



HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL SEPTEMBER 2018



WHAT'S COMING?

Keep in Step with the Spirit at FPC in a September Filled with Opportunities *Every Sunday, Every Wednesday*, and Other Special Days for You to Learn, Worship, and Serve in His Kingdom.



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

God blessed his mission *at* and *through* **FPC** in a myriad of ways in August. What a month of joyful worship, fun fellowship, dedicated discipleship (including the Kickoff of Children's & Youth Sunday School), and a new season of CCO/FPC University Ministry Team Outreach! *[See the photos above and below from our Tailgate/Rally Day Kickoff Sunday Brunch, and from our University Outreach help at MSU Move-In Saturday, Aug. 18.*

This month, though, will be even more active and filled with more potential blessings for you. I invite and urge you not to miss a September Sunday at FPC, nor a Friend & Family Wednesday, nor – frankly – any other of our special opportunities for you at FPC. Looking ahead, I simply note a few of our September celebrations:.

[Pastor's Letter continued on Page 2]



Scotland's Most Powerful Preacher, Rev. David Meredith, Headlines FPC's 3rd Annual Christian Reformed Faith & Spiritual Renewal Conference, Wed. & Thur. Night, Sept. 26 & 27, and Sunday, Morning, Sept. 30.



Following 30 years as the church-planter and pastor of what became the multi-staff, multi-worship-service Smithton-Culloden Free Church in Inverness (in the Scottish Highlands), as well as serving as Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland – Rev. Meredith since 2014 has served as (1) Mission Director for the Free Church of Scotland and (2) Chairman of Affinity, a network of Gospel-Minded Churches across the United Kingdom. We look forward to welcoming David and his wife, Gina, for their first visit to FPC and to Starkville. Plan to be with us and receive God's inspiration at our 3rd Annual Christian Reformed Faith & Spiritual Renewal Conference.

- **Wednesday, September 5** – We begin the new season of Friends & Family [see Page 8].
- **Sunday, September 9** – In our Lord's Day Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., we begin our **fall sermon series, WHAT'S COMING?**
- **Sunday afternoon, September 9, at Robinson Lake** - beginning 4:30 p.m., our **Annual (Bluegrass Band) Gospel Music Celebration & Fish Fry Dinner Fellowship.**
- **Sunday, September 16** – We welcome Drake Bassett, Executive Director of the Palmer Home for Children. Drake will give a full Mission Update at a Unified Adult Sunday School Session in Fellowship Hall (9:45-10:30 a.m.) and will give a brief address at the 11 a.m. Service.
- **Sunday, September 23** – *during our weekly Fellowship Gathering Time (10:30 – 10:50 a.m.),* come to the Eastside Breezeway for our **Annual Sip & See Brunch** and meet all the babies born to our church family in the past year.
- **Sunday, September 30** – Rev. David Meredith preaches in our 8:30 and 11 a.m. Lord's Day Services, concluding FPC's 3rd Christian Reformed Faith & Spiritual Renewal Conference.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,
Martin W. Lifer III

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Adoption Approved! We thank God and celebrate with Sonny and Patsy Stuart that their son – Kevin Ethridge Stuart, and his wife DeAnn Barta Stuart – were approved for final and full adoption of their son, Thomas Ethridge Stuart, four days before his first birthday, June 25.

Thank God for Three Baby Boys Born to FPC Church Family on Successive Days! On Wednesday Aug. 15, the **second son [as of late August, name still TBD] of Sean Schnurr and Morgan Clark Schnur** was born. Baby Schnurr was actually delivered in/into his new home on an emergency basis **by mother (Morgan), father (Sean) and grandmother (Glenda)**, so no further homecoming was necessary.

On Thursday, Aug. 16, **George Porter Luke** was born, the second son of **Caleb and Betsy Luke**. On Friday, Aug. 17, **William Bounds Rackley** was born -- the second child and first son to **Will and Caitlin Rackley**.



A Very Special 50th Anniversary at FPC!

On August 12, Loren and Lynne Zimmerman at FPC on a Sunday morning celebrated the 50th Anniversary. Fifty years earlier, August 1968, the Lord had united them in the FPC Sanctuary.

In August, we also welcomed (back) returning-to-Starkville new (renewing) members **Allen and Alex Massingill**, now also with their daughter, **Olivia**.



FPC FELLOWSHIP

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING FOR THE GATHERING (10:30 – 10:50) – *THE FELLOWSHIP “BRIDGE” BETWEEN SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP*



Photo at left: Sunday, Aug. 26, Charlie Weatherly and Zack Harrington are in the foreground, and a number of fellowshipping folks in the background -- at the Gathering, that transition coffee-fellowship time between Sunday School [think - Bibles] and Sunday worship [again, think - Bibles]. In the photo, Charlie has a coffee cup in his right hand, while Zack has a Bible in his left; meanwhile Larry Branch, Lee Weiskopf, and others on the move in the background have a cup in one hand and the Bible in the other hand. This is all good and a reflection of a church family that loves to give themselves to the Lord throughout a good Sunday of fellowship, Word and worship!

THE CHURCH-WIDE MONTHLY WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, AT THE PATIO OF (FPC’S ROBIN FANT’S) BULLDOG BURGER.



Mike & Sandy Jackson host the *Faith for Life* Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group



for the group’s summer social on Friday evening, Aug. 24.

Pastor Martin Lifer leads the Bible Study & Fellowship Group each Sunday in the Chapel, 9:45-10:30 a.m.



FPC FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

Following a festive Annual "TAILGATE"/ TEAM COLORS BRUNCH on Rally Day Kick Off Sunday School, August 12, ...

Plan to Join Us THIS Month:

-Sunday, September 9, beginning 4:30 p.m., at Robinson Lake, for Our Annual (Bluegrass Band) Gospel Music Celebration & Fish Fry Dinner Fellowship. This year, our featured band is Alan Sibley and the Magnolia Ramblers.



Then, Sunday, September 23 – during our weekly Fellowship Gathering Time (10:30 – 10:50 a.m.) – come to the Eastside Breezeway for our

- **Annual Sip & See Brunch** and meet all the babies born to our church family in the past year.



OUR VIP (VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIANS) FELLOWSHIP GROUP HELD A GRANDPARENTS' GAME NIGHT & PIZZA PARTY WEDNESDAY, AUG.29 – HOSTING CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND OTHER GRANDPARENTS FOR A GREAT VIP EVENT IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.



Women's Ministry – Bible Study & Fellowship Opportunities

Friends & Family, Wednesday Night Fall Study, beginning September 5.

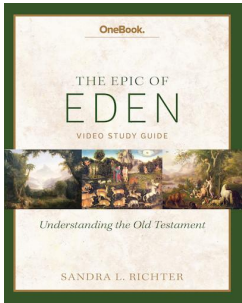


Paul's letter to the church at Colossae encourages believers to live out the reality of the doctrine of Christ—He is God, He is supreme, and He is sufficient. We have been buried with Him and raised to life with Him as new creations, knit together in love.

In 8 sessions, explore themes of fundamental Christian doctrine through verse-by-verse study of Colossians. Learn who Christ is, who you are in Him, and how to grow and mature in your faith.

Please let Rita Usher, Pastoral Secretary in the Office (info@fpcstarkville.org), or Orly Hardin (obh2@msstate.edu) know if you plan to participate and would like a workbook.

Thursday Afternoon Women's Bible Study this fall, beginning on September 20.



