



EXPRESSIONS

OUR VISION

A church deeply formed by the Good News of Jesus Christ, experiencing and expressing God's grace together in Hattiesburg.

*I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.*
1 Corinthians 1:4 ESV



2026 General Assembly Report

Paul Durfield

The 2026 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) was held in Louisville, Kentucky, during the week of June 22. First Presbyterian Church of Hattiesburg was well represented by Darwin and Kaye Jordan, Josh and Emily Kines, Bobby and Molly Blass, Randy and Deanna Martin, and Paul and Julie Durfield.

What Is the PCA General Assembly?

The General Assembly (GA) is the PCA's highest court and broadest governing body. It meets annually and is composed of commissioners—teaching elders (pastors) and ruling elders elected by their presbyteries to represent the church.

What Does the General Assembly Do?

The General Assembly convenes teaching and ruling elders from every presbytery to conduct the church's business, provide oversight, and advance the church's mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The General Assembly receives reports from the denomination's permanent committees and agencies,

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SUNDAYS

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

including Mission to the World (MTW), Mission to North America (MNA), Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), Covenant College, and Covenant Theological Seminary. First Presbyterian Church is honored that Randy Martin serves on the Committee on Discipleship Ministries and Bobby Blass serves on the Committee for the PCA Foundation.

The GA also considers overtures proposing changes to the Book of Church Order (BCO) or the Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO). Most overtures originate in presbyteries. Commissioners debate and vote on these proposals, including constitutional amendments and requests to form study committees on matters requiring further consideration before action is taken.

Beyond its business, the General Assembly offers meaningful opportunities for worship, fellowship, and encouragement. Each evening features a worship service with hymns, prayer, and preaching. Pastors, elders, and their wives may also attend breakout sessions on a wide range of ministry topics, providing practical encouragement and opportunities to learn from others throughout the PCA. Fellowship and networking with brothers and sisters from across the denomination are also great blessings of the week.

The exhibit hall also offers opportunities to learn about a variety of ministries and to explore resources and products available to churches.

A Few Personal Observations

Even though attendance reached a record 2,500, I was amazed by how many familiar faces and longtime friends we encountered during the week. It was a joy to reconnect with friends and colleagues who share in the work of Christ's church.

I was also encouraged by the Assembly's spirit of discussion. Even amid significant debates, commissioners demonstrated a sincere desire to pursue the church's peace and purity. Their brotherly spirit brought to mind Paul's words in Romans 12:10–12:

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."

If you would like more information about a specific aspect of the General Assembly, please feel free to reach out to me or any attendee. We would be glad to share more.

Student Ministry Update!

Savannah Prescott

This summer has been so incredibly full for our youth! We had the privilege of taking nearly 60 students to RYM in Florida for two weeks of discipleship, growing closer as a youth group, and tons of fun.

RYM's focus this summer was learning about sanctification and what it means to become the people that God has called us to be. Along with fun at the beach, we've also had movie nights in the gym, slip n' slide evenings, coffee shop Bible Studies, and our annual Okatoma kayaking trip.



We are also beginning to look forward to the fall, our second annual lock-in, and the start of our regular Wednesday night services! Please pray for our youth to feel celebrated and supported as we go into this next school year, and that it will be one of relational and spiritual growth.

Harvest Campaign Progress Report

Arrington Rhett

Here's an update on the **Harvest Campaign** to fund facilities renovations across the church campus.

With the generous financial support of our church family, we have accumulated over \$1.3 million in gifts to the Harvest Fund!

A comprehensive refresh of interior finishes, lighting, and audiovisual equipment is virtually complete in the Office, Music Suite, Parlor, Sanctuary, Narthex, Taylor Hall, and McIntosh Hall.

In order to fully fund the facilities updates, the church is seeking to raise additional gifts and commitments to reach the Harvest Campaign goal of **\$1.5 million**. Members can make a designated gift to the Harvest Fund by check or online at the FPC giving portal: [Give Online](#).

Please contact me if you would like information about gifts of appreciated stocks, gifts from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), or grants from a Donor Advised Fund.

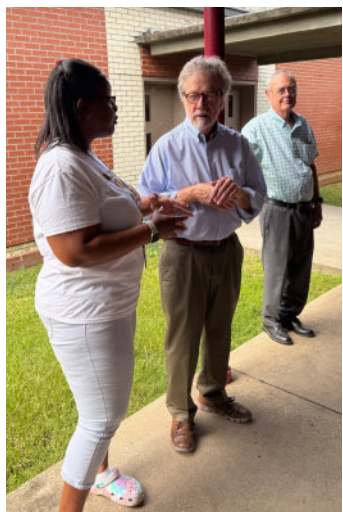


Prayer Partners with Grace Christian Elementary Staff

Several FPC members participated in a prayer walk with teachers and administrators at Grace Christian Elementary School prior to the start of school on July 31.



One of our members said, "It was a pleasure visiting Grace Christian Elementary School and meeting Mrs. Jackson, the teachers and staff. Everyone was incredibly welcoming and kind. It was a privilege to walk through the school with them and pray for the upcoming school year. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and active participation were deeply impressive."



Another participant said, "Among the blessings of praying with other believers, we each experience a sense of our unity at the throne of grace, our oneness in our Savior. Such was the blessing on a recent Wednesday when members of the Grace Christian Elementary School administration, faculty, and staff joined their hands and hearts with seven members of the First Church family to walk the halls and pray for the year ahead."

From the Director of Children's Ministry

Kathy Young

What a wonderful summer we've had! Between VBS, the 4 Corners Café, and the waterslide, our children learned so much and had fun while doing it.

A regular focus of Children's Ministry is Psalm 122:1, *"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"* We want children to enjoy being here. We want children to feel the love of a church family, but mostly we want children to know the love of their Savior!



Our Wednesday night classes are designed with these thoughts in mind. We call them **Wonder Nights**. They love, and sing, and wonder. If your children or grandchildren haven't come before, we would enjoy having them join us as we learn, play, sing, and wonder—all while we love them toward Christ! **We'll be starting back with Creation Exploration on August 19th**, followed by the regular schedule on August 26th. Be watching for details in *Grace Notes*!

