

First Presbyterian Church
117 S. Pearl St., Natchez, MS 39120
601-442-2581 fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

THE LINK ~ JUNE, 2018

From the Pastor:

A young child who was learning the Lord's Prayer wanted to say the prayer by herself at bedtime. She began this way: "Our Father, who art in heaven, how do you know my name?"

Yes, she had some of the words wrong. But what a profound question she asked. Her experience of God is growing. She is probing the meaning not only of what it is to pray but also of what God has to do with her life.

God commands that we teach the children and give them opportunities to experience God in their lives. I give thanks for the generation of children now at First Presbyterian who are learning and growing in the faith.

Life together in the church calls all of us to continue maturing in *our* knowledge and understanding of God as we practice traditions of our faith -- worshiping together, reading Scripture together, praying together, and hearing calls to serve Jesus Christ.

In worship and Bible study, we open the way for the Holy Spirit to lead us. We learn the stories, the songs, and the beloved biblical figures. We learn how God calls us to live in the world, what God has done in the past, what God is doing now, and what God has in mind for the future.

In prayer, we learn to live in dialogue with God every day.

In the activities of practicing our Christian faith, we grow and in turn help our children to grow. Please pray that together we may be blessed to know ever more fully the love of God in Jesus Christ -- and to nurture the faith growth of our children.

Every day giving thanks to God for you and your faith,

Joan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, June 4

Noon Worship Ministry meeting-church library

Thursday, June 7

5:30 a.m. Coordinating Council meeting-church library

Monday, June 11

5:30 p.m. Session meeting-church library

Monday, June 18

5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting-church library

GENERAL INFORMATION

Community Outreach

Natchez Children's Services meets the second Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. in the church library.

The Festival of Music Board meets the second Thursday of each month from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Westminster Room in Stratton Chapel.

Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. On Sunday, May 27, Owen Rice, one of the scouts in the troop, was awarded the Eagle Scout status.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

If you have volunteered to be an usher or greeter at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, you will be receiving a call soon to be placed on the schedule. Greeter/ushers soon will have new ID badges to wear on days they serve.

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

Lectionary Bible Study

You are invited to join Rev. Gandy every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the church library for a lectionary Bible study.

Noon Prayer Group

This group meets every Tuesday at noon in the Prayer Room of Stratton Chapel. All are encouraged to come each week, or as you are able, to pray for our church, members, friends and community, and to share prayer concerns with each other.

Wonderful Wednesdays, June 6, 13

5:15 p.m. Supper

6 p.m. Program

Wonderful Wednesdays continues for two more weeks. On June 6, you are invited to attend a special program by Sharon Rouse. On June 13, Joan McLemore will be guest speaker. After June 13, the Wednesday programs will break for the summer, resuming with an exciting fall lineup. Be watching for more information on that!

Vacation Bible School

FPC will once again partner with Jefferson Street United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. VBS—Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity—will be Monday, June 11-Thursday, June 14, from 9:30-11 a.m. Registration forms can be picked up in the church office. Just fill out the form and *return it to Jefferson St. UMC*. Join the adventure!

MISSION MINISTRY

Haiti Mission Trip

This year, the Haiti Mission trip will be June 3-10. The team members are Dr. Charles Borum; Dr. Leslie England; Naomi Hayes, RN; Sia Dulam; and Sami Dulam. Sia and Sami are the teenage children of Dr. Vik Dulam and Dr. Vidya Kamalapur. Everyone on the team is from Natchez. This group will provide medical care for three days in the slum area of Cite Soleil, Haiti, and for two days in Germaine, Haiti.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26

7 a.m.—Men's Prayer Breakfast

Beginning June 5, Gwen Washington will be cooking one of her famous hot breakfasts for the prayer group on *the first Tuesday of each month*.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26

2 p.m. For location, contact Sue Ann Wilt (601-445-2242)

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for infants through 4 years old from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services!

For older children, Children's Bulletins, along with activity bags are provided during worship services. Just leave the bags in the pews at the end of the service.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children meet for Sunday School each week at 9:15 a.m. They also meet during Wonderful Wednesdays for supper and Bible activities. A nursery is provided for infants and toddlers.



The Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the church library. Teens also meet for Bible Study and activities each Wednesday night following 5:15 supper.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

On Sunday, June 3, you are invited to a *kitchen-wedding shower* and covered dish luncheon, honoring Jennifer Graves and Jonathan Borum. Join us in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. Be sure to bring your favorite recipe, your favorite kitchen gadget &/or your best kitchen tip to share with Jennifer and Jon (and, of course, your favorite covered dish for lunch). Come and celebrate the marriage of Jonathan and Jennifer, as they begin their new journey in life!

BIRTHDAYS

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| June 2 | Elise Mophett |
| June 4 | Sherry Hanson |
| June 7 | Mary Ann Spell |
| June 10 | Butch Brown |
| | George Rutherford |
| June 21 | Everett Washington |
| June 22 | Ginny Benoist |
| June 24 | Charles Hall |
| June 30 | Will Godfrey |



PLAYSCHOOL

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

If you would like to volunteer to read to the children, please contact Aretha Davis, Playschool Director (601-445-0700).

Friday, June 8

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Playschool Fun Day

The Playschool Fun Day will begin in Fellowship Hall with a Puppet Show for the children and continue with a cook-out and games on the playground. Families and friends are invited. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Aretha. Volunteers are always welcomed.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

"...Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done and let her works bring her praise at the gates." ~Proverbs 31: 29-31

The Presbyterian Women are going to be busy this summer. On Wednesday, June 20, we will hold our Mother-Daughter Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a time to honor all the women in our families who share our love for God and one another. All ages are invited: mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters.

At the Mother-Daughter Luncheon, we will collect the Birthday Offering. Benefitting from this year's Birthday Offering will be *Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health* near Tegucigalpa, *Solar under the Sun* and *Living Waters for the World*. More information is available in the January/February issue of Horizons magazine, or on the Presbyterian Women website presbyterianwomen.org.

This year's AL-MS Conference is June 13-15, 2018 at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Jackson MS. It is not often that the conference is held so close to Natchez, so everyone is encouraged to attend. This is a three-day event with many interesting programs, as well as a chance to network and share fellowship with other Presbyterian Women. For more information, contact Barbara Colwell or Pam McDonald.

2018 is the 30th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Women. We have been discussing some ideas on how to celebrate this anniversary and would like your input. A planning session will be scheduled in the near future. Anyone wishing to help with this, please contact Barbara Colwell.

Wednesday, June 6

9:30 a.m. PW Coordinating Team meeting

Tuesday, June 12

10:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle (contact: Sue Ann Wilt)

Noon Ruth Circle (contact: Pam McDonald)

Wednesday, June 20

11:45 a.m. Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Rev. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Victor Zurck, Music Director
Deon Buford, Sexton
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Shirley Greene, Financial Secretary
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator

EPC OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2018

Chuck Borum, Sarah Carey, Mary Jo McNerney,
Anne Vidal Willet

Class of 2019

Rosemary Hall, Bobby Meason, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2020

Hal Hicks, Leigh Anderson, Phyllis Mashburn, Ken Andermann

DEACONS:

Class of 2018

Jon Borum, Diane Hammers, Esther Jeffus

Class of 2019

Sandra Burkes, Denise Seale, Sarah Smith

Class of 2020

Edie Christian, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington