

# JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church

July/August 2018



Welcome one another, therefore,  
just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:7 NRSV



# a word from our pastor...

Reverend Bob Phelps

## ***Oh, The Places You'll Go!***

One of my favorite books for children and the rest of us, too, is *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss. Our boys both got copies from friends when they graduated at one time or another, and we've given it as a gift for other milestone occasions in people's lives. The book, written in typical Dr. Seuss silly verse, is full of encouraging words about the future of the one graduating or heading out on some new adventure.

I got that book out and read it again the other day as I reflected back on all the traveling I've done this summer, much more than usual. I served as a Commissioner from our Presbytery to the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. From June 16-23, I joined hundreds of other Presbyterians from across the country and around the world to hear presentations and make decisions about our common ministry. It was a very inspiring experience, and I left renewed and assured that, as our Stated Clerk reminded us several times during the week, God's not through with the Presbyterian Church! It was good to be a part of a gathering of church folks united around common goals and prayerful about how we can better serve God together. I have shared information about actions taken by the Assembly with the Session and will be happy to talk with others about what we did and didn't do. Althea Jerome, an elder from Westminster Church in Hattiesburg, and Susan Sumrall, Clerk of our Presbytery, also participated in this meeting, and Rob Lowry, Pastor at Jackson's Fondren Church attended as an observer. If Assembly ever meets near us again, I hope you'll go just to see how the national church operates. (It meets in Baltimore in 2020, Columbus, OH, in 2022, and Salt Lake City in 2024, so it'll take some doing to go for a while.) Committee meetings were long, and plenary sessions were even longer, but I am grateful to be part of a Church in which all opinions are valued and heard (and sometimes heard, and heard and heard).

From St. Louis, I picked Deanna up in Indiana where she had spent some time with her folks, and we headed to Montreat, North Carolina where we attended the annual Worship and Music Conference. Several others from our Presbytery joined around 800 children, youth, and adults in choirs, classes and workshops, and worship experiences for a week. This year's theme, Sacraments and Seasons, gave us the opportunity to experience a different season of the Church Year in worship every day until we had completed the whole cycle by the end of the week. All the classes I attended this year were informative and helpful. Worship every day was inspiring and provided much to think about. Singing in a large choir is fun. I get to renew acquaintances there every year. Again, I left challenged and inspired by some of the most talented people in our denomination and thankful for opportunities to learn from and with them.

We got to see both our boys briefly: Blake in Indiana on the first leg of the trip and Kyle and Maranda in Birmingham on the way home. If there is truth to the adage that parents are never happier than their least happy child, we must do doing well this year because all our kids seem to be in good places. Parents know how that makes us feel.

As summer winds down, on the calendar if not the thermometer, I'll be in North Mississippi for a weekend of camp meeting with the Hutchison clan and the community that developed from the former Beth-Salem Presbyterian Church near Ackerman, MS. Wayne's family settled there from South Carolina in the late 1700's and early 1800's. Many of those folks and others are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church. When it became necessary to close the church several years ago, the family instituted a trust to maintain the property, and they gather there for this camp meeting every summer. It has been my privilege for the past several summers to be their preacher for the weekend, and I look forward to being with them again this year. We'll worship together on Friday and Saturday nights and on Sunday morning. Of course there will be lots of food and fellowship even for those of us who are not blood kin during this annual celebration.

I'm grateful for those here who keep things rolling while I'm away.

Deanna and I may steal a few days to run away to the beach before fall programming cranks up again, so there's another one of those wonderful places we go.

I know that many of you have been on the road and in the air this summer, too. I've enjoyed hearing about your travels and sharing vicariously in your experiences. Oh, the Places We've all Been this summer! And football season is right around the corner meaning even more travel for some. Wherever we've been and wherever we'll go, God goes with us and makes our travels meaningful and inspiring. Thanks be to God!

### **Presbytery Meets Here on August 11**

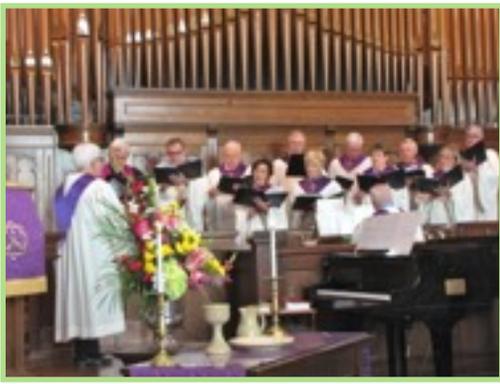
The Presbytery of Mississippi holds two regular meetings a year, in February and in August.

We'll be hosting the summer meeting on August 11 this year. Margaret Ann Morgan will be the elder representing our Session at that meeting. Ally Allred is the alternate. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you've never been to a meeting of Presbytery this might be a good time to see how it all works. This meeting will follow a new agenda for us, an attempt to blend our worship and our work, so we'll begin the meeting in the Fellowship Hall, move to classrooms in the Sanctuary building for some workshops, and conclude both our worship and our work in the Sanctuary.



We will need your help in several ways. There is a signup sheet in the Sanctuary on Sundays and in the Church Office after that for any who will help provide food for a light breakfast and for lunch that day. We will also need help in the kitchen and additional help from folks who can be available to provide hospitality to help our guests find their way around our buildings. If you can help, please sign up on those sheets.

The Presbytery of Mississippi is a family of congregations from Canton in the north to churches on the Coast, all united in ministry in our part of the State. Please help us be gracious hosts for this meeting.



# *Music Notes*

*from Deanna Phelps, Music Director*

## *Bringing it Home*

I'm sure some of you get tired of hearing about our trip to Montreat every summer for the Worship and Music Conference. I know that music is not the primary reason some of you come to worship, but I hope that music enhances your worship experience here and wherever else you worship. One of my favorite things at Montreat is a series of reading sessions for choir directors like me. Each afternoon, we gather to read through and listen to music for children, youth, and adult choirs. The choir at Montreat this summer included over 400 people, so some of the things we can do with a group that large are simply not doable for regular-sized choirs like ours. But I brought back a couple of pieces we'll be doing sometime this next year, and those reading sessions offer a few more for me to consider. Bringing home the Montreat experience is not altogether possible, but there is always something we hear or do there that we can use back home. The primary thing I take away from Montreat every year is the diversity of ways God inspires us to use creative gifts to worship him. While we will likely never have four hundred in the choir or nearly a thousand in worship, God has still given us gifts to use to make worship a meaningful experience for all of us.

With that in mind, remember that choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 22, right after Bible study which will follow supper. Add your gifts to ours and join us as we praise God together in song.

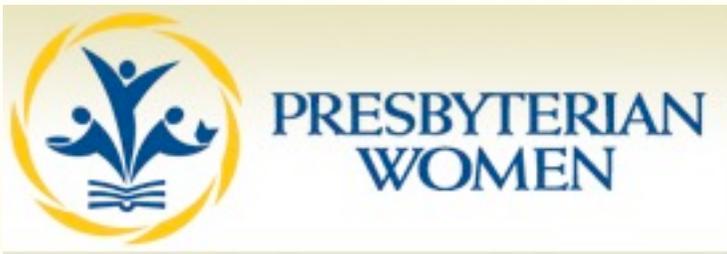


## Young Adults Lead the JJ White Worship Service...

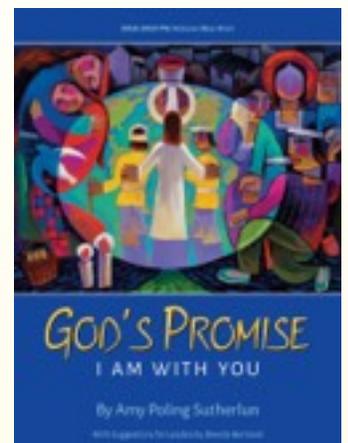


Thanks to the young adults of JJ White for leading the morning worship service during Pastor Bob's absence recently. Margaret Ann Morgan graciously filled the pulpit, and all did a great job in contributing to a meaningful Sunday morning worship service for our congregation.

