

JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church

November 2019



And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17



a word from our pastor....

Reverend Bob Phelps

Sad News, But a Good Reminder

We got some sad news not long ago. Joey Graham, a high school and college classmate of Blake's and one of the kids who was in the youth group with him at the Scottsboro, AL Church, died after a long struggle with cancer. Joey was married and had three children. I'm not sure what he had done career wise, but he graduated from Alabama (Roll, Tide) when Blake did. We hadn't stayed in touch. I think he and Blake may have reconnected at a class reunion somewhere along the way.

You know how we do when we hear someone has died. We've remembered lots of things about Joey and about that bunch of kids who all grew up together. Joey went on youth trips and did all the things those kids did. He spent some time at our house, and Blake was over there a lot. But the thing I remember most about Joey was something different.

We moved to Scottsboro when Blake was beginning his sophomore year of high school. I know that's a terrible time to move a kid. I've punished myself enough for it. It was a pretty rough move. By that time, the kids at school and in the church already had their social networks pretty much set. There were the athletes, the band kids, the brains, and a few misfits. All of our church kids went to the same school, so we didn't have those kids of rivalries to work around. It was rough for Blake at the beginning. To be honest, he didn't help things much because he had left friends behind in Kentucky, and he wanted us to pay for that for a while. The kids at church and school were not intentional about excluding Blake; they just had things pretty well set.

Joey was one of the church kids who didn't get caught up in that. He played in the band and was involved in Scouting (eventually an Eagle and Order of the Arrow achiever), neither of which Blake was. But Joey was one of the first kids who reached out and included Blake in things, probably some things their parents didn't need to know about, but he made an effort to make a new friend. In time others reached out, too, but it was Joey who made a special effort in the beginning, and we will always remember him for it.

We have a collage of pictures from Senior Recognition Day at church the year Blake and Joey and several other kids graduated from Scottsboro High School and set out to make their mark on the world. Blake and Joey helped take the offering that day.

I don't think Joey had any evangelistic effort in mind when he reached out and made a friend of Blake. He was just doing what he thought was right. He is a good model for all of us in the church and in the community.

We all have a network of friends and associates that is important to us. Most of us also have lots of other people who come in and out of that circle. We would all do well to remember Joey at fifteen, the kid who saw to it that the new kid in town didn't get left out. As important as our social and other networks are to us, there should always be room for a new somebody. It may be someone like Blake was way back when he needed a place to belong.

Those of us in the church should always help people belong. Joey knew that years ago, and I will always be thankful. Rest in peace, special friend.

Grace and Peace,
Bob

Community Thanksgiving Service This Month



On Sunday evening, November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will host a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service at 6 pm. Our congregation, Centenary United Methodist, First Christian, St. Al's Catholic and the Church of the Mediator-Redeemer Episcopal congregations will all participate.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Speegle, new pastor at Centenary will be the preacher for the evening. Roger Nickerson, Interim Pastor at First Christian, will organize a community choir for the service. The offering from this service will benefit the Food Pantry at MICA. Please plan to join us for this special time to worship with friends from the downtown churches.



Music Notes from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

We thought fall would never come, and now that it has, we're already tired of the rain and chill that it brought with it. It's hard to imagine that as I write this it is just two months until Christmas Day. Thankfully, the choir has been working on music for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve and other special worship times that season will bring so we can be ready when they arrive. We look forward to contributing to worship during these special services. We work on all that music a little each week in addition to the things we're working on for all the Sundays between now and then. That way, we try not to get tired of them before their time comes.

The joy for which Advent calls us to prepare is important for all of us to experience. When you hear all that music sung in December, most of you have no idea how many times we've sung them to get them ready. Lots of things about our faith are like that, we work hard to experience them, and sometimes we grow weary.

Keep us in your prayers as we continue to prepare for all the wonderful things that are coming.

Welcome to New Member Sue Boyd



Sue Boyd (l.) with Reverend Bob Phelps,
Sue's grandchild Zane and her daughter Christine.

We are happy to welcome Sue Boyd as the newest member of our congregation. Sue comes to us on transfer of membership from New Covenant Presbyterian Church, so this is a homecoming for her.

Sue already participates in Thursday morning Bible study, Wednesday night activities, and PW things as well as worship.

She enjoys her interest in genealogy research as well as quilting by hand.

Please help her to feel at home again.

F.Y.I.

Stewardship Season 2019-2020

Telling God's Story is the theme for this year's Stewardship Season. By now, you should have received a statement of your giving to this point in the year. We hope that you will review it for accuracy and that you will see where you are with respect to your pledge or other intentions about financial support of the Church.

Telling God's Story is central to our ministry. Everything we do connects to that effort in some way. When we worship, when we teach and learn, when we serve, and even when we enjoy fellowship together, we tell God's story of grace, love, and inclusion. When we welcome newcomers we invite them to join is in telling that story and to add their story to ours. When we celebrate those who have been among us for generations, we celebrate the stories they remember from times past. When we support mission partners in places we will never go, we extend our storytelling to all the world.

Each week in worship, you're hearing from different folks about how the Church as told God's story to them and equipped them to tell it to others. Soon you will be asked to make a commitment to telling that story in the year ahead and beyond. Join us as we celebrate the story that binds us together as a community of faith, and as we make commitments to continue to tell it until all have heard.



Stewardship Season will conclude with the dedication of our pledges and intentions to give on Sunday, November 10.

All Saints' Remembrance

Sunday, November 3 brings us the opportunity to remember those who have shared our journey and have gone into God's loving presence before us. In our congregation, this year, we remember Norma Ann Williams, who died in March. Norma Ann donated her body for medical research and teaching, so her wonderful witness continues to help people in many ways. We will give thanks for Norma Ann's life and witness, and we will inscribe her name in our Book of Remembrance.



There will also be a page in that book on which you can write the names of family and friends beyond our congregation who have gone ahead of us into God's presence. Plan to be with us as we remember and give thanks for these who have shared life and faith with us.

An Opportunity to Serve This Winter

Our friends at First Christian Church up the street have been hosting meals for people in need on Tuesday nights for a couple of years.



There are no questions asked about these meals; whoever shows up eats. This year, they have invited other downtown churches to help serve these meals. We will serve on the third Tuesday evening of November, December, January, and February. Melisa DeCoux is heading up our volunteer cooking and serving teams. If you would like to help with this ministry in any way, please see Melisa. She'll find a way for you to help. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve alongside our friends in other churches. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Mission Support - Update

We recently sent checks to several of our Mission Partners. These gifts are made possible by your giving to the Mission Fund. Giving is down this year, and we paid some of the expenses from this summer's mission trip from this fund, so we are supporting fewer partners this go 'round. We hope to increase our mission support by the end of the year. The Mission Partners we sent checks to include:

- * MICA's Food Pantry
- * Excel by 5
- * Salvation Army (sponsoring a kettle for this year's bell ringing season)
(We will also help ring bells as we usually do.)
- * Presbyterian World Mission
- * Living Waters for the World
- * Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- * Frontera de Cristo (Mark Adams)

Please keep these important ministries in your prayers and remember their needs when you complete this year's mission giving.



Presbyterian Women of JJ White have begun to collect food items for MICA that are typically used for holiday meals.

Presbyterian Women of JJ White (day group) met on October 8, and enjoyed a time of Bible study, fellowship and light lunch. The group has begun to collect items for MICA with the upcoming holidays in mind. PW members are bringing food items that might be used to make a holiday meal at Thanksgiving or Christmas. This will continue through the December meeting.

Other mission projects of the group will include volunteering at St. Andrews Thrift Store - sorting and hanging clothing that has been donated and to provide school and hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Presbyterian Women sort and hang donated clothing at St. Andrew's Thrift Store.

The next meeting of PW will be on Tuesday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study for November will be Lesson 3 of *Love Carved in Stone*. All women are welcome to attend and be a part of PW.



New Elders Elected

In a congregational meeting on October 13, we elected the following people to serve on the Session for terms as indicated:

For three-year terms, 2020-2022

Tommy Ratcliff
Joseph Spurgeon
Beth Wild

For a one-year, unexpired, term, 2020

Rusty Whittington.

Tommy and Beth are returning to service on the Session after being off for a while. Joseph and Rusty are new to the office. Please keep all four of them, and the elders they will join in January in your prayers. Also pray for retiring elders Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, Margaret Ann Macloud and Noggin Wild.



October Session Report

The Session met twice in October. The regular meeting was on October 13 after worship. Elders Will Kimmel and Amanda Lewis were absent. All other elders, the Moderator, and incoming elders Joseph Spurgeon and Beth Wild attended. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ welcome to newly elected elders attending - Joseph Spurgeon and Beth Wild (also new elders Tommy Ratcliff and Rusty Whittington)
- ❖ reception of the Treasurer's Report.
- ❖ approved plans to host the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 24.
- ❖ approved plans for Stewardship Season and other upcoming events.
- ❖ heard a report on upcoming called meeting of Presbytery.
- ❖ gave thanks for the Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee's hosting of the Birthday Party for members who are 90 and beyond. All five of this year's honorees were present. Made preliminary plans for the Souper Bowl Lunch on February 2, 2020.
- ❖ approved a report from the Mission Committee approving disbursements from the Mission Fund. Also heard an update of the continuing need for financial support of the Food Pantry at MICA.
- ❖ issued a call to all ministry groups to begin thinking about budget needs for 2020.

The Session met again in a called meeting on Sunday, October 27, just before morning worship. The purpose of this meeting was to examine and receive Sue Boyd as a new member on transfer of her membership from New Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Session will meet again on November 17 following morning worship. Please keep these who plan and direct our congregation's ministry in your prayers.

Fall Fest 2019

Thanks, Ms Beverly and Mr. Ron and all who helped with Fall Fest!
We had a great night of
games,
tricks & treats!



JJ White MPC November Schedules

Sunday Morning Breakfast

3 - Mary Ann Ratcliff
10 - Hutchison Crew
17 - Beth Wild
24 - Lee Williams

Flowers

3 Communion
10 Emily Austin
17 Tommy and Jane Walman
24 Stacy Moak

Children's Church

3 Melisa DeCoux
10 Ally Allred
17 Sara Beth Williams
24 Carol Rawlings

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

6 Dale, Whit
13 Kennon, Joseph
20 Renan, Buddy
27 Thanksgiving

November

2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1	2
3 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion	4	5	6 7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	7 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	8	9
10 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	11	12 Presbyterian Women (Day Group) 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	13 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	14 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	15	16
17 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Session meets	18	19	20 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	21 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	22	23
24 MICA 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	25	26	27 No Wednesday Activities	28 THANKSGIVING 	29	30