



First Presbyterian Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

MARCH 28, 2024

Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala

It is hard to believe that I am in my third year as the Director of Youth. I am so thankful for this church and everything it does in and out of our community. The youth committee, witness committee, and I have been discussing an International Mission Trip since the beginning of my time on staff. That time came, and I will be forever grateful to those that allowed, supported, encouraged, and funded this opportunity. This mission trip was possible due to the generosity of the Scott Fund. Thank you to everyone that helped along the way.

Thirteen of us committed our Spring Break to go on a mission trip to Guatemala with Ahava Ministries. Students chose this experience instead of going to the beach or spending time with friends. Chaperones took off work. Every single one of us would do it all over again.

Ahava is known as a feeding ministry, but they are not just feeding their stomachs. Ahava is feeding their souls. Yes, they provide meals to around 150 women and children three days a week. And for some of them, these are the only three meals they get in a week. They also teach the Bible and guide them to spread God's Word. We were asked to lead a VBS for the women and children. We made crafts, watched Spanish videos, and sang songs in Spanish & English. Shannon taught a lesson in Spanish; students took turns praying and reading scripture in Spanish. We had a movie night with hotdogs and popcorn. We painted fingernails and took polaroid pictures, and it was fantastic! BUT, it was the moments in between that were soul shaking. We went down there to share the love of Christ, but oh my, did they love us back! They showed US a love that was unjudgmental and thankful. A love that didn't matter if we spoke the same language because we are all part of God's family.

We also installed six wood-burning stoves and handed out 600 pounds of rice and beans in the community. They were so thankful for those \$150 stoves and the \$1 worth of rice and beans. We installed stoves on dirt floors of people's homes, while the recipients sliced watermelon, opened bottles of coke, handed out cookies, and shared what little they had with us in appreciation. They welcomed us into their homes made of dirt, tin, and sheets with a warmth that would put Greenwood's hospitality to shame (and Greenwood knows hospitality)!

One of the things asked when planning a mission trip out of the country is, "Why go out of the country when we have so many needs right here in our community?" I knew it was important to offer this opportunity to our youth, and I strongly encouraged it. Having never been on an international mission trip I would have said something along the line as, "The world is so big and it is good to expose our youth to the different challenges outside of what we know. It is important to get away from our everyday distractions to serve in unfamiliar cultures." While my answer to this question is still true, there's way more to it than that. What I came to KNOW deep down is that the people we met are the SAME in Christ. The people in Santa Elena have different struggles; poverty, corruption, hunger. But they love the same, and God loves them the same. Each one of us left Guatemala with a new insight about God and His people. Each one of us felt God's presence in a new way. My prayer is that we can use what we learned and share it with the people of our community -- those who need to experience the power of God's love.



While we are back home living our lives, the work of the people at Ahava doesn't stop. Shane, Bill, Pamela, Mario, Rosario, Lourdes, Rosario, and Andy, we are praying for you and the work you do day in and day out.

Whitney

Pictured:

Front row (L to R): Ainsley Melton, Ava Scott, Graycen Austin, Sully Dubard, Danny (inspired Ahava), Pamela (Ahava translator and teacher), Mario (Ahava manager), Madeline (Mario's niece)

Second row (L to R): Shannon Melton, Caroline Chaney, Whitney Avritt, Michael Warren, Meagan Austin, Bill Holland (Ahava board member), Rosario (Ahava staff), Rosario (Ahava staff)

Back row (L to R): Charlie Robbins, Alston Avritt, Stephen (Lourdes' son), Penn Camp, David Camp, Lourdes (Ahava staff), Carlitos (Rosario's son) Nancy (Rosario's daughter), Andy (Ahava staff, inspired Ahava)

THE LORD'S DAY

April 7 — Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. Worship
Scripture: Philippians 4:4
Sermon: "Be Nourished with the Fruit of the Spirit" - Gentleness
Dr. Andrew Chaney
Children's Sermon: Shannon Melton
Prayer of Dedication: Elder Pat Gullede
Children's Church: Anne Marie and Thomas Gregory

April 14 — Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. Worship
Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9
Sermon: "Be Nourished with the Fruit of the Spirit" - Patience
Dr. Andrew Chaney
Children's Sermon: Ashley Scott
Prayer of Dedication: Elder Cathy Jennings
Children's Church: Anna and Walter Moses

