

JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church

March 2015 Newsletter

...for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Covenant...

Understanding our relationship with God as covenant has been an important theological point for Presbyterians for generations. Throughout the Lenten season this year, we are focusing on Covenant in worship. We often talk about the Old Covenant of Law and the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. In reality, there is but one Covenant, and it is and always has been a Covenant of Grace. Lest we think that God somehow changed his mind when Jesus came and decided to love us instead of judge us, the stories from the Hebrew Scriptures we encounter in worship in this season make it clear that God's relationship with us has always had redemption as its goal and has always been grounded in grace. Even the Law itself was a sign of God's grace because God knew we would need guides and helps to show us how to live as God's people. Sinful and misguided as we are, we, of course, took God's good gift of the Law in the Ten Commandments and turned it into something burdensome instead of helpful. Eventually, when the Law had become so burdensome that it no longer led us to God, God sent Jesus to fulfill the Law and to open the way for us to relate to God in more satisfying ways. No longer are we accepted or rejected based on our ability to keep the Law. When God decided to accept the redemptive work of Jesus as fulfillment of the Law, the way to peace and joy became open to us in ways we had not known before. By our faith and trust in Jesus' redemptive work, we become God's people, people who are loved and accepted as we are, people who are empowered to experience new life not because we have earned it, but because God has gifted us with it.

As we journey with Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Hebrew people, and Jeremiah on the Sundays of Lent, we'll see that many of our ideas about an angry, vengeful God in the Hebrew Scriptures are not fully descriptive of who God is. In each of these stories, we see God calling and equipping people to live in response to God's call. As we experience their stories again, we listen for that same call in our lives, and we depend on God to equip us to respond.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you in worship. And, of course, I look forward to experiencing the joy of Easter with you when this journey leads us to the cross and beyond. See you in worship!

Grace and Peace,
Bob

JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church 2015 Mission Conference "God's Children Serving God's Children"

The JJ White MPC 2015 Mission Conference was held Friday - Sunday, February 13-15. The activities began on Friday night with a workshop on the new face of missions led by Kim Joiner, Director of Children's Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN. Children, youth, and adults participated in groups and put together skits with a focus on selected children's books with mission related themes.



Kim Joiner



On Saturday, after breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, groups formed to work on mission projects: cleaning the church kitchen, working at the Excel by 5 house, sanctuary repairs, clearing out a shed behind church property, weeding flower beds, and assembling school supply kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



JJ White MPC kids can get the job done!



JJ White's mission giving has supported the following agencies and projects: MICA, Books Are the Beginning (Mike and Mary Thrasher), Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud of Mexico, EXCEL by 5, Palmer Home for Children, Presbyterian Outreach Foundation and Living Waters for the World, as well as others.

All of these agencies serve families and children in some way. Please keep them, their important ministries, and our partnerships with them in your prayers.

We invite and encourage you to pledge your financial support for our mission budget. Please turn in your pledges of financial support as soon as possible so that we can formulate our plans for 2015. Thanks!

JJWMPC Installs New Elder



Whitney Rawlings was recently installed as an elder to complete the unexpired term of Elder Bill Jones who had to resign due to health issues. Thanks to Bill for his service on the session.

We appreciate Whitney's willingness to serve for the year 2015 as he takes on the responsibility of property committee chair. Thank you, Whitney.

Our 2015 session committees are as follows.

Clerk - Noggin Wild

Treasurer - Wayne Hutchison

Christian Education - Melissa DeCoux, Chair
Congregational Care and Fellowship-

Robbie DeCoux and Margy Wicker, Co-Chairs

Evangelism and Missions - Bob Arnold and
Liz Terrell, Co-Chairs

Finance - Wayne Hutchison

Property - Whitney Rawlings

Worship - Noggin Wild

Boy Scout Sunday



Troop 124 BSA is sponsored by JJ White, and we were happy to have them with us on Boy Scout Sunday. The troop is led by Pat Parker who thanked the church for its longtime support of scouting. This active troop meets each Wednesday night in the JJ White Fellowship Hall. It is our pleasure to host this worthy organization.

The Boy Scout Promise

On my honor, I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.



A Report from Presbytery

The Presbytery of Mississippi met on Saturday, February 21, at First Church, Canton. Elders Liz Terrell and Margy Wicker and our pastor attended.

Some actions taken at the meeting include:

- Approval of the Presbyterial Budget for 2015
- Dismissal of the Liberty and Unity congregations in Amite County and their pastor, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Walt Gaston, to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). They have followed the Presbytery's Gracious Separation Policy.
- Examination and reception of the Rev. Wayne Chaplin, new pastor at Westminster, Natchez. Liz Terrell will serve on his installation commission in late March.
- Voted on Constitutional Amendments referred to us from the General Assembly as follows:
 - ▶ No - on Amendment 14-1—to include the Belhar Confession in the Book of Confessions.
 - ▶ Yes - on Amendment 14A which deals with ministers who renounce jurisdiction of the Church over them.
 - ▶ Yes - on Amendment 14B which clarifies language in the process of preparation for ministry.
 - ▶ Yes - on Amendment 14C which requires all levels of the church to adopt Child Protection policies.
 - ▶ Yes - on Amendment 14D which sets the minimum composition for a Presbytery at ten sessions and ten teaching elders.
 - ▶ Yes - on Amendment 14E which deals with inter-religious dialogue.
 - ▶ No - on Amendment 14F dealing with the definition of marriage.

All the amendments will be before all Presbyteries this spring.
A final decision on them will be made after all Presbyteries have voted.

- Installed the Rev. Dr. Steve Ramp as Moderator and Ruling Elder Susan Sumrall from the Briarwood Church as Vice Moderator for 2015.
- Voted to change our schedule so that we will have two meetings per year, in February and in August. Meetings will be scheduled on Friday and Saturday and will include worship, education, and community building as well as business.

The next meeting of Presbytery will be August 14-15 at Westminster Church, Hattiesburg.

Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

When are we going to sing something happy?" That question almost always comes from someone or from several someones about this time of the year. The season of Lent is a penitential season, a time for prayer and reflection on the sacrifice Jesus was willing to make for our salvation. Lenten music is usually quiet and reflective to help us know the benefit of such activity. Our choir is working hard on music for the season and on some joyful music for Easter. Our primary musical service in this season will be on Maundy Thursday evening, April 2. As we gather around God's Table, we'll be guided in our prayer and reflection by several selections from the choir. We hope you'll plan to be with us and invite friends to join us for that important Holy Week service. And, of course, we hope you'll join us for joyful Alleluias on Easter morning!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our Thursday Morning Bible Study group is growing! We meet from 10:30 until noon each Thursday in a classroom on the second floor. We are concluding our study of the Gospel of Matthew and will be beginning a new study very soon. We're leaning toward another New Testament



book for our discussion, but we're open to suggestions. Newcomers are always welcome. If you're waiting for the new study to begin, it will start in March. Watch for an announcement about a specific date. You don't have to be a Bible scholar

to participate. We are all informed by each other and look forward to having newcomers join us.

Holy Week Schedule March 29-April 4



We'll have several opportunities for worship and reflection.

❖ Palm Sunday, March 29

We'll gather for worship outside (weather permitting) and recreate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as we wave palm branches and sing Hosanna. It'll be a great day of worship and celebration.

❖ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30, 31, and April 1

While we won't gather for corporate worship these days, we'll have another opportunity for prayer and contemplation these days. In the classrooms on the second floor, around the corner from the sanctuary, we'll have several self-guided activities for prayer and quiet reflection. Some will involve music, some Scripture, others prayer, and opportunities to reach out to others. You can stop by at your convenience any time Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to spend a few minutes or as long as you want pondering the mystery of God's love for us and the ways we experience it.

❖ Wednesday Evening, April 1, 5:30 pm

We'll meet on our regular schedule for Wednesday evening with supper at 5:30, and we'll conclude our Lenten Bible study, "What If We Gave Up..." Wednesday also includes activities for youth and children.

❖ Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday helps us remember the night Jesus celebrated Passover with the disciples and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, instructing us to do this in remembrance of him. We'll gather at the Table that evening, and we will be led in worship by our choir as they guide us through the events of the last week of Jesus' life. You'll want to be here and to invite friends.

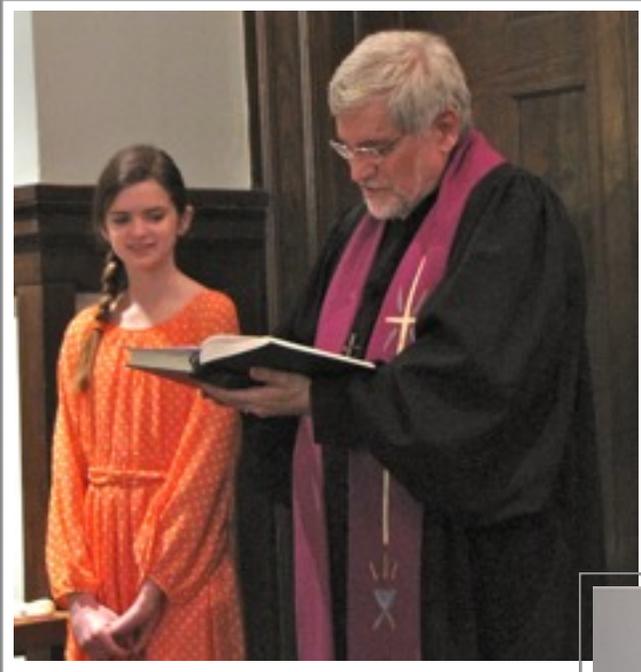
❖ Good Friday, April 3, 6:30 pm

Good Friday is a difficult day for Christians. We know that our salvation came at a great cost, but we are hesitant to confront the starkness of the events of Good Friday, the day Jesus died. Before we celebrate the joy of Easter morning, we will gather for worship on Friday night to remember and give thanks for the sacrifice that makes us whole.

We'll publish the Easter worship schedule in the April newsletter.

Please plan to join us for Holy Week worship.

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



The Sacrament of Baptism

Emily Ann Alford was baptized at JJWMPC on Sunday, February 22, by Reverend Bob Phelps. Emily is the daughter of Dave and Beth Alford and sister of Andi and Madeline Alford. We rejoice with Emily and her family on her baptism and welcome her into our church family.

New Members Welcomed

Dave and Beth Alford, with daughters Emily and Andi, were received into membership of JJ White. Youngest daughter, Madeline, participated in this happy event with her sisters and parents.

Welcome to all the Alford family!



Pictured are Emily (left), Rev. Phelps, Andi (back row), Madeline (front), Beth and Dave Alford.

JJ White Honors Nonagenarians!



On Sunday, February 22, this group of JJWMPC members who have reached the age of 90 (or more) were honored with a birthday celebration. They are amazing! We are so proud to have them in our church family!

Honorees pictured are Bess Simmons (left), Ralph Brock, Loreice Naklie, Emily Austin, and Eileen Cato. We regret that Lillian Lamkin, Betty Ott, and Libby Robinson were unable to attend and send our best wishes and prayers their way.

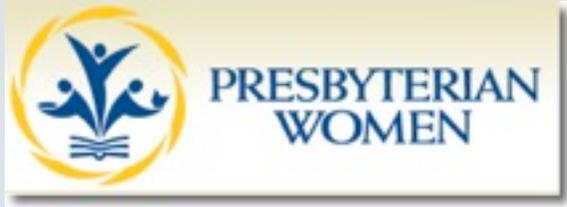


Thanks to the Congregational Care committee, co-chaired by Robbie DeCoux and Margy Wicker, for organizing the event.

Margy Wicker, at left, and Pat Randall cut the birthday cake for the celebration.



Presbyterian Women of JJWMP



The next meeting of PW will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a Bible study discussion of 2 Corinthians followed by a light lunch. All women are encouraged to attend and be a part of this casual, friendly group. You can join this group at any time. Newcomers are always welcome!

Presbyterian Women -

you are invited to attend-

The 27th Annual Gathering of PW of the Presbytery of Mississippi

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Hattiesburg, Mississippi

(Let Suzi know if you want to attend and would like to ride with a group.)



JJWMP

Blood Drive for United Blood Services

Wednesday, March 11

2:45 - 7:00 p.m.

Ewell Martin Room

Volunteers Needed -

Beginning March 2, 2015, the church secretary will be working part time (three days per week). People will be needed to man the church phone on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Please contact Bob or the church office if you can help.

March - Schedules and Lists

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1 Joanna Barr, Brandi Dyess
- 8 Sara Beth Williams, Alison Allred
- 15 Libby Simo, Lee Williams
- 22 Susan White, India Warshauer

MEN'S INTERDENOMINATIONAL

BREAKFAST GROUP

- 4 Steve Blue, Noggin Wild
- 11 Bob Phelps, Kit Stovall
- 18 Renan Richmond, Rick Penick
- 25 Jimmy Carroll Robertson, Whitney Rawlings

FLOWERS

- 1 Flo Boyd
- 8 Ralph Brock
- 15 Martha and. Thad Simmons
- 22
- 29 (Palm Sunday)

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

- 1 Linda Miller
- 8 Libby Simo
- 15 Bill Mitchell
- 22 Sharon White
- 29 Susan White

USHERS/GREETERS

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

FLDER of the MONTH: Robbie DeCoux

March

- 4 Judy Deer
- 5 Flo Boyd
- 6 Natalie Simo
- 8 Jim McElwee
- 11 Charles Ray
- 12 Dolores Duczer
- 15 Angie Simmons
- Randy White
- 18 Alan Howell
- 23 Betty Penick
- 25 Dixie Fouche'
- 25 Kirk Gibbes
- 25 Mary Regan
- 29 Iddo Enochs
- 29 Karen Sanders

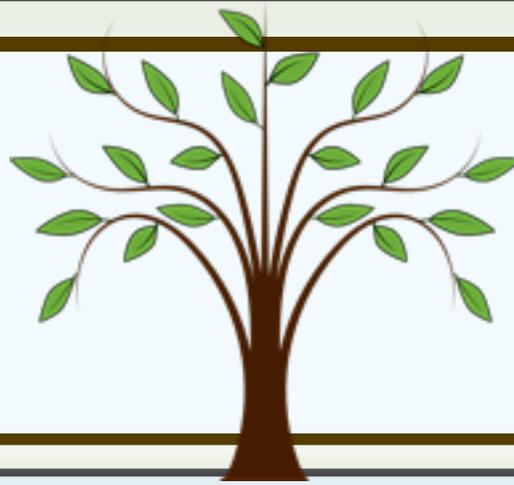


April

- 1 Dominic Cotton
- Meredith Singley
- 3 James Whitney Rawlings
- Sue White
- 10 Heather Ray
- 16 Kay Robinson
- 17 Tommy Catchings
- 18 Bill Catchings, Jr.
- 19 Lee Williams
- 20 Kennon Singley
- 21 Kathleen Harbour
- 23 Nicky Barr
- 27 Tom Warren Wild

**Happy
Birthday
to you!**

March 2015



Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.
Martin Luther

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship</p> <p>Sacrament of Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30 supper ; <u>adult and children's activities</u></p> <p>choir practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am</p> <p>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time begins....</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship</p> <p>6:00 Session</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Presbyterian Women meet 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Blood Drive 2:45p.m.- 7:00p.m.</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30 supper ; <u>adult and children's activities</u></p> <p>choir practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am</p> <p>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30 supper ; <u>adult and children's activities</u></p> <p>choir practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am</p> <p>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>spring equinox</i></p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30: Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30 supper ; <u>adult and children's activities</u></p> <p>choir practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am</p> <p>Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PW Annual Gathering Westminster Presbyterian Hattiesburg, MS</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30: Worship</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Please note the schedule for Holy Week in this newsletter p. 8</p>			