

The First Epistle

Volume 52 / Issue 1 / January 2019

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
CORDIAL INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

MSMR MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY

JANUARY 25, 2019

RANKIN WILBOURNE

"First Presbyterian Church of Jackson exists to glorify God by making disciples on the North State Street corridor, in the greater Jackson area, and around the world." FPCJ Vision

Mid-South Men's Rally

Speaker is Rankin Wilbourne, Senior Pastor of Pacific Crossroads Church, Los Angeles



Please join us for the Mid-South Men's Rally on January 25, 2019, from 5:15-9:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church Jackson.

Louisiana and was educated at the University of Mississippi and Princeton Theological Seminary. Rankin and his wife, Morgen, reside in Los Angeles with their three children.

This year, our MSMR speaker is Rankin Wilbourne, Senior Pastor of Pacific Crossroads Church (PCA) in Los Angeles and author of **Union with Christ: the Way to Know and Enjoy God**. Rankin grew up in

For more information visit fpcjackson.org/church-life/men. No advanced registration is required and there is no charge for the rally or dinner. A freewill offering will be taken.

Mid-South Men's Rally Schedule of Events

5:15 - 6:30 PM	DINNER	MILLER HALL	BOOKSTORE OPEN
6:30 - 7:30 PM	SESSION I	SANCTUARY	
7:30 - 8:00 PM	BREAK	MILLER HALL	BOOKSTORE OPEN
8:00 - 9:00 PM	SESSION II	SANCTUARY	

Mission Conference 2019

Here Am I - Send Me

-  **SAVE THE DATE**
February 20-24, 2019
-  **HOUSING & MEALS**
Call the Mission Department at 601-973-9125 to help with missionary hospitality.
-  **EVANGELISM TRAINING**
Friday and Saturday (2/22-2/23)

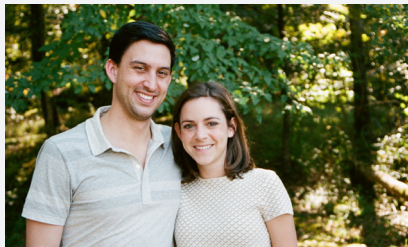
Missionaries of the Month



Dale & Susan Ellison – Serving in administration and church planting with Christian Missionary Society in Trujillo, Peru. Email: daleellison@perumission.org



Way & Amy Rutherford – Serving as Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Email: wayrutherford@gmail.com.



Taylor & Matt Peaster – Serving as Reformed University Fellowship Intern at the University of Memphis. Email: taylor.byrd@ruf.org



Mr. & Mrs. William H. – Serving with SIM in Africa.

Mr. & Mrs. F. – Serving as Church-Planters in Central Asia.

Professor H. – Serving with Mission to the World in Asia. Professor H. researches and develops curriculum that can be used in many situations by believers around the world.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE | by Ralph Kelley

New Year, New Epistle

Welcoming the new year with a new publication and a thank you.

Happy New Year! Welcome to the new version of *The First Epistle*. Starting with this month *The First Epistle* will move from a weekly publication to a monthly edition. We hope to still get you the same important information each month as you have been receiving. You will notice a more full calendar. This calendar is designed to be easily detached so you can have a resource to refer to throughout the month.

You might be wondering why we would make this change? There were several factors that went into the change. As the staff was examining the content of *The First Epistle*, we realized many weeks we would run the same upcoming event promotions. So you were often reading things multiple weeks in a row. We as a staff are continuously looking for ways to be better stewards of the resources you provide. There is a significant cost savings to be realized by moving this to a monthly publication. It is our hope that you will take time to read and enjoy *The First Epistle* each month. Mary Ball serves as the editor of *The First Epistle*. Both Mary and I would love to hear your feedback about the new product.

The January edition is coming to you in the middle of the month because of the holidays, but you can expect upcoming issues to reach you before the new month begins to give you plenty of time to prepare for what is coming.

On a financial note, we don't have the full numbers for December, so look for that information soon, but we want you to know that we finished 2018 approximately \$60,000 in the black. We are thankful to the Lord for his provision.

