



The

TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

400 Jefferson Street • P.O. Box 1725 • Tupelo, Mississippi 38802 • (662) 842-5681 • www.fpc.tupelo.ms

News for June 2009

Volume 39 • No. 6

From the Pastor...

June is a good month to evaluate what is happening in worship for us and for God.

Worship services are rehearsals of the good time God has promised as destiny for the world. They are times to remember the ancient texts and to think and pray about them in a contemporary context. They are a time to sing, a time to forget about ourselves, a time to be quiet together, a time for preludes and postludes. Worship is a time to let go of the past, to receive a blessing, to be told that it is possible to go on. It is a time to learn about the core of the universe, a time to prepare for the week, a time to be in sanctuary and know we are safe inside.

Worship is a time out of time. It is time that ends one week and begins another. Without worship, the weeks get weird. In worship, we learn to press our stop key and our start key. This month evaluate your preparation for worship. Make sure God is in charge and not you.

On a different note, The Journey worship service committee is looking for a worship leader, someone who is gifted in music and worship to lead the service. This person would assist in planning and coordinating both the vocal and instrumental aspects of music for The Journey as well as to keep informed on current music methods, materials, promotion and administration. The committee was anticipating beginning this service in July, but until which time that we can find a worship leader, we will not be able to offer this service. Please be patient and if you know of someone who may fit the description above please let Richard Hastings or me know.

See you in church and bring a friend,

Tom

Information about Summer happenings at First Presbyterian Church is included in this edition of *The Tower* or check our website at www.fpctup.org

Family Gatherings

In a recent conversation with my oldest sister (84 years old), she was sharing with me about her family in Longview, Texas. She has two sons, one daughter, and a growing number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Some are graduating from high school, college, and graduate school. Some are getting married, and others have due dates to add to the “number.” My sister is included in all the gatherings to celebrate these special occasions. She talks with pride about her family and their milestones. The important thing for me is her being included in these family gatherings.

Older people often share with me about events happening in their family. Some of these occur in places too far away for the older family members to attend. This is understandable. The fact is they are invited and given the opportunity to make an informed decision about whether or not they can attend an event. Many older adults feel included just by someone in the family sharing with them about a special occasion.

Older adults in our church family also want to be included or, at least, be informed about special events in our church. For some, it is a day-to-day decision about whether they can attend. As with each of us, they want to be involved in all church activities including Sunday morning worship. It is helpful to have some understanding of their day-to-day situation which dictates an informed decision. They want to feel welcomed regardless of what they are able to do. After all, they are an asset to our family or families as all of us want to be when we reach our “golden” years. Some of us, if we admit it, are already there and are becoming more and more aware of our limited options. Like the psalmist, we pray: “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent” (Psalm 71:9).

– Ron Richardson, Pastoral Visitor

Seniors

Congratulations to our seniors who graduated from Tupelo High School on Friday, May 22.

- Emily Corban, the daughter of Steve and Cathy Corban, will attend Ole Miss.
- Kasey Clifton, the daughter of David and Jill Clifton, will attend ICC.
- Bill Dickerson, the son of Bill and Lori Dickerson, will attend Ole Miss.
- Robert Fisher, the son of Jim Fisher and Jennifer Fisher, will attend Henderson University, AR.
- Bob Henson, the son of Mitzi and Jeff Moore, will attend Ole Miss.
- Jamie Ingram, the son of Jim and Heather Ingram, grandson of Nancy Ingram, will attend Ole Miss.

- Elizabeth Johnson, the daughter of Eric and Lynne Johnson, granddaughter of Jim and Judy Armentrout, will attend Ole Miss.
- Molly Riley, daughter of Tim and Amy Riley, will attend Mississippi State.
- Alix Robbins, the daughter of Grayson and Bess Robbins, granddaughter of Tom and Susan McDonald, will attend Ole Miss.
- Will White, the son of Paul and Teresa White, will attend Auburn.

College Graduates

- Kristyn Armour, Magna Cum Laude from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology. She is the daughter of Louis and Pam Armour.
- Hannah Bruce, B. S. Environmental Engineering from Missouri Institute of Science and Technology. She is the daughter of Mike and Faye Bruce.
- Kathryn Johnson, Master’s Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is the daughter of Lisa Johnson.
- Neely Johnson, Bachelor’s Degree from Belhaven College. She is the daughter of Lisa Johnson.
- Sallie Wright Milam, from the University of the South. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Nancy Brown Milam.
- Curtis Monts, BA in Marketing from the University of Mississippi. He is the son of Mark and Helen Monts.
- Roxie Thomas, Master of Arts Degree in Dance and Choreography from the Shenandoah University’s Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia.

Preschool News

This is always an exciting time of year for the school with end-of-the-year parties and kindergarten graduation. It’s filled with mixed emotions for the children, parents and teachers. Our preschool staff deserves a big THANK YOU for another great school year, but so do the children and the congregation. The teachers say again and again that they have the best job in town, and it shows in everything they do. So, thank you to the congregation and to the parents who support this program and to the children who make it all worthwhile.

This year, twelve students graduated from our kindergarten program on Tuesday, May 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Those graduates are Haddon Anthony, Zane Brown, Mac Carroll, Olivia Hastings, Avery Kate Priest, Caitlyn Riordan, Bo Hanna Shackelford, Gabrielle Smith, Harrison Tigrett, Riley Tittle, Ty Walton and Lizzy White. Pray for them as they enjoy the summer and as they move on to new schools and classmates.

The four-year-old class entertained parents and grandparents on Friday, May 15 with songs they have learned throughout the year. They received certificates for completing four-year-old preschool. Many will return to our kindergarten program next year.

The two-year-old class enjoyed fun parties with their families as our guests.

Please say “Thank You” to our teachers this year. They are Sunny Waters, Missy Hunter, Julie Henderson, Kim Burleson, Gina Sevilla, Leigh Dozier, Dixie Sanderson and Stephanie Foreman.

Summer Sunday School

It’s hard to believe that it is time for Summer Sunday School! But, it is!

This year will work just a bit differently from previous years, so read carefully:

- **Children’s Classes** – the only real change is that the age groupings will be broader (all preschoolers together, elementary divided into two groups instead of three)
- **Youth Class** – Junior High and High School will meet together
- **Adults** – this is where it gets a bit more complicated! The Seekers, Bolton Brotherhood, Bible Study, and Young Adult classes will all continue their regular classes during the month of June. The Stewart Clayton and Thoughtful Christian classes will not meet in June. In July all of the Adult classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall for a six-week study on the Great Ends of the Church. Watch for details very soon!

Genesis Sunday is set for August 16! Yes, that is a change from our previous announcement, but this should be the final decision!

Library Lines

“We are not citizens of this world trying to make our way to heaven; we are citizens of heaven trying to make our way through this world ... We are not to live so as to earn God’s love, inherit heaven, and purchase our salvation. All those are given to us as gifts.”

– quoted in *Patches of Godlight* by Jan Karon

Well, school is out. The summer is before the members of the First Presbyterian. What should be done with an entire summer? Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “Once the mind has been stretched by a new idea, it will never again return to its original size.” Maybe we at FPC should follow Holmes’ advice and stretch our minds with new ideas by reading

books from the church library. Many academic teachers require their students to read from a summer reading list. Maybe we could exercise a little self-discipline and assign ourselves a reading list for the summer. Now, sometime we read, for an escape, books with little or no intrinsic value such as mysteries or westerns. I would like to propose something a little different. What do you think? Oh, ... well, ... uh, ...how many books would one have to read? What would one read? It seems that one book a month would not be too taxing, and I have some suggestions for possible reading lists. (Of course, these are books that I think are particularly wonderful, and there are many, many more.)

- A Peter/Catherine Marshall Reading List
 - Mr. Jones, Meet the Master*
 - The Best of Peter Marshall*
 - To Live Again*
- A Philip Yancey Reading List
 - What’s So Amazing About Grace?*
 - The Jesus I Never Knew*
 - Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*
- A C. S. Lewis Reading List
 - Mere Christianity*
 - The Screwtape Letters*
 - The Joyful Christian*
- A Jan Karon Reading List
 - One or more of the nine novels
 - The Mitford Bedside Companion*
 - Patches of Godlight* – a book of quotes
 - A Continual Feast* – a book of quotes
- A Daisy Newman Reading List
 - I Take Thee, Serenity*
 - Diligence in Love*
 - Indian Summer of the Heart*
 - The Autumn’s Brightness*

