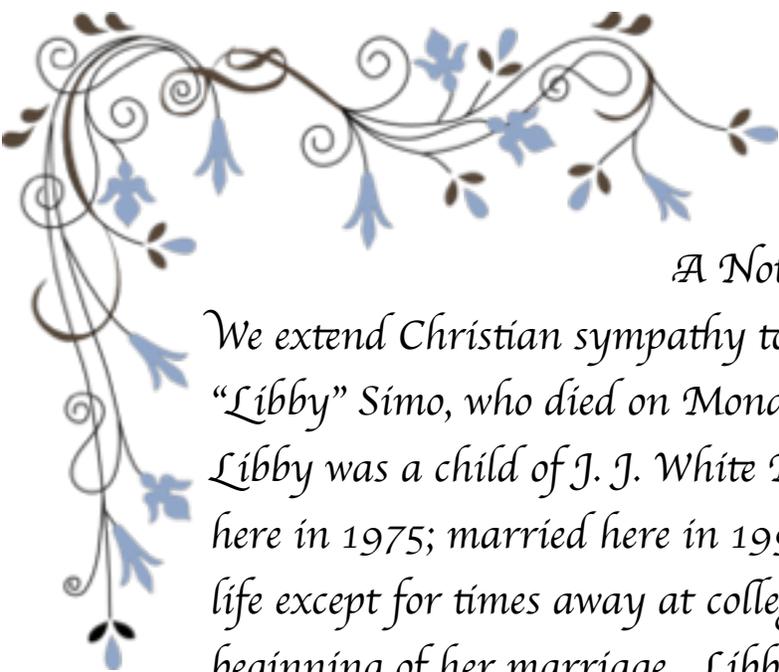
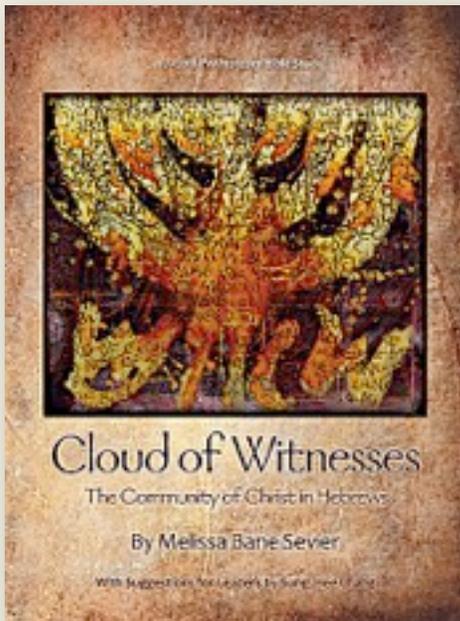
Plan to make Wednesdays at church a part of your schedule this fall.

## PW of JJ White

After a taking a summer break, Presbyterian Women of JJ White MPC will resume their regular monthly meetings on Tuesday, August 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The new study book Cloud of Witnesses - The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier will be available for participants.

There will be a brief introduction of the study followed by a light lunch and a time of friendship.

All women are invited to begin this new season of PW by attending on Tuesday, August 8.



### *A Note of Sympathy*

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Elizabeth Rebecca "Libby" Simo, who died on Monday, July 24, after an extended illness. Libby was a child of J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church, baptized here in 1975; married here in 1999, worshiping and serving here all her life except for times away at college and a brief stint in Jackson at the beginning of her marriage. Libby is survived by her husband, José ; daughters Andrea and Natalie; her parents, Robbie and Andrea DeCoux; her sister Lee Williams, Lee's husband Stephen, and their family; her brother Andrew DeCoux and his wife, Melisa; as well as José's extended family, aunts, cousins, and a host of friends. The service in Libby's memory was held at the church on July 27.

Please keep her family in your prayers.

# AUGUST SCHEDULES

## Flowers

6 Communion  
 13 Dana and Curt Lamar  
 20 Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff  
 27 June Hart

## Children's Church

6 Sara Beth Williams  
 13 Ally Allred  
 20 Melisa DeCoux  
 27 Lee Williams

## Sunday Morning Breakfast

6 Hutchison Staff  
 13 Mary Ann Ratcliff  
 20 Sharon White  
 27 Linda Miller

## Ushers/Greeters

Tommy Ratcliff, Captain  
 Robbie DeCoux  
 John Drummond  
 Stacey Moak  
 Johnny Nance  
 Mark Statham

## Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

2 Bob, Clem  
 9 Kit, Trey  
 16 Jimmy Carol, Whitney  
 23 Bill, Fred

## Elder of the Month

Pat Randall



## August

3 Tommy Brock  
 4 Keith Sanders  
 Winbourne Sullivan  
 6 Spike Simmons  
 8 Kelly Henley  
 10 Whitney Jones  
 13 Deanna Phelps  
 14 Jane Walman  
 Phil Terrell  
 17 Georgia Mendonides  
 18 Beverly Yates  
 19 Ron Yates  
 21 Martha Simmons  
 22 Britt White  
 25 Drew Parker  
 Dave Alford  
 26 John Boyd  
 27 Gary Russell  
 29 Eileen Cato  
 Joseph Spurgeon

## September

1 Noggin Wild  
 Lily Estes  
 3 Margy Wicker  
 Stephen Williams  
 4 Andrew DeCoux  
 5 Gracie Senner  
 6 Patti Brabham  
 7 Sara Beth Williams  
 10 Bonnie Hudon  
 Darrell Smith  
 13 Mary Ann Ratcliff  
 17 Rose Ann Johnson  
 19 Wayne Hutchison  
 20 Blake Phelps  
 Carolyn McKay  
 28 Dottie Burt  
 Stacey Moak



2017

Back to School

# August



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2	3 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 p.m.	4	5
6 <b>Sacrament of Communion</b> 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship -Blessing of the backpacks for back to school.	7	8 <b>PW resumes monthly meetings 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall</b>	9 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast	10 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	11	12
13 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Session Meets 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	17 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	18	19
20 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	21	22	23 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship Resumes with supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	24 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	25	26
27 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	28	29	30 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship Resumes with supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	31 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM		