

J.J. White Memorial
Presbyterian Church
1921~2019

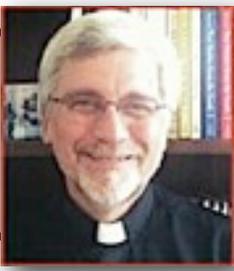


January 2019

Happy New Year !



O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
~Psalm 98:1



a word from our pastor...

Reverend Bob Phelps

Win or Go Where?

I know that all of you are not as caught up in sports as we are at our house. This has been a rough time for non-sports folks, I guess. Bowl and playoff season for college football. NFL playoffs and both college and NBA basketball in full swing. I wonder what the rest of you do while we're watching all that!

This is the time of year when it's win or go home for football teams. Some of us had lots to celebrate during bowl games. Others didn't find much to be happy about. And still others watched it all from the outside. At our house, we're hoping for one more Bama victory to cap off the season. Saints fan will begin that journey soon. This win or go home business is hard. Everything is on the line each time we suit up. One bad quarter can end a season.

I know some people who think about our life of faith in a similar way. They seem to believe that God is always on the prowl, waiting to catch us in some error we can't recover from, some sin that crosses the line and is unforgivable. Once we've crossed that line, in their minds, there is no coming back.

I refuse to believe that's the kind of God we serve. God's very nature is grace and forgiveness. I know how important repentance is, but I also know that it takes a while for some of us to get it right, and I also know that God is much more forgiving than most of us are. How many times do the Psalmists and other biblical writers remind us that God is patient and kind, longsuffering and forgiving?

Enough to lead us to believe that understanding God's nature has always been a struggle for us.

In the book of Hosea, God reveals an important thing about himself. In Chapter 11 of that book, God struggles with how to respond to an unfaithful people. The whole book of Hosea is short enough to read in one sitting and is well worth the effort. After considering all the options (some of them not pleasant), God ends his struggle by saying, "I am God and not mortal. I will not come in wrath!"

As we begin a new year, join me in being thankful for that assurance. How we behave matters. What we do matters. But our situation is never a win or go home event. God is always ready to hear our prayer and to redirect our lives, no matter how many times we have tried and failed to be what God calls us to be.

We can also give up a need to determine the outcome of someone else's life of faith. We can allow people to find their own path, even if it's different from ours or from the one we would have chosen for our children, friends, or others. (I still believe everyone really wants to be a Presbyterian, but I will grant them to freedom to find God in other places.)

Whatever is preventing you from experiencing God's peace can be overcome. It may take a while. It may not be easy. But God never gives up. Neither should we. Thanks be to God. Happy New Year.

Grace and Peace,
Bob

Notes of Concern

We extend heartfelt Christian sympathy to:

Thad (Spike) Simmons, upon the unexpected death of his brother, Mark, on Christmas Eve.

Betty Pennick, upon the death of her sister, Sue McDavitt Fresswick in Mandeville, LA, on December 30.

Please remember these and others who have suffered loss in your prayers.



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

What joy we in the choir experienced during Advent and Christmas this year! We worked hard to prepare for these important services, and we are grateful to be able to add to our worship experiences. Thanks to all who commented about our music.

Now we find ourselves in that awkward time of year when it's easy to think there is nothing to celebrate. There is always something to celebrate when God is with us, and God has promised to with us always. Easter seems a long way away. (It's April 21 this year. Lent won't begin until March 6.) But these in between days are important opportunities for us to experience Jesus as the true Light of the World. We'll be singing about that and other wonderful things over the next few weeks. We'd love for you to join us. Most of you know we rehearse on Wednesday evenings after our adult study time, usually around 6:30 pm. We have been happy to see Alleigh Lewis join us. We welcome other young singers and others who remember youth fondly.

We look forward to a new year of singing and praising God together. We hope you'll join us.

Rejoice with those who rejoice... Romans 12:15a

Sue and Bob Reeves were married at JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church on November 30, 2018, with the Reverend Bob Phelps officiating. Congratulations to Sue and Bob as we, your church family, share your joy with family and friends.



