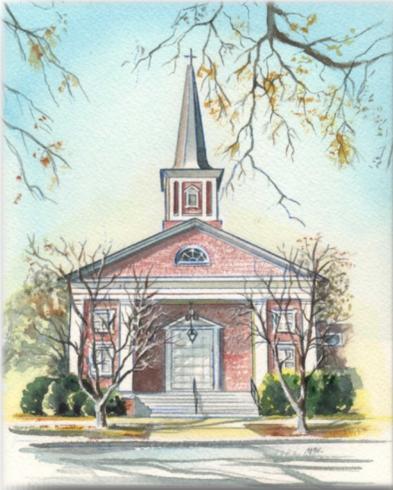


May 2021



# The First Press

## INSPIRATIONS - Pastor Brooks

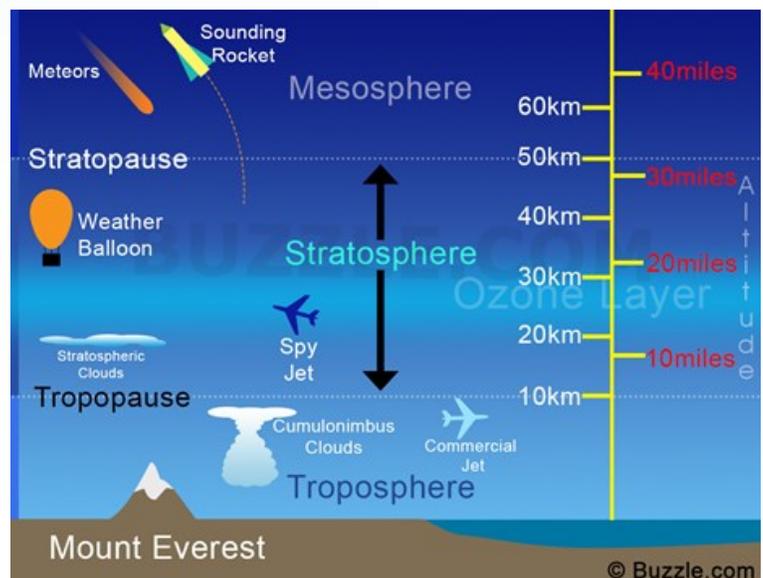
### How High is High?

How high is high? “High” is a relative term. What is high for a mountain is relatively low for spacecraft and weather balloons.

How high should a church reach? Should a church of 80 members be satisfied with just pastoring its members? Or should a small church “reach for the sky” with new ideas, programs, and ministry outreach?

“How high?” is a matter of perspective. It is relative to one’s vision of faith. My conviction is that faith in the living God as practiced by the teachings of Christ Jesus calls the church to dream big and work hard. Each effort becomes seeds which God’s blessings may nourish to fruition.

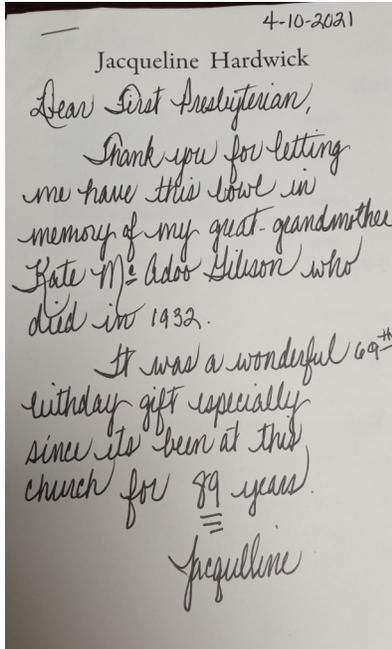
It should not be our prayer that God grants us tasks equal to our abilities. With confidence in God’s providence and Christ’s call, we should pray for abilities equal to the high tasks of the church.



**“Stand taller each day,  
in every conceivable  
way,  
Then reach down to  
lift up the next genera-  
tion.”**

- RHB

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ROOTS THE COMMUNITY



First Presbyterian Church has been a vibrant part of the lives of the population of Decatur for many, many decades. This statement was fully illustrated by a recent question from Jacqueline Hardwick. Jacqueline asked me if I knew the location of a memorial centerpiece that had been a part of the décor of FPC since the 1930s. It had been presented with the following inscription:

***In Loving Memory of  
Mrs. J. N. Gibson  
June 24, 1879 - September 20, 1932  
By Her Daughter  
Mrs. P. J. Edwards***

Mrs. Gibson was Jacqueline's great-grandmother and had tragically died in a car accident in 1932. (see obituary below)

Jacqueline asked if the memorial could be returned to her family. After several inquiries, the centerpiece was located at the church and returned to Jacqueline on Wednesday April 7,

2021 which happened to be her birthday.

It was a privilege to return the memorial centerpiece to Jacqueline and her family.

- Donna Huffman

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## Kate McAdoo Gibson



*Mrs. J.N. Gibson, beloved local resident, . . . died instantly . . . when she was pinned beneath a car in which she was returning to Decatur from Atlanta with her husband and son Eugene Gibson.*

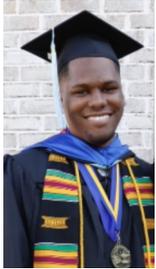
*Mrs. Gibson is survived by her husband; two sons, Vernon Gibson and Eugene Gibson; two daughters, Mrs. Jackson Edwards of Atlanta and Mrs. George Wallace of Decatur. Mrs. Gibson was for many years a member of the First Presbyterian Church here, was active in religious circles of the city and her tragic death occasioned widespread sorrow.*

*Interment [was] made in City Cemetery.*

- DECATUR DAILY -

# HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Margaret Lee Peterson (granddaughter of Nancy Moss) graduated from the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) on Saturday, May 1, 2021. She received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Heath Care Management. The week following her graduation, Lee interviewed for a position at a nursing home and was able to immediately start work in her field.



Kobe Brown, our Music Coordinator, graduated from Oakwood University in Huntsville on Saturday, May 8, 2021. He has received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Music Education.

“Music has surrounded my entire life, with my father being a composer and arranger. However, for me it was something that made me vulnerable; it revealed the parts and emotions of myself to the world that I never wanted anyone to see. I avoided direct participation in it until my final year of high school when I was recruited into the Oakwood Adventist Academy choir under the direction of Dr. Philip Williams. Many experiences that my fellow classmates and I were involved in will remain with me for the rest of my life. Music became a part of who I was and what I truly enjoyed. It made me comfortable being who I was, although it would be some time before I decided to take Music Education as a career path. My experiences with music during my college came through the Aeolians, my music classes, and my many experiences with other students in my department. These experiences and how music changed the course of my life caused me to want to inspire others to music and be able to expose them to the same things that I was once exposed to, along with bringing people closer to the Lord.”

## SILVER SNEAKERS: ABS (AGILITY, BALANCE, & SRENGTH)

Silver Sneakers: ABS (Agility, Balance, & Strength) has begun. The first day was May 10th. Currently there are two times for the class: 10 AM and 11 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Both times offer seated and standing options, although the 10 AM is structured to be more seated instruction and the 11 AM is structured to be more standing instruction. While this is the case, modifications are always offered.

Pick up one of the flyers at the church and share with a friend who may want to come take part. Our new instructor, Rita Hutcheson-Cobbs has a truly inspiring story of her own to help you see how anything is possi-

**STARTING MAY 10TH!**

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY

Silver Sneakers: ABS  
Agility, Balance, & Strength

Fitness Programs targeted for seniors

10 AM - Level II  
Seated/standing program

11 AM - Level III  
Mostly standing program

\*Modifications are always available

PARKING IS BEHIND THE CHURCH, ACCESSED OFF VINE STREET

PLEASE USE THE REAR ENTRANCE TO ACCESS THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

BE SURE TO BRING WATER SO YOU STAY HYDRATED.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
701 OAK STREET NE  
DECATUR, AL 35601

(256) 353-0253  
FFCDECATURAL@GMAIL.COM  
FFCDECATURAL.ORG

RITA HUTCHESON-COBBS

Healthways SilverSneakers Fitness Program

## Happy Birthday...

**May 16**  
Mike Curl

**May 21**  
Brenda Smith

**May 30**  
Nancy Curl

## Our Homebound:

Juanita Dukes  
Lynn & Ann Fowler  
Charles Howard  
Barbara Martin  
Sue & Charles Murphree  
Liz Pilgrim  
Jane Rowe  
Caroline Taylor

## Our Family Members in Military Service:

**Peyton Davis**  
Army  
Fort Campbell, KY  
(nephew of Luke Pryor)

## Our Staff:

**Rev. Richard H. Brooks, Minister**  
richardhbrooks@gmail.com

**Kobe Brown**  
Music Coordinator

**Cheryl Wade**  
Organist

**Rob Corn**  
Social Media Outreach Coordinator

**Julie Loggins**  
Administrative Assistant

## Contact Us:

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Oak Street NE  
Decatur AL 35601  
256-353-0253  
FPCdecaturAL@gmail.com

## Stay connected with all the happenings at First Presbyterian Church of Decatur . . .

You can find us on the web at:



Fpcdecatural.org



FPCdecaturAlabama



FPCdecaturAL



FPCdecaturAL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship services** are being held in person every Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- **Silver Sneakers: ABS (Agility, Balance, and Strength)** classes resumed May 10th and will be every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 AM and 11 AM.

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Oak Street, NE  
Decatur, AL 35601

