

# First Presbyterian Church

## December 2010 Newsletter

*From the  
Pastor*



*"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.'" Luke 1:30-31*

We all come to the Christmas season with certain expectations. There are traditions that we cherish, and there are customs that we keep. Each family's celebration of Christmas is a unique expression of their love towards one another and their love of God. It is truly a joy to celebrate Christmas each year, but there is also a component of fear and anxiety around this blessed time.

In each segment of the Christmas narrative in Scripture there are angels present – spreading "good news of great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). But there is one common theme with the angels that we forget. They begin each of their good news declarations with the words *Do Not Be Afraid*. Those words have become a part of the rote Christmas story, but they can help each of us as we journey to Bethlehem this year.

Listen to angels, listen to God's voice this year, and . . . *Do Not Be Afraid*. Fear is a complicated emotion. It causes stress, and anger, and frustration; and we each carry with us some degree of fear. What would this Christmas be like for you if you let go of fear, and allowed the Prince of Peace to take over your heart?

In the weeks ahead I know you will be planning and participating in many celebrations. Your schedule will get busier as the countdown to Christmas gets closer. I encourage you during your busyness to heed the words of the angels and *Do Not Be Afraid*. Let the joy of Christ's birth fill you with peace and love this year. I can't wait to see you Sunday!

Your sister in Christ, Julia  
[pastorjulia@alexandriafpc.org](mailto:pastorjulia@alexandriafpc.org)



7:00 pm

### Paper Goods for Friendship House

We are collecting paper goods for Friendship House. As most of you know, Friendship House is an adult day care center where care givers can leave their loved ones for the day. They are open from 7 am to 5 pm. The participants are furnished with a light snack in the morning, a hot meal prepared by Rapides General, and an afternoon snack. Also, there is a daily devotion, education, recreation, socialization, and music. A nurse is on duty at all times and they only charge \$45 a day.

There is a large box in the narthex where you can bring your donated paper goods. You can bring plates, napkins, toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, etc. First Presbyterian Church has always been Friendship House's greatest contributor for their paper goods needs, and they are depending on us this year as well.



## November



The session met on November 15, 2010. Rev. Julia Farrell opened the meeting with prayer. Her devotional was from Psalm 92 "Giving Thanks."

Members present: Annelize Benade, Dave Conner and Emma Jean Huffman.

Members excused: Barry Herndon, Nancy Smilie and Brandi Woolam.

Jim Hockensmith, treasurer, presented the financial statement for September.

It is with deep regret the session accepts Jim Hockensmith's resignation as treasurer, effective December 31, 2010.

Activities for the month of December: 1<sup>st</sup> Hanging of the Greens; 8<sup>th</sup> committee night; 15<sup>th</sup> caroling at Kingsley Place and Regency House; no activities on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Eve services will be at 7 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The session will meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The committee on the flooring is still working hard to get the needed information together from Hooper's Flooring. Dave Conner has finished striping the parking lot. THANKS DAVE.

Mailers and "door hangers" will be distributed in the area of the church. This will provide information of the activities for Advent and Christmas services.

Rev. Farrell will have a session retreat in her home in January. Stewardship campaign is going well. Rev. Farrell will be on vacation from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 9, 2011.

The Joy Gift will be taken on December 19<sup>th</sup>,

By common consent the session decided to ask the young adults to serve communion on Christmas Eve.

King of King's Lutheran Church will be having a Christmas lunch on December 17<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall.

The meeting adjourned with prayed.

Emma Jean Huffman  
Clerk of Session



Join us as we decorate the church for Advent on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. This is a festive worship service where we decorate the church, and explain the history of the symbols of Christmas.

## December Birthdays

Charles Ellington	12/03
Stacey Brown	12/04
Georgia McBurney	12/06
Jeanne Lannoye	12/07
Martha Higgins	12/08
Robert Coon	12/09
Sandy Powers	12/12
Brandi Woolam	12/19
Laverne Willson	12/22
Roger Best	12/23
Leon Coody	12/23
Waylon Smith	12/24
Ruth Conn	12/25
Bertie Deming-Smith	12/26
Helen McDaniel	12/30



*\*If you have a birthday in the month of December, and are not mentioned above please notify the office. Thanks!*  
[office@alexandriafpc.org](mailto:office@alexandriafpc.org)



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 call 800-324-1851.  
Appointments are necessary, and screenings cost \$139 per person.



# December 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:45 pm Covered Dish A-G Dessert H-K Main Dish L-Z Salad/Veg 6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	2  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	3	4
5 9:00 am Kingsley Place Worship and Communion 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship and Communion 2:30 pm Regency House	6	7 8:15 am Sandwich making for HPLH patients	8 5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	10	11
12 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Christmas Cantata	13	14 9:30 am  Women's Circles	15 5:00 pm Caroling then Follows a Community Meal	16  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	17	18
19 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	20  7:00 pm Session Meeting	21 5:00 pm HealthWorx	22 6:00-8:00 pm Christmas Open House at Pastor Julia's House	23  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	24 7:00 pm  <i>Christmas Eve</i> SERVICE	25  <b>Christmas Day</b>
26 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	27	28	29 No Program	30  Brothers, Bibles, & Breakfast 6:30 am	31	1 



## Meet Dravo & Ruby Noe by Dee Arnold



Dravo and Ruby Noe are that cute couple sitting near the back of the church, they are almost always there. The sweet "all-American girl," is what I think when I see Ruby. And Dravo? He's like "the boy next door," can't take his eyes off of her.

Ruby's full name is Ruby Wheeler Noe and she was born in Jonesville, Louisiana. She was the fifth child in a family of seven children. She attended Bolton High School and then spent a semester at LSU before she fell in love and came home.

She told me she was raised a Presbyterian in Jonesville Trinity Church. As a teenager she joined 1st Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. She left 1st Presbyterian and was a Baptist for 30 years, with her first husband. After his death she returned to 1st Presbyterian and has been attending here ever since. "I love my church, I've known every minister whose picture hangs out in the hall except for three." That is a record that is hard to beat.

Dravo Noe was born and reared in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He attended the University of Arkansas and then spent three and a half years in Military Service. He moved to Louisiana with his first wife and family, in 1961, and transferred his church membership to 1st Presbyterian. His wife passed away in 1963. He has one daughter, Sherry, from this marriage. Sherry lives in Mena, Arkansas.

Dravo was a Manufacturing Representative for Louisiana and Mississippi until he retired in 1985. Now, he enjoys working in the yard, taking care of "Dusty" the dog, and listening to Audio Books. Most of all he enjoys being with their nieces: Jennifer, Tammy, Cindy, Lainey, and Tamera.

Ruby considers the highlight of her life was when she met and married Dravo Noe. For 18 years Ruby worked at Guaranty Bank and has been working at Regency House for over 25 years. She says she feels God has given her a gift of love for the elderly and believes that He wants her to continue to work with them at Regency House as long as she can. It is her calling in life.

Dravo and Ruby have traveled a lot, but aren't able to travel as they used to. Dravo has difficulty with his sight and cannot drive. He cannot see well enough to recognize people by sight but can recognize those he knows by the sound of their voice. Understanding this problem, we can make it easier for Dravo if we introduce ourselves when we speak to him, I know he would appreciate it.

For fun, Ruby likes playing cards and dominoes, and playing with their dog, "Dusty." The couple enjoy watching football and when they were younger they played golf.

Ruby and Dravo are pillars of the church and add such a blessing to the congregation by always being there supporting the church and the ministry. If you haven't had an opportunity to talk to Dravo and Ruby just stop by the second row as you enter the Sanctuary and get acquainted, you'll really like this fine couple.

## December Responders

### Communion Servers

Annelize Benade  
Dirk Benade  
Barry Herndon

### Sunday Monitors

5 Jim Hockensmith  
12 Dirk Benade  
19 Roger Best  
26 Barry Herndon

### Wednesday Monitors

1 Sharelle Herndon  
8 Annelize Benade  
15 Debbe Clegg

### Greeters

5 Dirk Benade & Debbe Clegg  
12 Stacey Brown &  
Elizebette Kennedy  
19 Gil Arnold & John Allen  
26 Sonny Brown & Pat Turpin

### Ushers

5 Stacey Brown & Bob Kennedy  
12 Jim & Stephanie Huffman  
19 Nancy Davis &  
Jim Hockensmith  
26 Dave Conner &  
Elizebette Kennedy

Do you enjoy music?  
Do you enjoy worshipping?



If you do, remember to come to worship on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and celebrate the birth of the Messiah through music. Our choir will perform their annual Christmas Cantata. Be sure to invite family and friends to this joyous service of worship!



You are Cordially Invited to a

## Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At the home of

**Matt and Julia Farrell**

4807 Westgarden Boulevard  
Alexandria, Louisiana

**Please come and celebrate the birth of the  
King with us!**



## First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone 318.443.7229  
Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax 318.443.5965

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*

<i>December 1</i>	<i>5:45 Covered Dish</i>	<i>6:30 Hanging of the Greens Service</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>5:45 Sandwiches</i>	<i>6:30 Committee Meetings</i>
<i>December 15</i>	<i>5:00 Caroling Followed by a Community meal</i>	
<i>December 22</i>	<i>No program</i>	
<i>December 29</i>	<i>No program</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