

# The First Epistle

Volume 55 / Issue 1 / January 2022

## A NEW YEAR BEFORE THE THRONE

BECOMING A  
PRAYING CHURCH

**2021 — 2022**  
Churchwide Teaching Theme

### Opportunities Inside

Bible Studies, Service committees,  
Programs for adults and kids, Mission Conference,  
and more!

# KNOW THE TRUTH

**SATURDAY SEMINARS**  
for Maturing Your Faith

**WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

**JAN. 8** 8:15 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.  
BRUNCH INCLUDED

Truth is an elusive concept in our world, but for the Christian it need not be. We have been given the truth. Scripture is God's Holy Word to us. He was gracious to cause it to be written, and we can run to it for answers to life's questions. There is not my truth and your truth — there is only His truth, the truth.

Jesus tied our growth as Christians to our growing knowledge of the truth. He prayed "father, sanctify them in the truth. Your word is

truth." Sanctification — growing in Christlikeness — doesn't happen by osmosis. It happens when we know and assimilate biblical truth.

There is a hunger at FPCJ to "go deep" and to grapple with unanswered questions, to fill in the gaps in our understanding, and to build a wider, deeper, clearer vision of the teaching of God's Word. With this in mind, we have planned a series called "Know the Truth: Saturday Seminars for Maturing Your Faith."

Our first seminar is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, and will address the question, "What is the Bible?" We will cover the inspiration, inerrancy, authority, clarity and sufficiency of the scriptures. The seminar will also be held March 26, August 20, and October 15.

To register, email Beth Threadgill at [betht@fpcjackson.org](mailto:betht@fpcjackson.org) or call the church office at 601-353-8316 before Tuesday, January 5. Bring your Bible and an appetite to learn!

## Save the Date

### Mission Conference

March 2-6, 2022

Look for opportunities to host missionaries, pray, attend services, and more to follow.



# This New Year, Reinvest in the Work of the Church.

The church is God's  
"Plan A" and there is  
no "Plan B."

As we reflect on the year behind us and look forward with expectation to 2022, let us also consider the ways we can contribute anew to the worship and work of the church. "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord," and, as Paul reminds us in Ephesians, it is from Christ at the head of the church that the whole body of believers works together.

We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

In a sermon at FPC on July 30, 2017, Dr. Ligon Duncan spoke about how God uses each of our unique gifts to accomplish His work. He wants us to grow together, alongside one another:

The church is God's "Plan A" and there is no "Plan B." You are God's plan for witnessing to His reign and rule in this world. You are God's plan for responding to what's happening in this crazy culture. You are the plan. And the ministers and all of your elders are here to pour into you so that this happens. That's what Jesus gave you [your gifts] for, so it's obviously very important in your life and in the life of this congregation. God has given this congregation good gifts for 180 years. Don't take that for granted. Understand what it's for. Be encouraged by what He has given you as a member of this congregation and then be ready to give to one another.

At FPC Jackson, we are fortunate to have so many opportunities for serving others, studying God's word, and growing together. No church can operate without all the parts—all the "joints" of the body—working together. This New Year, take a fresh look at the unique gifts God has given you and consider how best to use them to love the church and advance His Kingdom.

## Serve

### VBS — June 6-10, 2022

Contact Christy Ketchum [christyketchum78@gmail.com](mailto:christyketchum78@gmail.com)

### Children's Sunday School

Contact Kimberly Wilkins [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org)

### Children's Wednesday Night Choir

Contact Genneysa Case [gdcase@comcast.net](mailto:gdcase@comcast.net)

### International Partners Fellowship

Contact Steve Edwards [alice5176@aol.com](mailto:alice5176@aol.com) or 601-668-7422

### 2022 Mission Conference

Contact Jo Lynn Mayfield [missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org](mailto:missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org)

### Crafts for Missions

Contact Sharon Teh 601-946-1517

### Sunday Morning Nursery Greeters

Contact Gena Dear [genad@fpcjackson.org](mailto:genad@fpcjackson.org)

### Worship Service Greeters

Contact Billy Dempsey [bdempsey@fpcjackson.org](mailto:bdempsey@fpcjackson.org)

## Study

### Women's Bible Studies

#### MOMs Bible Study – Wednesdays from 9-11

Contact Joanna McNeel [moms@fpcjackson.org](mailto:moms@fpcjackson.org)

#### Women's Thursday Morning Bible Studies

Contact Lisa Oswalt [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org)

### Men's Bible Studies

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.

### Midweek

Discipleship Groups, Women's Bible Study,  
Foundations Class, & Prayer Meeting

### Know the Truth: Saturday Seminars

January 8 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



# GLAD TIDINGS

## According to the Gospel of Luke

Sunday Evenings at 6 p.m. | Luke 1-4

The Gospel of Luke may be the Gospel with the deepest roots in our hearts. From our earliest days until now, we love to hear the Christmas story from the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. But sometimes, in hearing or reading those familiar and heart-warming words, we forget just how powerful and radical the announcement of Christ's birth is. Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays beginning January 2, for a new Sunday night sermon series on the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel.

## Welcome to Our World

William Lee (Liam) Crim IV  
born November 22  
to William and Kelly  
Grandparents Bill and Stacie Crim

Jack "Scheller" Lamb  
born November 24  
to Stewart and Sarah  
Grandparents Jeff and Lisa Lamb

Thomas Aurelius Sanduleac  
born December 12  
to Paul and Lizzie

# PARENTING SEMINAR

JAN

5

5:15 – 7:30 PM  
MILLER HALL



WITH  
DAVID  
THOMAS  
LMSW

Join us Wednesday, January 5, from 5:15 - 7:30 p.m. in Miller Hall as we spend time focused on godly parenting with David Thomas. Childcare is available for children sixth grade and younger. **Register online at [fpcj.ms/parenting](https://fpcj.ms/parenting).**

David is the author of seven books including *Are My Kids on Track* and *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. David co-hosts the *Raising Boys & Girls* podcast and has become a sought-after speaker on nurturing boys as he travels the country speaking during the year. He is raising a daughter, twin boys, and a feisty yellow lab of his own.

*The First Epistle* is a publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi.  
Mary Ball, Editor; Margaret McPhillips, Communications Director; Jenny Sanders, Creative Director

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# MSMR

## MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

DR. DEREK THOMAS