

The First Epistle

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BACK COVER

Midweek: Missions in May

The First Epistle is a publication of the
First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi.

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Welcome to Our World

**Louis Critchlow
McDaniel**

born November 17

to Doug and Mary Grace

Grandparents Doug and Anne McDaniel

Lucy Elizabeth Pyron

born March 22

to Rob and Caroline

Grandparents Doug and Anne McDaniel

"Samuel" Harrison Turner

born April 7

to Nigel and Charity

Grandparents Lloyd and Elise Turner

Great grandmother Elsie Sturtevant



VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



Register Today!

We have the great privilege of talking to God, and we know that He hears us. But we don't just pray with our "wishlist" as if it's our birthday and we're asking for presents. As believers, our prayers include:

Adoration

Who do we pray to?

Confession

What have we to ask forgiveness for?

Thanksgiving

What are we grateful for?

Supplication

What are we asking for?

Join us June 6-10 as we learn how we ought to Call Upon God. You may register your child or Teen Helper at www.fpcj.ms/vbs. Children who are registered by May 10 are guaranteed a t-shirt.

We Need the Whole Church for VBS!

VBS WORKSHOP DAY | May 4

Come fellowship as we prepare for VBS by getting craft items ready by sorting, packaging, labeling, etc. No crafting skill is required. Email christyketchum78@gmail.com for more details.

CRAFT DONATIONS NEEDED

VBS Crafts department is collecting the following items from our church body:

- colorful buttons
- fun stickers
- pipe cleaners
- any kind of leather string or jute

Drop donations off at the collection bin near the Info Desk.

OTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDS

VBS would not happen each year without the amazing volunteer effort that goes behind it. It is a wonderful time to see the whole church body working together to teach our covenant children the truths of the gospel! Whether you are 17 or 70, we have a place for you at VBS! We need:

- table teachers (who guide children to their various activities and encourage them with their scripture memory verses)
- craft volunteers
- song leaders & accompanists
- general floaters
- cooks
- artists

Email christyketchum78@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer.



Twin Lakes

Summer Camp on the Horizon

Closing Twin Lakes Camp 2021 a week early due to Covid was upsetting for everyone involved, but it was heartening to watch the staff take so many curveballs throughout the summer and give their all to help further the Kingdom. Many lives were touched through the power of the Word of God. 1536 campers and 141 LITs walked alongside our staff as they rejoiced in the goodness of the Lord and His daily provision of grace.

Studying Exodus as our Bible program was fitting. With so many unknowns and unforeseen situations, we often felt like the Israelites wandering through the wilderness, wondering what might happen next. We compared God's provision, protection, and mercies to the

manna God gave His people in the desert. One of our counselors reflected, "The biggest way I experienced growth was through dependency and faith in the Lord . . . I know I left the summer with an increased reliance on the Lord." What a unifying experience, walking through the summer, completely relying on the Lord for everything!

As we finalize plans for this summer's camps, we would greatly appreciate your prayers. Our Bible program will focus on what God tells us about our hearts through the early life of David. We invite you to join us in learning our Bible memory verses—Psalm 51:10-13. Please pray

that the Lord would soften hearts to His Word and draw more of His children into the kingdom of grace. The Lord has used Twin Lakes to grow multiple generations of campers, LITs, and staff in their faith and character. We pray that will be the case for years to come. Pray for the summer staff that the Lord would strengthen and uphold them. Pray for the full-time staff as we celebrate and thank Mark Magee for his thirty-two years of service as Executive Director. Pray for the transitions coming. Thank you for your prayers for and support of Twin Lakes Camp. We are grateful and honored to serve such a special ministry so dear to our hearts.



Children at Twin Lakes Camp building relationships and sharing Christ, trying new activities, learning new skills, and having a blast!



Graduating Class of 2022

The Student Ministry honored the graduating class of 2022 at the annual Senior Dinner, Monday, April 4, 2022. Help us congratulate these high school seniors:

**Whit Anderson
Caleb Baird
Benjamin Bays
Gibson Brown
Will Burnham
Andie Flatgard
Molly Garner
Worth Hewitt
Jane Hurst
Annie Jicka
Jeffrey Jordan**

**Lewis Knotts
John Laws
Barnes Lowry
Ashley Mason
Ben McBride
Riley McCoy
Evelyn Mills
Lampton Moore
Landon Murin
Wynn Oakley
Madeline Page**

**Walker Poole
Caroline Redman
Taetum Sinclair
Carter Smith
Olivia Smith
JT Thigpen
John Tyson
Lydia Waters
Deanna Wilbourn**

Support Mission First OASIS After School Program

Sixty Bibles are needed for Mission First's after school program, OASIS. Our bookstore can order the requested New International Readers Version for \$3.50 each, so we are looking for

donors to contribute funds toward this purchase. Donations totaling \$210 will meet this need. To give, contact Jo Lynn at jolynnm@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9128.



25 Years of the FPC Internship Program

Training in Calling, Character, and Competency

You see them all around First Pres — on Sunday mornings and evenings, at conferences, funerals, weddings, youth retreats, and mission trips. They bring eagerness to learn, willingness to work, and often sport beards and glasses! Who are they? The interns at FPC. In each facet of FPC life, interns serve the church body as they learn what it means to minister under the guidance of our staff. Twenty-five years ago, then Senior Minister, Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III asked the Session to formalize the program which originally blossomed under John Reid Miller and Don Patterson when RTS was established in 1966.