The fall session of the Thursday Women's Bible Study will begin on September 20. This year's study, *The Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament* by Sandra L. Richter, is a 14-session series that will be the subject of both the fall (Peggy Johnson) and spring (Susan Gamel) studies. From the Publisher's Forward to the workbook: "The Old Testament makes up three-fourths of the Bible—a clear majority—and yet it is the least understood part of the Bible. Sandra Richter is one of the finest teachers of the Old Testament in the world.... As a result of engaging with her in this study of the *Old Testament*, you will come to a profound understanding of the *New Testament* and all that Scripture means for your life. She comprehends it from a deep place of faith and understanding and she has learned to teach it to ordinary people in extraordinary ways."

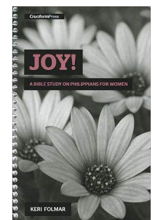
Workbooks will be ordered the first week of September and will cost \$25 for the entire series. For questions or to sign up for the fall, please contact Peggy Johnson at johnsonpeggyp@gmail.com or at 662-418-6870.

Women in the Word Bible Study & Fellowship – Meets Each Sunday Morning.



Nancy Lifer leads our Women's Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship each week for women of all ages. *Women in the Word* meets each Sunday at 9:45, in Room S6 on the Main Floor (2d Floor) of the Sanctuary Bldg.

The current Bible Study is *JOY! A Bible Study on Philippians for Women*. This Bible study not only brings God's truths in Philippians to bear upon your life, but will also will train you up for better, more effective study of any book of the Bible with consistent use of the three approaches needed in all good Bible study: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.



FPC Women's Ministry Circles – Open to All Women, Members & Guests Each Month!

Bible Study for the Year: *Seamless* by Angie Smith (DVD is included with each lesson).

The books (\$15) will be issued at circle meeting. In seven sessions, *Seamless* covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Participants in this study will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of the Bible

Come to a Circle Meeting This Month!

Circle Dates & Times, Places and Leaders

9/9/2018, Sunday morning @ 8 am, Leader: Lynda Forbus, place: FPC Parlor

9/10/2018, Monday afternoon @ 1:30 pm, Leader: Sara Wilson, place: FPC Parlor

9/11/2018, Tuesday evening @ 6 pm, Leader: Vivian Cade, place: her home: 104 Walden Way

Men's Ministry – Bible Study, Fellowship & Service Opportunities

Men's Ministry Social: Fall Kickoff Meet & Greet – Monday Night, September 10, at The Grill (Central Station Grill, Starkville), beginning 6 p.m.



Come join us!

For more information, contact Will Rackley (662-418-2428) or Perry Rackley (662-769-0518).

Men's Ministry Work Days this Fall.

Please help us be faithful stewards of the property God has entrusted to us for his mission through FPC, and enjoy good, working fellowship with brothers in our church family:

Saturday, Sept. 22, beginning 8:00 a.m. – Working on Our Main FPC Campus.

Saturday, Oct. 13, beginning 8:00 a.m. – Working on the Robinson Lake Grounds & Pavilion, to help prepare for the Harvest Festival Fellowship.

33 The Series, Men's Ministry Wednesday Friends & Family Night Study, will meet in the classroom behind the Chapel.

This year's study, 33 THE SERIES, from the creators of Men's Fraternity, provides men with an inspiring and gospel-centered vision of Authentic Manhood as modeled by Jesus in his 33 years on earth. Authentic Manhood – It Changes Everything.

Subjects include: SEASONS OF A MAN'S LIFE, UNCOVERING THE WOUNDS OF MANKIND, A DEFINITION OF AUTHENTIC MANHOOD, PLOTTING A PERSONAL COURSE TO MANHOOD, DEEPENING THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP, RAISING SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AND MORE.

There will be six (6) workbooks for the yearly study at a cost of \$15 for each. There will be workbooks available for purchase at the first session at a cost of \$15. To register for the fall session, please contact Wallace Cade at wallace.cade@gmail.com or at 662-889-1227 or the FPC office at 662-323-1994. To see a video trailer for the series go to <https://vimeo.com/111249972>



Where: First Presbyterian Church – Starkville, MS

When: Wednesday Nights

Date and Time: Starting September 5, 2018, at 6:00 pm

A Manhood Experience that Changes Everything

Open to All Men in the Starkville/MSU Area

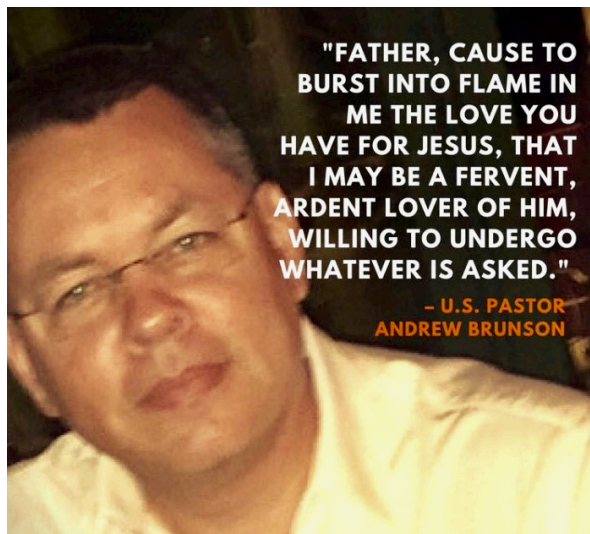
Contact: 662-323-1994

<https://vimeo.com/111249972>

OUTREACH MISSION – GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Ben & Allison Jackson, together with many others on our growing University Ministry Team were very busy in August, including: (1) setting up the Jacksons' new home so the Jacksons can host student groups in the Jackson home on a regular basis for meals and studies; (2) working on-campus at MSU, helping freshmen on Move-in Days; (3) meeting further students at Shades of Starkville; (4) beginning a College Student Sunday School class; and (5) holding a Labor Day Social for College Students at the Jones' J-3 Ranch.



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
EPC PASTOR ANDREW BRUNSON,
AND – IF YOU MISSED HEARING IT IN-
PERSON –**

**LISTEN TO THE PODCAST
(AVAILABLE ON THE FPC WEBSITE)
OF PASTOR LIFER'S MESSAGE FROM
AUGUST 12 ABOUT PASTOR
ANDREW'S FAITH AND LORD –
"WORTHY."**

**PLEASE ALSO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE
SIX NEW CHURCH PLANTERS THAT FPC IS
SUPPORTING THROUGH MISSION INDIA IN 2018!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP FURTHER
IN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IN THE WORLD'S SECOND-
MOST-POPULOUS AND STILL LARGELY UNREACHED NATION IN THE
WORLD – PLEASE CONTACT DR. LIFER OR ELDER JACK FORBUS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE OUTREACH/MISSION TEAM.**





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First Presbyterian Church
307 University Drive
Starkville, MS 39759

Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Rita Usher in the Church Office –Monday through Friday – at the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to Office@fpcstarkville.org. In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:

FPC and FPCCC Ministry Staff- email addresses

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor mwlifer3@gmail.com

Rita Usher, Pastoral Secretary & Office Administrator office@fpcstarkville.org

Ben Jackson, Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach bdjackson8@gmail.com

Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator aabmurdock@gmail.com

Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director aarhus@bellsouth.net

Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

Ellen Mauldin, Church Librarian mem3@bellsouth.net

Amanda Corley, Child Care Director fpcccdirector@fpcstarkville.org

REMEMBER, YOU'RE INVITED EVERY WEDNESDAY!

Join us for Our NEW Friends and Family Format,
Starting Wednesday, September 5!

5:15 p.m. Dinner and visiting in the Fellowship Hall

5:50 Children's & Youth Programs Begin (nursery, children, SOS and Youth Program)

6:00 p.m. Break for Bible study ~

Men's Fraternity will meet in the classroom behind the Chapel, and
Raised Together, women's study, will meet in the Parlor

6:00 HeBrews in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, dessert and visiting

7:00 Studies and Children's Programs conclude, and Chancel Choir Practice Begins

