



# First Presbyterian Church of Hernando, MS THE FIRST PRESS

Volume 16, Issue 3

March 2007



March

### Liturgists

- 4 Chip Hatcher
- 11 Frank Jue
- 18 Rickey Guy
- 25 Jason Parolli

### Ushers

Early Brent and Betty Floyd

- 11:00 Rickey Guy,  
Miriam Crotwell,  
Leland Dye,  
Bert Mills

### Communion Servers

Early Brent Floyd,  
Jeanette Wilkinson

- 11:00 Rickey Guy,  
Bill Bailey,  
Bill Stepp,  
Brenda Ballard,  
Ham Brankstone

### Communion Preparation

Rickey and  
Diann Guy

### Greeters

11:00 Jason and Cindy Parolli



March 27

## From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Members and Friends,

Back in January your session and I spent a Friday and Saturday in retreat to discuss the mission, ministry, and overall witness of FPC-Hernando as a Christian church. We shared dinner and discussion at the home of Annette Ragsdale and Gail Blosfield on Friday evening. On Saturday we took our retreat to the Seeker's classroom at the church. We spent time in the Word, in prayer and in discussion.

We talked a lot about First church— where we've been and where we're going. Some of the perceived strengths of the church were the friendliness & warmth of our congregation toward visitors & newcomers and the energy that many families with young children bring to our worship and our fellowship. Elders on the Session spoke well of the church's pastoral leadership, and especially of the positive changes that have been brought to our Christian Ed. & Music programs by the addition of Joyce Dean & Norma Roddy. Our Mother's Day Out program also got high praise as a meaningful outreach of Christian Education to the Hernando Community. The numbers of young people in our Sr. High PYF, Jr. High CHOP and midweek Family Night programs are at an all-time high. Presbyterian Women's ministry was appreciated for the renewed energy and enthusiasm of their work this past year. And Presbyterian Men were also noted for meaningful ministry in our church. The Prime Time Ministry and support of the Hernando Shepherd's Center have kept our older members active and involved. Generosity of our members helped us to meet our budget for 2006.

Session members expressed concern that the PC(USA) General Assembly's recent turn toward "local option" for ordination standards may weaken the fabric of our national denomination & the biblical standards within our constitution. Yet, the standards do remain in place, and there was a consensus among elders on the session that we cannot let fears about the future paralyze us from moving forward together in ministry and mission. We feel good about St. Andrew Presbytery's response to last summer's General Assembly meeting, and we are grateful for the ministries we share with our presbytery, especially Camp Hopewell and the youth retreats of the Presbytery Youth Council. FPC has a very positive outlook in DeSoto County, and the framework is in place for us to continue to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ in our area. Along with those very positive trends, we also talked about some more sobering realities. Despite continued growth in Hernando, we did not grow very much last year. We are grateful for our 16 new members, but that is less than half of the average numerical increase for the past 10 years or so. In addition, a number of members no longer attend worship or are involved in the church's programs. While all of our Sunday school rooms are often full on Sunday, there has been no marked growth in our Sunday School program, and we lack programming geared toward college and new-career aged adults.

Continued on Page 2 . . .

## From the Pastor's Heart Cont'd

Our Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee has been proactive in helping us reach out to our membership, and I am grateful for their labors of love to correspond with members who have not been as active lately. Our Mission Committee is also working to develop opportunities that will excite our members about becoming more involved in the church. When a church is not growing, the problem usually has spiritual roots (or perhaps the lack thereof). Your session is looking to plan an event geared toward spiritual renewal for our congregation within the next several months. More on those plans later.

In the meantime, what is FPC doing for you? If we're not doing enough to help you grow spiritually, what can we do better? Your session members and I really want to know! We care about your concerns, and I would like for you to share your thoughts with me or one of our elders.

*Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Robert "Chip" A. Hatcher, Jr.*

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## Choir Notes

Dear Friends,

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Like Advent, it is a time of waiting and expectancy. Our thoughts turn toward the dark days suffered by our Lord before his glorious resurrection. We wait and are still before the Lord so that we may hear his voice guiding us and pointing us toward a closer walk with him, and then we are filled with hope as we look forward to celebrating his victory over the grave and our assurance of eternal life.



