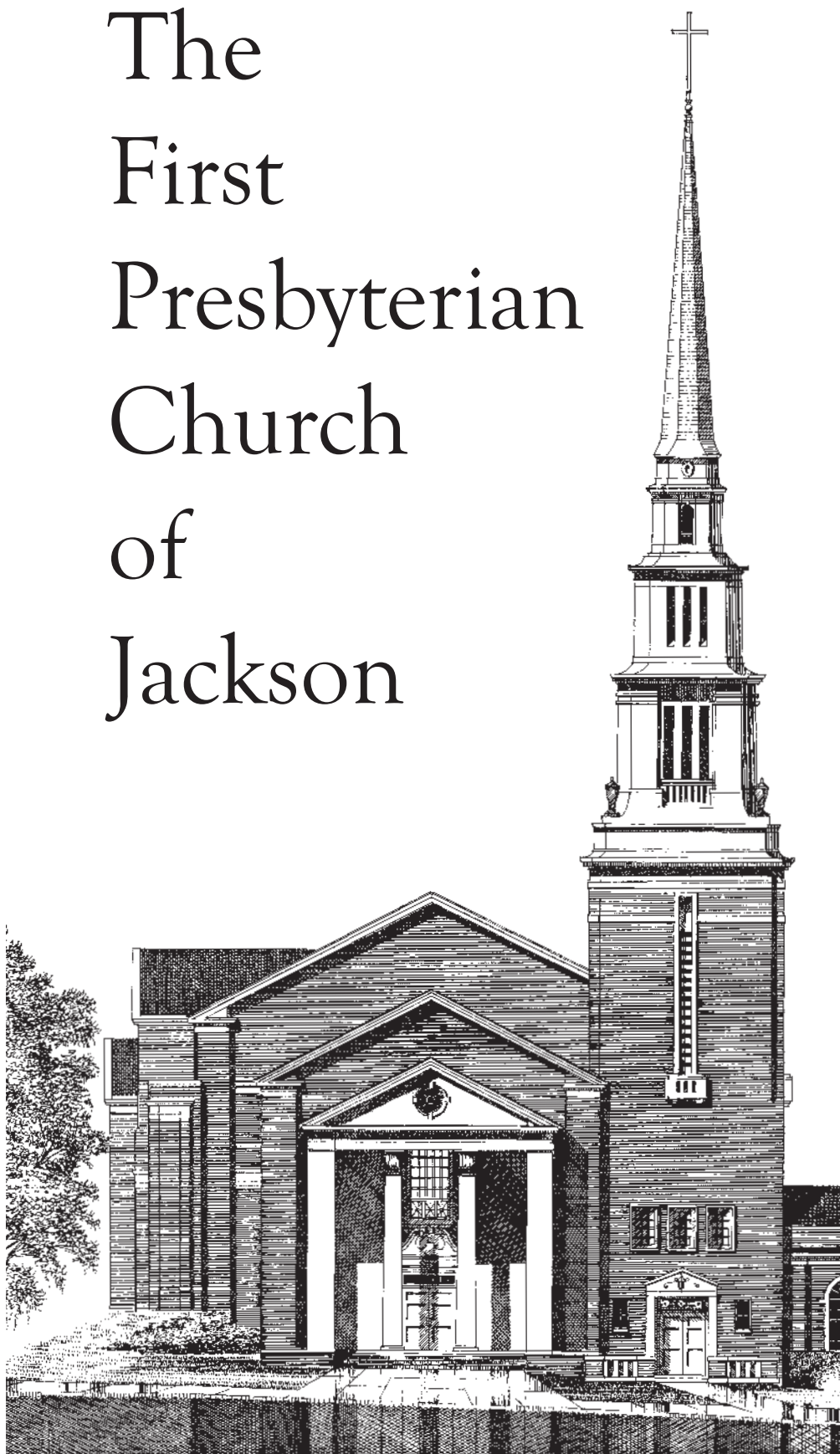


# The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Twentieth Day of December, Two Thousand Fifteen  
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

Senior Minister — The Reverend Mr. David T. A. Strain  
Assisting Minister — The Reverend Dr. Edward A. Hartman  
Minister of Mission and Outreach

*At the time of the Greetings and Announcements and during the Prelude, the congregation is invited to a season of silent and reverent preparation for corporate worship.*

**The Greetings and Announcements** (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

**The Prelude** — “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” ..... Arr. Catherine McMichael  
Bonnie and Shellie Brown, Violins; Connie Wadsworth, Organ

