

JJ WHITE MEMORIAL

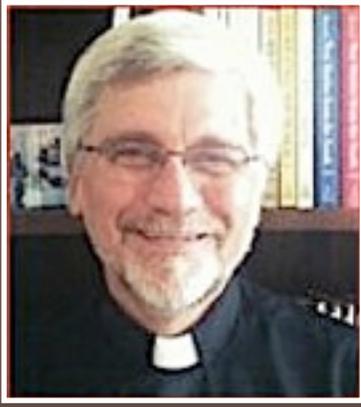
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



**THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH,
WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THROUGH WHOM WE HAVE OBTAINED ACCESS
TO THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND;
AND WE BOAST IN OUR HOPE
OF SHARING THE GLORY OF GOD.**

ROMANS 5:1-2



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Simple Pleasures...

It amazes me how much joy can come from the simplest of things. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Consider the lilies of the field...” Of course, these days we’d insist on knowing whether those were Asiatic lilies or hemerocallis lilies or some other variety we’re supposed to be impressed with. I’m pretty sure that’s not what Jesus had in mind.

Most of us are far too busy to notice simple things. We do have a lot of important things to worry about: our health and the health of those we love, our financial well-being, our kids’ happiness and future. In the Church we worry about doctrine, finances, membership gains and losses. Then the culture reminds us to worry about race relations, poverty and what to do about it, politics, Wall Street—I don’t even want to think about what this week there has done to my retirement. We get so caught up in all those things that it’s hard to look for joy.



But this week we had hummingbirds at our house. I know that doesn’t sound like much, but I can’t tell you how much joy those little flittering and fluttering creatures brought us.

We have waited all summer, kept their feeder filled with bright red, sweet nectar, and they finally arrived.

Yes, we still have to drag hoses around to water plants that suffer from the heat. Yes, we still worry about when it will rain again and how much. But every time those hummingbirds start flitting around that feeder again, we remember who’s in charge and what really matters.

Psalm 8 says, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth....When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals, that you care for them....Yet you have given them dominion over the works of your hands, the birds of the air and the fish of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.”

I hope you see hummingbirds soon. And I hope they bring you joy. You’ll need it when you encounter all those other things.



Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

Our choir members get tired of listening to me harp about dynamic markings. (But, thankfully, they're patient and keep coming back.) Dynamic markings in a musical score tell us how loudly or softly to sing. In most pieces, they make all the difference in the world about how the piece sounds when we sing it. Some things just sound better when said or sung softly. Think about how we speak to our children when we're trying to soothe a hurt or help them settle into sleep. Then think about how we speak to those same children when they've slammed the back door for the twentieth time that day or when they keep asking, "Are we there yet?" How we sing hymns and anthems in worship often works the same way. Our opening hymn is usually one of praise, and we invite you to sing with all you've got. Sometimes other hymns invite us to prayer or reflection and call for less robust singing. An anthem from the choir may have both those extremes and lots of options in the middle, inviting us to experience the full range of response to God's presence among us.

Our individual experience as disciples of Jesus can be like that, too. Some days we are filled with joy that can't help but burst forth from us. Other days are quieter and more reflective. Some days we're not sure we can sing at all. And, of course, some days have all those experiences and more. Just as how we sing a song makes all the difference in how it sounds, so how we stay attuned to God's presence in our lives and how we respond to it will do the same for our faith.

However loud or soft we're singing when we're together, I'm glad you're singing with us.

JPAC CONCERT

Sunday afternoon, September 27, at 3:00 pm, we will host the choir from the Jubilee Performing Arts School (JPAC) for a special concert in our sanctuary.

JPAC moved into the building across the street from our church last school year and continues to grow. The choir has received many honors, and we look forward to hearing them in our sanctuary. Following the event, we'll host a reception at their facility across the street so that you can see some of the wonderful things going on there. Invite friends to join you for this special event.





Good Helpers!

Henry, Hayden, Kristen, and Lydia like helping Bill Mitchell with dishwashing on a Wednesday night. Thanks to the kids and Mr. Bill for volunteering to lend a hand in cleaning up after the Wednesday supper recently. Contact Robbie DeCoux if you would like to help on one or more Wednesdays.

Need a Mid-Week Boost?

Sometimes it's a long time between Sundays. If you find yourself in need of a boost to get you through the week we've got just the thing on Wednesdays.

5:30 pm - Supper and prayer

6:00 pm - Activities for all ages

(Adults are currently studying church history.)

6:30 pm - Choir rehearsal.

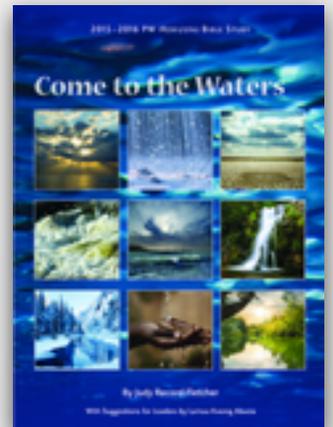
Join us on Wednesdays and invite friends to join you.

PW of JJ White MPC

Presbyterian Women of JJ White MPC will meet on Tuesday, September 8, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They are beginning their new study "Come to the Waters" by Judy Record Fletcher. This study is based on "the rich imagery of water throughout the Bible" and is certain to be engaging.



All women are encouraged and welcomed to participate in any of PW's monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month! A light lunch is provided.



Stewardship Season Coming Up

We will focus on stewardship on Sundays, September 27, October 4, 11, and 18. Our theme for this year's focus will be "Giving as Jesus Gave." Ephesians 5:2 encourages us to "live in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." As we begin work on next year's church budget, we'll spend these four weeks thinking about how our giving to the church can be both faithful and sacrificial. Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our congregation. Join us this fall as we pray about that faithfulness.



More September Events...



**FIND THE HERO IN YOU...
BLOOD DRIVE AT JJ WHITE MPC
EWELL MARTIN ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
2:00 P.M. - 9:P.M.**

If you're a regular donor or if this is your first time to give, please see Carol Wood to sign up for a time to donate blood. The need is always great, and we can help guarantee the blood supply for hospitals and other health providers in our area by participating. Please plan to give.



**Educator Appreciation Service
Sunday, September 20.**

This year, the Session will plan several special worship services to recognize and express appreciation to several groups of people who serve our community in special ways. The first of those services will be on Sunday, September 20, when we recognize education professionals in our community. We invite teachers, administrators, and all others involved in the educational process to join us for worship that day. We will thank them for their service to our community, pray for their work, and present them with a small token of our appreciation. Please invite teachers and other educators to join us on Sunday, September 20. We'll recognize several other groups in the months ahead.



**GUMBO TO GO-GO
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

Ann Jackson and her faithful crew will be preparing gumbo to go again this year. All sales will be carry-out. Pick-ups will be in the alley outside the fellowship hall on Friday, September 25. Watch for an announcement about times. Pints are \$10, and quarts are \$20. All proceeds will benefit the church's general fund. See Ann if you'd like to help by donating ingredients or helping with cooking or pick-ups. You know the gumbo will be great.

F.Y.I.

SESSION REPORT

The Session held its regular meeting for August on the 9th at 6:00pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Robbie DeCoux, Jose' Simo, and Margy Wicker were excused. All other members and the Moderator were present. Actions taken at the meeting include

- ❖ opening devotion on Presbyterian Virtues and prayer
- ❖ approval of minutes from July 12.
- ❖ noted the upcoming Blood Drive on September 7
- ❖ set the first in a series of community appreciation services for Sunday, September 20.

The first service will express appreciation to area educators.

- ❖ heard preliminary plans for a Gumbo Sale on Friday, September 25.
- ❖ received the monthly treasurer's report.
- ❖ heard a report from the Christian Education on a successful Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ heard a report from the Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee.
- ❖ scheduled the 2015-2016 Stewardship Campaign for September 27-October 18.
- ❖ heard preliminary plans from the Mission and Evangelism Committee for the 2016 Mission Conference.

❖ received a report from Kay Robinson on her recent trip to Honduras, funded, in part by the Cecil Thompson Mission Trust Fund.

- ❖ approved plans of the Property Committee to proceed with work to repair plaster problems in the Sanctuary and adjoining areas.

The Session meets at least monthly. The September meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. If you have questions or issues for discussion, please see Bob or another member of the Session. As always, please keep the Session and its guidance of the ministry of our church in your prayers.

PRESBYTERY REPORT

The Presbytery of Mississippi met in Hattiesburg on August 14-15. Whitney Rawlings and our pastor represented our congregation. Presbyterians from across our region gathered in Hattiesburg for a time of worship, prayer, and community building as well as a time to conduct the business of the Church. Some things that happened at that meeting were:

- ❖ Worship with Samford Turner, Executive Presbytery from the Presbytery of South Alabama, preaching.
- ❖ Two opportunities for small group Bible study and reflection, led by various leaders from across the Presbytery.
- ❖ Presentation of a proposed budget for 2016
- ❖ Reports from Presbyterian Women, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Mission Committee, and the Trustees.
- ❖ Approval of granting the Committee on Ministry the status of a Commission so that they can conduct necessary business between the meetings of Presbytery.
- ❖ Elected Sally-Lodge Teel, Teaching Elder and Marcia Willett, Ruling Elder as Commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon in June, 2016
- ❖ Ordained Steve Bryant as a Teaching Elder.
- ❖ Noted the upcoming (September) retirement of the Rev. Chas Johnson from the Diamondhead Church.

Presbytery will meet again in February in Natchez. Please remember the work of these who lead the work of the Church in our region.

September Schedules

FLOWERS

6 Margy Wicker
 13 Lee and Stephen Williams
 20 Sue and Win Sullivan
 27 Pat Randall

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

6 Libby Simo
 13 Susan White
 20 Bill Mitchell
 27

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

6 Carol Rawlings, Keri Gatlin
 13 Meredith Singley
 20 Melisa DeCoux, Marissa Nance
 27 Joanna Barr, Brandy Dyess

USHERS/GREETERS

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

MEN'S INTERDENOMINATIONAL BREAKFAST GROUP

2 Renan Richmond, Rick Penick
 9 Jimmy C. Robertson, Whitney Rawlings
 16 Bill Mitchell, Jim Alford
 23 Randy Burris, Tommy Ratcliff
 30 John Drummond, Randy White

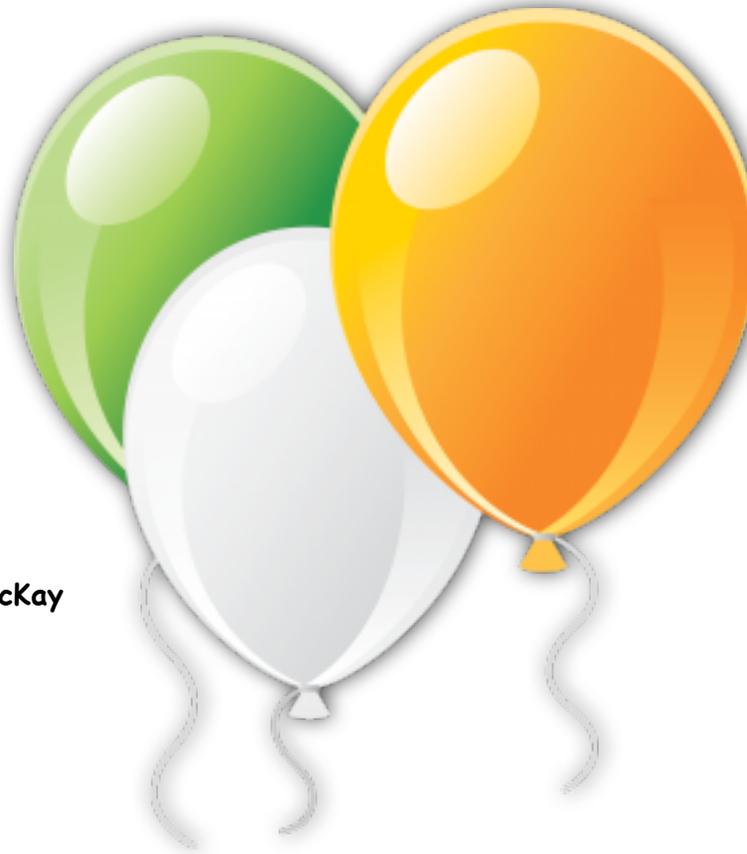
ELDER of the MONTH

Jose' Simo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

September

1 Noggin Wild
 1 Lily Estes
 3 Margy Wicker
 3 Stephen Williams
 4 Andrew DeCoux
 5 Gracie Senner
 5 Ben Thomas
 6 Patti Brabham
 7 Sara Beth Williams
 10 Bonnie Hudon
 10 Darrell Smith
 13 Mary Ann Ratcliff
 17 Rose Ann Johnson
 19 Wayne Hutchison
 19 Shep Ray
 20 Blake Phelps
 20 Carolyn Statham McKay
 27 Barbara Hebert
 28 Dottie Burt
 28 Stacey Moak



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
 14 Maxine Brock
 15 Cyndy Catchings
 Anna Roberts
 Susan White
 22 Robbie DeCoux
 23 Madeline Alford
 25 Rusty Brill
 Whitney Rawlings
 Charlie White
 28 Milton McKay
 29 Kent Williford
 27 Keri Gatlin
 31 Joanna Barr
 David Feldman



September 2015

"The morrow was a bright September morn;
The earth was beautiful as if newborn;
There was nameless splendor everywhere,
That wild exhilaration in the air,
Which makes the passers in the city street
Congratulate each other as they meet."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2 7:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	3	4	5
6 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship Sacrament of Communion	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 Presbyterian Women 11:30 a.m Fellowship Hall	9 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir Blood Drive 2pm-7pm in Ewell Martin Rm	10 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	11	12
13 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship 6:00 Session	14	15	16 7:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	17 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	18	19
20 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30:Worship Recognition of area educators	21	22	23 Fall Equinox 7:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir	24 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	25 Gumbo Fundraiser	26
27 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30: Worship 3:00 pm: JPAC concert	28	29	30 7:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 supper 6:00 activities for all ages 6:30 choir			