

# White Memorial

Presbyterian Church

October 2017



He has made everything beautiful  
in its time. *Ecclesiastes 3:11 a*



# a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

## **Hospitality Matters**

I rarely get to be a visitor and an observer in worship. It is not a role I enjoy much when I do get to experience it. Retirement won't come for us for several years yet, but I sometimes wonder how I'll adjust to being in the pew instead of the pulpit. We'll figure that out when the time comes.

While we were away celebrating birthdays and anniversaries with Deanna's folks recently, I got up to go to church while others stayed home to make preparations for one of those celebrations. I didn't know anyone at the church I attended, but their worship service happened at a time that allowed me to be there and still make the surprise anniversary brunch planned for mid-morning. I probably should have stayed home.

The congregation I attended is currently being served by an Interim Minister while they begin their search for their next pastor. I knew that when I went. What I didn't know was that even the Interim was away that Sunday and that someone had decided to do something different (and avoid paying for pulpit supply) while he was away. That congregation was beginning its annual stewardship season. And someone decided that Sunday morning worship would be a good time for them to complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. I suspect some of you have completed those in the past; they usually take the form of a series of questions that you answer about things you like to do and things you don't, things you feel called to do, and things others need to tend to. There is always a system of scoring at the end that helps you identify gifts and abilities you have that the church might need. There is not usually a musical audition or a practice teaching session as part of that process, but the responses you give usually help you know what kinds of things you can offer as a servant leader in the church. I say that's the way these things usually go because I wasn't offered a copy of the ones they used that Sunday morning. By that time, I had pretty well figured out it wasn't a morning planned with visitors in mind.

When I got to the door from the parking lot, the greeter at the door said she didn't know me. I explained that I was visiting from out of town. She abruptly asked, "So why are you here? Do you know our minister?" "No," I responded. "I'm just here to worship. Is that not what you do on Sunday mornings?" She told me where I could find a bulletin inside and left me wondering. Upon opening the bulletin, I quickly discovered that it wasn't going to be a typical morning. I thought about leaving then, but by that time the choir was coming out and the service was starting. We called ourselves to worship. We sang a hymn (one written by a friend of mine, but I didn't tell them that.), prayed a prayer, the choir sang, and then one of the leaders began to give instructions about the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and pleaded with everyone not to leave but to go to one of the rooms he indicated and complete the surveys. As some other leaders went down the aisle distributing the survey booklets, they passed right by my pew. (I know it would not have been appropriate for me to complete the survey with them, but it would have been nice to see what it looked like.) Someone prayed another prayer, and when they began to retire to the appointed rooms, I ducked out the door.

On the way home, I stopped by the drug store to pick up some cough medicine for Deanna who has picked up some Yankee bug while we were there. When I left the store, I called to see if they needed me to stop and get anything else on my way home. When Deanna asked why I was out of church so early, I told her I'd explain it when I saw her, but that the most memorable part of the morning was that more people at CVS spoke to me than they had at church.

I know that no one there intended to ignore a visitor. I know it was poor planning to plan the completion of those surveys during Sunday morning worship (even if it did save them the cost of a supply preacher). And I know that no one there has given any of what happened that morning a thought since it was over. I don't know if there were other visitors there that morning or not, but this one didn't have a good experience.

I come away from that experience with a few things to remember:

1. Worship is not about us. Ever. Worship is not utilitarian or a way to do what's convenient. Worship is about praising God and giving thanks.
2. Not everyone knows what's going on. And we need to remember that and be sensitive to the needs of newcomers. Not to single them out, but to help them participate.
3. Hospitality is a gift of God. Some people are good at it. Others of us have to work at it. But it ought to be something that happens whenever the church gathers. I hope someone who filled out one of those surveys scored high on the gift of hospitality. I'll let you know if they've found that person when we're back up there after Christmas.

Help me insure that all who worship with us don't go away with a story like mine.

Grace and Peace,  
Bob

## **Elder Nominating Committee Has a Slate**

In a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 17th, we elected Steven Allred, Joanna Barr, Andrew DeCoux, Carol Rawlings, Randy White, and Beth Wild to serve as this year's Elder Nominating Committee (ENC). Margy Wicker joins them as a representative of the Session. Elders Robbie DeCoux, Pat Randall, and Margy Wicker will complete their terms on the Session at the end of this year.

The ENC has met and presents the names of Margaret Ann Morgan, Whitney Rawlings, and Ray Salter to be placed in nomination to serve terms from 2018 until 2020. Their names will be presented to a congregational meeting after worship in Sunday, October 22, for election.

