



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

August 2019

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary...
Psalm 150:1



a word from our pastor....

Reverend Bob Phelps

Does Anybody Know Where Summer Went?

I've arrived at that age when I lose things. I can find more new places to put my keys that I can keep up with. I lay a book down somewhere and find it a month later. This year, I think I lost summer. I remember being a kid (I know, many, many years ago) and thinking summer dragged on forever. No school. Lots of chores. Maybe some travel, but mostly just time--lots of it.

I doubt that's the way our kids will look back on summer. I don't know how we managed to get everything done that I've heard about and been part of this summer. And our kids will go back to class in just a few days! Many of you have been as busy as I have all summer. Baseball tournaments (don't you love double elimination!), other travel of various sorts (including, hopefully, some fun), family gatherings, a mission trip to Puerto Rico, a cruise or two--whew! That's a lot of activity to cram into a few weeks. Then add in that most of you made time for worship most of the summer, Vacation Bible School, and all the other things that go on around here.

Soon we'll look back on that from the midst of what will probably be an even busier fall and winter. I sat down today to map out some of the things we'll need

to schedule around between now and the end of the year, things like nominating and electing new elders, planning for stewardship season, cranking Wednesday programming back up, and trying to get a jump on Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. I quit when my head started spinning.

I hope your summer has been full of good experiences. Many of us are not bound by the school calendar anymore, so we'll still have some traveling and other things going on. And, of course, college football (Roll, Tide!) will be here before we know it.

Paul encouraged his young protégé, Timothy, to preach the Word in season and out of season. The young Christian Church faced a different set of obstacles than we do, but I'm sure there were times it would have been easier to give in to whatever made it difficult to carry on.

We have tried to be faithful to the proclamation of the Word throughout the summer, and we will be faithful when schedules settle down and more of you show up. I look forward to seeing you and hearing about your summers. See you in worship soon!

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

Here we go again! We have enjoyed special music from several friends both in and beyond our congregation this summer. I'm grateful for all who have sung and played to contribute to our worship. It will soon be time for regular choir rehearsals to start up again. We'll start on Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30. I know I sound like a broken record, but we really do welcome new singers and look forward to having anyone who loves to sing join us. Reading music is not a necessity. We teach parts and help one another along the way. Even if you can't sing every Sunday, come and join us for practice and see how it works for you. I'm picking some new and some old things for us to sing this fall, and, believe it or not, I've started looking at pieces for Advent and Christmas. We sing together for about an hour on Wednesdays after supper, and stretch our time out a little when the holidays draw closer. We are grateful for those who compliment our work, and we'd love to have some of you join us as we sing praise together. The Psalmist calls us to make a joyful noise to God, and we try to make that noise sound as musical as we can.

I look forward to seeing old friends and new when choir resumes on Wednesday, August 28.

A Note of Thanks

Thanks to many who continue to pray and to express concern in other ways for our older son, Blake, and his diagnosis of Leben's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy which is robbing him of his eyesight. This caught all of us by surprise, especially Blake. Thanks for your continuing prayers and concern for all of us, but specifically for Blake as he makes adjustments he never thought he'd have to.

A Note of Concern

Cynthia Goodwin, who was killed in a car accident on I-55 recently, was the wife of Jim Goodwin who maintains our lawn here at church. Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers.

Worship and Music at Montreat

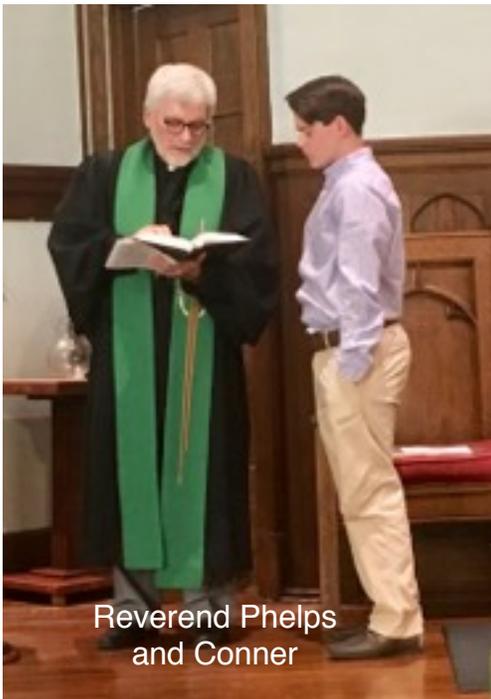


Most of you know that Bob and Deanna attend the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, the last week of June every summer. This event is always a wonderful experience, and Bob and Deanna are grateful for the opportunity to attend as part of their continuing education. This year's event was particularly good. Preaching was prophetic and faithful to Scripture. The choir director was challenging, but fun, and had selected music we enjoyed singing. Class leaders and lecturers were well prepared and gave us plenty to think about. Deanna attends music reading sessions for choir directors several times during the week and

works with other directors of both large and small choirs to find new music to use in worship. Seeing friends who attend the conference every summer adds to the joy of being there. Of course, being in the Carolina mountains and having morning temps in the 50's and afternoons in the 80's is reason enough to go all by itself!

