

| IN THE WAY | REVEREND JODY HILL

Dear Church Family,

I recently shared with our Session my desire to pursue my Doctor of Ministry degree. With their blessing, I plan to concentrate my doctoral work in Strategic Leadership. I feel that this area of study will enhance my ministry at both Ripley Presbyterian Church and Blue Mountain College.

Even though I am Presbyterian, I believe that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is the best fit for me. Blue Mountain College and the seminary have a partnership that will allow me to receive my doctorate for significantly reduced financial costs. The degree program at New Orleans is also structured specifically with the working pastor in mind. I am only required to be on campus for three days at a time, once every four months.

I expect this degree to significantly impact my ministry in four main areas: 1) my preaching will be improved 2) my pastoral skills will be enhanced 3) I will have a better understanding of leadership from a Christ-centered model 4) and my biblical knowledge and teaching skills will grow.

My overall personal goal is to grow in a deeper dependence upon Christ. In Matthew 11 Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." It is important for us not to read past the MY statement by Jesus. To take Jesus's yoke is to be bound to him. We are called to serve him first instead of the world and its unholy demands.

A yoke fitted for two animals to pull in farming is a very heavy wooden object. Why then does Jesus describe his yoke as being easy and light? It must mean that Jesus is doing the heavy lifting. What peace it is to know that Jesus is our strength along the path.

Ancient farmers also allowed younger animals to work with stronger beast. This helped the beginner to learn from the seasoned worker. By taking Christ's yoke we learn to embody his nature: gentle and humble. Jesus teaches us how to serve the world in His ways. We should become more gentle to family and those under our leadership. With Jesus as our model, we will also be more humble in how we approach life and faith.

It is my prayer that I will experience personal growth in these areas through my professional doctoral studies: Learn to yoke myself obediently to Jesus, be more gentle with those He has entrusted to me to serve, and grow in humility as I seek to perform Kingdom work.

In the Way,

Jody

Summary of the Stated Session Meeting

**Ripley Presbyterian
Church Stated Session
Meeting
February 12, 2017 –
11:30 a.m.**

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

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

Clerk's Report:

The February 12 agenda was examined and amended with 6 new items of business submitted by Norris Howell and then approved as amended by common consent. After examination by the members of the Session, the December 4 congregational meeting minutes of the Ripley Presbyterian Church Session were approved as amended by common consent.

Old Business:

- Suggested approaches as to formation of committees

consisting of members of the congregation. Rev. Jody Hill made several suggestions regarding the possibility of meeting quarterly. Discussion was held as to how best to organize committee selection and a date for the first meeting. Discussion tabled until next session meeting after further research.

New Business:

- Hamilton's mission trip to Spain: Rev. Jody Hill provided information regarding Austin & Chelsea Hamilton's upcoming trip to Spain to serve as missionaries and requested a time for them to visit and speak about their trip. He will contact them and submit a date that will fit both their & RPC's schedule.
- Update from FPC Starkville: Lynn Hill provided an informative update on the situation at First Presbyterian Church at Starkville to the members of

the session as a point of information. We will continue to keep this church and their congregation in our prayers.

- Delegates for Presbytery meeting scheduled for March 7, 2017, 10:00 am at Camp Hopewell, Oxford, MS. Price Elliott and Rev. Jody Hill were nominated and agreed to attend, with Elder Bobby Elliott as an alternate. The motion was made by Norris Howell, 2nd by Benton Elliott and unanimously approved.
- Rev. Jody Hill asked that we continue to lift up New Prospect Presbyterian Church in prayer as they continue to search for a pastor.
- Norris Howell presented six items of new business for the session to consider and approve. They are listed below in order of priority:

1. The church steeple is in dire need of repair. An estimate was obtained by Norris Howell from Roberts Builders, Inc., of \$6,000.00 to complete this work.

2. Stained Glass Window Fund: there will be additional funds needed to complete this project. Price Elliott suggested that the SGWF committee meet and calculate a firm amount to present before the congregation.

3. Norris informed the session that the light bulbs need replacing in the Sanctuary with LED bulbs, which will burn brighter and use less energy. The cost of this will run approximately \$1,500.00.

4. The "old" sanctuary (North Jackson St.) needs approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 of repair work to be useable and safe.

5. The Stained Glass Window Committee (sometime in the near future) plans to submit a request for a book to be written regarding the history and the donors toward the new stained glass windows. Cost unknown at this time.

6. Stan Horton has requested that RPC set a date for a BBQ Chicken Luncheon. Price will discuss this with the Men's Fellowship and set a date after Easter.

These items were discussed and Norris Howell made the motion to

approved these items as "long-term projects" in order of priority. Price Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

2017 Committee Reports

Worship/J. Huddleston & L. Hill

Jennifer Huddleston reported that the choir will prepare and perform an Easter program on Palm Sunday.

Buildings & Grounds/ N. Howell & A. Wigington

(See items above submitted by Norris Howell).

Christian Education/ A. Wigington & L. Hill

No report.

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

No report.

Endowment/ P. Elliott

No report.

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

Lynn Hill submitted a request to be off a half-day

on March 9, and the service on March 12, which was granted. A substitute pianist/organist will be contacted to fill in on March 12 (to be announced).

Stained Glass Window/D. Bailey & Session Rep. N. Howell
(See items above submitted by Norris Howell).

Elder Nominating Committee/ N. Howell & A. Wigington
No report.

Our next stated meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

There being no further business, Lynn Hill made the motion to adjourn. Robert Goolsby seconded; unanimously approved.

Norris Howell closed the meeting with prayer.

Lynn Hill
Clerk of the Session

H O L Y



W E E K

**2017
COMMUNITY
HOLY WEEK
SERVICES**

**APRIL 10,11 & 12
12:00 NOON
RIPLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**4.10 | REV. MICAH
CARTER, FBC/RIPLEY
MUSIC | LEON ENZOR, LOWREY
MEMORIAL, BLUE MTN.**

**4.11| REV. ROGER SHOCK,
FUMC/CORINTH
MUSIC | WILLIAM THOMPSON &
DREW WARFORD, BMC**

**4.12| REV. JODY HILL, RPC
MUSIC | SHAD SPIGHT, ST.
JAMES COGIC**

**AFTERWARDS, ALL ARE INVITED
TO BRING A "SACK LUNCH" TO
THE RPC GREGG CENTER--THE
RPC PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
WILL PROVIDE CHIPS, DRINKS
& DESSERTS EACH DAY.**

COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US!

**Please join us for our Maundy Thursday Service
and Communion on April 13 at 7:30 pm.**

A little RPC History.....

1951 | The Ollie Johnson Quilt



"Last week, (Wednesday, to be exact), I attended the funeral of a well-loved aunt—my mother's sister, Willetta Braddock Swoope. Afterwards, the First Presbyterian Church PC(USA) of Starkville fed us. Really well, I might add.

Before the meal, our hosts Anne McWhorter, asked if there were any folks from the Ripley Presbyterian Church present, and if there were, to follow her.

So, of course, we did.

She led us to a room on the other side of the house where a beautiful quilt was displayed on a large quilt rack. She told us that her sister was Ollie Johnson Garroway, and she was the Director of Religious Education at the RPC from June 1950 through December 1951, and that the good folks of RPC had gifted her this quilt as a "going-away" present.

Take a look at the pictures below. Each square was embroidered with the name &/or names of the families there at that time.

Thank you, Anne. Thank you for sharing this with us. It brought happiness, joy & hope to what had otherwise been a very sad day.

Lynn Hill







And from Tommy Covington.....

"I never expected to see this quilt again. I remember that when I was seven years old, the ladies of the church were working on this quilt in the basement of the old Ripley Presbyterian Church. It was being made for Ollie Johnson, who was moving. I may be wrong, but there is a possibility that each person paid ten cents to have their name added to the quilt. I knew that my mother had my name put on, but I did not remember that she put hers, my father's and my brother's names. Over the past 66 years, a few times I thought about that quilt and I wondered what ever happened to it. Thank you for posting the photos. I think that I will make a print of my family's block and frame it."

Congratulations to Big M Transportation on being awarded 1st place for safety in their division at the Awards Banquet of the Truckload Carriers Association on March 28th.

Pictured below, left to right, are: Wes Davis, CFO; Michael Massengill, CEO; and **Benton Elliott**, Director of Safety



The Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) is an association comprised of over 700 companies throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that represents the truckload only segment of the industry. These companies are made up of dry van, reefer, flatbed, and intermodal freight carriers that employ several hundred thousand people and produce over \$20 billion in annual revenues.

Each year, the TCA conducts an annual contest among its members for the National Fleet Safety Awards. In participating, members must submit their annual miles and accidents for the purpose of calculating their accident ratios for the months of October through the following September. This information is audited by a third party auditor in December and Division winners are notified in January that they will be receiving an award, but they are not told what place they are in.

Big M Transportation, Inc. was awarded first place for Division IV (25 - 50 million annual miles) followed by 2nd place Trans-West Logistics (Lachine, Quebec, Canada) and 3rd place Halvor Lines, Inc. (Superior, Wisconsin).

Worship & Christian Education, Etc.

WORSHIP HOURS

9:30 AM—Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

MIDWEEK YOUTH

Join us for our "end of year" celebration at "THE LUAU"!



SWIMMING
AWESOME FOOD
FULL OF FUN

you are invited to
"THE LUAU!"
(the last time we meet for MidWeek Spring 2017)



APRIL 26
5:30 PM
at the home of Norris & Lynne Howell

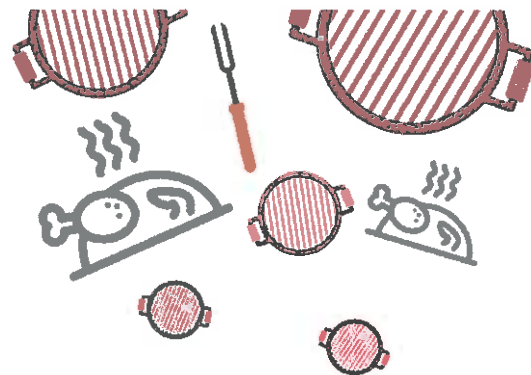


MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday at 6 PM.



RPC YOUTH FUNDRAISER SPONSORED BY THE RPC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



THE RPC MEN CORDIALLY INVITE YOU

BBQ CHICKEN LUNCHEON

ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE RPC YOUTH FUND

SUNDAY: 11:30 AM
THE GREGG CENTER
APRIL 30: RIPLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



RPC Youth! Have you registered for Summer Camp at Camp Hopewell yet? C'mon—you know you want to! For more info or to register, visit their website camphopewell.com

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT EXPLORER CAMP AT CAMP HOPEWELL ?

I learned you should always trust God. -Liz R.

I had an excellent week because I slept good and I learned! -Austin P.

I enjoyed being with my ministers because they were amazing and showed great leadership! -Julia C.

Dates	
Camper vs. Willt	June 11-17
Chef Quest	June 11-17
SPAQ	June 18-24
Tree House Sherwood (1)	June 18-24
Aquatics & Away!	July 9-15
Tree House Sherwood (2)	July 9-15
Night Owl	July 15-21

visit www.camphopewell.com to register today!