I grew up in a church that did not recognize or celebrate Advent or Lent. It wasn't until I began to attend the Presbyterian Church that I actually first heard these words. As I celebrated my first Lenten season nearly thirty years ago I was filled with awe and a sense of quietness . . . a breathless waiting. That quiet time of reflection and preparation made Easter morning all the more jubilant and exhilarating when it came! The "alleluias" and hymns we sang that day seemed more alive, more vibrant, and more significant to me after the somber weeks of Lent. Since then I have looked forward to the celebrating of Lent and Advent . . . the reflective, waiting seasons.

The hymns that are chosen and the anthems that are presented by the choir will be a bit more solemn in the coming weeks before Easter. The music is specifically selected to direct our thoughts toward inward reflection. During this time of "quieter", more somber hymns it may be tempting to let our voices and enthusiasm for the music lag. However, we can take this time to think about the beauty and wisdom of the text and appreciate the loveliness of a melody sung in a minor mode. We need to experience the quietness, and sometimes silence, to appropriately appreciate the loud, triumphant blasts from the trumpets that await us on Easter Morning!

On a totally unrelated topic, our youth ensemble is definitely headed toward Washington D.C. this summer! After an encouraging initial meeting with the parents we are finalizing preparations and planning fund raisers. You will hear some of the anthems the youth are responsible for learning for the choir festival in the weeks to come. Our adult choir will assist in helping the youth present the anthems here, but at the choir festival our young people will join voices with nearly 500 other singers from youth choirs around the country! After several arduous rehearsals with the festival director, the mass choir will present a final concert with a full orchestra at the National Cathedral and the concert is recorded. The sound of all those young voices surrounding you is something you don't quickly forget! If you are interested in having your child attend this event with us, please let me know as soon as possible, as we need a final head count by Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. If you feel led, please make a donation to this worthy cause . . . but especially, please pray for all of us involved in this music ministry.

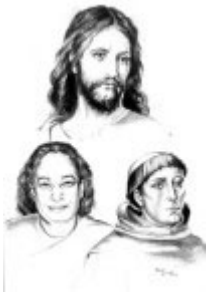
May you all enjoy and embrace this special season of Lent and be directed toward a closer, more meaningful walk with our Lord.

*Blessings,  
Norma Roddy*

## Treasurer's Report--(for January 2007)

	Current Period	Year to Date
Contributions-Pledges	\$25,825.00	\$25,825.00
Contributions-Loose Plate	3,480.65	3,480.65
Contributions-Sunday School	162.26	162.26
Miscellaneous Receipts	114.59	114.59
Building Use Income	550.00	550.00
Bank Interest	29.15	29.15
MDO Expense Sharing	4,866.00	4,866.00
Family Night	1,245.00	1,245.00
Men of Church	75.00	75.00
Montreat (PYF)	450.00	450.00
Flower Fund-Poinsettias	-288.90	-288.90
Van Fund	110.00	110.00
Two-Cents-A-Meal	116.83	116.83
Christmas Joy Offering	25.00	25.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	0.00
Witness Season Offering	0.00	0.00
World Communion Offering	0.00	0.00
Mortgage Addl. Prin. Reduction	655.00	655.00
Heifer Project	43.00	43.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>37,458.58</b>	<b>37,458.58</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>33,353.81</b>	<b>33,353.81</b>
<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,104.77</b>	<b>\$4,104.77</b>
<b>Balance of Loan</b>	<b>\$320,950.00</b>	

### Drawing and Sketching Class



Miriam Crotwell will be teaching a sketching and drawing class for those age 10 through adults on Mondays at 5 p.m. It is for those of all abilities. You only need to have the desire. You will need a drawing tablet, at least 11 x 14, and a pencil. The class will be limited to the first 10 who sign up. Classes will start March 19<sup>th</sup>. Call Miriam at 429-4064.

### Church Family Camp

We are busy making plans for our Church family camp that will be held the weekend of November 9<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hopewell. More details will be available soon. Leslie Bierman and Karen Hill are co-chairing this group. Because Camp Hopewell needs a deposit to hold our spot, we are going to ask families or individuals to make a \$25 deposit by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Yard Sale Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

First Presbyterian Church will be sponsoring a yard sale on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, with all the proceeds going to the van fund. As you do your spring cleaning, please keep this in mind. Items can be left in the fellowship hall the week before. If you need special consideration please call Becky Parmley. Please bring large items on Friday. If you have big items that you need help with please call. We need everyone to help support this major fund raising effort.

### Save Your Quarters to Buy a Llama!

We are still collecting quarters to buy a llama. Llamas are an unique animal. They are ideally suited for the harsh environments where so many impoverished families live. Let's continue to fill the goat stick for a llama!

### Fitness Challenge

At the time of this article we have completed one month of the fitness challenge. It has been wonderful to listen to the different mission projects that the groups have been involved in and the change in one's thinking. I am always hearing "Do I get a point for that?" or "I don't care if it cost me a point." The fifty people involved in the fitness challenge know what I mean. It has been a lot of fun (some work too). The team in the lead after 4 weeks is: **The Bold and the Beautiful**, consisting of Karen Hill, Sissy Ose, Lori Roberson, and Miriam Crotwell. A close second is the Ross Spa-Three Generations consisting of Kitt Albritton, Janet Burrill, John Ross, and Liesl Ross. The individual point total leader is a close contest between Kitt Albritton and Lori Roberson. Be the Best You Can Be – Both physically and spiritually. Keep up the good work.

*Joyce Dean  
Director of Christian Education*

### CHOP News

The last weekend in February will find 17 youth and 4 adults at Camp Hopewell for the Jr. High Retreat. This will be an extra special weekend because Davis and Julie Bailey will be the keynote speakers!

We hope you have had a chance to look at the banner hanging in the Fellowship Hall. The youth were given a passage to read and then asked to draw what it said to them. The passages related to Jesus' life - from his birth to his resurrection. We have some very insightful and talented young people among us!

After the retreat, we will work on our Youth Sunday scheduled for the end of April.

Our Operation Christmas Child Gift of the Month for March is a bar of Irish Spring soap.

*Cindy Gurley*

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### March Birthdays

01	Georganne Johnson		Drew Parmley
02	Karen Sanders	18	Noah Shackelford
	Mike Cooper	19	Lucy Hursey
03	Tanna Halfacre	22	Bob Reiss
	Bradley Kessler		Carla Samuels
09	Mac Brankstone	23	Emilia Smith
10	Ross Ose		Wanda Ross
	Leland Dye	25	Blake Lowrie
11	Isabella Smith	28	Jason Parolli
12	Brett Smith	29	Lolly Bailey
14	Kyle Johnson		Sonny Wadsworth
15	Alex Powell		Mason Herman
17	Anne Claire Briscoe	30	Mills Barbee



### March Anniversaries

13	Dug/Scottie Langston	1993
26	Tim/Gladys Ricks	1966
30	George/Jill Hilliard	1991

## Session Minutes

### Stated Meeting/Retreat-January 12—13, 2007

#### January 12, 2007 (Friday)

The stated meeting/retreat of the session was held at the home of (retired) Rev. Annette Ragsdale, 1818 Johnston Road, with the following elders, constituting a quorum, present: Becky Parmley, Bill Stepp, Ray Hill, Michelle Eaves, Taylor Buntin, Chris Brown, Ham Brankstone, Jason Parolli, Brent Floyd, Bob Reiss, Matt Parham, and Ralph Kennedy. DCE Joyce Dean and Rev. Ragsdale were also present.

At 7:05 p.m., Rev. Robert A. Hatcher, Jr. opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

Rev. Hatcher reviewed and discussed the 2006 Financial Statement. Year-to-date, the church is in a positive financial position.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the stated meeting of the December 3, 2006, with the following correction under New Business: Thirty-three (33) members were moved from inactive status to removal; two (2) members from active status to removal; fifteen members moved from active to inactive roll; and two (2) members reinstated to active roll. A corrected list of names is attached. It was also moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the congregational meeting of December 10, and the called meeting of December 17.

A letter, dated December 7, 2006, was received from The Presbytery of St. Andrew. A draft copy of the Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee, dated December 6 was attached. Rev. Hatcher gave the Pastor's Report to the session. Rev. Hatcher closed the meeting with prayer at 9:30 p.m.

#### January 13, 2007 (Saturday)

The stated meeting/retreat of the session reconvened at 9:00 a.m. with the following elders, constituting a quorum, present: Becky Parmley, Ray Hill, Michelle Eaves, Taylor Buntin, Chris Brown, Ham Brankstone, Jason Parolli, Brent Floyd, Bob Reiss, and Matt Parham. DCE Joyce Dean was also present. Elders Bill Stepp and Ralph Kennedy were excused. Elder Kennedy rejoined

the retreat at 10:55 a.m. Elder Taylor Buntin acted as the session clerk during Elder Kennedy's absence.

Rev. Robert A. Hatcher, Jr. opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

Rev. Hatcher reviewed major items from the previous evening's meeting and the session began setting priorities and goals for the coming year.

At 1:05 p.m., Rev. Hatcher opened the afternoon meeting by continuing discussion of 2007 priorities and goals.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously to approve the following 2007 goals and objectives:

Appoint a Congregation Renewal Task Force with members to be determined at a later date.

Hold a redirection meeting with the deacons, Elder Michelle Eaves (Congregational Care Committee), Elder Taylor Buntin (Congregational Care Committee), Elder Ray Hill (Evangelism Committee) and possibly (retired) Rev. Annette Ragsdale.

Appoint the following to a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a plan for the future and a new building: Jamie Tipton, Becky Parmley, Bill Bowles, Mary Reiss, Brent Floyd, Matt Parham, Diane Tipton, and Donna Eiland.

The session discussed and set dates for the 2007 Session Calendar.

In addition, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved for Elder Becky Parmley, in conjunction with the property committee, to coordinate a church-wide garage sale with proceeds dedicated to the Van Fund.

The session also approved a request for the Baddour Miracles to perform during worship service on February 25.

The election of a presbytery commissioner for the February 6, 2007, meeting in Leland, MS, was discussed; however, a commissioner was not elected. One will be elected at a later date.

Rev. Hatcher closed the retreat with prayer at 2:30 p.m.

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## Prime Time Luncheon

Our Prime Time Luncheon will be on Tuesday, March 6. Bring a friend and enjoy a good meal. The cost will be \$4.00. Be sure to call Anne to make a reservation.

## Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Given to the Building Fund in memory of **Wesley and Annelle Bailey, Bill Bailey's father and mother:**

Taylor and Bonnie Buntin

Given to the General Fund in memory of **Bill Thompson:**

Cathy Thompson



Given to the Van Fund in memory of **George Ricks, Laura Easley's father:**

Rose Baenke

Given to the Building Fund in memory of **Ray Chester:**

Betty Kirby

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## Please Remember in Prayer:

### Members of Our Congregation:

Chuck Davidson & Family, Ben Owen, Ryma Calvert, Dave Crumpton, Marla Rustenhaven, Katharine Kidd, Mildred Davidson, Marion Smith, Sharon Walker

### Family Members of Our Congregation:

Michael French (Jimmy's brother), Bill Forshey (Mary Reiss' nephew), Tommy Bennett (Cathy Johnson's brother), Floy Peterson (Lisa Forbes' mother), Trish Cole (Brian Goff's sister), Dean Kirby (Betty's brother-in-law), Justin Londeree (Betty Kirby's great-grandson), Helen Adler (Michelle Eaves' grandmother), Charles Kennedy (Ralph's brother), Shirley Richardson (Kalle Cantrell's mother), Mrs. Chamberlin (Bobby's mother), Frances Wilson (Genie McGee's mother), Martha Clark (Dallygene Reeve's mother), Violet Walker (Gale Brankstone's mother), Daisy Wilson (Sharon Thornton's mother), Diane Callahan (Becky Parmley's aunt), Richard Parolli (Jason's father), Ollie Mae Wilbanks (Debbie Powell's aunt), Joe Fowler (Anne Smith's brother), Graydon Scott (Laura Harrell's father), Carmen Karpf (Lisa Forbes' cousin), Don Rea (Karen Sanders' brother-in-law), Margaret Hornback (Karen Sanders' mother), Pat Bennett (Cathy Johnson's mother)

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## Wednesday Family Night

Wednesday's are special. You really don't want to miss Family Night at the church. We begin with dinner at 5:30 and the program starts at 6. We will conclude our winter/spring session on March 28<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to join us. Call the church office to make your reservation.

*Joyce Dean*  
Director of Christian Education

## Vacation Bible School

The theme for our 2007 VBS is *Quest for Truth*. At Quest for Truth VBS, you will join Dakota Joe and his faithful dog, Digger, as they tackle daily challenges to unearth the Keeper of the Truth Artifact. We will journey through the Holy Land as we collect Gospel Glyphs and discover important truths about Jesus. It will be held June 25 – 29.

We are in need of people to take a leadership role. Shortly we will be asking for volunteers to help with all the aspects of VBS. Last year we had 130 children participating and about 50 volunteers.

## Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual breakfast and Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, March 31. The Men of the Church will serve breakfast beginning at 8:15 with the Easter egg hunt starting at 9. Other activities are planned, including

## March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study 6 p.m.	2	3 Yoga Class 8:30 a.m.
4 Communion PW Mother— Daughter Tea 2:30 p.m. PYF 3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	5 9-2 MDO Men of Church Dinner 6 p.m. Yoga Class 6:30 p.m.	6 Prime Time Lunch Noon Evening Circle at Hatchers 6:30 p.m.	7 9-2 MDO Youth Choir 4:30 p.m. Family Night 5:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	8 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study 6 p.m. (Last One)	9	10 Yoga Class 8:30 a.m.
11 No PYF	12 Yoga Class 6:30 p.m.	13 PW Morning Circle 10 a.m.	14 Youth Choir 4:30 p.m. Family Night 5:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	15 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Young at Heart 10 a.m.	16	17 Yoga Class 8:30 a.m.
18 Deacons Meeting Committees Meet Confirmation Class 4 p.m. PW Sun. Eve. Circle 5 p.m. PYF 5:30 p.m.	19 9-2 MDO Drawing and Sketching Class 5 p.m. Yoga Class 6:30 p.m.	20	21 9-2 MDO Youth Choir 4:30 p.m. Family Night 5:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	22 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Prime Time Games 10:30 a.m.	23	24 Yoga Class 8:30 a.m.
25 Elect Nominating Committee Session—Noon PYF Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 p.m.	26 9-2 MDO Drawing and Sketching Class 5 p.m. Yoga Class 6:30 p.m.	27 <b>Newsletter Deadline!</b>	28 9-2 MDO Youth Choir 4:30 p.m., Family Night 5:30 p.m. (last) Choir 7 p.m.	29 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m.	30	31 Yoga Class 8:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

## Church Directory

Robert A. Hatcher, Jr., Pastor ..... email: fpcchip@comcast.net..... Church 429-6646, Home 429-0402  
 Norma Roddy ..... email: nrodody98@centurytel.net..... Director of Music Ministry  
 Joyce Dean ..... email: fpcjoyce@comcast.net..... CE Director  
 Carolyn Faust ..... Organist  
 Anne Smith ..... email: fpcanne@comcast.net..... Administrative Assistant  
 Ralph Kennedy ..... Clerk of Session  
 Betty Floyd ..... Treasurer  
 Vicki Earl; Lynn Wells ..... Nursery Attendants  
 Frank Jue ..... Sunday School Superintendent  
 Meredith Walker ..... Prayer Breakfast Coordinator  
 Rodger Pattison ..... Men of the Church Coordinator  
 Joyce Dean ..... Family Night Director  
 Cindy Runken (449-4449) ..... Mother's Day Out Director  
 Peggy Witherspoon (449-5874) ..... Prayer Ring Coordinator

**SESSION**

Class of 2007	Brent Floyd Ralph Kennedy	Ham Brankstone Ray Hill
Class of 2008	Chris Brown Becky Parmley	Taylor Buntin Jason Parolli
Class of 2009	Michelle Eaves Bob Reiss	Matt Parham Bill Stepp

**DEACONS**

Class of 2007	Chad Braddock Mary Reiss Jeanette Wilkinson	Pam Briscoe Johnny Skaggs
Class of 2008	Jimmy French Rachel Cook Missy Phelps	Cody Kleine Holly Neel
Class of 2009	Robert Brankstone Julia Park Karen Sandridge	Pam Hill Pete Reeves

**TRUSTEES**

Class of 2008 - Bill Bailey

Class of 2010 - Dyke Sandridge

Class of 2012 - Taylor Buntin

**New Members Potluck Luncheon April 22**

A delicious potluck celebrating all our new members!  
 We encourage everyone, especially new and prospective members,  
 to attend this celebration. Hope to see you soon  
 at our upcoming luncheon!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
 HERNANDO, MS**

1455 McIngvale Road  
 Hernando, MS 38632