As the new year begins, I am particularly grateful for our faithful staff. I recently realized that as of the first of this month Hellen Powell, our Assistant Nursery Coordinator, has been employed at First Presbyterian Church for 41 years! That is an incredible achievement. Her faithful service to the parents and children in this church is commendable. She has done a wonderful job leading the nursery all these years. If you see Hellen, please take a moment to thank her for her service, and encourage her as she continues her important work here.

Pray for One Another

Mr. and Mrs. Matt (Catherine) Glover

Ms. Connie Gore

Mr. Jerome Gore

Mrs. Annie Graeber

Miss Beth Graeber

Mr. De Graeber

Mr. and Mrs. Buddy (Frenchie) Graham

Mr. Connor Graham

Mrs. Doris Graham

Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Merideth) Graham and family

Dr. and Mrs. Matt (Cassie) Graves and family

Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Lisa) Greaves, Sr. and family



Stewardship 2019

We can plan more gospel ministry with your commitment. If you have not turned in your stewardship commitment card, you may place it in the offering plate during worship services. You may also pledge electronically on our church app. Click on "Giving," then "Pledge." To date, we have received 410 stewardship commitments for a total of \$4,386,246.02 and 36 Capital Projects & Improvements commitments for a total of \$70,822.00.

Session Minutes and Financial Information



Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Session Of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

Monday, December 10, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.

Finance Report Finance Committee

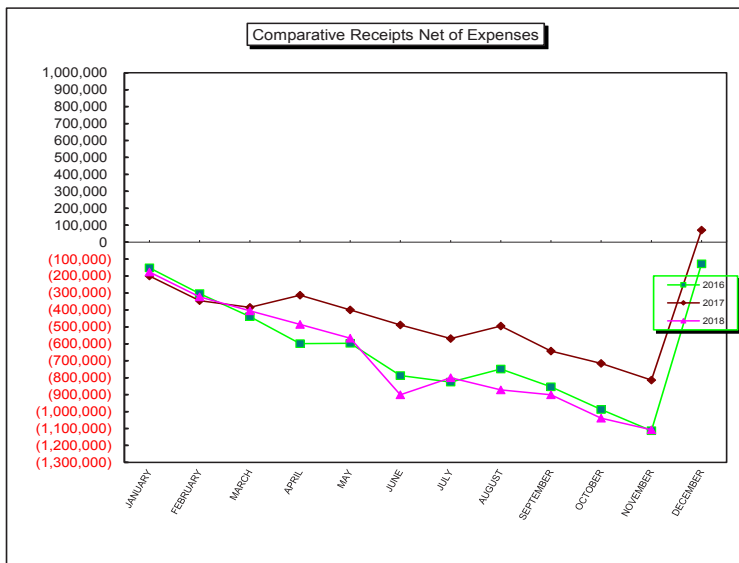
Our Operating Account is \$(520,358.29) as of 11/30/2018. Our Capital Contingency Fund Account has a balance of \$273,984.11. This account is for the maintenance of church property. For the month of November 2018, we had the following receipts and expenditures:

RECEIPTS:		EXPENSES:	
Freewill Offerings	\$ 123,305.57	Operating Expenses	\$ 120,380.82
Plate Offerings	2,806.34	Administration Expenses	324,176.17
Tithes & Offerings	391,338.70	Twin Lakes	8,840.84
Interest Income	805.81	Denominational Giving	7,671.85
Misc. Income	15,827.38	Worship	10,413.30
ACTUAL INCOME	534,083.80	Women & Children	4,880.02
BUDGETED INCOME	567,798.00	Young Adults	1,022.74
		Discipleship Ministry	4,211.62
		Congregational Care	2,929.38
		Mission & Outreach	5,827.51
		Students & Families	7,813.21
		Benevolence	83,310.93
		ACTUAL EXPENSES	602,311.72
		BUDGETED EXPENSES	567,798.00

November 2018 Expenses over Receipts	\$68,227.92
Year-to-Date 2018 Expenses over Receipts	\$1,107,545.89

RECEIPTS NET OF EXPENSES CHART FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JACKSON MS

	2016	2017	2018
JANUARY	(151,203)	(199,589)	(176,331)
FEBRUARY	(303,446)	(345,494)	(322,518)
MARCH	(439,885)	(384,988)	(404,898)
APRIL	(598,686)	(313,095)	(485,496)
MAY	(596,447)	(399,384)	(566,435)
JUNE	(787,120)	(488,996)	(900,411)
JULY	(825,469)	(568,529)	(799,834)
AUGUST	(749,352)	(495,040)	(872,184)
SEPTEMBER	(854,128)	(642,835)	(901,139)
OCTOBER	(987,999)	(715,907)	(1,039,318)
NOVEMBER	(1,112,946)	(814,134)	(1,107,546)
DECEMBER	(128,016)	70,721	



I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

- Hunter Nicholson reported on his ministry as Young Adults Intern.