Photos above provided by Jennifer Jones Schroeder



Margaret Ann and Brandon Macloud were married on December 1, 2018, at JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church by the Reverend Bob Phelps. We celebrate this new marriage along with their family and friends.



Photos by Patrick Remington Photography.

JW Advent and Christmas 2018







Thanks to Bob, Deanna, the choir, those who worked on our lovely decorations, the children, the Advent candle lighters, our ushers, and all who made our Advent and Christmas beautiful and glorifying to our Savior!



JJ White MPC welcomes our new church secretary, Monique Gilmore!

Monique Gilmore is an Ohio native and US Army Veteran. She is married to Greg Gilmore of McComb. Greg and Monique, married for 38 years, met in Germany and were married in Copenhagen, Denmark. They retired from the US Army in 1997, moving to McComb from Newport News Virginia. Monique most recently served as the School/Community Relations Director for the McComb School District. She had served the school district for a combined total of 18 years when she left in 2017.

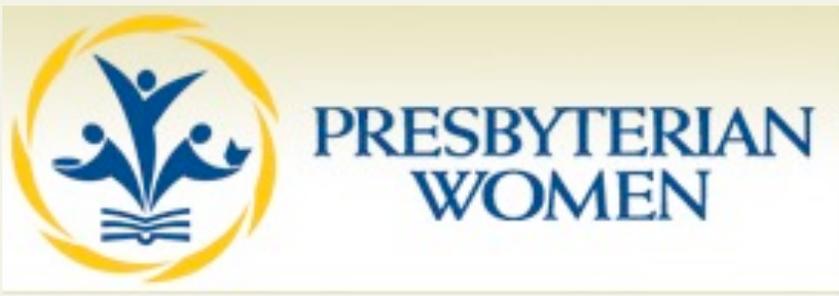


Monique is a high energy, enthusiastic team builder, self starter and loyal team player. She is an avid reader. She loves painting, (especially treasures found in Flea Markets and Antique Shops) she enjoys traveling, walking, shopping and sharing her Mary Kay products.

Monique and Greg have 2 grown daughters – Tamarra, 37 and Toya, 31; 3 grandsons Amir-16; Zyon- 14; and Nazir- 9. Greg and Monique are parents to two of their grandsons, Amir and Nazir.

Monique is grateful for the opportunity to serve at J.J. White Presbyterian Church. She sincerely believes that God placed her here among this group of Christians for such a time as this to grow, give and heal. Romans 8:28 is one of her guiding scriptures, “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Presbyterian Women of JJ White will meet on Tuesday, January 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study lesson for this month is Lesson # 4 of the group’s study book *God’s Promise*. The meeting will also include mission planning, a light lunch, and a time for friendship.



Please plan to attend and begin the year as a part of this group. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING ANNUAL EVENT AT JJ WHITE -

THE “SOUPER” BOWL

FEBRUARY 3, 2019, FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.

MORE DETAILS LATER...

Programs and Activities Resume for the New Year

We hope everyone had a joy-filled Christmas season and that the New Year is off to a good start. We'll be resuming a number of our regular programs this month:

Wednesday

Our Wednesdays are full days:

Men's Prayer Breakfast is at 7:15 each Wednesday morning. Men from churches across our community gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast, fellowship, and prayer each week. Cooking is a shared responsibility. We've had some newcomers join us recently, and there is always room for more. See John Drummond for more information

Fellowship Supper happens each Wednesday at 5:15 pm. Chef Kennon Singley prepares the entree each week, and we invite others to help out with sides, salads, and desserts. We ask that those who eat contribute what they can to defray costs. The food is great, and the community around the table is even better. Before we scatter, we pause each week to pray for needs we know in our church and beyond.

After supper, adults gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of study. We'll begin this year with a brief conversation about the liturgical year we follow in planning worship and study in the church. If you've always wondered what that line in the bulletin that says it's the fifteenth Sunday after something means, this is a chance to find out. Groups for youth and children meet in other parts of the building. Everyone is welcome.

