

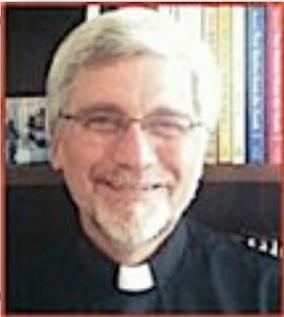
# *J.J. White Memorial*

## *Presbyterian Church*

*February 2020*



*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;  
and the greatest of these is love. First Corinthians 13:13*



### *A Word from Our Pastor - The Reverend Bob Phelps*

#### **Can Anything Good Come From....?**

Our Thursday morning Bible study group began a study of the Gospel of John after the holidays. This group has been together for several years now. People have come and gone, and the group ranges from 8 to 15 or more in attendance, depending on what else is going on a particular Thursday. We have read the other three Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and several other books from both the Old and New Testaments. We don't give tests, and we are not bound by a schedule, so we go as fast or as slow as we decide we want to. We're always happy to welcome new members, so if your schedule has Thursday mornings open, we'd love to see you. The group includes folks from our church and from at least two other congregations in town.

We are just beginning our journey through John. On a recent Thursday morning, we talked about the story of Jesus calling disciples, and we encountered Nathanael, the honest disciple who questioned whether Jesus could be worth following since he came from Nazareth. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” he asked when Philip told him about this new teacher he had found and invited him to join him in following Jesus. Group members confessed that we all have our own Nazareths, places we think don’t have much to offer that we need, and that we live in the midst of one of those places for a lot of people. I won’t tell you all the places we had disparaging things to say about, but you can imagine.

After our discussion, I got to think about other things in which we tend to place little value. We’re college basketball fans at our house, but most people in the Deep South don’t pay much attention to it. It usually ranks no higher than fourth (if that!) among sports in these parts, and that means it comes after football, football recruiting, and spring football! Can anything good come from Rupp Arena? I have two friends who are huge NASCAR fans, and bunch of others who think it’s all about rednecks. Can anything good come out of Talladega?

Wintertime is one of those things about which I have difficulty finding good things to say. Even in a mild winter like this one has been so far, it’s cold, it’s dark, and it’s damp. Not much opportunity to be outside. It’s cloudy and dreary. The days are short (although they’re getting a little longer), and the nights are long and dark. The Saints bombed out of the NFL playoffs early again. Can anything good come out of January and February?

Let me remind you of some things we’ve already experienced and others we have to look forward to in these days. We began the year with star words on Epiphany, and I’ve heard some interesting stories about how those words have been helpful and challenging. We ordained and installed four new elders, and they have joined others to begin working on lots of things in the new year. Folks from our church served supper to people in need in January and First Christian Church, and others will serve again in February before this cold-weather ministry ends. And we did all those things in the middle of this good-for-nothing time of year.

This Sunday, we’ll hear a report on our ministry from 2019 and hear about the Church Budget that will fund our work this year. We’ll enjoy lunch and another opportunity to help others as we collect canned soup for the Food Pantry at MICA. Our Mission Committee is exploring ways we can help get a new homeless shelter up and running in East McComb. Our Christian Education Committee and its counterpart at the Presbytery are planning some exciting things for our youth this spring and summer.

Can anything good come out of January and February? Looks like it can! Thanks for being part of it.

Grace and Peace,  
Bob



# *Music Notes*

*from Deanna Phelps, Music Director*

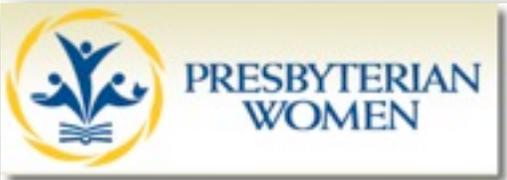


*It seems we're always looking ahead in the choir room! Working up something to sing for worship almost every Sunday is sometimes a daunting task. Now that we've had a little time to catch our collective breath after Advent and Christmas, when we flip the calendar to February there it is—Ash Wednesday is February 26. So I'm well into planning music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. As important as those big days like Christmas and Easter are, all those other weeks are important, too, and we work hard to make each piece we sing an important part of our worship.*

*Our spiritual life can be like that, too. It's easy to feel good about our faith on high holy days. It's sometimes not easy when it's dreary outside and there's no special event coming up. God is in those days just as surely as in the big ones. God is in the days when we sing an old favorite that doesn't require as much preparation just as surely as in those days when we've worked hard to learn something new. I hope you'll join me in finding God in all our days this year, especially the days we sing and worship together.*

*I know I say it all the time, but we really do welcome new singers in the choir. I know some of you at least sing in the shower. We'd love to have you sing with us. I look forward to seeing you soon.*

**Presbyterian Women of J.J. White MPC** will meet on Tuesday, February 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a little business, mission planning, Bible study, a light lunch, and a time of friendship. The Bible study is lesson 5 of Love Carved in Stone. Participants will bring hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



All women are invited, so come and be a part of PW.