**Presbyterian Women of JJ White** will resume their regular monthly meetings on August 14, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a brief update on



PW business and an introduction to the new 2018-19 Bible study : **God's Promise - I Am With You** by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Books will be available at the meeting. A light lunch



and a time of friendship will follow. All women are invited to join this study and be a part of Presbyterian Women of JJ White.

## Congratulations to the Reverend Will Ratcliff!

We are happy to announce that Will Ratcliff, who grew up in our church, is now the Reverend Will Ratcliff, a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of the Heartland and Pastor of the Tarkio Presbyterian Church in Missouri. Will, a graduate of Columbia Presbyterian Seminary in Georgia, was ordained in Tarkio on Sunday, July 22. Will's parents, Tommy and Mary Ann, were happy to attend the event, and the rest of us were with them in spirit. Please remember Will and his ministry and his wife, Bonnie, (who serves as Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Independence, Missouri) in your prayers.



The Reverend Will Ratcliff

# F.Y.I.

## **Wednesday Activities Set to Resume**

Wednesday, August 22, is the date for us to resume our midweek activities at church. That'll give families a little time to adjust to back to school schedules before we jump back in to full swing around here. Kennon Singley will be preparing the main dish for supper each week, and, again this year, we'll be asking for individuals and groups to help provide sides and desserts. We'll have a schedule early in August.

*The Wednesday schedule will include:  
Supper at 5:15 pm each week. Please make reservations on your attendance slips in worship each week to help us plan.*

*6:00 pm will bring Bible study for adults and activities for youth and children. Watch for announcements about topics for these groups as start-up gets closer. Invite friends to join us each week.*

*6:30 pm will be the time for choir rehearsal in the choir room. New singers are always welcome, and a desire to praise God with your voice is all that's required. We hope you'll join us.*

Plan to make Wednesdays at church part of your regular schedule during the school year.

## **Backpack Blessing**

Sunday, August 12, we'll get the new school year started with this year's Backpack Blessing. We encourage all our students and teachers to bring backpacks, book bags, and other symbols of the new school year to worship that day for a special time of prayer and good wishes as the new school year begins. Everyone will have a few days under their belts by then, so we'll pray together for a good year of teaching and learning for all our kids, their teachers, and their families. Invite your friends to join us for this annual celebration. We want 2018-19 to be a successful year of teaching and learning in school as well as at church.

## **Midweek Meals in Summer**

Special thanks to several who are providing meals for delivery to several members and friends of our church during our summer break from supper here. We are grateful for Lu Becker, Debbi Brock, Lou Deloach, Kathy Harbour, Carol Rawlings, Cathy Salter, and Beth Wild for providing these meals and to Carol and Whitney Rawlings, Mary Spurgeon, and Randy and Susan White for getting them delivered.

We will return to delivering the same meal we enjoy together here when our Wednesday program resumes on August 22.

## **MICA**

Remember our MICA collection Sunday is the last Sunday of each month. Sunday, July 29, and Sunday, August 26, are the next two collection dates at JJ White. Please bring your nonperishable items to the morning worship service. The children will collect them from the pews following the children's sermon. Thanks!



**Session Reports  
from  
June and July**

The Session met on June 10 and July 15 this summer. Elders Ally Allred, Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, Ray Salter, and Noggin Wild were present in June. Elders Ally Allred, Suzi Drummond, Kathy Harbour, Margaret Ann Morgan, Ray Salter, and Noggin Wild attended in July. Our Pastor, the Moderator, attended both meetings. Actions taken include:

**June:**

- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ❖ heard a report from the Christian Education Committee on this year's successful Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ noted that the Fellowship and Congregation Care Committee and the pastor served homebound communion on June 7.
- ❖ approved a tentative plan for distribution of funds to our Mission Partners from the Mission Budget.
- ❖ received a report from the Property Committee regarding maintenance and repairs.
- ❖ accepted a bid from Tom's Sheet Metal and Roofing in Summit to replace the roof over the Sunday School area. Work will begin this summer.
- ❖ approved pulpit supply for Bob's absence this summer.

**July:**

- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements.
- ❖ heard a report of the actions of General Assembly.
- ❖ agreed to host the August 11 meeting of Presbytery; elected Margaret Ann Morgan, delegate and Ally Allred, alternate; made plans for meals and hospitality.
- ❖ noted that the Trustees of the Cecil Thompson Mission Trust Fund have transferred responsibility for those funds to the Enochs family.
- ❖ approved a gift for Will Ratcliff upon his ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of the Heartland in Missouri.
- ❖ approved start up of Wednesday activities on August 22.
- ❖ approved Bob's participation in the camp meeting at the former Beth-Salem Presbyterian Church near Ackerman, MS, July 27-29.
- ❖ heard reports from various committees

The Session meets monthly. The August meeting will be on August 12 at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. If you have questions or items for the Session's attention, please see Bob or another member of the Session. Please keep the elders in your prayers as they guide the ministry of our congregation.

# Schedules- July 22 through August 31

## Flowers

July 22 Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff  
 " 29 Maxine Brock  
 Aug. 5 Communion  
 " 12 Julia and Bob Arnold  
 " 19 Stacy White  
 " 26 June Hart

## Children's Church

July 22 Linda Miller  
 " 29 Susan White  
 Aug. 5 Lee Williams  
 " 12 Ally Allred  
 " 19 Sara Beth Williams  
 " 26 Carol Rawlings

## Sunday Morning Breakfast

July 22 Sharon White  
 " 29 Linda Miller  
 Aug. 5 Hutchison Group  
 " 12 Mary Ann Ratcliff  
 " 19 Debbi Brock  
 " 26 Bill Mitchell

## Ushers/Greeters

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

## Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

July 25 Bill, Kit  
 Aug. 1 Tommy R.  
 " 8 Noggin, Jeff  
 " 15 John, Randy W.  
 " 22 Tommy B., Garland  
 " 29 Dale, Whit

## Elder of the Month

July - Margaret Ann Morgan  
 August - Ray Salter



# happy birthday!

## July

2 John Drummond  
 6 Laris Mitchell  
 Stacy White  
 7 Suzi Drummond  
 12 Carolyn Ray  
 13 Lydia Williams  
 17 Dottie Heiss  
 20 June Hart  
 25 Rachel Catchings  
 Kylee McGehee  
 26 Thaddeus Russell  
 28 Linda Miller  
 29 Conner Simmons  
 30 Nicole Faucett

## August

3 Keith Sanders  
 Tommy Brock  
 4 Win Sullivan  
 6 Spike Simmons  
 8 Kelly Henley  
 13 Deanna Phelps  
 14 Jane Walman  
 16 Phil Terrell  
 17 Georgia Mendonides  
 Kyle Phelps  
 18 Beverly Yates  
 19 Ron Yates  
 21 Martha Simmons  
 22 Britt White  
 25 Drew Parker  
 Dave Alford  
 26 John Boyd  
 27 Gary Russell  
 29 Eileen Cato  
 Joseph Spurgeon

## September

1 Noggin Wild  
 Lily Estes  
 3 Margy Wicker  
 Stephen Williams  
 4 Andrew Decoux  
 5 Gracie Senner  
 Ben Thomas  
 6 Patti Brabham  
 7 Sara Beth Williams  
 10 Bonnie Hudon  
 Darrell Smith  
 13 Mary Ann Ratcliff  
 17 Rose Ann Johnson  
 19 Wayne Hutchison  
 20 Blake Phelps  
 Carolyn McKay  
 28 Dottie Burt  
 Stacey Moak

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast	2 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 p.m.	3	4
5 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion	6	7	8 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast	9 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	10	11
12 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship <b>6:00 pm Session Meets</b>	13	14 <b>PW resumes regular monthly meetings- 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall</b>	15 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	16 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	17	18 <b>Presbytery of Mississippi meets at JJWMP</b>
19 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	20	21	22 7:15 am Men's Breakfast <b>Wednesday Night Activities for all ages resume with supper at 5:15p.m.</b>	23 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	24	25
26 <b>MICA</b> 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	27	28	29 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	30 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	31	