

# The First Epistle

Volume 52 / Issue 3 / March 2019



*Midweek*  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**“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

## Midweek Opportunities

**Fourth Quarter Electives begin March 20**

### First Pres Forum

The Cross of Christ  
*led by Dr. Mike McKelvey, RTS*  
*Associate Professor of Old Testament*

Dr. McKelvey will lead us through reflecting on a theology of the cross of Christ, its history, its meaning and purpose, its details, and its power. What is the triumph in the midst of ultimate tragedy? What does God see and say when he looks at his only begotten Son hung upon this Roman cross? Why is this man lifted up on this cross, the center of world history?

*Miller Hall*

### Compass–Money & Marriage

*April 10 - May 22*  
*led by Stuart Clarke*  
Sign up by calling Stuart at  
(601) 953-4975.  
WH204 A

### Chinese Bible Study

*led by Leo Yen*  
SC 210 A

### Engaged & Newly Married Study

Topics will be those that are often included in premarital counseling (conflict, communication, intimacy, money, in-laws, etc.) and will be taught by a handful of gifted people, including pastors, counselors, and other professionals. Please register by emailing [youngadults@fpcjackson.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcjackson.org) by March 11.  
WH202

### Evangelism Group

*led by Al Chestnut, David Bowling, and Glen Bush*  
See details on this inside this issue!  
*Methodist Rehab*



## Men's Ministry

### Men's Ministry Lunch Gathering

March 28

A lunch gathering will be held with speaker, Swayze Waters, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Central Mississippi Area Representative. He is a kicker and punter in the Canadian Football League. He played high school football at Jackson Prep and college football at University of Alabama Birmingham. No advanced registration required.

### Men's Ministry Golf Scramble

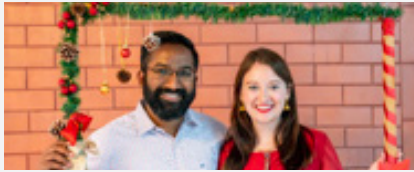
April 25

Men's Ministry Golf Scramble at the Live Oaks Golf Course in Flora, MS, on Thursday, April 25. Tee times will be in the afternoon with a dinner served in the late afternoon or early evening. Part of the money collected will be given as a love offering to offset youth ministry trip costs for our church families. More info to follow.

## Missionaries of the Month



**Aaron & Rachel Halbert** – Serving as church planters with MTW in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Please pray for:  
 our numbers to grow from new conversions!  
 - Faithfulness in present duty and that there would be joy in the little things.  
 - Wisdom about having teams come down and when that should happen and how often.  
 Email: honduranhalberts@gmail.com.



**John & Kelley Beth** – Serving as church planters with Mission to the World in South Asia. For more information, please contact the Mission Department. Please pray for:  
 - Our rest in Christ.  
 - Clarity on to our future in respect to church planting.  
 - A vibrant, Christ-honoring marriage as we look forward to welcoming our daughter home next year, Lord willing.

**Gateway Rescue Mission** – Gateway Rescue Mission has offered meals and shelter to the poor and homeless of Jackson since 1948. Please pray that:  
 - Their staff might have unity and right priorities in their ministry.  
 - They would have “open hearts” for their guests that come to them for help.  
 - People would come to Christ.  
 Email: info@gatewaymission.org



**Elliott & Carrie Everitt** – Serving as a campus minister with RUF at Mississippi State University. Please pray for:  
 - New partners in ministry, especially alumni.  
 - The student leaders as they lead small group Bible studies and various ministry teams  
 - Their weekly large group meetings.  
 E-mail: elliot.everitt@ruf.org.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE | by Billy Dempsey

## Why I Love Shepherding



I love to think and talk about shepherding because my family and I have been well shepherded ourselves. From my earliest days with RUF, my family and I came under the care of Mark Lowrey and Bebo Elkin.

