

*JJ White Memorial
Presbyterian Church*

February 2019



We love because he first loved us.



1 John 4:19



a word from our pastor...

Reverend Bob Phelps

The Great Blizzard That Wasn't

Some of you know that Deanna and I scooted out of worship on Sunday, January 27 and headed for Franklin, TN (just south of Nashville) where I would attend the annual meeting of the Synod of Living Waters on Monday. I look forward to this meeting every year partly because I get to connect with friends from our time in Middle Tennessee and partly because I get to hear about the variety of ministries going on in our Synod which includes congregations and presbyteries in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. I serve on the Synod's Covenant Relations Committee, and it's always good to get reports on the colleges, seminaries, and other institutions that relate to our Synod including Belhaven in Jackson. As important as all those things are, another reason we enjoy this meeting is because we usually stop on the way home and spend the night with Kyle and Maranda, our kids in Birmingham.

That didn't happen this year. That was the weekend that the weather forecasters were predicting the Great Blizzard of '19. On our way up that Sunday afternoon, Kyle texted to be sure we knew about the great blizzard that was coming and to suggest that we might want to plan to come on home when we left Synod instead of stopping in Birmingham. Some of you will remember that five years ago we went to this meeting and got snowed in in Birmingham for four days by a sure 'nuff blizzard, at least by Alabama standards. We joked that we weren't sure whether Kyle was concerned for our safety or concerned about the prospect of having us stuck at their house if we couldn't travel.

We went on to the meeting, and the weather forecasts grew even more threatening during the day. They were even calling for a full inch of snow

in McComb, and we all know how paralyzing that would be! So we followed our heads instead of our hearts and met the kids for a quick supper in Birmingham and headed on back, arriving back here after midnight on that Monday night, road weary, but well ahead of that dreaded winter precipitation.

We woke up Monday morning to-----nothing. The great blizzard had not materialized. We had some heavy frost on our back steps, and Kyle said they had about seventeen flakes of snow in Birmingham, but all we had dreaded had not come to pass. When I heard the log trucks coming down the street in front of our house unimpeded, I rolled over and went back to sleep. When I woke again, I thought about what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount about worry: "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to the span of your life?"

I'm thankful for those who help us plan travel and work with weather forecasts, even when they get them wrong like they did this time. I remember what it was like to be stuck in Birmingham for four days that other trip, so it could have gone either way. I missed our time with the kids, but there will be other times to visit--hopefully when we can get out and enjoy being together. And I'm grateful we weren't stuck on the road somewhere in icy conditions.

We all need to worry less. I know how hard that is. Learning to trust God's provision for our lives is not easy, but we can depend on God's faithfulness. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps,
Music Director

It's February, and we find ourselves in a transition time in church music. The big rush of Advent and Christmas are behind us and, although most of you don't know it, the choir is already looking ahead to Lent and Easter. We get a little more breathing room than normal this year since Easter won't come until April 21, but we have already begun work on music for Lent and Easter. As always, there will be some familiar things and some new things, so keep listening for how our work contributes to worship.



February, of course, brings Valentine's Day and although we don't celebrate that holiday in the Church, it calls us to remember how important love is in our lives. As important as all of our loving relationships are, the love of God grounds them all and provides plenty for us to sing this month and beyond. A recent hymn by one of my favorite hymn writers is called, "So Much to Sing About." It says, "So much to sing about, so much to praise you for, so much I cannot live without, and so much more: at which display of majesty the very stones are moved to shout." And, "So much to sing about, once orphaned and alone, how could I dare believe the news that you would come to live and die for me, for me! and so make sure my welcome home."

Such love shared with us calls to mind another favorite song of mine that Bob will be singing with his choir in Hattiesburg this spring, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" One stanza of that hymn says, "The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain every springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?"

How indeed? I'm thankful for the time we spend singing together in worship.

“Souper Bowl” 2019



The Congregational Care/Fellowship Committee organized this event - Thanks to Tommy Brock (I.), Vicki Craighead, Suzi Drummond, Debbi Brock, John Drummond, and Georgia Mendonides for serving on this committee.

Maybe our team didn't make it to the Super Bowl in Atlanta, but we still had a celebration of good fellowship and food at our JJ White MPC's "Souper Bowl" on Sunday, February 3. Thanks to all those who provided soups, salads, desserts and breads. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this annual event a success. Also, thanks for the donations (about \$200) given to add support to our missions at JJ White.



The Presbyterian Women of JJ White will meet for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 12, at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will change from its usual location in the Fellowship Hall to the Ewell Martin Room located to the right of the ground floor elevator. This is a one-time change due to the arrival of Girl Scout Cookies in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include mission planning, Bible study (Lesson 5), and a time of friendship. A light lunch will be provided.

Plan to attend. All women are welcome and encouraged to be a part of PW of JJ White.



New Session Members Installed

We elected three new elders this fall: Andrew DeCoux, Wayne Hutchison, and Amanda Lewis. They join remaining Session members, Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, Noggin Wild, Margaret Ann Macloud, Ray Salter, and Whitney Rawlings to comprise the Session for this year. Andrew and Amanda were ordained and they and Wayne Hutchison, who is returning to service on the Session, were installed to positions on the Session in worship on Sunday, January 13.

We appreciate their willingness to serve and will keep the JJ White MPC Session in our prayers.

Andrew DeCoux (l.), Amanda Lewis, Wayne Hutchison and Reverend Phelps during the installation ceremony

F.Y.I.



