



REACH

On April 11, 2017, the Regional Rehab Center, in Tupelo, Mississippi, honored Mr. Bobby Martin with their annual Red Raspberry Humanitarian of the Year Award. He became the first person, living outside of the Tupelo metropolitan area, to win the award. Bobby was chosen because of his unwavering support for the entire region of Northeast Mississippi.

Like others, Mickey Holliman understands his friend's impact upon our region. But he was quoted at the awards dinner for celebrating Bobby's personal attributes. "If I had a problem, he would be the first person to reach out to me," Holliman says with the emotion usually reserved for an intimate family member.

Holliman uses the word reach to describe Bobby's most endearing qualities. "The first thing that inspires me about Bobby is his faith in God." Holliman says to indicate Martin's secret to success begins with his reach UP to God.

Holliman continues, "Just as important as his relationship to God is how he turns his faith toward others. He applies it and uses it for good." Holliman says his friend is not afraid to reach OUT to others.

But his reach doesn't stop on the surface. Holliman points out, "He doesn't just get to know his friends but he becomes actively involved in the lives of their family members." This is Bobby's reach DOWN deep into the lives of his friends.

This reflection by Mickey Holliman gives a glimpse into the secret of Bobby Martin's impact. What is his secret? Reach. His reach up to God; His reach out to his community; and his reach down into the personal lives of his employees, customers, and friends.

Perhaps this model can serve to enhance the ministry of us all. May we all strive to reach up, reach out, and reach down.

In the Way,

Jody

**Ripley Presbyterian Church Stated Session
Meeting**

March 19, 2017 – 11:30 a.m.

Attendance: Reverend Jody Hill; Benton Elliott; Price Elliott; Robert Goolsby; Jennifer Huddleston; Norris Howell; Lynn Hill; Ann Wigington.

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

Clerk's Report:

The March 19th agenda was examined and approved by common consent.

The February 12 stated session meeting minutes were examined. A motion was made by Price Elliott to approve; second by Benton Elliott and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- Suggested approaches as to formation of committees consisting of members of the congregation. Discussion tabled until the June meeting after further research.

New Business:

- Report from the March 7th Presbytery Meeting | Rev. Jody Hill & Price Elliott

Price reported that the meeting was well attended and the business ran smoothly. Several constitutional amendments were passed--the most important being that one is no longer required to be baptized in order to take part in communion.

- A motion was made to accept the request of a vacation day (May 21st, 2017) from Rev. Jody Hill by Lynn Hill; second by Ann Wigington and was unanimously approved. Rev. Hill will secure a replacement for May 21.
- Point of Information: Rev. Hill proposed offering a "Membership Workshop" to all those interested. Possibly a 2-hr. class using the catechism covering the basic tenets of the Presbyterian faith. Rev. Hill will discuss dates with those interested and submit those at a later date.

2017 Committee Reports

Worship/J. Huddleston & L. Hill

- Promotions for the Community Holy Week services are ongoing. Lynn Hill has used several forms; social media, email & an ad in the Southern Sentinel.

Buildings & Grounds/ N. Howell & A. Wigington

- The redesign & construction of the Gregg Center steps is complete. The session expressed its sincere thanks for this gesture made by Benton & Elizabeth Elliott.
- Norris Howell mentioned that Michael Ward has started a new lawn care business and would like to give RPC a quote. Lynn Hill will contact.
- Work on the steeple is close to completion, and improvements have been made to the exterior of the old sanctuary and the Education Building. The session expressed their sincere thanks for this work donated by Norris & Lynne Howell.

Christian Education/ A. Wigington & L. Hill

MidWeek Annual "Luau" is scheduled for April 26 at the home of Norris & Lynne Howell (confirmed with Lynne Howell).

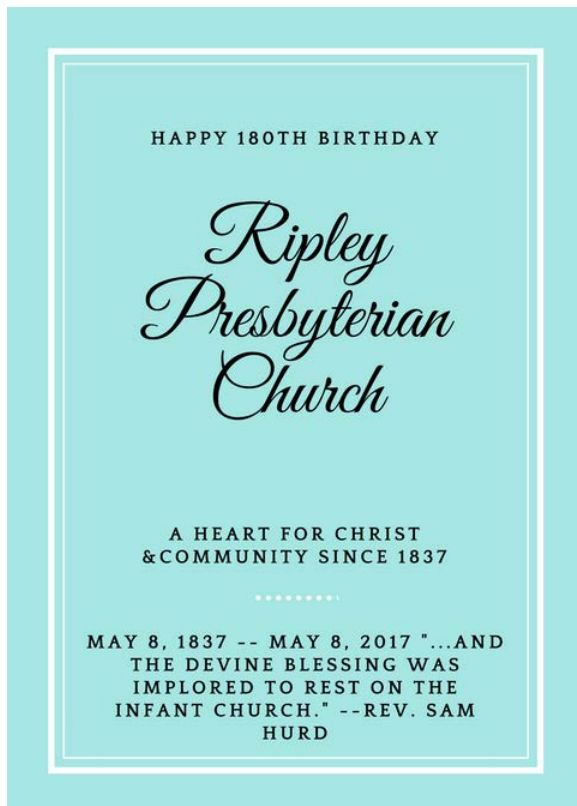
Our next stated meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Robert Goolsby closed the meeting with prayer.

Lynn Hill
Clerk of the Session

**Plans are in the works
for a Homecoming
Celebration in Fall 2017—
more to come!**



The Ripley Presbyterian Church was the third church organized in the Ripley area. The church, with twenty-one members, was organized on May 8, 1837 by Rev. Sam Hurd of Holly Springs, MS, acting under the Board of Missions of the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in the United States. William White was elected and ordained and installed as the first ruling elder. In the closing minutes of the organization of our church, we find the following quote from Rev. Hurd. "...and the devine blessing was implored to rest on the infant Church. A true history."