When I started with RUF in the fall of 1983 as a part-time intern at Belhaven, Mark had recently moved to Atlanta to take up his duties as the first denominational coordinator for Reformed University Ministries. To oversee the work in Mississippi, Mark recruited his long-time friend Bebo Elkin, then principal of Presbyterian Christian School in Hattiesburg. During their student years at RTS, Bebo and Mark had hammered out the principles that shaped RUF into a distinctly Presbyterian ministry. Along the way, they created an ethos of care for staff and their families that was truly life-giving.

So, what did that shepherding look like?

• **Demonstrated Interest** – When possible in the life of a growing organization like RUF, Mark and Bebo created or took advantage of opportunities to spend time around us. Their interest in knowing us apart from work communicated their sense that we were important over and above what we contributed to RUF.

• **Communicated Priorities** – Bebo and Mark always emphasized to us campus ministers their commitment to what was best for our families. Of course, we all had work to do, but we campus ministers were all young men with young families who were prone to spend long hours with

students and not much time at home. Bebo reminded me pointedly on more than one occasion that my family needed me more than students did. He and Mark both could have driven all of us to spend more hours on our campuses. But their commitment was to what was good for us and our families. A slick ministry on the campus wasn't worth the price of our wives and children. What was best for them and us mattered most. Debbie, for one, will always be grateful for their commitment to our family's well-being.

• **Fostered Hospitality** – Bebo and his wife, Jan, made sure whenever possible that we were in their home and around their family. In addition to the many Saturdays I was there changing the oil in my car, or doing something similar, there were times when all the campus ministers were in town for staff training. At least one dinner during that week was held at Bebo and Jan's home. At those times, we all learned the immense value of hospitality, how to do it, and we got to see the broad outlines of a balanced family life. Debbie and I were soaking it all in. We needed models desperately, and Bebo and Jan taught us a great deal just by living around us and including us.

I'm indebted to Mark and Bebo for many things. Their care for the Dempseys is just one of those things. As I think about what we're trying to accomplish now with a shepherding role for our elders and deacons, I'm grateful all over again for these two men and their families, and the fingerprints they've left on our hearts.

## Pray for One Another

Mrs. Samuel (Anne) Habeeb and family  
 Miss Anna Claire Hacskaylo  
 Mrs. Karen Hacskaylo  
 Mrs. Frank (Mary) Hagaman  
 Mr. and Mrs. John (Julia) Hall and family  
 Miss Carolina Hall  
 Mr. Jon Hall

Miss Sylvia Hall  
 Rev. and Mrs. Ted (Mary) Hall  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Hamm  
 Mr. Jeff Hamm, Jr.  
 Mrs. Nelle Hamm  
 Mrs. Jan Hammett  
 Mr. Andrew Hammond

# Financial Information



## Finance Report

Finance Committee

Our Operating Account is \$542,982.43 as of 1/31/2019. Our Capital Contingency Fund Account has a balance of \$307,561.79. This account is for the maintenance of church property. For the month of January 2019, we had the following receipts and expenditures:

### RECEIPTS:

Freewill Offerings	\$ 62,430.82
Plate Offerings	855.09
Tithes & Offerings	337,930.99
Interest Income	1,143.32
Misc. Income	18,226.74

**ACTUAL INCOME 420,586.96**

### EXPENSES:

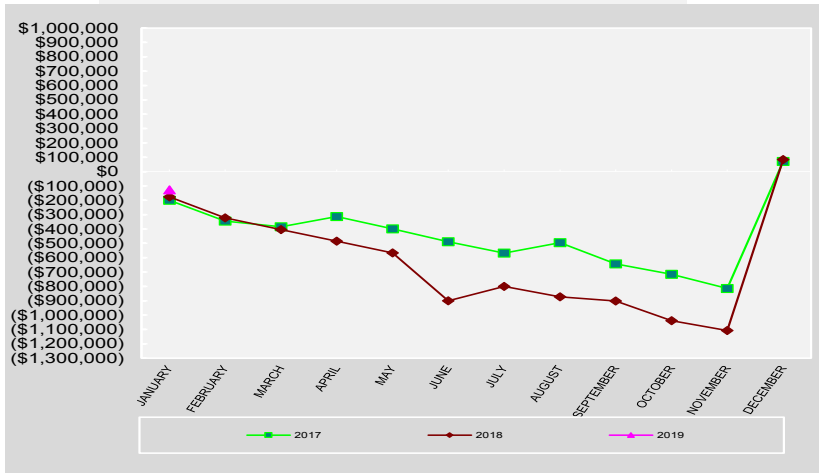
Operating Expenses	\$ 94,282.54
Administration Expenses	287,418.78
Twin Lakes	8,840.84
Denominational Giving	7,671.85
Worship	8,526.36
Women & Children	3,540.83
Young Adults	2,609.63
Discipleship Ministry	3,779.18
Congregational Care	3,678.61
Mission & Outreach	928.53
Students & Families	21,057.19
Benevolence	85,310.93
<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>548,478.60</b>

**January 2019 Expenses over Receipts \$127,891.64**

**Year-to-Date 2019 Expenses over Receipts \$127,891.64**

### Comparative Receipts Net of Expenses

	2017	2018	2019
JANUARY	(\$199,589)	(\$176,331)	(\$127,892)
FEBRUARY	(\$345,494)	(\$322,518)	
MARCH	(\$384,988)	(\$404,898)	
APRIL	(\$313,095)	(\$485,496)	
MAY	(\$399,384)	(\$566,435)	
JUNE	(\$488,996)	(\$900,411)	
JULY	(\$568,529)	(\$799,834)	
AUGUST	(\$495,040)	(\$872,184)	
SEPTEMBER	(\$642,835)	(\$901,207)	
OCTOBER	(\$715,907)	(\$1,039,318)	
NOVEMBER	(\$814,134)	(\$1,107,546)	
DECEMBER	\$70,721	\$83,691	



# Session Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.

## I. SPECIAL ORDER:

· On motion duly made and seconded, the Session approved the rescheduling of the February 3, 2019, new members meeting to February 10, 2019, and the rescheduling of the March 11, 2019 Session meeting to March 18, 2019.

## II. ACTION ITEMS WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

· The minutes of December 10, 2018 were approved.

### B. CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

· A wedding on May 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, with reception away from the Church, was approved.  
· The Congregational Care Committee recommendation that the contract with Biblical Counseling and Training Ministries be renewed for ten months through December 31, 2019, was approved. As set forth in the report of the committee, counseling services will be provided at a sliding rate scale based on ability to pay.

### C. MISSION/OUTREACH:

· The following MTW Committee recommendations were approved:

1. That a short-term mission trip to Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 13-27, 2019 led by Kevin and Mary Lowry Vollema and Ed and Emily Hartman, to include up to twelve college students/young adults plus the leaders at a cost of \$2,800 per person, was approved.

2. That the presentation "Standing with the Church in China" be added to the Mission Conference schedule on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in Miller Hall.

3. That flags from the countries where First Presbyterian Church has supported missionaries and ministries be displayed in the Sanctuary from February 10-24, 2019.

· The following MNA Committee recommendation was approved:

1. That a one-time investment to Counseling Services Foundation (CSF) from the church-planting funds of the MNA.

### D. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

· The Session approved the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee to authorize the Moderator to appoint a Capital Campaign Committee for the following purposes:

1. To interview and recommend to the Session the retention of a capital campaign consultant who would (a) conduct a study to determine the feasibility and capacity of a capital campaign for the Gymnasium/Classroom Project; and (b) oversee such capital campaign (if such a campaign is authorized). [The Diaconate would approve the engagement of the recommended consultant, the terms of the engagement, and the source of payment of the consultant at a subsequent meeting of the Diaconate.]

2. To work with and give oversight to the capital campaign consultant in the administration of the capital campaign (if such campaign is authorized).

