

First Christian Church
645 Briarwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
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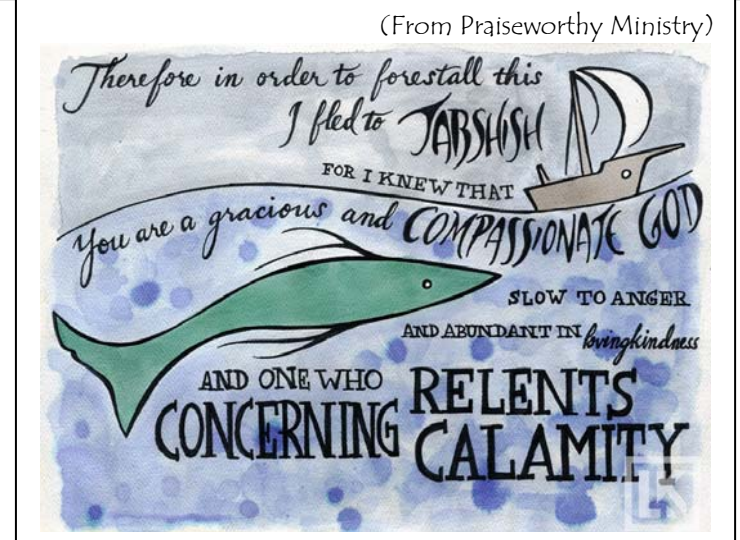
Rev. John W. Shearer, Senior Minister
Betty Shearer, Organist/ Choir Director
Madeline Mobley, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Price, Moderator of Congregation
Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Pastor



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Jackson, MS



(From Praiseworthy Ministry)



The Christian Caller

February 2018

The following schedule of services will
apply for the year at Briarwood
Community Churches:

Wed	Feb 14	Ash Wednesday Briarwood United Methodist Noon
Thurs	Mar 29	Maundy Thursday Briarwood United Methodist
Fri	Mar 30	Good Friday Briarwood Presbyterian
Sun	Apr 1	Easter Sunrise Service Briarwood Presbyterian 6:30am



Global Mission Concern for February

Victims of Violence

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. Isaiah 41:10

On Palm Sunday 2017, suicide bombers attacked two major churches in Egypt, killing 45 worshippers and injuring about 100. The threat of violence from Islamists, hostile local communities and the authorities is a fact of everyday life for persecuted Christians in many contexts, especially where national identity is closely identified with a majority religion other than Christianity.

Christians are targeted by jihadists such as Boko Haram in Nigeria and Cameroon, Al Shabaab in Somalia, and Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq. Islamist attacks also occur in Pakistan, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, amongst others. Christian gatherings in Sri Lanka and Myanmar are often violently disrupted by militant Buddhists, Hindu extremists in India frequently carry out acts of anti-Christian violence, and Christians suffer brutal treatment under former communist regimes. Countries of the former Soviet Union, North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, and Sudan have introduced laws that suppress freedom of religion, resulting in violent police raids, arrests, torture, and martyrdom.

Barnabas Aid's Victims of Violence Fund helps to rebuild shattered lives by providing medical care, legal assistance, and places of refuge. When Christians need to make a fresh start, help with small-business start-up costs or vocational training makes it possible. The fund also cares for the families of prisoners and helps Christians who have suffered state-sponsored injustice.

Barnabas Aid has provided trauma counseling to Syrian Christians—some whose family members were murdered for their faith. They can now begin to rebuild their lives and find joy again.

Lift up in prayer Christians living with the constant threat of violence or injustice simply because of their faith. Ask God to shield all who take refuge in Him (2 Samuel 22:31). Beseech God, the Most High over all the earth (Psalm 97:9) on behalf of Christians making a fresh start, that the Lord will bless them in their new beginnings and keep them safe. Praise God for those who endure injustice and imprisonment, and ask Him to strengthen them and their families.



Notes Galore

It's Valentine month: So Happy! Happy!
Here's a little song which brought peals of laughter-so fun!
to my students years ago. It still brings a smile!
"Do you love me or do you not? You told me once but –
I forgot!" ☺

-Betty



*Seasonal Offerings
throughout the year:*

Week of Compassion (Feb 18)
Easter (March 28)
Thanksgiving (Nov 11)
Christmas (Dec 16)



Congregation Corner

Smiles

One of the nicest things you can do for people is to smile at them.

I was listening to a song about how important it is for God's people to smile. It said to let people see you smile as you do God's work so that they will see the pleasure of serving God with a smile.

Another thing to remember about smiling is, 'All people smile in the same language.' Also, remember that what sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. Make your smile a welcomed thing all around town.

Remember, a Smile is Cheer to you and me. The cost is nothing - it's given free. It comforts the weary – gladdens the sad – consoles those in trouble – good or bad. To rich and poor – beggar or thief – it's free to all of any belief. Unlike most blessings for which we pray, it's one thing we keep when we give it away.

As you go through this month, remember to smile at all you meet as you share the good news of salvation by the grace of Jesus with them.

As the story I was listening to says, 'Give the world a smile today.'

- Barbara Price

Be thinking also of our faithful jr. member Georgia Jordan, as she is looking toward high school graduation this year, with an eye on Belhaven College in the fall. If you would like to donate to her tuition, Belhaven will match it. Look for more information in the coming months.

Sunday School Teachers

February

4th Barbara Price
 11th Sara Caldwell
 18th Hillory Wright
 25th Barbara Price

Elders Serving for February

4th Lector/Offertory
 Barbara Price
 Communion/Greeter
 Martha Bise

11th Lector/Offertory
 Barbara Price
 Communion/Greeter
 Martha Bise

18th Lector/Offertory
 Martha Bise
 Communion/Greeter
 Barbara Price

25th Lector/Offertory
 Martha Bise
 Communion/Greeter
 Barbara Price

Once again the Briarwood Community of Churches will be doing the annual Lenten Luncheons each Wednesday:

This year's theme is "Thy Will Be Done"

The Host church will provide the luncheon. The schedule for Lenten Luncheons is as follows:

Wed Feb 21	First Christian Church
Wed Feb 28	Briarwood Presbyterian
Wed Mar 7	Briarwood United Methodist
Wed Mar 14	Briarwood Presbyterian
Wed Mar 21	First Christian Church

Times:	12 Noon	Worship
	12:30-1pm	Meal