## Welcome to Our New Members



We are happy to welcome Dennis and Sarah Ross as the newest members of our church family. Dennis and Sarah recently retired in Metairie and moved to a farm in Tylertown. They have been worshipping and participating in other activities with us for several months and come to us on reaffirmation of faith. Please extend them a cordial welcome.

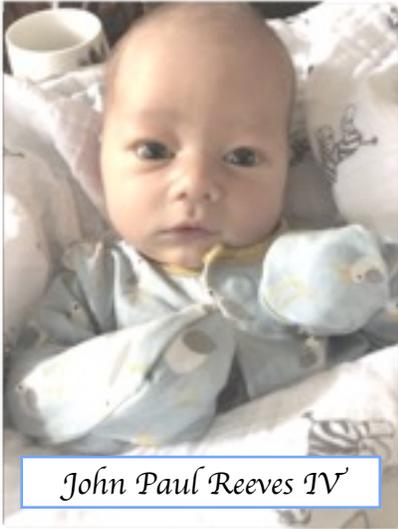
## New Elders Installed



Pictured above are newly installed Elders Joseph Spurgeon (l.), Rusty Whittington, Beth Wild, and Tommy Ratcliff with Reverend Phelps. We appreciate their willingness to serve on the our session.

## *Welcoming New Life in 2020*

*We extend congratulations and prayer to two young families  
who have welcomed babies in the New Year:*



*John Paul Reeves IV*

*John Paul and Elise Reeves welcomed John Paul IV (Jack) on January 8. He was born in Covington and weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces. All are home now and doing well. Jack makes Maxine a happy grandma again.*



*Everly Victoria Small*

*Seth and Nicole Small welcomed Everly Victoria on January 21, also in Covington. She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. All are well and healthy. Vicki Brill is the proud grandma of this little one.*



*We also learned during the holidays that the Rev. Will and Bonnie Ratcliff will be welcoming a child to their family this summer.*

*Please keep all these growing families in your prayers.*

# F.Y.I\*

## \* Sunday, February 2, will be a day filled with good things for us.

We'll celebrate Communion, as we usually do, on this first of the month Sunday.

Following worship, we will convene our annual congregational meeting. In this meeting, the Session will report on membership and finances during 2019 and will also present the Church Budget for 2020. In this meeting, we will also hold an election for an elder to complete the remaining two years on Amanda Lewis' unexpired term. The Nominating Committee will place Ally Allred's name in nomination for that position. Ally has served on the Session before, and we are grateful for her willingness to serve again.



Following worship and the congregational meeting, the Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee will host the annual Super/Souper Bowl Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a variety of soups, salads, and desserts (sign-up sheets are available), and we'll enjoy fellowship and conversation. We invite you to bring canned soup for the MICA Food Pantry.

Plan to be here on February 2 for a day full of opportunities to grow as a community of faith.

## \* Youth Events Coming Up

We have two events coming up soon we want middle school and high school youth to know about:

On **Sunday, February 9**, at 4:30 pm, we invite all youth and their parents to meet in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a light supper together, then Rusty Whittington, new chair of the Christian Education Committee, will take the youth and Bob will take the parents and both groups will participate in an event called Off the Wall Planning. Both groups will come up with some plans and activities for the youth group for this year and beyond. All youth and parents to attend.

**Sunday, March 1**, the Presbytery's Christian Nurture Committee invites youth from across the Presbytery to gather in Bay St. Louis on the Coast for an afternoon of beach volleyball, Bible study, and fellowship. Our group hopes to make this an overnight event, so watch for news about plans for travel and lodging. We'll join youth from Canton the Coast for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

We have also received information about a possible youth/adult mission opportunity in East Tennessee with other churches in our Presbytery the week of June 21-27. Bob will have more information as it develops.

