



DECEMBER | 2017



THE
NEWSLETTER

www.ripleypresbyterianchurch.com

Lessons

& Carols

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Presented by
The Music Ministries & Friends
of the
Ripley Presbyterian Church
and
First United Methodist Church of Ripley

10 | DECEMBER | 2017
5:00 PM
Ripley Presbyterian
Church



"Dear Church Family,

The Church Session recently received a financial update from our Church Treasurer, Mrs. B.J. Horton. The report stated that through eleven months of this year, our expenses had exceeded our income by \$14,277.00.

This was concerning for the Session to hear, and we wanted to update you on this status as soon as we were informed. There were two factors that contributed heavily to this significant year-end cash shortfall. The total portion we pay to support ministry in our Presbytery and the denomination is \$7,800.00 annually. This year, \$5,000 of that amount was not paid until November. Next year, we have plans to make those payments on a quarterly basis, so a large expense does not hit at the end of the year.

Along with this additional expense in November, our giving for the month of November was significantly down. This contributed to our year-to-date income (at the end of November) being \$10,000 less than it was for the same period last year. Therefore, \$5,000 in additional expenses, and \$10,000 in reduced income, resulted in our year-to-date expenses through Nov. being \$14,227 more than our income.

As your pastor, I personally apologize that this concerning news is coming so late in the year. Going forward, your Session and I will evaluate our year-end financial status earlier in the month of November.

I ask you to join me as we all evaluate our giving to the church before the end of the year. With God's continued blessings and our combined generosity, we can overcome this challenge.

And as we make this final push to the end of 2017, I think it is appropriate for us to pause and consider what we are actually contributing to when we give to our church.

We have a worship setting that is beautifully adorned with stained glass windows and a professional musician that inspires our worship. She provides accompaniment to a choir of dedicated disciples who give of themselves to make our worship more meaningful. They are led by a skilled music director who organizes the music, obtains the materials and leads practice so that we may be blessed in worship. None of this could happen without our weekly tithes and impact upon the annual Church budget.

Our young people are nurtured in confirmation class with the pastor as they prepare for church membership. Our entire Christian education ministry is led by a dedicated director that invests time and energy into molding the hearts and minds of our family of faith.

We are a tithing congregation! That means that more than 10% of our budget goes outside of our local church. We support the larger church, mission outreach, and missionaries throughout the world with our combined giving.

The buildings and grounds of our campus are maintained and improved by a very

dedicated committee who ensures that we have a holy place to worship and grow in the faith. Your giving makes that possible.

We have a church administrator that coordinates our entire church ministry and outreach. The office is open each day to meet our needs and be a resource for our questions and concerns. We could not function as effectively in ministry without our administrator and your contributions allow us to have that position in our church.

Our Presbyterian Women and congregational outreach committee serve the physical and emotional needs of our community of faith. Cards are sent, visits are made, calls are placed and meals are prepared. All of these acts of grace communicate God's love to his people in need. These ministries would not be possible without our combined giving as a congregation.

The men's fellowship supports our youth ministry and many other special projects of the church. They have never been faced with a need in which they did not respond in an uplifting way. How could they convene and grow together without a Gregg Center? And how could we have a Gregg Center without the financial gifts to our church?

We receive preaching and worship leadership from a seminary trained pastor who was called by the Holy Spirit to serve the people of faith. This is not to say that the pastor has all of the answers and is never wrong. However, the teaching elder in our tradition has received the instruction and mentoring specific to the spiritual needs of the congregation. Much like we value training and expertise from our accountant in dealing with financial matters, we should expect and appreciate the same when it come to guidance in our faith.

Many of our congregants serve our community on a daily basis as doctors, teachers, lawyers, business leaders, and retired professionals who contribute so much to so many. Have you ever considered that each of us play a part in their ministry? We inspire each of these in weekly worship, filling their cups with God's grace so that they are equipped to fill his world with love.

None of these individuals could sustain a worship community on their own. Our combined contributions to the ministry of this church make it possible.

Wow! You are impacting our world in so many ways on behalf of Jesus Christ. So, let's push on and meet our budget for 2017. But know more importantly than making a budget, we are doing kingdom work with our giving.

Thank you for being the church RPC! "

In the Way,

Jody

**Ripley Presbyterian Church
Stated Session Meeting
September 10, 2017 – 11:30 a.m.**

Attendance: Reverend Jody Hill; Price Elliott; Robert Goolsby; Lynn Hill; Benton Elliott & Jennifer Huddleston

Excused Absence: Ann Wigington; Norris Howell

Rev. Jody Hill (moderator) called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk's Report:

The September 10th agenda was examined and approved by common consent.

The August 13th stated session meeting minutes were examined. A motion was made by Price Elliott to approve; second by Benton Elliott and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Request from SGWF committee regarding fund-raising for remaining window and oval window & book.

This was tabled per further information and discussion from the SGWF Committee. The following announcement was approved (unanimously) via email by the session to be presented to the congregation:

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE
STAINED GLASS WINDOW COMMITTEE**

*Dear Church Family,
We are very pleased to announce the following good news! A recent anonymous gift significantly reduced the remaining funds needed to complete the final sanctuary stained glass window (Adam and Eve). The remaining construction cost on this final sanctuary window is now \$6,781. We currently have a bank balance of \$4,242 in the Stained Glass window fund.*

Therefore, we only need \$2,539 to pay for this final sanctuary window. We are hopeful the need to borrow funds will be unnecessary with this recent gift. At some point in the future, we hope to purchase a small round stained glass window to replace the blue glass at the front of the church entrance. The committee will be sharing a design and cost estimate for this small round window as soon as possible. At a later date, we would like to complete a pictorial book of our stained glass windows.

These funds are not immediately needed, and this project can proceed when funds have already been secured for the previous two priorities.

Although we only need \$2,539 to pay for the final sanctuary window, we would like to set a current goal of raising \$4,039 for the stained glass window fund. The stained glass window fund is in an interest bearing bank account and we need to maintain a \$1,500 balance to keep the account active. This \$1,500 balance will also provide start-up funds for when we begin working on the round stained glass above the church entrance.

We will be deeply grateful for any donations contributed toward the \$4,039 goal.

Sincerely,

*THE RPC STAINED GLASS WINDOW
COMMITTEE:*

Diane Bailey

Anne Elliott

Norris Howell

New Business:

- Request for Infant Baptism: Lucy McClain Guin, daughter of Grant & Montana Guin. A motion was made to approve this request by Robert Goolsby and second by Benton Elliott; unanimous approval by session.
- Nominating Committee for the Elder Class of 2020 (3 nominees)-- representatives will be forthcoming from the PW, the RPC Men's fellowship, and the RPC Choir and will be submitted

for approval at the next session meeting.

- Point of Information from RPC 180th Birthday Chairperson, Jennifer Huddleston. All preparations for the upcoming Oct. 8 RPC Birthday Celebration are going well.
- Commissioner (delegate) for Presbytery: October 10, 2017 at Senatobia. Bobby Elliott has expressed interest in attending, and will be our delegate.

Endowment/ P. Elliott

Personnel & Budget/R. Goolsby, B. Elliott & P. Elliott

Stained Glass Window/D. Bailey & Session Rep. N. Howell

Elder Nominating Committee/ N. Howell & A. Wigington

2017 Committee Reports

Worship/J. Huddleston & L. Hill

Buildings & Grounds/ N. Howell & A. Wigington

Christian Education/ A. Wigington & L. Hill

Congregational Care & Outreach/ B. Elliott & N. Howell

There will be no stated session meeting for the month of October.

There being no further business, Price Elliott made the motion to adjourn. Jennifer Huddleston seconded; unanimously approved.

Elder Robert Goolsby closed the meeting with prayer.

Lynn Hill, Clerk of the Session

December 10, 2017

A Congregational Meeting was held for the purpose of electing 3 elders for the Class of 2020. The 2017 Nominating Committee submitted Deborah Steverson, Leon Bailey and Bobby Elliott, and the vote was unanimous. We thank the Elder Class of 2017-- Ann Wigington, Norris Howell & Robert Goolsby-- for their faithful service and dedication to the care of our congregation and church. Please continue to pray for our session members in the days ahead.



**SOUP &
Santa!
2017**



Our annual "Soup & Santa" Fellowship was such fun! 9 different soups, 3 pans of cornbread, assorted chips & crackers, and the best desserts on the planet! Plus, Santa stopped by to visit with our RPC Youth—as you can see, they were plenty excited to see him! It was a wonderful night filled with good food, good fun and good fellowship—although, we DID miss Pastor Jody! (He was in NOLA, working on his degree!) But we didn't forget you, Jody—have a look below!





*December at
Ripley Presbyterian Church
2017*



Lessons & Carols

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Presented by
The Music Ministries & Friends
of the
Ripley Presbyterian Church
and
First United Methodist Church of Ripley

10 | DECEMBER | 2017
5:00 PM
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PLEASE JOIN US

*Christmas Eve
Communion Service*

5 PM Sunday, 24TH of DECEMBER
RIPLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOPE · PEACE · JOY · LOVE

Worship & Christian Education, Etc.

WORSHIP HOURS

9:30 AM—Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

MIDWEEK | YOUTH | 2018

We resume MIDWEEK January 3rd!

SEE YOU THERE!

RIPLEY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MIDWEEK!!
OH, YEAH!!

~ 2017-2018 ~

5:00 | BIBLE STUDY GRADES 1-4

5:00 | BIBLE STUDY GRADES 5-8 | JODY HILL

5:30 | SUPPER

6:00 | MUSIC & WORSHIP SKILLS | JENNIFER HUDDLESTON

6:30 | RECREATION | B.J. HORTON & KEN BROWN

**Every Wednesday starting Aug. 30
See You There!**

MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 PM



RPC/PW Circle Meetings: We meet the first Monday after the second Sunday of each month at 10 am in The Gregg Center. ALL the women in our congregation are invited to attend!

PW Council for 2017-2018

Moderator Lynn Hill

lynnrpc@ripleycable.net (662-837-6678)

Vice Moderator | Deborah Steverson
(662-837-8332)

Secretary—Pat Ledbetter (662-837-7169)

Treasurer | Ann Wigington (662-837-4683)

Historian | Jennifer Huddleston (662-587-6807)

The 2017-18 PW/Horizons Bible Study is titled

"Cloud of Witnesses-The Community of Christ in Hebrews", written by Melissa

Bane Sevier. Copies still available in the RPC church office.

~Just a few left—don't delay!

available for purchase
\$20 per copy

SPONSORED & COMPILED BY THE RPC/PW

Contact Lynn Hill at 662-837-3765
OR lynnrpc@ripleycable.net
for details.



**READY, SET,
COOK!**

THE RPC COOKBOOK PROJECT

Celebrating 180 Years
October 8, 2017
Sponsored & compiled by the
RPC/Presbyterian Women



RPC Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Devotion

Meets the first Sunday of every month
@ 8:30 am in the Gregg Center

Scripture & Readers for December

12-3-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 80: 7, 17-18

Advent Readers

Robert & Sharon Goolsby

SECOND LESSON:

Mark 13: 24-37

SERMON TITLE:

'HOPE'

12-10-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 85: 8-9

"Hanging of the Greens"

Advent Reflection:

"PEACE"

12-17-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Isaiah 61: 10

Advent Readers

B.J. Horton & RPC Youth
SECOND LESSON:
Luke 1: 46b-55
SERMON TITLE:
"JOY"

12-24-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:
Isaiah 9:2
Advent Readers
Lauren & Jody Steverson
SECOND LESSON:
Luke 1: 26-38
SERMON TITLE:
"LOVE"



Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 5 | Rusty Steverson | 23 | Ann & Hollis Wigington
(1962) |
| 7 | Elvin Huddleston | 25 | Melissa Ratliff |
| 12 | Amy Adams | 27 | Stan Horton, III |
| 15 | Shea & Jason Scott (2001) | 27 | Billye Mauney |
| 19 | Reeca & Price Elliott (1990) | 28 | Lamon McClain |
| 22 | Jackie Gossett | | |

JANUARY

2 Jason Scott
 17 Craig Bullock
 17 Jamie Wall

19 Cooper Permenter
 20 Mary Ann Brown
 27 Rob Elliott

RPC SESSION**Class of 2017**

Ann Wigington-Christian Education Co Chair; Buildings & Grounds Co Chair; Elder Nominating Committee Co Chair | 662-512-2277 | hwig@bellsouth.net

Robert Goolsby- Personnel & Budget (Moderator) | 662-316-2644 | rgools@ripleycable.net

Norris Howell- Vice Moderator; Buildings & Grounds Co-Chair, Congregational Care & Outreach [Co-Chair | 662-837-1750 | nljhowell@yahoo.com](mailto:nljhowell@yahoo.com)

Class of 2018

Benton Elliott-Personnel & Budget Co-Chair; Congregational Care & Outreach Co Chair | 662-316-2994 | bentonelliott41@gmail.com

Lynn Hill, Clerk of the Session -Worship Committee Co Chair; Christian Education Co-Chair | 662-837-6678 | lynnrpc@ripleycable.net

Class of 2019

Jennifer Huddleston- Worship Committee Co-Chair | 662-587-6807 huddlestonj@stippah.k12.ms.us

Price Elliott- Personnel & Budget Co-Chair; Endowment Fund Chairperson | 662-512-2483 | pelliott@dixie-net.com

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

RPC Office Phone---662-837-3765
Office Hours: Mon-Wed/ 9 am to 4
pm
Thursdays 9 am to Noon

Jody Hill---Pastor
662-512-8226
jody.hill34@gmail.com

Lynn Hill---Church Administrator

662-837-6678
lynnrpc@ripleycable.net

B.J. Horton---Director of Christian
Education---662-587-1315
bjhorton@lda-cpa.com

Jennifer Huddleston---Director of
Music---662-587-6807
HuddlestonJ@stippah.k12.us

Mikayla Rayburn--Nursery Attendant
