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## First Presbyterian Church of Greenville



# Church @ Work

April 2009

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Dear Ones:

We live in a culture that separates joy and sorrow. Yet, our Christian faith says: “Joy and sorrow are not separate; they are deeply intertwined.” This message is articulated through the symbol of the cross. The cross of Jesus Christ represents joy and sorrow, sacrifice and song, death and resurrection.

### Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Letter 1

Like the psalmist, there are times when we may cry out: “How long, O Lord? How long will you hide your face from me?” (Psalm 13:1, *NRSV*) Jesus reminds us: “You’re blessed when you are at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.” (Matthew 5:3, *The Message*)

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“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1, *NRSV*) *A Declaration of Faith* of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirms our assurance of what we hope for and yet have not seen – yet.

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In the death of Jesus Christ  
God’s way in the world seemed finally defeated  
But death was no match for God.  
The resurrection of Jesus was God’s victory over death.  
We do not yet see the end of death,  
but Christ has been raised from the dead,  
transformed and yet the same person.  
In his resurrection is the promise of ours . . .  
So we treat death as a broken power . . .

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jonas M. Hayes,  
Pastor

Rev. Edward F. Johnston,  
Jr.,  
Pastor Emeritus

Susan Glasco,  
Administrative Assistant

Caroleen Eifling,  
Director of FPP

Suzanne Potter,  
Director of Music

The boldness with which Christ faced his own death and suffering encourages us to face our own brokenness. The poet Annie Dillard says that engaging our brokenness is like “riding a dragon down to our vulnerability.” As we ride the dragon down to our vulnerability, God promises to be our companion and guide. Where we are weak, we will be made strong. Where there is darkness, there will be light.

May we journey towards Easter in anticipation of Christ’s resurrection. View the “Looking Forward” section of this newsletter on page five and/or view the brand new “News and Events” section of our website, [www.firstpresgreenville.com](http://www.firstpresgreenville.com) for a full listing of our many Lenten and Easter Season programs and worship services.

Grace and peace be with you, Rev. Jonas M. Hayes

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## Looking Back...

We had a very successful **Lenten Pot Luck & Worship Series**. The theme was “**Conversion Experiences: Encounters with the Living God.**” Ike Trotter spoke about encountering God through music. Margie Nash inspired us to be grateful for the gift of the church and our friendships. Castlen Tindall-King expanded our awareness about global mission.

Rev. Jonas Hayes continues to teach a confirmation class entitled: “**How Do You Spell Presbyterian? - A Postmodern Confirmation & Re-Confirmation Class**” for youth and young adults. Thus far, the confirmands have studied Early Church History, Reformation History, Form of Government, Worship & Sacraments, the Trinity, the Bible, and Prayer. **The Confirmands** will meet with the Session for final examination on Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Session Room. The meeting will be informal and will include dinner. Following the dinner and examination, the youth will be recognized for their hard work in the Confirmation Class in the **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** at 7:00 p.m.

**The Treble Makers**—ambassadors of the **Palmer Home for Children** in Columbus, MS—offered music for worship on Sunday, March 8 and had a reception to honor that ministry following worship in the Ladies Parlor.

18 people attended the **Young Adult and Family Covenant** Group at the Bush Home on Sunday, March 15.

In March—the **youth** met with Kathy Davis and the St. James Episcopal Church youth to create eight artistic tiles, which depict eight essential stories from the Bible. These tiles will be dedicated at **the Bridge Service**, which will be held on Wednesday, April 1.

**The XYZ Club** met on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. They traveled to Merigold for lunch at The Gallery and then to visit McCarty’s Pottery.



Betty Sue & Wendell Hoyle at McCarty’s

### March Worship Attendance—

March 1 —121

March 8 —118

March 15 —96

March 22 —97

### March Children’s Church Attendance—

March 4 — 59

March 11 — 56

March 18 — 57

March 25 — 60

### Special Service Attendance—

Lenten Pot Luck & Worship I — 95

Lenten Pot Luck & Worship II— 85

Lenten Pot Luck & Worship III—65

## Session Highlights

Stated Session Meeting  
First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, MS  
March 15, 2009

After a quorum was established, the meeting was opened by the moderator—Rev. Jonas Hayes—in the Session Room of the church. A devotional was presented by Bill Bell.

Clerk's report—The minutes of the Session, meetings of Feb. 1 and Feb. 15 were read and approved on motion. In like form Amelie Wilson Sanders was dismissed to the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, CT. The procedure of microfilming and storing of old church records of 150 years was presented.

Treasurers report—All in all, our finances are in good shape. Pledges are comparable to last year. Property is \$15,000 above budget due to painting and replacement of the columns (to be replaced from the endowment fund).

First Pres Preschool—Ruth Ann Striebeck—A letter of commendation from Sydney and Brian Dean was read noting the vast improvements in the program this year under the guidance of Director, Caroleen Eifling.

Christian Education—E'Lou Mitchell—Preparation for the Bridge Service continues (to be held April 1). A session meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 PM to welcome the confirmands, mentors, parents and guests. A light meal will be served prior to the Maundy Thursday services. Potluck services will resume March 25 with Castlen King as the speaker. Tentative plans for the Gamble Lectures are in the mill.

Mission—Wade Chambers—The mission trip to Mexico by the Tyler, Texas church has been cancelled. At this time, we are on hold for a mission trip until the instability in Mexico resolves.

Pastoral report—Rev. Hayes—I am planning to use my continuing education time to work on Personnel Manuals for the church and First Pres Preschool. Tentatively, the Gamble Lectures will be in August: John Calvin's birthday was in July and this would be great celebration of his 500th birthday. Our confirmands are working hard. The children are still enjoying children's church at First Pres Preschool. I am working with the Web designer to slightly modify and update our church's website. The special visitors cards, which are located in the pews along with the hymnals, are most helpful in locating and following up with visitors. Short and long term goals continue to be developed and evaluated. I am planning to meet with parents in the church in order to plan programs and ministry opportunities for children this next school year. The Covenant Group for Young Adults and Families has been very well attended. Elder training will be held this spring. Any officer who wishes to have a refresher course is welcome. Installation and Ordination of new officers will be held on Sunday, April 3.

There being no further business, by motion, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Elder, Wade Chambers.

John Sandefer, Clerk of Session

Rev. Jonas Hayes, Moderator

## Ministry of Prayer

### THOSE ON ACTIVE DUTY:

Barry Crosby, Brian Germany, Austin Young, Beau Swain, Nathan Tarver

### EXPECTANT COUPLES:

Katherine (Hough) & Sam Newsom

Miriam & Michael Ables

Katherine & William Bell

### NEW PARENTS:

Andy & Celeste Sanders-Ann Margaret "Meg" (2/8/09)

### THOSE AT HOME:

Nell Yarbrough, 147 Bayou Rd.

Nancy Wineman, 1470 Irby St., Apt #1-2

Nernell Caruthers, 1976 Susan Dr.

Alma Starr, 1229 Kirk Cr.

Mac Payne, 1203 Kirk Cr.

LaVonne Jefferson, 1240 Wortham Dr.

Irene Osborn, 567 Cypress Ln., E-4

Betty Lee Winn, 111 E. Gamwyn Dr.

### THOSE AWAY:

Anse Dees, MS. VA Home, 4607 Lindberg Dr., Jackson, Ms. 39209 / Ruth Rector, Wesley Highland Manor, 3549 Norris Wood, Memphis, TN 38111

### THOSE IN ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOMES:

Washington Care- Jack Ellis, Ruby Lyle, Mildred Franklin  
Magnolia Gardens-Susie Lee Chamberlain, Dorothy Gilliland, Mary Elizabeth Lundy, Eunice Miller, Nancy Wineman

### FPC's EXTENDED FAMILY:

Steve Hovas, Steve Bryson, Becky Walker, Sue Sanders, Kaye Buchanan, Ann Gibson Eatherly, Gail Hoyt, Jennie Cuumba, Beth McKnight, Clint Johnson, Jim Young, Joanne Graham, John McGinnley, Bob McDonald, Caroline Williams, Dennis Burke, Mike Tubertini, Barbera Nicholson. Bubba Mosley

## April Birthdays

April 1	Katherine Boozer
April 2	Dawn Gamble Clay Yarbrough Bruce Baskett
April 4	Laurie McGee McClintock
April 5	Eustace Winn IV
April 6	Eddie Tindall Jerry Wilson
April 7	Laura Bennett Richard Cox
April 8	Allen Spragins
April 11	David Clarke Velma Stroud
April 18	Mary Tyler Baird
April 19	Jordan Phillips
April 20	Jonas Hayes
April 21	James Bell Joseph Bell
April 23	Meghan Collins Stewart Bryant Trotter
April 26	Tuck Gore
April 27	William Lane III Edwynne Love
April 28	Jane Marie Dawkins
April 30	Scott Phillips



## Looking Ahead...

**The Bridge Service**—a joint pot luck and worship service with St. James Episcopal Church—will be held on Wednesday, April 1 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. At the worship service, we will dedicate our new prayer bridge—located between First Presbyterian Church and St. James Episcopal Church.

**Palm Sunday** is Sunday, April 5. *Please note:* The children and youth will practice liturgy for the Palm Sunday Worship Service in Sunday school at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, April 5.

The **XYZ Club** will meet on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the church. We will visit the Flood Museum and have lunch at a local restaurant. Please contact Mary V. @ 378-2765 or Katherine Smylie @ 334-4474 for info and reservations.

**Confirmands** will meet with the Session for final examination on Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Session Room. The meeting will be informal and will include dinner. Following the dinner and examination, the youth will be recognized for their hard work in the Confirmation Class in the **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**. **Youth** fundraisers will be coming up soon with Brown Bag lunches on May 3rd and Mother's Day roses on May 10th. Watch worship bulletin announcements for details.

A **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A **Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on Friday, April 10 at Noon in the Chapel.

**Easter Worship** is Sunday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**First Presbyterian Easter Egg Hunt and other FUN** is set for Saturday April 4th @ 10:30 a.m. on the playground. Bring your basket and be prepared to have a BIG time! Friends are welcome, see you there

The **Young Adult and Family Covenant Group** is meeting at The England Home on Sunday, April 19. Childcare will be provided at these meetings.

**The Greenville Depression & Bipolar Support Group** will meet on April 6th & April 20th @ 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish Hall. The public is invited.

The **Gentle Reader's Book Club** will meet at the Hagwood's home on April 20th at 7 p.m. to discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The book selection for May is Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers.

**Presbyterian Women' Circle** will study Lessons 7 & 8 in the Horizons Bible Study workbook on Monday, April 6 and Lesson 9 in the workbook on Monday, May 4.

**Margaret Ann (Meg) Sanders**—daughter of Andy and Celeste Sanders—will be baptized in the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 26.

**Bill and Becky Watts**—and **Kim Hayes**—will reaffirm their faith in the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 26.

A **reception for our newest church members**—Meg Sanders, Bill & Becky Watts, and Kim Hayes—will be held at the Hayes House following worship on Sunday, April 26.

A **Service of Ordination and Installation for the Class of 2012 Elders and Deacons** will be on Sunday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m.

We will recognize this year's **graduating seniors**—Hayden Phillips, David Clark & Rob Koestler—in the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 10.

Please note: The deadline for **May's Church @ Work** is Thursday, April 22! Please send all info to Susan at [susan@firstpresgreenville.com](mailto:susan@firstpresgreenville.com).

**First Presbyterian Church of Greenville**

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**THE LIGHTHOUSE LODGE**

We continue our mission to provide, at no cost, comfortable rooms for patients taking cancer treatment, out of town family members who have patients in the heart or critical care unit, and patients awaiting heart surgery. Since 1990, the Lighthouse Lodge has operated solely on donations, memorials and volunteers giving their time.

Donations & Memorials may be sent to:

The Light house Lodge  
%The First Presbyterian Church  
1 John Calvin Circle  
Greenville, MS 38701

Thank your for your continued support and prayers.