The choir rehearses at 6:30 pm each week in the choir room. New singers are always welcome.

Join us for a midweek check in each week.

Thursday

Thursday morning Bible study will resume on Thursday, January 10. We've been reading the Gospel of Luke, but took some time off during Advent to read Advent texts and then took a couple of weeks off for Christmas and New Years. We'll resume our study of Luke in Chapter 12. The conversation is always lively, and we all learn from one another. Newcomers are welcome. If there is interest in a night group, please talk with Bob.

Ordination and Installation of Elders This Month



We are grateful for the service of retiring elders Ally Allred, Kathy Harbour, and Kennon Singley, whose terms expire this month. We elected Andrew DeCoux, Wayne Hutchison, Amanda Lewis as elders in the fall. They join remaining Session members, Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, Noggin Wild, Margaret Ann Morgan, Ray Salter, and Whitney Rawlings to comprise the Session for this year. Andrew and Amanda will be ordained and they and Wayne Hutchison, who is returning to service on the Session, will be installed to positions on the Session in worship on Sunday, January 13. Please plan to be present to support and encourage these we have elected to serve. That Sunday is also the day we remember the baptism of Jesus and give thanks for our own, so we will all have opportunity to make and renew commitments together.

December Session Report

Your Session met on Sunday, December 16 after worship. Elders Kennon Singley and Noggin Wild were excused. All other elders and our pastor, the Moderator, were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ election of Suzi Drummond to serve as temporary Clerk in the absence of Noggin Wild, who was ill.
- ❖ expressed thanks to retiring elders Ally Allred, Kathy Harbour, and Kennon Singley.
- ❖ received the Treasurer's Report and a report on pledges for 2019 to date.
- ❖ approved minutes from the November 11 meeting.
- ❖ approved a transfer of membership for Genie Kimmel to New Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA).
- ❖ approved the employment of Monique Gilmore as Church Secretary, effective December 4, 2018.
- ❖ noted receipt of a special gift from the Gresco Corporation in honor of Darrell Smith and designated that gift to the Building Fund.
- ❖ noted MDOT repairs to the traffic light at the intersection by our church during January.
- ❖ elected Whitney Rawlings as delegate to the meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi in Mobile on February 8-9. This is a joint meeting with the Presbytery of South Alabama.
- ❖ noted the continuing search for an organist and made covenant to keep this search in our prayers. We continue to be thankful for Jennifer Sanders' commitment to play for us in the interim.
- ❖ heard reports from the Fellowship and Congregational Care, Property, and Worship Committees.
- ❖ approved a 2019 Church Budget totaling \$322,111.00. The Budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 3.
- ❖ set a new schedule for Elder of the Month service.

The Session meets monthly. The January meeting will be on the 13th after morning worship. Please keep these who guide our ministry in your prayers.

Church Meetings Coming Up

Bob will be a delegate to the meeting of the Synod of Living Waters in Franklin, TN on Monday, January 28. He and Deanna will return here on Tuesday, December 29.

The Presbytery of Mississippi will hold a joint meeting with the Presbytery of South Alabama on Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9 in Mobile, AL. We share a staff position with the Presbytery of South Alabama. Both presbyteries will meet together for worship, meals, and fellowship and then adjourn to separate meetings for business.

Please keep these meetings in your prayers.

January Schedules

Flowers

6 Communion
13 Johnny and Billie Nance
20 Bryan and Kathy Harbour
27 Joan Kennedy

Children's Church

6 Lee Williams
13 Melisa DeCoux
20 Ally Allred
27 Carol Rawlings



Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

2 Bob, Clem
9 Jimmy C., Whitney
16 Fred, Warren
23 Bill, Kit
30 Tommy R. and ??

Sunday Morning Breakfast

6 Beth Wild
13 Carol Rawlings
20 Lee Williams
27 Hutchison Crew

Elder of the Month

Will Kimmel



Happy Birthday to...



January

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



February

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

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship with Sacrament of Communion	7	8 PW Meets 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	9 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	10 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	11	12
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