Please keep these who will be nominated to serve in your prayers. Also express your appreciation to members of this year's Elder Nominating Committee.



# *Music Notes*

*from Deanna Phelps, Music Director*

## *A Glimpse into Choir Life*

*Since the majority of you never enter the choir room (for fear that we'll coax you into staying), I thought I'd give you a little glimpse into what happens when we gather for rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Right now, we have at least a dozen pieces of music in our folders, all of which you'll get to hear on upcoming Sundays. We can't, of course, learn and polish every note of every one of those pieces in one or two rehearsals. So each week, we bite off a little piece of most all of them. By the time we sing a piece in worship on Sunday, we have worked on it for several weeks, and, hopefully, by the Wednesday before we plan to sing it, we can run through it a couple of times and be ready. Then we move on to bits and pieces of upcoming pieces in the hope that they'll be ready when their time comes, too. That doesn't always happen, of course. Sometimes we hit a snag and have to set a piece aside for a while, and sometimes we might even put one up altogether and sing something else. But taking small bites of each piece along the way helps us to prepare for music you won't hear for several weeks yet. We're beginning to sing some Advent and Christmas music bit by bit so that we won't be hit with that big crunch all at once.*

*I sometimes think our walk with God is like the way we prepare the choir. Some of the things God asks us to do are big tasks. Some of them require us to do things we're not sure we can, to be people we are not altogether ready to be. Some seem to think that faith in Christ is an all at once thing, that once we believe in Jesus that whole new creation thing happens all at once. I'm not so sure. I think it's easier and just as faithful for us to take on little parts of God's call along the way with the goal of becoming new creation always before us.*

*We'll be taking little bites of music each Wednesday at 6:30. You're always welcome to join us.*



## Reformation Study for Adults on Wednesdays in October

This month marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the movement that led to the birth of Protestant churches like ours. Our adult group will spend our Wednesday evenings this month exploring our history and looking toward our future. After supper each Wednesday this month we'll gather to discuss a different topic each week. Here's the schedule:



**October 4** ~ Bob will bring an introduction to and survey of the Reformation around the ideas of Who, When, and Why?

**October 11** ~ Some of you know that we have several members of the local Lutheran congregation who worship with us regularly. Their church only worships once a month, so Fred Harmon, Gloria Hawkins, and Dori Toler all worship with us here. This week, Fred and Gloria and a retired Lutheran minister will be our guests to help us learn about how Luther's faith is lived out in the Church today.

**October 18** ~ Father Brian Kaskie, priest at St. Alphonus Catholic Church up the street, will be our guest this week. Father Brian will talk about "What I Wish Protestants Knew about Catholics." There will be time for questions and conversation about the relationship between our churches.

**October 25** ~ We'll take a week off this week for our annual children's Fall Fest.

**November 1** ~ November 1 is All Saints' Day on the Church calendar, so we'll conclude our Reformation studies with a remembrance of all who have gone before us in faith and look forward for Protestant and Reformed faith.

Please plan to join us for supper at 5:15 pm each week and for our study and conversation beginning at 6:00 pm. Please help our guests feel at home among us.



### In Sympathy

Former J. J. White members Dr. LeDon Langston and friend of the church Tom Logue both died recently in Brookhaven and Madison, respectively.

Please remember their families in your prayers and give thanks for their ministry among us while they were here.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Presbyterian Women of JJ White MPC** will meet at 11:30 on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend for friendship, Bible study, and a light lunch. This month the study will be on lesson 2 of Cloud of Witnesses - The Community of Christ in Hebrews. If you want to participate and need the study book please see Suzi Drummond. It is not too late to start!

On Saturday, September 16, Debbi Brock, Deanna Phelps, and Suzi Drummond attended the fall cluster meeting of PW of the Presbytery of Mississippi at First Trinity Presbyterian in Laurel. It was a great time to meet and enjoy the company of Presbyterian women. Thanks to Debbi for providing transportation.

Presbyterian Women - Make plans to attend the 23 Annual Winter Retreat of the PW of the Presbytery of Mississippi.

This year's theme is "Look Up and Sing" and will be led by Dr. Nell Adams, Music Director at Fondren Presbyterian Church in Jackson.

As usual the retreat will be held at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa.

The dates are January 12-13 2018.

Be there for this uplifting event!