## \* A Special Birthday Celebration

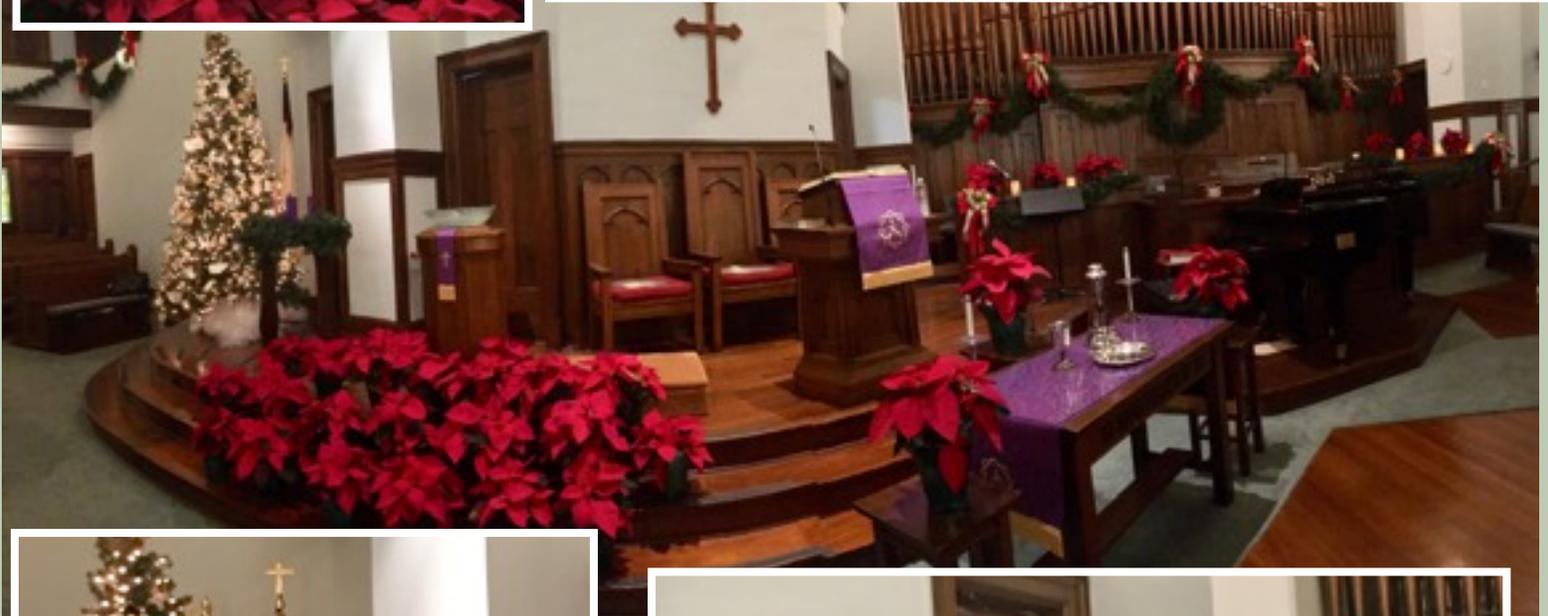


Emily Austin will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on **Thursday, February 13**. We are invited to drop by Miss Emily's home (2420 Arrowhead Drive) between 4:30 and 6:00 pm on that day to wish her a Happy Birthday. No gifts, please, just drop by to share in this special celebration.

## \* Lent...Already?

**Ash Wednesday falls on February 26 this year.** We'll worship in the sanctuary that night at 6:00 pm. There will be no supper or other Wednesday activities that night. The choir will rehearse immediately after Ash Wednesday worship. Watch for a full schedule of Lenten activities in next month's newsletter. For those planning ahead, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12 this year.

December may have come and gone,  
but we always need a little Christmas -  
a few more photos from Christmas 2019...



## **December Session Report**

The Session held its regular meeting for December on the 15<sup>th</sup> following worship. Elders Will Kimmel and Ray Salter were excused. All other elders, the Moderator, and elders-elect Joseph Spurgeon, Rusty Whittington, and Beth Wild were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ◆ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ◆ reception of Dennis and Sarah Ross as new members on reaffirmation of faith.
- ◆ examined newly-elected elders Tommy Ratcliff, Joseph Spurgeon, Rusty Whittington, and Beth Wild and set the date for their ordination and installation for January 12, 2020.
- ◆ expressed appreciation to retiring elders Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, Margaret Ann Macloud, and Noggin Wild.
- ◆ noted and expressed appreciation for recent gifts from the McColgan Trust and the Estate of Norma Ann Williams.
- ◆ approved gifts to Mission Partners
- ◆ agreed not to conduct a Mission Conference in 2020, but in its place to schedule 2-3 work days/weekends through the year to work on local projects including the new homeless shelter that is trying to get organized. We will continue to solicit funding for the Mission Budget in February.
- ◆ approved a Church Budget totaling \$319,113.00 for 2020. This figure may be adjusted when we decide what we will do about recruiting youth leadership in 2020. Complete information about the Church Budget will be available at the annual congregational meeting on February 2.

## **January Session Report**

The Session held its first meeting of 2020 on January 12 at 3 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Andrew DeCoux and Whitney Rawlings were excused. All other elders and the Moderator, our Pastor, were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ◆ election of Beth Wild as Session Clerk.
- ◆ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ◆ authorized Beth, Noggin, and Bob to complete the annual statistical report.
- ◆ set Sunday, February 2 as the date for the annual meeting of the congregation and the Super/Souper Bowl Lunch.
- ◆ approved participation in the Exchange Club's Flag Display program for 2020.
- ◆ received, with regret, the resignation of Amanda Lewis from the Session and referred the remaining two years on her term to the Nominating Committee.
- ◆ noted the called meeting of Presbytery on Monday, January 20 in Hattiesburg.
- ◆ elected Beth Wild as delegate and Ray Salter as alternate to the stated meeting of Presbytery on Saturday, February 8, at Gautier.
- ◆ appointed Emily Austin as honorary chairperson of a committee to plan the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sanctuary in 2021. She will be joined on the committee by Robbie DeCoux, Whitney Rawlings, Sue White, and Noggin Wild.
- ◆ heard a report from the Mission Committee on the effort to establish a homeless shelter in East McComb and our exploration of ways to help.
- ◆ approved the Elder on Call Schedule for 2020.

**The Session will meet again on February 16. Please keep these who guide the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.**

## **New Committee Leadership**

In January, the Session approved leadership for the various committees of the Session for 2020.

**Clerk of Session** Beth Wild

**Christian Education** Rusty Whittington

**Fellowship and Congregational Care** Joseph Spurgeon

**Government** Whitney Rawlings and Tommy Ratcliff

**Mission and Evangelism** Andrew DeCoux and Rusty Whittington

**Property** Whitney Rawlings and Ray Salter

**Stewardship and Finance** Wayne Hutchison

**Worship** Tommy Ratcliff

If you would like to help with any of these important ministries, please see the chairperson listed or Bob.

# February Schedules

## Sunday Morning Breakfast

2 Sharon White  
9 Bill Mitchell  
16 Hutchison Crew  
23 Carol Rawlings

## Flowers

2 Communion  
9 Martha and Thad Simmons  
16 Debbi and Tommy Brock  
23 Carol and Whitney Rawlings

## Children's Church

2 Melisa DeCoux  
9 Ally Allred  
16 Sara Beth Williams  
23 Carol Rawlings

## Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

### Elder of the Month

Beth Wild

5 John, Randy W.  
12 Tommy B., Garland  
19 Dale, Whit  
26 Kennon, Joseph



## February

13 Emily Austin  
14 Roger Price  
20 Donna Smith  
21 Margaret Ann Macloud  
Sam White  
24 Sharon Ard Harmon  
25 Tom Gatlin  
Mary Regan  
27 Phyllis Turner  
28 Hayden Williams  
Henry Williams

## March

6 Natalie Simo  
8 Jim McElwee  
Andi Alford  
11 Charles Ray  
12 Dolores Duczer  
15 Angie Simmons  
Randy White  
18 Alan Howell  
19 Taylor Allyse Gatlin  
23 Betty Penick  
25 Dixie Fouche'  
29 Karen Sanders

# February

## 2020

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

|   |    |  |   |   |                                      |    |
|---|----|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|----|
|   |    |  |   |   |                                      | 1  |
| <p>2<br/>9:00 light breakfast<br/>9:30 Sunday School<br/>10:30 Morning Worship<br/><b>Sacrament of Communion</b><br/><b>Congre. Mtg.</b><br/><b>"Souper" Bowl</b></p> | 3  | 4  | <p>5<br/>7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast<br/><b>Wednesday Activities</b><br/>5:30 Supper<br/>6:00 Activities for All<br/>6:30 Choir</p> | <p>6<br/>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am<br/>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>  | 7                                    | 8  |
| <p>9<br/>9:00 light breakfast<br/>9:30 Sunday School<br/>10:30 Morning Worship</p>  | 10 | <p>11<br/><b>Presbyterian Women (Day Group)</b><br/><br/><b>11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall</b></p> | <p>12<br/>7:15 am Men's Breakfast<br/><b>Wednesday Activities</b><br/>5:30 Supper<br/>6:00 Activities for All<br/>6:30 Choir</p>  | <p>13<br/>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am<br/>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p> | <p>14<br/><b>Valentine's Day</b></p> | 15 |
| <p>16<br/>9:00 light breakfast<br/>9:30 Sunday School<br/>10:30 Morning Worship</p>   | 17 | 18   | <p>19<br/>7:15 am Men's Breakfast<br/><b>Wednesday Activities</b><br/>5:30 Supper<br/>6:00 Activities for All<br/>6:30 Choir</p>  | <p>20<br/>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am<br/>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p> | 21                                   | 22 |
| <p>23 <b>MICA</b><br/>9:00 light breakfast<br/>9:30 Sunday School<br/>10:30 Morning Worship</p>   | 24 | <p>25<br/><b>Mardi Gras</b></p>  | <p>26<br/>7:15 am Men's Breakfast<br/><b>Ash Wednesday Service</b><br/>6:00 p.m.<br/>Choir Practice to follow</p>                 | <p>27<br/>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am<br/>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p> | 28                                   | 29 |