

The Lighthouse

May 2021

Happy 130th Anniversary, FPC Biloxi

130 years ago on May 17, 1891, representatives from the Presbytery of New Orleans met with a group of people in Biloxi in order to organize a Presbyterian Church. The moderator of that meeting was the Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Markham, the pastor of Lafayette Presbyterian Church in New Orleans. Dr. Markham pastored that church for 37 years until his death in 1894. He had served as a chaplain during the Civil War. There is an impressive monument to him in the Metairie Cemetery which says this:

“A true man and earnest patriot. A sound divine, a faithful pastor. Eloquent, persuasive, wise, generous, truthful, brave, courteous, gentle, loving. His life was a benediction and his death a triumph. To his virtues as priest and patriot, he added the loftiest qualities of the citizen. No class, no creed bounded the wide circle of his sympathies. No cause hostile to public virtue or public interest escaped his censure. No movement to advance the welfare and elevation of his people failed of his support.”

The other representative from presbytery was Ruling elder John E Rodd, a prominent New Orleans merchant. Several of his children became missionaries.

There was a diverse group of fifteen adults (some children, too) who had gathered to be the charter members of the Biloxi Presbyterian Church – an elderly gentleman, a doctor, a carpenter and a bricklayer; an Irishman, a Norwegian, and a woman from Wisconsin to go along with the majority who had ties to New Orleans. The Irishman, Mr. William Henderson was elected the first ruling elder, and the doctor, William P. McMillan, was the first deacon. Services were held the third Sunday of the month in the Methodist Episcopal Church building.

The following March and May saw the reception of a number of new members, and by July 31, 1892 the little fellowship had built its own building on what is now East Howard Street. Dr. G.S. Roudebush preached the first sermon in the new building.

Dr. Roudebush agreed to be the stated supply for the Biloxi Presbyterian church in February of 1893. He was one of Mississippi's great educators. When Mississippi A&M (Now Mississippi State) was formed he was a finalist to become the first president. He lost the vote to General Stephen D. Lee, but was made the first professor of the institution, chairing the English Department. He was also instrumental in starting what is now the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. In Biloxi, he worked mainly as an educator, opening a boarding school for boys called Seashore Academy. He served as stated supply for the church until July 1894. The school continued under his leadership for a few more years.

In January 1895, an arrangement had been made for the Rev. N. Keff Smith to become the pastor for the Biloxi Presbyterian Church and the Ocean Springs Presbyterian Church. Rev. Smith weekly alternated Sunday morning services between the two churches. He was a hymn writer.

Controversy sprang up in May 1896 as one of the members sent a protest to presbytery asking that Rev. Smith no longer continue as pastor of the two churches. The officers of Biloxi quickly responded in defense of their pastor, and a letter approving of Dr. Smith was signed by 30 of the 40 members on the roll (the rest being absent). A commission of presbytery came to Biloxi to investigate the matter. On the commission was Dr. Benjamin Morgan Palmer, the great southern Presbyterian theologian and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans. Rev. Smith's call to be pastor was upheld and he continued as pastor until late 1897. The complainer was told to seek dismissal to another church.

Observation 1: the Lord provided some eminent leaders who were used by God to form our church.

Observation 2: The Lord has preserved our church through 125 years. Through the controversy in the early years, and the controversies that have come since, and even those that linger on the horizon; we can sing:

“The Church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end:
Though there be those who hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against both foe or traitor
She ever shall prevail.”

(from “The Church's One Foundation”)

Grace & Peace,

Tim

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

April 23, 2021



Travels: (Dios mediante - - Lord willing)

- . I am currently at CHSC, near Dallas.
- . Next I hope to visit Payson, Arizona
- . Back to Zihuatanejo around May 15th
- . Mom's memorial service will be in August in Rochester

Prayers and Praise

This has been a rough month. Please be praying:

1. My mother, Mary Ellen Collinge, died on March 11th. I miss her! Thank God for the promises of the Bible and the hope that we have.

Revelation 21:3-4 states, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and he will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying or pain; the first things have passed away."

2. I had a skin cancer near my lip removed, but my dermatologist warned me that it is likely that it will grow back. Pray for wisdom in the next steps.

3. And at the same time, my new computer died.

4. Friends from Africa and Asia are also struggling.

But God is Sovereign and He is at work. Praise God that we can trust in Him.

1. I am enjoying a visit with Candi and Greg Seager at the Christian Health Service Corps base near Dallas. I am also trying to get the COVID vaccine and have been able to replace my ailing electronic gadgets.

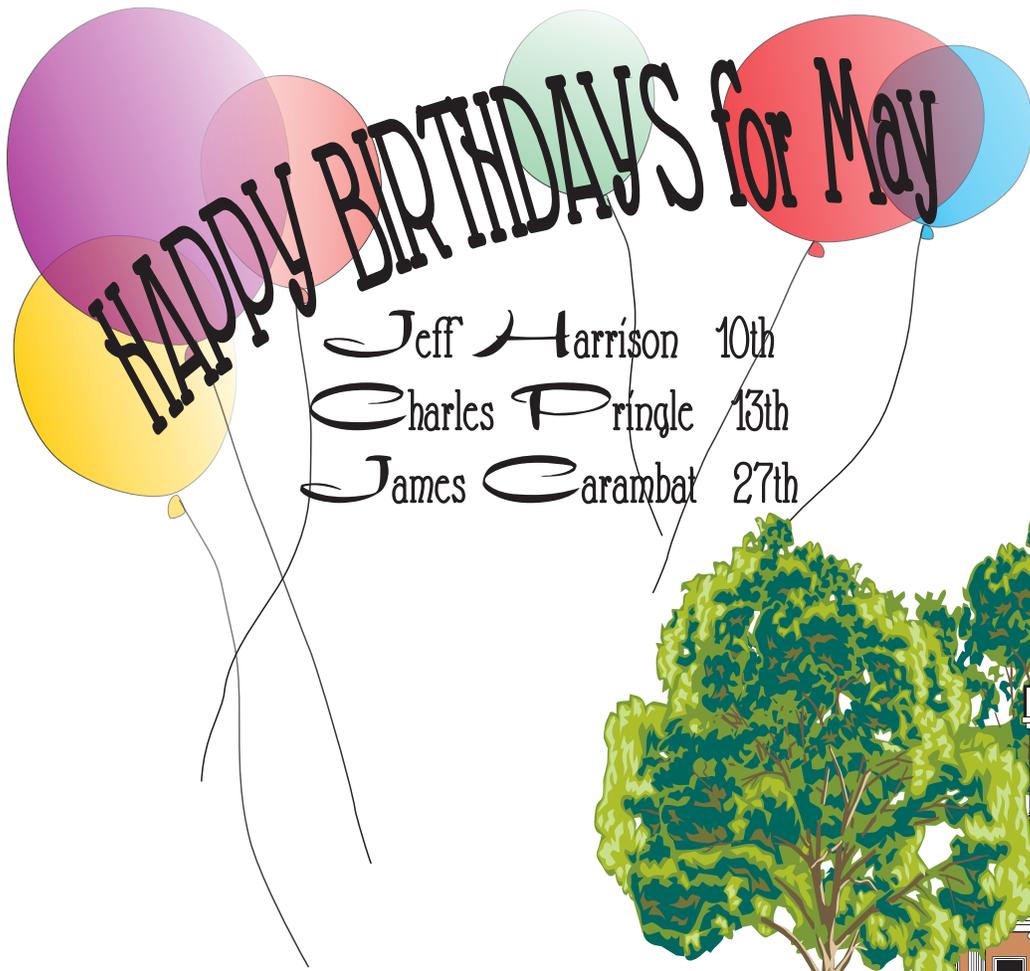
2. We are giving an online training in tropical medicine and global health. Pray that this will be useful and encouraging for the medical missionaries.
3. I have had a wonderful time with the online inductive Bible studies with children.
4. Next I hope to visit Terry and Jeannie Dalrymple in Payson, Arizona before returning to Zihuatanejo. That is also the home base of our Global CHE Network team.
5. Thank God for the strong memories that I have of Mom and our many times together. Pray that her memorial service in August may be a joyful time of family and friends gathering, despite our tears.
6. Here is another “verse of the month”, from 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NASB): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Thanks to each of you for the many ways you have comforted me. Pray that I may also be able to comfort others.

Thanks for your prayers! How can I be praying for you?
Dios les bendiga. May the Lord keep on blessing you.

Jody

Send donations to:
Global CHE Network, 4702 East Monte Way, Phoenix, AZ 85044
Please designate that they are for my support. Thanks!



Jeff Harrison 10th
Charles Pringle 13th
James Carambat 27th



Happy Birthday
First Pres Biloxi
130 years old

Dates to Remember for May

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| May 1 | Men's Breakfast at 8:00am
in the Fellowship Hall |
| May 2 | Communion |
| May 5 | Ladies Circle Meeting will be at 9:30
in the Fellowship Hall |
| May 9 | Mother's Day |
| May 16 | Church turns 130 years old |
| May 31 | Memorial Day, Church Office will be closed |