



www.WPCHattiesburg.com

May 2009

Our Mission: **TLC**
Trust God, **L**ove People, and **C**arry Christ into the World

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY:

I don't know about you, but my body was moving so quickly through Lent that my spirit couldn't catch up. Until Good Friday. For some reason Holy Week was the busiest week I can recall. We buried John Buckley on Monday. I preached at University Baptist on Wednesday. On Thursday we buried John Bubber White, one of the great elders at J. J. White (McComb). Thursday evening we had the Maundy Thursday service, which every member should attend if they can. It was very moving. On Good Friday, 25 souls gathered as we have for the past seven years in the sanctuary and read the 14 Stations of the Cross.

Then Pam Dossett came and turned our sanctuary into a spectacular lily garden, and suddenly my spirit caught up with my body. Our first Easter Sunrise service was joyous and sweet, and the brunch and Easter worship service were the best ever. Great flowers, great music, great participation. The long wait (Lent) was over. We heard and believed the fantastic news: He is risen! He is risen indeed! This is the word that changes everything. It is a great privilege to be able to share this good news with this loving, faithful congregation.

Blessings,

WORSHIP NEWS:

The new **pew Bibles** were dedicated during the April 26 worship service and are now being used. All 168 of the Bibles were dedicated in honor of loved ones. The results are that our new Bibles reflect the love that flows from our membership *and* that the church did not incur any unbudgeted expense for this needed project. Well done!



The Session has authorized the **Organ Task Force** to proceed towards purchasing the magnificent organ from First Baptist Church. First Baptist has agreed to sell us the organ at a very attractive price. Before finalizing a contract, we are in the process of working with architects and builders and our organ builder to determine how this can be done to best effect at Westminster. Six years ago our Session adopted a Long

Range Plan that called for upgrading our organ. We did nothing. Now we see why. When First Baptist decided to relocate, their organ became available. It is one of the finest organs in Mississippi, and we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase it. As soon as we get the details figured out and approved, we will let you know. We ask you to pray about this because the whole point of the organ is to enhance our worship of God. If you would like to make memorials, graduation or anniversary honoraria, etc. please consider donating to the organ fund.

We will observe the Lord's Supper on May 3. **Rev. Lynn Miller** will preside while **Steve Ramp** is serving as a Spiritual Director at Mississippi Cursillo #3.

Mother's Day: We will honor mothers and others on May 10.

April attendance average: **145**

April 5 - 126

April 19 - 155

April 12 - 168

April 26 - 128

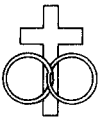
BELONGING:

On Wednesday May 6, as part of Wednesday night fellowship, we will honor **Charlie Ramp** with a "**Honey Do**" **Tool Shower**. His fiancé, **Greer Garraway**, will be with us also. Please bring a small token of love and support for Charlie. He is registered at Lowe's and Home Depot if you need any ideas.



Kathryn Smith will be married at Westminster on June 6. Her friend since childhood, **Jay Rivers**, is the lucky guy. Unfortunately, Jay lives in California and Kathryn will be moving right after the wedding. Watch the bulletin for details.

BELONGING: (continued)



The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage of **Miss Greer Elizabeth Garraway** to **Mr. Charles David Ramp** on Saturday, May 30 at 6:00 pm at Main Street United Methodist Church and at the reception following at Canebrake Clubhouse.

On Wednesday, May 13, we will host the **Liberty Ministry** team from **Christian Services**. It will be our last weekly Wednesday night supper, and it has been dubbed "**Louisiana Night**." The Diaconate will provide gumbo (**Nancy Johnson**) and **Chuck Brown** will make his much-loved red beans and rice. The congregation is asked to bring desserts, salads and bread.



May birthdays:

2 Marilyn Keys	13 Franklin Bryant
4 John Gaudet	17 Margaret Loper
5 Parker Graham	18 Helen Short
7 Hugh Garraway	22 Molly Smith
11 Nolan McKinnon	26 Grayson Rayborn
11 Bea McRae	31 Sharon Potin

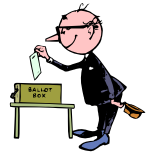
We want to include ALL members' birthdays. If you know of one we missed, let us know ASAP!

GREETINGS, FRIENDS!

Sunday Greeters: Please help us greet visitors and members at the front entrance on Sunday mornings. Please **switch** with someone if you cannot serve on a specific date, and notify Kay at 601-584-7574 of the change for the bulletin announcement.

May 3 Marsha Taylor & Helen Short	June 7 Dan & Martha Davis
10 Molly Smith & Robert Cummings, Jr.	14 Shayne & Lori Burnham
17 Gene & Stella Fair	21 Cindy Nobles & Ruth Reed
24 Ed & Glenda Brown	28 Margaret Pearson & Frank Whitesell
31 Grayson & Jane Rayborn	

The **Men of the Church** will meet Saturday, May 9 for breakfast at 8 am. This is their last meeting until fall, and they will elect new officers.



GROWING SPIRITUALLY:

We have **Sunday School** classes for all ages. We have fabulous teachers who prepare diligently. If you are not growing spiritually, it's your responsibility to join a class and grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Word of God. This is the best investment of your time and energy that you can make. The dividends are out of this world.

Five more of our members - **Fluffy Fair, Jean Lincoln, Carolyn McLarnan, Lola Norris, and Amy Ruff** - attended a **cursillo** retreat at the end of April. **Alison (Ramp) Buehler** also attended as a representative of Westminster. If you are interested in attending a cursillo, please contact **Steve Ramp, Mary Cromartie** or **Butch Nobles**.

INVITING:

Please invite a friend to worship with you. After they've worshipped with us three times, invite them to join. Many people need a friend (like you) to encourage them. This is a warm and inviting church. Do someone you know a huge favor and invite them to join us.



SERVING CHRIST IN MISSION:

Special offerings received recently include \$1,110 for **Living Waters of the World** and \$1,362.62 (including \$56.62 in change from the fish banks) for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. *Great job!*

On May 7, the Diaconate will host a graduation dinner for the **Pinebelt Christian Women's Job Corps**. This program helps women prepare for interviews and land jobs. In this economy, getting a job can make a huge difference in one's life. Please support this important ministry.



Each week, **Charlie Ramp's** special education class from Oak Grove High School cleans and sets the tables for our Wednesday night supper. We are grateful for their steady and faithful work.

The Youth **garage sale** was a big success, earning them **\$680** to use toward next summer's mission trip. The youth are very grateful for all of the items donated and purchased.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

To avoid a conflict with Mother's Day, the Diaconate and Session will meet at their regular times on May 17.



Financial Data*	
Pledges through 1 st quarter	\$69,510
Receipts through 1 st quarter	\$67,526
Bank debt balance as of April 30	\$13,700

* Copies of the church's financial statements are available in the office for anyone interested in reviewing the information. If you would like a copy, please contact Kay Salter to mail you one. Checking account statements are also available in the office for your inspection.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP: (continued)

May marks the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the columbarium. You may want to consider purchasing a niche in the columbarium. Several niches are still unreserved, and the full columbarium policy, including costs and niche availability, can be found on the church website.



Speaking of the **website**, do you realize how versatile of a tool it is? Missed last Sunday and want to see the bulletin and announcements? It's on the website. Misplaced your copy of the newsletter and can't remember the date of an important event? It's on the website too. Can't remember the date of a wedding scheduled several months from now? You guessed it! Just go to www.WPCHattiesburg.com to find all the news. If you have important dates to include on the church calendar, please be sure to contact **Kay Salter** so she can post them.

Congratulations to **Rachel Harris** who was chosen to attend Girls' State in Jackson this year. The Session enthusiastically supports this honor with a \$225 scholarship (requested by the American Legion organization).

The Pastor continues to serve on the **Committee on Ministry**, but he is no longer the Chair. Steve has worked actively helping **First Presbyterian Church, Vicksburg** which is about to call a new pastor. Please pray for this church in this important time of transition.

The **Presbytery of Mississippi** will meet at the Vernal Presbyterian Church on May 21. **Mac Forsyth** will be our elder commissioner. They will be examining three ministers who wish to be admitted into this Presbytery, including a new pastor at Vicksburg. This will be **Bill dePrater's** last meeting as our Executive Presbyter.



The Board of Trustees, President, Faculty and Graduation Class of The University of Southern Mississippi announce the graduation of **Sandra A. McLaurin** with a Master of Social Work at the Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 8, 2009 at 3:00 pm in Bernard Reed Green Coliseum.

I want to express warmly my deep appreciation for the members and friends of Westminster who showed their caring spirits during my recuperation. I felt the prayers and vibes that circled around me and realize even more what a caring church we are privileged to be a part of. The many cards, calls, food, etc., kept us going along with prayers and caring people.

Carol Hickman



May 2009

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3 Communion Sunday No youth meeting	4	5 PW Co-ord. Team 9:30 am Birthday Offering 11 am Softball 8:30, Field 4	6 Potluck Supper 6 pm Shower for Charlie Ramp	7 Softball 7:30, Field 1	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8 am Ulltrea Council 10 am
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> Youth 5 pm	11	12 PW Circle meetings 9:30 / 7:00	13 Louisiana Night Potluck Supper 6 pm	14 Acts 16:5 (Presbytery mtg) Softball 7:30, Field 1	15	16 Weinacker/ Ferguson wedding 6 pm
17 Diac noon Session 1:30 Youth 5 pm	18	19 PW Prayer Group 9 am	20 NO Potluck Supper	21	22	23 Mayatt/Ross wedding 2 pm
24 / 31 No youth meeting on 24 th or 31 st	25	26	27 NO Potluck Supper	28	29	30 Hillman/ Strahan wedding 6 pm

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