



THE  
**NEWSLETTER**  
NOVEMBER | 2016  
[www.ripleypresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.ripleypresbyterianchurch.com)



## | IN THE WAY | REVEREND JODY HILL

I embrace the Apostle's Creed as the foundational statement for my Christian Faith. In a more simplistic form, if I had to define my faith with one word it would be: love. It was our Lord Jesus who gave the following response when asked about the greatest commandment: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"* (Matthew 22:37-40).

I am grateful for the diversity in theology found in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I think it communicates that we are big enough and small enough for all types of people. There is a humility in this approach to ministry that says: *maybe I, or we, don't have all the answers but God does have the truth. Let's explore our Lord together, despite our differences, and listen to how He will lead us to minister together.* When we get to heaven there will be many different types of people there. May we celebrate the same saving grace of our Lord (that accepts us despite our shortcomings) and accept one another along with our disagreements or differences as children of God (Col 3:12).

Now, this is not to say that I think our faith, or church, should be about "anything goes." There are certain essential truths to our faith that cannot be wavering for us to call ourselves Presbyterians or even Christians. To this end, I find that Holy Scripture is our infallible truth for life and wholeness as children of God. Regarding Holy Scripture, the Westminster Confession of Faith makes the following statement: **"WCOF 6.002** Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, All which are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life."

Since I believe scripture is infallible, rather than inerrant, we need a guide to help us interpret the text with integrity. Therefore I embrace the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as the guide for how I practice and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, as the Westminster Confession points out; the most effective tool for

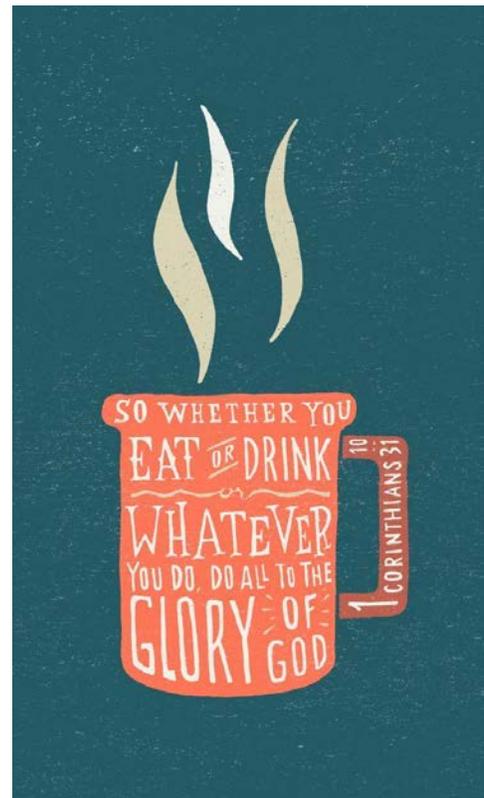
interpreting scripture, is scripture itself. **“WCOF 6.009** The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture, is the Scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it may be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.”

Regarding salvation, I believe that we are all sinners and our only hope is in a gracious God who gave all of himself (even his very life) so that we may be forgiven of our individual sin and saved from the destructive sin of the world around us. **“WCOF 6.056** In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all men should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with men to accept his gracious invitation.”

Finally, I feel that there is no statement in our Confessions more profound than the answer to question number 1 of the shorter catechism: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.”

In the Way,

Jody







# Summary of the Stated Session Meeting

**Ripley Presbyterian  
Church Stated Session  
Meeting  
September 11, 2016 – 11:30  
a.m.**

**Attendance:** Reverend Jody Hill; Leon Bailey; Bobby Elliott; Benton Elliott; Robert Goolsby; Norris Howell; Ann Wigington and Lynn Hill.

*(The time of the stated meeting was changed due to a conflict in scheduling, and was agreed to by common consent on 9/10/16. Rev. Jody Hill and his wife, Monya, graciously provided lunch during the meeting.)*

Bobby Elliott called the meeting to order and made the motion to allow Reverend Jody Hill to moderate and conduct the Stated Session meeting of the Ripley Presbyterian Church. This motioned was approved by common consent.

Reverend Jody Hill opened the meeting with prayer.

## **Clerk's Report:**

The September 11 agenda was examined and approved by common consent. After examination by the members of the Session, Bobby Elliott made the motion to approve the August 7 stated meeting minutes of the Ripley Presbyterian Church Session. Norris Howell seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

## **Old Business:**

Update from the RPC Facilities Policy & Guidelines Committee: after careful calculations, the committee recommends charging a \$100 fee to cover utilities & cleaning to members for non-church related functions. This was offered in the form of a motion and was unanimously approved.

## **New Business:**

- Rev. Jody Hill provided an update with his meeting with Greg Goodwiller concerning Rev. Hill seeking temporary membership in the Presbytery of St. Andrew. He was examined & interviewed this prior week, and the process is going forward.
- Request from the Stubbs & Jordan families to reserve the sanctuary and the Gregg Center as a back-up venue for the wedding of Anna Stubbs and Justin Jordan. The family had questions regarding RPC's wedding policy that were presented to the session for consideration. The questions were answered, and Lynn will contact the family. The motion to approve their contingency plans for

the wedding was made by Ann Wigington and seconded by Norris Howell and unanimously approved.

- Ann Wigington volunteered to serve as the delegate for Presbytery meeting scheduled for October 12, 2016, 10:00 am at Camp Hopewell, Oxford, MS. Lynn Hill will serve as the alternate delegate.
- As a point of information, Rev. Jody Hill discussed his plans for pursuing his doctorate of ministry degree from various locations, and the merits of each.
- Ann Wigington brought up the issue of safety and security of our sanctuary and other buildings during any worship services and other activities. Benton Elliott will look into this, and will give us his opinion as to how we should proceed at the next session meeting.

## **2016 Committee Reports**

### **Congregational Care & Outreach/N. Howell & L. Hill**

Rev. Jody Hill and Lynn Hill discussed beginning the practice of delivering a loaf of bread from Bicycle Bread Company to any of our

visitors as a way of welcoming them to the community. They will check the budget for this ministry to see if it needs additional funding in the way of gifts. This committee made the motion to begin this ministry, Benton Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously approved by the session.

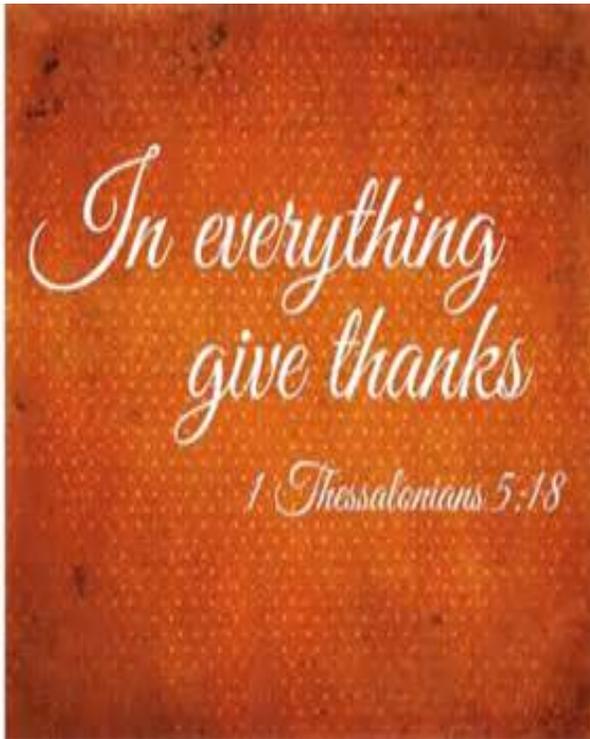
Our next stated meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Lynn Hill,  
Clerk of the Session

There being no further business, Leon Bailey made the motion to adjourn.

Norris Howell seconded; unanimously approved.

Rev. Jody Hill closed the meeting with prayer.



**Please join us for the annual RPC  
Thanksgiving Supper  
Wednesday, Nov. 16  
at 6:00 pm.**

**Deborah Steverson will provide the  
chicken & dressing—everyone else,  
please bring your favorite dish, or  
contact Deborah for more  
information!**

**Worship & Christian  
Education, Etc.**

## WORSHIP HOURS

9:30 AM—Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

7, 2016 **WEDNESDAYS @**

**6:00 PM**

**SAY YES  
TO NEW  
ADVENTURES**

- MIDWEEK 2016-2017 -

5:00 | BIBLE STUDY GRADES 1-4 | SHEA SCOTT, ELIZABETH ELLIOTT  
& RHONDA BROWN

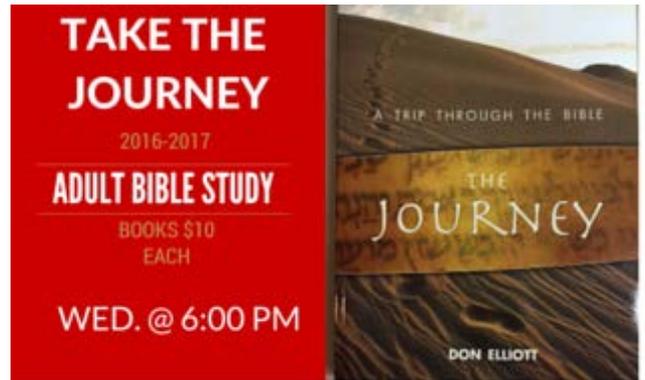
5:00 | BIBLE STUDY GRADES 5-8 | JODY HILL & KENNY HILL

5:30 | SUPPER

6:00 | MUSIC & WORSHIP SKILLS | JENNIFER HUDDLESTON & LYNN HILL

6:30 | RECREATION | B.J. HORTON & BENTON ELLIOTT

Every Wednesday starting September 7  
See You There!



**MIDWEEK | YOUTH | 2016-  
2017  
SEE YOU THERE!**



**Nursery Volunteers Needed! (Now, isn't that some wonderful news?!)**

If you are interested in volunteering for our nursery during worship service, please see the "sign-up" sheet in our Narthex & we will contact you with the schedule

as soon as possible! We also encourage husband & wife teams to consider helping as well! **We will need two volunteers (excluding choir members) available every Sunday,** so please sign up if you feel this is your calling—thank you so much!

**MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE  
STUDY | Beginning Sept.**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

We invite you to pick up your book and your RPC/PW Handbook (placed in the Narthex for your convenience!) and if you have not submitted your pledge for this year, please consider doing so. The more pledges we receive the more we can do in our ministry!

Peace & Grace,

Lynn Hill  
RPC/PW Moderator

**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

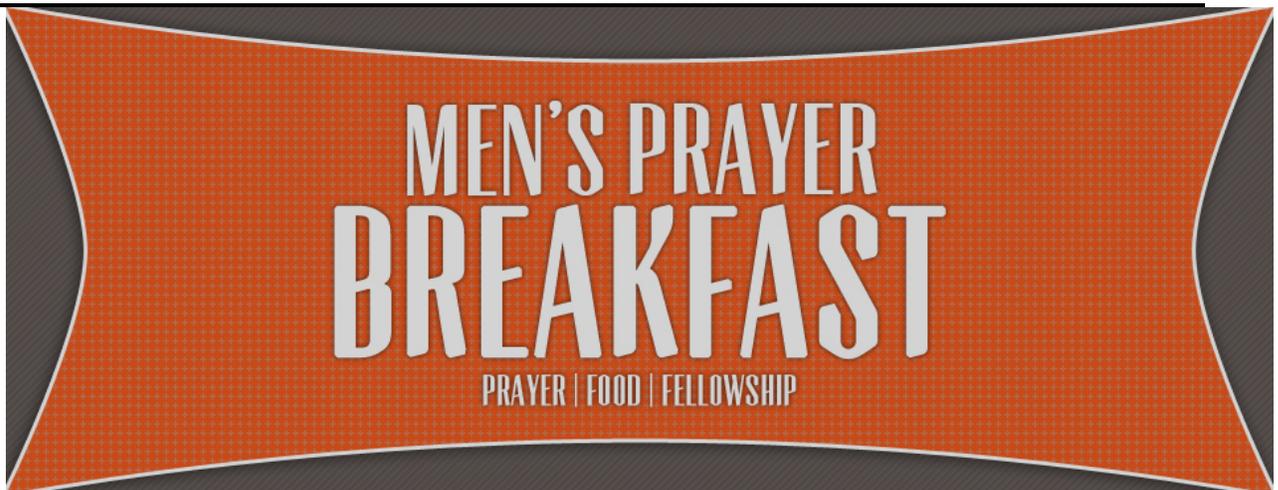
[lynnrpc@ripleycable.net](mailto:lynnrpc@ripleycable.net) (662-837-6678)

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.

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**Lectionary Texts & Readers for November**

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11-6-2016  
CALL TO WORSHIP:  
Psalm 98:4,8,9  
FIRST LESSON:  
Luke 20:27-38  
SECOND LESSON:  
Job 19:23-27a  
SERMON TITLE:  
"My Redeemer Lives"

11-20-2016  
CALL TO WORSHIP:  
Jeremiah 23:5-6  
FIRST LESSON:  
Colossians 1:11-20  
SECOND LESSON:  
Luke 23:33-43  
SERMON TITLE:  
"The Reign of Christ"

11-13-2016  
CALL TO WORSHIP:  
Isaiah 12:1-2  
FIRST LESSON:  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
SECOND LESSON:  
Luke 21:5-19  
SERMON TITLE:  
"Signs of the Times"

11-27-2016 Advent 1  
CALL TO WORSHIP:  
Psalm 122:1,2,6,7  
FIRST LESSON:  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
SECOND LESSON:  
Matthew 24:36-44  
SERMON TITLE:  
"The Coming of the Lord"

**"Lessons & Carols" Practice  
Sundays at 1:30 pm**

## Please Join Us!

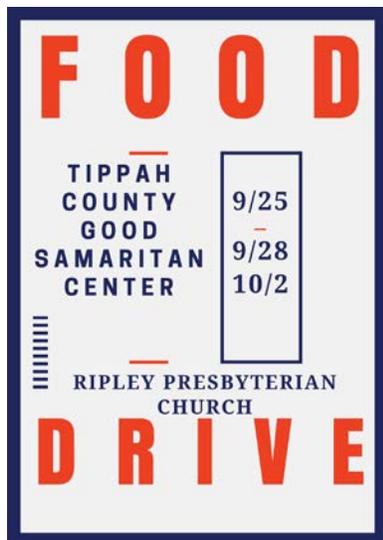


The RPC Choir & the Ripley FUMC Choir will begin practice for "Lessons & Carols", Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1:30 pm in the RPC Sanctuary. We will meet every Sunday in November—please join us !!!

**Choir Fund Update:** To date, we have collected \$855.00 toward the purchase of new robes for our choir! Thank you so much for your generosity! Hopefully, we will be able to "suit up" in our new robes at the beginning of the Advent season!



# Missions



## Tippah County Good Samaritan Update!

RPC responded to an urgent call for help from the TCGSC—orders from the Food Bank were extremely slow in coming, and “Good Sam” was low on food. Our church Collected & delivered over 200 lbs. of food, and approximately \$595.00 in private donations—thank you all so much for your swift response to this urgent need in our community! We continue to support the “Good Sam” with our “Cents-Ability” (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) offerings, the “Souper Bowl” offering, and through individual donations.

### Volunteers for TCGSC

The Tippah County Good Samaritan Center is always looking for volunteers.

Their hours are: **Mondays only**  
9:30 am – 11:30 am  
1:00 pm -3:00 pm  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
**Phone: 662-512-003**



We are UKirk at Ole Miss: a student faith community of the Presbyterian Church (USA) serving the University of Mississippi. Our name means "University Church"--- "Kirk" is an old Scots-English word for Church. We're by

Presbyterians, but we're not just for Presbyterians.

We're a member of UKirk Ministries and partnership ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Oxford and St.

Andrew Presbytery.

Join us for a free dinner, followed by worship with communion every Tuesday Night a 6:00 PM at 302 South 11th Street in Oxford, just behind the Lyric Theater.

This year's theme is "Come and See" and we'll be reading through the Gospel of Mark. Please join us!!

Additionally, we are raising funds for our mission trip to Haiti by selling season parking passes for all home Ole Miss football games! It costs \$350, and the parking is located at Tyler Ave. & S. 10<sup>th</sup>

St. (FPC Oxford), less than a mile from the Grove. Contact [ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com](mailto:ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com), if you are interested!



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

### **Presbytery of St. Andrew "Bucket Challenge" Update!**

We delivered 14 "Clean Up Buckets" to the October Stated Meeting of the St. Andrew Presbytery, Tuesday, Oct. 11! (Just so you know how great this was---FPC Oxford was challenged to procure 20 buckets—they have 850 members.

So... now do you understand how exciting this is?!?!)

ALSO, the RPC/PW also gathered the materials for 30 hygiene kits, and our RPC youth assembled & packed them to be delivered to the Presbytery meeting.

The response from all the churches was so great, the trailer they had planned on using to transport the buckets turned out to be WAY too small! What a good problem to have, right?

Thanks to ALL who stepped up, worked so hard and gave from their heart to meet this challenge.

Thank you for being the church.



## NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 7 Leslie Lovelace
- 10 Jim Gossett
- 13 Margaret Montgomery  
Rich Cousar
- 15 Robert Goolsby
- 17 Lynn Hill
- 19 Deborah & Wayne Steverson
- 23 Rusty Robbins  
Bobbie Wells
- 26 Monya Hill

### *For Your Information.....*

Mrs. Billye Mauney's new address is as follows:

Dogwood New Albany  
c/o Billye Mauney, Room #3  
250 Fairfield Drive  
New Albany, MS 38652  
Office: 662-598-1436  
Billye's Cell #: 662-587-5640

# Save the Dates

Nov. 1 | Ripley Rotary's "Coats for Kids". Volunteers needed to help every Tues. & Thurs. from 2 pm – 4 pm. Will continue through Dec. 1.

Nov. 6 | Men's Breakfast @ 8:30 am

Nov. 8 | OCC Packing Party @ 5:30 pm in the Gregg Center.

Nov. 13 | Nominating Committee Meeting @ 4:00 pm

Nov. 13 | Session Meeting @ 5:00 pm

Nov. 14 | RPC/PW Circle Meeting @ 10:00 am

Nov. 16 | RPC Annual Thanksgiving Supper @ 6:00 pm.

Nov. 20 | Community Thanksgiving Service @ 6:30 (RPC will host!). Community Choir will rehearse at 6:00 pm.

Nov. 27 | First Day of Advent

Nov. 27 | Last Day to order Poinsettias!

Nov. 30 | Decorating the church @ 5:00 pm (in preparation for the Hanging of the Greens service). Pizza at 6pm for our volunteers!

## *Wedding Announcement*

**ANNA ELIZABETH STUBBS**

**AND**

**JUSTIN CRAIG JORDAN**

**REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE AS  
THEY EXCHANGE VOWS**

**NOVEMBER 12**

**2016**

**4:00 PM**

**HOME OF MARK AND LINDA STUBBS**

**17350 HWY 2 EAST  
RIPLEY, MS 38663**

*Reception to follow until 6:30 pm*

*In the event of inclement weather,  
call or text 662-837-1896 for alternate location.*

# RPC SESSION

## Class of 2016

**Leon Bailey**- Buildings & Grounds Co-Chair; Elder Nominating Committee | 662-882-1190 | [leon@ripleycable.net](mailto:leon@ripleycable.net)

**Bobby Elliott**-Vice Moderator, Personnel & Budget Co-Chair; Elder Nominating Committee; Endowment Fund Chairperson | 662-512-8531 | [bae@dixie-net.com](mailto:bae@dixie-net.com)

## Class of 2017

**Ann Wigington**-Christian Education Chair | 662-512-2277 | [hwig@bellsouth.net](mailto:hwig@bellsouth.net)

**Robert Goolsby**- Personnel & Budget (Moderator) | 662-316-2644 | [rgools@ripleycable.net](mailto:rgools@ripleycable.net)

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

## Class of 2018

**Benton Elliott**-Personnel & Budget Co-Chair | 662-316-2994 | [bentonelliott41@gmail.com](mailto:bentonelliott41@gmail.com)

**Lynn Hill, Clerk of the Session** -Worship; Congregational Care & Outreach Co-Chair | 662-837-6678 | [lynnrpc@ripleycable.net](mailto:lynnrpc@ripleycable.net)

**Jody Hill**---Pastor---662. 512. 8226  
(cell)  
[jody.hill34@gmail.com](mailto:jody.hill34@gmail.com)

**Lynn Hill**---Church Admin.---662-837-6678 (cell)  
[lynnrpc@ripleycable.net](mailto:lynnrpc@ripleycable.net)

**B.J. Horton**---Director of Christian Education---662-587-1315  
[bjhorton@lda-cpa.com](mailto:bjhorton@lda-cpa.com)

**Jennifer Huddleston**---Director of Music---662-587-6807  
[HuddlestonJ@stippah.k12.us](mailto:HuddlestonJ@stippah.k12.us)

## YOUR CHURCH

### STAFF

RPC Office Phone---662-837-3765

Office Hours: Mon-Wed/ 9 am to 4 pm

Thursdays 9 am to Noon

