

First Presbyterian Church
117 S. Pearl Street
(Mailing address: 400 State Street)
Natchez, MS 39120 601-442-2581
fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net www.fpcnatchez.org
THE LINK ~ FEBRUARY, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

A recent Wednesday evening Immerse Bible study turned the group to a question often asked by the faithful: Why aren't there miracles today like the ones we read about in the Bible? The truth is -- there are! And the discussion led the group to that conclusion.

The miracles we often overlook today are so commonplace that they no longer seem like miracles. In the third chapter of Acts, the disciples in their call to spread the gospel find a crippled man at the gate of the temple. He begs there and expects the two disciples who approach him, Peter and John, to give him a few coins. What they give him instead is healing of his body in the name of Jesus Christ.

The man stood up. He danced and he leaped for joy. Of course, a crowd gathered to see him. They knew him, watched every day as someone carried him to that spot by the door where he could beg for money. No one had dreamed he could be healed!

Peter was quick to let the man and the crowd that gathered, know that he and his companion were not the healers. It was God in the name of Jesus Christ.

We church people today have ideas about evangelism that run a broad range of definitions. But this we know: telling others about the gospel of Jesus Christ happens when we speak and when we act. Here is an excellent example in the Bible of how a kind and merciful deed attracts the attention of others and indeed brings many of them into the fold of Jesus Christ. Read the story in Acts 3!

Our final Sunday in January included the beautiful scripture in chapter six of the prophet Micah that reminds us what God calls us to do: "do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Peter through the power of Christ in the Holy Spirit makes new disciples. We can see ourselves and our world in this story found in the third chapter of Acts. And we can hear God's instructions to us as people of faith in the words of Micah.

People today yearn and do not know why or for what they yearn. Do you know someone like that? Can you suggest the gospel story as a place where they may find answers? Look for miracles; and then wait to see the leaps of joy.

God be with you as you spread his holy word by your life and your love.

Joan

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Thursday, February 2

5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting in the church library

Monday, February 13

4:45 p.m. Finance Committee meeting in the church library

5:30 p.m. Session meeting in the church library

CHURCH STAFF MEETINGS

Mondays, February 6, 13, 20, 27

10 a.m. Church staff meeting in the library

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesday, February 7

7a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 8

10 a.m. Rebekah Circle in the Parlor (Lessons 5 & 6)

WORSHIP

The FPC officers ended the month of January with an inspiring Saturday retreat. We are all so grateful for each and every one of you. Spreading the good news of FPC is on the overall agenda!

We are beyond grateful to each and every one of you worshipping with us in our beautiful Sanctuary AND online! Worshipping together is an incredible way to start the week and we are always happy to see your smile in person.

The Lenten season is quickly approaching, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Please join us for worship, communion, and the imposition of ashes on Wednesday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m.

Cara Moody, Worship Chair

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday communion service will be at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, February 22. There will be imposition of ashes for those who wish to participate. All are welcome.

DEACONS

The deacons are busy planning the upcoming year. If you see any needs, please contact the church office (601-442-2581) or one of our deacons. We have a TLC member every month that will be available to help.

PROPERTY

We hope everyone will notice the change in the lights in Stratton Chapel. They have been changed from a neon white to softer warmer bulbs more in keeping with the age of our building.

If you look up to the square lights in the Sanctuary around our beautiful chandelier, you will see that they, too, have been changed to the warm bulbs to match the bulbs in the brass chandelier. This change will shed a warmer, softer glow to our already glowing worship service.

Catherine Ratcliffe, Property Chair

EVANGELISM

Over the past year, as a result of some creative initiatives by several members of FPC, the Photo Gallery in Stratton Chapel has hosted more and more visitors. The visitor experience is at its best when there is a person to welcome the visitor and give a brief overview of the collections and basic information about how to enjoy the experience. If you would like to volunteer to serve for a block of time as a docent in the Photo Gallery, please contact Pam in the church office or Rosemary Hall. They would be glad to help you schedule a convenient time to serve. Not only would you be serving one of FPC's important outreach missions, but it really is fun to interact with the visitors.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Lane Feltus and Marc Doyle, Co-Chairmen

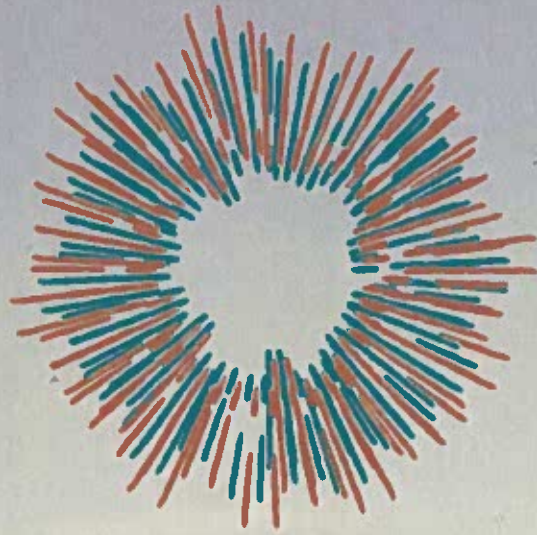
THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Please join us Saturday, February 18, at 12 noon in the Sanctuary for a performance by The African Children's Choir.

This choir melts the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles, beautiful voices and lively African songs and dances. The "Just As I Am" tour combines traditional hymns with African cultural sounds and a stunning visual story of God's faithfulness.

Concerts are free and open to all. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support African Children's Choir programs, such as education, care and relief and development programs.

Music for Life (the parent organization for the African Children's Choir) works in seven African countries such as, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. MFL has educated over 52,000 children and impacted the lives of over 100,000 people through its relief and development programs during its history. By focusing on providing education, MFL's purpose is to help Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow.



JUST AS I AM HYMNS TOUR



AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR™

Live in concert

**Saturday,
February 18, 2023
12:00 pm**

Natchez, Mississippi

First Presbyterian Church of Natchez
117 S Pearl St
(601) 442-2581

AFRICANCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women have been busy in January. Our monthly Rebekah Circle met, continuing our study Celebrating Sabbath. That theme was emphasized at our January Luncheon with a program, "Power of Pause," presented by Leigh Anderson and Dana Dent. The end of the month was highlighted by the Annual PW Winter Retreat in Gallman, Mississippi, attended by several FPC members.

In February, PW will hold its annual fundraiser—a Rotel Chicken Spaghetti casserole sale. Orders for \$20 and \$35 should be made to the Church office by February 1. Pick-up will be February 12 and 13. Proceeds are to be used for various PW projects throughout the year, including our Senior Citizens Christmas project. Your participation by purchasing a casserole is greatly appreciated.

A reminder: On Wednesday, February 8, Rebekah Circle will meet at 10 a.m. in the church parlor, covering lessons 5-6.

Sandra Burkes, PW Moderator

It's time for the PW Annual Rotel Chicken Casserole Sale! All casseroles will be made during the week before February 13 and frozen. *Orders must be submitted to the church office on or before February 1* with checks made payable to Presbyterian Women and be picked up after church on February 12 or between 10 a.m.-12 noon on February 13.

_____ 9" X 13" Casserole - \$35 each _____

_____ 6" X 9" Casserole - \$20 each _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____



Presbyterian Women held their annual Winter Retreat, Camp Wesley Pines, on January 27-28. Among those attending from FPC were Leigh Anderson, Phyllis Mashburn, and Helen Smith.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Please pray for these ministries.

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets Mondays at 7 p.m.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings; anyone interested in attending is welcome!

Adult Children of Alcoholics meetings: ACOA meets every Tuesday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. Anyone interested in attending is welcome!

The Natchez Book Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Parlor on the fourth Monday of each month. This month's meeting is February 27.

FPC's Stewpot Service Fellowship will serve lunch at the Stewpot this month on January 22. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Marcia Hall, Nicole Harris, or the church office. Many members also deliver Stewpot meals throughout the month.

The Mat Pilates Class, led by Sandra Burkes, meets in Fellowship Hall from 8:30-10 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes are free and open to all. Bring your own mat. For more information, contact Sandra at 662-816-5459.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 2 **Sarah Freeman**
- February 4 **Jim Ball, Sharon Goodrich**
- February 6 **Summer Thompson**
- February 17 **Katie Borum**
- February 19 **Latta Ratcliffe, Scott Hanson**
- February 20 **Chuck Borum, Marley Jane Borum**
- February 21 **Barbara Colwell, Jen Borum**

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2023: Lane Feltus, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe
Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Ken Price, Ryan Sharp
Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

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Sunday services: 8:30 in Stratton Chapel; 10:30 in the Sanctuary
Wonderful Wednesday: 5:15 in Fellowship Hall

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>Deadline to order PW Casseroles Noon-AA 5:15 p.m. Wonderful Wed./6p.m. Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Noon-AA</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Communion</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 a.m. Staff meeting 11:30 a.m.-Prayer group Noon-AA 7 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 a.m.-Men's Prayer Breakfast 11 a.m.-Bible Study Noon-ACOA 3:45 p.m. Worship meeting 5:30 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon-AA 5:15 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 6 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Noon-AA</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>11:30 a.m.-Pick up PW casseroles after worship service</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 a.m. Staff meeting 10-noon-Pick up PW Casseroles 11:30 a.m.-Prayer group Noon-AA 4:45 p.m. Finance Committee meeting 5:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11 a.m.-Bible Study Noon-ACOA 5:30 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 a.m.-noon Food Box distribution Noon-AA 5:15 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday 6 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of MS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Noon-AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 noon- African Children's Choir</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 a.m. Staff meeting 11:30 a.m.-Prayer group Noon-AA 7 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 a.m.-Bible Study Noon-ACOA 5:30 p.m. Handbells</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Noon-AA 5:30-Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Noon-AA</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>1st Sunday in Lent Stewpot Sunday</p> <p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10 a.m. Staff meeting 11:30 a.m.-Prayer group Noon-AA 6 p.m.-Book Club 7 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11 a.m.-Bible Study Noon-ACOA 5:30 p.m. Handbells</p>				