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Thanks to all who contributed to our call for a special offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) on Sunday, September 24. If you were not here or did not participate that day, we will hold the offering open for a few more days before we send it to PDA. PDA teams are and will be working in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico to help people recover from recent storm damage. Thank you for helping that happen. To date, your gifts total over \$500.00.

### **Looking Ahead: An Invitation from Belhaven University**

A celebration of the ministry and heritage of Presbyterians in Mississippi will be on Saturday, November 4, at Belhaven University in Jackson. Belhaven invites Presbyterians from across the state to a program called Mississippi Presbyterians in History and Mission that day. The day will begin with worship at 10 am in the Belhaven Center for the Arts. It will also include a lecture by Dr. Milton Winter, author of a three-volume history of Mississippi Presbyterians (which is available in our church library). Participants will enjoy lunch together and conclude the day with campus tours and a concert by the Belhaven Music Department. The event is free and will include members of several different Presbyterian denominations.

If you plan to go, please let us know in the Church Office so we can arrange for ride shares.



**JJ WHITE MPC**

**Picnic  
Fun**

## **JJ White MPC Church Picnic**

**When: Saturday, October 21,  
at 10:30 a.m.**

**Where: Stacey Moak's home near  
Kentwood, LA**

**This will be a great event!  
We will enjoy good picnic food -  
hotdogs and hamburgers -  
with the sides or desserts  
we bring.**

**Sign up sheets are on the front pew each Sunday morning to let the  
planning committee know what you will bring.**

**\*Car pools from the church will be available.**

**There will be activities for all ages --  
games, horses, hay, pumpkins, and surprises!**

**Fall fun for sure.**

**Bring a friend!**



# **Fall Festival**

**On Wednesday, October 25, we will enjoy a JJW Fall Fest - a special  
time of games and fun for all. A new event will be added this year -  
a gumbo cookoff! Watch for more info in coming weeks on all of the  
activities.**

# October Schedules

## Flowers

1 Communion  
8 Pat Randall  
15 Dottie Heiss  
22 Jackson Jones  
29 Sue and Win Sullivan

## Ushers/Greeters

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

## Children's Church

1 Lee Williams  
8 Melisa DeCoux  
15 Carol Rawlings  
22 Susan White  
29 Joanna Barr

## Sunday Morning Breakfast

1 Carol Rawlings  
8 Debbi Brock  
15 Mary Ann Ratcliff  
22 Sharon White  
29 Linda Miller

## Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

4 Renan, Buddy  
11 Rick, Jim  
18 Bob, Clem  
25 Kit, Trey

## Elder of the Month

Ally Allred

## OCTOBER

2 Evan Parker  
4 India Warshauer  
5 Linda Johnson  
Bill Mitchell  
Johnny Nance  
Whit Williams  
Layne Gatlin  
7 Heidi Lewis  
8 Melisa DeCoux  
9 Carson Simmons  
11 Kya Cotton  
Burke Williams  
Lola Gatlin  
13 Bryan Harbour  
Carri Jackson  
14 Maxine Brock  
15 Cyndy Catchings  
Anna Roberts  
Susan White  
22 Robbie Decoux  
25 Rusty Brill  
Whitney Rawlings  
Charlie White  
28 Milton McKay  
29 Kent Williford  
30 Keri Gatlin  
31 Joanna Barr



## NOVEMBER

1 Alleigh Lewis  
Trudy Statham  
3 Beth Alford  
7 Howard Anderson  
22 Whit Grace  
Joan Kennedy  
Elizabeth Robinson  
23 Amanda Lewis  
Carl McDaniel  
28 Elise Brock Reeves  
29 James Cato  
Heather Faucett  
Mary Spurgeon  
30 J. C. Johnson





# October 2017

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Sacrament of Communion</b>            9:00 light breakfast            9:30 Sunday School            10:30 Morning</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast            Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am            Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 light breakfast            9:30 Sunday School            10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast            Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am            Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 light breakfast            9:30 Sunday School            10:30 Morning Worship  <b>Session Meets 6:30 p.m. (changed from second Sunday)</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>PW Meets at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. (Usually meets on 2nd Tues, but on 3rd Tues this month)</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast            Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am            Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>  <p><b>JJ White MPC Fall Picnic at Stacey Moak Farm</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 light breakfast            9:30 Sunday School            10:30 Morning Worship  <b>Congregational Meeting to elect elders</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:15 am Men's Breakfast            Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 and <b>Fall Fest activities for all ages.</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am            Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>MICA</b>            9:00 light breakfast            9:30 Sunday School            10:30 Morning Worship</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>  <p><b>Halloween</b></p>				