April 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:00 a.m. Worship
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-8
Sermon: "Be Nourished with the Fruit of the Spirit" - Love
Dr. Andrew Chaney
Children's Sermon: Caroline Strawbridge
Prayer of Dedication: Deacon Lina Elfert
Children's Church: Kitty and Drew Pinkston

April 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon Scripture: Romans 12:9
Hebrews 6:10
Sermon: "Be Nourished with the Fruit of the Spirit" - Goodness, Kindness
Dr. Andrew Chaney
Children's Sermon: Jane Crump
Prayer of Dedication: Deacon Lynn Riales
Children's Church: Carling and Brett Canterbury

April Ushers: Moss Melton, John Stewart III, Taylor Calhoun, Shawn Hodges, Andrew Stainback, Tommie Williams

April Hospital Visitation Elder: Ryan Strawbridge



Vacation Bible
School
June 3rd - 6th
8:30 a.m-11:30 a.m.

We will take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

We need lots of volunteers! Please contact Kelli Stainback or Caroline Strawbridge if you can help!

Women's Bible Study - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

We will be using the book, "God of Creation" by Jen Wilkin, a study of Genesis 1-11. It all began with the Word. The opening chapters of Genesis teach us fundamental truths about God. We watch Him bring light after darkness, order after chaos, and rest after toil - all through the power of His Word.

Over 10 sessions of verse-by-verse study, dive into Genesis 1-11 by following three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation, and application. Revisit familiar stories and historical figures, challenge your basic knowledge, and discover deeper meanings in the text. As God reveals Himself through Scripture, we can only begin to understand ourselves when we first glimpse the character, attributes, and promises of our Creator.

Classics at First

PRESENTS

PIANO TRIOS BY HAYDN, DUBOIS, AND DEBUSSY



Nancy Bateman, cello

Paul Brown, piano

Temperance Babcock-Steiskal, violin

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 7 P.M.

No admission fee



First
Presbyterian
Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

300 Main Street | 662-453-4680 | firstgreenwood.net

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 2024

1. Heard a report from Elder Mike Sturdivant, Chair of the Endowment Committee. He went over the various funds that are under the Committee's control and explained how the money in those funds is invested. Current members of the Endowment Committee are Miller Arant (2024), Kelli Stainback (2025), Ryan Strawbridge (2026), Don Brock (2027), and Floyd Melton III (2028).
2. Approved Elder Sturdivant's recommendation transferring \$10,000 from the McKinnon Fund to the Outreach Foundation.
3. Approved Elder Sturdivant's recommendation that \$19,365 of Endowment Funds be allocated as follows: \$3,500 to local benevolences; \$6,795 to undesignated benevolences; \$2,445 to capital improvements; \$1,590 to local handicapped projects; \$2,980 to the Outreach Foundation; \$370 to each of the following: Prison Ministry, Community Food Pantry, Norma Gelman "Christian Faith Ministries," and Our Daily Bread; \$575 to Palmer Home. Funds going to local and undesignated benevolences were referred to the Witness Committee to determine where those funds should be spent.
4. Approved Elder Sturdivant's recommendation that \$112,759.29 be transferred out of the Scott Fund and referred to the Witness Committee to determine where those funds should be spent.
5. Approved a gift of \$2,000 from Barrett and Emmie Daugherty to the Endowment Fund.
6. Approved adopting the Endowment Committee's report.
7. Approved Jen Wilkins' "God of Creation" for the Tuesday morning Bible Study.
8. Approved Allison Pillow as a member of the Christian Education Committee, Class of 2027.
9. Approved payment to Nix Electric for repair and replacement of ballasts and light fixtures in the Church Parlor in the amount of \$4,289.63.
10. Approved reimbursing Elizabeth Melton \$1,487.30 for the purchase of a chandelier for the Church Office Foyer. This amount will be taken from Design Team Funds.
11. Approved the use of the Sanctuary for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on April 21, 2024.

THE CHURCH OFFICE

Will be Closed

Monday, April 1, 2024

Senior High
fun in the
SON

ST SIMONS

JUNE 23-28

\$200 PER STUDENT (NON-REFUNDABLE)

DUE MARCH 31ST

Junior High
the
great
ESCAPE

SMOKIES - OCOEE, TN

JULY 21-26

\$200 PER STUDENT (NON-REFUNDABLE)

DUE MARCH 31ST

THIS CAMP IS FULL. WAITLIST SPOTS ONLY.

