

*77 White Memorial
Presbyterian Church*

May 2018



*Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.*

Psalm 36:5 NIV



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Where is Home?

We sang one of my favorite hymns in worship not long ago. It's "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need." The hymn is, of course, a setting of the 23rd Psalm. It combines Isaac Watts' text, which changes the traditional words of the Psalm some to fit the meter, with a beautiful old Southern Harmony tune. My favorite line in the hymn (how do you pick a favorite line in the 23rd Psalm?) is the very last one. The Psalm, as you know, says that "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." That's a comfort. But the hymn talks about living in God's presence another way. After offering assurance that that's where we'll spend eternity and that praising God will be what we do there, it ends by saying that we will be, "no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home." I like that image. Dwelling in God's house forever is a wonderful assurance, but being there as a child at home is a special promise.

Home is a concept many of you know more about than I do. For us, home has been where we are since I began serving churches in the

1980's. We've been at home in more places that most people visit. It was not easy on our boys growing up. We all survived that, and they are now at home where they are. In one sense, home for Deanna and me will always be in Kentucky, even though we will likely never live there again. The two days a year that always remind us of that are when they sing "My Old Kentucky Home" on Derby Day and on Senior Day at Rupp Arena. I've never been to the Derby, and I've never been in Rupp on Senior Day, but I choke up when I hear that song every time. It reminds me of where I come from and where I belong. My childhood was far from idyllic, but I spent it in Kentucky, and that will always be home.

I'm sure most of you feel the same way about some place. I hope so. It's good to know you belong somewhere.

One assurance we can all have is that we belong to and with God. Wherever we spend this life, we know that the life to come will be with God--and that we will be like children at home. Thanks be to God!

In a recent Wednesday night Bible study time, we talked about the call of Samuel in the Old Testament. We talked about how Eli, the priest, had been Samuel's spiritual guide and teacher as he learned what it meant to follow God. We discussed how we all need guides like Eli, and discussed who some of the spiritual guides we depend on in our congregation are. The group identified Ralph Brock, Robbie DeCoux, Suzi Drummond, Fred Harmon, and Beth Wild as people who serve as spiritual guides for us. We presented each of them with a certificate of appreciation in worship on April 29. Pray prayers of thanksgiving for these who guide us toward more faithful discipleship and pray for each of them as they continue to grow alongside us.





Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director



Pentecost falls in the month of May this year. It always comes fifty days after Easter, so it usually winds up being in early summer. We make a big effort to make worship special on Christmas and Easter. Of course, we want worship to help people experience God's presence every Sunday. Poor Pentecost usually gets lost in the shuffle of school getting out and families heading out on summer adventures. This year, Pentecost is on May 20 and will be the last Sunday the choir will sing before we take our summer break. The piece we've selected for Pentecost Sunday this year is called "Be Present, Spirit of the Lord." It's a fun piece to sing, and we hope it will help us experience the presence of the Spirit during worship that day. We also hope that it will leave all of us with the promise of God's presence among us throughout the busy summer season.

As always, we'll invite friends from both in and beyond the church to be with us to sing and to play during the summer. We look forward to some of the same people every summer and to welcoming new musicians to the schedule. We'll enjoy a variety of styles of music this summer, and all of them will be signs of the Spirit's presence among us.

We look forward to experiencing the Spirit's presence with us in lots of different ways this summer. I'm working on that schedule now. If you have someone special you'd like to hear (or if you'd like to do some special music yourself this summer) let me know and we'll see about getting them here.

Let's be thankful for the presence of God's musical Spirit among us all summer. And let's make a special effort to be present to experience it!



Presbyterian Women of JJ White will meet on Tuesday, May 8, at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The study for this month is Lesson 7 of A Cloud of Witnesses. This meeting will be the last meeting before the group's summer break. Following the summer break the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14. The new study for the 2018-19 session will be God's Promise – I Am With You by Amy Poling Sutherland. Books will be available at the August meeting.

Come and Celebrate With Us!

Wednesday nights provide many opportunities for fellowship and learning together. That schedule is winding down for this spring, but we want you to know about two special events this month:

On Wednesday, May 9, we will enjoy supper with members of the church who have celebrated 90 or more birthdays. We've had this event for several years, but this year we decided to do it during supper so that we could enjoy a meal and some conversation with these special folks. Emily Austin, Ralph Brock, Eileen Cato, and Libby Robinson are the honorees this year. We'll enjoy hearing some special reflections from them after supper. Even if you're not a regular on Wednesdays, you'll want to be with us for this special treat. Please make reservations on your attendance slip on Sunday morning so we can plan appropriately.

Wednesday, May 16, will be the concluding Wednesday for this spring. That night will bring hamburgers and hot dogs for supper and a time to celebrate all we have experienced during midweek programs this year. Plan to be with us for this school's out celebration. We'll resume midweek programming in August. Watch for information about what we'll be doing then.



*You are invited to join the
celebration of our dear members
who have reached the age
of 90 years or more!*

*Wednesday, May 9, at 5:15 p.m.
in the
JJ White Fellowship Hall*

*We will enjoy a meal together
followed by cake and ice cream.*

*It will be a joyful event to
honor these special friends:*

*Emily Austin
Ralph Brock
Eileen Cato
Libby Robinson*



Homebound Meals During Summer

Some of you are aware that we deliver meals to homebound and other special members and friends of our church each Wednesday. We will continue to deliver those meals through the summer, but, since we won't be gathering for supper together, we need some help. If you or some group you participate in would like to take a Wednesday or two this summer and cook for 8-10 friends, please let Bob know. We have delivery people, and the meals need to be packed for delivery by 5 pm each week. If you can help, you'll brighten the evening for those we serve.



The Session held its regular meeting for April on the 15th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Ally Allred and Will Kimmel were excused. All other elders and Bob, the Moderator, were present.

Actions taken at the meeting included:

- Approval of minutes and financial statements.
- Reminders of upcoming calendar dates.
- Reminder that Bob will read ordination exams the week of May 7-11.
- Approved a new study resource for combined adult Sunday School groups.
- Heard a report on homebound communion and plans for the upcoming 90+ Birthday party on May 9.
- Heard a report on ongoing work from the Property Committee. They have several important projects going on and several more to come.
- Noted that background checks on all church staff (required by our insurance carrier) have been completed.

The Session meets monthly. The May meeting will be on May 20 at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. If you have questions or items for the Session's consideration, please see Bob or another elder. Please keep the Session members in your prayers as they guide the ministry of our congregation.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The local Crisis Pregnancy Center has invited us to help with their Baby Bottle Boomerang fund raiser again this year. We will distribute baby bottles on Mother's Day, May 13, and we will gather them back in on Father's Day, June 17. If you want to support the work of the Crisis Pregnancy Center, this is a good and easy way to do that. Watch for baby bottles on May 13.



May Schedules

Flowers

6 Communion
 13 John & Suzi Drummond
 20 Wayne Hutchison
 27 Jackson Jones

Children's Church

6 Sara Beth Williams
 13 Ally Allred
 20 Susan White
 27 Lee Williams

Sunday Morning Breakfast

6 Carol Rawlings
 13 Hutchison group
 20 Lee Williams
 27 Mary Ann Ratcliff

Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

2 Randy B., Tommy R.
 9 Noggin, Jeff
 16 John, Randy
 23 Tommy B., Garland
 30 Dale, Whit

Elder of the Month

Noggin Wild



May

1 Vicki Brill
 2 Pat Randall
 5 Greta James Barr
 7 Helen Ray
 8 Janell Herring
 9 Vicki Craghead
 12 Haleigh Estes
 Will Ratcliff
 13 Kathy Parker
 14 Andrea Simo
 18 Howard Allred
 21 Katie Howell
 24 Jay Johnson
 30 Mike Belote

June

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

Happy Birthday!



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	3 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	4	5
6 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	7	PW Meets 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall	9 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast 90+ Birthday Party 5:15 Supper with birthday cake and ice cream	10 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	11	12
13 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	14 Property Committee meets 6:00 p.m. Ewell Martin Room	15	16 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15	17 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	18	19
20 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Session meets	21	22	23 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	24 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	25	26
27 MICA 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	28	29	30 7:15 am Men's Breakfast	31 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM		