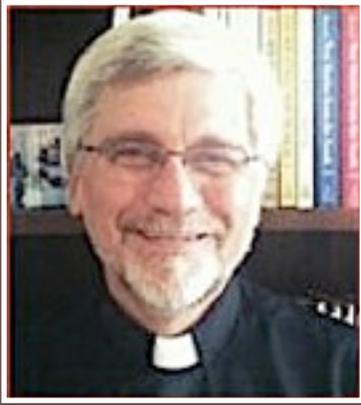


*JJ White Memorial
Presbyterian Church*

November 2015 Newsletter



*Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.*
Psalm 100:4 NRSV



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Be Thankful...

The same weird call comes over me sometime every fall. It's a sort of call to come home, but not really. I felt it again the other day. Sometime every fall, I feel a need or a want to go to Owensboro, Kentucky, where I grew up. I don't have any family left there, and I haven't kept up with a lot of friends there. I don't really want to see anyone there. I would like to have a chopped barbecue mutton sandwich, but that's another need altogether. All I really want to do is drive up and down Ford and Griffith Avenues. They are two tree-lined streets that are beautiful in the fall. It would only take me about fifteen minutes to drive around that area I'd like to see, but I won't be going. It's an awfully long drive for fifteen minutes, so I won't make it again this year. But I'm sure sometime next October, that same need will arise, and I'll have to convince myself that it's really silly to drive eleven hours for a fifteen minute experience.



As we approach that season of the year during which we all get a little contemplative, this Thanksgiving season when we pause to

reflect on what really matters in our lives and have opportunity to share those things with people we love, it's good to give thanks for those places that have nurtured and molded us into who we are. For many of you that is this

community and this congregation. Be thankful for them. For others, like us, who have moved around some, there are probably several places and even more people who have brought us to this stage of life. Be thankful for all of them. Remember the good things. Leave the not so good behind. But be thankful.

And then let that thanks guide you to whole and faithful living where you are. I have known people who longed and pined for places and relationships from their past to the point that they could not or would not engage life where they were. I don't want the drive down Ford and Griffith Avenues I take in my mind because I won't take it in the car every fall to become that kind of burden. And I don't want anything to hinder our abilities to hear God's call to faithful and productive life and ministry together.

Wherever your special places are – whoever your special people are – remember them and be thankful – then move on. God is calling each of us to engage our current life with all the gifts of faith. This Thanksgiving season is a good time to give thanks for all God has done; it is an even better time to give thanks for what God is still doing.

Writing to the Colossian Christians, Paul said, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” Enough said.



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

I know it probably sounds like what I'm supposed to say, but when I think of the things for which I give thanks during this season, music is up near the top of my list. Of course, I am thankful for my family, my faith, and all the other things that add joy to my life, but music has always been a very important part of life for me. Bob told us in Thursday morning Bible study recently about a man I remember in another church we served. He was one of a very few people I have ever known who really hated music. He came to the early service because the choir didn't sing then, and we usually sang two hymns instead of three. (He didn't think we ought to sing any!) When we decided to invite choir members and others to do special music once a month for the early service, this guy stayed home on those Sundays. He really got nothing from music; it just didn't speak to him. He was otherwise a pretty nice guy, but music was not a way God spoke to him.

I'm thankful I haven't met people like him here. Our choir works hard each week to make meaningful contributions to worship. They understand their role as worship leaders more than as performers. Our youth group is working on some special music as a part of their Christmas program in December. Our younger children are learning some new music for that season, too. Working on all that music is a source of joy for me, and we hope that hearing it brings joy to you.

Join me in giving thanks for God's gift of music in this season for giving thanks and throughout the year.



November 1 falls on a Sunday this year, so we celebrate All Saints on its actual calendar day. This Sunday every November gives us opportunity to remember faithful members of our congregation who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year. This year, we remember and give thanks for the lives and witness of Mary Lucile James, Bill Peterson, Lillian Lamkin, and Patricia Smith. Members also have opportunity to call the names of family and friends beyond our church family who have died this year.

The Book of Hebrews reminds us: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. We remember and give thanks for all these who now know the joy of blessed rest and everlasting light in God's presence.

Study Opportunities

Wednesday Night

Our Wednesday Study time for adults will take on a Thanksgiving theme during November. On November 4, 11, and 18, we will focus on a different Thanksgiving topic each week. We meet right after supper which begins at 5:30 pm, and we're finished in time for choir practice each week. We hope you'll join us.

Thursday Morning

Our Thursday morning Bible study group has begun reading the New Testament Book of Hebrews together. We meet at 10:30 am each Thursday (except Thanksgiving this month) in the classroom across from the Library on the second floor. Newcomers are always welcome. We enjoy lively conversation and focusing our attention on Scripture each week. Please join us.