FPK FUN in APRIL & MAY

April 12 Teddy Bear Tea

April 9 & 16 ArtPlace for 2s, 3s, and 4s

May 3 Donuts with Dad
in the Courtyard

May 10 Muffins with Mom
in the Courtyard

May 13 Wash Your Teacher's Car Day

May 15 End of the Year Program



First
Presbyterian
Church

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Greenwood, MS
Permit #204

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pacaya Volcano Guatemala



2024

April
EVENTS

WEDNESDAY	3	SUNDAY	6
	<i>Bible Study</i>		<i>No Youth</i>
WEDNESDAY	10	SUNDAY	14
	<i>Bible Study</i>		<i>Senior Play</i>
WEDNESDAY	17	SUNDAY	21
	<i>Bible Study</i>		<i>Mission Project</i>
WEDNESDAY	24	SUNDAY	28
	<i>Bible Study</i>		<i>Youth Breakfast</i>



Follow us on Instagram!

youthfpcgwood

CHURCH DIRECTORY

300 Main Street ▪ P.O. Box 485
Greenwood, MS 38935-0485
Phone (662) 453-4680
Fax (662) 453-4699

Website: www.firstgreenwood.net

Pastor..... Dr. Andrew Chaney
Pastor Emeritus Dr. Rusty Douglas
Director of Music Rev. Ray Smithee
Director of Youth Whitney Avritt
Christian Ed. Director Kelli Stainback
Kindergarten Director Caroline Strawbridge
Financial Secretary Annette McDonald
Administrative Assistant Denise Gardner
Custodian Charles Covington
Custodian Lonnie Love
Clerk of Session Richard Oakes
Board of Deacons Rebekah Arant
Church Treasurer Mark Vemer
Presbyterian Women Mary Clyde King
Endowment Committee Mike Sturdivant III
Missionaries Bill Holland, Ahava Ministries
Bill & Bette Bryant Crisis Nursery, Zambia
Cistern Project of the Yucatan
Amos Yam, Yucatan
Potter and Clay Ministries of Haiti
Presbyterian Church of Aleppo, Turkey
Ivan Rusyn, Ukraine

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Church Office: fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net
Dr. Chaney: pastor@firstgreenwood.net
R. Smithee: fpcmusic@firstgreenwood.net
W. Avritt: fpcyouth@firstgreenwood.net
K. Stainback: kellilott@yahoo.com
A. McDonald: fpcbooks@firstgreenwood.net
D. Gardner: fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net
C. Strawbridge: fpkdirector@firstgreenwood.net
Clerk of Session: fpcclerk@firstgreenwood.net



A Covenant Order of
Evangelical Presbyterians

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Women's Bible Study <u>10:00 a.m.</u> PW Coordinating Team <u>5:30 p.m.</u> FPK Board	3 <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Wednesday Bible Study <u>2:30 p.m.</u> Liturgy <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Youth Dinner <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Youth Bible Study <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 <u>6:45 a.m.</u> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	5	6
7 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Fellowship Time <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Communion Assignments <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship/Communion	8 PW Noon Circle <u>4:30 p.m.</u> Christian Ed Committee <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Youth Committee <u>5:30 p.m.</u> B & G Committee	9 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Women's Bible Study	10 <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Wednesday Bible Study <u>2:30 p.m.</u> Liturgy <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Youth Dinner <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Youth Bible Study <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 <u>6:45 a.m.</u> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Administrative Committee	12	13
14 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Session <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Fellowship Time <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship Youth attend Senior Play	15 <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Deacons <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Classics at First: A Concert of Piano Trios	16 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Women's Bible Study <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Staff Meeting	17 <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Wednesday Bible Study <u>2:30 p.m.</u> Liturgy <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Youth Dinner <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Youth Bible Study <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 <u>6:45 a.m.</u> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19	20
21 <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Fellowship Time <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship	22	23 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Women's Bible Study	24 <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Wednesday Bible Study <u>2:30 p.m.</u> Liturgy <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Youth Dinner <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Youth Bible Study <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 <u>6:45 a.m.</u> Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	26	27
28 <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Youth Breakfast <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Fellowship Time <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship	29	30 <u>8:30 a.m.</u> Women's Bible Study				

Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala

