

11 White Memorial Presbyterian Church

June 2017



*Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the
heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.*

Psalms 36:5



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

I Know Grace When I See It!

I'm all for every effort to get the Scripture into people's minds and hearts. I'll admit that I'm not a big fan of some of the paraphrases and other versions of Scripture that have appeared in recent and not so recent anymore times. Whether I like them or not, they help many read and understand Scripture who might have never ventured into it without them. Several years ago, the American Bible Society produced the Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the Bible. A good friend of mine was one of the advocates in our region who had been trained to do programs in churches to introduce what was then a new effort to help people get into Scripture. When he called to schedule a program at the church where I served, of course we found a time that worked. I still have a copy of that Bible that we bought at the presentation.

One of the distinctive things about the CEV is that it does not contain the word grace. When the New Revised Standard Version has Jesus say, "My grace is sufficient for you," the CEV says, "My kindness is all you need." When Ephesians says, "By grace you have been saved," the CEV says, "God's wonderful kindness is what saves you."

I'm all for kindness, but somehow that just doesn't say what I think grace is. When I quizzed my friend about that rendering, he smiled, and said, "I knew you'd be the one to ask!" He said those who produced the CEV decided that grace was one of those church words that people really didn't understand, so they decided not to use it. He said that they tried to find a way to talk about grace that wasn't so difficult to comprehend, that people just didn't know what it meant.

Then and now, I respectfully disagree. I know that grace is beyond my comprehension. As a child, I was taught that grace is, "God's unmerited favor." I'm sure I didn't have a clue what that meant then. As an adult who has learned to depend on grace, I know all too well what it means to depend on God to do for me things I cannot do for myself. The other reason I think I know what grace is comes from two people God placed in my life to teach me.

One of those people was the Rev. Dr. Hubert Morrow. He was Dean of the Seminary when I was a student years ago, and he taught me all the academic things I know about grace. He taught me what "unmerited favor" meant, but he went beyond that. He helped me learn that no paper was ever finished, no lesson was complete, no sermon had done its work unless it had something to say about grace. Dean Morrow was one of the most rigorous teachers I had at any level. We worked hard because he demanded it. But we experienced grace in every word he spoke. He now lives among the saints in light, and I'm sure that grace continues to flow from him there.

Another of those people was Beverly St. John, a dear friend who died last month at the age of 98. Beverly was many things: friend, encourager, teacher, writer, leader, elder in the Church, and many more. Someday I expect to open a theological dictionary looking for another definition of grace and find no words but a picture of Beverly. She was gracious in the social sense; she knew how to make people feel comfortable and welcome, but she was grace personified, beyond just social grace. I have said many times that whenever I got to spend time with Beverly, which was never often enough, I always left our time together with new energy to go away and behave myself, to pay more attention to God's call and claim on my life. She never told me to do those things; it was just her nature to encourage all of us who loved her. As you can tell, I miss her, but I am sustained by the many ways she shared herself with me and with the Church for many years.

Dean Morrow and Beverly were just two of the people God made sure I knew so I could know what grace is. I hope you have gifts like them in your life, too.

So I still have issues with the CEV Bible. Kindness is a wonderful thing. But grace goes way beyond kindness. I hope you'll join me in two things: first, to continue to strive to understand what grace is, and second, to continue to find ways to help others see it in us.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

Summer Music: Like Forrest's Box of Chocolates

Thanks to all who have expressed your appreciation for the choir's contributions to worship throughout this year. We work hard to make meaningful contributions to worship and it helps when you let us know we're connecting. We will take a few weeks off this summer, but we'll be back in August with another whole year of music for worship.

In the summertime, we get to welcome friends and family from both in and beyond the church who provide music for worship. Some of those dates are filled (the men of our choir will start us off this week); there are some openings in July and August. Some of this year's singers will be familiar. Hopefully there'll be a new voice or two. Those of you who know me know that chocolate is my downfall. I got to thinking the other day that our summer music is a lot like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get! But someone will sing something every Sunday this summer. Please be here every Sunday you can to help us welcome our musical guests.

