

First Presbyterian Church

November 2010 Newsletter

*From the
Pastor*



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me.

Philippians 1:3-7

I can't believe it has been a year! One year ago on October 18, 2009 we worshipped together for the first time. It's amazing how fast time goes by when we least notice it. This past year has gone by in a rush of excitement and newness for me, and I am truly thankful for the joy you have brought into my life!

Paul's words to the Philippian Christians provide a good foundation for me as I write you this anniversary letter. Paul was very connected to his brothers and sisters in Philippi. He was in prison in Rome when he wrote them this letter, and the introduction is a tender expression of his care and concern for them. He talks about joy, prayers, and Gospel work. I especially love how he says "you hold me in your heart."

These words summarize my heart as well. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." I have spent much time these past few weeks reflecting over our last year together, and thinking forward to the year to come. I set several goals when I arrived at First Presbyterian Church a year ago as your new pastor. However, my primary goal was for us to get to know each other. I believe through prayer and work and worship this goal is being accomplished.

God is doing great things in our midst at First Presbyterian Church. Over the last year we have received new members, offered new opportunities for spiritual growth, and we are planning a Vacation Bible School for next summer. If God can accomplish blessings such as these in one year, just consider what's in store for the next year!

The month of November is traditionally celebrated as a time to give thanks. I want to encourage you this month to include the church and our church family in your thanksgiving prayers. May God's abundant blessings overflow in our lives and our church in the coming year. I can't wait to see you Sunday!

Your Sister in Christ, Julia
pastorjulia@alexandriafpc.org

Stewardship Season November 7-21



Stewardship Commitment Sunday
will be celebrated Sunday, November 21.
Remember to bring your pledge cards
with you to worship.

Give thanks . . . Sing praise . . . Declare God's steadfast love!

Psalms 92:1-2

The word stewardship often makes us think of campaigns and budget drives in our local church, all those sermons we hear about stewardship, and letters from the session or stewardship committee we have to read as we decide how and what we give of our money.

But stewardship is much more—more than just once a year and more than deciding how much or how little we are going to give to the church. Stewardship is realizing that we owe God all of our heart, mind, and soul, and that we have been generously provided for by our God. Stewardship is about what we give back for all we have received.

We Christians in this country are blessed. And when we realize how blessed we are, we have to be grateful and generous. We have to give thanks to God, and as we are being thankful, we need to remember to share.

*Marj Carpenter, Moderator of the 207th General Assembly
Excerpt taken from PC(USA) Stewardship Resources*



October

The session met on October 25, 2010. Rev. Julia Farrell called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Her devotional was from Joel Chapter 2:28 "making our dreams come true".

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

Members excused: Nancy Smilie.

The Thompson's daughter was married in the church on October 23, 2010. They are members of the King of King's Luther Church. The bride is the granddaughter of Mae Cotton. Mr. Thompson gave a \$250.00 donation to the church.

Activities for the month of November are as follows: 3rd Hope House; 10th committee night; 17th prayer meeting; 24th - no meeting. Session will meet on the 15th.

We will have vacation bible school this summer using "Centershot Ministries" program.

Matt Farrell was volunteered to get the library in order. Thanks Matt.

Dave Conner is striping the parking lot. Thanks Dave. The committee is still working on estimates on new flooring. Brandi Woolam volunteered to do needed painting at the church. Brandi is also working on the flower bed slowly as the weather improves. Pray for much needed rain.

Rev. Farrell has been busy visiting shut-ins. Rev. Farrell set goals when she arrived. These goals have been met. We have a web site and are on Facebook are some of the goals. Rev. Farrell still serves on the COM for the Presbytery. She will also serve on the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery assigned to close First Pres. Church of Jennings, Louisiana. The members at FPC, Jennings have requested this action.

By common consent Brandi Woolam, Jim Hockensmith and Jim Smolenski will be asked to write letters for the Stewardship Campaign beginning Nov. 7th. Stewardship Commitment Sunday will be celebrated Nov. 21st.

Waylon Smith's sister died. The church will send a wreath to her funeral.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

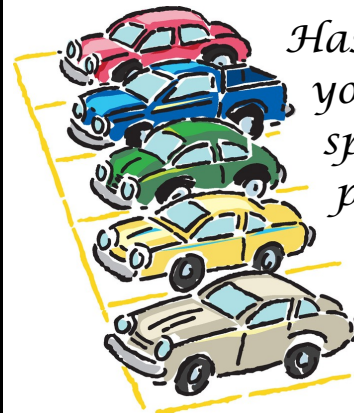
Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session

November Birthdays

Blake Brown	11/02
Robert McDaniel	11/03
Barbara Ware	11/20
Jack Ready	11/22
Emily Young	11/24
Gary Koenig	11/29



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



*Has it been easier to see
your favorite parking
space in the FPC
parking lot this month?
Dave Conner has been
hard at work
restripping our
parking lot.*

*We all send a big THANK
YOU out to Dave!*



On Wednesday, December 8th FPC will host Life Line Screening in our Fellowship Hall from 9 am – 4pm. This is an event opened to the community that provides health screenings for the following:

- 1) **carotid artery blockage (stroke)**
- 2) **atrial fibrillation**
- 3) **abdominal aortic aneurysm**
- 4) **peripheral arterial disease**
- 5) **osteoporosis (bone loss)**

For more information, please read the pink insert.
Appointments are necessary, and screenings cost
\$139 per person.

NOVEMBER

2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8:15 am Sandwich making for HPLH patients	3 5:45 pm Chicken 6:30 pm Hope House Speaker 7:30 pm Choir Practice	4  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	5	6
7 9:00 am Kingsley Place 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/Communion	8	9 9:30 am  Women's Circles	10 5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Choir Practice	11  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	12	13
14 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	15  7:00 pm Session Meeting	16 5:00 pm HealthWorx	17 5:45 pm Covered Dish A-G Main Dish H-K Salad/vg L-Z Dessert 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	18  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	19	20
21  Stewardship Commitment Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	22	23	24 No program.	25  Thanksgiving Church office is closed.	26	27
28  First Sunday of Advent 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	29	30				

MEET LIZ SMITH & LEON COODY by Dee Arnold



Have you had the opportunity to meet Liz Smith and Leon Coody? If not, you are in for a real treat. This couple has been together twenty-five years next month. They met on the dance floor. Liz tells the story this way. "I was celebrating my 26th birthday and Leon was out with some of his National Guard buddies celebrating the end of summer camp. The place was packed, but I realized that I wasn't being asked to dance, because Leon was standing behind my chair. I asked him, 'If you're not going to ask me to dance, would you please move?' His reply was, 'Nobody in here knows how to dance!' I said, 'Let me show you how to dance.' the rest is history. We have been waltzing ever since."

Liz's full name is Elizabeth Ann Smith. She was born in Leesville into a large family, 14 children, 7 brothers and 6 sisters. Liz was number 10. Just making an observation here---now, how in the world did her mother cook, feed, clean, wash clothes, shop, and manage the house and still have time to have 14 children? Kind of brings to mind Proverbs 31, "Who can find a virtuous woman?"

Liz received her ADN degree in 1981 and BSN from NSU, in 1995. When she was only 15 she started working in a hospital, a trend in her life that eventually led to her becoming an RN. She has been an RN for 29 years.

Leon's full name is Jimmy Leon Coody. He was born in Honey Island, Texas. He was the 3rd son of 4 boys. Leon has two grown children of his own, by a previous marriage. His son Brian, 33 lives in Natchitoches and his daughter Tonya, 35, lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Leon was in the military for 3 years before joining the National Guard. He attended trade school as an office machines technician and worked full-time job in the National Guard, retiring in 1991 after 23 years. He attended LSUA where he received his ADN degree, then received his BSN degree from NSU. He has been an RN for 19 years.

They enjoy traveling. Liz was a traveling nurse. Once, on a 13-week assignment in Hawaii, she was persuaded to stay longer and work during the Christmas holidays. She told them she wanted to spend the holiday with her husband. The result was they flew Leon to Hawaii and treated him to the sites, plus golf, all for free while Liz was at work. She said, "Next time, he's going to work, and I'm going to have all the fun!"

They enjoy playing golf, reading, working in their yard, and playing with their rat terrier dogs, Lu Ann, 2, and Edie, 4, both are rescue dogs.

Neither Leon or Liz was born into the Presbyterian faith, but Leon "fell in love" with the Presbyterians philosophy and Liz converted when they were married. When I asked them how they felt they could add to or help the growth of this church, their answer was, "By being a good example to the community, and supporting and praying for the elders and our minister. Julia is great! We love her energy and devotion to being a Christ Child."

If you can catch up with this busy, vibrant couple, you will enjoy getting acquainted. They add so much vitality and energy to our congregation. Recently they opened their home to John Martin to live with them while he is recuperating from a broken hip. What a gracious thing to do for a fellow member!

November Responders

Communion Servers

Dave Conner
Matt Farrell
Jim Hockensmith

Sunday Monitors

7 Jim Hockensmith
14 Dirk Benade
21 Roger Best
28 Barry Herndon

Wednesday Monitors

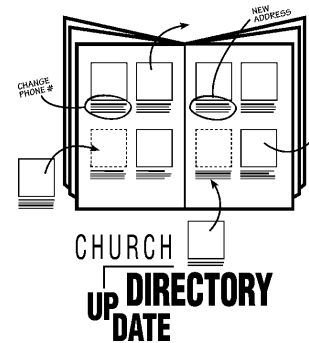
3 Sharelle Herndon
10 Annelize Benade
17 Debbe Clegg
24 Annelize Benade

Greeters

7 Dirk Benade & Debbe Clegg
14 Stacey Brown & Elizebette Kennedy
21 Gil Arnold & John Allen
28 Sonny Brown & Pat Turpin

Ushers

7 Stacey Brown & Bob Kennedy
14 Jim & Stephanie Huffman
21 Nancy Davis & Jim Hockensmith
28 Dave Conner & Elizebette Kennedy



We are nearly complete with our church directory, but want to also include families who were unavailable to take pictures.

Please submit a hard copy picture of your family to the office. You are part of our church family and we would love to see you in the book!

If you have any questions or need help, please call Kim at 443-7229.

First Presbyterian Church

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office@alexandriafpc.org
www.alexandriafpc.org

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



Wednesday Night Fellowship

November 3	5:45	Fried Chicken
	6:30	Hope House Speaker
November 10	5:45	Sandwiches
	6:30	Committee Meetings
November 17	5:45	Covered Dish
	6:30	Prayer Meeting
November 24		No program

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