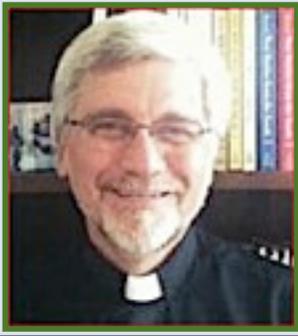


# *JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church*



*We love because  
He first loved us.  
1 John 4:19*

*February 2018*



# a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

## Good Riddance, January!

I know that life is a gift, and that we should be thankful for every day. That being said, I'm usually glad to see January gone. January, by its nature is troublesome: short, mostly cloudy days, long, dark, and usually cold nights; the big let-down that comes after all the holiday bustle. There is plenty not to like about January. Then this January in particular brought its own set of issues: no heat in the sanctuary; flu and flu-like illnesses that won't quit; colder weather than people in these parts usually experience, schedules that prevented some things from happening. January was a long thirty-one days!

It's early in February when I'm writing this (Yes, that's why your February newsletter is late!) and things are looking better. The sun came out today. It's supposed to stay above freezing for as long as I can find the weather forecasted. The heat's back on in the sanctuary. Colds and flu are still around, but they do seem to be easing up some. Schedules are still conflicted, but that probably won't change.

Even though January is not my favorite month (Deanna and I both have sisters with birthdays in January, so it can't be all bad!), we did experience some good while it was with us. Worship in the Fellowship Hall made for more work for several of us, but we experienced togetherness we sometimes miss when we spread out all across our spacious sanctuary.

We ordained and installed a new class of elders. Poor Ray and Whitney, who will co-lead our Property Committee this year got thrown to the wolves early; we were at least a little more gracious with Margaret Ann, who will join our Christian Education planning team--don't worry; there will be plenty for her to do now that January's gone. We remembered and gave thanks for our baptism, which always give us a jump start on the New Year. Everything we usually do in two buildings, we managed to do in one by some creative space sharing and cooperation.

I know that every month can't be April or October (although I intend to ask God why not when I get my personal audience in the Kingdom). And, at some level, I know that January serves a purpose. Even so, I'm glad it's gone. I heard a song the other day that said, "If I can make it through January and February, I'm gonna March on!" We've got January out of the way. February looks much more promising. By March, I'm hoping all that cold weather and cold and flu mess are gone and we'll be marching into spring.

February brings Lent, and that always means opportunities to grow in discipleship together. We're off to a good start on 2018, even though it started in January. Let's give thanks and move forward together.

Grace and Peace,  
Bob



# *Music Notes*

*from Deanna Phelps, Music Director*

Sometimes our life of faith intersects with the rest of our life in strange ways. We'll experience one of those intersections on February 14 this year. February 14 is Valentine's day, right? Of course it is: a time for romance and for sweethearts. But this year, February 14 is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. I read somewhere the other day that this is the first time in more than sixty years that those events have fallen on the same day. On first glance, those two events don't appear to be compatible at all. Bob told me the other day about some article he had read online somewhere about a Catholic Bishop who was insisting that members of the church in his area celebrate Valentine's Day early or late so that they could focus on sacrifice on Ash Wednesday. I'll be interested to see how that works out for him.

I do hope you'll join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, whether you can bring your sweetheart with you or not. Bob says we'll hear a love story that night, a story about God's love for us made known most clearly in Jesus Christ. We'll sing songs of faith together. I know that a smudge of ashes on our forehead will be a strange symbol amid all the hearts and flowers of the day, but they will serve to remind us of God's love for us and the lengths to which he was willing to go for us to know it.

The choir is working on some beautiful music for Lent this year. We look forward to singing it during this important season.

As always, if the urge to sing strikes you, we are always willing to welcome new singers in the choir. See me, and I'll get a folder ready for you. We rehearse on Wednesdays at about 6:30 pm in the choir room. Please join us.



## New Elders Ordained and Installed for Service



On a recent Sunday the Reverend Bob Phelps conducted the ordination of Ray Salter (l.) and Margaret Ann Morgan as first time elders. Whitney Rawlings, previously ordained, was installed along with Ray and Margaret Ann as this new class of elders for JJWMPC. We thank them for their willingness to serve our church.



Pictured below are Presbyterian Women from across the Presbytery of Mississippi who recently attended the PW Annual Winter Retreat held at St. Mary's of the Pines in January. Debbi Brock, Suzi Drummond, and Deanna Phelps from PW of JJ White participated in the retreat.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**  
of JJ White MPC

PW of JJ White MPC will meet on Tuesday, February 13, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a brief update on PW business, Bible study (Lesson 5 of Cloud of Witnesses) and a light lunch. All women are invited and encouraged to be a part of PW of JJ White!



# SOUPER BOWL

JJ White MPC Style...



**Thanks to all who provided soups and desserts for our annual "Souper Bowl" luncheon. All of this delicious food was enjoyed by about 100 folks and a supply of canned soups, other food items, and cash donations were collected for MICA. Whether you were for the Patriots or Eagles this event was a winner!**





*Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14 this year. We will worship after mid-week supper that night, around 6:00 pm. Ash Wednesday worship will include the imposition of ashes for those who find it meaningful.*

*Other upcoming Lenten activities include:*

*Sunday morning worship will provide opportunities for us to focus on discipleship and growth. We'll focus on Finding Peace. Each week's worship will help us find peace for ourselves and peace to share with others. Join us each Sunday.*

*Mid week Bible study during Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 21. We'll be using a resource written by Bob's old friend you've heard of before, Dr. Morris Pepper. Before his death, Pepper wrote a series of seasonal devotions. We'll look at some things he wrote for Lent.*

*Lenten Bible Study: We'll gather on Sunday afternoons February 18, 25, March 11, and 18 to study the Beatitudes from Matthew. There is no resource book to buy. Bob will distribute a guide for reading and discussion on Ash Wednesday. We'll meet at 5:00 pm on those Sunday afternoons. Please plan to join us.*

*Thursday Bible Study continues. Our Thursday morning Bible study group meet at 10:30 each week in the classroom across from the Library on the second floor. We are reading the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to join us.*

*Holy Week and Easter. We will release a schedule of activities for Holy Week and Easter as they draw closer. We'll gather for worship on Maundy Thursday, March 29, and Good Friday, March 30. Of course Easter morning will provide opportunities for joyful worship.*

*Plan to join us for these and other Lenten activities.*



# January Session Report

The Session held its regular meeting for January on Sunday, January 21, at 5:30 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Alison Allred, Margaret Ann Morgan, and Whitney Rawlings were excused. All other members were present.

Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ❖ noted that Bob and Tommy Ratcliff attended the recent church safety meeting conducted by the Department of Homeland Security. The recently appointed Security Task Force will meet soon to discuss safety issues.
- ❖ Made Leadership Assignments for 2018:

**Session Clerk**

**Treasurer**

**Christian Education**

**Congregational Care and Fellowship**

**Evangelism and Mission**

**Government**

**Property**

**Worship**

**Noggin Wild**

**Wayne Hutchison**

**Ally Allred and Margaret Ann Morgan**

**Suzi Drummond**

**Kennon Singley**

**Kathy Harbour**

**Whitney Rawlings and Ray Salter**

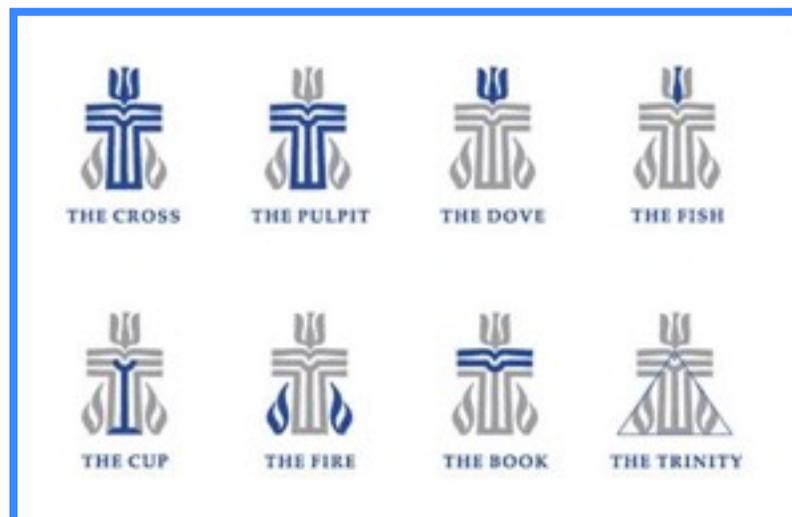
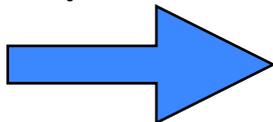
**Will Kimmel**

- ❖ Elected Noggin Wild as delegate and Whitney Rawlings as alternate to the meeting of Presbytery in Laurel on February 2-3
- ❖ Noted dates the Girl Scouts will be using the building: January 28, March 4, and April 29
- ❖ Heard reports from the Government, Evangelism and Missions, Property, and Worship Committees.
- ❖ Set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 4.
- ❖ Approved the annual Souper Bowl Lunch for Sunday, February 4, also.

The Session meets monthly. The February meeting will be on the 11th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Please keep members of the Session in your prayers.



Take a closer look at  
our PCUSA  
symbol...



## **What Do Presbytery and Synod Have to Do With Us?**

Bob and Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk of our Presbytery, were the representatives from our area to the meeting of the Synod of Living Waters on Monday, January 29 in Franklin, TN. Our Synod includes churches and presbyteries in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. Bob serves as a member of the Synod's Covenant Relations Committee, the group that maintains covenant relationships with colleges, universities, seminaries, and other institutions connected to our denomination in those four states. The Synod meets once a year to review the work of the Presbyteries which comprise it and to hear from the agencies that do the work of Synod. The Rev. Terry Newland, who directs the work of our Synod, has announced his plans to retire in 2019. The Synod appointed a task force to decide how to revision the work of Synod in light of this upcoming change.

Later that week, Bob and Noggin Wild, Clerk of our Session, represented our church at the winter meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi in Laurel. Our Presbytery is made up of twenty-eight congregations scattered from Canton to the Coast. The Presbytery meets twice a year. The next meeting will be in August at Diamondhead on the Coast. Bob chairs the Presbytery's Christian Nurture Committee, the Christian Education agency. Suzi Drummond and Kennon Singley of our congregation are also members. He was one of two Bible study leaders at this meeting.

You hear about these meetings every time they happen, but we're sure some of you wonder what they have to do with us. One of the distinctive things about being Presbyterian is that we are a connectional church. Our twenty-eight churches do not exist in their communities all by themselves. The Presbytery gives us opportunities to share in ministries with others who believe as we do. Our Presbyterian Women's (PW) group is probably the best example of that connection. Three women from our congregation recently attended the winter PW retreat at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa. They and others will attend the spring gathering at Fondren Church in Jackson in March. Throughout the year, the women of the Presbytery gather to learn and grow together and to support mission projects. The Presbytery's Mission Committee offers opportunities to work with others in places few of us can go alone. The Christian Nurture Committee will be working this year on Campus Ministry plans for students at colleges and universities within our bounds. That group will also be working on gatherings for people across the Presbytery to come together to grow and learn together. Another group in our Presbytery will be offering financial grants to congregations who want to try new forms of worship this year. Being connected to others who believe as we do is a gift we enjoy as Presbyterians. Please keep all the churches of our Presbytery and Synod and their leaders in your prayers. And if you'd like to be involved in the work of the Church beyond our corner, let us know. There is plenty of opportunity to serve.

# February Schedules

## Flowers

4 Communion  
11 Vicki and Rusty Brill  
18 Debbi and Tommy Brock  
25 Carol and Whitney Rawlings

## Children's Church

4 Sara Beth Williams  
11 Ally Allred  
18 Susan White  
25 Joanna Barr

## Sunday Morning Breakfast

4 Linda Miller  
11 Debbi Brock  
18 Hutchison  
25 Carol Rawlings

## Ushers/Greeters

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

## Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

7 Randy B., Tommy R.  
14 Randy, John, Tommy B.  
21 Noggin, Jeff  
28 Dale, Whit

## Elder of the Month

Kathleen Harbour

## February

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

## March

4 Judy Deer  
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  
Kirk Gibbes  
29 Karen Sanders



# Happy Birthday!

# February

## 2018

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	2 Presbytery Meets Laurel	3 Presbytery Meets Laurel
4 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship <b>Congregational Mtg.</b> <b>"Souper Bowl"</b>	5	6	7 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	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	12	13 PW meets at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.	14 Valentine's Day 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>	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 <b>President's Day</b> 	20	21 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	22 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	23	24
25 <b>MICA</b> 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	26	27	28 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children			