

White Memorial Presbyterian Church

March 2020



A Word from Our Pastor - The Reverend Bob Phelps

Remembering an Influencer

I was not aware until recently that there is now a category of people called influencers. These, as I understand them, are mostly media and online personalities who wield influence over the rest of us simply by their presence. Most of the people I hear talked about as influencers are not people who have much to do with how I live my life (or probably most of yours), but they are apparently quite influential (thus their name) in the lives of many. If these are not the primary influencers in my life, they at least gave me pause to think about who has been.

Dr. Bill McMahon was one of the most intimidating people this young kid met when I enrolled at Western Kentucky University in the fall of 1970 (Yes, I know how old that makes me!) He and his wife, also Dr. McMahon, taught English, and they were those teachers that all of us encountered in college—everyone either loved them or hated them. I had many good teachers at Western, but

none more influential in my life than the two Drs. McMahon. Dr. Bill taught American literature and rhetoric and composition. He taught me things about writing and communication that I have never forgotten and which I use every day. He also instilled in me an appreciation for Robert Frost that has been important for years. None of that came easily. Dr. McMahon was very demanding. I still remember some of the assignments he made, and I remember wondering how in the world we were supposed to complete them. Dr. McMahon died not long ago. He was well into his 90's, and had been retired from teaching for years, but I was still saddened to hear of his death. There are certain people about whom we tend to feel better when we know they're still in the world. The world is diminished because Dr. Bill is not in it anymore.

Of course, his influence continues in the world and will for generations through students like me and many others who benefitted in ways we didn't realize while we were complaining about how hard he made us work. The Lenten season invites us to think seriously about our life as disciples. Dr. McMahon was not the most orthodox Christian thinker I ever knew, but he made me and others who learned from him stretch our minds in ways we had not done before. He made us read things we probably would not have on our own, and he made us write about what we read in ways that taught us to communicate all kinds of ideas. I continue to be grateful for his influence in my life.

Most of us may never be teachers or professors, but we all have opportunities to influence the lives of others. That may begin in our families, but we also have opportunities to help others along the way. It can be intimidating to think about people who observe our lives and learn from us whether we intend to teach them or not. Your presence in worship week in and week out is an inspiration to someone. Your witness beyond the hour or so we spend together on Sunday reaches more people than you realize. You may never be the preacher, a Sunday School leader or teacher, an elder, or serve in any other leadership role, but your witness to the presence of Christ in your life is still important. Someday, someone will look back and remember ways that you helped the along the way and be thankful. I'm grateful for Dr. McMahon's (both of them) influence on my life and work. Someone is and will be thankful for yours, too. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Installation of Elder Ally Allred

Ally Allred was recently elected and installed as a member of the current Session. Ally has served on the Session in the past, and we are grateful for her willingness to serve our church during the next two years. Whether she is on the Session or not we know her to be a faithful worker and fully engaged in the life of JJ White.

Thanks to Ally for her dedication.



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director



One Voice

We don't sing in unison very often in the choir. Mostly we sing three- or four-part arrangements, but once in a while we all sing the same part. Believe it or not, that unison singing can be harder than the kind with many parts. The choir gets tired of hearing me tell them that the goal of unison singing is to sound like one voice. Even with a choir the size of ours, that's not an easy task. Trying to blend our voices together to sound like one takes work, sometimes more work than trying to blend four or more parts together. Even though it's harder, it is worth the effort because it makes beautiful music.

Sometimes I wish the Church would work harder at speaking with one voice. We get so many conflicting voices all saying different things about what God wants, demands, or expects from us. Some say their way is the only way. Others stress things that don't matter much to us. The primary instruction Jesus left us before he left this world was to love one another. That's the thing we need to work hardest to say. That's the thing we try to communicate with the music we contribute to worship.

The Lenten season is my favorite time of the Church Year because it is the time when we sing most clearly about God's love for us and the way that love was communicated on the cross and from the empty tomb. Of course, we sing about lots of other things throughout the year, but during Lent we try to sing with one voice and one message—the love of God, how God shares it with us and how we can share it with each other. As always, we invite you to join us as we strive to sing with one voice and to communicate one message.

One more thought about one voice: we've had lots of sickness this winter, even though the weather has been milder than usual. Every week, at least one voice has been missing because someone has been sick. We miss those voices. We're thankful to have them back and hope that spring will bring less sickness so we can sing together during these important Sundays.

Deanna



“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” Romans 12:15

Emily Austin (l.) recently celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at her home. We were all invited to come and join in the joyous occasion. Pictured with Emily is another JJ White member who has reached the age of 100, Eileen Cato. Both women are wonderful models to all of us on faithful living. Besides that we are amazed at how lovely they both are and want to know their beauty secrets!

We are grateful they are a part of our church family!

Community Partners in Ministry

One of the joys of being a downtown church is the privilege of sharing our space with a number of agencies and programs in our community. Both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts are here week after week during the school year. The Knutty Knitters meet here on



Thursday nights. The Pike County Quilters' Guild meets here once a month. This month we will welcome the Mission Pike County Prayer Breakfast group on March 12. This group meets in a different church each Thursday morning for breakfast and prayer for race relations in our community and beyond. Prayers begin at 7 am, and breakfast and fellowship follow. Everyone's welcome. Also this month, the Salvation Army will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Friday evening, March 13, at 6 pm. They will celebrate their work in our community, and we are happy to welcome them here to do it. Thank you for helping us welcome friends and co-workers across our community.

Presbyterian Women of JJ White MPC

PW of JJ White will meet on Tuesday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include a brief business update, mission planning, and Bible study, as well as a light lunch and time for enjoying one another's company. The lesson is #6 of the current study of the Ten Commandments - Love Carved in Stone.



The spring gathering for Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery will be held at Briarwood Church in Jackson on March 14. The speaker will be Lynn Miller, the author of the upcoming 2020-21 PW Horizons Bible Study. Lynn is a member of Fondren in Jackson. It is exciting to have one of the PW members of the Presbytery of Mississippi as the author of this church-wide PW study. Women throughout the United States and beyond will be using it! Plans will be made for transportation to the meeting and all women are invited. The host church, Briarwood, requests an RSVP by March 9. Please contact Suzi Drummond if you plan to go.

PW member, Sue Sullivan, will be moving to Hattiesburg soon. The group presented her with a cake to acknowledge that she and her husband Win will be greatly missed. She promises to keep in touch and all of us at JJ White plan to keep Win and her close in our prayers as they begin this new experience.



Sue (2nd from right; front row) is surrounded by her PW friends as all wish her (and Win) "...a wonderful new beginning."

F.Y.I.

Shrove Tuesday Celebration

Thanks to all who participated in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the Church of the Mediator/Redeemer Episcopal Church on the night before Ash Wednesday. We are trying to do several things a year with the other downtown churches and we are grateful for the Episcopalians' invitation to join them for this celebration. Special thanks to Kennon Singley for helping cook and to all who came and enjoyed fellowship with folks from the Episcopal and Christian congregations.

We will celebrate Palm Sunday with downtown churches again this year on April 5. Watch for more information as that date draws closer. We are happy when we can join with other Christians in united witness.



Church Picnic Plans

Our Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee has set the date and time for our annual Church Picnic. We will gather at Percy Quinn State Park on Sunday, May 31. We'll move all activities to the Park that day. We'll worship at our regular 10:30 am time, but at the Park instead of in our sanctuary. After worship, we'll enjoy lunch (details to follow) and an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the Park. Mark your calendars now for this important event and watch for more details.



Anniversary Committee

In 2021 we will celebrate 100 years in our current sanctuary. The Session has appointed a committee consisting of Emily Austin, Honorary Chairperson, Robbie DeCoux, Whitney Rawlings, and Noggin Wild to begin to plan how we will celebrate this special milestone. Please keep this group in your prayers as they begin their work and be ready to respond when they ask for help.



Mission Opportunities

Our congregation has a long and storied history of mission engagement both locally and beyond our local area. As you know, we will not be holding a Missions Conference this year, but will instead focus on opportunities to serve in our local community.

Soup Kitchen at First Christian: We want to thank all who helped us with the cold weather season Soup Kitchen meals at First Christian during November, December, January, and February. We served meals once a month during this season. Thanks to Melisa DeCoux for coordinating all the volunteers and to all who responded to her request to help. We'll participate in this ministry again next winter.

Lenten Food Drive for MICA at McComb Market: On Tuesdays during Lent, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7, we will have volunteers at McComb Market from 4-6 pm to solicit donations to the Food Pantry at MICA. We'll need two to four volunteers each week to distribute information about needs at the MICA pantry and to receive those donations when shoppers leave the store. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Office through the week and in the sanctuary on Sundays. Centenary United Methodist, Church of the Mediator/ Redeemer Episcopal, and First Christian are doing other days during the season. Thanks for helping us do our part.

Greater Hope Ministries Homeless Shelter: Our community has been without services to homeless people for some time. Mrs. Sarah Connerly has begun an effort to respond to that need through Greater Hope Ministries. She is in the process of establishing a shelter on Locust Street in East McComb. Several churches in our community are trying to help her make this happen. On Saturday, March 21, we invite you to a work day with Mrs. Connerly and Greater Hope. We plan to accomplish several projects for that work that day: some construction work (shelves and cabinet installation in the kitchen), some cooking, some clothing sorting, and probably some other tasks. Stay

tuned for information about how you can help. Our Mission Committee is organizing this effort, and we look forward to your help. We have also invited Mrs. Connerly to be with us for worship on Sunday, March 22. You'll be inspired by her commitment to serving those in need in our community and also by the ways that congregations and individuals in McComb and Pike County are helping.

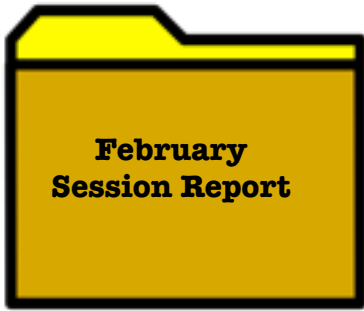
Make Your Pledge to the Mission Budget

In order to help all these and other ministries happen we need you to make your pledge to the 2020 Mission Budget. Our Mission Budget is separate from our Church Budget and helps us serve beyond ourselves. Pledge cards are available for you to make your commitment to this year's Mission Budget. Plan to help us continue to serve the needs of our own community and to support Mission Partners both regionally and globally. Our ability to help will be determined by your pledges to give. You may turn in your Mission Pledge Card at your earliest convenience.

Summer Mission Trip for High School Students

Our Presbytery, with the help of the Rev. Luke Ponder, Pastor at First-Trinity Church in Laurel, invites Senior High Youth to participate in a Youth Mission Trip to Greeneville, Tennessee, June 21-27 this summer. The group will be doing home repairs, painting, and gardening and other tasks with adult supervision. The cost of the trip is \$225 per participant and does not include travel. We will work together on travel when we see the size and make up of the group. Information and registration materials are available in the Church Office. Senior Highs and parents, see Bob for more information and plan to attend.

Thank you for all you do to help us serve others through our Evangelism and Mission efforts.



**February
Session Report**

The Session held its regular meeting for February on the 16th in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Wayne Hutchison and Tommy Ratcliff were excused. All other members and the Moderator, our Pastor were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ welcomed newly elected and installed Session member Ally Allred
- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements
- ❖ review of the annual statistical report submitted to the denomination
- ❖ receipt of acknowledgements and thanks from Mission Partners
- ❖ heard reports from both the called meeting and the stated meeting of Presbytery
- ❖ noted that our Pastor is serving as Moderator of Presbytery this year
- ❖ noted that Ally Allred will co-chair the Christian Education Committee with Rusty Whittington.
- ❖ noted that Bob was a reader for ordination exams this year.
- ❖ noted several community groups meeting in the building in coming weeks.
- ❖ noted the Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women in Jackson on March 14. Several of our women plan to attend.
- ❖ noted the invitation of South Alabama Presbytery to attend their Church Officer Leadership Training on Saturday, April 25. The day will be devoted to presentations on Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger, who will be the leader.
- ❖ set the Church Picnic for Sunday, May 31, at Percy Quinn State Park.
- ❖ heard reports on work with the Greater Hope Ministries Homeless Shelter.
- ❖ heard updates on maintenance from the Property Committee.
- ❖ approved the Lenten Schedule of worship and other activities.