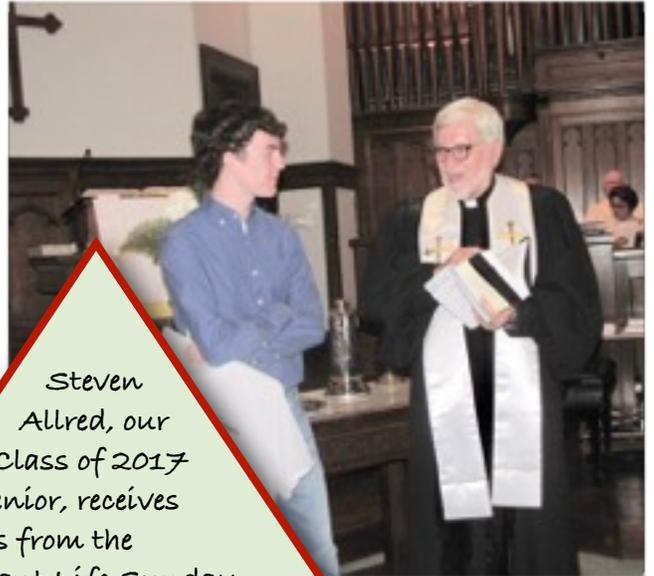
I'm looking forward to participating in the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat, North Carolina the last week of June. Thanks for helping make that wonderful time possible. One of the things I enjoy most about that week is the reading sessions I attend with other choir directors on three afternoons where we all review new music for our choirs together. Come to think of it, those times are sort of like Forrest's chocolates, too. We never know what we're gonna get, but I always come back with something good!

YOUTH Sunday

Thanks
to our
youth for
a great
service on
Youth
Sunday!



Steven
Allred, our
Class of 2017
Senior, receives
gifts from the
Covenant Life Sunday
School Class, a Bible from his
White Memorial church
family, and words of
support from his
youth-group
friends.





children's Ministry Summer opportunities

School's out for our kids, but Christian Education opportunities never stop. Here are some things our kids won't want to miss this summer:

* Sunday School will continue through the summer at 9:30 each Sunday morning. We may do some creative groupings depending on who's here, but we'll learn together every Sunday morning all summer.

* vacation Bible School will be Monday-Thursday, July 17-20. Hero central: Discover Your Strength in God! will be this year's theme. Each night will include supper, a Bible story, crafts, music, and recreation. Invite your friends. Adults, see Ally Allred to see how you can help. There will be plenty for all to do to help our kids learn about God's love for them and for all. VBS has come a long way since popsicle sticks and sandwich cookies. Plan to help us make this a great week for kids.



* Story Time: Again this summer, we'll host four summer story hours for elementary-aged kids. On Tuesdays, June 6 and 20 and July 11 and 25 at 2 pm, we'll meet in the children's Library on the lower level for stories and other activities and a treat. Invite friends to join us for this fun summer activity.

Adult Bible Study All Summer, Too!

Our three adult Sunday School groups will continue to meet on summer Sundays, too. The Seekers, Covenant Life, and Young Adult (that's a relative term!) groups will meet each Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Each group comes at Scripture and faithful living in a distinctive way. You'll be welcome in any of them.

Thursday morning Bible study will also continue through summer. On Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the Covenant Life Sunday School room on the second floor, we are currently reading and discussing the New Testament Letter of James. We don't always agree about what we read, but we have a lot of fun talking about what we do and don't believe. We'll begin a new study before long, so **come join us this summer.**

PW of JJ White Supports MICA



Presbyterian Women of JJ White recently collected items for MICA to give a boost for the summer months when children are out of school. Please keep MICA on your grocery list this summer and donate items the last Sunday of each month during the morning service . Questions about MICA needs can be answered by MICA representative, June Moak.

JJ White MPC Welcomes New Staff Member



Pattie Page will begin as our church secretary on Monday, June 5. Pattie is a native of McComb and graduated from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. She began her career in Dallas as an Executive Assistant for many years. Then, she moved to New Orleans to be closer to her parents and began a career in healthcare with HCA. Pattie worked at Tulane Medical Center for 10 years, mainly in marketing. She was recruited to Atlanta to act as Director of Marketing for an HCA hospital.