For about three years after its organization, our Church had no regular pastor, but services were held fairly regularly by Rev. T.C. Stewart and Rev. Daniel Baker. Before the close of 1840, Rev. W.A. Gray (at that time, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Starkville) accepted the call to become the first minister of our church. Rev. Gray remained as pastor of our church until his death in October 1881.

The first services of the RPC were probably held in a log building known as a meeting house and used primarily by four denominations; the Cumberland Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Presbyterians and the Baptists. This building was located just east of the jail. Our original church building, a large frame building located just north of the old manse on Union Street, was erected in 1850-1851.

A little RPC History.....

1994 | The Cross-Stitch Nativity Scene



From the December 25, 1994 RPC bulletin.....

"A magnificent five panel cross-stitch nativity scene has recently been completed and added to the church's permanent collection. This panel is presently on display in the narthex. The actual cross-stitching was a two-year project of the Presbyterian Women. Stitchers were Carolyn Caviness (center panel), Becky Benson, Sylvia Braddock, Linda Dowdy, Claudia Long and Ginger Martin. Memorial gifts were used to help purchase the custom-made artistic gold frame. The entire project was finally completed with a gift in loving memory of Mrs. Lottie P. Nelms by her son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Lib Nelms."

"THANK YOU!!" from the RPC Youth and everyone who attended the annual "MidWeek Luau"! For 20-plus years, Norris & Lynne have unfailingly opened their home & their hearts to generations of RPC Youth that look forward to this time-honored celebration. Fun, food & fellowship marked the end of a great 2016-1017 MidWeek program! Again, thank you so very, very much!



THE LUAU

APRIL 26, 2017



Ripley
Presbyterian
Church



Our Youth

**RPC YOUTH FUNDRAISER
SPONSORED BY THE RPC
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
April 30, 2017 @ 11:30 am**

The RPC Men's Fellowship's BBQ Chicken Luncheon/RPC Youth Fundraiser was a terrific success! Even with the stormy weather, we had a solid attendance & raised over \$2000 in donations for the Youth fund. A huge "thank you" goes out to Jody & Lauren Steverson who donated the chicken, and our chefs & organizers—Stan Horton, Benton Elliott, Mike Parker, Leon Bailey, Jason Harrison, Jody Clark, Gerald Hill, Wayne Steverson, Norris Howell, Bobby Elliott, Lynne Howell, Deborah Steverson, Anne Elliott, Diane Bailey & all of those who provided the fabulous desserts! Everyone enjoyed the Food (BEST. CHICKEN. EVER! And those baked beans were practically a meal by themselves—YUMMO!), and the Fellowship!



AUSTIN BROWN

Senior Recognition Sunday

MAY 7, 2017 | RPC

Join us as we celebrate our
Graduate of 2017 during worship!



Austin Brown is the son of Betsey Miller and Steve Brown and a senior at Ripley High School. He was a member of the RHS Tiger Band for 7 years, the MS All State Lions Band Champion (2016), and numerous Honor Bands. Also a member of the RHS Football Team, Austin was named as one of Northeast Mississippi's All Star Football Players, and will play in the East vs. West All Star Game on May 17, 2017. Austin was a Ripley Main Street Ambassador, a member of the Spanish Club and the Enrichment Honor Roll. He also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. His scholarships include the Tippah County scholarship, the Eagle Scout scholarship, and an Ole Miss Band Scholarship. His plans are to attend the University of Mississippi this fall, with a major in Exercise Science.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

RPC/PW Circle Meetings: We meet the first Monday after the second Sunday of each month at 10 am in The Gregg Center.

PW Council for 2016-2017

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)



RPC Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Devotion

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

Scriptures & Readers for May

5-07-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 20: 1-2

FIRST LESSON: 2 Chronicles 7: 12-22

Grace-Anne Elliott

SECOND LESSON:

1 Peter 1: 13-25

SERMON TITLE:

"Be Holy"

5-21-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 22: 4-5

FIRST LESSON: Esther 6: 1-14

Caleb Frenn

SECOND LESSON:

1 Peter 2: 13-25

SERMON TITLE:

"By His Wounds You are Healed"

5-14-2017 (Mothers Day)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 21: 13

FIRST LESSON:

Ezra 7: 8-16

Rhonda Brown

SECOND LESSON:

1 Peter 2: 1-12

SERMON TITLE:

"You are a Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood"

5-28-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 23: 1-3

FIRST LESSON:

Job 1: 6-22

Price Elliott

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 28: 16-20

SERMON TITLE:

"The Great Commision"

Memorials

In Memory of Willetta Braddock Swoope

By Richard & Jo Todd, Helen Barkley, Freddie & Janice Cross, & Sue Ellen & Max Miller



MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 Ty Brown | |
| 4 B.J. & Stan Horton (2002) | 28 Linda Shannon |
| 12 Denny & Carolyn-Caviness-Buss | 31 Price Elliott |
| 22 Lynne & Norris Howell (1976) | 31 Margaret & Kent Montgomery (1985) |

~Save the Dates~

May 7 | Men's Fellowship Breakfast
& Devotional 8:30 am

May 7 | Senior Recognition Sunday

May 9 | Christian Ed. Committee Mtg
@ 5:30 pm

May 12 | NEMCC Graduation
(Rhonda Brown)

May 14 | Mother's Day

May 15 | RPC/PW/Coordinating
Team Meeting 9:30 am
RPC Circle Meeting 10:00 am

May 21 | Rev. Jody Hill on vacation

May 26 | RHS Graduation (Austin
Brown)

May 28 | PW Birthday Offering

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

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