



northside

BAPTIST CHURCH

All are welcome | Clinton, Mississippi

**August
2019**

**Season after
Pentecost**



CHARTER MEMBERS MARIJANE and WHITFIELD

It's hard to imagine Northside Baptist Church without Marijane and M.D. Whitfield, or the city of Clinton, Mississippi without them either, for that matter. These two individuals, each one strong and opinionated and passionate about things that matter, began a partnership when they married fifty-two years ago. That partnership has endured and includes their commitment and whole-hearted support to family, friends, schools, business, city, and church. Marijane and Whitfield (he goes by many names: M.D., Whit, Whitfield, Melvin) were practically newlyweds when they were en-

couraged by Dr. Sam Gore to get involved in the new church that was just beginning in 1969 on the north side of town. Together they went to the first meetings and moved their letter, joining the other sixty-six charter members, and so it began. The rest of the story is a lot of good history.

Marijane is probably best known as "the" art teacher at Clinton Junior High School, the one who taught art and kindness. She was born in Louisville, Mississippi to J.B. and Margaret Peterson Vickers. She has one sibling, Margaret Ann Vickers, a Jackson attorney. When Marijane was only 1-1/2 years old the family moved for her father's job at Taylor Machine Company in Jackson, and there the family remained. Marijane went to Forest Hill Schools all twelve years, and chose to attend Mississippi College because her best friend, Cheryl Gore, insisted they room together. Marijane received her BS in Art Education and her Master's from MC in four years and went on to teach at Callaway for five years (1967-72). She met Whitfield who was two years her junior while participating in a play at MC, "The Music Man." They dated for six months and married in the summer of 1967. Their first home was a house next to the property that later became Northside Baptist Church. Asked to pay \$45 a month from Bob Dunaway for rent, they insisted on paying \$50. After teaching five years at Callaway, Marijane stayed home with children Robin ('74), Piper ('75) and Brian ('76) for ten years. She then returned to teaching in 1981 at the Clinton Junior High School, from which she retired in 2011.

M. D. was born in Jackson County, Mississippi near Pascaguoula, to Wilson Davis and Alberta Stone Whitfield. He graduated from Pascagoula High School and then went to MC, which his father had attended before the war cut short his college education. Whitfield received a B.S. in Education in 1969. Melvin says that he noticed a cute little blonde when he was recruited as a model for an art class while at MC, and then saw her again when he worked as a stage manager for "The Music Man." They married after his sophomore year. After Melvin graduated, he went to work as a baseball coach and history teacher at the historically black Rosa A. Temple High School in Vicksburg. He was the first white coach and was able to recruit black and white players. Melvin is proud of the fact that during his three years there eighteen of his players received scholarships to four-year universities. In 1970 Whitfield and his best friend formed a carpet company called Jackson Discount Floor Covering, and sold it to Frierson's Supply, where he worked from 1977-83. He and his friend then started Carpet Country in 1983 and in 1992 Whitfield started his own company, Carpet Designs. Marijane is not sure he will ever retire, but at least now he takes vacations with her, their children and six grandchildren.

What drew the young couple to Northside and kept them there for fifty years, Marijane says, is that from the beginning they were intrigued by the church constitution that said the church was an open door church, welcoming all for full church membership. She saw how the church tackled difficult questions and determined to live out the gospel message in response. Whitfield says Northside is just a bunch of sinners trying to work it out. Marijane was the first church pianist and Whitfield the first music director; both were about 15 years younger than anyone else. Marijane was also one of the first women deacons. People like Ed Akin, Nancy Bright, Dick Brogan and so many others were lights along the way for them. Both said being in Dick Brogan's class was always a safe place to ask the hardest questions you could ask. Thanks be to God for Whitfield and Marijane, 50 years and counting.

— Susan

Sunday Schedule

**Sunday School
9:15 am**

Worship

10:30 am

**Evening Activities
See Calendar**

Church Staff

Norma Baker
Church Hostess

Beverly Hughey
Treasurer

Martha Hutson
Church Recorder

Heather Ivery
Church Administrator

Tequila Johnson
Nursery Worker

Bruce Lesley
Music Director
Organist

Susan Meadors
Associate Pastor

Dottie Serio
Pianist

Courtney Stamey
Senior Pastor

News of Interest



June 23-28 was a life changing moment for many people in Greensboro, North Carolina. Passport camp had a lot to offer to those who were in need of help in faith and gratitude. One thing I noticed was the number of people and how those that are fairly quiet were starting to speak up more. Being someone who never meets a stranger and always talks no matter the circumstances, led me to seek out others who do, too. Walking into a room filled with people and voices that you never knew or even thought about meeting can be a challenge. How were people going to step out of their comfort zone to make new friends? Passport was filled with those opportunities. The theme of passport was "fearless." Many youth from different churches had to learn to become fearless and open up to those they didn't know at all. At first, it was a very hard concept to grasp, but as time went on I encountered people from all over stepping out of their comfort zone, being the first ones to talk when they met someone new.

Every morning started out with devotion and morning celebration. As the day went on there were bible study choices, free time, worship, and church group devotion. The most memorable part of my experience at passport was church group devotion. Church group let me open up and voice my inner emotions on certain topics where I knew people were listening to what I was saying. I have always had a mindset to keep a smile on my face no matter what is going on around me. During church group devotions on the last night, the room was filled with many different emotions and tears that brought everyone closer, and allowed others who had seemed less involved to open up to those around them. One thing I learned during church group devotion time is that there is a story and a past behind every person in a room.