The Session meets monthly. The March meeting will be on the 15th after worship. Please keep these who plan and direct the ministry of our congregation in your prayers and look for ways you can help them.



Remember to "spring forward" an hour
before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 7.
Daylight Saving time begins at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday, March 8!

March Schedules

Sunday Morning Breakfast

1 Mary Ann Ratcliff
8 Beth Wild
15 Lee Williams
22 Debbi Brock
29 Sharon White

Flowers

1 Communion
8 Ralph Brock
15 Vicki and Rusty Brill
22 Suzanne Case
29 Georgia Mendonides

Children's Church

1 Susan White
8 Lee Williams
15 Melisa DeCoux
22 Sara Beth Williams
29 Ally Allred

Elder of the Month

Rusty Whittington

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

4 Renan, Buddy
11 Rick, Jim
18 Bob, Clem
25 Jimmy C., Whitney, Bob Hensarling

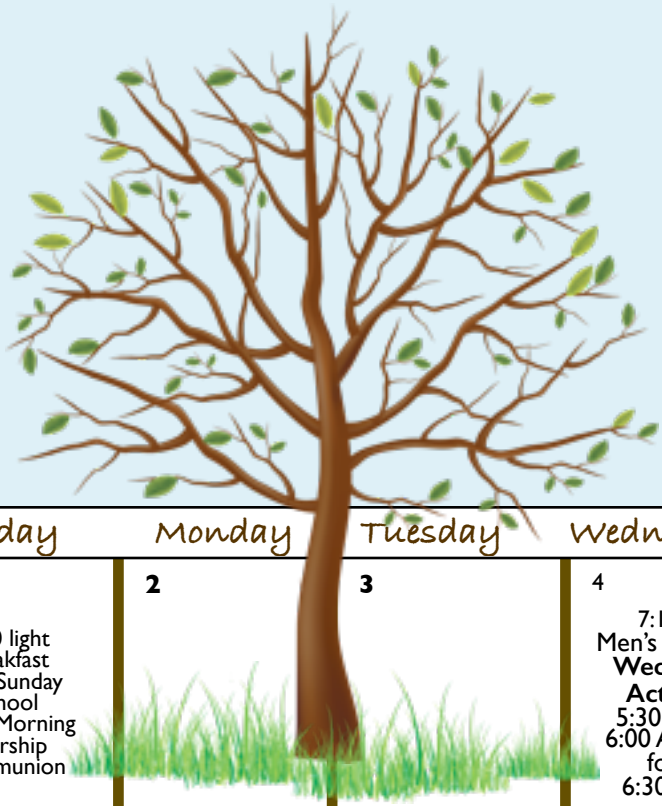


March

6 Natalie Simo
8 Jim McElwee
Andi Alford
11 Charles Ray
12 Dolores Duczer
15 Angie Simmons
Randy White
18 Alan Howell
19 Taylor Allyse Gatlin
23 Betty Penick
25 Dixie Fouche'
29 Karen Sanders

April

1 Dominic Cotton
Meredith Rawlings
3 Sue White
16 Kay Robinson
17 Tommy Catchings
18 Bill Catchings, Jr.
19 Lee Williams
20 Kennon Singley
21 Kathy Harbour
23 Nicky Barr
27 Tom Warren Wild
Cole Jackson
Avery Jackson



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Presbyterian Women Day Group</p> <p>11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PW Gathering Briarwood Jackson</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>First Day of Spring Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 MICA</p> <p>9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				