There can be reading lists for children, elementary readers, and youth. There are many wonderful children’s books in the library that take a look at God through the eyes of a child – books such as *Right Choices* and *I Wonder What I Can Give God*. Parents, I believe you would enjoy reading these to your children as much as your children would enjoy them. Older elementary students will enjoy The American Adventure series, historical novels which cover the history of the United States from the Mayflower through the depression and World War II. Youth will enjoy two books given to the library by Aubrey and Ruby Kathryn Patterson: Christopher Castile, the star of *Beethoven*, tells the story of his life as a movie star and the story of his personal faith in *Being You Is Most Definitely Cool*. *How to Get a Life ... No Strings Attached!* is a book about “the power of grace in a teen’s life.” Drop by the library. I will be working on more reading lists!

Vacation Bible School – Camp E.D.G.E.

VBS 2009 is set for June 15-19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, for children ages 3 (by September 1) -6th grade. During the week we will explore God's Word and world while enjoying a camping theme. The children will "trek" to famous Bible places while hearing about God's amazing love for us. Children should not miss this great week!

Pre-registration is strongly recommended! Why? Well, we want to make certain we have all the helpers and supplies that we need. But, mostly, we want to make certain we have enough T-shirts for those children who want them! T-shirts with our unique Camp E.D.G.E. logo are just \$10 each and will become a real favorite. Registration forms may be picked up in the Church Office, or from the VBS table in the breezeway. Forms will also be emailed to all parents.

Want to make the week a great success? Check out the VBS bulletin board for ways you can help! Volunteers are needed, as well as a variety of craft items.

Kid's Night Out!

Parent's Night Out was created to give parents that little break. Once a month, generally the third Friday of each month, FPC will host a Parent's Night Out for children (infants-6th grade). The hours are 6:00-10:00 p.m. Nursery staff will provide child care for infants and toddlers; church volunteers will provide structured activities for preschool/kindergartners and elementary-aged children.

That's how the brochure described the event formerly known as *Parent's Night Out*. Now it's called *Kid's Night Out*, and while it still gives parents a free evening, now it's all about the kids! During our most recent *Kid's Night Out (KNO)* the theme was Divas & Dudes. The boys participated in a "football camp" led by Rudy Caldwell, while the girls had "make-overs!"

Next month? Beach Party! Friday, June 19, 6:00-10:00 p.m. It is all about the beach! Pre-registration is required, so watch for details soon!

Dear Loving Hearts of Tupelo,

Our family has had so many everlasting arms to lean on during these recent days. Our hearts are full of thanksgiving. Tupelo surrounded us with so much care, enabling us to joyously think of things eternal for Bob and all of us.

We treasure each of you and please know that you hold a special place in our hearts now and always.

With love, blessings and deepest appreciation,
Rita, Buckner and Boynton Smith

Thanks!

THANK YOU to Gay Abney, Cindy Faucette, and Kathy Wallace, and to our elementary Sunday School class members who presented the roses at both worship services on Mother's Day. Thank you for perpetuating this time-honored tradition of love, respect, and admiration for our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers.

Thanks to all the fellow Presbyterians that helped me during my knee replacement. They brought food, took me to therapy and to the doctor, mowed my yard and trimmed bushes and provided books and movies.

Many thanks,
Bob Munson

With Our Thanks from Faithbuilders

To all of our children, Preschool-Grade 6, who participated in the Wednesday night Faithbuilders' program, we offer a very special Thank You. Parents, your encouragement and your efforts to have your child(ren) in this program helped to make our year a great one. Special congratulations to those children who had Perfect Attendance for 2008-09: Ana Morgan Beckham, Mamie Clark, and Larkin Robbins. Special congratulations also to those children who recited all of the memory verses for 2008-09: Mamie Clark, Abbey Hastings, Patrick Hastings, John Martin, Kathryn Martin, Eli Martin, and Larkin Robbins.

We are excited about Faithbuilders 2009-10! Watch for information arriving next month.

