

The First Epistle

Volume 53 / Issue 3 / March 2020

Fill It with Love

Women's Ministry Spring Service Event

March 31, 2020 | Miller Hall | 10:00 – 11:30



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You are invited to come for a morning of service as we enjoy **Stuffing diaper bags (made by Sew & Sow) for Center for Pregnancy Choices, Filling ziplock bags for items helpful to our neighbors at Gateway, and Assembling casseroles for the residents of the Mustard Seed.**

If you would like to join us for this event, you may register by emailing lisao@fpcjackson.org. Please be sure to include the name and age of any children requiring nursery spots.

In preparation for this event, we are collecting the following items:

Center for Pregnancy Choices

Size 1 diapers, sippy cups, and bottles

Gateway Rescue Mission

shampoo, men's deodorant, and men's XL socks

Drop off items in the white bin by the information desk.

Missionaries of the Month

Trey & Kiki A – serving with MTW. Please pray for direction and provision as they return to a country where they were threatened.

Virginia Y – serving with IXO in China. Please pray:
- For safety and discernment as Virginia makes decisions to expand her ministry.
- Coronavirus – for the people who have it and for those who do not have surgical face masks available (there is a shortage).



Samuel and Sara Tyson Husband – serving with Covenant Presbytery as church-planters in Memphis, TN, with their children – Sam, 7, and Luke, 5. Please pray:
- For new friends for them and the boys
- For them as they host gatherings in their home
- For God's favor in new relationships and for several non-believing friends
- For 30 new individual/family supporters in the coming months



Lee and Diane Hutchings – serving with Grace Presbyterian Church as a church planter/organizing pastor of Trinity Church PCA in Canton, Ohio, with their son Harper (6). Please pray:
- For the continued spiritual growth and establishing of Trinity Church PCA
- That they would continue to focus on Christ and His glory, and not their own needs
- For fostering a deeper relationship with their community and the surrounding area

Pastor's Perspective

YOUNG ADULTS UPDATE

by Cory Brock

Let me update you on two big happenings in the world of the young adults at FPC. First, on January 24-25, nineteen young adults along with Malcolm Saxon and Steve Brock went to Greenwood to serve on a mercy ministry trip at Delta Streets Academy for the second year in a row. Delta Streets was started under the vision and leadership of T-Mac Howard. T-Mac, his wife Megan, and their three boys are members at Westminster PCA in Greenwood.

In 2012, Delta Streets opened as a full-time school with fourteen boys in seventh and eighth grade and met on the fourth floor of First Baptist Greenwood after existing as an after-school program for a few years prior. Today, Delta Streets has its own property in downtown Greenwood and has about 80 boys enrolled. They are MAIS accredited, compete in 1A MAIS sports, and have open, year-long enrollment for any boy coming from an at-risk neighborhood. They have no tuition and exist entirely on the support of Christians and other philanthropists throughout the U.S. The mission at DSA is beautiful: "Delta Streets Academy equips young men by providing Christ-centered, disciplined education."

We went to help them with an important project. They have plans now to build an elementary school and gymnasium out of an old Canon dealership in Greenwood. We had two days of hard work, clearing out thousands of pounds of lumber and metal, hauling off old goods to other charitable organizations, and making ready the space

for construction. It was a sweet time of hard work, fellowship with old friends and new, and doing a small part to be on board with the mission of DSA. Mercy ministry is often the fastest vehicle to an opportunity to speak the words of the Gospel into the lives of people who have deep, felt needs. And this trip reminded all of us that there is much space for giving ourselves in deed ministry. Check out DSA here: www.deltastreetacademy.org/our-history. Pray for them.

Second, on Feb. 14-16, forty-five young adults went to Twin Lakes for our second annual retreat weekend. Our retreats are a meeting place between focused reflection on a domain of the Christian life and the combo of rest and play. This year's emphasis was on navigating relationships in all the aspects of life: honoring parents, true friendship, practical principles of healthy marriage, respecting employers, relating to non-Christians, and understanding relationships in materially poor communities. On top of worship and teaching, we just spent good time together, eating, praying, walking in the woods, reflecting on our year, and tossing the frisbee.

These are both two of our more important events throughout the year and we give thanks that both were places that many found time to commune with the living God and renew their faith in Christ.



Session Minutes and Financials



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.

I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

· Charles Marchman was introduced and gave a report on his work and ministry as Students and Families Intern.
· Stephen Biggs was introduced and gave a report and request for volunteers for the Pray for Me Campaign.
· Eric Green and Joseph Wan, students at Reformed Theological Seminary, were introduced as attending this Session meeting for the purpose of fulfilling their Presbytery requirements.

II. SPECIAL ORDER:

The Session voted to go into executive session (with all Teaching Elders being invited to remain) to discuss certain church discipline issues referred by the Church and Member Relations Committee and actions to be taken with respect to such referrals. Dr. Strain facilitated the discussion. Following such discussion, the Session voted to come out of executive session.

III. ACTION ITEMS WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

· The minutes of December 9, 2019 were approved.

B. CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

· A wedding scheduled for April 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with the reception away from the Church, and with Dr. Cory Brock and Rev. David Felker officiating, was approved.
· A wedding scheduled for June 6, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with the reception away from the Church, and with Dr. J. Ligon Duncan and Rev. David Felker officiating, was approved.

C. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

· The Session approved rescheduling the April 2020 Session meeting from April 13 to April 7 due to a scheduling conflict with Twin Lakes Fellowship.
· The Session approved the employment of William Stabler as an intern in the College Ministry effective May 2020.
· The Session approved a new Discipleship Ministry intern position.

Pray for One Another

Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Sara Margaret) Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill (Frances) Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Carey (Nina) Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher (Amanda) Johnston and family
Mrs. Hamp (Bonnie) Jones and family
Miss Carolyn Jones
Miss Karen Jones
Miss Margaret Lee Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Dee (Lucia) Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Zeb (Jo) Jones
Mr. Philip Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew (Laura) Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Rob (Gail) Jones
Mr. Ryan Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Heath (Kristi) Jordan and family
Miss Julia Jordan
Mr. and Mrs. Robin (Edie) Jordan

Finance Report

Finance Committee

Our Operating Account is \$644,007.09 as of 1/31/2020. Our Capital Contingency Fund Account has a balance of \$351,834.20. This account is for the maintenance of church property. For the month of January 2020, we had the following receipts and expenditures:

RECEIPTS:

Freewill Offerings	\$	535.00
Plate Offerings		2,781.12
Tithes & Offerings		383,975.20
Interest Income		4,334.06
Misc. Income		16,337.20

ACTUAL INCOME **407,962.58**

EXPENSES:

Operating Expenses	\$	155,544.95
Administration Expenses		289,400.55
Twin Lakes		8,840.84
Denominational Giving		7,671.85
Worship		10,471.62
Women & Children		4,971.47
Young Adults		2,634.46
Discipleship Ministry		9,912.63
Congregational Care		-3,541.98
Mission & Outreach		2,026.95
Students & Families		14,433.57
Benevolence		73,167.42
ACTUAL EXPENSES		596,367.66

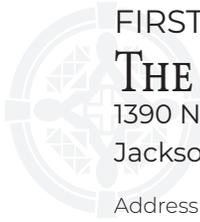
January 2020 Expenses over Receipts **\$188,405.08**

Year-to-Date 2020 Expenses over Receipts **\$188,405.08**

In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

- ◇ The family and friends of Dr. Jim Baird.
- ◇ Jo Lynn Mayfield in the death of her mother-in-law.
- ◇ The family and friends of Joyce Truitt Cooper.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST EPISTLE

1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202-2095

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U.S. POSTAGE

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JACKSON, MS
PERMIT 122

“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

Nancy Guthrie Conference in Pictures

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



Contact Us

SOCIAL MEDIA and INTERNET

Web Page: www.fpcjackson.org
Twitter: @FPCJxnMS
Facebook: @Firstpresjackson
Instagram: @fpcjackson
Look for the FPC Jackson 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.
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.

March 2020 at FPC

Week of March 1-7

3/1 Preaching: Mission Conference Guests a.m. and p.m.



Week of March 8-14

3/8 Preaching: Lowry (a.m.) and Hartman (p.m.)
3/11 No Midweek Dinner or Services for Spring Break

Week of March 15-21

3/15 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Dempsey (p.m.)
3/15 Baptism (a.m.)
3/18 Midweek 4th Quarter programming begins

Week of March 22-28

3/22 Preaching: Dempsey (a.m.) and Brock (p.m.)

Week of March 29 - April 4

3/29 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Strain (p.m.)
3/31 Women's Service Event

Midweek Menus

4 Grilled pork chop **GF**
Crowder peas **GF**
Mashed potatoes & gravy **GF**
Green beans **GF**
Bread
Kids: corn dogs

11 Spring Break

18 Korean Beef bowl **GF**
Choice of steamed rice or
brown rice/quinoa blend **GF**
steamed broccoli **GF**
salad bar **GF**
Kids: pizza sticks

25 Greek chicken **GF**
Squash casserole **GF**
Spanikopita
Tomato-cucumber salad **GF**
Bread
Kids: corn dogs

All items marked with "**GF**" are gluten free meaning that these items do not contain wheat nor contain seasonings with wheat. Please remember that these items have been prepared in a kitchen that also prepares menu items that do contain gluten. If you need clarification of ingredients or preparation practices, please do not hesitate to ask our church hostess, Elizabeth Bush.

Communicant Class 2020





Discipleship

Midweek 4th Quarter

For more information please visit fpcjackson.org/midweek.

Midweek is an opportunity to break from your usual weeknight routine and to join our church family for a refreshing evening of fellowship and spiritual formation between Sundays. Our meal, 5:00 to 6:15, is a casual time with families and friends gathering at a table together to share a meal. After supper, at 6:30, we have programs available for all ages.

Our fourth quarter Midweek programming begins March 18.

Midweek Schedule

5:00-6:15 PM	Midweek Dinner
5:00-7:30 PM	Nursery Available
5:50-7:00 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:00-7:30 PM	Jr High Small Groups
6:30-7:30 PM	Adult D Groups
	Adult Electives
	Children's Choirs
	Sr High Small Groups

First Pres Forum // 4th Quarter

**The Christian and Technology
March 18 - April 29
Led by John Fesko
Miller Hall**

We live our lives and use technology on a daily basis, but in what ways is technology shaping and changing us? Are we unknowingly being conformed to the patterns of this world rather than being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:1-2)? This series encourages us to take a careful look at the way that we use technology to ensure that we do so deliberately, thoughtfully, and carefully. Each week we will consider a different technology, including: screens, social media, cars, the book, virtual reality, and the internet.

Dr. Fesko has taught at RTS Atlanta since 2000 while he served as a pastor in Northwest Atlanta and now as Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at RTS Jackson.



Circles

MONDAY, MARCH 9

CIRCLE 2 Marian Kennedy
10:00 a.m. – home of Beth Crasto
4030 Dogwood Drive, Jackson

CIRCLE 3 Sam Simkins
10:00 a.m. – home of Ann Webb
and Cindy Davis
223 Eastbrooke Street, #11, 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 Lounge

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

CIRCLE 9 Karen Crawford and
Grace Toler
10:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

CIRCLE 10 Diana Howie
10:00 a.m. – home of Martha Smith
5350 River Thames Road, 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
Sun Room

MONDAY, MARCH 16

CIRCLE 14 Susan Turner and
Georgia Miller
12:00 Noon – WH 202



Women's Ministry

Crafts for Missions

Crafts for Missions will continue to meet on Tuesdays in March to craft an ornament for the missionaries supported by FPC Jackson. We will be meeting in room 213 on the second floor of the Study Center from 9-11 am. Please come as you can. A nursery can be provided upon request. No special skills are required. For more information, please contact Sharon Teh at 601-946-1517.



Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School Mission offering for March will be designated toward building a playground in a refugee camp in northern Iraq for children displaced from their homes (in Iraq) by the Yazidi genocide. FPC supported missionaries John and Yvette live in the refugee camp and have requested help with this project as part of their ministry to these children and their families.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date!

Registration for VBS opens April 1. Go to fpcj.ms/vbs to register your children and Teen Helpers. Register by May 11 to ensure a free t-shirt.

FPC adult men, women and teen members are needed to serve in a variety of areas both before VBS and the week of June 1 – 5, 2020 from 9:00-11:30. Contact VBS Director, Cassie Graves, at cgraves7@gmail.com or 601-624-1987 if you would like to volunteer.



Support Group

Support Group

If you are struggling with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to get together with people who share the same struggles, we have a small and very safe group that meets regularly for just that purpose. This discreet, weekly meeting is one of friendship, encouragement, and biblical reflection. Personal anonymity is very important at this meeting. For more information, please call or text 601-260-1636. Also, twice each month a group of those who have loved ones who struggle with addiction/alcoholism meet for a time of mutual encouragement and Christ-centered counsel. Anonymity is required. For more information concerning the place and time of these meetings, call or text 601-260-0388.