Boy Scout Sunday

We will welcome Boy Scouts and their families to worship on Boy Scout Sunday, February 24.

Please plan to be with us to welcome these special guests. They will meet after worship for their annual banquet and to recognize achievements.

JJ White MPC Mission Conference Update



Ray Jones - Acting Director of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Due to schedule conflicts beyond our control, this year's Mission Conference will happen later than we originally planned. Ray Jones, who serves as Acting Director of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism for the Presbyterian Mission Agency at the Denominational Center in Louisville, KY will be with us May 17-19 to help us identify ways to do faithful evangelism and grow the church in a changing community like ours. We will provide more specific information about scheduling and events for that weekend, but mark your calendars now and plan to be here for opportunities to learn more about the big scary E word (Evangelism) later in the spring.

Midweek Adult Study

Nobody likes to think much about end of life issues, but as several of our families found out during the holidays, planning ahead can be a big help for everyone. Our adult study group will look at several things related to end of life times on some upcoming Wednesday evenings. We began on January 30 by looking at how Scripture helps us calm our souls about such issues. We'll continue that conversation on February 6. On February 13 we'll talk about other issues we all need to consider, and on February 20 and 27, we'll talk about the Christian funeral--what it is and what it isn't. We hope you'll join us for these important conversations. In March, we'll begin a Lenten Bible study on Wednesdays. We look forward to having you join us.

January Session Report

The Session held its January meeting on January 13 both before and after morning worship. Elder Ray Salter was excused. All other members of the Session and the Moderator were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ the Session welcomed and examined newly elected elders Andrew DeCoux, Amanda Lewis, and Wayne Hutchison.
- ❖ reconvened after worship and welcomed newly installed elders Andrew DeCoux, Amanda Lewis, and Wayne Hutchison.

- ❖ Expressed our sympathy to Whitney Rawlings upon the death of his brother, Ray.
- ❖ Received the Treasurer's Report which included year-end figures from 2018 and information about pledges for 2019.
- ❖ Approved minutes from the meeting on December 16.
- ❖ Noted membership status at year end. We received five new members and lost three in 2018. Membership at the end of 2018 stood at 160.
- ❖ Authorized the Clerk and the Moderator to complete the annual statistical report to the denominational center.
- ❖ Noted that Bob would attend Synod on January 28.
- ❖ Noted the upcoming meeting of Presbytery in Mobile on February 8 and 9
- ❖ Noted work on the traffic light by MDOT at the intersection by the church.
- ❖ Heard an update on the organist search.
- ❖ Made leadership assignments for Committees for 2019:
 - Christian Education** Margaret Ann Macloud
 - Fellowship and Congregational Care** Suzi Drummond
 - Government** Whitney Rawlings and Margaret Ann Macloud
 - Mission and Evangelism** Andrew DeCoux and Amanda Lewis
 - Property** Whitney Rawlings and Ray Salter
 - Stewardship and Finance** Wayne Hutchison and Noggin Wild
 - Worship** Andrew DeCoux and Will Kimmel
- ❖ Noted the Elder of the Month Schedule for 2019
- ❖ Approved a 3% increase in salary for the pastor. Will be referred to the congregation at the annual meeting set for February 3.

The Session meets monthly. The February meeting will be on the 10th after worship. Please keep the elders in your prayers as they guide the ministry of our congregation.

Regional Church Meetings



The Synod of Living Waters meets annually. Bob and Susan Sumrall, who also serves as Clerk of our Presbytery, represented our Presbytery at this year's meeting on Monday, January 28, in Franklin, TN. The big news from Synod this year is that the Rev. Terry Newland, who has served as Synod Executive for many years, will be retiring in June this year. Much of the meeting involved plans for the transition brought on by Terry's retirement. A celebration of Terry's faithful ministry preceded the meeting on Sunday evening. The Synod also heard reports from several of our Covenant Partners, including King University in Bristol, TN, Columbia Seminary in Georgia, Maryville College in Tennessee, Stillman College in Alabama, Rhodes College in Memphis, and the University of Pikeville in Kentucky. We also always hear from Living Waters for the World, a ministry supported by our Synod that installs water treatment systems around the world. Bob serves on the Synod's Covenant Relations Committee. Susan was installed as Vice Moderator this year and will become Synod Moderator in 2020.

On Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9, Whitney Rawlings and our pastor will join others for a joint meeting of the Presbyteries of Mississippi and South Alabama at the Spring Hill Church in Mobile, AL. The partner presbyteries will meet jointly for worship and fellowship and will conduct separate meetings for business. Please keep these meetings in your prayers.

February Schedules

Flowers

3 Communion
10 Rusty and Vicki Brill
17 Tommy and Debbi Brock
24 Whitney and Carol Rawlings

Children's Church

3 Sara Beth Williams
10 Susan White
17 Lee Williams
24 Melisa DeCoux

Sunday Morning Breakfast

3 Tommy and Debbi Brock
10 Sharon White
17 Bill Mitchell
24 Carol Rawlings

Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

6 Noggin, Jeff
13 John, Randy W.
20 Tommy B., Garland
27 Dale, Whit

Elder of the Month

Noggin Wild



Happy Birthday to...


February

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

March

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

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	4	5	6 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	7 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	8 Presbytery meets Mobile, Alabama	9
10 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	11	12 PW Meets 11:30 a.m.	13 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	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 10:30 Morning Worship	18	19	20 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	21 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	22	23
24 MICA 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Boy Scout Sunday	25	26	27 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	28 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM		