



NEWSLETTER

And they sang a new song, saying,
"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."
Revelation 5:9-10 ESV



FPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2025

HIS Impassioned Mission
February 19th, 22nd, and 23rd

Wednesday, February 19

- 5:15 p.m. Supper in McIntosh Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Rev. Jermaine Van Buren speaks to youth and adults in Taylor Hall

Saturday, February 22

- 5:30 p.m. Supper in McIntosh Hall
Missionary Reports by Rev. Ed Thompson & Miss Cheryl Crocker
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary with Dr. Jeff Lowman preaching on
"Christ's Passion Unfolded: *What is Your Passion?*"
from Luke 15:1-7
Missionary Report by Dr. Mike Rasmussen
Dr. Mike Rasmussen with children at 4 Corners Café in Taylor Hall

Sunday, February 23

- 9:30 a.m. Dr. Jeff Lowman & Rev. Ed Thompson with children in Taylor Hall
Dr. Mike Rasmussen speaks to youth in Youth Center
Miss Cheryl Crocker & Mr. Evan Jones speak to adults in Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary with Dr. Jeff Lowman preaching on
"Pursuing the Passion of Christ: *How Will You Live Out His Passion?*" from 2 Timothy 4:6-17
- 6 p.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary with Dr. Jeff Lowman preaching on
"Christ's Passion Glorified: *What is Your Hope?*" from Rev. 5:1-10
Missionary Report by Rev. Ed Thompson
Mr. Evan Jones with children at
4 Corners Café in Taylor Hall

INSIDE

Missions Conference
Schedule and Guests
Pages 1-3

New Elder Emeritus
Welcome New Staff!
Stewardship Update
ATF 2025
Page 4

SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**Continue Reading
On Page 2.**



Dr. Jeff Lowman, Missions Conference Speaker

Dr. Lowman serves as a Faculty Instructor with Equipping Leaders International. E.L.I. is a PCA-oriented international ministry that trains national pastors in Biblical understanding, Reformed theology, church planting and pastoral leadership and ministry. Over the past three years, Jeff has trained pastors and church leaders with E.L.I. in Ghana, Cuba, Honduras, Kenya and Tanzania both through travel and Zoom. His primary focus has become the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary in Santa Clara, Cuba.

In 2022, Jeff retired from pastoral ministry after 32 years as senior pastor of Evangel Church PCA in Alabaster, Alabama. Before coming to Evangel, he served churches in Macon and Ridgeland, Mississippi. Jeff received his B.A. from Belhaven College, M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary, and D.Min. from RTS/Highlands Theological College, Dingwall, Scotland. Jeff has also served for almost thirty years as a professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics at Birmingham Theological Seminary. During his time at Evangel, he served in missions by traveling to multiple countries to equip pastors through the church's mission ministry, Mission to the World, and Globeworks International Ministry.

Jeff is the blessed husband of Sallie. They were married while in seminary. Sallie has a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from RTS and continues in her counseling practice. Jeff and Sallie have three children, Sarah (Asa), Hughes (Cori) and Jeffery, who is with the Lord, and four beautiful granddaughters and one handsome grandson.



Miss Cheryl Crocker with Mission to the World

Miss Crocker is a nurse who ministered over eight years in the Philippines as a medical missionary with an MTW church-planting team. She returned to the U.S. in 2009 and now serves by preparing for and leading medical teams around the world. Cheryl also assists in recruitment of both medical and lay people to take part on these medical teams.



Mr. Evan Jones with Mission to the World

Mr. Evan Jones, along with his wife Bonnie and their children Charlotte, Lucas, Aiden, and twin newborns are living in Mississippi. Evan and his family served for six years in Burkina Faso as church planters. He is now attending Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson and interning under a local church as he pursues ordination within the PCA. Evan is also the director for West Africa of Equipping Farmers International (EFI) under Mission to the World. Evan works with pastors to facilitate the growth of sustainable churches through small-scale farming and agriculture. His ministry seeks to empower local pastors to be able to help the struggling farmers who make up most of the congregations

in finding food security through the aid of the church.



**Dr. Mike Rasmussen
with HopeRussia
Seminary**

Dr. Rasmussen is Vice President for North American Ministry & Professor of Biblical Studies for HopeRussia

(<https://www.hoperussia.org>), a PCA-allied theological seminary and church planting partnership based in St. Petersburg, Russia. He is also on the faculty (teaching biblical languages and exegesis) of three seminaries in Atlanta, Athens and Augusta, Georgia. Mike's PhD is in Old Testament from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He is the author of *Conceptualizing Distress in the Psalms* (www.degruyter.com) and has planted two PCA churches. Mike and his wife, Renatta, live in Athens, Georgia. They have two adult sons and two granddaughters.



**Rev. Ed Thompson
with LOGOI**

Rev. Thompson is a joyful third-generation missionary and the President of LOGOI Ministries. Founded in

1968 by the late Dr. Les Thompson (Ed's Dad), LOGOI's ministry is focused on helping Spanish pastors and teaching leaders "*do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:12). With LOGOI's Bible courses and online resources, Ed's tenure has seen the ministry grow from 6,000 pastors and leaders to over 32,000 participants across 56 countries.

A recording artist and author, Ed's book, "Monkeys in My Coconut Tree," – a collection

of fun stories with biblical applications – was named Silver Medal Winner by the Readers' Favorite 2016 International Book Awards. He is married to Lyssa-Jeness, donated two knees to the Wheaton College (IL) football program, and is the very proud father of three amazing grown kids with five even more amazing grandchildren. Ed enjoys sports, a good laugh, a robust cup of coffee, and driving around in his pickup truck.



**Rev. Jermaine Van
Buren with RUF at
Jackson State**

Rev. Van Buren is Campus Associate for Reformed University Fellowship at Jackson State University.

A native of Hattiesburg, he graduated from Oak Grove High School in 2016. After earning a Bachelor of Science-Communication Arts (Theatre) from Troy University, Jermaine then received his Master's of Divinity-Counseling Emphasis from Reformed Theological Seminary. He is married to Laurie Upchurch Van Buren; she is a Licensed Professional Counselor who primarily specializes in play therapy, and they live in the Fondren area of Jackson.

Jermaine's favorite hobbies include playing card and board games, reading about Mississippi black history, going to the movies, bowling, pickleball, and listening to live music! His life verse is Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



ELDER EMERITUS

The Session recently granted a request from Bill Turpin that he be allowed to take Elder Emeritus status. Bill retired from active service as an elder in December.



In addition to serving for three terms as a Ruling Elder in our church, Bill has been an invaluable member of our support staff for the past seven years, most recently in the position of Project Coordinator.

We salute Bill for his dedication to Christ and love for his people at First Presbyterian Church!

WELCOME TO OUR STAFF!



Tim Fortenberry has joined our support staff as Project Coordinator (part-time).



Bobby Farris has joined our support staff as Maintenance Director (part-time).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Stewardship Update December 31, 2024

General Fund receipts and other income for 2024	\$1,921,726
Expenses	<u>1,664,628</u>
+/-	\$ 257,098

The Lord has graciously provided for our congregation's finances, allowing the church to complete payments in January on the loan originally utilized for construction of Currie Hall and McIntosh Hall!



AGAINST THE FLOW 2025

for
7th-12th Grade Students

Twin Lakes Camp & Conference Center in Florence
February 28 - March 2

Cost—\$125

Speaker—Rev. Austin McCann, RUF Campus
Minister at Mississippi State University

Contact Will Devenish for registration info!