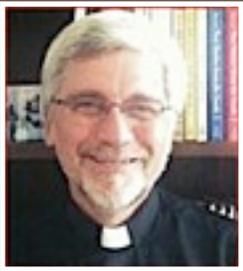




J. J. White Memorial
Presbyterian Church
May 2016 Newsletter

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Psalm 148:1



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

The Spirit Among and Within Us

Pentecost comes on Sunday, May 15, this year. Pentecost comes fifty days after Easter and celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and to individual believers. Spirit-filled is one of those phrases that evokes strong reactions. I've known some people who consider themselves spirit-filled, but who have their own ideas



about what that means. Usually it means they have the Spirit, but others don't. I've known some staid Presbyterians who don't want much to do with the Holy Spirit. I don't much agree with either of those camps. If the Holy Spirit is a gift of God, then it must surely be for all God's people, whether we want it or not! Even decent and in order Presbyterians can experience God's gifts if we open ourselves to them.

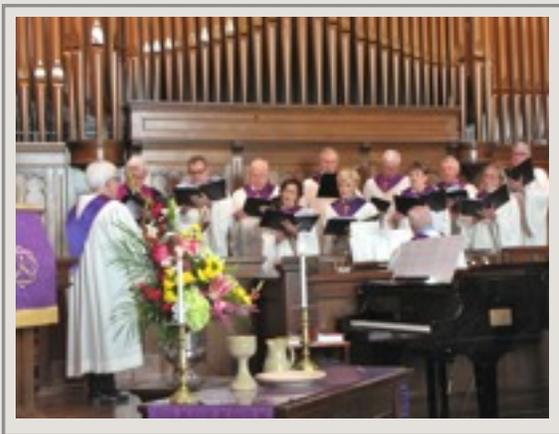
The Holy Spirit seems to be the most difficult part of God for most of us to understand. We eventually come to terms with God, the Creator and Giver of Life. Some of us find comfort in calling God our Father. For some that image is too painful to connect to a loving God. All of us hopefully experience his love as a source of hope. Jesus is probably the easiest part of God for most of us to relate to. Even though Jesus is God, he is like us in ways we can find helpful. The Holy Spirit, though, remains a mystery. Sometimes we think of the Holy Spirit as the mischievous side of God, the one that calls forth reactions and worship practices that are difficult

to organize into a Presbyterian bulletin. I contend that the Holy Spirit is just as present with me on a Thursday afternoon when I'm working on a sermon for Sunday as it is with those who insist on less-structured and more extemporaneous worship than we experience. The Spirit shows up most Wednesday nights while the choir is preparing for Sunday, and tends to show up again on Sunday morning when we sing. The Holy Spirit sustains families like Libby Simo's as they have experienced the disruption that unexpected illness can bring to a family's life. That same Spirit walks with Beverly Nelson and her family as they have experienced the death of both her parents within a week. The communities that surround both these families transcend denominational lines, but are sustained by one Spirit.

I believe that our church is spirit-filled. Don't get nervous. That doesn't mean that we'll begin new worship practices that make some uncomfortable. It needn't mean that anything needs to change. The Holy Spirit is what prompts and motivates our ministry. It creates an atmosphere of welcome that is genuine; it makes us the place we are, a place where all are welcome to hear and respond to the Gospel in ways that enrich and enhance their lives.

We'll celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost on May 15. But we live in that gift every day. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

We're in for some real musical treats this month. Our choir is working hard on anthems for worship for several Sundays this month as they wind down this season before taking off a few weeks during summer. On May 8, Mother's Day, our young children will sing during worship. I'm enjoying helping them get ready for that special day. You'll be as excited as I am that one of them has asked to sing a solo! On Sunday, May 15, the Day of Pentecost, our friend Jeremy Threlfall will be in town and will sing for us in worship. It's been a while since Jeremy has been with us, and I know you join me in looking forward to his visit. The choir will finish their spring season on Trinity Sunday, May 22. On Sunday, May 29, our youth group will lead the service on Youth Sunday and will bring special music of their own. You'll want to be here for each of these special musical times during May.

Summer brings opportunities for us to welcome our own members and friends from our community to sing in worship. If you have suggestions for summer singers or if you'd like to be one, please talk with me as soon as possible. I'm working on that schedule now.

I look forward to the remainder of spring and to a summer filled with music and worship.



Mark Kroos Concert

Friday evening, April 15, was a night of fun and entertainment as we hosted Mark Kroos, an accomplished guitarist who is one of only a few people who plays both necks of a double-necked guitar at once. Friends from our church family and beyond enjoyed Mark's performance in our Fellowship Hall and the fun and energy he brings to music.

Sundays in May



May 1 Girl Scout Sunday - We will have Girl Scouts and their families as guests in worship. Then the Girl Scouts will hold their annual farewell ceremony in the sanctuary in the afternoon.



May 8 Mother's Day - Children will sing in worship. We will celebrate Communion.



