

First Presbyterian Church

August 2010 Newsletter

*From the
Pastor*



So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:41-44

This morning I find myself at my desk reflecting on the past three weeks of our study together. Many of you have participated in some way in our five week study of Robert Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. I pray this study has been a blessing to you, as I know it has been for our church.

I am a big fan of all-church studies like this one. Something powerful happens when we meet together, and pray together, and read the same books together. When we are able to focus on one common theme, it shapes our conversations, and brings us into greater community as a church. It reminds me of what happened with the Early Church. When people began to hear about the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, their lives were changed, and they told everyone. Amazing things began to happen when they gathered together and explored their faith together with other Christians – the glory of God permeated their lives. Now that's powerful stuff!

The same is true today as it was two thousand years ago. There *is* great joy in gathering and studying together, but the joy doesn't end there. We also have a responsibility to apply what we've learned together and spread our joy. If the early Christians had just listened to the apostles and then continued their "normal" lives, the Gospel message would have stopped with the twelve. Instead, they took what they learned and put it into practice.

August is usually a time to regroup before the fall begins. I encourage you this month to think about what you've learned and shared from this book study. Put it into practice. Let the glory of God permeate your life. Just watch as amazing things begin to happen. I can't wait to see you Sunday!

Your sister in Christ, Julia



2010 Rally Day and Lunch Sunday, August 29th

Please join us to kick off the fall. After worship on Sunday, August 29th we will have lunch together at the church. The Congregational Life committee is planning this event.

The church will provide the main course, and we ask that you bring whatever sides or dessert you love. If you have any questions, contact Annalize Benade.

Mission Project



August 4th

For the past four weeks we have been gathering items for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits. These kits are handed out during disaster situations and include the following items: wash-cloths, soap, band-aids, nail clippers, 16x28 hand towels, toothbrushes, and wide-tooth combs.

Make plans to be at the church on Wednesday, August 4th at 6:30 pm. We will be praying over these kits and assembling them in the Fellowship Hall.



Session Notes

The session met on July 19, 2010. Rev. Farrell opened the meeting with prayer. Her devotional was

from *Cultivating Fruitfulness* the daily devotional companion of the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* study book. Her topic was passionate worship. A discussion was held on first memories of church.

Members present: Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, and Emma Jean Huffman.

Members excused: Annalize Benade.

Jim Hockensmith, treasurer, presented the financial statement from May. He stated that he has meeting with a member of the CPA firm on the 20th of July to discuss needed corrections.

A thank you note was received from the King of King's Lutheran church along with a \$1000 check. A note from Bobbie Brasher of Shreveport, a visitor on the 4th of July, was received.

We received two new members this month, Charly Lacroix and Chris Tyler.

Activities for the month of August are: 4th assembling health and hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; 11th pictures for the new church directory; 18th committee night; 23rd session meeting; 25th prayer meeting and 29th – 5th Sunday will be lunch after church. Meat will be provided by the church.

Please welcome our new secretary, Kimberly "Kim" Fontenot. She will be in the office Monday through Friday 9 am to 1 pm.

Dave Conner located a man to do the needed bush hogging on the church property. Thanks Dave.

We had 5 visitors at Movie Night on July 14th.

Debbe Clegg is working diligently on pulling our new church directory together. Remember pictures will be made by Olan Mills on August 11th.

On August 14th the King of King's Lutheran Church will be having a wedding shower. On October 23rd the King of King's Lutheran Church will have a wedding in our sanctuary.

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on July 25th.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session

August Birthdays

Jill White	08/03
Jim Hockensmith	08/05
Charlotte Shreve	08/05
Kenneth Rhame	08/06
Julia Farrell	08/07
Ruby Noe	08/10
Lorraine Salmon	08/12
Crystal Rhame	08/15
Lacie Ellington	08/18
Dee Arnold	08/19
Elizabette Kennedy	08/22
Liz Chevalier	08/24
Mae McBurney	08/25
Floy Elliott	08/28
Sharelle Herndon	08/31



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

The following is a letter that we received from the King of Kings Lutheran Church on July 18, 2010:



To Our Christian Brothers and Sisters at First Presbyterian,

We wanted to once again express to you our heartfelt gratitude at giving us your church to use while we seek to relocate. We look to you as examples of Christian love and concern for those in need. We also see you as God's mask, the ones whom God hides behind to provide and care for his people. Through you God has loved us, cared for us, and kept us going.

So receive this check as a small "widow's mite" that shows our love and appreciation to all you've done. Use it as you see fit.

In tremendous Christian love and gratitude,

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Enclosed was a check in the amount of \$1000.00. They also stated to Rev. Farrell they intend to paint and re-carpet the Fellowship Hall.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session

Church Directory Pictures August 11 & 25



Olan Mills will be coming to the church to take portraits in August. It is very important to your church family to have you pictured – the directory won't be complete without you!

If you haven't signed up for a picture time, please contact Debbe Clegg at 481-3737. She will take care of you!



