

JJ WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2019



AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIR UP ONE ANOTHER
TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS
HEBREWS 10:24



a word from our pastor....

Reverend Bob Phelps

Don't Panic; The World Is Back in its Proper Orbit

By now, most of you know (and don't much care) that we're Roll, Tide folks at our house. We lived in Alabama for sixteen years, which is the longest time we have spent anywhere in our married life. Blake holds two degrees from Alabama. Kyle and his wife live in Birmingham, so we have lots of reasons to cheer for the Tide. Blake says that we were faithful through the Price, Shula, and Dubose years, so we earned the right to enjoy this current run.

But we are also Kentucky and Cubs fans. That means we don't usually have a lot to crow about except Alabama during the fall. Like all the Cubs fans, we start out with high hopes every April. In 2016, we celebrated Kyle and Maranda's wedding and the Cubs' winning the World Series all in the same week. That was something! "Maybe next year!" is usually the rallying cry of Cubs fans beginning about May or June when reality sets in. After 2016, we had some good runs and almost made it back to the Series a time or two, but fell short. This year has been up and down all season. All that talent, all that money, and we never seemed to get over the hump. Late last month, we found out what we had all pretty much figured out: we would not make the playoffs this year. Then came the news that our beloved manager, Joe Madden, would not return. Looks like things are getting back to normal.

Kentucky, as most of you know, has never been much of a football powerhouse. Since Bear Bryant figured out the pecking order and left Lexington for bigger things, our rallying cry in the fall has been, "Only a few more weeks till basketball!" But in recent years, we've found some new hope. Some big wins, like the one we finally got over Florida after losing to them more times than we like to remember. Some fairly respectable bowl games and wins. We began this season with more hope than usual. This might be the year, we thought, that we'd climb out of the middle of the pack. But then the quarterback went down, and his backup looks questionable. We're back at the bottom of the SEC East with Vandy, a spot both of us know well. Looks like things are getting back to normal. The world is back on its axis. It was fun to think about, but let's get real.

It's over for this season for the Cubs. We'll hire a new manager, hopefully keep players we need and want and trade those we don't. We'll be back full of hope and promise when Spring Training starts. And when April comes, we'll lace 'em up again with every good intention of playing in October. It's not officially over for Kentucky football, but the prospects are not looking good. It may be a struggle just to finish the regular season. But we'll still bleed Blue at our house.

Fortunately, our spiritual life need not be like our sports loyalty life. Our well-being is not dependent on the performance of people with big contracts and inflated egos on the line. We need not experience the highs and lows that sports fans chew cases of antacids over. While we may experience mountain top spiritual experiences when worship inspires us or when grandchildren profess faith or when something else prompts a positive response from us, God's love for us is constant and is always available to us, even, maybe especially, when we need it most.

I'm not hopeful about seeing Kentucky in a New Year's Day Bowl this year. I'm still grieving over the Cubs not making the playoffs--again. But, spiritually, I'm in pretty good shape right now. And the next time I feel doubt or despair creeping up on me, I know the resources with which God has surrounded me that will prevent my falling in a hole I can't climb out of. Worship, prayer, scripture, the counsel of faithful people with whom God keeps me in community, good music, and things beyond my comprehension keep me on a level plain most of the time. My prayer is that those same resources are in your toolkit.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Elder Nominations and Election

The Elder Nominating Committee has presented its report placing in nomination for the office of elder the following individuals:

For three year terms, 2020-2022:

*Tommy Ratcliff
Joseph Spurgeon
Beth Wild*

For a one-year, unexpired term, 2020:

Rusty Whittington

Please keep these individuals in your prayers as they prepare to serve in this important leadership role.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to occur at the conclusion of worship on Sunday, October 13, for the purpose of electing elders.

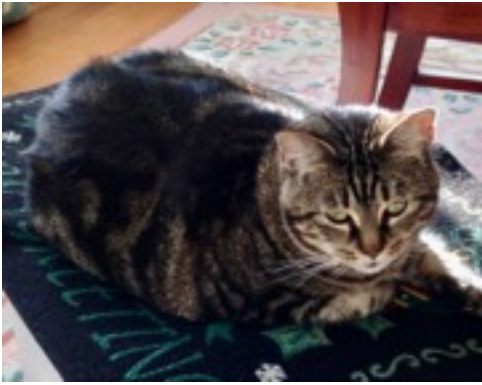
Please plan to be present.

Elders Suzi Drummond, Will Kimmel, and Noggin Wild will complete three-year terms on the Session this year. Margaret Ann Macloud will not complete her term, leaving one year unexpired. Please express your appreciation to these for their faithful presence on the Session.



Music Notes from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

How Music Inspires...



I know all of you are not cat lovers, but we have a cat at our house that adopted us shortly after we moved here several years ago. She is spoiled rotten, very demanding. Half the furniture in the house stays covered up because she sleeps and sheds on it. Somewhere upstairs we have a sign that says, "It's the cat's house. We just pay the mortgage!" True words. She demands to be fed on schedule and wants attention and affection on her terms.

One of our favorite things about her, though, is that she is a music lover. She's not crazy about CD's or other recorded music, but she loves it when I play the piano. She is never very far away from us, but if I go in the living room where the piano is to play through things we're working on in choir or if Bob and I are in there to work on something he's singing for church or for the Meistersingers, she is right there with us. As soon as I start playing, she'll roll around and do all the things she does when she's happy and content. It's a sight to see. She hasn't tried singing with us yet, but if we stop before she's had her fix, she'll let us know.



I'm not sure what it is about that piano playing that soothes her, and I'm not sure how that works. The old adage says that music soothes the savage beast, and although Alley (as in Alley Cat) is not altogether savage, she still has some wild in her. Music somehow tames that and makes her happy.

The role of music in worship is not always to soothe, but it should inspire. We try to sing a variety of types of music since some tastes are a bit more discriminating than Alley's. We try to sing hymns that keep us focused on the ideas we're considering in worship each week. The anthems and other selections the choir and soloists and other groups offer are intended to glorify God and help us experience his care.

I doubt any of you will roll around on the floor like Alley does to express your appreciation for our contribution to worship, but I hope what we sing strikes a helpful and hopeful chord for you.



The Meistersingers are a community chamber choir, part of the arts community in Hattiesburg. Our pastor sings with the group.

The Meistersingers will kick off their 2019-2020 season with a concert of spirituals on Sunday afternoon, October 6, at 3:00 pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. There is no charge for the event, but donations to support the choir's work are greatly appreciated.

The group will sing three concerts this season. The spring concert in March will be performed in two locations: in Hattiesburg and at our church here in McComb. Watch for details about the spring concert. In the meantime, come and enjoy the spirituals this month.

Update on Presbyterian Women of JJ White



The Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Mississippi was held on Saturday, September 21, at Pineview Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. Debbi Brock, Suzi Drummond, Sharon Harmon, and Deanna Phelps attended the event along with about 60 women from across the presbytery. The meeting included a time of worship, an overview of the PW Bible study for 2019-20 *Love Carved in Stone*, updates on PW mission projects, and lunch provided by the PW of Pineview.

The PW groups of the Presbytery of Mississippi have raised \$9357 (surpassing the goal of \$7500) to support the work of Mission Haven.

The regular meeting of PW of JJ White will be held on Tuesday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study is

Lesson 2 of *Love Carved in Stone*. Participants will bring nonperishable food items related to holiday meals to support the work of MICA. A light lunch and time of friendship will be included. All women are welcome to come and be a part of PW.

Stewardship 2020

We will observe Stewardship Season on Sundays, October 20, 27, and November 3 and 10 this year. The theme for this year's Stewardship Emphasis is "Telling God's Story." Each week we'll talk



about the many ways we tell God's story in worship, in teaching, through service, and in our common life. We'll look at texts from both the Old and New Testaments as we explore our ministry goals. The purpose of all this is, of course, is to remind us that our effectiveness in telling God's story is determined by the faithfulness of the giving that makes it possible.

The Session has begun work on the 2020 Church Budget. During Stewardship Season you will have opportunity to consider a pledge toward that budget so that we can plan for new and continuing programming. Between now and then, you will receive a statement of your giving through the end of September so that you will know where you stand in comparison to your pledge or other plans about giving.

JJ White Memorial PC Welcomes New Members



Rusten Lewis

Rusten Lewis is the son of Amanda Lewis. He is a 9th grade student at North Pike High School where he is a member of the NPHS Band. Rusten also has an interest in archery.

It is great to have Rusten as a part of our church family and we welcome him as an official member.

Whit Williams

Whit Williams is the son of Stephen and Lee Williams. He is a freshman at Parklane and enjoys baseball and basketball. Whit recently was a part of a mission team from JJ White who worked on projects in Puerto Rico.

We welcome Whit as a sixth generation member of the DeCoux family to join J.J. White.



A Birthday Celebration to honor our members who have reached the age of 90 years or more was held on September 25. They are amazing folks and are excellent role models for all of us!

June Moak with husband Carl



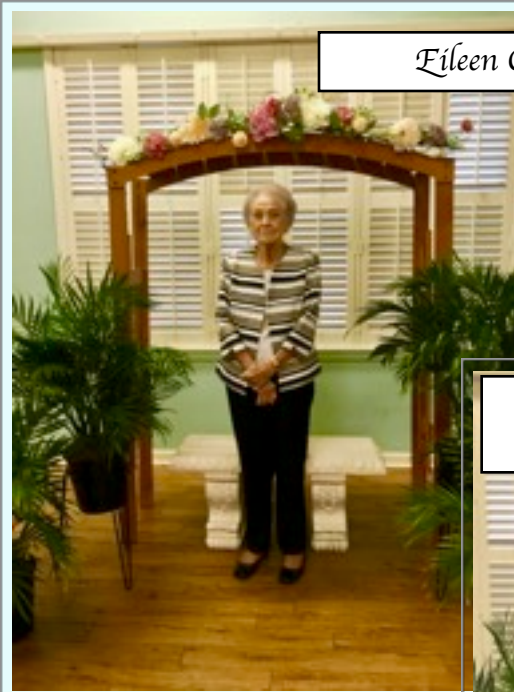
Libby Robinson



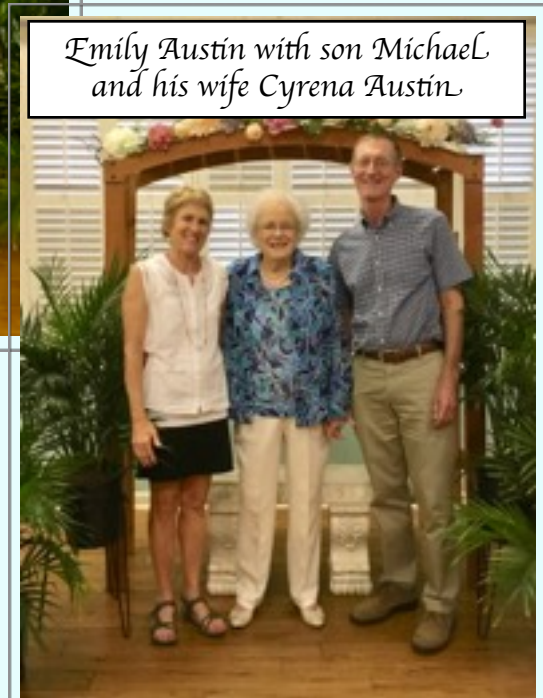
Ralph Brock



Fileen Cato



Emily Austin with son Michael and his wife Cyrena Austin



*Happy Birthday
We Love You*



The **2019 Annual Fall Fest** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, beginning at 5:15 p.m. with supper and activities to follow. Come and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship. There will be games, treats, riddles, and prizes. Wear your costumes. Don't miss the fun. Be sure to come and bring a friend !



As always, thank you for your help and support with this event. Your donations of candy and/or help at the event are appreciated. Please drop candy by the church office or bring on Sundays in next couple of weeks.

Thanks,
Beverly Yates
- Fall Fest Coordinator

The Session held its regular meeting in September on the 15th after worship in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Suzi Drummond, Amanda Lewis, Margaret Ann Macloud, and Whitney Rawlings, were excused. All other elders and the Moderator were present. Actions taken at the meeting include:

September Session Report

- ❖ approval of minutes from August and from the congregational meeting to elect this year's Elder Nominating Committee on September 8.
- ❖ receipt of financial statements.
- ❖ noted the election of the Elder Nominating Committee.
- ❖ approved participation in the Winter Soup Kitchen in partnership with First

Christian, Centenary United Methodist, Church of the Mediator Episcopal, and St. Al's Catholic. The meals will be served at First Christian on Tuesdays during November, December, January, and February. We will serve on the third Tuesday of each month.

- ❖ approved hosting a Thanksgiving Worship service including downtown churches (J. J. White, First Christian, Centenary United Methodist, Church of the Mediator Episcopal, and St. Al's Catholic) on Sunday, November 24. Offering will benefit MICA food pantry.
- ❖ approved designating our congregation a Matthew 25 Congregation in support of the denominational Matthew 25 initiative.
- ❖ called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 13 to elect elders.
- ❖ set dates for Stewardship Season
- ❖ noted that the Rev. David Millican will preach here on December 29 while Bob and Deanna are away after the holidays.
- ❖ approved a concert here in the spring by the Meistersingers, a chamber choir in which Bob participates in Hattiesburg.
- ❖ approved study resources for adult Sunday School groups.
- ❖ noted the 90+ birthday party on September 29. Congregational Care and Fellowship will coordinate.
- ❖ moved the small balance in the Julian Brady Mission Travel fund into the Mission Budget to help defray expenses from this summer's mission trip.
- ❖ thanked those who came out for work day on the former Schroeder and Brumfield properties on August 31.
- ❖ began discussion of 2020 Church Budget

The Session meets monthly. The October meeting will be on the 13th following worship. Please keep these who plan and coordinate the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.

October Schedules

Sunday Morning Breakfast

6 Carol Rawlings
13 Lee Williams
20 Sharon White
27 Linda Miller

Flowers

6 Communion
13 Tommy and Debbi Brock
20 Nancy Lazenby
27 Win and Sue Sullivan

Children's Church

6 Sara Beth Williams
13 Carol Rawlings
20 Susan White
27 Lee Williams

Ushers/Greeters

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

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

9 Tommy R., Bob Hemeter, Ricky P.
16 Noggin, Jeff, Steven
23 John, Randy W.
30 Tommy B., Garland

October

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

Happy Birthday

November

1 Alleigh Lewis,
Trudy Statham
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



2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2 7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	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 Communion	7	8 Presbyterian Women (Day Group) 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	9 7:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	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 Session meets	14	15	16 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	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	21	22	23 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Activities 5:30 Supper 6:00 Activities for All 6:30 Choir	24 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	25	26
27 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	28	29	30 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Fall Fest 5:15 Supper followed by fall fest activities	31		