

First Christian Church

645 Briarwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-977-9477

Rev. John W. Shearer, Senior Minister
Betty Shearer, Organist/ Choir Director
Madeline Mobley, Administrative Assistant
Sara Caldwell, Moderator of Congregation
Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Minister



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Jackson, MS



He said
to me
you are
my son,
today I
have
become
your
Father.

Psalm 2:7

The Christian Caller

March 2019

There will be a Gideon Speaker during the March 3rd 10:30am Sunday Worship Service at FCC.

Briarwood Community of Churches



- Briarwood Presbyterian Church – Rev. Charles Bowdler
- Briarwood United Methodist Church – Rev. Jason Harms
- First Christian Church – Rev. John Shearer

2019 Theme: The Sanctuary For Lent

12:00 – 12:30 pm - “Bread and Broth” Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 pm - Worship and Praise

- Wed. March 13 Briarwood Presbyterian Church
- Wed. March 20 Briarwood United Methodist Church
- Wed. March 27 First Christian Church
- Wed. April 3 Briarwood United Methodist Church
- Wed. April 10 Briarwood Presbyterian Church

***** Pick up a copy of the Daily Meditation Booklet “The Sanctuary For Lent” from your Pastor*****

March Birthdays:

John Shearer

Janet Mobley

Marlene Druery

Jana & Randy Truitt's Anniversary

Global Mission Concern for March

Morocco

Converts from Islam should no longer face the death penalty for apostasy, Morocco’s highest religious authority has decreed. The High Religious Committee presided over by King Muhammed VI, made this decision last year in a dramatic move contradicting sharia (Islamic law).

Only God knows the exact number of indigenous Christians in Morocco. Estimates range between 3,000 and 8,000. The converts from Islam are mostly ethnic Berbers.

Morocco is 99% Muslim. The king claims direct descent from Muhammad, and bears the Islamic title “Commander of the Faithful.” The government maintains Islam as the state religion, and does not recognize the existence of an indigenous Christian minority. The law forbids evangelism among Muslims – and many foreign missionaries caught evangelizing have been expelled.

Christian converts from Islam face social, family, and cultural pressures. The authorities often do not bother Christians, provided they keep their gatherings discreet, although some report that there is official pressure on them to recant their faith.

In June 2017, the National Coalition of Moroccan Christians submitted a list of request to the National Human Rights Council including “the freedom of worship and the official recognition of churches in the country” and the right to use Christian names for their children.

Since the Arab Spring in 2011, King Muhammed VI has been implementing a number of political reforms.

Ketoubia Mosque in Marrakesh, the largest in Morocco; Muslims account for more than 99% of the population and the government refuses to recognize the existence of a Christian community among Moroccan nationals.

Give thanks for the dramatic ruling by Morocco’s High Religious Committee last year, and pray that the Islamic leadership in other countries will follow this lead. Pray that the National Human Rights Committee will grant Moroccan Christians their requests and that their right to exist, worship and share their faith will be recognized. Pray that God will guide, nurture, and continue to add to the growing number of courageous Christians in Morocco. Remember that our brothers and sister face family and societal pressures to deny Christ, and ask the Lord to give them strength to “live a life worthy of the calling (they) have received” (Ephesians 4:1).



Notes Galore

A CHALLENGING DEVOTIONAL by Max Lucado was sent via email 2/19/19. Actually, it is so obvious...but an important reminder as we “Believers” gather:

Preparing for Worship

Do you prepare for church worship? We’re sadly casual when it comes to meeting God. Suppose you were invited to a Sunday morning breakfast at the White House? How would you spend Saturday night? Would you think about your questions and requests? Should we prepare any less for an encounter with the Holy God?

Come to worship prepared to worship. Pray and read the Word before you come, and come expecting God to speak. Then you’ll discover the purpose of worship – to change the face of the worshiper. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:18, “Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord’s glory, and we are being changed to be like him.” God wipes away our tears, softens our furrowed brows and touches our cheeks. He changes our faces as we worship.



- Max Lucado

The hymn that is singing in my mind and heart is: “Christians, we have met to worship and adore the living God; will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down; Christians, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.”

Chalice Hymnal #277

-Betty



Congregation Corner

Are You Listening?

Recently, on a visit to one of the homeless shelters in Jackson, I met a young man named John who reminded me of some of the wonderful things about Jesus. John was an 18 year old from Germany on a mission for the Mennonite Church to help the hungry and homeless.

This meeting reminded me that Jesus came to show God’s love for everyone in the world. Jesus offers God’s love, grace, forgiveness and salvation for everyone, regardless of who we are, or where we are from. Also, the directions He gives to His followers are the same for everyone. “Feed the hungry, care for the needy, love your neighbor as yourself.”

We must always remember that God is a spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth and obey His direction (John 4:24). We must show His love to the world (Galations 5:13-14). Our task is to believe, accept salvation and do what He says.

-Barbara Price



Sunday School Teachers

March

3rd Hillory Wright
 10th Barbara Price
 17th Sara Caldwell
 24th Hillory Wright
 31st Barbara Price

Elders Serving for March

3rd Lector/Offertory
 Hillory Wright
 Communion/Greeter
 Janet Wright

10th Lector/Offertory
 Hillory Wright
 Communion/Greeter
 Janet Wright

17th Lector/Offertory
 Janet Wright
 Communion/Greeter
 Hillory Wright

24th Lector/Offertory
 Janet Wright
 Communion/Greeter
 Hillory Wright

31st Lector/Offertory
 Hillory Wright
 Communion/Greeter
 Janet Wright

When I was a little lad, March was all about "kite flying." The railroad depot had a perfect field for flying my kite. March winds were perfect and the goal was always to have your kite up so high that it took 3 or 4 balls of twine to do that. Keeping your kite airborne a long time was the object.

Here I sit at my desk, at least 700 miles from those childhood days, seventy years older, but the memories are as real today as they were when I was 8, 10, or 12 years old.

Today's article is about memories. Obviously the March kite flying was the childhood winner. But there are other childhood memories. My dad took me to New York one summer. The game at Yankee Stadium – I can still smell the popcorn. The walk on the Boardwalk, the day at Coney Island – memories are made of this.

Then there was my second trip to South Korea where I met my wife of now 57 years. Betty was teaching music at Seoul Foreign School. The Courtship, the Marriage, the Journey of Life.

Seven years ago I persuaded the churches on Briarwood Drive (the Baptist, Presbyterian, United Methodist) to start sharing our Lenten Luncheons, our Easter Sunrise, and our Thanksgiving services together. It has been the most joyous experience in my thirty years of ministry. Be sure to read the Lenten Luncheon schedule and join us for the five Wednesday Luncheons.

Love to All Christians-
 Pastor John

