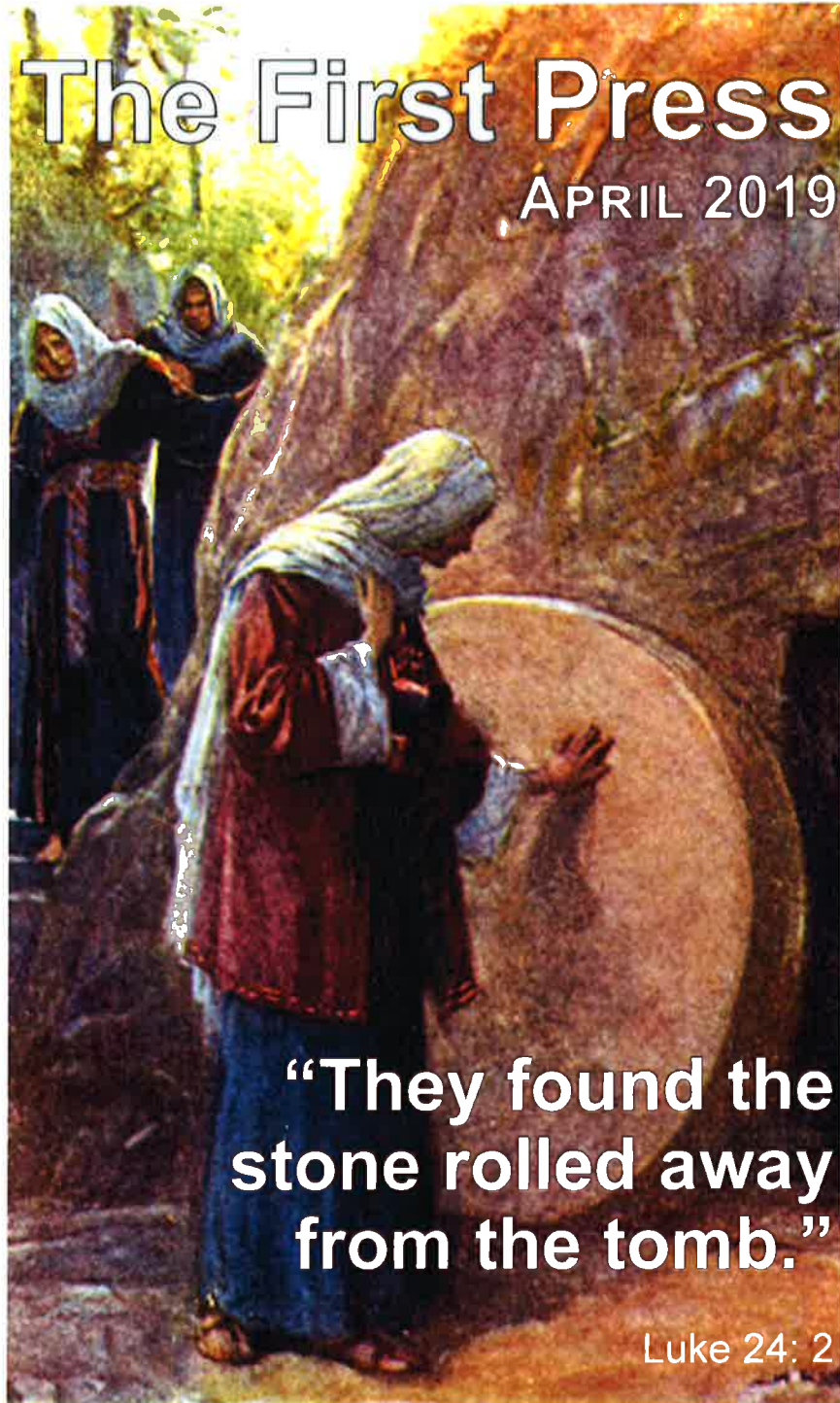


# The First Press

APRIL 2019



**“They found the  
stone rolled away  
from the tomb.”**

Luke 24: 2

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### Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!!!

Every third Sunday of the month the Church provides a cake during fellowship time to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries that occur that month. This is also the opportunity to contribute a dollar to the "Birthday Fund" for each year you are young! The Birthday Board is exhibited, envelopes and a box are available for your use or you may put your check in the offering plate. Please write on your check "Birthday Fund" so that it will be deposited to the correct account. The Birthday Fund goes towards scholarships for our graduating seniors.

Please join us on *April 21*, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!

## *April Birthdays*

Linda Glover	April 01	Adam Woodworth	April 16
Ric Poole	April 01	Lauren Roberts	April 18
Betty Kate Carney	April 02	Betty Webb	April 20
Carter King	April 02	Billy Sisler	April 21
Lynda Metz	April 02	Tom Brown	April 22
Jordan Garner	April 03	Reagan Clem	April 24
Scott Metz	April 07	Joan Clinton	April 25
"Cookie" Moore	April 07	Brooks Rice	April 28
Lilly Hardin	April 11	Donald Simmons	April 28
Kent Westmoreland	April 12	Elaine Pathmann	April 29
Barbara Spindler	April 15	Susan Lee	April 30

## *April Anniversaries*

Jim and Sandra Matheney	April 3
Gary and Jeanette Cline	April 7
David and Charolette Paul	April 30

*God Bless You on Your Special Day!*



## THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.*

Luke 24:1-2

These two verses are among my favorite passages of scripture. They mark the turning point from death to life, dark to light, devastation to rebirth, and hopelessness to faith. How it happened, they don't know. All they know is that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. God's miracle had transformed their lives.

Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them, reminding them of the promise Jesus had given them while still in Galilee—that *the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again* (Luke 24:7). Then they remembered, and Christ's resurrection took root in their lives. "He is not here, but has risen!"

This promise is the reason I answered God's call to enter the ministry. So many people I knew had a huge stone blocking their way. The path to God's love was blocked and I wanted to show them the power of Christ's resurrection. Sometimes it's not until all other avenues are blocked that we will turn and surrender to God's mercy. I want to be there when people discover that the stone in their life has been rolled away.

Recently I encountered a huge stone blocking my path. I learned that I have Parkinson's Disease. I asked the doctor what I should anticipate, and he told me not to anticipate anything, but to keep doing everything I'm already doing, and more. So, I enrolled in the "Rock Steady" boxing class at First Baptist Church with twenty-five other men and women who live with this disease, and together we box that stone out of our path. In addition to strenuous exercise, we rely on the power of prayer as we seek to live the new life of Christ's resurrection.

About the same time Darlene learned that she had a non-invasive malignant tumor, which was identified early. She had outpatient surgery in February and is now cancer-free. Her doctor recently reported that her chance of reoccurrence was small and that she will not need radiation therapy. She is glad to be back at work, hardly skipping a beat!

Darlene and I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the love and prayers we have received from our church family during this trying time. We appreciate all the cards and phone calls we have received, the gifts of food, and simply stopping us at church to ask how we are doing. Like the men in dazzling clothes in the Easter story, you have stood beside us, reminding us of our faith in Christ, and helping us roll back the stone that has challenged our faith.

So, this year, Holy Week will hold renewed meaning for me as I walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, watch him handed over to sinners, and be crucified for my sins. I usually have a tear in my eye when I read the part about them lowering his body from the cross and placing him in a rock-hewn tomb. But this year, when I see the stone lying in front of the tomb, I will remember God's mighty power that rolls away even the most persistent obstacles in our path and gives us new life in Jesus Christ.

Bring a friend to worship on Easter Sunday, April 21, and show them the power of the risen Christ who rolls away all barriers and strengthens us to live the new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. For by God's power, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

*Lacy*

## Session Notes

A very congenial Session meeting was held on the fourth Wednesday of March. Lacy Sellars opened the meeting with a discussion of the Parable of the Prodigal Son which is his sermon text for Sunday. The Church is having a moving experience during Lent as we open each Sunday worship with a "Living Last Supper" with portrayals of two disciples by members of the congregation each week. Patricia Mills is again directing this pageant. We will have two special events during Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday. The choir, along with additional singers, will present a Requiem on Tuesday, April 16, and we will have Maundy Thursday Communion on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Christian Education Committee reported that Stephen Haynes, Professor of Religion at Rhodes College in Memphis, will lead an adult education event in October on two of his books concerning desegregation in Memphis (*Noah's Curse: The Biblical Justification of American Slavery* and *The Last Segregated Hour: The Memphis Kneel-Ins and the Campaign for Southern Church Desegregation*).

Other items from the Session reports:

- Jessica Rowton has been hired as Financial Secretary to replace Randi Oney who is retiring. Randi is currently training Jessica.
- The Building and Grounds Committee is considering a project to build a platform so that the piano is on the same level as the chancel.
- Family Night Supper for April will include our Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Jan Kelley has reviewed our financial records for 2018 and found them to be in good order.

***Kathy White,***

**Clerk**





## Welcome Jessica Rowton

The Session is pleased to welcome Jessica Rowton as our new Financial Secretary, replacing Randi Oney who will retire from this position on April 30. Jessica earned a Bachelor in Business Administration in Finance from Henderson State University and has most recently worked as an Abstractor in the Garland County Assessor's Office. She is a punctual, organized, and detail-oriented person with strong technical, compositional, and financial skills. She is also a positive team player who enjoys working with diverse groups of people. Jessica lives in Bismarck with her husband, Samuel, and two-year-old daughter Brayleigh.

Jessica is already on the job being trained by Randi who will be with us through the end of April. Jessica will be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays once Randi departs. If you're by the church this month, take a moment to meet Jessica and welcome here to the job.



## Thank You, Randi Oney!

It is with deep gratitude that the Session announces the retirement of Randi Oney, our Financial Secretary for over fourteen years, effective April 30. Randi joined our staff in December of 2005, and immediately learned, and mastered, the many year-end responsibilities, from member giving statements to preparing all the personnel forms required by Uncle Sam and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has overseen the purchase and installation of not just one, but TWO computer systems in our office through the years, and supervised her husband, Michael, in the installation of a new phone system in 2016, saving the church much money in the process.

Randi also installed and implemented a new accounting program and payroll package, placing all our information securely on "The Cloud" for ease of access of information. In addition to weekly deposits and accounts payable, Randi kept track of the church's budget and committee expenses, produced Legacy and Endowment reports for the Finance Committee, and managed the church's insurance premiums and claims.

And if that weren't enough, Randi made sure that all staff members, including the pastor, kept their records and receipts up-to-date. After all that, she still had time during lunch breaks to beat Yasmin in a game of Canasta!

We will miss Randi greatly and wish her all the best in her retirement. The Bargain Box and staff members will host a celebration for Randi Monday morning, April 29. We invite everyone to come, wish Randi well, and thank her for her ministry and friendship with us! Thank you, Randi!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The PW Mission Committee outreach project, “Days for Girls,” meets on *April 11, and April 25, at 9:00 a.m. (the second and fourth Thursday of each month)*. We are making feminine hygiene kits for girls in poor areas of over 100 countries. “Days for Girls” refers to the days the girls miss from school each month. We need women who can sew, cut, or iron! Please join us. You can read more about this project at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)

The PW Day Circle Bible Study meets *Tuesday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m.* (the third Tuesday of each month), to study our 2018-2019 PW/Horizons Bible Study, **God’s Promise—I am With You.**

The Women's Wednesday Study begins a new book for spring, Bad Girls of the Bible, and What We Can Learn From Them by Liz Curtis Higgs. From familiar bad women, like Jezebel and Delilah, to lesser known sinners, Sapphira and Michal, the author takes us on an Old Testament journey to discover new truths about Biblical women. Please join us for this informal discussion as we meet weekly in the church library, Wednesdays at 10:30.

### Presbyterian Women in the Arkansas Presbytery



#### *Spring Gathering*

#### *“Let Your Light Shine”*



Saturday, April 6, 2019

First Presbyterian Church

710 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR

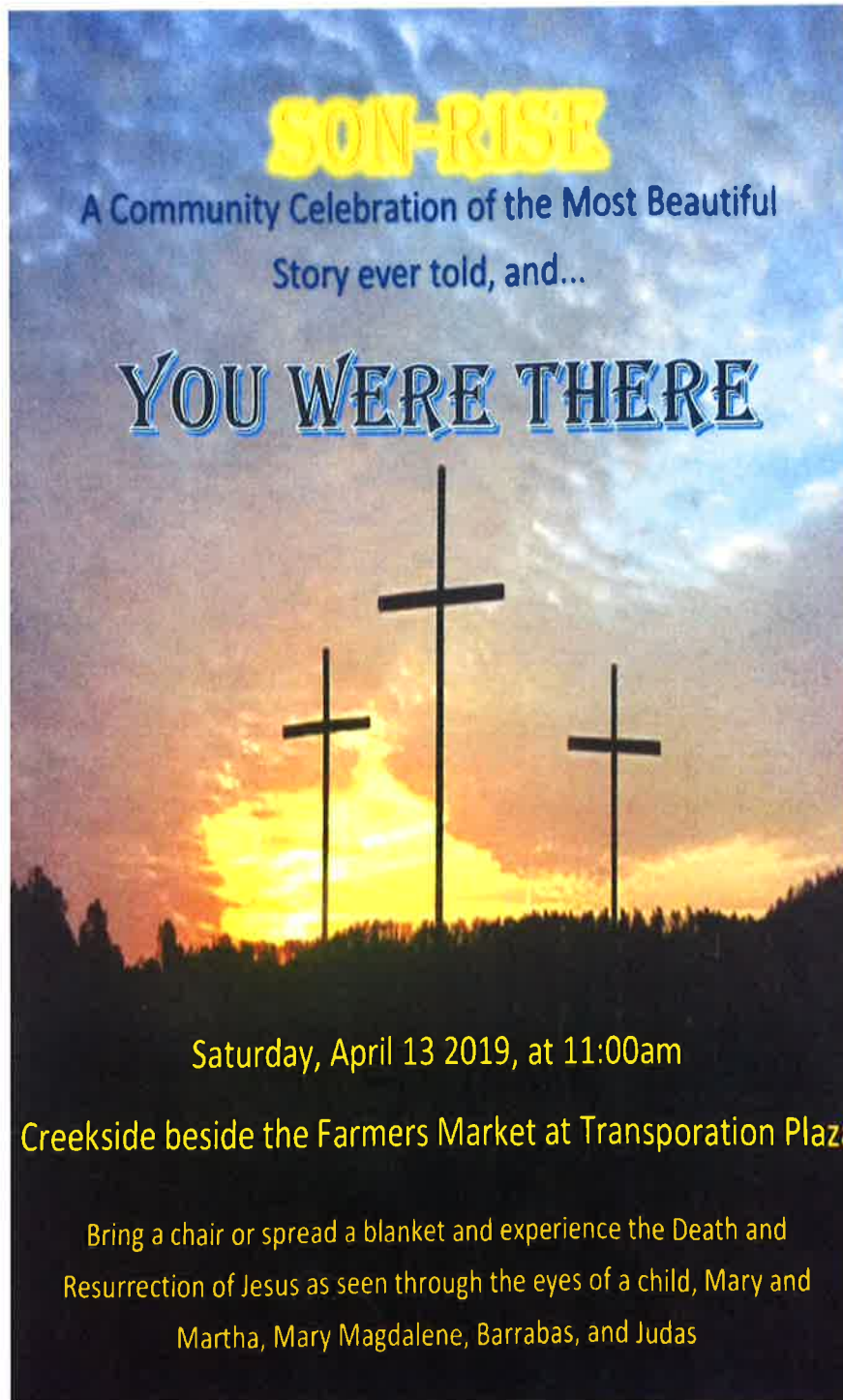


*Please contact Sally Pierce if you wish to attend. 501-538-7890*

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**SYNOD OF THE SUN GATHERING, July 25-27, 2019, Tulsa, OK.**






**SON-RISE**  
A Community Celebration of the Most Beautiful  
Story ever told, and...

**YOU WERE THERE**

Saturday, April 13 2019, at 11:00am  
Creekside beside the Farmers Market at Transportation Plaza

Bring a chair or spread a blanket and experience the Death and  
Resurrection of Jesus as seen through the eyes of a child, Mary and  
Martha, Mary Magdalene, Barrabas, and Judas

<b>STATISTICS</b>			
<b>March Attendance:</b>			
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
3/3	91	9	11
3/10	119	10	24
3/17	97	3	20
3/24	99	1	20
3/31	116	7	20
<b>February Financial Statistics:</b>			
	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>YTD% of Budget:</b>
Pledge Income:	45,383	269,902	17%
Other Income:	5,408	56,105	10%
Legacy Income:	16,667	100,000	17%
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>67,458</b>	<b>426,007</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>66,930</b>	<b>426,007</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Income to Expense:</b>	<b>528.00</b>		
<b>APRIL COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Committees Meet:</b> The week of April 15. Contact your Moderator for specific place, date, and time.</li> <li>• <b>Session Meets:</b> Wednesday, April 24, 6:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.</li> <li>• <b>Diaconate Meets:</b> Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. in the Library.</li> </ul>			

<b>BARGAIN BOX</b>	
<b>February Sales and Donations</b>	
2/6	312.00
2/13	283.00
2/20	262.50
2/27	345.00
<b>Memorials</b>	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1252.50</b>
<b>February Expenditures</b>	
<b>NPC Nursing Scholarship</b>	1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<p><b>Bargain Box is always in need of most items.</b> We can always use <b>clean</b> clothes, <b>working</b> appliances, and <b>unbroken</b> household items. If you are unsure about your donation you can always check with a Bargain Box volunteer. We appreciate your donations. 100% of our sales go to help organizations in Garland county. THANK YOU!!!</p>	
<p><b>Won't you consider volunteering in the Bargain Box on sales days?</b> By giving your time you would be helping your neighbors, nursing students (scholarships), and children in distress. Please Rosemary Nipper, 501-525-0153, if you'd like to learn more, or to sign up!</p>	
	<p><b>LIKE us on our new Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."</b></p>
<p><b><u>Bargain Box Workers for April</u></b></p>	
• 3rd	Becky Sommer and Gwen Davis
• 10th	Kathy McConkie and Sally Pierce
• 17th	Joan Clinton and Rosemary Nipper
• 24th	Mary James and Janet Muse

### Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday**, April 14, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.
- **Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.**, combined choirs will present **REQUIEM**, by John Rutter, in the Sanctuary.
- **Maundy Thursday** Worship Service, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Worship and Communion
- **Office Closed**, Good Friday, April 19.
- **Easter Sunday, April 21, Brunch and Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 9:00 a.m.** (No Sunday School) Members are asked to bring filled plastic eggs for the hunt. All Youth are invited to come and hunt for Easter Eggs. Members and guests are asked to bring brunch foods to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide Danish, fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.
- **Easter Morning Worship** at 10:30 a.m.



### **Family Night Supper Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Join us as we receive the 2018 Year-End Report and hear the goals of the Deaconate and Session Committees for the coming year. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of Committee Moderators about their work, and Lacy will present a "State of the Church" report.

We will enjoy an 'Ole Fashion Chicken Dinner. The Fellowship Committee will furnish chicken and beverages; members are asked to bring a complementary side dish, vegetable, salad and/or dessert. We hope to see you there!

*Family Night supper continues to collect donations for "2 cents a meal." A month of meals for an individual equals a donation of \$2.00.*

**Jackson House Donations in April: Cereal.** First Presbyterian provides two people to bag and hand out groceries every Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **If you'd like to volunteer, please call Jeanette Cline, 701-0399.** Put your faith in action and become part of FPC's efforts to feed the poor!

### **DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?**

Are you like me and sometimes forget to bring something for Jackson House on the first Sunday of the month? Of course, you have staples in the pantry that you could have brought but just forgot. Well don't feel bad, as you can still help those that are hungry at Jackson House. In fact, cash or checks are a great way to triple the food you forgot to bring. Jackson House can purchase food at the local food bank at 30 cents on the dollar! WOW! Now you don't have to fret that you left the spaghetti sauce and noodles on the kitchen counter. Just write a check to FPC and mark it for Jackson House. You'll be glad you did and so will the hungry folks.

PS- You can send a check anytime!

**SALE! SALE! SALE! Bargain Box offers different discounted sale items each week.** Please come and check them out. We are open every Wednesday, 12:00 P.M.— 3:00 pm. All proceeds from our sales stay in Garland County for those in need. Thank you!

***YOUTH Events:*** Any event info will be sent by text, mail, email, Instagram, and the church's FB page. Please make sure and respond ASAP to any communication or RSVP when noted. Thanks!

**Instagram: hspresyouth**

**Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs**



**Recycle Aluminum—Help the Earth—Help Others!!!** Bring your aluminum cans to the church for recycling! Rev. Sellars collects the cans, turns them in to the recycling center and adds the proceeds to the Pastor's Discretionary fund. Please place cans in the kitchen, in or by the Aluminum Recycling Bin. No foil please; the recycling center will not accept it. Your aluminum can contributions, large or small, do make a difference!!!



## ***REQUIEM* by John Rutter**

**Tuesday of Holy Week  
April 16, 7:00 p.m.**

**Sanctuary of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church will again unite with the Choir of the Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, and voices from Henderson State University and the Hot Springs community to present John Rutter's *Requiem* for their special Lenten program on April 16 at 7:00 p.m. Rutter's *Requiem*, published in 1986, is based on five of the seven movements of the Latin *Requiem*, plus a setting of "Out of the Deep" (Psalm 130) and the inspiring anthem, *The Lord is My Shepherd* (Psalm 23), which Rutter composed earlier.

The performance will be conducted by Deleen Davidson, the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, and accompanied by Organist/Pianist, Elsen Portugal, with other supporting instrumentalists. This unique gathering of musicians from across the region, along with the excellent acoustics and beautiful architecture of the Sanctuary, will enrich the performance of this critically-acclaimed *Requiem*, and deepen the congregation's experience of Lent.

The performance is free and open to the public, and a love offering will be received. For more information, call First Presbyterian Church, 213 Whittington Avenue, at (501) 624-5646 or go to the church website at [www.firstpreshotsprings.org](http://www.firstpreshotsprings.org). Invite your friends to "the church with a heart in the heart of the city!"



**EASTER LILIES**

We are now taking orders for Lilies to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21. Please fill out this form and include it with your payment. You may drop it in the offering plate or mail it in to the church office.

**Order deadline: *April 15*. The cost is **\$23.50****

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Number of Lilies* \_\_\_\_\_ *X 23.50 = \$* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

**And/ Or**

*In Honor of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church*

*Memo: Easter Lily*



## Memorials Received in March in Memory of...

***Tom Young***

from  
Joan Jones

***Bill Jones***

from  
Nancy Doyle

***Jim Worthey***

from  
Nancy Doyle  
Clyde Covington  
Harold Duke  
Kathy McConkie

***Ben Bateman***

from  
Nancy Doyle  
Joellen Leonard  
George Erwin, Jr.  
Maisie Moreland

***Helen Hamilton***

from  
Joel Hamilton

***Bette Rodriguez***

from  
Nancy Doyle

## Columbarium

Have you visited our Columbarium lately? Do you know we have one?

The Columbarium is the beautiful room, beside the stairs, leading to the balcony. When you are there, a peaceful, calm feeling surrounds you; stained glass, lovely woodwork, and close proximity to the sanctuary all make it a perfect place of forever rest.

Take some time to visit our Columbarium, again, or for the first time. If you are considering it for yourself or your family, please call the church office for more information, 624-5646.



**How to Reach Us**

First Presbyterian Church  
**www.firstpreshotsprings.org**  
 213 Whittington Avenue  
 Hot Springs, AR 71901  
 Church Phone: 501.624.5646 Fax: 501.624.2938  
 Business Office Hours  
 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
 Friday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
  
**Rev. Dr. Lacy S. Sellars, Jr.**  
 Home: 501.318-9904, Cell: 501.282.0209  
 Email: revlacy@sbcglobal.net

**Support Staff**

Ms. Yasmin J. Martin, Communications Coordinator,  
 Email: firstpreshs213@sbcglobal.net  
 Ms. Randi Oney, Financial Secretary,  
 Email: randi1948@sbcglobal.net  
 Mr. Randall Pierce, Sexton

Ms. Deleen Davidson, Choir Director, 501.463.4514  
 Mr. Elsen Portugal, Organist, 501.693.8388  
 Ms. Jamie Randall, Youth Director, 501.622.8878  
 Mr. William Randall, Jr., Children's Choir, 501.622.8878  
 Ms. Linda Glover, Church School Supt., 631.375.0817  
 Ms. Jan Meyers, Historian, 501.624.2282

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859  
 Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer, 870.866.5242  
 Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, 501.767.6997  
 Ms. Jackie Edwards, Board of Deacons, 501.625.2025