

*II White Memorial
Presbyterian Church*

December 2017



Merry Christmas

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15*



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Sure Could Use a Little Good News!

Any of you who are at least my age (And yes, I know that rules out significant numbers of you!) will probably remember hearing a song on the radio (And yes, I know that dates me, too!) back in the early '80's by Anne Murray called "A Little Good News." It's amazing how that song still speaks after more than 30 years. The song begins with a woman getting up to get the household fed and out the door to work and school one morning. The kids have the morning news on TV. There is news of violence in Lebanon. There is squawking in Congress. She picks up the paper, and the pattern continues; the news is mostly bad. She says she longs for a day when there is only good news to print. The song says, "Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town. Nobody OD'd; nobody burned a single building down. Nobody fired a shot in anger; nobody had to die in vain. We sure could use a little good news today."



Bryant Gumbel may not read the news on TV these days as he did in that song, but not much else that song sings about has changed much. It's hard to watch the news or read the paper or major magazine and still be hopeful. The lead story on the news in Jackson almost every night is about a shooting or other death. Unfortunately, those same stories appear in our paper too often.

That's why we're using "Sure Could Use a Little Good News!" as this year's Advent theme. We're not trying to bury our heads in the sand or to ignore real problems God is calling us to address, but we are committed to being a place where Good News is the focus of all our gatherings. This newsletter will offer a schedule of all the opportunities for worship and fellowship and service during this season. Our hope is that in each of those gatherings those who attend will experience hope and hear Good News.

We can't promise to make the news any more palatable. We can't promise that you'll open the Enterprise-Journal and find only good news on the front page. But we do promise that if you join us for all these activities and events during Advent and Christmas, you'll be reassured that God is with us, calling us to share that promise with all we can.

Preaching will be hopeful. Music will be filled with joy. Children will lead us in worship. We'll have opportunities to serve together throughout the season. If you're looking for a little Good News in this season, this is the place. I look forward to seeing you during Advent and Christmas this year. Let's share Good News with one another and with others.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

Some of you know that our son, Kyle and his wife Maranda recently took a trip to England to celebrate their first wedding anniversary. They were with us for Thanksgiving, and we spent one evening looking at all the pictures they took. They saw lots of beautiful and historic places. One of the highlights of their trip was a trip out to Cambridge and to King's College. The Lessons and Carols service our choir leads during Advent originated in the Chapel of King's College in 1918. The service is broadcast around the world at Christmas. The original plan for the service includes nine readings from Scripture, covering God's redemptive relationship with us since creation. Each of the readings is paired with carols and songs of the season, some traditional and some more recently composed. Like many other choirs, we have reduced the number of readings to make the service fit into our Sunday morning schedule. This year, the choir will sing four carols and the congregation will sing one during the service. Our faithful readers, Andrew and Melisa DeCoux, will read the Scripture. Bob will preach a brief homily during the service. While we won't follow the King's College Chapel order in its entirety, we will hear assurances from Scripture of God's never-failing love, and the choir will help us experience those promises in song. We'll sing Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve Morning, December 24, during worship. We hope you'll be here.

The week before, on Sunday, December 17, our children will lead part of the morning worship as they sing all new songs in a program called "An ADVENTurous Christmas." Like the adults, they're working hard to prepare for this special event, so we hope you'll be here for it.

The choir will also be singing at the Magnolia Presbyterian Church for their Community Christmas Communion Service on Sunday afternoon, December 17, at 5:00 pm. Bob will be the preacher for that service. You're welcome to join us. Maybe we can pack the house at Magnolia!

The choir will be singing for the 6:00 pm service here on Christmas Eve. We'll have a solo at the 11:00 pm service.

Music is such a big part of the Advent and Christmas seasons. I hope you'll be with us as we celebrate these important seasons.

Advent and Christmas
J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
Sure Could Use a Little Good News!

Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.: Hanging of the Green
"Remember Who We Are" from Isaiah 64:1-9
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Evening Vespers 5:30 p.m.: *A Service of Light to Chase Away the Darkness*
**Description below.*

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.: "While We Wait" from 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.: "An ADVENTurous Christmas"
Music from our Children
"People the Lord Has Blessed" from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

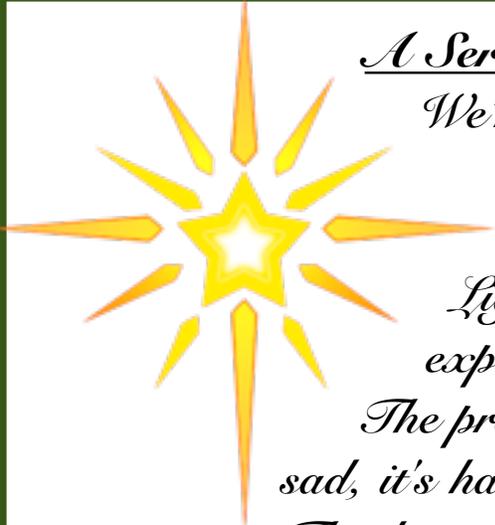
JFW Choir will be singing at Magnolia Presbyterian's
Christmas Worship at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24---Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.: A Service of Lessons and Carols
from our Choir
"How Can This Be?" from Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 pm _ _
"Grace Appears" from Luke 2:1-20
The Choir will sing at 6:00 pm. Special music at 11:00 pm

A Service of Light for Advent



We're adding an additional worship opportunity during Advent this year. On Sunday, December 3, at 5:30 pm, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a Service of Light. This time of year is filled with opportunities to experience joy, but for many that joy is difficult to find. The pressure of the season takes its toll. For some who are sad, it's hard to be around people who are trying to be happy. The days are short, and the dark nights are long. So on the first Sunday in Advent, we'll gather just as it gets dark to celebrate the Light of the World who is coming to bring joy to us all. We'll sing together. We'll pray together. We'll hear God's Word read and proclaimed. And we'll experience light that will chase away the darkness that closes in too easily.

Advent Wreath

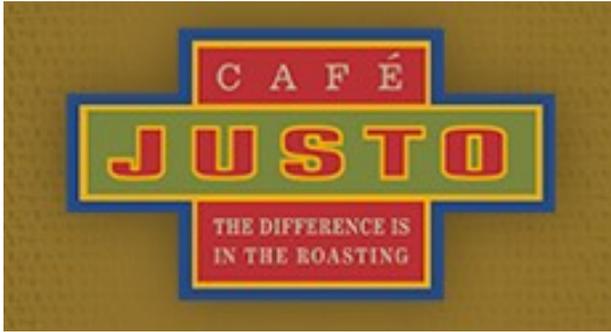
This year as we gather around the Advent Wreath, we'll focus on a special group with ties to our church and give thanks for our partnership. Our Reformed understanding of faith calls us to engage the world in our ministry rather than to retreat from it. We partner with local and global groups to share God's love here at home and beyond. Each week during Advent, we'll hear from one of those groups and give thanks for the work we do together. On December 3, we'll hear about MICA, the McComb Interdenominational Care Association. On December 10, we'll hear about a new partnership we have developed with the Pike County Quilters' Guild. December 17, when our children lead us in worship, we'll hear from Excel By 5, a local early childhood literacy program. Carol Rawlings leads this work, and Deanna Phelps serves as Treasurer. Several others in our church routinely volunteer for Excel. On Christmas Eve Morning, we'll hear from our friend and mission partner, Mark Adams, in Mexico. Mark can't be with us in person, but will send news about the ministry of Frontera de Cristo along the Arizona-Mexico border. Plan to be with us each week during Advent as we celebrate mission partnerships.



MISSIONS AT JJ WHITE MPC

Cafe Justo (Just Coffee)

We are taking orders again for Cafe Justo (Just Coffee) You may remember, this is a product of the grower-owned coffee cooperative based in southern Chiapas, Mexico. We found out about it through our 2017 Mission Conference guest Mark Adams. It sells for \$9.00 a bag. We can get it ground or whole bean; dark or medium roast. Please prepay by cash or check (payable to JJWMPC). Only prepaid orders will be made. This will simplify the process. We would like to have an order of at least 25 bags total. We have some orders already, so make yours soon. The coffee is good, and your purchase supports this fair trade effort.



You may give your prepaid order to Suzi Drummond or the church office. Thanks!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: “Gift of the Heart” Kits



Syrian school children are shown with their PDA school kits. (Photo by CWS)

This project is to provide a way for us to participate in hands-on disaster assistance through assembling these “Gift of the Heart” kits. Below are the lists of items for the two kinds of kits we are putting together for this. There is a third kit - the “clean up bucket” but thanks to the Covenant Life Sunday School and the Presbyterian Women we have that one covered, so we can focus on the two other kits.

If you choose to do a school kit you do not have to provide the cloth bag. Just put the school kit items in a plastic bag and we can put them in the appropriate tote bag for you. (We plan to finalize collection of kits in February so we can prepare for shipping at the time of our annual Mission Conference 2018)

Thanks to all who are helping and partnering with us on this project!

PDA Gift of the Heart Kits

Hygiene Kit

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)**
- 1 — washcloth**
- 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)**
- 1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)**
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)**
- 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)**
- 10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips**

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

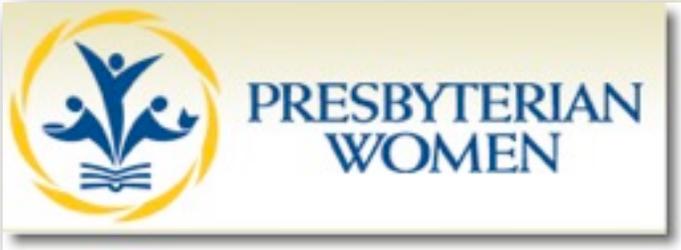
School Kit

- 1 — pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)**
 - 3 — 70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10 1/2" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. Do not include filler paper.**
 - 1 — 30-centimeter ruler (12")**
 - 1 — hand-held pencil sharpener**
 - 6 — new pencils with erasers**
 - 1 — large eraser**
 - 1 — box of 24 crayons**
 - 1 — cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles; [pattern available](#). (Please, do not use reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)**
- Pack all items in the cloth bag.**

Recipients of 2017 JJWMPG Mission Funds

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Presbyterian Mission Agency
Frontera de Cristo (Mark Adams)
Living Waters for the World
C.U.P.S (Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud)
Palmer Home for Children
Excel by Five
McComb Boys and Girls Club
MICA (McComb Interdenominational Care Association)
Books Are the Beginning
JJ White MPC Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Thanks be to God for the work of these programs and ministries!



Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, December 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a special Advent devotional from Reverend Phelps and a "Potluck" luncheon.

Plans will be made for participating in assembling Gift of the Heart kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

All women are invited to come and enjoy this time of Advent reflection, delicious food, and friendship.

November Session Report

The Session held its regular meeting for November on the 12th, at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Will Kimmel and Noggin Wild were excused. Newly elected elder Ray Salter and Treasurer also attended. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ election of Suzi Drummond to serve as Clerk in Noggin's absence.
- ❖ heard words of thanks from Bonnie Hudon on behalf of the Pike County Quilters' Guild.
- ❖ received the Treasurer's report and an update on budget preparation for 2018.
- ❖ approved minutes of the regular meeting on October 15 and a congregational meeting on October 22, 2017.
- ❖ approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Exchange Club for their annual pancake breakfast before the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2.
- ❖ appointed Robbie DeCoux, Tommy Ratcliff, Rusty Brill, and Bob to serve as a Security Committee to make recommendations regarding church security in light of the recent shooting in Texas.
- ❖ reviewed remaining activities in this year's Stewardship Season. Pledges will come in on November 28.
- ❖ approved renewing work on the White Memorial Room adjacent to the sanctuary.
- ❖ Approved the following committee reports:
 - ❖ Fellowship and Congregational Care--expressing appreciation for all involved in planning and directing this year's Church Picnic on October 21.
 - ❖ Missions-Evangelism--detailing plans for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance emergency response kits as an ongoing outreach effort from now until the Mission Conference this winter.
 - ❖ Property---detailing plans for maintenance tasks and 2018 insurance coverage.
 - ❖ Worship---detailing plans for Advent and Christmas.
- ❖ The Session also approved plans to ring bells for the Salvation Army on December 1 and December 18.

The Session meets at least monthly. The December meeting will be on the 10th. If you have questions or items for discussion, please see Bob or another member of the Session. Please keep the Session in your prayers as they guide the ministry of our congregation.

December Schedules

Flowers

3 Hanging of the Green
10 Advent
17 Poinsettias
24 Poinsettias
31

Children's Church

3 Melisa DeCoux
10 Carol Rawlings
17 Susan White
24 Joanna Barr
31 Sara Beth

Sunday Morning Breakfast

3 Carol Rawlings
10 Debbi Brock
17 Bill Mitchell
24 Hutchison
31 Sharon White

Ushers/Greeters

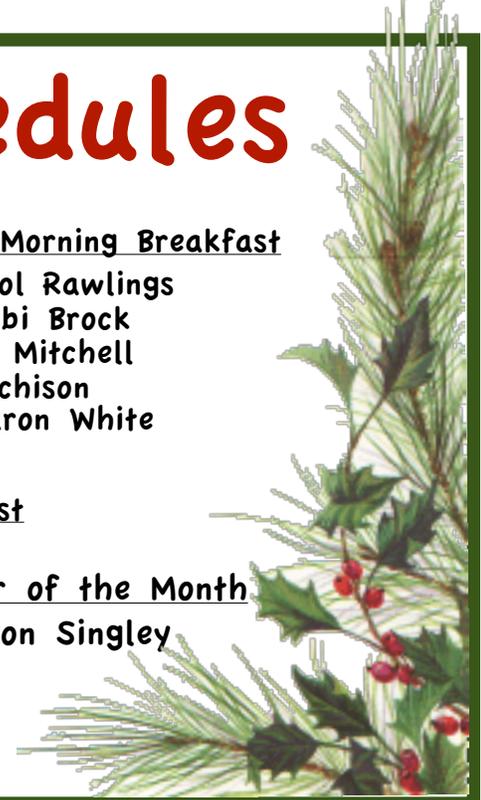
Tommy Ratcliff, Captain
Robbie DeCoux
John Drummond
Stacey Moak
Johnny Nance
Mark Statham

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

6 Noggin, Jeff
13 Dale, Whit
20 Kennon, Joseph
27 Renan, Buddy

Elder of the Month

Kennon Singley



December

4 Will Kimmel
6 Kristen Allred
Delores Feldman
7 Bob Phelps
Betty Ott
Carol Rawlings
8 Colin Catchings
9 Tommy Walman
10 J.W. Burt
14 Sharon Burke
Carol Wood
15 Bob Arnold
16 Eleanor White
21 Norma Ann Williams
Sue Sullivan
25 Billie Nance
27 Hunter Nance
29 Rusten Lewis
Phillip Nance
30 Julia Arnold



Happy
Birthday to
you!

January

2 Nancy McElwee
3 Beverly Nelson
7 Joan McDaniel
9 Lily Warshauer
10 Ann Jackson
Toni James
15 Mark Statham
17 Tommy Morgan
18 Prudence McGehee
23 Ralph Brock
25 Tommy Ratcliff
30 Bill Jones
31 Roger Nickerson



2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School See Advent Schedule p. 4	4	5	6 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	7 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	8	9
10 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School See Advent Schedule on p. 4 Session meets following morning worship.	11	12 PW meets at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.	13 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	14 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	15	16
17 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School See Advent Schedule on p. 4	18	19	20 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	21 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	22	23
Christmas Eve MICA 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School See Advent Schedule on p. 4	25  Christmas Day	26	27 7:15 am Men's Breakfast No Wednesday night fellowship this week	28 Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	29	30
31 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30						