May 15 Pentecost; Presentation of Confirmation Class - We'll celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit as we present this year's Confirmation Class.



Also on May 15 Church Picnic - After worship we'll enjoy a church picnic that afternoon (1:00) at Lake Dixie Springs at the home of Lu Becker. Sign up with Margy Wicker or Pat Randall to bring side dishes. The meat will be provided. Surprise entertainment will be on the schedule. Don't miss it.



May 22 Trinity Sunday - Be sure to be in worship as the choir completes their season before taking a few weeks off during the summer.



May 29 Youth Sunday - This will be a special Sunday with members of our youth group leading us in worship.



News from Presbyterian Women of JJ White

Thanks to the generous support of our congregants the collection amount for the Birthday Offering this year was \$333. The Presbyterian Women of the PCUSA will use this offering to fund worthy ministries such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.

The next meeting of PW of JJ White will be at 11:30 on Tuesday, May 9, in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include planning for hosting the Cluster Meeting of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery, Bible study, and a light lunch. All women are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

The Session held its regular meeting for April on the 10th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elder Wayne Hutchison was excused. All other members were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:



- ❖ approval of minutes and financial statements.
 - ❖ acknowledged receipts of notes of thanks from the Board of Pensions for our Christmas Joy Offering gift and from CUPS for our gift in support of that ministry along the Texas-Mexico border.
 - ❖ noted that Girl Scout Sunday will be May 1 and that we will distribute the Presbyterian Mission Agency Mother's Day cards on May 8
- ❖ Heard reports from various committees including the Congregational Care Committee's plans for the church picnic on May 15 and the Mission and Evangelism Committee's ongoing plans for relationships with mission partners from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and with Sammy and Misty Holcomb and their Heritage Hills ministry to children in Honduras.
- ❖ The Property Committee continues to meet monthly and to coordinate maintenance projects. The Worship Committee expressed appreciation for participation in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter worship this year.

The Session meeting for May will be on THURSDAY, May 5, at 5:30 pm in the Ewell Martin Room in order to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day and the church picnic on Pentecost. If you have questions or items for the Session's attention, please see Bob or another member of the Session. Please keep members of the Session in your prayers as they guide our ministry together.



CHILDREN'S SUMMER DATES

Summer will be here soon.

Mark your calendars now for some special programs for our children during their time out of school.



Vacation Bible School:

Monday-Thursday, July 11-14, 6-8 pm.

We'll have a beach theme as we catch the wave of God's amazing love at this year's Surf Shack VBS. More details next month.



Children's Story Time:

Wednesdays, June 8, and 22 and July 6 and 20 at 2:00 pm.

This new event is for children from kindergarten through grade 4. Various members of the congregation will read stories, sing songs, and enjoy good times with our children on these days.

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss the fun!

May Schedules

Flowers

- 1 *Debbi and Tommy Brock*
- 8 *Libby and Jose' Simo*
- 15 *Wayne Hutchison*
- 22 *Ann Jackson*
- 29 *Kathy Parker*

Children's Church

- 1 *Joanna Barr, Brandy Dyess*
- 8 *Sara Beth Williams, Alison Allred*
- 15 *Libby Simo, Lee Williams*
- 22 *Susan White*
- 29 *Carol Rawlings*

Elder of the Month

Alison Allred

Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Interdenominational Wednesday

Breakfast Group

- 4 *Renan Richmond, Rick Penick*
- 11 *Bob Phelps, Kit Stovall, Tommy Brock*
- 18 *Jimmy Carroll Robertson, Whitney Rawlings*
- 25 *Bill Mitchell, Jim Alford*

Sunday Morning Breakfast

- 1 *Carol Rawlings*
- 8 *Debbi Brock*
- 15 *Bob Phelps*
- 22 *Linda Miller*
- 29 *Hutchison "Girls"*

May

- 1 *Vicki Brill*
- 2 *Pat Randall*
- 5 *Creta James Barr*
- 5 *Liz Terrell*
- 7 *Helen Ray*
- 8 *Janell Herring*
- 12 *Haleigh Estes*
- 12 *Will Ratcliff*
- 13 *Kathy Parker*
- 14 *Andrea Simo*
- 16 *Betty Walker*
- 18 *Howard Allred*
- 21 *Katie Howell*
- 24 *Jay Johnson*
- 30 *Mike Belote*

June

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



Happy
Birthday
to ...

May 2016

Sweet May hath come to love us,
 Flowers, trees, their blossoms don;
 And through the blue heavens above us
 The very clouds move on.
 - Heinrich Heine, Book of Songs



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Girl Scout Sunday	2	3	4 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	5 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am 6:00 Session Mtg. Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	6	7
8 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Mother's Day	9	10 Presbyterian Women 11:30 a.m Fellowship Hall	11 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	12 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	13	14
15 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Pentecost; Confirmation Class received 1:00 Church Picnic	16	17	18 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	19 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	20	21
22 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship - Trinity Sunday	23	24	25 7:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages	26 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	27	28
29 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Youth Sunday	30	31				