Youth News

Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Matthew 20:28)

June will provide the youth several opportunities to follow Jesus' example. We will have just finished building a wheelchair ramp here in Tupelo with LIFE. We will work with Habitat the week of June 7-12. Then, we'll have a chance to serve the congregation as we help with Vacation Bible School. It should be a great start to the summer.

– Forrest Foxworth - Youth Director

Caring Wheels

Caring Wheels is a group of drivers who will transport church members who need a "chauffeur." Call Nell Lamberson at 842-5623 or the church office at 842-5681.

An Evening of Dance

Roxie Thomas, daughter of Judy and Perry Thomas and granddaughter of Edith Thomas will produce an evening of dance at the Tupelo Community Theatre on Friday, July 19 at 8:00 p.m. Roxie is a recent graduate of Shenandoah University where she received a Master of Arts Degree in Dance. Dancers from Tupelo, Canada, Spain and Virginia will come together for this performance. Roxie will also utilize the talents of professional lighting designer, Christopher Ham. This multicultural dance company will perform original choreography created by Roxie over the past three years.

“I wanted to come home and share this dance concert with the people and community that have supported and encouraged me throughout the years. It is important for me to create pieces that deal with Southern culture. Works based on the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, a tribute to Elvis Presley and a piece called “Southern Suite” are among those that will be presented. Master dance classes will be offered to the youth of the community during June and July at no charge. The concert is also free with donations accepted to benefit the Tupelo Community Theater’s scholarship program.

From Our Kitchen to Yours:

Edamame Rice Bowls

Serves 2

1/2 cup brown rice
1 8-oz. bag frozen shelled edamame
1/4 cup dried cranberries
2 oz. crumbed feta
10 pitted kalamata olives, halved
3 Tbs. chopped cilantro
1 Tbs. olive oil
1 Tbs. lime juice

(to speed things along, use instant brown rice cooked according to package) Bring 1 1/4 cups water to a boil, stir in rice, and season with salt. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 45 minutes, or until rice is tender.

Bring 2 cups salted water to a boil, add edamame, and cook 2 minutes, or until tender; drain and set aside.

Toss together rice, edamame, cranberries, feta, olives, cilantro, olive oil, lime juice, and red pepper flakes in large bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

Gifts, Memorials & Honoraria

In memory of

Bob Smith

Margaret DeMoville
Robert & Chris Thompson
Buddy & Lou Ann McCarty
Buddy & Ellie Prude
Perry & Judy Thomas
Jackie Haguewood
Bill & Sarah Young

Winnie Latimer

Kirk & Teresa Biddle
Robert & Chris Thompson

Mike Martin

Kirk & Teresa Biddle

Phyllis Harper

Kirk & Teresa Biddle
Robert & Chris Thompson
Michael & Marsha Tapscott
Patsy Gray

Catherine Sadler

Robert & Chris Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Crofton Sloan

Mary Elizabeth Dickerson

Robert & Chris Thompson
Mark & Helen Monts

David Nash Jr.

Betty Nash

Presly Wallace Jr.

Betty Nash

Tucker Neely

Betty Nash

Bert Black

Betty Nash

Aileene Briscoe

Tom & Judy Billups

In honor of

Katy Bryson

Dr. & Mrs. David H. Curtis

The marriage of Breton & Amanda Phillips

Alice Rogers

The Graduating Seniors – Emily Corban, Kasey Clifton, Bill Dickerson, Robert Fisher, Bob Henson, Jamie Ingram, Elizabeth Johnson, Molly Riley & Will White

Bill & Sarah Young

Concerns

We extend sympathy to

- Darrell, Shanda, Jeremy & Joshua Chrestman on the death of Darrell's mother, Verline Chrestman, May 11

Celebration

Marriage

- Amanda Chappell and Breton Phillips, daughter of Joe and Beverly Chappell, May 9.
- William Joseph Sheffield and Sherri Anne Cody, son of Joe and Frances Sheffield, May 9.

May Visitors

Please welcome our visitors every Sunday and encourage their return. Should they desire information about our church, please direct them (if possible escort them) to the Elder of the Day after the service.