II. ACTION ITEMS:

A. CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

- A commission composed of Brister Ware, David Strain (or Billy Dempsey), George May, Craig Flowers and John Buchanan was appointed and approved for serving communion and conducting an abbreviated worship service for long-time members Bill and June Long, who are shut-in at their home.
- The Session approved a motion to refer to the Finance Committee for recommendations regarding the renewal and funding of the existing counseling contract with Biblical Counseling of Mississippi.
- The Session referred to the Congregational Care Committee for further study and for a written proposal that committee's recommendation that participation in a Foundation Class will ordinarily be a prerequisite for church membership (except for communicants).

B. DISCIPLESHIP:

The Session approved the following:

- Swayze Waters to speak at the Men's Lunch Gathering on Thursday, March 28, 2019.
- A First Pres @ Work luncheon series to be held on January 31, February 7, and February 13, 2019, with Drs. Zeb Henson, Tracy Ford and Cory Brock, speaking.
- A Men's Ministry Golf Scramble at Live Oaks Golf Course on Thursday, April 25, 2019. A portion of money collected will be a love offering to offset youth ministry trip costs for our church families.
- Chase Wynn and Jerry Shepherd as Sunday School teachers.

C. MISSION/OUTREACH:

The Session approved the following MTW recommendations:

1. Support for the Lausanne Global Council Partnership be discontinued effective April 1, 2019.
 2. Support for the Indonesia Partnership increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually.
 3. That a short-term mission trip to Cajamarca, Peru, with Peru Mission; Leaders: Danny Story and Bill Payne; 38 people; June 21-29, 2019; \$2,600.00 per person. Purpose is to encourage missionaries, Medical and Dental ministry, and VBS and sports ministry be approved.
- The following MNA recommendations were approved:
- a. Church Planting
 - a. Jegar and Jemima Chinnavan - (1) Monthly support through December 2019; (2) Make an additional one-time investment to assist them with year-end ministry expenses.
 - b. Ben and Marianna Shaw - St. Francisville, LA Monthly support for three years.
 - c. Sam and Sarah Tyson Husband - Memphis, TN - Monthly investment for one year.
2. Absent extraordinary circumstances, effective January 1, 2019, the MNA Committee will support only (i) PCA ministries or (ii) ministries that are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).
- The following Mission Conference Committee recommendations were approved:
1. Michael Sweet, Director of Ministries for Gateway Rescue Mission be approved to speak at the Men's Steak Supper.
 2. The proposed Mission Conference Schedule be approved. Please note the evening service on Sunday, February 24 begins at 6:30..
 3. That the Mission Conference Faculty be approved.

D. WORSHIP:

- The Session approved the Worship Committee's recommendations that (a) a Sunday evening service with choir and orchestra similar to the Glory of the Gospel service be scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2019, and (b) that a worship service be held on the evening of Good Friday, April 19, 2019.

E. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES:

- The Session approved the 2019 Session Committees.

F. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

- The resignations of Ruling Elders Jerry Shivers and Terry Levy were accepted with appreciation for their many years of service to First Presbyterian Church.

Don B. Cannada | Clerk of Session



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST EPISTLE

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Jackson, MS 39202-2095

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PERMIT 122

OUR BROADCASTS

TELEVISION: Sundays 10:00 a.m.

WLBT TV3 Jackson, MS and

WBIH TV Prattville, AL

RADIO:

Sundays 9:30 a.m.: WYAB 103.9

LIVE STREAM:

Ruth & Esther: There is a Redeemer and Sudden Reversals by David Strain

Commentary Review By Wes Strebeck

Ruth & Esther: There is a Redeemer and Sudden Reversals is the latest installment in Christian Focus Publications' popular "Focus on the Bible" commentary series. This book is based partly on a collection of Sunday evening sermons preached by Dr. Strain, here at First Presbyterian Church. Through exposition of the Ruth and Esther narratives, this devotional commentary draws out the key themes of God's sovereignty and unwavering covenant faithfulness

to His people. Dr. Strain's prime motivation here is to illustrate the way in which these Old Testament narratives point us to our true Redeemer, Jesus Christ, helping us to see how all of Scripture points us to Him. This is an ideal resource for Bible study and small group discussion, but would also be an excellent selection for anyone looking for a new book to supplement their Bible reading as we enter the new year.

Contact Us

SOCIAL MEDIA and INTERNET

Web Page: <http://www.fpcjackson.org>

Twitter: @FPCJxnMS

Facebook: @Firstpresjackson

Instagram: @fpcjackson

Look for the FPC app

MAIN PHONE

Phone: (601) 353-8316

Fax: (601) 326-9250

PASTORS

Senior Minister : David Strain

Executive Minister : Ralph Kelley

Music Minister : Bill Wymond

Congregational Care: Billy Dempsey

Pastoral Care : Wiley Lowry and Brister Ware

Mission/Outreach : Ed Hartman

Discipleship : David Felker

Young Adults/College : Cory Brock

FPDS Chaplain : Gary Sinclair

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Christian Education : Donna Dobbs

Students/Families : Stephen Biggs

The First Epistle is a monthly publication mailed and emailed at the beginning of the month.

Submit articles: Mary Ball, at maryb@fpcjackson.org.

Church member in the hospital, births, and deaths:

Lynn Smith at 601-353-8316.

Change of address or name: Marie Phillips at mariep@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9101.

January 2019 at FPC

Week of January 13-19

- 13 - Communion in a.m. Services
- 13 - Communicant Class
- 16 - Joint D-Groups (MH)
- 16 - Children's Choir Resumes
- 18-21 - Senior High Retreat



Week of January 20-26

- 20 - Baptism
- 20 - Communicant Class
- 25 - Mid-South Men's Rally

Week of January 27-February 2

- 27 - Communicant Class
- 31 - Work Lunch Series

LEGEND

- MH - Miller Hall
- SC - Study Center
- WH - Westminster Hall
- GC - Greeting Courtyard
- MS - Music Suite

Sundays at FPC

- 13** Sun. AM Strain - Colossians
Communion
- Sun. PM Sinclair - Proverbs
- 20** Sun. AM Felker
Baptism
- Sun. PM Dempsey - Proverbs
- 27** Sun. AM Hartman
- Sun. PM Lowry - Proverbs

Midweek Menus

- 16** Turkey roast
Baked sweet potato
Green bean casserole
yeast roll
Robert Redford dessert
sugar free blueberry pie
- 23** Ham
Turnip greens
Black Eye Peas
Cheese grits
Cornbread/yeast roll
Buttermilk pie
Sugar free chocolate pie
- 30** Mojo chicken taco salad
Sopapilla cheesecake
Sugar free blueberry pie

Menus are subject to change.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING

6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- 5:00-6:15 p.m. Family Dinner in
Miller Hall (MH)
- 5:30 p.m. Kids in Gym or on
Playground
- 6:30 p.m. First Forum (MH)
D Groups
Electives
Children's Choir

Circle Bible Studies

Monday, January 14

- CIRCLE 2 Marian Kennedy
10:00 a.m.
Home of Deanne Stephenson
102 Oakridge Trail, Flowood
- CIRCLE 3 Sam Simkins
10:00 a.m.
Home of Ann Webb
223 Eastbrooke St. II, Jackson
- CIRCLE 4 Bess Corbitt and Rebecca Redman
10:00 a.m.
Church Parlor
- CIRCLE 6 Rhonda Baird
6:30 p.m.
Home of Beth Archer
2257 East Northside Drive, Jackson
- CIRCLE 8 Janie Purvis and Jan Wade
9:30 a.m.
The Orchard
- CIRCLE 14 Susan Turner and Georgia Miller
Noon
WH 202