3. To be authorized to retain such administrative person as may be necessary for the work of the Capital Campaign Committee for the capital campaign for the Gymnasium/Classroom Project.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE FIRST EPISTLE

1390 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39202-2095

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

JACKSON, MS  
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:

[fpcj.ms/livestream](http://fpcj.ms/livestream)



## Marriage Seminar

### Side by Side Marriage Weekend Seminar

*April 12 & 13*

Join us for our Side by Side Marriage Weekend Seminar on Friday night, April 12, and Saturday morning, April 13, here at the church in Miller Hall. Our weekend will include large-group teaching sessions with Pastor Nate Shurden, break-out speakers, as well as time to fellowship with other couples. Whether you are newly wed or in your golden years, if you would rate your marriage a 9 out of 10 or you are in the dark night of your marriage, or somewhere in between, this weekend is for you!

Register online at [fpcjackson.org/church-life/marriage](http://fpcjackson.org/church-life/marriage). Registration cost includes dinner, breakfast, and seminar sessions. Nursery is available for children age four and younger by request at registration. Early Bird Registration by March 25: \$45/couple. Regular Registration by April 8: \$65/couple. Please email [discipleship@fpcjackson.org](mailto:discipleship@fpcjackson.org) with questions or for more information.

## 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

### MINISTERS

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

Women/Children	Donna Dobbs
Students/Families	Stephen Biggs

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

**Submit articles:** Mary Ball, at [maryb@fpcjackson.org](mailto: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](mailto:mariep@fpcjackson.org) or (601) 973-9101.

# March 2019 at FPC

## Week of March 3-9

- 3 - New Members Presented
- 3 - Evening Communion
- 8-10 - Young Adults Mission Weekend

## Week of March 10-16

- 10 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 - No Midweek Activities or Dinner

## Week of March 17-23

- 17 - Baptism
- 17 - Foundations Class begins

## Week of March 24 - 30

- 28 - Men's Ministry Lunch Gathering
- 29 - Senior Adult trip



## Sundays at FPC

- 3 Sun. AM Strain  
Sun. PM Strain - Communion
- 10 *Daylight Saving Time*  
Sun. AM Lowry  
Sun. PM Sinclair
- 17 Sun. AM Strain  
Sun. PM Strain
- 24 Sun. AM Strain  
Sun. PM Strain
- 31 Sun. AM Strain  
Sun. PM Strain

### LEGEND

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

## Midweek Menus

- 6 BBQ Pulled Pork  
Corn Pudding  
Cole Slaw with Cider Vinaigrette  
Broccoli Salad  
Limeade Pie  
Sugar-free Blueberry Pie
- 13 Spring Break  
No Midweek Dinner
- 20 Enchilada Casserole  
Mexican Rice  
Refried Beans  
Chips/Cheese  
Tres Leches Cake  
Sopapilla Cheesecake  
Sugar-free Chocolate pie  
Kids: pizza
- 27 Upside Down Shepherd's Pie  
Roasted Broccoli  
Yeast Roll  
Kids: Hot Dog

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. Midweek 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, March 11

- CIRCLE 2 Marian Kennedy  
10:00 a.m.  
Home of Becky Iverson  
2631 Lake Circle, Jackson
- CIRCLE 3 Sam Simkins & Sara Margaret Johnson  
10:00 a.m.  
Patterson Hall
- CIRCLE 4 Bess Corbitt & 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 & Jan Wade  
9:30 a.m.  
The Orchard

### Tuesday, March 12

- CIRCLE 9 Karen Crawford & Grace Toler  
10:00 a.m.  
Church Parlor
- CIRCLE 10 Diana Howie  
10:00 a.m.  
Home of Joy Cannada  
4110 Sandridge Drive, Jackson
- CIRCLE 11 Frenchie Graham & Ruth Tant  
10:30 a.m.  
Home of Frenchie Graham  
4005 Cabell Lane, Jackson
- CIRCLE 12 Nina Johnston & Janet Quayle  
10:30 a.m.  
St. Catherine's, Marian Hall

### Monday, March 18

- CIRCLE 14 Susan Turner & Georgia Miller  
Noon  
WH 202



## Foundations Class

### Spring Foundations Class

The spring Foundations Class begins Sunday, March 17, at 9:40 a.m. in room M133 (across from the bookstore) and runs through Sunday, April 28. This class is for members and visitors who want to know more about our church and its ministries, our denomination, Presbyterian doctrine and beliefs, church history, and church government. To sign up, please email Caleb Blake at [calebb@fpcjackson.org](mailto:calebb@fpcjackson.org).



## Young Adults

### Mission Weekend

Young Adults Mission Mississippi Weekend is March 8-10. Contact [youngadults@fpcjackson.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcjackson.org) if you want to get involved.



## Senior Adults

### Day Trip to McClain

Senior adults, join us Friday, March 29, as we take a trip to McClain General Store & Restaurants.

Activities will include lunch, shopping opportunities, and a wild animal safari! We will meet in the Belhaven St. parking lot at 10:15 AM, depart by 10:30, and arrive back at the church by 3:30 PM. Cost will be \$50, with the cost of lunch included.

To register, please contact Lilly Foerter at (601) 973-9117 or [ccare@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ccare@fpcjackson.org).



## Mission and Outreach

### Evangelism

**YOU ARE INVITED TO: "Go into your neighborhood and talk to people about Jesus"**  
**Mark 16:15 (Paraphrase)**

Beginning February 27, for eight weeks, the Evangelism Group will visit patients at Methodist Rehabilitation Hospital on Wednesday evenings. You will be paired with veteran trainers and visit rooms pre-selected by a nurse: to encourage, pray with patients, and share the gospel. We begin at 6:15 p.m. in the lobby of Methodist Rehab. We pray, review, or learn a simple gospel presentation, visit patients, and leave the hospital by 8:15 p.m.

Contact: Al Chestnut (601-316-1577) [apchestnut@gmail.com](mailto:apchestnut@gmail.com);  
David Bowling (601-953-7970) [dlbowling@bellsouth.net](mailto:dlbowling@bellsouth.net);  
Glen Bush (601-842-6258) [gbush@cctb.com](mailto:gbush@cctb.com).

### Name Tags

If you ordered a name tag 4-6 weeks ago, look for it in the Greeting Courtyard by the Sanctuary.



## Congregational and Pastoral Care

### In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

- ♦ The family and friends of Bill Crim.
- ♦ Allyson Bays in the death of her mother.
- ♦ Hellen Powell (Nursery staff) in the death of her brother.
- ♦ The family and friends of Bob McDonald.
- ♦ Dot Weathersby in the death of her sister.
- ♦ Tony Geiger in the death of his father.
- ♦ Doug Garland in the death of his mother.



## Congregational and Pastoral Care

### Welcome to Our Fellowship

Abhishikth and Patricia Babu  
(associate members)  
5422 Clinton Blvd #F-1  
Jackson, MS 39209

Sara Brantley  
116 St Ann Street  
Jackson, MS 39202

Steve and Traci Brock  
136 Caledonian Blvd  
Brandon, MS 39047

Miles and Tori DeBardeleben  
21 Eastbrooke St  
Jackson, MS 39216

Molly Garner  
159 French Branch  
Madison, MS 39110

Mark, Fran, and Laura Nabholz  
102 Winding Hills Drive  
Clinton, MS 39056

Rob Pyron Jr.  
2241 Southwood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211

Andrew Russell  
809 Fairview St  
Jackson, MS 39202

Hannah Tait  
716 Rice Road #1205  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

### Welcome to Our World

Woods Noble Kendrick  
born January 15  
to Sarah and Guin  
Grandparents  
\*Jim and \*Nancy Bateman

Samuel Montgomery Meenan  
born January 31  
to \*\*Christina and Billy

Jack Wilson Wiley  
born February 1  
to Rachel and Preston  
Grandparents  
\*Laura and \*Vic Blaylock

\*FPC members

\*\*Former Mission Administrative Assistant