

J.O.Y. Riders

JANUARY 11

Rosie's Cantina

Florence, AL

Leave @ 11AM

Cost: Price of your meal

APRIL 12

Kermit's Outlaw Kitchen

Tupelo

Leave @ 11AM

Cost: Price of your meal

FEBRUARY 8

The Outpost - Counce, TN

Leave @ 12:30 (notice time change)

Cost: Price of your meal

JUNE 8

The Illusionists - Live from

Broadway

This spectacular showcases the jaw-dropping talents of five of the most incredible illusionists on Earth.

Leave @ 3:30

Cost: \$57.50 plus cost of dinner

(Deadline for ordering "Illusionists" tickets is April 15th.)

FEBRUARY 12

Valentine Banquet

6 PM

Cost: None - but you must register by calling the church office

JULY 12

Sweet Tea & Biscuits

Tupelo

Leave @ 11 AM

Cost: Price of your meal

MARCH 8

Blue Canoe - Tupelo

Leave @ 11AM

Cost: Price of your meal

MARCH 25

"Wicked"

Memphis Orpheum

Leave @ 2 PM

Cost: \$105.50 plus cost of dinner

(Deadline for ordering "Wicked" tickets is December 17th.)

Beginning in January, 2018, there is a new FPC policy for ticketed event registration. I will post a deadline with pricing and other event details. Payment for the event must be included at time of sign-up. Thank you so much for your help on this.

The SPIRE

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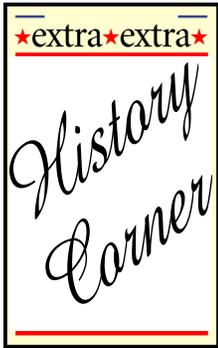
December 2017

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SANCTUARY CHOIR
PRESENTS**

Night of the Father's Love



**DURING WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY
DECEMBER 17, 2017**



O, CHRISMON TREE

A *Chrismon*, a combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram”, is a symbol that represents Jesus. The very first Chrismon was the **Chi Rho**, a combination of the first two Greek letters of “Christos”, or Christ.

A **Chrismon Tree** is a tree decorated with such common Chrismons as crosses, stars, angels, doves, fish (“ichthus”), and triangles representing the Holy Trinity. Chrismon ornaments can be made from any type of material, whether paper, cloth, or Styrofoam. The Chrismons are often white and gold---white to represent Jesus’ purity, gold to represent His sovereignty. [From briefnet.com]

Mrs. Hal (Virginia) Anderson wrote in her President’s Report of Women of the Church (First Presbyterian, Corinth) 1977-1978 about the Chrismon tree which decorates our sanctuary each December:

“For our Christmas program Mrs. Stanley Hill planned a trip for the W.O.C. to the First United Methodist Church, Florence, AL. There, the 14 members who made the trip were shown the church’s beautiful Chrismon tree and lovely wall hangings of Women of the Bible. The Chrismon decorations and hangings had been made by the ladies of the church.

Mrs. Frank Worsham [Jr.] and her committee secured and decorated our equally beautiful Chrismon tree, which added so much to our sanctuary at Christmas time.”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



The lighting of the Advent Wreath is a special part of every Sunday morning of Advent. The Advent Wreath has four purple candles, one being lit every Sunday of Advent leading up to Christmas. The following are the lighters of the Advent Wreath:

- December 3 - Micah & Courtney Monaghan Family
- December 10 - Bill & Susan Bailey Family
- December 17 - Chris & Cindy Curtis Family
- December 24 - Steve & Katie Drewry Family



*First Presbyterian Day School
cordially invites you to
our 2017 Christmas Musical
Thursday, December 14, 2017*

10:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Hanging of the Greens

The congregation will come together for the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 3, starting at 5:30

p.m. in the sanctuary. This is the time we decorate the entire church facility and everyone is needed to make it happen. We will begin with some carol singing and instructions for the evening. Every Sunday school class will decorate their doors and the Youth House and Kids' House will add their own touches. Outside doors will get wreaths and several trees will be put up in the church. The sanctuary will get the most attention with the Christmas tree, window decorations, and wreaths.

Members are asked to do more than just come. You will be asked to bring canned goods as contributions to the AMEN Food Pantry and Christmas cards to be sent to our missionaries.

So plan on Sunday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. to be a part of one of the most unique fellowship times at First Pres.

First Presbyterian Church
919 Shiloh Road
Corinth, MS 38834

For many wonderful years, the Deacons' Fund at First Presbyterian Church has provided a utility service program for our local friends and neighbors. Your gifts and support have funded every portion of this service. We will never be able to thank you enough for all that you have given and done over these many great years. However, from this date forward, the utility service program will be discontinued. The current Board of Deacons did not make this decision lightheartedly. You should know that this decision was based on many years of Deacon Board discussions. This 2017 Board felt it was an appropriate time that we look in a different Godly direction.

With its end a new, and as we pray, a revised neighbor serving program is being installed to provide a more involved form of assistance to those in need. This assistance will not be bound by \$20 and will now include more attention from the Board of Deacons and you, our church members. The desire to make a larger impact in the lives of our neighbors was decided as the best option for the Deacons' Fund.

Your gifts are always welcome and so much more needed now as we make the Christian attempt to go further! Our hopes and prayers are that we can begin to do so much more to help those in need and lead them to a new or stronger relationship with Christ!

Serving you,
John Orman, Chairman of Board of Deacons
Chris Curtis, Treasurer of Deacons' Fund

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Hanging of the Greens	Dec. 3
Lighthouse Toy Store	Dec. 7
Day School Program	Dec. 14
Youth Bake Auction	Dec. 17
Sanctuary Choir Cantata	Dec. 17
Candlelight Communion Service	Dec. 24
Church Office Closed	Dec. 25 - Jan. 1



After many decades, we are retiring the “SPIRE”. The “SPIRE” has been a useful tool through the years, but now with social media we have all of our church information posted on our website at fpccorinth.org. (Prayer requests are sent out by email, the bulletin is online, and the weekly Friday email contains birthdays and upcoming events.) Goodbye to our old friend the “SPIRE”!

YOUTH HOUSE BAKED GOODS AUCTION



The Youth House Silent Auction will take place December 17, 2017 during the Sunday school hour. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Lighthouse Foundation. We need your culinary talents in the form of all baked goods, i.e., cakes, cookies, pies, muffins, cupcakes, brownies, etc.

Inserts will be provided in the Sunday bulletin and in the church office for you to indicate that you will bring a baked good (or two!) Thank you!

*Martha's
Ministry*

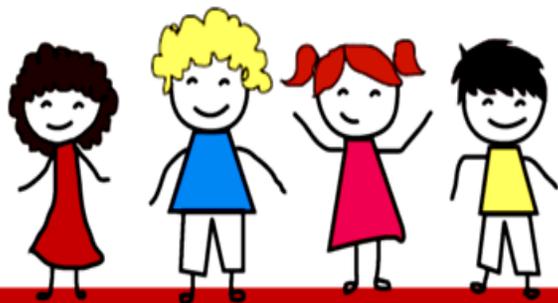


Delivery Coordinator for December:

Gloria Huggins

Hot Lunch

Benefiting
First Presbyterian Dayschool



Help A Mama Out

December 3rd at 12:00pm

Pick Up Hot Lunch:
Chicken, 2 Sides, Roll, Drink & Dessert
at
First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Purchase Tickets: _____

Leslie Fisher | 662-415-0769 or Haley Moore | 662-808-2731

\$10
ADMITS ONE

Lighthouse Toy Store

December 7, 2017



Dear Friend,

The Lighthouse Toy Store is a great opportunity for the Body of Christ to serve needy families in our community. For over 20 years the Toy Store has provided thousands of children with toys at Christmas and offered hope to their parents. The generosity of people like you has helped to make this huge endeavor possible. We would like to invite you to partner with us again this year to bring joy to those less fortunate in our community. 100% of the funds donated will go directly to the Toy Store. You may send your contribution to THE LIGHTHOUSE TOY STORE, P. O. BOX 2121, CORINTH, MS 38835 or give online at www.lighthousecorinth.org and designate to Toy Store.

Toy Store 2017 will take place on Thursday, December 7th from 8:30 until 5:30. Our training sessions for volunteers will be on Monday, December 4th or Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. Please call us at (662) 286-0091 for more information.

May Christ bring you Joy & Peace this Christmas Season!

Gary Caveness
Executive Director

CHURCH FAMILY

The following new members have recently been welcomed into our fellowship:

*Bubba Harrell
Sherry Johnson
Joe & Elizabeth Kimmons
Danny & Wendy Phillips
Laurin Porter
Mike Sadler
Kevin & Morgan Williams*

OUR SYMPATHY goes to Kimberly Gramling and her family at the death of her father, Benjamin Gaines, on November 8.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin & Morgan Williams at the birth of their daughter, Eleanor June Williams, on November 18.

CHRIS MELVIN was seriously injured in an accident and is in ICU at Regional One in Memphis. Please keep him, Laura, Emily Grace, and Carys in your prayers.



Don't forget the A.M.E.N. Food Pantry. The congregation is asked to bring canned goods (preferably canned fruit) to the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday night, December 3. They will be put under the Children's Tree in the Children's Wing entrance.

CORNER

PRAYER

*"...Grace be unto you,
and peace, from God,
our Father, and the Lord
Jesus Christ."
I Thessalonians 1:1(b)*



On November 12, 2017, the Sanctuary Choir sang the offertory anthem that blessed my heart, as I know most of you were also blessed. As with all the choir pieces, the words to "In Christ Alone" rings true to the Word of God, and tells the story of the love of Christ. Here is the first verse:

*In Christ alone, my hope is found.
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song.
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of Love, what depths of Peace
When fears are stilled, when striving cease.
My Comforter, and all in all.
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

Long, long ago, the Lord revealed to His prophets, and they proclaimed the promise of His love. We are able to now read those words preserved for us. Because Jesus came in the form of a little baby, to grow up, call disciples to follow Him, teach and minister to the people, was crucified, buried and rose again, we can sing and claim these words and the other verses of the song. Prophecy fulfilled in this song are - that *He is my Light, my Strength, my Song*, declares the gifts given - that He is *This Cornerstone, this solid Ground* declares the basis and foundation of our faith - He reveals His Love, and He is our Peace - He is our Comforter and Hope of eternal life all because of the wondrous sacrifice He gave.

Jesus Christ in us is the power we have in this life, and He commands our destiny. The last words of the last stanza of this song completes the story of why Jesus came:

Here in the power of Christ I stand.

May God bless First Presbyterian Church as He works in us our mission statement this Christmas and throughout the New Year - - - "To be disciples, to make disciples."

Becky Stewart



END-OF-YEAR GIVING

End of the year giving is important to the church. We have extra obligations during December, most of them being support of our missionaries and other mission projects. What is needed is year-end giving like . . .

- * *Meeting your pledge for 2017 by December 31. You can call the church treasurer, Colby Carmichiel, to find out the status of your pledge.*
- * *Giving over and above your pledge, if possible.*
- * *If you did not pledge, making a donation to FPC.*
- * *Or giving an extra gift according to how the Lord has prospered you.*

FPC has accounts at Edward D. Jones and Cooley & Labas for any transfer of stocks, which may be the way some of you want to give at the end of the year.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. This service is the most well attended service of our church year, and it is made extra special with the communion and the candlelight ceremony. We encourage you to invite your friends, especially any unchurched acquaintances, to this service which helps to put the meaning of Christmas in perspective. A nursery will be provided, and an offering will be taken for the Deacons' Fund.



Children's Ministry

The final KIDS' Quest for 2017 is December 13th. KIDS' Quest resumes January 10th.

Children's Ministry is sponsoring a children's clothing drive. We need new or gently used clothing for children of all ages and are also collecting new packages of underwear for boys and girls. Collection boxes are in the education wing. We have many children in KIDS' Quest and in the community who are deeply in need of clothing. Please prayerfully consider donating to this cause.

KIDS' Quest is also sponsoring a canned food drive. Please send a can of food to the KIDS' Quest Christmas party on December 13th.

The final Children's Church for 2017 is December 10th. Children's Church resumes January 7th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Glory to the Newborn King!!