**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.

Our RPC/PW hosted the Annual Spring Gathering for the Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew Presbytery on Saturday, March 25. On Friday evening, the members of the Executive Committee, Cluster Leaders and Members at large were treated to a delicious "home-cooked" meal in our Gregg Center by Deborah Steverson & Shirley Huddleston, and assisted by Ann Wigington, Jennifer Huddleston, Lynne Howell & Pat Ledbetter. Saturday's meeting was very informative—it contained presentations

by Living Waters of the World and Hardie Frankel (last year's moderator) provided a very informative update regarding Mission Haven. We collected "gift cards" for the missionaries & their families at Mission Haven, to be used to purchase items that they need while residing there. Coffee & breakfast refreshments were provided during registration, and a box luncheon was held at noon in the newly renovated and beautifully decorated Education Building. A huge "thank you" goes

out to ALL of our PW that were able to volunteer for the preparation required to host & execute this big event. We are truly blessed by these women in our church—and they are setting such a good example of selflessness and cooperation for those to come.

Peace & Hope,
Lynn Hill

RPC/PW Moderator,
2016-2017

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 April

4-05-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 15

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

B.J. Horton

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 9: 9-13

SERMON TITLE:

"The Calling of Matthew"

4-23-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 18

FIRST LESSON:

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Elizabeth Elliott

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 28: 11-15

SERMON TITLE:

"Explaining the Resurrection"

4-9-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 16: 1,2,5

FIRST LESSON:

2 Samuel 12: 1-14

Steve Willey

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 9: 14-17

SERMON TITLE:

"PALM SUNDAY: A Time to Fast"

4-30-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 19

FIRST LESSON:

1 Chronicles 28: 1-10

Joey Bullock

SECOND LESSON:

1 Peter 1: 1-12

SERMON TITLE:

"Faith: Greater than Gold"

4-16-2017

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 17: 6-7

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 2: 1-14; 3: 1-15

Julie Howell

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 28: 1-10

SERMON TITLE:

"EASTER: The Resurrection"

Memorials

In Memory of Edna Farley

By Bobby & Anne Elliott, Wayne & Deborah Steverson, Leon & Diane Bailey, & Jennifer Huddleston

In Memory of Elcise Walker

By Bobby & Anne Elliott, Leon & Diane Bailey, Gordon & Rosie Taylor, & Lamon & Shirley McClain

In Memory of Rebecca Catherine Raymond

By Bobby & Anne Elliott, & Leon & Diane Bailey

In Memory of Willetta Braddock Swoope

By Fred & Sally Permenter, Wayne & Deborah Steverson, & Lamon & Shirley McClain

In Memory of Leon Bailey, Sr.

By Jennifer Huddleston, Kenny & Lynn Hill, Lamon & Shirley McClain, Gerald & Sherry Hill, & Becky Smith



APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 BENTON ELLIOTT
4 REECA ELLIOTT
9 AYDEN GOSSETT
JAY BAILEY

10 BOBBY ELLIOTT
16 NOLAN HILL
20 SHIRLEY HUDDLESTON
27 JOHN COUSAR, III
30 LORENZO MEDFORD

~Save the Dates~

April 2 | Men's Fellowship Breakfast
& Devotional 8:30 am

April 2 | Final day to order Easter Lilies

April 9 | Palm Sunday & "One Great
Hour of Sharing" Offering

April 9 | Session Meeting @11:30 am

April 10, 11 & 12 | Community Holy
Week Services 12:00 Noon

April 13 | Maundy Thursday Service @
7:30 pm

April 16 | EASTER SUNDAY

April 26 | The Annual Midweek
"LUAU"! 5:30 -7:00 PM at the home
of Norris & Lynne Howell.

April 30 | "Cents-Ability" Offering

April 30 | BBQ Chicken Luncheon at
11:30 am! Sponsored by the RPC
Men's Fellowship—all donations go
to the RPC Youth Fund.

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 | nlihowell@yahoo.com](mailto:nlihowell@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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Office Hours: Mon-Wed/ 9 am to 4 pm
Thursdays 9 am to Noon

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