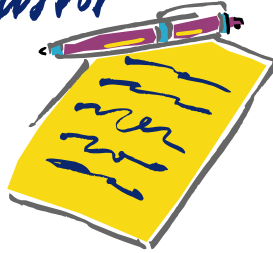


# First Presbyterian Church

## February 2011 Newsletter

*From the  
Pastor*



*“Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father **at all times** and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
*Ephesians 5:18-20*

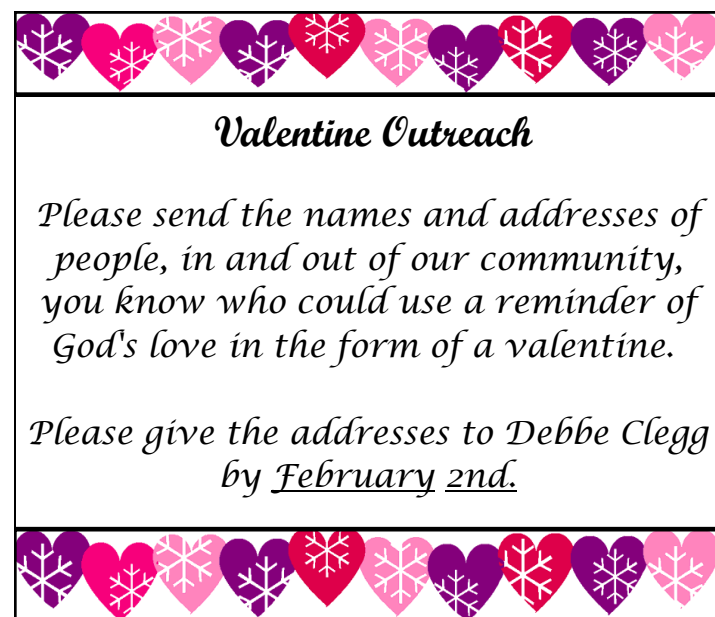
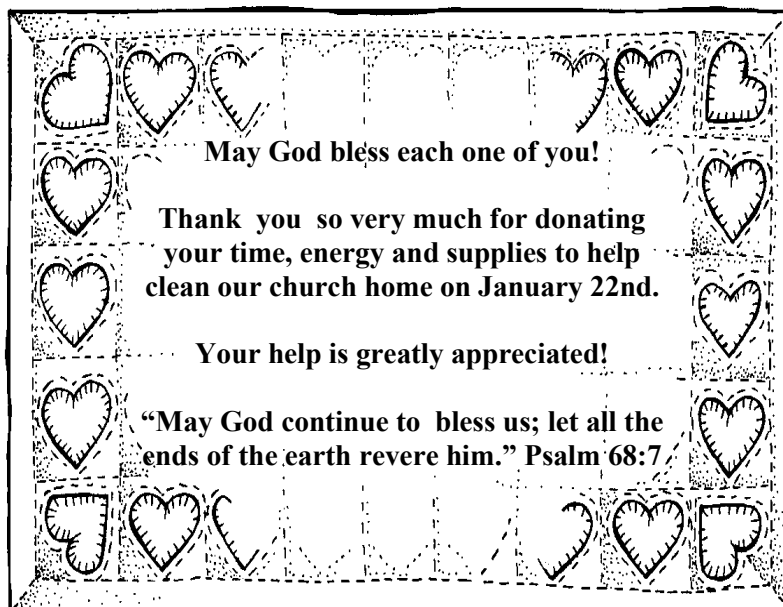
We are one month into 2011 – a new year with new joys, new challenges, and new experiences. I don’t know about you, but there is always a sense of hope for me at the beginning of each new year. I can’t help but wonder . . . “What does God have in store this year?”

I have a standing tradition to create a new mantra each year that guides me through the coming year. Many people do this with New Year’s Resolutions, but I’ve found they’re easy to forget and hard to follow. Instead, my mantra is God-focused and easy to remember. A pastor friend of mine got me started on this a few years ago, and I have done it ever since.

For 2011 I decided I need to make a more concerted effort to focus my attention on God – not just some of the time, but all of the time. I realized that it is easy to lose to focus of what really matters if we are not focused on Jesus, *the pioneer and perfecter of our faith* (Heb 12:2). Therefore, my mantra for this year is “**Give to God a Full Seven in 2011.**” That means a full seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

God reminds us in Scripture that God desires our full praise and thanksgiving *at all times*. God doesn’t want the left-over pieces of our lives, instead God wants all of us at all times. I want to encourage you this year to try out my new mantra for yourself. If you feel like there’s a void in your Spiritual life, give God more of your time in 2011. Make a daily appointment with God on your calendar, begin to worship more regularly, become more disciplined in your prayer life and see what happens. I believe you will find great reward giving more of yourself to your Savior in 2011. And if you need a companion on this journey or if you’re not sure where to start, give me a call and I would be happy to be your travel companion on this spiritual journey.

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



## December –Session Notes

Rev. Julia Farrell called the meeting to order and opened with prayers. Members present were Annelize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman, Nancy Smilie, and Brandi Woolam. A quorum was present.

- Jim Hockensmith presented the October Financial statement. He will do the budget for 2011. Jim recommended that the session consider a Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the budget.
- A thank you note was received from Capital One and Waylon Smith.
- Activities for January will be: game night on the 5th; committee night on the 12th; congregation meeting on the 9th; Peggy Thompson, LA Presbytery will speak on the Cursillo on the 26th; Congregational meeting on the 30th with a covered dish luncheon following. The church will have a "clean-up" day on the 22nd. The women's circle will meet on the 11th. Sandwich-making for Huey P. Long will be on the 4th. A meal will be provided for Healthworx on the 19th.
- Rev. Farrell thanked the session for memorial in honor of her grandmother. Rev. Farrell will be on vacation from December 26th through January 6th. Rev. Lee Weems will fill the pulpit on January 3rd.
- Debbe Clegg was elected treasurer for 2011.
- \$500.00 was given to "Solar under the Sun" in honor of Jim Hockensmith.
- Rev. Farrell gave a devotional from Anne Weems' book *Kneeling in Bethlehem* entitled "What do I want for Christmas?"

Emma Jean Huffman/ Clerk of Session

## January-Session Notes

Rev. Julia Farrell call the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Her devotional was from Isaiah 47:2-7, what it means to be a servant in church or life.

- Members present were Annelize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman, Nancy Smilie and Brandi Woolam.
- Jim Hockensmith presented the proposed budget for 2011. A discussion was held. Jim presented the November Financial Statement.
- Debbe Clegg was present as the new treasurer. She was reaffirmed as the new treasurer.
- Emma Jean Huffman was elected clerk of session.
- We lost two members. Roy Pitchford transferred. Lorraine Salmon died the latter part of December.
- Thank you notes were received from Barbara and Ed Ware, Regency House, Healthworx, Hope House, and the Presbyterian Pan American School Church Wide Service.
- Dave Conner, President; Jack Ready, Vice President; and Nancy Smilie, Secretary were elected trustees.
- The session will continue to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Communion will continue to be served on the first Sunday of the month. Communion will also be served on Maundy Thursday, Easter and Christmas Eve.
- Our missions will continue to be the South African Mission, Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, Inc., Friendship House, Gideons, Healthworx, Hope House, Salvation Army, and the Shepherd Center.
- Our special offerings will continue to be Joy Gift, Gideons, One Great Hour of Sharing and Souper Bowl for the Food Bank.
- Our donation collections will continue to be paper goods for the Friendship House and school supplies.
- Debbe Clegg, Dirk Benade, Bob McDaniel, and Jim Smolenski were approved to sign checks.
- A congregational meeting will be held on January 30th with a pot luck luncheon following. Sulin Best will chair the luncheon. Thanks Sulin.
- Activities for February will be Committee Night/Valentine-making on the 2nd, speaker from the American Heart Association on the 9th, prayer meeting on the 16th, Harry Pratt playing bagpipes on the 23rd. Church cleaning on the 12th, meal for Healthworx on the 15th, sandwich-making for Huey P Long on the 1st, and Ladies circle will meet on the 8th.
- Rev. Farrell thanked Annelize Benade and Barry Herndon for their years of service.
- Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Emma Jean Huffman / Clerk of Session



Tanna Wilson	01/01
Alexis Ellington	01/13
Sonny Brown	01/23
Emma Jean Huffman	01/23
Dirk Benade, Jr.	01/25
Stephanie Huffman	01/26
Bill Willson	01/29

## February Birthdays



Fran Wall	02/05
Matt Farrell	02/08
Delores McDaniel	02/17
Gil Arnold	02/22
Barry Herndon	02/28

*\*If you have a birthday in the month of January or February, and are not mentioned above please notify the office.*

*Thanks!*

*office@alexandriafpc.org*








**First Presbyterian Church is  
an active supporter of the  
Food Bank and  
February 6, 2011 is the...**



**We invite you bring a canned  
good or monetary donation  
to worship that Sunday and  
support those in need.**

# FEBRUARY

# 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>FEB 2ND</p>		<p>1</p> <p>8:15 am Sandwich-making For HPLH Patients</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:45 pm Sandwiches 6:30 pm Committee Meetings and Valentine-making "Love Letters From God" 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Brothers, Bibles, &amp; Breakfast 6:30 am</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:00 am Worship at Kingsley Place 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 2:30 pm Regency House</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am</p>  <p>Women's Circles</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:45 pm Soup and Salad 6:30 pm Vanessa from Rapides Regional Heart Health 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Brothers, Bibles, &amp; Breakfast 6:30 am</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 am Inside Church Cleanup Day</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Valentine's Day</p> <div> <p>Remind your Valentine how much you love and appreciate them as a gift from God.</p> </div>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00 pm HealthWorx</p>	<p>16</p> <p>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</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Brothers, Bibles, &amp; Breakfast 6:30 am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:45 pm Fried Chicken 6:30 pm Bagpipes with Harry Pratt 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Brothers, Bibles, &amp; Breakfast 6:30 am</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship</p>	<p>28</p>					

## Smiling Thoughts

By Nancy Smilie



Merry Christmas 2010 and Happy New Year 2011

Here we go again! If you are reading this, you've made it through another year! Praise God!

One old person said to his old friend: "I'm not as afraid of the future as I used to be."

"Don't tell you are becoming an optimist." replied the man.

"No—I'm losing my memory." was the reply.

I hope that made you smile! Now, just keep it up every chance you get!

With God's love in our hearts, we can make Christmas last forever!

"In Thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in Thy righteousness shall they be exalted." Psalm 89:16

With my sincerest prayers for peace and joy,  
Nancy Smilie

## February Responders

Communion Servers\*

Greeters\*

Sunday Monitors\*

Ushers\*

*\*ALL To Be Assigned  
ASSIGNMENTS will be  
mailed.*

Wednesday Monitors

2 Sharelle Herndon

9 Annelize Benade

16 Debbe Clegg

23 Annelize Benade

### Meet Sulin Best by Dee Arnold

Have you had the opportunity to meet Sulin Best? She is the wife of Dr. Roger Best whose interview appeared in this column some time ago. In his interview he revealed that he had a girl friend all through school, named Sulin, and that after college he decided he always wanted this girl friend near him so they were married. Both Sulin and Roger were born in Nebraska, Sulin in Arnold, and Roger just said he was born at home on a ranch in Custer County, and that they met in the small high school which they attended.

I asked Sulin if there were other children in her family, and her answer was somewhat of a riddle, "I am the oldest of my two brothers but younger than my sister." I guess that means there were four children in the family and that she has an older sister and two younger brothers.

Roger and Sulin have two sons, one son lives in California and the other lives in Germany with his wife and two children. "Our grandson just turned ten and the granddaughter will soon be eight. We miss seeing them in person. Skyping is the next best thing to being with them," Sulin said. I had no idea what "skyping" was, so Sulin tried to explain it to me. Her computer has a camera on it and so does her son's computer, in Germany, so they schedule their "skyping" time together. If you want more details you could ask Sulin. "Ain't" modern technology great?!?

Sulin graduated from high school in Nebraska and received her bachelor's and master's degrees plus an additional 30 hours, from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. She worked as a secretary before starting to take college courses. "Roger was teaching while I went to school part-time as we were raising our two boys. After receiving my bachelor's degree, I started teaching Special Education classes. My Master's degree allowed me to work for the School Board office on an evaluation team in the Special Education Department. Roger and I are both enjoying retirement, now," she said.

The Bests like to travel and Sulin told me about one especially interesting experience. For six months they stayed in the city of Karamay, in Xinjiang Province, China, where she taught English in a public junior high school.

When she talked about her interests she enjoyed, she said, "It's probably unfortunate that I enjoy doing so many different things because I can't keep up with them all and do the other things that I think I should be doing. I enjoy listening to music, reading, gardening, Bible study classes, watching old movies, visiting with my friends, cooking, antiques or more accurately, flea marketing, reading magazines about house decorating, art, food, and landscaping, looking at the architecture of houses and city buildings, looking at the sky—particularly sunsets, painting, crafting, Sudoku puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, playing games, sewing, and learning (preferably not the 'hard way.')" I'd say that ought to keep anyone's life busy. This lady is a very interesting person, as you can see, and a terrific addition to our Presbyterian family.



## Wednesday Night Fellowship



### First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone 318.443.7229  
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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**

*February 2 5:45 Sandwiches*  
*6:30 Committee Meetings and*  
*“Love Letters from*  
*God” -Valentine making*

*February 9 5:45 Soup and Salad*  
*6:30 Vanessa from Rapides*  
*Regional –Heart Health*

*February 16 5:45 Covered Dish*  
*A-G Main Dish*  
*H-K Salad/Veg*  
*L-Z Dessert*  
*6:30 Prayer Meeting*

*February 23 5:45 Fried Chicken*  
*Bagpipes with*  
*Harry Pratt*

**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