



## Philosophy of Ministry

When considering my philosophy of ministry it begins with God's grace. The chief end and purpose of my ministry is to glorify Him. I cannot do that effectively without God's grace to light the path and His strength to help me follow in the way.

In addition, I cannot consider a philosophy of ministry without including the Great Commission in that discussion. Therefore, I utilize the Holy Scripture of Matthew 28:16-20 and an acronym titled PRAYER to help communicate my philosophy of ministry.

Matthew 28:16-20 (HCSB) The Great Commission

16 The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped,[a] but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of[b] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember,[c] I am with you always,[d] to the end of the age."

P = Personal walk with Jesus. Verse 16 says the disciples went where Jesus directed them. How much better our lives would be if we would let Jesus direct every portion of our ministry. To do this we need to listen to Him. The gospels share how the disciples spent time with Jesus. More importantly than talking to Jesus; they listened to him. We do that today through prayer and scripture study. This is our daily personal devotion time. The gospels share how Jesus went to quiet places to fellowship with the Father. I find it necessary to embody this same model for balance and strength in ministry. Prayer is not only talking to God, but it helps us to listen to God more clearly through his scripture.

R = Repent from what separates us from Jesus. If we are going to get more personal, or closer to Jesus, then we need to turn away from other things. Ask forgiveness from our sins and the strength to give up the things that separate us from the Lord. Oftentimes when I am depressed, angry or struggling with anxiety it's rooted in sin. Sometimes it's my hidden acts of idolatry that separate me from God's will for my life. I do this when I trust other things to fill the God hole in my heart. Verse 17 tells us that even as the disciples saw Jesus, some still doubted. Isn't that what we all do when we lack the faith to trust in the Lord. We, like the doubting disciples, need to repent along our journey of faith.

A = Adore God in worship. The Westminster Catechism proclaims that the chief end of man is to Glorify God and enjoy him forever. This is the purpose of our life and how we gain our most joy. Even as Jesus was in Jerusalem approaching his passion and death he remained worshipful. Luke 21:37 proclaims they worshiped everyday at the temple during that Holy Week in Jerusalem. So many people have told me, when I go to church on Sunday it impacts my whole week. In

Hebrews 10:25 Paul's says, "Do not forsake assembling together." It strengthens us for the journey of life and faith. Yes, we need personal devotion time but we also need to worship with one another. We are called to worship because God is holy. God also calls us to worship collectively in the church because worship is a gift to us. Verse 17 of the Great Commission says that the first thing the disciples did when they saw Jesus was worship.

Y = Yoke yourself to Christ. In Verse 18 the scripture says, "Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Likewise, he first comes to us in his grace. We are commissioned to embrace his authority and follow in his ways and teachings. When animals were yoked in the first century world, the younger animals learned from the more mature beast and followed their lead. Surely that is why Jesus said In Matthew 11:28-32, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me."

E = Evangelize. The first four letters of the PRAYER acronym focused upon preparing myself for ministry. After I feel most equipped myself then I can go forth and minister to others. The Great Commission calls us in verse 19 and 20 to do just that. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." We make and teach disciples not only by what we say, but also by what we do. This call begins with the word "go." There is an emphasis on practicing and not only preaching the gospel.

R = Remember I am with you always. Verse 20 of The Great Commission offers these words of comfort from Jesus as the last thing he says before the ascension. "Remember, I am with you always." The journey of faith will not always be easy. This life is indeed filled with trials and tribulations. Jesus encourages us to see times of trouble as opportunities to testify for him (Luke 21:13). We will hear of wars and hate but do not fear because Jesus is always with us. When we yoke ourselves with Jesus, as mentioned above, we also find this promise from Him, My yoke is easy my burden is light. Not only is Jesus willing to lead, but He also carries the heaviest portion of the load when we walk with him.

In the Way,

Jody

# Summary of the Stated Session Meeting

**Ripley  
Presbyterian Church  
Stated Session  
Meeting  
October 9, 2016 – 5:00  
p.m.**

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

**Excused absence:**  
Robert Goolsby

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 October 9 agenda was examined and approved by common consent.

After examination by the members of the Session, Norris Howell made the motion to approve the September

11 stated meeting minutes of the Ripley Presbyterian Church Session. Ann Wigington seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

## **Old Business:**

Update from Benton Elliott regarding safety & security practices for the RPC Buildings & Grounds.

Recommended locking of sanctuary doors (front & back) @ 10:45 am, with ushers stationed to open doors for late-comers, if needed.

Other measures were discussed & will be tabled until the Nov. 13 meeting to allow Benton more time to gather additional information.

## **New Business:**

- "Minute for Missions" special offering for Steve Hill's Peru ministry is scheduled October 23, 2016. Session had previously approved this special offering.
- The Elder Nominating Committee was

approved as submitted:  
Presbyterian Women: Pat Ledbetter  
Presbyterian Men: Steve Willey  
Choir: John Braddock

The suggestion form for the Elder Class of 2019 will be published in the RPC bulletin on 10/16, 10/23 & 10/30, with 10/30 slated as the deadline. The Nominating Committee will plan to meet on Nov. 13 @ 4:00 pm (TBD) and will submit the nominations for elders to the session at their meeting on Nov. 13. at 5:00 pm. The Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for December 4, after publicly publishing notice in the bulletin and via weekly email for 2 weeks. Bobby Elliott made the motion to approve and Benton Elliott seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

- Norris Howell informed the session that there was a request for RPC to advertise in the RHS basketball and football programs. He

informed the session there was a volunteer to underwrite the cost of said advertisements. Suggestion from Rev. Jody Hill that Lynn Hill provide the graphic design for RPC to be used. Motion made by Norris Howell, second by Leon Bailey, unanimously approved.

- Request from Lynn Hill (clerk of the session) to purchase a new binder and paper for the Session Minutes. Projected cost from Cokesbury: Binder (\$138.95) and paper (\$49.95). Motion to approve purchase made by Bobby Elliott, second by Ann Wigington. Unanimously approved.
- Point of information: RPC's Annual "Trunk & Treat" celebration is scheduled for October 26 in the

Gregg Center parking lot.

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### **2016 Committee Reports**

#### **Worship/L. Hill**

Request that the session officially review the RPC Church roll upon submission of the Annual Statistics Report (January).

Buildings & Grounds/ L. Bailey & N. Howell  
Leon Bailey: Microwave ready to be installed in Ed. Bldg. Toilet in nursery to be checked. Toilet in Ladies restroom in Sanctuary to be checked.

Norris Howell: Noticed that the cover for one of the lights in the Session Room is missing. Asked that Lynn Hill look around for it. If it cannot be found, we will check on replacing. Norris discussed sealing & painting the exterior & windows of the old sanctuary.

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

Norris requested volunteers for Ripley Rotary's "Coats for Kids"

ministry, beginning Nov. 1, 2016, from 2 pm -4 pm.

#### **Endowment/ B. Elliott**

Bobby informed the session that the CD had come due, and it was decided to leave it as is with The Peoples Bank of Ripley.

#### **Stained Glass**

##### **Window/D. Bailey**

Leon Bailey reported that 2 of the remaining windows will be installed within the next 3 weeks.

Our next stated meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Ann Wigington seconded; unanimously approved.

Bobby Elliott closed the meeting with prayer.

Lynn Hill  
Clerk of the Session



Please join us for “Soup & Santa” Fellowship Supper, Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 pm.

Please bring a crockpot of your favorite soup, or fixin’s, or a dessert, as we gather together for a wonderful meal and (hopefully!) a visit from old St. Nick!

MIDWEEK | YOUTH | Will resume Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 5 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!

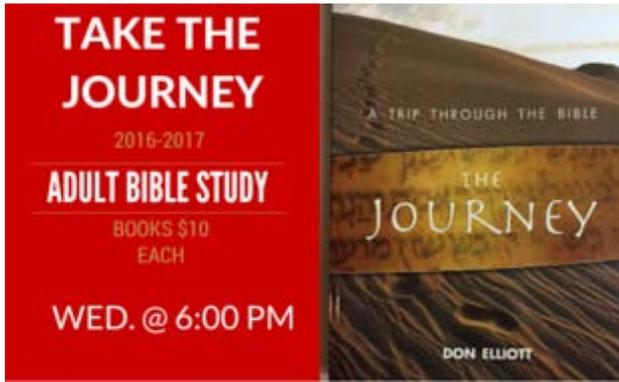
## Worship & Christian Education, Etc.

### WORSHIP HOURS

9:30 AM—Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY | Will resume January 4, 2017 at 6 PM.



**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!**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

*The RPC/PW will not meet in December.*

**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.

## Lectionary Texts & Readers for December

12-04-2016

"Hanging of the Greens"

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Matthew 3:2 & 11

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Isaiah 11:1-10

SERMON TITLE: The Root of  
Jesse

NOTES:

12-11-2016

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Isaiah 35:4-6

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON TITLE:

"The Magnificat"

NOTES:

12-18-2016

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Matthew 1:21-23

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Isaiah 7:10-16

SERMON TITLE:

"Immanuel"

NOTES:

12-25-2016

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Isaiah 9:2 & 6

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON TITLE:

"The Savior is Born"

NOTES

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!

Final Practice for "Lessons & Carols" will be Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3:30 pm.

*Please join us for this very special annual event with our Community Choir!*

# Lessons

# *& Carols*

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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

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11 | DECEMBER | 2016  
5:00 PM  
Ripley Presbyterian  
Church

# Missions

*On November 20, the Community Thanksgiving Service was hosted by RPC. Our offering, which was dedicated toward the Tippah County Good Samaritan Center, totaled \$829.00! Thanks to all who contributed toward this ministry in such a generous manner!*

## 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!!



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



On November 8, several volunteers gathered together to pack 34 Operation Christmas Child boxes full of soccer balls, pumps, candy, flashlights & extra batteries, baseballs, and assorted school supplies. The boxes were transported to our nearest collection center at Hillcrest Baptist Church in New Albany, MS. Thanks to all who participated in this work, and thanks to all who donated toward the shipping cost!



## DECEMBER 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. 27 | First Day of Advent

Nov. 28 | Last Day to order  
Poinsettias!

Nov. 30 | Decorating the church @  
6:00 pm (in preparation for the Pizza  
at 7 pm for our volunteers!

Dec. 1 -Last day to volunteer for  
"Coats for Kids" 2 – 4 pm.

Dec. 4- "Hanging of the Greens"  
Service 10:30 am

Dec. 11 | "Lessons & Carols" @ 5:00  
pm (Final Practice at 3:30 pm!)

Dec. 4- Congregational Meeting @  
11:30 am. For the purpose of electing  
the Elder Class of 2019. The  
Nominating committee has  
respectfully submitted the names of  
Jennifer Huddleston and Price Elliott.

Dec. 18 | Christmas Joy Offering &  
RPC Fellowship Luncheon at Blue  
Mountain College

Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Communion  
Service @ 5:00 pm

Dec. 4 | Session Meeting @ 5 pm

Dec. 25 | Christmas Day Service  
10:30 am.

Dec. 7 | "Soup & Santa" @ 6:00 pm



## **RPC SESSION**

Class of 2016

Leon Bailey- Buildings & Grounds Co-Chair; Elder Nominating Committee | 662-  
882-1190 | 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