Pattie is back in McComb caring for her mother. She looks forward to her yearly trip with eight of her college girlfriends. She loves spending time with friends and family and loves traveling!

We welcome her to the JJ White MPC office and are glad she has come our way!

June Schedules

Flowers

4 Communion
11 Noggin and Beth Wild
18 Kathy Parker
25 Randy and Susan White

Children's Church

4 Joanna Barr
11 Sara Beth Williams
18 Linda Miller
25 Ally Allred

Sunday Morning Breakfast

4 Lee Williams
11 Mary ann Ratcliff
18 "Hutchison Crew"
25 Sharon White

Ushers/Greeters

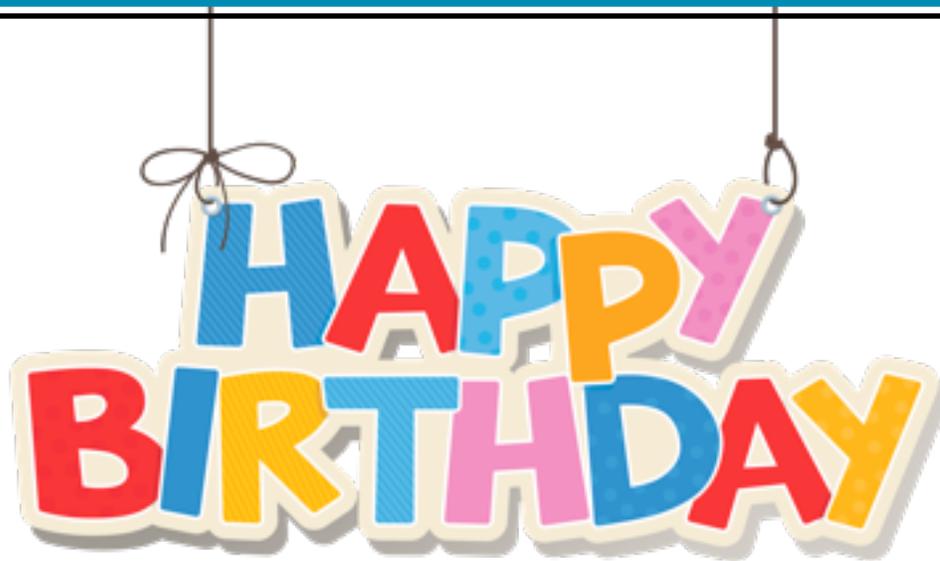
Tommy Ratcliff, Captain
Robbie DeCoux
John Drummond
Stacey Moak
Johnny Nance
Mark Statham

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

7 Bill, Fred, Jim
14 Randy B., Tommy R.
21 Randy W. John, Tommy B.
28 Noggin, Jeff

Elder of the Month

Noggin Wild



June

1 Deb Richardson
6 Sharon White
7 Florence Sigman
June Moak
10 Steven Allred
13 Beth Wild
14 Debbi Brock
16 Alison Allred
Jackie Russell
17 Rusty Whittington
19 Artis Brown
23 Bess Simmons
Van Simmons
28 Andrea DeCoux

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

JUNE

2017

Sunday

Monday

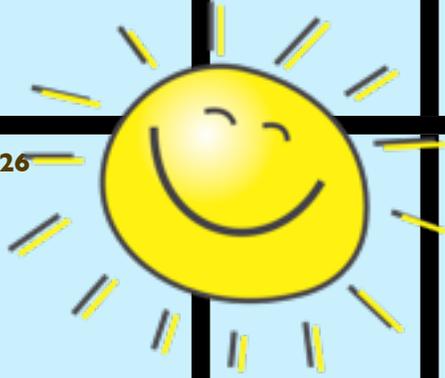
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	2	3
4 Sacrament of Communion 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	5	6 Story Time for Children 2:00 P.M.	7 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night activities on summer break.	8 Bible Study 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	9	10
11 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Session Meets 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night activities on summer break.	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	20 Story Time for Children 2:00 P.M.	21 Summer Begins 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night activities on summer break.	22 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	23	24
25 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	26 	27	28 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night activities on summer break.	29 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	30	