**The Introit** — “Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come” ..... Arr. Kuykendall

**The Call to Worship**

‡\* **The Carol of Praise No. 207** — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

**The Solo** — “Jesu, Bambino” ..... Pietro Yon  
Bonnie Brown, Soloist; Shellie Brown Violin; John Sinclair, Cello

**The Reading of Scripture** — Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible page 573)

**The Public Profession of Faith**

The Biblical Basis

The Introduction of New Members

The Questions of Membership

The Prayer

The Declaration

The Blessing

‡ **The Carol No. 211** — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

**The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory** — “Never a Brighter Star” ..... Dan Forrest

“Never a brighter star has shone, bright as a gem in heaven's crown,  
hailing the King who left His throne, Sovereign of all, to earth come down.

Never a sweeter angel song stirred human hearts with trembling joy.

God in the flesh, awaited long, this night is born a baby boy.

Never such grief in baby's cry, teardrop by teardrop, soft it rolls.

Deep from His heart, a burdened sigh, bearing the woe of fallen souls.

Never such light on infant face, light of the glorious realm above;

dawn of the Father's saving grace, sunrise of His redeeming love . . .

Never through time's dark history has such a radiant hope been known.

Round manger bed on bended knee, welcome the Savior,

Christ, our own! Worship the Savior, Christ, our own.”

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**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Luke 2:22-38 (Pew Bible pages 857-858)

**The Sermon** — *Advent Songs*: “Nunc Dimitis” ..... Mr. Strain

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 196** — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response** — “Sing Choirs of Angels” ..... Arr. David Willcocks

**The Postlude** — “Angels We Have Heard on High” ..... arr. by Diane Bish

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

A CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE  
OF  
LESSONS  
AND  
CAROLS

THIS EVENING  
AT FIVE O'CLOCK

A NURSERY FOR CHILDREN UP TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE  
WILL BE PROVIDED.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

This week we have the happy occasion to receive new members into our church family during the morning worship services. As we are highlighting various aspects of our worship service each week, let us focus on church membership today:

*Why must we be members of a local church?* The Bible uses metaphors to define “the Church.” The Church is one body in Christ. We are all members of the same body, and we belong to one another (Romans 12:5). The Church is one family. To be a member of any family, we are to be either born in it or adopted into it. Since we are all born as “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), we must be adopted; and God has adopted us into His community of the Trinity. We have one Father, one Savior and elder Brother, and one Spirit of adoption by Whom we are made members of the family (Romans 8:15-17). Therefore, as Scripture repeatedly addresses us, we are brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers to one another. So, why must we become the members of a local church? It is because, having been united to Christ, we are necessarily united to all those who are united to Him. Therefore, we are entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church, and other rights and privileges that come with it.

*Who can be a member of the church?* Any person who is called a Christian by having made a credible profession of faith, having been baptized in a Bible-believing church, and having been admitted by the Session (the body of elders) to the Lord’s Table can be a communing member of First Presbyterian Church. Children of believer(s) are by virtue of their birth in a believing household and in covenant with God, children of the covenant. However, they may not partake of the Lord’s Table as a way to protect them from eating and drinking judgment upon themselves if they were to do so in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Hence, our children are called non-communing members of the church. We hope that all our covenant children would embrace the gospel and become communing members. While only the communing members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church, all members of the church family are, however, entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church.

Having discussed why and who can become members of First Presbyterian Church, let us look briefly at the questions for membership:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The first three of five questions seek to show to us our hellish plight before God, bring us to a point of desperate need for the person and work of Jesus, and cause us to rely upon the life-giving power in none but the Holy Spirit alone. We would do well to bring these grand truths of the gospel in our prayers every day. While the first three questions speak of our relation to each person of the Godhead, the next two questions speak of our relation to the Church of God, which the Father loves, for which the Son died and rose to save, and the Spirit now indwells. Since each Person of the Trinity is interested and invested in the Church, we who are called by His name must do likewise. May we who are members of the covenant community pray for the welfare of the Church and of First Presbyterian Church. May we seek to live lives where the gospel has pervaded every sphere. May we be growing disciples seeking to learn more of our God, His great majesty, and His magnificent Fatherhood. May we grow as committed members by regularly worshiping and seeking to gather with our family as often as opportunities provide us. May we be humble followers submitting to the wise leadership and discipline of those who care for our souls. May we grow to love the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# A GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

## The Songs We Sing During Christmas

Every Lord's Day we sing. Singing is important to us because the Bible is important to us, and it is in the pages of Scripture that we find myriad examples of singing and making melody to the Lord. Scripture even commands us to be a singing people (Ps 9:11). The joy of song is such a wonderful gift that God has given to humanity, and in our worship we utilize it to channel our praise back to the Giver. Martin Luther heartily affirmed this in saying, "After the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world!" And it is during the Christmas season when the cherished carols, highlighting the incarnation of our Savior, play such a large part in the congregational singing of Christians around the world. Unfortunately, the radical implications of these hymns can easily be eclipsed by the lesser associations many have with the season. So with this in mind, it is helpful to consider afresh what these hymns have to teach us about the glory of the God who became a man. Writing about the "Grand Miracle" of the first advent, C.S. Lewis said, "In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity ... down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the ruined world up with Him." This is the miracle we sing about in the carols of Christmas. Read and reflect on the hymns we sing this Christmas season. Enter into the narrative they tell and consider how they help make sense of our own story as sinners whose Savior comes to rescue His people from all that seeks to destroy them.

### *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

The words of this Medieval Latin and German carol are variously attributed to Heinrich Suso (died 1366), Peter of Dresden (died circa 1440), and Valentin Triller (circa 1573). It was translated from Latin-German admixture to English by John Mason Neale and first appeared in his *Carols for Christmastide* (published in London, England, 1853). It was a great favorite in Germany until recent times. It seems likely that the carol dates from the time in the late 14th century when the creeping of the vernacular into sacred song was first noted. This practice aided the early reformers in introducing congregational singing in the vernacular into their services of worship. Luther, it will be remembered, violated all German rules of word order in joining German words to tunes with which the people were familiar. John Mason Neale, the translator, caught the inspiration of the original text and transformed it into something suitable to English sentiment. The continued popularity of the carol is undoubtedly due in part to the swinging 14th century German melody to which is set.

### *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

This is one of the traditional English Christmas carols. The stanza carries the message that sent the shepherds scurrying into Bethlehem and that now makes the gentlemen merry. The birth of the Savior brings tidings of comfort and joy. The point of the opening refrain is not to exclude all but happy English gentlemen from a Christmas greeting, but to pronounce a benediction, to wish a joyous repose to other Christians at the very thought of the incarnation of Christ. When Scrooge, in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, heard this cheerful carol, he grabbed a ruler and the singer fled in terror. It is traditional English going back to the 16th or 17th century.

### *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

One of Charles Wesley's masterpieces of hymnody (the second and third stanzas are modern, but worthy accompaniment to Wesley's two stanzas). The hymn ponders the richness of revelation found in the prophecies of the Old Testament, and plunges the depths of the reality of the second member of the Triune God becoming man: "Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring." We sing it this morning in response to the reading and preaching of God's holy word. You may associate this tune with another in our hymnal—"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

# FPC THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY • DECEMBER 20, 2015**

<b>Sunday</b>	<p><b>Pre-Service Announcements</b> — 8:25 a.m. in the Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Prayer for Worship Service</b> — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in M133</p> <p><b>The Learning Resource Center</b> — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. (Library only)</p> <p><b>Sunday School</b> — 9:40 a.m. in various locations</p> <p><b>Pre-Service Announcements</b> — 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Children's Church for 3 and 4-year-olds</b> — during 11:00 a.m. worship service in M135</p> <p><b>The Music of Christmas with Choir and Orchestra</b> — 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary</p> <p><b>The Learning Resource Center</b> — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. (Library only)</p> <p><b>No Senior High Insight</b></p>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>No Scheduled Activities</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>No Scheduled Activities</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>No Supper or Services</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p><b>Church Offices Closed</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Eve Service</b> — 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Church Offices Closed</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> — 7:30 a.m. in MH

**CH** - College House  
**LH** - Lowe Hall  
**M** - Main Floor  
**MCR** - Ministers  
 Conference Room

**MH** - Miller Hall  
**MS** - Music Suite  
**PH** - Patterson Hall  
**YH** - Youth House  
**SC** - Study Center

**WH** - Westminster Hall  
**HC** - Hutton Chapel  
**LRC** - Learning Resource  
 Center  
**SR** - Session Room



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## II THESSALONIANS 3:1

"Finally, brethren, pray for us...." **Clarke & Khrystya N.** – Serving with Mission to the World in Eastern Europe. For contact information, please contact the Mission Department. **Franky Garcia** – serving as an intern for the Christian Medical and Dental Association at UMMC. Mailing address: 5422 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209 Email: [KennethFranklinGarcia@gmail.com](mailto:KennethFranklinGarcia@gmail.com)

## FLOWERS

The poinsettia tree for the month of December is given by Dr. and Mrs. J. Lee Owen to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Johnson and her service to the church through her art and as a member of the Choir.

For the month of December, the poinsettias in the church foyer are given in loving memory of our brother, Denny Terry, committed servant of Christ, by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ridgway.

The poinsettias in the Greeting Courtyard for the month of December are given in loving memory of Jim Watts by his family.

## NEW MEMBERS

On December 6, 2015, the following new members were welcomed into our fellowship: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nathan (Tiina) Bynum, Mrs. Emily Margaret Potts Hartman, Mrs. Jennifer Elaine Holbert, Mr. Stephen Aubrey Holbert, Miss Ansley Grace Holbert, Mrs. Leigh-Dexter Morson Monistere, and Mr. Jeffrey Clinton Pride.

## YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2015, please notify Earl Davis in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. **In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2015 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2015.** The Business Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., and you may give online until midnight, December 31, 2015. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. Security will be posted on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2015. All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2015, will apply to your 2016 Contribution Statement.

## SUNDAY EVENING SERMON SERIES

From Christians to atheists and everyone in between, people are interested in the end of the world. Nevertheless, the subject of the end times is usually considered something best left for prophecy experts, with little to no practical importance for everyday life. But the Bible challenges this view, considering the end times to be one of the most practical and important subjects a believer can study. Join us for our Sunday evening sermon series, beginning January 3, as Dr. Gabe Fluhrer leads us in a study through 1 Thessalonians entitled, *How to Live in the Last Days*.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL/D GROUP TRAINING LUNCHEON

All Adult Sunday School teachers, D Group leaders, and Sunday School officers are invited to a training luncheon on Thursday, January 7, at 11:30 a.m. in Miller Hall. Dr. Gabe Fluhrer, Minister of Discipleship, will outline the character of a disciple of Christ and how our Sunday School and D Group ministries can help others in their walk with Jesus. Lunch is \$6.00 per person. Please RSVP to Lisa Repair at [lisar@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisar@fpcjackson.org).

## MOMS BIBLE STUDY - DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

MOMS is a weekly Bible study for mothers of children 6th grade and under. It meets on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Starting Wednesday, January 13, MOMS will be led by Emily Hartman in a study entitled, "The Heart of Contentment." Registration for new members begins January 1, 2016. To register, contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596 or [joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com).

## BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2016. Space is available for the 8:30 a.m. worship service. To make your reservation, please contact Lisa Walters at 601-973-9102 or [lisaw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisaw@fpcjackson.org).

## MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY - JANUARY 29, 2016

Men, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual Mid-South Men's Rally. Our speaker this year will be The Reverend Dr. Douglas F. Kelly, Richard Jordan Professor of Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC. No advance registration is necessary. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:15 p.m., with the first session beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Repair at [lisar@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisar@fpcjackson.org) or 601-326-9243.

## CONNECT WITH FPC ONLINE

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<http://get.theapp.co/d6ed>

# THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church Offices:  
1390 N. State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202  
601-353-8316 • FAX 601-973-9119

website - [www.fpcjackson.org](http://www.fpcjackson.org)  
WLBTV 3 10:00 A.M. Sunday  
WTWV TV14 Memphis Sunday

## CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Mr. David T. A. Strain - Senior Minister  
The Reverend Mr. Ralph S. Kelley - Executive Minister

### MINISTERS OFFICE:

David Day, Director of Communications  
Lou Ann Flatgard, Administrative Assistant  
Marie Phillips, Administrative Assistant  
Joe Bynum, Senior Minister's Intern  
Wes Strebeck, Senior Minister's Intern

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Kimberly Wilkins, Children's Director  
Anna Henson, Assistant Children's Director  
Rebecca Redman, Women & Children's Coordinator  
Omega Stephens, Administrative Assistant  
Kelley Beth Prabhakar, Intern

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Hellen Powell, Assistant  
Carolyn Anderson  
Sherry Anderson  
Irene Ballard  
Gloria Collier  
Angela Dunson  
Mary Gray  
Lee Alice Harris  
Ella Johnson  
Lillie Newell  
Leslie Olowu  
Lawanda Palmer  
Louvania Palmer  
Willie Ann Parnell  
Monica Pittman  
Mary Ross  
Dorothy Shelby  
Carol Tisdale  
Georgia Trunnell  
Mary Sue Trunnell

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Gabe Fluhrer, Minister  
Gary Sinclair, Assistant  
Lisa Repair, Administrative Assistant

### MUSIC AND MEDIA:

Bill Wymond, Minister of Music  
Willard Harrell, Music Assistant  
Connie Wadsworth, Organist  
Janie Clarke, Children's Choirs Director  
Heather Hunt, Assistant Children's Choirs Director  
Trey Porter, TV Ministry Producer  
Kenneth Smith, Assistant TV Production  
Tian Teh, Assistant TV Production  
Mark Phillips, Sanctuary Sound Technician  
Ginny Warren, Administrative Assistant  
Jonathan Hunt, Intern

### MISSION AND OUTREACH:

Ed Hartman, Minister  
Christina Meenan, Administrative Assistant  
John Prabhakar, Intern

Boopie Beard, Learning Resource Center Director  
Mary Ball, Editor of *The First Epistle*  
Ruth Smith, Wedding Coordinator

### THE DAY SCHOOL

[www.fpbs.org](http://www.fpbs.org)  
(601) 355-1731 FAX (601) 355-1739  
Gary Herring, Headmaster  
Paula Clark, Director of Instruction and Curriculum  
Emily Oswalt, Director of Instruction and Curriculum  
Carolyn Wilkinson, Administrative Assistant  
Susan Graves, Front Desk  
Cheryl Gibbs, Bookkeeper  
Jeannie Vickers, Asst. Bookkeeper

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Billy Dempsey, Minister  
Wiley Lowry, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Brister Ware, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Lisa Walters, Administrative Assistant  
Jason Wegener, Congregational Care Intern

### STUDENTS AND FAMILIES MINISTRY:

Andrew Triolo, Director  
Augusta Fair, Assistant  
James Ritchey, Assistant  
Laura Rutledge, Assistant  
Julia Wright, Assistant  
Jenny Sanders, Administrative Assistant  
Martin Antoon, Intern

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Jimmi Phillips, Financial Associate  
Barbara Eichelberger, Administrative Assistant  
Lynn Smith, Receptionist

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Richard Barnes, Security  
Sam Hilliker, Security  
Patrick McCluskey, Security  
Clinton Miller, Security  
Edmond Monroe, Security  
Craig Stewart, Security  
Diana Stewart, Security  
Vernon Williams, Security

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Claude (Bear) Lawson  
Johnny McGee

### CUSTODIAL:

Jim Williams, Jr., Supervisor  
Travis Caldwell, Asst. Supervisor  
Michael Barber  
Bobby Bowie  
Demarcus Jackson  
Michael Jackson  
Josh Knight

### FOOD SERVICE:

Irene Underwood, Hostess  
Mary Carson  
Laura Jackson  
Lorene Kelly

### YOUNG ADULTS/COLLEGE

David Felker, Minister  
Anna Woodyard, Young Adults/Covenant College Students  
Joe Johnson, Young Adults Intern  
Kelly Jackson, College Coordinator  
Wil Nettleton, College Intern  
Jenny Sanders, Administrative Assistant

### TWIN LAKES CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

[www.twinklakescamp.org](http://www.twinklakescamp.org)  
Florence, MS  
(601) 845-6858  
Mark Magee, Executive Director  
Andrew Vincent, Camp Director  
Matthew Elliott, Asst. Camp and Program Director  
Shannon Craft, Reservationist  
Grant Lyons, Hosting Director  
Lisa Smith, Secretary and Camp Registrar  
Warner Mitchell, Maintenance Superintendent  
Fred Rice, Maintenance  
Bobbie Godbey, Food Service Director  
Emma Williams, Head Cook  
Rita Breedon, Housekeeping

### MINISTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE CHURCH

(Benevolence Committee)

#### DENOMINATIONAL

PCA Discipleship Ministries Committee  
PCA General Administration Committee  
The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

#### INSTITUTIONAL

Belhaven University  
Covenant College  
First Presbyterian Day School  
French Camp Academy  
John Reed Miller Lecture Series  
Palmer Home  
Reformed Theological Seminary

#### MISSION TO JACKSON

Beginning Again in Christ  
Bethany Christian Services  
Center for Pregnancy Choices  
Child Evangelism Fellowship  
Deacons / MTJ Special Fund  
Friends of Alcoholics  
Jackson Youth for Christ  
Gateway Rescue Mission  
Lantern Medical Clinic  
Mission First  
Mustard Seed  
Neighborhood Christian Center

Pioneer Ministries  
Young Life

#### OUTREACH

Fellowship of Christian  
Athletes  
Pastor's Special Fund  
Reformed University  
Ministries  
Television Ministry  
Young Business Leaders