Join us in giving thanks to the staff and leadership of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians who plan this event every year and for those who are already hard at work on future events.

JJ White MPC Welcomes Conner Simmons to Our Membership



Reverend Phelps
and Conner

We are happy to welcome Confirmation Class member Conner Simmons as a member of our congregation. Conner is the son of Van Simmons and Angie Simmons and is a student at Parklane Academy. We look forward to continuing to grow in faith with Conner as he participates in youth activities and other events in the church. Please continue to pray for Conner as he grows as a disciple.

Three members of this year's Confirmation Class either have or will be making their professions of faith in worship in coming weeks. Class member Rusten Lewis joined our church with his family several years ago, but chose to go through the Confirmation experience with his friends. The Session has received all three other members of this

year's class and we all join in rejoicing at this important decision in their young lives. Please keep them all in your prayers.

F.Y.I.

Youth Gathering Coming Up!

Youth from our church and other churches in Mississippi Presbytery will gather at the Westminster Church in Hattiesburg on Sunday afternoon, August 25, for a back to school

celebration. There will be food, fun, and opportunity to meet with youth from other churches in our area with a little Bible study and worship along the way. Spread the word and plan to join us for this presbyterial youth event.



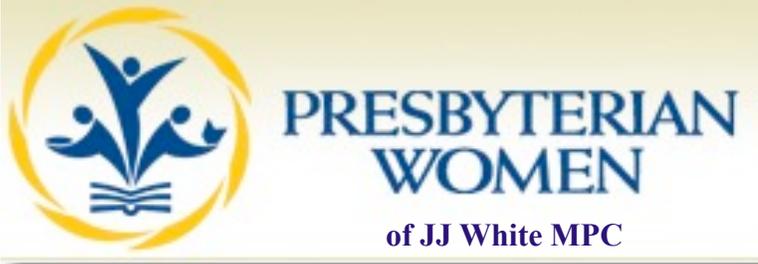
Our youth on a recent Sunday when they led our worship service.

Camp Meeting

What is that thing Bob goes to every July with the Hutchisons?

Wayne Hutchison's family were among the early settlers of what is now Choctaw County, Mississippi. They established the Beth-Salem Presbyterian Church in Weir, between Louisville and Ackerman in the early 1800's. Like many churches of that era in rural areas, that congregation held a camp meeting in late summer after crops were laid by and before time to harvest. Families would gather and camp on the grounds and enjoy worship and fellowship together. The church at Beth-Salem closed because of declining participation several years ago. St. Andrew Presbytery transferred the church and cemetery property to a group Wayne's family established to maintain them. They continue the camp meeting tradition the last weekend of July every summer. Family members gather there from all over the country. In addition to the food and fellowship that comes with gathering as a family, they include worship in their plans on Friday, Saturday nights and then they invite area folks with ties to the former congregation to worship and lunch on Sunday morning. For the past several years, they have invited Bob to be their preacher. This year more than 80 folks gathered on Friday and Saturday night and then more on Sunday morning. This event is a wonderful testament to the far-reaching influence of this congregation that no longer exists as a regular worshiping and serving community but which gets carried into the life and work of people and churches in many different places.

Presbyterian Women of JJ White will resume their regular monthly meeting schedule on Tuesday, August 13, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Participants will receive their books for the new Bible study for 2019-2020 - Love Carved in Stone by Eugenia Anne Gamble. This study will focus on taking a fresh look at the Ten Commandments.



The meeting will include a brief update on PW business, an introduction to the new study, a light lunch, and a time of friendship. All women are invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this joyful group and ministry.

Wednesdays Return in August

Mark your calendars for the return of Wednesday programming on **August 28**.



We'll gather for supper at 5:30 pm, study and fellowship activities for youth, children, and adults at 6:00 pm, and choir rehearsal at 6:30 pm. You'll have opportunity to make reservations for supper beginning on August 25. We hope you'll join us for another year of food, fellowship, and conversation. Watch for announcements about topics for groups.

Backpack Blessing on August 11

Everyone will have returned to class when we gather for worship on Sunday, August 11. We invite students and teachers and others returning to the classroom to bring backpacks, book bags, or other symbols of the new school year to worship that day. We'll bless those backpacks and give each student a reminder of that blessing to carry through the school year with them. Plan to join us.





Reports from recent JJ White events -



Vacation Bible School

A Word from Margaret Ann Macloud, Chair of our Christian Education Committee:



VBS 2019 was a success with the help of generous volunteers and excited kids! The theme "Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World" was a hit with interactive lab-type activities supplementing the Bible story to explain the great power of God in a fun way. High attendance night came on Tuesday when 18 kids joined us, including friends from other churches. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents to show these kids they are loved!



Session Report for June and July

Your Session met on June 9 and July 14. Attendance reflected the summer season, but a quorum was present for each meeting. Actions taken this summer include:

- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ❖ appointed committees to review Wednesday activities and the annual Mission Conference.
- ❖ agreed to serve as a back-up evacuation site for SonServant Ministries from Chattanooga for their annual mission trip to New Orleans. (We were, thankfully, not called upon to serve them again this year.)
- ❖ set dates for VBS, July 22-24.
- ❖ thanked all who helped with the MICA special food collection in May.
- ❖ noted several ongoing maintenance projects.
- ❖ approved pulpit supply on Sundays while Bob is away this summer.
- ❖ received Kya Cotton, Conner Simmons, and Whit Williams as new members upon their professions of faith.
- ❖ heard a report from a called meeting of Synod on July 11.
- ❖ elected Will Kimmel as delegate and Andrew DeCoux as alternate to the meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi in Meridian on August 10.
- ❖ approved repairs to the tower chimes and replacement of water heater in basement of sanctuary building.

The Session meets monthly. The August meeting will be on the 11th, immediately after worship in the Ewell Martin Room. Please keep these who guide the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.



Puerto Rico Mission Trip: Carol and Whitney Rawlings Reporting

Carol and I had a wonderful experience in Puerto Rico that was made better by JJWHITE'S crew we missioned with. We bonded well through travel, fellowship, work, play and worship.

Puerto Rico was hit hard by Hurricane Maria. Recovery has been slow, but our efforts and the efforts of 1000's of other volunteers from across America are making a difference.

We were assigned two houses that were in need of roof repair. We split the team of 14 into two groups and went to work. It was hard work in tough conditions. In 4 days we finished the work on both houses. We even started new projects to jump start the next mission teams. The homeowners were very appreciative.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve others. It is good for the soul. We thank you for your prayers and support.

JJWHITE is number one--always looking to serve others in need.
Whitney and Carol Rawlings

JJ White Puerto Rico Mission Team: Back Row - Robbie Kimmel , Cathy Salter, Shelli Quayhagen, Rusty Whittington, Susan White, Will Kimmel, Ray Salter, Kennon Singley; Front Row - John Drummond, Whit Williams, Whitney Rawlings, Melissa Kimmel, Mary Ann Ratcliff, Toy Bryant, Carol Rawlings



AUGUST SCHEDULES

Sunday Morning Breakfast

4 Lee Williams
11 Bill Mitchell
18 Carol Rawlings
25 Linda Miller

Flowers

4 Communion
11 Bob and Julia Arnold
18 Tommy and Mary Ann Ratcliff
25 June Hart

Children's Church

4 Lee Williams
11 Melisa DeCoux
18 Ally Allred
25 SaraBeth Williams

Ushers/Greeters

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

Elder of the Month

Wayne Hutchison

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

7 Tommy B., Garland
14 Dale, Whit
21 Kennon, Joseph
28 Renan, Buddy



August

1 Keith Sanders
3 Tommy Brock
4 Winbourne Sullivan
6 Spike Simmons
8 Kelly Henley
13 Deanna Phelps
14 Jane Walman
16 Phil Terrell,
17 Georgia Mendonides
Kyle Phelps
18 Beverly Yates,
19 Ron Yates
21 Martha Simmons,
22 Britt White
25 John Boyd
28 Eileen Cato
29 Joseph Spurgeon,

September

1 Noggin Wild
Lily Estes
3 Margy Wicker
Stephen Williams
4 Andrew DeCoux
5 Gracie Senner
6 Patti Brabham
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

2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	2	3
4 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion	5	6	7 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	8 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	9	10
11 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship & Backpack Blessing * Session Meets After Worship	12	13 Presbyterian Women 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	14 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	15 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	16	17
18 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	19	20	21 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	22 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	23	24
25 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	26	27	28 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities Resume 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	29 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	30	31