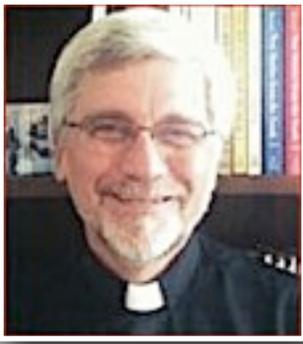


White Memorial Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2017



AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS
GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF A FATHER'S ONLY SON, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.
~JOHN 1:14



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

What's Wrong With the Present Moment?

I know that planning is a good thing. I have worked several hours this week on things that won't happen for weeks and months yet. It's both good and necessary to always be looking ahead.

I know, too, that looking back is helpful sometimes. Few days pass that something doesn't happen to cause me to look back and remember events and people from the past. I never see one of those plastic Big Wheel kids' vehicles that I don't remember that Blake wore two of them out. Or I think about Beth-el Mission in Florida and remember what an important part of life trips there for several summers were for Kyle. Blake turns 39 this month so I doubt he thinks much about his Big Wheel these days. Kyle is married and turned 33 in August, so I doubt he'll be going back to Beth-el anytime soon. Even so, I don't want to forget those times.

The trouble, of course, is that it's easy for us to get so caught up in looking ahead or remembering that we forget to pay attention to what's going on right now. Our mail, and I suspect yours, too, has been full of ads and catalogues for weeks now telling us it's fall. Pictures of pumpkins, scarecrows, and all the other symbols of fall seem to forget that it's a hundred degrees outside and that fall won't get to our part of the world for several more weeks. I know the Christmas ads have probably already started, too, but I've been spared them so far.

Sometimes I suspect we allow ourselves to fall into the trap of looking back and looking ahead to avoid things we don't want to see in the present. It's easier to think about what we're going to do when fall really does get here or to look back at pleasant memories of falls long gone than it is to tackle some project

we've put off for way too long. It's easier to remember how things used to be in our families or our community than to face the reality that they're not that way anymore. Different doesn't necessarily mean bad. It just means different.

The Good News is that Jesus promised that he would be with us always. He was with us in whatever the past was. He will be with us whatever the future brings. What we too often miss is that he is also with us wherever we are right now.

I know there is much going on in our right now that makes us want to retreat into the past or look ahead to a future we hope will be better. I don't like the division and rancor that has become so much a part of life in our time any more than you do. But if my faith does not sustain me through difficult days such as these, then it must not be very strong. Retreating into a past that was probably not nearly as idyllic as we try to make it or gazing longingly at catalogues that promise a better future, whether we can afford it or not will not help us grow in faith. Trusting God to guide us through whatever we're facing will. So look back and be thankful. Look ahead and be hopeful. But don't linger in either of those gazes long. Look around you today. If you don't like what you see, think about what God is calling you to do about it. If things look pretty good, then find ways to share what you've discovered with others. And always remember Jesus' promise to be with us always, not just in the past or in the future, but in the life we live every day. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Bob



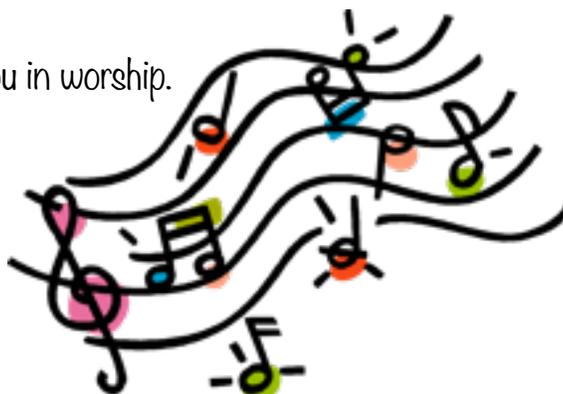
Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

Bob has a series of weddings coming up between now and the end of the year. Some of you will remember that we were in the midst of planning for Kyle and Maranda's wedding this time last year. I don't remember if Maranda did the "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue" thing for their wedding or not. I don't know if any of the couples being married this, fall will do that either. I don't think anyone in our choir plans to be married anytime soon, but "something old, something new" is a part of my planning as I select music for us to sing now that we're back in worship every week. We work hard to prepare music we hope adds to our experience in worship. Some pieces we like better than others. Some pieces we like so much that it seems a shame to do all that work and then file it away, never to be heard again. I know you don't want to hear the same pieces over and over either, but this season, like most years, we'll be doing some pieces we've done before, pieces we hope you'll like again as much as we do. We're also working on some new things, things that are as new to us as they will be to you. We hope you'll enjoy those, too.

"Something borrowed" plays into my planning, too. Some of you have met our friend, Frances Dawson, who visits several times a year. Frances plays the piano and directs the choir in her church in Alabama. We do some planning together. When we find something we like, she usually likes it too, so we share music, saving both our budgets a little and supporting our ministries across state and denominational lines. "Something blue?" I'm sure at least one of our pieces will have a blue cover, and at least one of them might have a little bluesy feel to it. That may be a stretch, but we've got "something old, something new, and something borrowed" covered. Speaking of new things, we're always happy to welcome new singers. We particularly need women's voices now, but we'd be happy for new men to join us, too. See me if you're interested.

We look forward to singing with you in worship.





PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PW of JJ White will meet in the Fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 13, this month. (This is a change from their usual meeting day of the second Tuesday-just for September) The PW Horizons Bible Study this year is Cloud of Witnesses - The Community of Christ in Hebrews beginning with lesson 1 on Wednesday the 13th. Books are still available so let Suzi Drummond know if you would like to participate in the study.

A light lunch will be served following the Bible study.

On Saturday, September 16, the PW Fall Cluster Gathering is being held in Laurel at Trinity Church. A group of women from JJ White plans to attend. Contact Debbi Brock if you want to go. There is plenty of room for you!

It's Time to Nominate New Elders

Every year, three members of our nine-member Session complete their terms, and three new ones assume office. You'll participate in this process by selecting members of this year's Elder Nominating Committee. This group, once assembled, will bring nominees to a congregational meeting for election. We will hold a congregational meeting at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, September 17, to elect that Nominating Committee. The Church Constitution requires that this Committee reflect the constituency of the congregation, so we will prepare a ballot with church members divided into age groups. Please give prayerful consideration to those you will elect to this Committee and to those they will nominate to guide our ministry in the years ahead.

Elders Robbie DeCoux, Pat Randall, and Margy Wicker will complete their terms on the Session in December.

August Session Report

The Session held its regular meeting for August on the 13th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. Elders Kathy Harbour, Will Kimmel, and Margy Wicker were excused. All other elders and the Moderator were present.

After scripture and a prayer, actions taken at the meeting include:

- ◆ approval of minutes and financial statement.
- ◆ heard a report on the meeting of Presbytery in Jackson in August 11 and 12.
- ◆ approved a new copier lease agreement for the Church Office.
- ◆ heard reports from the Christian Education, Fellowship and Congregational Care, Mission, Property, and Worship Committees.

The Session meets monthly. The September meeting will be on the 10th at 6:00 pm in the Ewell Martin Room. If you have questions or need additional information, please see Bob or another member of the Session.

Presbytery Highlights



Our pastor and Session Clerk, Noggin Wild, attended the summer meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi at the Briarwood Church in Jackson on August 11 and 12. They joined ministers and elders and others from the congregations that make up our Presbytery in worship, fellowship and business.

A special feature of this meeting was the presence of the Jan Edmiston, one of two Co-Moderators of the General Assembly. Jan works on the staff of the Presbytery of Chicago when she is not tending to General Assembly business between now and next summer's meeting of that group. She serves alongside Denise Anderson, a pastor from Maryland. During the meeting, Jan challenged us to think about our ministry in new ways by asking questions like, "What does your Session spend most of its time talking about?" "What breaks God's heart in your church's neighborhood?" and "If your church disappeared tomorrow, who would notice?" As you might imagine, much helpful and informative conversation ensued.

We also welcomed Rachael Knoll, the Regional Presbyter whose services we share with the Presbytery of South Alabama. Rachael helped lead us in worship and reported on her involvement in the life and ministry of both Presbyteries. She and her family live in Fairhope, AL, and she helps provide and develop leadership in both Presbyteries.

There was, of course, business to conduct. Those decisions included:

- ❖ approved a new schedule which calls for the winter meeting to be a two-day meeting and the summer meeting a one day gathering.e
- ❖ elected our pastor to serve as minister commissioner to the General Assembly in June, 2018 in St. Louis. He will be joined there by elder Althea Jerome from Westminster Church in Hattiesburg and by Stated Clerk Susan Sumrall.
- ❖ welcomed Clark Simmons, a representative of the Board of Pensions.
- ❖ received an invitation from Jim Goode on behalf of Belhaven University to attend a Celebration of the Reformation and the History of Presbyterians in Mississippi on Saturday, November 4 at Belhaven in Jackson. (More information on this to follow.)
- ❖ heard reports from the Trustees, Presbyterian Women, the Commission on Ministry, Campus Ministry, and the Mission Committee.
- ❖ received a financial report
- ❖ approved funding for missions in Brazil and for R3SM, an agency in Hattiesburg that provides disaster relief and assistance.

The Presbytery will meet again in February. Please keep the work in which we jointly participate with other PCUSA congregations in our area in your prayers.



Congratulations and Best Wishes

Jared Salter and Ashlie Pheng will be married on Saturday, September 9. Jared is the son of church members Ray and Cathy Salter. The wedding will be at Ray and Kathy's home near Brookhaven. Following their marriage Jared and Ashlie will be at home in Phoenix, AZ.

Please remember Jared, Ashlie, and their families in your prayers.



*A Special Birthday Celebration at JJ White
for those who have reached the age of 90 or above —
an awesome group!*



Bess Simmons with Heidi opening her gift.



*Emily Austin (l) , Ralph Brock, and
Eileen Cato with their birthday cake.
Libby Robinson, another member of this
special group, was unable to attend.*



*Thanks to these young people for being servers at
the party!*





Save the Date!

Our Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee is planning our annual Church Picnic for Saturday, October 21, at Stacey Moak's farm near Kentwood, LA. We'll have more information in a couple of weeks, but mark your calendars now so you won't miss this opportunity for fun, food, and fellowship.



Moak farm at the JJW fall picnic
a few years ago -
a beautiful setting!



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

Flowers

3 Communion
 10 Prudence McGehee
 17 Margy Wicker
 24 Lee and Steven Williams

Ushers/Greeters

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

Children's Church

3 Joanna Barr
 10 Sara Beth Williams
 17 Linda Miller
 24 Ally Allred

Sunday Morning Breakfast

3 Lee Williams
 10 Beth Wild
 17 Deb Brock
 24 Hutchinson staff

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast

6 Randy, John, Tommy B.
 13 Noggin, Jeff
 20 Dale, Whit
 27 Kennon, Joseph

Elder of the Month

Margy Wicker

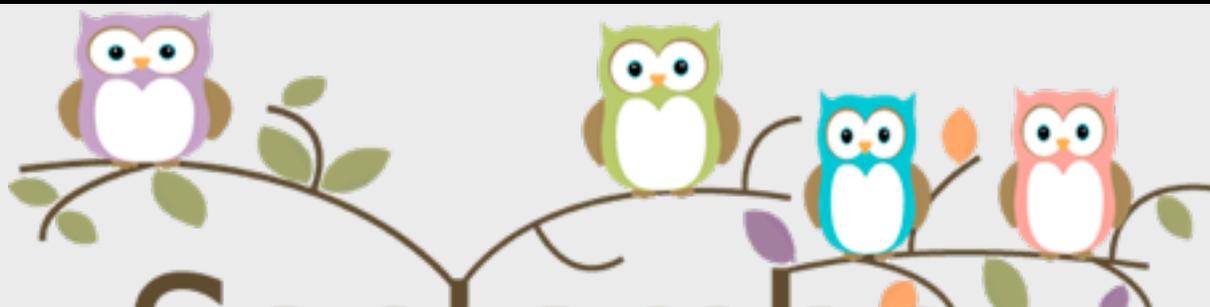
September

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



October

2 Evan Parker
 4 India Warshauer
 5 Linda Godbold Johnson
 Bill Mitchell
 Johnny Nance
 White Williams
 Layne Gatlin
 7 Heidi Lewis
 8 Melisa Hutchison 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 Rawlings White
 22 Robbie Decoux
 23 Madeline Alford
 25 Rusty Brill
 Whitney Rawlings
 Charlie White
 28 Milton McKay
 29 Kent Williford
 30 Keri Gatlin
 31 Joanna Barr
 David Feldman



September 2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1	2
3 Sacrament of Communion 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning	4	5	6 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	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 Session Meets 6:30 p.m.	11	12 PW meets Wed >>> 11:30 in FH. This is a change of meeting day to Wednesday just for the month of Sept.	13 7:15 am Men's Breakfast PW meets 11:30 Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	14 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	15	16 PW Cluster Gathering - Trinity Church in Laurel, MS. All women are welcome. Contact Debbi Brock for transp.
17 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	18	19	20 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	21 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	22	23
24 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	25	26	27 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:30 followed by activities for adult and children	28 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	29	30