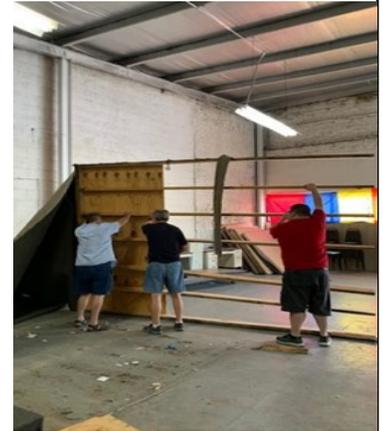
Another great experience at Passport was learning other people's stories. One night at worship, there was a time when anyone could walk up to the front and tell their problems or things going on in their life. As everything was coming to an end, a girl from another church walked to the front and told her story about things that were going on at home. It brought tears to many peoples' eyes and left many speechless. She also inspired many, and I for one was very impressed with the way she let her words speak for her feelings. It brought a concept that things happen, but everyone handles it in different ways.

Passport was an experience I will never forget and something that I will always hold on to. As I remember everything that happened during camp, I want to challenge everyone during this week to go out and meet new people. I want everyone to be fearless and share their emotions or feelings with someone else.

-Isabella Oropeza

SHAW, MS MISSION TRIP

During the week of July 8, Buddy Wagner, Martha and Jerrell Hutson, and Samir and I joined Jason Coker in Shaw, MS, to work at DELTA HANDS FOR HOPE. The mission of this non-profit organization, founded by Jason, is to strengthen and enhance local community assets related to education, spiritual development, health, and recreation of school-aged children in the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas. We were there during the last week of a summer day camp for school-aged children, and we had time to interact with them and the local women and older teens who supervised the kids and served the breakfast and lunch meals funded by a grant. Most of the time, however, we spent working on projects to improve the building which houses this organization. The men cleaned out and organized a large storage room, repaired a hole in the ceiling, and dismantled and removed an unsightly stage from the commons area of the facility. Martha



and I dealt with the books - boxes and shelves of hundreds of them. We organized them by grade level and staged two reading areas to form a library for K-12.

We left exhausted each afternoon, but also exhilarated by the enthusiasm we felt, not only on the part of the children, but also the directors and locals who worked with them. The older teens liked to hang around in the after-



noon to help clean up or work on the computers. We were in a place identified as one of the poorest in the Delta, and I do not know the circumstances faced by these children in their daily lives. But at this summer camp, I sensed a sweet spirit of love among those dedicated to serving these children, and among the children, I sensed mostly a spirit of appreciation for a place that defines itself as "hands for hope."

- Emily Fokeladeh

News of Interest

Natural Science Museum Adventures



The children spent time at the Natural Science Museum during one of their summer activities. Our own Audrey Harrison guided their adventure as they

explored the walking trails and gathered objects for an art project. There is one more fun day planned on



August 2 to Paradise Water Park in Collins before school begins. Thanks to the Children's Committee for planning a great summer for our children.



We welcome Simon and Amelia Bian with daughter Jill into our fellowship. On Sunday, July 14th they made a profession of faith. Please support them in their faith journey by making plans to attend their baptisms on August 4th during worship.

August Book Club

Book Club will meet **Tuesday August 20** at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss our experience at the Mississippi Book Festival. Bring your lunch. Drinks and a dessert will be provided.

Recent Prayer Requests

- Kay Ellen Aultman**, friend of Audrey Harrison liver cancer
- Paul Anderson**, stage 4 colon cancer
- Thelma Basley**, upcoming eye surgery Aug 1
- Blackerby family**, friends of Kim Corbett, multiple family member medical issues
- Elaine Birdsong**, friend of Don Nyberg, cancer
- Kim Bowie**, niece of Thelma Basley, possible cancer
- Nehemiah Bowie**, grand-nephew of Thelma Basley, stressful situations in college
- Laura Garcia-Gilliam**, sister of Anna Garcia, family issues
- Jennifer Garriga**, niece of Jerrell Hutson, dialysis
- Donna Harris**, friend of Mary Lea Nations, cancer
- Wilma Hemphill**, recovering from knee surgery
- Ruth Houston**, transition to Brookdale Assisted Living
- Bruce Lesley**, heart issues
- Ann Marquez**, bone marrow cancer
- Mary Ann McIlwain**, recovering from foot surgery
- Leah Oswald**, daughter of Lewis and Lisa Oswald, rehabilitation and recovery from being hit by a car
- Tom Persons**, brother of Annie Bess Saul, heart issues
- Parker Pierce**, young friend of Carner family, leukemia
- Christie Plyman**, daughter of Anne Powers, recovering from a broken leg
- Jenny Slack**, wife of Audrey Harrison's colleague, early 50's, suffered stroke and anticipating a long recovery
- Buddy Smith**, friend of the Boones, colon cancer
- Irlene Smith**, friend of Thelma Basley, gout
- Bill Stamey**, Michael Stamey's uncle, cancer
- Amy Tucker**, broken foot

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
Romans 8:26



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Proclaiming, Sharing, Caring, Growing

We're on the Web: www.northsidebaptistms.org

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Happening In August

August 1— Youth Ice Cream Trip

August 2—Water Park Trip for Children/Youth

August 4—Baptism of Amelia and Simon Bien and communion

August 11— 12:00—Business Meeting and potluck lunch after church

August 20—12:00—Book Club

August 28—Wednesday Night Kickoff

Last Call for Anniversary T-Shirt Orders

We will place one final order for Anniversary t-shirts. Please contact the church office by August 18 with your order.

Long Sleeve shirts—\$25

Short Sleeve shirts—\$20

Make checks payable to Northside with *t-shirt order* in the memo line.