

First Presbyterian Church
117 S. Pearl Street
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Natchez, MS 39120
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THE LINK ~ SEPTEMBER, 2018

From the Pastor:

A member of the congregation recently asked me, "What has been your biggest surprise on returning to First Presbyterian in January?" Continuing to think about that question for a few days, I decided this: "I am still being surprised!" You are a gifted congregation, full of personality and life. I am ever being delighted by things you do, ways you serve, joys you share, and times of need that you allow me to help you work through. I love your imagination, the ideas that emerge as you think of what the church might do to serve God. There is no end to the surprises.

It took only a few words and a few moments of explaining a need, for example, to hear a loud YES from a group of members with true servant hearts. The Stewpot needed a new crew for one of the Sunday service days. This group stepped up and did the work skillfully, lovingly, and harmoniously. Serving on the fourth Sunday in August were Donna Ball, Jim Ball, Ryan Sharp, Nicole Harris, Lance Harris, Joanna Brumfield, Cooper Brumfield, Bryan Johnson, and Spencer Holder. All reports of their successful service are glowing. More important will be the blessings that fill their hearts as they continue this work and make way for others who will help to carry out this new mission at First Presbyterian.

Dozens of you stepped up to make chili and sweets! Thank you! Others already are part of the service group and look forward to taking a turn at the Stewpot. Further, the group, it is hoped, will get together to figure out some other ways our church can make a difference in the community. We are the Body of Christ. It is what we do -- go out looking for ways to be the Body of Christ for the world. God bless us in this effort. It takes every member of the Body to make us a whole people. What gift can you bring? God knows. Jesus is calling. Let's be the best we can be.

Always loving you and praying for you as your pastor,
Joan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, September 3—Labor Day

The Church Offices and the Playschool are closed.

Wednesday, September 5

9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team
meeting-Westminster Room

Thursday, September 6

5:30 a.m. Coordinating Council-church library

Monday, September 10

Noon Worship Ministry meeting-church library
5:30 p.m. Session meeting-church library

Monday, September 17

5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting-church library

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Natchez Children's Services meets the second Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. in the church library.

The Festival of Music Board meets the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m. in the Westminster Room in Stratton Chapel.

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets Monday at 7 p.m. in the gym.

SAVE THE DATE!

RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 9

Come join the old-fashioned Rally Day Sunday School Assembly on Sunday morning, September 9, at 9:15, in Stratton Chapel. All Sunday school classes will meet together. Children of the church will contribute to the service as readers, prayer leaders, and actors in a skit. Come with a joyous heart to sing and laugh and pray for God's blessings on the church as we move into a new Sunday school year.

RALLY DAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

At 11:30 on September 9, come to Fellowship Hall for a celebratory luncheon! We will continue to celebrate Rally Day as we gather for potluck. Come whether you have food to bring or not! The hall will be decorated with signs that display all the ways our members serve the church. It's a good day to fill out the form, "What Gifts Do You Bring"; so be thinking about what talents you might bring to church.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

We will welcome Neddie Winters, president of Mission Mississippi to First Presbyterian on Sunday, September 16. He will preach at both services. Rev. Gandy will be liturgy leader. Pastor Winters is involved in the work of reconciliation among different races and denominations. Facilitators of his visit to First Presbyterian are Debbie Hudson, Mark Doyle, Chesney Doyle, and Helen Smith.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for infants through 4 years old from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services! For older children, Children's Bulletins, and activity bags are provided during worship services. Just leave the bags in the pews at the end of the service.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning September 16, the Older Children's Sunday school class (7-11) will begin a pre-confirmation curriculum. For two years, these children will be immersed in the stories, characters, and themes of the Bible. In addition, the children will study the creeds and prayers of the church, the Sacraments of Lord's Supper and Baptism, and the order of worship followed at First Presbyterian. Kay McNeil and Denise Seale are teachers. Joan will be a pop-in teacher.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teens of the church, meeting in the library, will begin in-depth study of the Bible as the new Sunday school year begins. The lessons first will focus on the amazing collection of stories in the Book of Genesis (September through November); then the study will focus on the birth stories in Luke and Matthew, leading up to the celebration of the birth of our Lord at the end of December. Teachers will be Joan Gandy, Helen Smith, and Randy Smith. Ralph Loe will be substitute teacher.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join Rev. Gandy every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the church library for Bible study. Scripture to be studied is announced each Sunday in the bulletin.

IMMERSE BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON!

The Immerse Bible Study (“Beginnings”) will start soon. Books are available for \$11 in the church office. The Bible study will be 6 p.m. on Sundays (starting September 30), and again for Wonderful Wednesdays’ Bible study at 6 p.m. (starting October 3). Lance Harris will lead the Wednesday evening Immerse study; Denise Seale will lead the Sunday evening study.