What began in 1997 with four interns has since served dozens of

ministers of the gospel. In 2014, when David Strain was called as senior pastor, part of his ministry was to continue training and equipping the FPC Interns for future ministry. Dr. Strain's desire is for the principles of 'Calling, Character, and Competency' to be the focus and the motivation for the program.

Dr. Duncan speaks of the four wins of our program and says "The intern program has a major return on investment."

The first win is for the intern himself who gains experience in a healthy church and is given the opportunity to observe and assist with multiple ministry opportunities. Donna Dobbs mentions

that one of her interns, Nate Shurden, learned some very practical things that help him even now as he pastors in Franklin, Tennessee. During planning committee meetings for a couples' retreat, Nate learned two important lessons: how to share the duties of an event and that to entice the men to attend there should be fire and meat.

The FPC Elders have played a vital role for the interns over the years. They have served as mentors, confidants, prayer partners, and part of the means of discipleship (often over lunch).

The local church scores the second win since these students come to each congregation with their many talents and great energy.

“Seminary students begin their education with all the same talents that they are later known for in ministry. The intern program gives the church an opportunity to recognize and benefit from these talents and gives the student a forum to use them,” says Duncan.

Gary Sinclair, our pastor who currently oversees the program, strives to see ‘Calling, Character, and Competency’ worked into meetings and discussions.

“At the end of the day, we want men who are robustly trained in theology. However, every generation of the Church needs men who are living their theology and know how to apply the richness of the Gospel to the people God has entrusted to their care with compassion, constantly pointing them to Jesus Christ,” says Sinclair.

A third win from church-based intern programs is realized by RTS. Former intern, Guy Richard is now president of the Atlanta campus of RTS and says “[the intern program] has impacted every area of my ministry over the last 20 years. It allowed me to apply the things I was learning as a student at RTS under the watchful eye of one of the pastors on staff. It helped me to develop a philosophy of ministry and to experience opportunities that I wouldn’t have been able to otherwise... For that reason, I am seeking to replicate my experience for the students at RTS in Atlanta. I want them to benefit in all the ways that I did during my time at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson.”

And finally, there is a huge win for the future church. The churches and ministries that these men will serve in for the rest of their lives benefit from their time as interns. But without the support, experience, and friendships interns gained while at FPC, opportunities for further education and mission work would be

limited. Dr. Nick Reid served as an intern to the Senior Minister and said, “From a human perspective I would not be able to serve the Lord in the ways that I am were it not for His gracious provision. The Lord used scholarships, jobs, and several families, one in particular, at FPCJ to help us pursue my calling to train future pastors and academics.”

After seminary, Reid earned his PhD at Oxford University and currently serves as Professor of Old Testament and Ancient and Near Eastern Studies and as the Director of the Hybrid MDiv Program at Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando. Other former interns currently serve as church planters around the globe, pastors in local churches, RTS presidents and professors, RUF ministers, and more.

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“Special relationships develop between interns and members of the congregation. Often when an intern teaches a Sunday school class, members of that class continue to invest themselves in that man and his family during his time at RTS,” relates Duncan.

Blair Reid, wife of Nick Reid, fondly recounts the church family at FPC: “Transient folks can often be overlooked/not truly enveloped in the community. This was not the case for us. We knew our time in Jackson was likely for only a season, yet we were welcomed, loved, and included.”

The lessons and love shared with and by the interns over the past 25 years reverberate in churches and ministries around the world. And the men you see in our halls as interns today will go out soon to the church worldwide. Pray for them, invest in them, get to know them and their families, and praise God for the blessings we all receive from the intern program at FPC Jackson.

Pictured Left (Left to Right)

Front Row: Kevin Phipps, Wiley Lowry, Sean Morris, Tony Doggett, Wes Strebeck, Pete Whitney, and Brad Mills; Second Row: Stephen Biggs, James Robbins, Caleb Cangelosi, Kelly Jackson, David Felker, Bill Wymond, and Jonathan Hunt; Third Row: David Groendyk, David Strain, James Ritchey, Jason Wegener, James Post, and Wesley Rule; Fourth/Fifth Row: Rob Hill, Kevin Vollema, Billy Dempsey, Daniel Tortorici, and William Skinner

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AT THE SAME
TIME, PRAY ALSO
FOR US, THAT GOD
MAY OPEN TO US A
DOOR FOR THE WORD, TO
DECLARE THE MYSTERY
OF CHRIST, ON ACCOUNT
OF WHICH I AM IN
PRISON—THAT I MAY
MAKE IT CLEAR,
WHICH IS HOW I
OUGHT TO SPEAK.

COL. 4:3-4

MISSIONS IN MAY

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

ADULTS' SCHEDULE

MAY 4 — "LOVE YOUR CITY" WITH WILEY LOWRY
MAY 11 — NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR JACKSON
MAY 18 — MISSION FIRST REPORT
MAY 25 — FAMILY FUN NIGHT WITH MISSION FIRST

KIDS' SCHEDULE

MAY 4 — SHOWER POWER
MAY 11 — UKRAINE
MAY 18 — NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTIAN CENTER
MAY 25 — FAMILY FUN NIGHT WITH MISSION FIRST



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Midweek
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH