

First Presbyterian Church

October 2010 Newsletter

*From the
Pastor*



When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

Matthew 8:14-15

Oh if we could all be so lucky. . . . Jesus merely touched her hand, and she was healed. Is the same true for us today, or is this just one of those stories from "Jesus times?"

I pray this is still true today. In fact, I place my life on the premise that this is still true today. As you may know, Matt and I have had a difficult month this September. We were so excited to find out we were pregnant a few months ago only to learn on September 1st there was a problem with the pregnancy. We soon experienced one heartbreaking moment after another. With each doctor visit the news became more painful; and eventually, we lost the pregnancy.

I know you understand when I say that there are times in our lives when we feel broken and in need of healing. I am going through one of those times now. It is difficult to struggle with such heartache, but I have found comfort in scripture (especially these two verses from Matthew). The Gospels are filled with accounts of Jesus reaching out to the sick, the isolated, the diseased, the grieved . . . the broken. Each time he extends his hands of healing, *people are healed!*

Jesus heals today just as he did so many years ago. As a pastor I have the joy of seeing his healing on a daily basis. One thing I love about this scripture from Matthew is that as soon as the woman is healed, she gets up and serves Christ. She doesn't hesitate. She doesn't take a few minutes to gather her thoughts or let the miracle sink in. She simply receives his touch and serves him. This text offers me a promise that soon I will get up and be able to serve Him again.

I pray that if you are experiencing brokenness on your journey, you will see the joy of this scripture. Wherever you are, Christ is extending his hand for healing in your life. Please continue to pray for me and Matt during this time just as we pray for you. May we all experience Christ's healing, and begin to serve Him again together! I'll see you Sunday.

Your Sister in Christ, Julia
pastorjulia@alexandriafpc.org



Brady Huffman's school is collecting labels to raise money for Ruby-Wise Elementary School. Last year they received \$1200 and they believe they can reach \$1500 this year. There is a coupon you clip off or give the labels to Stephanie or Emma Jean and they will do the clipping. **Please help him reach their goal. See below for products that support our schools...**

Community Coffee UPC's - save UPCs bar codes from coffee, gourmet coffee, and tea all Community and Private Reserve products. See their website www.communitycoffee.com.

Box Tops for Education - Juicy Juice, Betty Crocker, General Mills cereals, many, many more products. For more products see their website www.boxtops4education.com.

Labels for Education

Non-Food items such as...

Bic Ball Pens, Dry Erase Markers; Ecolutions, Gel, Highlighters, Mailing Labels, Mechanical Pencils, Permanent Markers, Roller and White-out Correction tape.

Food Products such as...

Campbell's such as Beans, Chunky, Healthy Request, Soup, Soup & Recipe Mix, Tomato Juices, Prego, Spaghettios, Swanson, V8 Beverages, Splash, V-Fusion; Pop Secret 100 calorie, 3-count, 6-count, 10-count

See their website for many more items www.labelsfor education.com



August

The session met on August 23, 2010. Rev. Julia Farrell opened the meeting with prayer. Her devotional was from the Presbyterian Women's "Leaving a Legacy" from I Chronicles 3:10-14.

Members Present: Annelize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman, Nancy Smilie, and Brandi Woolam.

Members excused: None

Jim Hockensmith, treasurer, presented the financial statement for June and July. Jim stated that "giving" is down and utilities are up.

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, Jack and Judy Ready.

Activities for the month of September: 1st games night; 8th music program; 15th Healthworx Speaker; 22nd committee night; 29th prayer meeting.

Thanks to Dave Conner for all that he does around the church.

Thanks to Debbe Clegg for her hard work in getting pictures scheduled and taken for the new church directory.

Thanks to Jim Smolenski for all of his hard work in changing the sign and keeping it interesting as often as he does.

Rev. Farrell will be attending a conference in Montreat, NC, October 17th thru 24th for small church pastors.

The session will be meeting on September and October on the 4th Mondays instead of the 3rd Monday.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session

October Birthdays

Debra Ware	10/09
Tom Clegg	10/18
Jim Smolenski	10/29



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

Session Notes September

The session met on September 29, 2010. Rev. Julia Farrell called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Her devotional was from Mathew 8:5-17, on healing.

Members present: Annelize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman and Brandi Woolam.

Members excused: Nancy Smilie.

Jim Hockensmith presented the financial statement for August. He stated that an air conditioner unit had been replaced in the Sunday School wing for the cost of \$5,400.00. One of the ovens in the kitchen cannot be repaired due to parts not being available due to the age of the stove. The stove will be replaced.

A thank you note was received from Regency House.

Activities for the month of October are: 6th Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries Speaker; 13th committee night; 20th Shepherd Center Speaker; and 27th prayer meeting. The session will meet on the 25th.

Dave Conner is still spraying weeds. Replacement of the floor is still in the planning stage. We will use vinyl instead of ceramic tile.

Rev. Farrell thanked everyone for their prayers and concerns during this time in her and Matt's life.

Rev. Farrell will be attending a conference for small church pastors in Montreat, NC, October 17th thru Oct 24th.

Rev. Farrell stated that our secretary is doing an excellent job.

By common consent Barry Herndon was elected to represent the church at the Presbytery meeting in Lafayette, LA., on October 9, 2010.