Flo Aldridge • Manuel Almunia • Jerry & Joanne Bradley
Adam Bradock • Paul Cardwell • Lynne Curtis
Laura & Mat Dover • Perry & Tucker Erickson
Chelsea & Chris Gregg • Jim & June Harris • Luke Hobson
Lock Hunter • Grady & Addison Hurley • Alex Hutcheson
Lucy Linton Jeffries • Joann Johnson • Keith, Jerri Lamar &
Emma Kantack • Svetlana Kaltchenko • Bill & Ellen Linton
Janiece Martin • Roger McCurry • K. K. McNally
Stacy Powers • Katie Reaves • Jessie Roellgen
Drew Robertson • Andrew Robbins • Jane & John Seiler
Dave, Lenea, Kourtnie & Brent Waldman
Laura Ann White • Dennis Wilson

Birthdays

June

- 1 Tricia Fields • Lucy Gratz • Mary Clair Moncrief
June Woolard
- 2 Kristin Kirksey
- 3 Shanda Chrestman • Sarah Fisher
- 4 Charlie Barber • Fayette Williams
Mary Elizabeth Williams
- 5 Emily Morris • Sarah Young
- 7 Mark Monts • Natalie Ellis
- 8 Renee Ballard • Gordon Fellows • Keith Randle
- 9 Mollie Hazel
- 11 Steve Depew • Charlie Hyatt
- 12 Glenn Thomas
- 13 Bea Lockett • Mark Ray
- 14 Mrs. Jerry Brown • Leighton Pettis • Theresa White
- 15 Richard Hastings • Laura Lackey

- 16 Nell Lamberson
- 17 Mike Gower • Ann Monaghan • Mary Ann Sneed
- 19 Buddy Stubbs
- 20 Tom Hewitt • Judy Thomas • Mary Elizabeth Arnold
- 21 Amy Gower • Ariel Owens • Holly Rogers
- 22 Ginger Mark
- 23 Tina Maxwell • Alice Rogers
- 25 Caroline Burleson • Robert Thompson
- 26 Steve Johnson • Sarah Parker
- 27 Lori Dickerson • John Kueven • Grace Stamps
Candace Hurley
- 28 Lisa Nichols
- 30 Drew Moore • Mary Stubbs

July

- 1 Maggie Kueven • Deanna Richardson
Frances Sheffield
- 2 Melanie Counce • Bill Dickerson III
- 3 Al Wallace IV

Anniversaries

June

- 1 Jim & Judy Armentrout
Charlie & Joy Hyatt
- 2 Charlie & Emily Barber
- 3 Kevin & Jennifer Martin
- 6 Bobby & Laura Lackey
- 8 Caroll & Edna Sue White
- 12 Allen & Suzanne Crow
Michael & Louise Gable
- 13 Jack & Norma Price
- 14 Jimmy & Nancy Brown Milam
Presly & Kathy Wallace
- 16 Robert & Michelle McAuley
- 19 Tim & Joanne Posey
- 21 Bob & Sheree Lence
- 23 Marshall & Sarah Jenkins
- 29 Mark & Kristen Cobb
Lawrence & Stacy Deas

July

- 3 Mike & Sha Sha Gower



Announcing VBS 2009

June 15-19 • 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Registration forms will be emailed Monday, May 4th.

Copies of the registration forms will also be available in the Church Office, the breezeway, and near the Fellowship Hall.

All children ages 3 (by September 1st)-6th grade are encouraged to participate!

want to help?

There are lots of ways to volunteer!

Contact Donita Schultz to find out more.

The Church Calendar • June 2009

On-going Events/Recurring Programs

Sundays

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Mondays

2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesdays

11:00 a.m. Mary & Martha's Bible Study
8:00 p.m. AA 12 & 12 Group Mtg/Al-Anon

Wednesdays

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursdays

7:30 a.m. Men's Meeting at Joe Joe's

Fridays

Noon Church Office Closed
A.A. 12 & 12 Group Meeting

Special Events/Programs • June 2009

Sunday, June 14 • 11:00 Elder Ordination

Wednesday, June 17 • 7:00 p.m. Session Meets

Thursday, June 18 • Shepherds Center meets at Calvary Baptist Church

Friday, June 19 • 6:00 p.m. Kid's Night Out

Sunday, June 21 • 4:30 & 5:30 Committee Meetings

Monday, June 15-Friday, June 19 • 9:00 a.m.-Noon VBS

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