Tuesday, January 15

- CIRCLE 9 Karen Crawford and Grace Toler
10:00 a.m.
Church Parlor
- CIRCLE 10 Diana Howie
10:00 a.m.
Home of Nan Fulcher
2035 Heritage Hill Drive, Jackson
- CIRCLE 11 Frenchie Graham and Ruth Tant
10:30 a.m.
Home of Frenchie Graham
4005 Cabell Lane, Jackson
- CIRCLE 12 Nina Johnston and Janet Quayle
10:30 a.m.
St. Catherine's, Marian Hall



Discipleship

Faith & Work Luncheons

Men and women, join us for a luncheon series as we consider how the gospel gives meaning to our work, and how God is calling us to live faithfully as we work: January 31 with Dr. Zeb Henson on God's Design for Work, February 7 with Dr. Tracy Ford on Our Problems with Work, and February 13 with Dr. Cory Brock on The Gospel and Work. The luncheons will be held at an off-site location to be determined.

Midweek at FPC Third Quarter Adult Electives

First Pres Forum

Heaven & Hell

led by Cory Brock MH

Chinese Bible Study

led by Leo Yen

SC 210A

Compass-Finances God's Way

January 23 - April 3

led by Stuart Clarke

Contact Stuart at (601) 953-4975.

Evangelism Group

January 23 - May 1

Methodist Rehab

Contact Al Chestnut at

(601) 316-1577 or

apchestnut@gmail.com,

David Bowling at

(601) 856-7749 or

dlbowling@bellsouth.net, or

Glen Bush at (601) 842-6258 or

gbush@cctb.com.

Rooted: Cultivating a Healthy

Marriage in Union with Christ

January 16 - March 6

Led by Ed and Emily Hartman

Patterson Hall

Women's Bible Study

Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth
of Who We Are in Christ

January 16 - March 6

WH 204



Women

MOMS Bible Study From Garden to Glory - A Bible Study on the Bible's Story

Ladies, we hope you'll join us on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. beginning

January 16! The format is small groups followed by a large-group lecture led by Debbie Dempsey.

MOMS is a weekly Bible study for expectant moms, those who hope to become moms, and those whose youngest child is in the sixth grade or below. A nursery is available, but space is limited. Please contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

Crafts for Missions

Crafts for Missions will meet on February 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2019 in SC 211, 9-11:00 am. Ladies please join us as we make a Christmas ornament for our missionaries. No special skills required. Nursery is available only by request by contacting Cheryl Crawford (clcrawfor@aol.com). For more information please contact Sharon Teh (601-946-1517).

Sewing Retreat

Come to Twin Lakes for a sewing retreat (February 8 at 3:00 p.m and ending on February 9 at 3:00 p.m.)

-Registration is open until Feb. 1.

Space is limited so sign up early!

-\$10 registration fee may be paid to the church at the retreat.

-You may work on your own project or work on quilts for disaster victims. Fabric for the quilts will be provided by the church Sew and Sow group, but if you have cotton fabric to donate, please bring it to the retreat. -Bring overnight gear for your stay at Twin Lakes, your sewing project and machine if needed for your project, a snack to share and a salad bar item.

To register, or to ask questions, contact Debbie Dempsey or Cheryl Crawford.



Children

Vacation Bible School

If you are a member and would like to volunteer for VBS 2019, please contact Paige Burke at burkepaige32@gmail.com or 601.672.3309.

. VBS will be held June 3-7.

Men's Discipleship Guide

Men, as you consider your own plans and resolutions in the coming year, we have provided a booklet that you will find around the church on Sunday. In it, there is (1) a recommended reading section from a number of our pastors & department heads; (2) a goal section that you can tear out & make note of the little by little change God brings about in your life; & (3) a help/challenge to you in nine categories of your life (your soul, neighbors, family, failures, etc). There should be plenty around the church & feel free to grab extras for friends or neighbors that could find it helpful.



Congregational And Pastoral Care

In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

- ◇ Cory Brock - lost his grandfather.
- ◇ Cindy Davis - lost her mother also Evana Bock's grandmother.
- ◇ Phillip Parker - lost his father.

Interested in Joining FPC or in Scheduling a Baptism?

Contact Lilly Foerter at 601-973-9117 or ccare@fpcjackson.org

Turn in forms to join the church by January 20. New members are received February 3.

Sign up for baptism by January 14. Next baptism is January 20.