Stewardship 2015-16: Giving as Jesus Gave

We are grateful for your response to this year's call for pledges in support of the Church Budget for 2016. The Session is working hard to plan for the year ahead. As you know we face several struggles with our aging building. This fall's improvements to plaster and paint will improve things a lot. There will, of course, be additional issues to address next year. We also have the good news of a growing number of youth and children, and we must plan for ministry to help them grow as disciples. The Letter to the Ephesians encourage us to "live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God." Throughout this season we have asked you to consider giving as Jesus gave. The Good News is that none of us will be called on to sacrifice all we have for the Church. Jesus has already done that, and God has accepted his sacrifice on our behalf. So, we can give in loving response to his gifts for us. Since none of us have to do it all, all of us can do it together. So far, thirty-two individuals and families have pledged \$132,940 toward the 2016 Church Budget. If you have not yet turned in your estimate of giving, you may do so at any time. The Session is hard at work drafting next year's budget and will provide more information as that process is complete. Please pray about your participation in the financial life of our church. Any elder or our pastor will be glad to answer any questions you may have. You will receive more information when the Session has approved our budget.

Fall Fest

Fall Fest was full of surprises this year. Our kids had a great time dressing up and figuring out Beverly's Scavenger Riddles that each led to treats in various parts of the building. The best surprise of the evening was having Ron and Beverly Yates with us after Ron's recent illness and surgery. Winners of the Costume Contests were: Charlie White, the Cereal Killer, for Most Creative; Natalie Simo, the Book Nerd, for Most Unusual; Henry Williams, Darth Vader, for Scariest, and Greta James Barr, our youngest participant, for Best Overall/Crowd Favorite. The night included food, games, and fun for children, youth, and adults. Thanks to Ally Allred, Melisa DeCoux, India Warshauer, and SaraBeth Williams for helping with the planning and set up.





Thanks to Sara Beth Williams,
Stacy White, and Libby Simo for
the photos.



Farewell to the Terrells



We do not want to say good-bye to the Terrells, but the time has come (in spite of some hopes on our part to the contrary) for Phil and Liz to move to Arkansas. Phil has begun his new job there and the moving truck is coming soon as Liz will join him in the Little Rock area.

Both Liz and Phil have served our church as elders and participated in all the activities of the church including mission trips and many programs and events of JJ White! Besides all that, we know them as our friends!

The session presented them with a one-way airline "ticket" back to McComb at any time they wish to use it. It was kind of a joke but also a serious proposal that the session stands behind if they ever decide to use it!

We pray for their happiness as they embark on this adventure!

Dedication of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

All boxes etc. for Operation Christmas Child need to be turned in within the next few days if you have not already done so. Our "Shoebox Team" will be making final preparation to have the boxes ready to go.



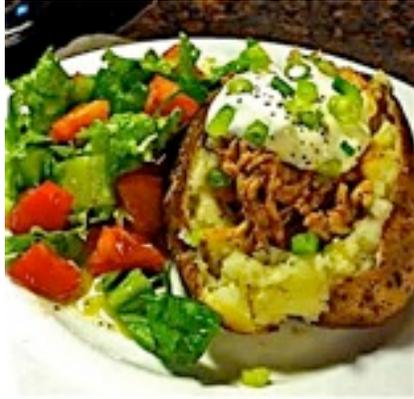
During the morning worship service on Sunday, November 8, we will have a dedication of these boxes before they leave for the destinations and the children who will receive them.

Thanks to Melisa DeCoux, Ally Allred, and Sara Beth Williams for their work on this ministry. Thanks to all who provided gifts of the contents for these boxes and monetary contributions to make this project successful.

If you have any questions about how you can still help contact Melisa, Ally, or Sara Beth. There are probably some last minute needs you could take care of to complete this worthy project.

Lunch with our Youth

Plan to stay with us after worship on Sunday, November 15. Our youth group is planning to feed us lunch of baked potatoes, salads, and desserts. The kids will be baking cakes again and asking us to help them decide who are the best bakers among them. They will also be waiting on tables and helping us all have a wonderful time of fellowship. All

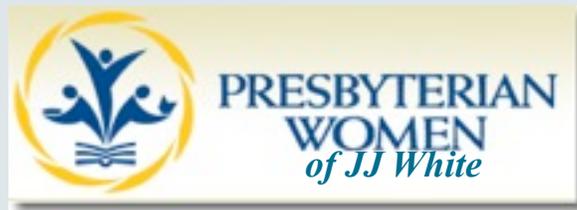


This is, of course, a way for our growing youth group to raise money for special

things they'll be doing between now and the end of the year, so you'll be asked to pay for your lunch and leave tips for your servers. It'll be a fun time of fellowship around the table, so plan to stay with us after worship that day.



Youth lunch last year - delicious and fun!



Presbyterian Women of JJ White met on October 12 for fellowship, Bible study, and project planning. A delicious lunch was provided by Mary Regan and Betty Walker.

Highlights of this meeting were as follows:

- ◆ The group voted to donate \$100 from their funds to the PW Thank Offering.
- ◆ PW members are collecting housekeeping items for WINGS to bring to the November meeting.
- ◆ The group designated a room near the children's Sunday school classroom for improvements by removing items that have accumulated there and creating an inviting space for our kids. Work will begin there soon.

The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday, November 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited and encouraged to come. The Bible study this month is lesson 3 "Absence of Water - Thirst and Longing" based on Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1; and John 19: 28.



GUMBO TO GO-GO ANOTHER SUCCESS !!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
TO ANN JACKSON, DEB RICHARDSON, SHARON
WHITE, AND ALL WHO HELPED THEM MAKE THIS
FALL'S GUMBO TO GO-GO SALE ANOTHER ROUSING
SUCCESS. WHEN THE NUMBERS WERE ALL
TOTALLED, WE HAD RAISED \$2,405 THIS YEAR.
SOME OF US STILL HAVE GUMBO IN THE FREEZER
TO ENJOY LATER. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED
MAKE THIS YEAR'S SALE A GOOD ONE.



CURBSIDE SERVICE -
ANN DELIVERS GUMBO TO A
DRIVE-THROUGH CUSTOMER



The Session held its regular meeting for October on October 1 at 6 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. All Session members were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ opening devotion and prayer by our pastor
- ❖ received Dottie Heiss as a new member. Dottie comes to us on reaffirmation of faith, having previously been a member of Presbyterian Churches in the Greater New Orleans area.
- ❖ noted receipt of a gift from Lillian Lamkin's estate.
- ❖ authorized Jose' Simo and Bob to draft a letter to Cub and Boy Scout leaders regarding building use and child safety policies.
- ❖ received the Treasurer's Report
- ❖ received reports from the Christian Education, Congregational Care and Fellowship, Finance and Stewardship, Property and Worship Committees.

The Session meets monthly. The November meeting will be on November 8 at 6 pm. If you have questions or items for discussion, please see Bob or another member of the Session.

November Schedules

FLOWERS

- 1 Emily Austin
- 8 Jane and Tommy Walman
- 15 Stacey Moak
- 22 Van Simmons
- 29 Hanging of the Green

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

- 1 Linda Miller
- 8 Beth Wild
- 15 Bill Mitchell
- 22 Hutchison "Girls"
- 29 Libby Simo

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1 Carol Rawlings, Keri Gatlin
- 8 Melisa DeCoux, Marissa Nance
- 15 Joanna Barr, Brandy Dyess
- 22 Sara Beth Williams, Alison Allred
- 29 Libby Simo, Lee Williams

USHERS/GREETERS

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

ELDER of the MONTH

Robbie DeCoux

MEN'S INTERDENOMINATIONAL BREAKFAST GROUP

- 4 Jimmy Carroll Robertson, Whitney Rawlings
- 11 Bill Mitchell, Jim Alford
- 18 Randy Burris, Tommy Ratcliff
- 25 John Drummond, Randy White

Happy Birthday to ...

November

- 1 Alleigh Lewis
- 1 Trudy Statham
- 3 Beth Alford
- 20 Libby D. Simo
- 21 Chase Wolff
- 22 Whit Grace
- Joan Kennedy
- Elizabeth Robinson
- 23 Amanda Lewis
- 23 Carl McDaniel
- 28 Elise Reeves
- 29 James Cato
- Heather Faucett
- Mary Spurgeon
- 30 J. C. Johnson



December

- 6 Kristen Allred
Delores Feldman
- 7 Bob Phelps
Betty Ott
Carol Rawlings
Colin Catchings
Emily Alford
- 9 Tommy Walman
- 10 J. W. Burt
- 11 Marie Catchings
- 14 Sharon Burke
Carol Wood
- 15 Bob Arnold
- 16 Eleanor White
- 17 Chip Gibbes
- 21 Suzanne "Sue" Sullivan
Norma Ann Williams
- 25 Billie Nance
- 27 Hunter Nance
- 28 Jacob Ray
- 29 Rusten Lewis
Phillip Nance
- 30 Julia Arnold

November

2015

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*
All Saints Day
9:00 light breakfast
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Morning Worship
Congre. mtg.

2

3

Election Day

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
noon: MICA Lunch
Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM

6

7

8
9:00 light breakfast
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Morning Worship
Shoobox Dedication
Session Meets 6:00 p.m.

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
Youth Fundraiser
Baked Potato Lunch

16

17

18
7:15 am 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

23

24

25

26
THANKSGIVING DAY


27

28

29 **MICA 1st Sunday of Advent**
9:00 light breakfast
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Morning Worship
Hanging of the Green

30