

JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church

November 2017



"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."
~Revelation 4:11



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

At What Cost?

We're a little late getting this months' newsletter out because of some schedule issues, so as I sit down to write this, our hearts are heavy again after yet another mass shooting, in a church in Texas this time. Details are still sketchy, but what we do know is that people who went to worship on Sunday morning are dead, and that a community's life is changed forever. Some say this is a mental health issue. Others say it's about gun control. I'm not sure. I know that I believe average people don't need assault weapons intended for use by the military and law enforcement. But we've known that since shootings long before this one and have chosen not to act on what we know.

A major concern in all this for me is the fear it engenders. We've learned to throw that magic word "terror" into these conversations so that people will pay more attention. I don't think this was an act of terrorism. My suspicion is that this guy was involved in some family discord and didn't have the resources to deal with that without violence. Far too many in our culture have come to that. We don't talk through issues much anymore. We choose up sides and decide that someone has to be wrong so we can be right. I don't know what drove him to do such unspeakable things, but something certainly did.

Of course, we can't help but wonder about our own safety. Could such a thing happen here? How do we prepare for such a possibility? Of course it could happen here. I pray that it does not. I'm not sure how to prepare for such things. Do we arm ourselves? Do we hire or appoint security? Those are all things to consider, I guess.

We have all enjoyed the luxury of gathering freely for worship all our lives, assuming it is a right guaranteed

to us as citizens of this nation. For generations before us, people gathered for worship at considerable risk. Early Christians knew they were in opposition to the rule of the Empire when they worshiped in private, but they boldly did so. The Reformers, whose work we just commemorated, made bold proclamations and decisions knowing they did so at considerable risk, but they boldly made them. Most of us have not known such danger and risk, but it appears we now will. The worst thing we can do is to give in to the fear, to say, "It's just too risky. I think I'll stay home!"

Worship is both a responsibility and a privilege for God's people. I pray daily that we will not be faced with such senseless violence, but as the one probably most vulnerable should our worship be interrupted by violence, I urge us to not miss a beat, to continue to gather for the public worship of our God Sunday after Sunday and to gather here for Bible study and all the other events and activities that make our congregation what it is. I urge us to continue to welcome all who come our way, trusting that God has brought them to us and that our responsibility is to share God's grace with them.

I don't want to generate more fear, but we must remember that Romans (there's that book again) 14:8-9 says, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we died, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living."

I hope that reminder generates more comfort than fear. We will remain vigilant against all who would do harm to us in any way. But we will not fear. Thanks be to God!



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

A Whole Month of Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving has always been a big event in our family. Our boys love the holiday. We're rarely all together on the holiday anymore, but when we were, we never gave much thought to the menu or the schedule. It was always the same, year after year. The only real trouble was that Thanksgiving is just one day. We usually cooked enough food to last the weekend, so we sometimes got a little tired of all those dishes we had looked so forward to by the time the weekend was over. The rest of the weekend was usually full of football and other things, but the day of Thanksgiving was just that one day.

That's why I'm excited about the Stewardship theme for this year: Stewardship: Our Way of Giving



Thanks. That gives us the whole month of November to celebrate Thanksgiving as our way of responding to God's grace. We have something special planned for each week of this month. On November 12, we'll sing a piece called "Called to Service in God's Kingdom" which reminds us that God calls and equips each of us for service in the church. On Sunday, November 19, we'll sing an arrangement of the Thanksgiving hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" to remind us that our response to God should always be one of thanks and not of obligation. We'll conclude the month and our Stewardship Season celebration on Sunday, November 26 with the anthem, "Thanks Be to You, O Lord" from a tune by Handel.

A whole month to give thanks! What a wonderful gift. Of course then it'll be Advent. More on that next month. We are grateful for your kind words of encouragement of our ministry through music.

Stewardship 2017: Our Way of Giving Thanks

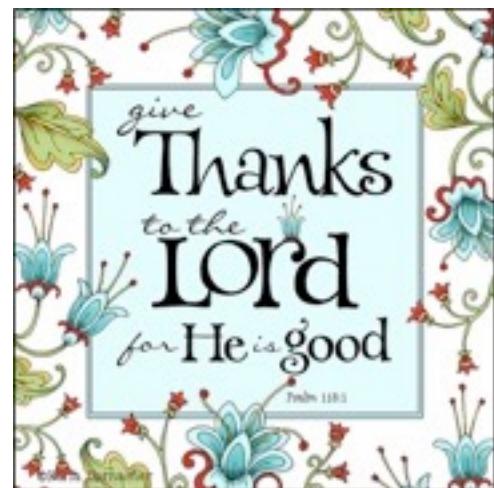
Every fall, while the Session works to make plans for the financial health of our congregation for the new year, we spend some time in worship challenging us all to think about our individual financial investment in the ministry of the church.

