

# First Presbyterian Church

## July 2010 Newsletter

*From the  
Pastor*



*But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. . . . Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. James 2:18, 21-22*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! Have you ever thought about James' letter to the church? So often the Epistle of James is neglected in our churches due to its heavy emphasis on the *works* of the Body of Christ. In this scripture is cited the famous text "Faith without works is dead" (Jas 2:17). This text is always challenging especially for Reformed Christians who lean on God's promise of salvation through grace, faith, and scripture alone. What do we do with James' call to works?

I believe it's about both - faith and works. Yes, it is because of our faith that we receive salvation; *and* we must also respond to God's love through our actions. On July 11<sup>th</sup> we will begin a church-wide study of the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. I am really looking forward to us studying together for five weeks! There are three small groups that will meet during the week to read this book, and discern what God is saying to us through it. I encourage you to purchase the book and take part in a small group.

I have been praying over this study for several months, and the words of James continue to speak to me. Not only will we be *learning* new things together, but we will also be *doing* new things as well. James uses the words "faith and works," and I have translated that into "learning and doing." Each week of the study we will learn about a different practice of the church, and on Wednesday night we will put that practice into application: We will LEARN and DO. During our hospitality week, we will open the church to the community to serve dinner and watch the movie *Facing the Giants*. We will worship during the worship week, study during the study week, and assemble a mission project during the mission week.

This is an exciting time in the life of our church. I pray you are called to participate in what God is doing here, and that the Holy Spirit will guide you through the upcoming study. I can't wait to see you Sunday!

Your sister in Christ, Julia

### Mission Project



Week four of our new study focuses on Mission and Service, and in the spirit of learning and doing we will all take part in a mission project. We will be assembling Hygiene Kits that are given out by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. There is a great need for more of this kits since many were given out in Haiti during the earthquake relief.

Each week you can bring the designated items to the church, and come on Wednesday, August 4 at 6:30 to assemble the kits in the Fellowship Hall.



Come and invite your friends and neighbors on Wednesday, July 14th to watch the film *Facing the Giants* at the church. This film is family friendly and great for all ages!

### Mission Supplies - What to Bring & When

**July 11-17 Bring washcloths and soap**  
**July 18-24 Bring band-aids and nail clippers**  
**July 25-31 Bring 16x28 hand towels**  
**August 1-4 Bring toothbrushes and wide-tooth combs**

**Place your items for the week in the designated box in the narthex. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry!**



## Session Notes

The session met on June 21, 2010. Rev. Farrell opened the meeting with prayer.

Her devotional was the parable of the sheep and goats from Matthew chapter 25 beginning with verse 31.

Members present were Annalize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, and Emma Jean Huffman.

Members excused: none.

Jim Hockensmith, treasurer, stated that \$6200 was sent to the South African Mission. The additional money was designated by members and an outside person gave money designated to this mission.

Congregational Life activities for July are: 7<sup>th</sup> committee night, 14<sup>th</sup> movie night, 21<sup>st</sup> worship. A church-wide study based on the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase will begin on July 11. There will be weekly small groups for five weeks on Tuesdays at 9:30 am for women and 6:30 pm for men and women. The men's group will also participate in the study on Thursday mornings at 6:30 am. Sandwich making for Huey P. Long Hospital will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. A meal for Healthworx will be provide on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

Debbe Clegg has agreed to be the coordinator for the new church directory. Olan Mills will be taking pictures on August 11.

Rev. Farrell has asked that we think about what our church can offer that no one else has.

Rev. Farrell, Dave Conner and Liz Magee will be selecting the color for the ceramic tile to replace the tile in the hall. Work will begin soon.

Over one hundred resumes have been received for the church secretary position. Rev. Farrell, Dave Conner, and Emma Jean Huffman have been going over the resumes. Two people have been interviewed. Interviews are being scheduled.

If you would like to volunteer to answer the phone until new secretary is hired please let Rev. Farrell know.

Emma Jean Huffman  
Clerk of Session

## July Birthdays

Dravo Nog	7/6
Doris Hockensmith	7/7
Wynn Ware	7/8
Daniel Chevalier	7/9
David Chevalier	7/9
Jim Huffman	7/9
Liz Smith	7/9
Annalize Benade	7/10
Liz Magee	7/12
Dave Conner	7/13
Nancy Smilie	7/15
Justin Ware	7/21
Rocky Willson	7/22
Christelle Benade	7/23
Roy Pitchford	7/23
Annie Lauri Murchison	7/29
Dee Dee Ellington	7/31



*\*If you have a birthday in the month of July,  
and are not mentioned above please notify the office. Thanks!  
office@alexandriafpc.org*

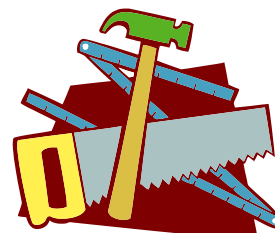
## Church Directory Pictures August 11



It's been a few years since our church family has been captured on film, and the date's been set for a new pictorial directory. On Wednesday, August 11th Olan Mills will be coming to the church to take individual and family portraits of our members.

Pictures can be scheduled from 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm. There will be a signup sheet at the church to reserve your time.

If you have any questions concerning the upcoming directory, please contact Debbe Clegg at 481-3737.



## RENOVATION PROJECT

It's hard to believe that our new building is in need of repair, but the time has come to replace the floors in the main hallway of the church. The tiles have exceeded their service life, and have become a safety hazard.

During the month of July these floors will be replaced. The work is expected to take about a week and will not effect Sunday worship.



*A special "Thank You" goes out to Debbe Clegg for sharing her time and talents in worship. Mother's Day and Father's Day wouldn't have been the same without the beautiful slideshow presentation!*

## July Responders

### Communion Servers

Dave Conner  
Jeff Huffman  
Wynn Ware

### Sunday Monitors

4 Jim Hockensmith  
11 Dirk Benade  
18 John Martin  
25 Barry Herndon

### Wednesday Monitors

7 Sharelle Herndon  
14 Annalize Benade  
21 Debbe Clegg  
28 Annalize Benade

### Greeters

4 Dirk Benade & John Martin  
11 Stacey Brown & Elizebette Kennedy  
18 Gil Arnold & John Allen  
25 Sonny Brown & Pat Turpin

### Ushers

4 Stacey Brown & Bob Kennedy  
11 Jim & Stephanie Huffman  
18 Nancy Davis & Jim Hockensmith  
25 Dave Conner & Elizebette Kennedy



### Meet the Members — Will Smolenski By Dee Arnold



Have you had the opportunity to meet that attractive gentleman who lives over next door Kingsley Place? His full name is Wilfried Horst Smolenski but he goes by Will. He walks with a walker getting back and forth from Kingsley Place to church, but don't let that fool you, this man cuts an impressive presence on the dance floor. Gil and I were invited to attend the gala event, "Evening in Paris", at Kingsley Place, as Floy Elliott's guests, recently. There was dancing, dining, and piano music on the grand piano by Ray Block. Will was dancing as were several other couples as we found our table. I understand he and his wife used to belong to a dance club at one time.

Mr. Smolenski was born in Neidenburg, Germany which is now Nidzica, Poland. When he was one year old he immigrated to the United States where he was united with his father. He, his mother, and his oldest sister made the voyage to escape the Depression there, after World War I, in 1926. Will's family had five children and Will was the 2nd oldest of three girls and two boys.

In high school Will met Ruth who was to be his future wife, but they did not date then. During World War II, Will enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific. After the war, Ruth and Will were married and they had two children, Jim and Sally. You see Jim around church sometimes with his dad. Jim lives here in Alexandria, and his sister Sally lives in Dallas, Texas. Will also has two grandchildren, Christina Frazier who is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army, Military Intelligence, and Wil Smolenski who lives in Atlanta, Georgia and is an architect.

After high school Will went on to become a Chemical Engineer, receiving his degree from Lawrence Tech, in Indianan in 1946. He was employed until he retired at Western Electric as Department Head of Tool & Design. He also had two patents.

When asked if he enjoyed traveling and what trip or trips did he enjoy the most, he said that he enjoyed trout fishing, especially in Canada; and touring Alaska in later life with his wife. His interests and hobbies include birding, wood-working and golf - until his eyesight began to fail. He has always enjoyed pets, especially dogs (Labs and Springer Spaniels), but he has had a parrot and rabbits, too.

Will grew up in the Lutheran faith, but he said, "Marriage to a fine young lady who was Presbyterian caused him to become converted. Here, the congregation is very friendly, the church has more activities than an old man can make, though." He thought that he could help the growth of the church by recruiting new members at Kingsley Place. That sounds good and I'm sure his wonderful Christian example will help.

"God gave me the patience and ability to carve and build things out of wood, plastic, and metal and I consider these the greatest gifts or talents God has given me. My poor eyesight hinders me too much, now. I plan to watch my children and grandchildren grow and enjoy my dog, Ginger."

## First Presbyterian Church

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**Julia Farrell, *Pastor***  
**Jack Ready, *Choir Director***  
**Judy Ready, *Pianist***  
**Delores McDaniel, *Nursery***  
**Charles Bell, *Sexton***



### *Wednesday Night Fellowship*

*July 7 5:45 Sandwiches*  
*6:30 Committee Meetings*

*July 14 5:45 Dinner and a Movie*

*July 21 5:45 Covered Dish Dinner*  
*6:30 Worship*

*July 28 5:45 Fried Chicken Dinner*  
*6:30 Study*













**First Presbyterian Church**  
**357 Windermere Blvd.**  
**Alexandria, LA 71303**

**Come experience God's love at First Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday School - 9:45 am, Worship - 11:00 am



# JULY

# 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	2	3
4  <b>Independence Day</b> 9:00 am Kingsley Place 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ Communion	5  Office Closed	6  8:15 am Sandwich making for HPLH patients	7  5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	9	10
11  Study Series Begins 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <u>Theme: Radical Hospitality</u>	12	13  9:30 am Women's Small Group 6:30 pm Men & Women's Small Group	14  5:45 pm Dinner & a Movie 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	16	17
18  Study Series 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <u>Theme: Passionate Worship</u>	19  7:00 pm Session Meeting	20  9:30 am Women's Small Group 5:00 pm HealthWorx 6:30 pm Men & Women's Small Group	21  5:45 pm Covered Dish A-G Dessert H-K Main Dish L-Z Salad/Veg 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	22  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	23	24
25  Study Series 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <u>Theme: Intentional Study</u>	26	27  9:30 am Women's Small Group 6:30 pm Men & Women's Small Group	28  5:45 pm Fried Chicken 6:30 pm Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	30	31