The use of the church facilities were approved for the following dates:
November 1 – Publication Committee Presbytery of Pines/South Louisiana
December 8 – Life Line Screening
December 17 – King of King's member hosting a Christmas lunch.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session

OCTOBER



2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Kingsley Place 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ Communion	4	5 8:15 am Sandwich making for HPLH patients	6 5:45 pm Chicken 6:30 pm Evergreen House Speaker 7:30 pm Choir Practice	7  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	8	9 Presbytery Meeting in La- fayette
10 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Congregational Meeting	11	12 9:30 am  <i>Women's Circles</i>	13 5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Choir Practice	14  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	15	16
17 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	18	19 5:00 pm HealthWorx	20 5:45 pm Burgers/ Hotdogs 6:30 pm Shepherd Center Speaker 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	22	23
24 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	25  7:00 pm Session Meeting	26	27 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	28  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	29	30
31 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship						



MEET BILL & MARTHA HIGGINS

by
Dee Arnold

Have you had the opportunity to meet Bill and Martha Higgins? They are a great addition to our congregation and a very important part of the educational system in our area. It is good to have them back with us. Bill's full name is William Frank Higgins and he was born in Longview, Texas. Martha's full name is Martha Estrada Higgins and she was born here in Alexandria. She received her B.A. Degree from LC and her Master in Education from American Inter-Continental University in Atlanta, Georgia. This degree focuses on administration of business and learning in educational organizations. It is the "New" degree for a Level 1 Administrative Certificate in Louisiana. Martha has worked as an Educator; Vice-President of DRM, INC., and Manager of the Corsican Chemical Co. She said, "I worked in the beauty products/nutrition side."

Bill received his B.S. in Education and Master of Science in Education from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX. He was named top student in the School of Education. Bill told me, "After ten years of coaching, Martha and I entered sales management for an International Distribution Company. We were named Vice-Presidents of the West Coast Operations and remained with the company seven years."

In 1992 the couple moved to Alexandria to teach and coach and be around Martha's family. They were here for five years and moved to Plaquemine where Martha taught and Bill became Principal at White Castle High School, for eight years. They had the opportunity to return to Alexandria and Bill became Principal of Bolton High School. While Principal at Bolton, the school was named in the top 3% in the nation in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Now, he has been promoted to the Central Office to become Career and Technical Education Supervisor and Athletic Director.

Bill earned the Boy Scout, God and Country, the Order of the Arrow Award, and the Eagle Award, the highest award in Boy Scouting. Martha was the first woman to manage a chemical company in the United States, but both consider the most important highlight of their life was getting married. Bill grew up in the Presbyterian Church and Martha said she married into the church. Bill enjoys the congregation, "Our preacher has so much energy and is excited about what she does - makes me want to come to see what she will do next."

Martha believes that her greatest gift from God is Peace and her God given talent, is public speaking and music. She has always sung in choirs, duets, trios, and musicals. Perhaps we will be blessed with the opportunity to enjoy her singing talent. "I want to learn more about the church, it's people and it's opportunities," she said. Bill said, "The greatest gift God has given me is patience and being able to work with kids."

The couple have three rescue dogs: Chip 9, a buff colored cocker spaniel; Choo-choo 6, a brown, long-haired dachshund and Spike 3, black Schnoodle. Pass-time activities? Martha likes golf, swimming, tennis, computer games: card, word puzzles, and quests. Bill enjoys fishing, target shooting and swimming. There is so much more to tell about this interesting and charming couple, you'll enjoy getting acquainted with them.

October Responders

Communion Servers

Dave Conner

Jeff Huffman

Wynn Ware

Sunday Monitors

3 Jim Hockensmith

10 Dirk Benade

17 John Martin

24 Barry Herndon

31 Jim Hockensmith

Wednesday Monitors

6 Sharelle Herndon

13 Annelize Benade

20 Debbe Clegg

27 Annelize Benade

Greeters

3 Dirk Benade & Debbe Clegg

10 Stacey Brown &

Elizabette Kennedy

17 Gil Arnold & John Allen

24 Sonny Brown & Pat Turpin

31 Liz Magee & Barbara Ware

Ushers

3 Stacey Brown & Bob Kennedy

10 Jim & Stephanie Huffman

17 Nancy Davis & Jim Hockensmith

24 Dave Conner &

Elizabette Kennedy

31 Mac & Georgia McBurney



Smiling Thoughts

By Nancy Smille

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." Psalm 121

If you are reading this in the October newsletter then, I hope, I am in West Virginia—among my loved ones in the West Virginia hills!

Cotton fields and sugar cane fields are lovely and live oak trees are unforgettable. But, Oh! The place my memories thrive and the joys my soul linger over are most pronounced in the constantly changing unmatched beauty of His majestic reality found in the monumental proof of God's love—Stupefying splendor! Mountains and sloping hillsides against the ever changing spectacle of Heaven's skies!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote: "If thou art worn and hard beset, With sorrows that thou wouldst forget, If thou wouldst read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep. Go to the woods and hills! No tears Dim the sweet look that Nature wears."

Are you smiling yet? See 'ya soon. Nancy

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

<i>October 6</i>	<i>5:45 Fried Chicken</i> <i>6:30 Evergreen House</i> <i>Speaker</i>
<i>October 13</i>	<i>5:45 Sandwiches</i> <i>6:30 Committee Meetings</i>
<i>October 20</i>	<i>5:45 Burgers and Hotdogs</i> <i>6:30 Shepherd Center</i> <i>Speaker</i>
<i>October 27</i>	<i>5:45 Covered Dish</i> <i>6:30 Prayer Meeting</i>

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