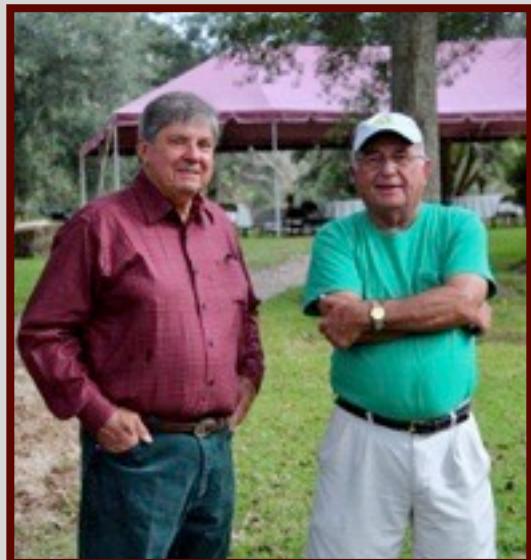
Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking of that investment as a requirement, something we have to do or the church will fail. Our investment is important, but it's not something someone is going to impose on us like a tax or dun us for like a late bill. So this year, we hope to change the way we think about stewardship. Our theme for this year is Stewardship: Our Way of Giving Thanks. Each Sunday in November, we'll focus on thanksgiving not just as a national holiday, but as the way we respond to all that God has done and is doing in our lives.

As individuals, we all have much to be thankful for. Whether we are financially secure, or struggling, whether we enjoy continuing good health or face uncertain futures, whether our family is the source of strength and inspiration God calls it to be or a source of frustration--whatever our circumstance, if we pause to look, we can find much for which to be thankful. Giving thanks, rather than giving out of obligation, is an appropriate response to God's presence and call in our lives.

Each Sunday this month, our worship will help us focus on that opportunity. In addition to the sermon and other elements of worship, an elder will lead us in reflecting on giving thanks as response to God each week. Elder Robbie DeCoux got us started on November 5 in the midst of our All Saints' commemoration. Elders Kennon Singley, Suzi Drummond, and Noggin Wild will challenge us on remaining Sundays. On Sunday, November 26, in the midst of Thanksgiving weekend, you'll have opportunity to make pledges toward the 2018 Budget. That budget, upon approval by the Session, will be presented in January. Please join us for worship each Sunday this month and give prayerful consideration to your investment in this ministry during 2018 and beyond.

Remember, Stewardship is our Way of Giving Thanks.





THANKS TO STACEY FOR WELCOMING US TO
HIS PRETTY HOME AND SURROUNDINGS
AND TO ALL (INCLUDING THE HORSES)
WHO WORKED TO MAKE THIS
A GREAT DAY!!!







MS. EMILY WITH HER SON, MICHAEL (L), HER NAMESAKE "EMILY JO", AND STACEY.



MFW Fall Fest





Thanks to Beverly and Ron Yates for coordinating this fabulous fall fest and to the kids for their great costumes. Thanks also to Debbi and Tommy Brock for the great decorations. The kids thank the congregation for all the donated candy!

Presbyterian Women of JJ White will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study for this month is Lesson 3 of the PW study **Cloud of Witnesses**. A light lunch will be provided. All women are encouraged to attend any of the monthly meetings. You are welcome!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Mission News:

Christmas, Mission Conference, and
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance...

This year, instead of participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, we invite you to bring supplies for emergency response kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will continue to collect supplies from now, through Christmas, until this year's Mission Conference (February). We will complete the project and assemble the kits for

shipping during the conference. There was an insert in Sunday's bulletin listing exactly what is needed for each kit. However, if you missed this list you may contact the church office for a printed list. You may also see a list on the PDA website <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>

(If you receive this newsletter by email just click the link above to visit the site.)

Thanks for your help with this important ministry.



Rejoice with those who rejoice...

Romans 12:15a

Ashlie and Jared Salter



Ashlie and Jared Salter were married on September 9 at the home of Cathy and Ray Salter, Jared's parents. Reverend Bob Phelps performed the ceremony. Ashlie and Jared are living in Phoenix, Arizona.

We congratulate Ashlie and Jared and support them with our prayers as they begin a life as newly weds!

Ashlie, Pastor Bob, and Jared



The Salter Family: Ray, Caitie, Ashlie, Jared, and Cathy.

Carri and Ben Rowley



Avery, Carri, Ben, and Colton.

At right, Tommy and Bob celebrate with Colton after the ceremony.

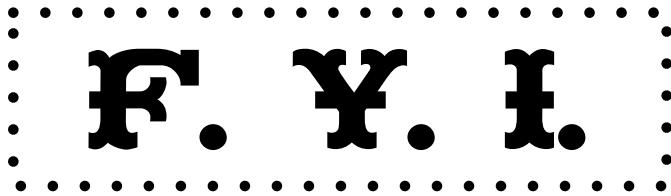
Carri and Ben Rowley were married at the White Magnolia, near Kentwood, on November 3. Carri is the daughter of Debbi and Tommy Brock.

The ceremony was performed by Reverend Bob Phelps. Avery and Colton, Carri's children, participated in the wedding and were included in the vows.

Carri, Ben, Avery, and Colton will live in McComb.

We share the joy of this family and want them to know of our support and prayers for their future.





Salvation Army Bell Ringing Opportunities

Again this year, we will be helping the local chapter of the Salvation Army in their efforts to provide Christmas gifts for children and families in our area. We will be ringing bells on Friday, December 1 from 11 am until 8 pm and again on Monday, December 18, from 9 am until 8 pm, both days at the west entrance to Wal-Mart (toward Hobby Lobby.)

The signup sheet for bell ringers will be in the sanctuary on Sundays, in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays, and in the Church Office at other times. Please help us help others during the holiday season.

Wednesday Schedule for November

We will NOT gather here on Wednesday, November 22, the night before Thanksgiving. Volunteers will prepare a meal for delivery to our homebound members and friends. (If you'd like to help, let us know in the Church Office.) Other regular Wednesday activities will resume on Wednesday, November 29. Plan to make Wednesdays at church part of your regular schedule.



Gathering in Jackson Hope For Years to Come

On Saturday, November 4, Tommy and Mary Ann Ratcliff and Bob and Deanna joined about eighty other Presbyterians from across the state for a celebration of Presbyterian history and mission in Mississippi on the campus of Belhaven University in Jackson.

The day began with worship with leadership coming from three denominations: The PCUSA (our branch), the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Following worship, the Rev. Dr. Milton Winter gave a lecture titled "Mississippi Presbyterian History and Its Future." Following a time of questions for Dr. Winter, Belhaven hosted lunch and a time of conversation about the University and its ministry. The afternoon included a Mission Fair with representatives from ministries supported by the various denominations. Campus tours were also available. The afternoon concluded with a concert of choral music by the Belhaven University Choir, the Covenant and Lakeside Presbyterian Church Choirs hosted by Covenant Church.

Thanks to the planning team made up of representatives from all three denominations for putting this event together.



October Session Report

The Session held its regular meeting for October on Sunday, October 15, at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Ally Allred, Robbie DeCoux, and Margy Wicker were excused. Newly elected elders Margaret Ann Morgan and Ray Salter also attended. Actions taken at the meeting include:

- ❖ Opened with prayer and reflection from our pastor.
- ❖ Received the Treasurer's Report and noted that fall giving statements had been mailed.
- ❖ Approved minutes from the meeting on September 10.
- ❖ Noted receipt of title to four cemetery plots in Pike Memorial Garden as a gift from the George L. Stewart Jr. family.
- ❖ Noted receipt of a framed picture of the original First Presbyterian Church building, now First Christian Church, from Charles Ray.
- ❖ Noted, with sympathy, the death of Iddo Enochs on September 13.
- ❖ Heard the report of the Elder Nominating Committee, placing in nomination the names of Margaret Ann Morgan, Whitney Rawlings, and Ray Salter for terms on the Session beginning in 2018 through 2020 and called a congregational meeting for October 22 for their election.
- ❖ Approved plans for Stewardship: Our Way of Giving Thanks as this year's Stewardship Season observance and the schedule for 2018 Budget development.
- ❖ Noted that Flo's Angels' Christmas Party will be in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 9, from 9-11 am.
- ❖ Set Saturday, January 20, as the date for the 2018 Session Planning Retreat.
- ❖ Heard reports from the Congregational Care and Fellowship, Mission and Evangelism, and Property Committees about upcoming and ongoing programs.

The Session meets monthly. The November meeting will be on November 12 at 6 pm. Please keep the Session in your prayers as its members guide the ministry of our congregation.

November Schedules

Flowers

5 Communion
12 Emily Austin
19 Jane and Tommy Walman
26 Stacey Moak

Children's Church

5 Sara Beth Williams
12 Linda Miller
19 Ally Allred
26 Lee Williams

Sunday Morning Breakfast

5 Hutchinson staff
12 Lee Williams
19 Debbi Brock
26 Beth Wild

Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

1 Jimmy Carol, Whitney
8 Bill, Fred
15 Randy B., Tommy R.
22 Thanksgiving
29 Randy, John, Tommy B.

Elder of the Month

Kathy Harbour



November

- 1 Alleigh Lewis
Trudy Statham
- 22 Whit Grace
Joan Kennedy
Elizabeth Robinson
- 23 Amanda Lewis
Carl McDaniel
- 28 Elise Reeves
- 29 James Cato
Heather Faucett
Mary Spurgeon
- 30 J. C. Johnson

December

- 4 Will Kimmel
- 6 Kristen Allred
Delores Feldman
- 7 Bob Phelps
Betty Ott
Carol Rawlings
- 8 Colin Catchings
Emily Alford
- 9 Tommy Walman
- 10 J.W. Burt
- 14 Sharon Burke
Carol Wood
- 15 Bob Arnold
- 16 Eleanor White
- 21 Norma Ann Williams
Sue Sullivan
- 25 Billie Nance
- 27 Hunter Nance
- 29 Rusten Lewis
Phillip Nance
- 30 Julia Arnold

November

2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	2 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	3	4
5 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion	6	7	8 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	9 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	10	11
12 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Session Meets 6:30p.m.	13	14 PW meets at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.	15 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	16 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	17	18
19 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	20	21	22 No Wednesday Activities due to Thanksgiving	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 MICA 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	27	28	29 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	30 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM		