

A WORD FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

First Presbyterian Church has richly blessed three generations of my family. The same can be said for so many of our generational families. We are also blessed with many new families and individuals that do not have this type of connection and possibly for the first time are being fed through the expository preaching of God's word, reformed teaching in Sunday School Classes, small group studies, Wednesday night elective classes, and many other opportunities. In addition, we are also blessed with the ability not only to support a number of missionaries but actively send many of our flock into the fields. This is being accomplished not only in foreign mission fields but locally as well.

Indeed, we have been greatly blessed with many wonderful programs and ministry opportunities; however, we know we are enabled to accomplish these things and fulfill our responsibilities only by the grace of God. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul states "But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me." In the words of John Newton in his beloved hymn "Amazing Grace," "Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." At the end of the day when all is said and done, we attribute our faithfulness to the grace of God.

It is this recognition and thankfulness for this grace, none of which we deserve, that humbles the Senior Pastor Search Committee to have been called by the congregation to serve in this capacity. We represent the congregation's gratitude for God's grace shown to our church the past 135 years, as well as anticipation for the future as God leads us to the new shepherd whom He has chosen to lead our flock.

By God's grace, the ministry of our current leadership, and a loving and willing flock, First Presbyterian Church is healthy and unified, involved in kingdom work in Hattiesburg and surrounding areas and throughout the world. Certainly we are sinners in need of grace but we are blessed to have a strong foundation beneath us. We are earnestly seeking a senior pastor of God's calling, trusting and knowing that He will lead us to that man whose unique gifts and passions fit well with our particular needs and kingdom work in Hattiesburg.

We invite and encourage you to study the following information in addition to the other content of our website. Should you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at hughb02@hotmail.com or by cell phone at (601) 310-2846. We appreciate your interest and prayerful consideration. Let us remain humbled and awestruck at who our Lord is and how He will mold and use us during this process for His Glory!

Hugh Bolton – Search Committee Chairman