Smiling Thoughts By Nancy Smith

Maxine-of Hallmark Shoe Box Car fame—the crabby senior citizen who speaks her mind—often as emails—well...She has this friend?? To whom she says—“Well. Aren't you just the one big black hole of need!”

Do you ever feel emotionally needy? Me too. Sometimes it takes me several days to allow God to replace the demons—they are demons, aren't they? Demons do exist, don't they?!

Humanness can be a real problem for me. However, God and my faith always prevail. Praise God! From whom all blessings flow!

The following are some of my favorite quotations designed to loosen the gruesome grip of the glums:

“God's rest is an undisturbed place where Heaven bends to meet you.”

“In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus restored to you everything that was lost in the Garden of Eden.”

“Every believer belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“As we continue to be filled with the Spirit, the enemy cannot have an inch of territory in us.”

All of the above were written by Smith Wigglesworth in one of his devotionals. He was convinced that “God is more eager to answer than we are to ask.”

Now if that doesn't perk us up, nothing will. Be happy in Christ...and smile every chance you get!

August Responders

Communion Servers

Dave Conner
Matt Farrell
Jim Hockensmith

Sunday Monitors

1 Jim Hockensmith
8 Dirk Benade
15 John Martin
22 Barry Herndon
29 Jim Hockensmith

Wednesday Monitors

4 Sharelle Herndon
11 Annalize Benade
18 Debbe Clegg
25 Annalize Benade

Greeters

1 Dirk Benade & John Martin
8 Stacey Brown & Elizebette Kennedy
15 Gil Arnold & John Allen
22 Sonny Brown & Pat Turpin
29 Liz Magee & Barbara Ware

Ushers

1 Stacey Brown & Bob Kennedy
8 Jim & Stephanie Huffman
15 Nancy Davis & Jim Hockensmith
22 Dave Conner & Elizebette Kennedy
29 Mac & Georgia McBurney

Meet the Members — Waylon Smith By Dee Arnold



Have you met Waylon Todd Smith? This young man was born in Flint, Michigan, the second child of four children, the other three are girls. I was wondering why anyone would leave Michigan to come to Louisiana but then being the only boy in the family, maybe he wanted to get away from all those girls. Well, we're really happy he is here with us.

This talented young man is quite an artist. He has been sharing his artistic talent in painting, by offering an art class on Saturday mornings. He and Brandi Woolam have been teaching oil painting. The class produced some really nice paintings. You can enjoy the pictures the class produced by visiting the hallway past the narthex. I've been wanting a chance to use that word, "narthex." Now that Pastor Julia has enlightened us about the proper name for what I used to call the little entry-way outside the sanctuary.

Waylon said his first job was as a stocker at Super 1 Foods. He has also been a Martial Arts instructor in Jujitsu. Now, Waylon works as a District Manager for the Town Talk.

He received his B.F.A. degree from LSU at Monroe. He is a Graphic Designer, Photographer and owned a Design Studio. He wants to start his own Photo Studio, soon.

Waylon enjoys travel and mentioned two trips he especially enjoyed. One trip was to Central Mexico and the other to Thailand. What a wonderful adventure to go to Thailand and experience the culture there.

Although Waylon was raised a Baptist, he said, "I was drawn to this church and it's flock, by their personalities and the openness of the people. The church is small and the members are honest, no frills, or facade. I tell people about the church, whenever possible."

He further stated, "I feel that God's greatest gifts to me have been understanding, empathy, and the art of communication. I always treat people like I would like to be treated and I talk to people about anything that comes up."

That philosophy of life, Jesus summed up by telling us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." What a wonderful way to live your life.

First Presbyterian Church

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



Wednesday Night Fellowship

*August 4 5:45 Pizza
 6:30 Mission Project*

*August 11 5:45 Fried Chicken
 6:30 Program*

*August 18 5:45 Sandwiches
 6:30 Committee Night*

*August 25 5:45 Covered Dish Dinner
 6:30 Prayer Meeting*

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



2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Study Series 9:00 am Kingsley Place 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ Communion <u>Theme: Risk-Taking Mission</u>	2	3 8:15 am Sandwich making for HPLH patients 9:30 am Women's Small Group 6:30 pm Men&Women's Small Group	4 5:45 pm Pizza 6:30 pm Mission Project 7:30 pm Choir Practice	5  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	6	7
8  Study Series 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <u>Theme: Extravagant Generosity</u>	9	10 9:30 am Women's Small Group 6:30 pm Men & Women's Small Group	11 OLAN MILLS-Pictures! 5:45 pm Fried Chicken 6:30 pm Program 7:30 pm Choir Practice	12  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	13	14
15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	16	17 5:00 pm HealthWorx	18 5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Choir Practice	19  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	20	21
22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	23  7:00 pm Session Meeting	24	25 OLAN MILLS-Pictures! 5:45 pm Covered Dish A-G Salad/Veg H-K Dessert L-Z Main Dish 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	26  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	27	28
29  9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Church Lunch	30	31				