NOON PRAYER GROUP

This group meets every Tuesday at noon in the Prayer Room of Stratton Chapel. Come each week, or as you are able. Pray for our church, members, friends and community.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday supper is at 5:15 p.m.; the programs at 6.

This month’s programs:

September 5: Viewing of the final installment of the movie *Noah*, with discussion following.

September 12, 19, and 26: Rev. Gandy leads Old Testament Bible study in preparation for the Immerse program.

SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

Our Service Fellowship is calling for chili for Stewpot meals. Make 5 pounds, place in a large Ziploc bag and put in the church freezer (Recipe in church office). Label for Stewpot. For more information, call Nicole or Lance Harris, Joanna Brumfield, or Donna Ball.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25

2 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at the Natchez Coffee Company the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays and at The Crafted Gallery on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

MEN’S CULINARY EVENT

The annual Men’s Culinary Event is Friday, September 14, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., at the home of Sherry and Lee Jones (91 Providence Rd.). Parking attendants will be provided. Bring the children! There will be donkeys to pet and feed, and games to play. Tickets are \$20 each. Buy them from any Mission Ministry member or from the Church office. The money raised goes to FPC Missions.

MISSION TRIP TO BRAZIL

George and Linda Bates will lead a mission trip to Brazil in late October and early November. Anyone interested in accompanying them as missionaries from First Presbyterian Natchez is invited to join them!

Here is what George has written to help you make your decision:

Dates: October 26 through November 4, 2018

What we will do: 1) Renew and strengthen relationships;

2) Participate in joyfully uplifting worship; 3) Visit a village which is the site of future cistern installations; 4) Discuss drilling new wells; 5) Plan for installation of a reverse osmosis system for water from a brackish well.

What you will need: A valid U.S. passport; Brazilian Visa (available on line); Yellow fever immunization.

Estimated cost: Round trip airfare: about \$1,000; hotel (seven nights): about \$450; group fee, which includes most food, cost of translator, money for work projects, and other incidentals: \$600. Total: about \$2,050.

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25

7 a.m. — Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Gwen Washington is cooking a hot breakfast on the 11th!

PRESBYTERIAN PLAYSCHOOL

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

Congratulations to FPC Playschool for being voted the Best Daycare in Natchez by *The Natchez Democrat’s* “Readers Choice” poll. Thank you to Aretha Davis and the Playschool staff for their hard work and dedication!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

September marks the start of the new Presbyterian Women’s year. We are starting out with some great events. We also hope to complete some ongoing projects and start some exciting new ones. Of course, this will all take your participation. So, if you haven’t had the opportunity to participate in the PW in the past, now is the perfect time to join in.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN~CONTINUED

Our first meeting and luncheon of the year will be on September 19, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will install the new officers, give an overview of upcoming activities, and distribute new yearbooks.

The Fall Gathering will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Meridian. This is a great opportunity to network with other Presbyterian women and learn about what’s happening in the PW. If you are interested in attending, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make reservations and arrange for carpooling.

Our new Lydia Circle will get together for the first time in September. This Circle will meet in the evening for the convenience of working women and others who find that more convenient. Please let me know if you are interested. This year’s Bible study is titled “*God’s Promise – I Am with You*” by Amy Poling Sutherlun.

2018 is also the 30th anniversary of the Presbyterian Women. A meeting to plan our celebration activities will be announced after Labor Day. All are invited to participate.

We are looking forward to a great year with all of you. You can call or text me (601-493-7921) or e-mail me (bacolwell1970@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

~Barbara Colwell, Moderator

BIRTHDAYS

September 3	Marcia Passman and Diane Hammers
September 4	Danna Mooney
September 5	Jay Fitch, Spencer Holder, and Trey Johnson
September 6	Annette Holder
September 7	Gay Metcalfe
September 13	Anna Rose Metcalfe
September 16	Mary Lessley and Sue Savino
September 22	Janice Baker
September 25	Robert Seyfarth
September 28	Betty Jenkins
September 29	Catherine Ratcliffe and Joanna Brumfield

Rev. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Victor Zurck, Music Director
Deon Buford, Sexton
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Shirley Greene, Financial Secretary
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator

FPC OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2018

Chuck Borum, Sarah Carey, Mary Jo
McNerney, Anne Vidal Willet

Class of 2019

Rosemary Hall, Bobby Meason,
Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2020

Hal Hicks, Leigh Anderson, Phyllis
Mashburn, Ken Andermann

DEACONS:

Class of 2018

Jon Borum, Diane Hammers, Esther Jeffus

Class of 2019

Sandra Burkes, Denise Seale, Sarah Smith

Class of 2020

Edie Christian, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington

*If you are interested in joining our fellowship,
please contact Rev. Gandy at (601)-442-2581 or
fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.*