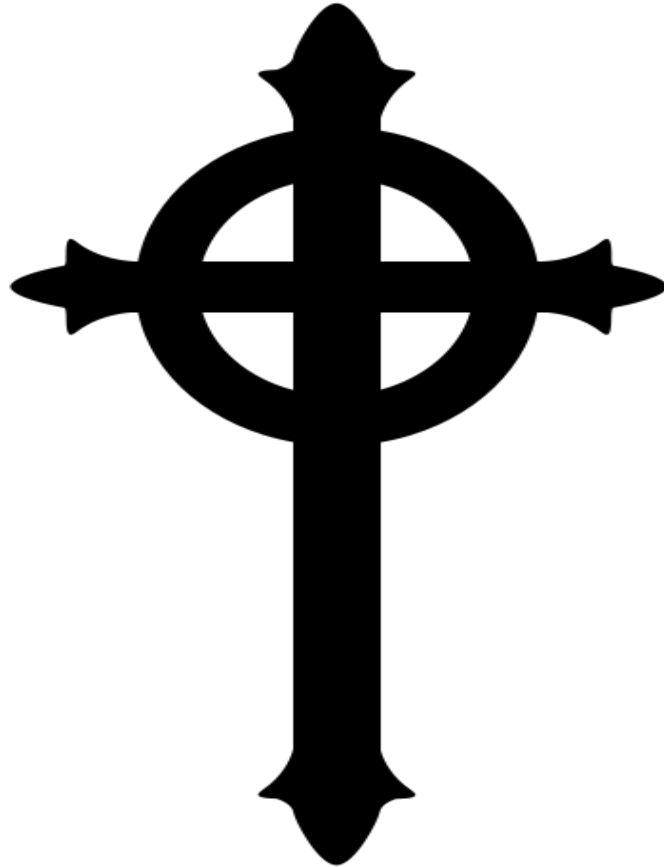


First Presbyterian Church



March/April

2010

Newsletter

(318) 443-7229

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The Pastor's Pen

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
John 3:16*

In the next few weeks, the church will be busier than ever. We have a myriad of worship services and events for Holy Week and Easter. I want to encourage you to come to these services. Try to experience the full drama of Holy Week this year. It is a time of much anticipation and preparation. I can't help but think about what was going on in Jesus' mind when the day of his crucifixion was coming closer and closer.

I invite you to participate in the ordeal with him. Read the scripture accounts in the Gospels – wave your palm branches with the crowds in Jerusalem, prepare your heart for the day of crucifixion, mourn for him at the tomb, and celebrate with Mary Magdalene and Peter and John at the empty tomb.

We have worship services for all these events. You and your family are more than welcome to come and participate in these events with Jesus. After all, he went through it all for *you*. He knew that he was going to die for *you*. And he took the cup and drank from it because he loves *you*.

I pray that your Lenten Journey has prepared you for the glorious sunrise on Easter morning! We will soon sing our Hallelujah's, and worship the Risen Lord. However you decide to celebrate Easter this year, remember that it was all done for you, and His great love for you.

Happy Easter with LOVE!!!
Your Sister in Christ,
Julia Farrell

*Jesus said, "Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep."
John 21:16-27*

**One Great Hour of Sharing:
sharing resources, changing lives**

Easter Sunday - April 4, 2010



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Please consider donating to this special offering.

Holy Week / Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday March 28

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Maundy Thursday April 1

7:00 pm

Good Friday April 2

Noon Worship

Easter Sunday April 4

7:00 am Sunrise Service

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Childcare is always provided.

January Session Notes

The session met on January 30, 2010 in the home of Rev. Julia Farrell as a “mini retreat”. Rev. Farrell opened the meeting with prayer and devotional from Mark 9:23.

Session Members present were Annalize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman, Wynn Ware, and Ed Ware.

Wynn Ware and Emma Jean Huffman were installed as elders on January 10, 2010.

Sulin Best was received into membership on January 24, 2010.

Easter Services will be observed as follows:

February 17, 2010 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm; April 1, 2010 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm; April 2, 2010 Good Friday Service at Noon; Sunrise Services with The Lutheran Church (time to be announced) on Easter Sunday and regular church services on Easter Sunday at 11:00 am.

Rev. Farrell has ordered the spiritual gift survey forms. She would like to have more weekly bible studies in small groups.

Rev. Farrell did elder training on G1.0100, G.6.002, G.60105 and G.1.0304. A discussion was on the specific responsibilities of Elders. Rev. Farrell gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Session—combination Elder/Deacon. She reminded us that the “Founding Fathers” of our country were mostly Presbyterians.

Rev. Farrell is still working on the web-site for the church. This is not an easy task that she has undertaken.

Emma Jean Huffman was elected Clerk of Session.

January Session Notes

Jim Hockensmith was elected Treasurer.

Trustees elected were: Ed Ware President, Dave Conner Vice President, and Annalize Benade Secretary.

Annalize Benade and Dave Conner will continue to chair the Congregational Life Committee. Ed Ware and Barry Herndon will continue to chair the Worship/Evangelism/Mission Committee. Wynn Ware will attend either committee.

Communion will be observed on the first Sunday of the month, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Eve.

We will continue to have collections for the Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Gideon's Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, Inc., Super Bowl Sunday for the Food Bank, school supplies in July and paper goods for the Friendship House in November.

We will continue to support the mission in South Africa. We will continue to make sandwiches for the Huey P. Long Hospital waiting room monthly.

Brandi Woolman and Waylon Smith will be having art classes on Saturday during the month of February.

The following paid holidays will be observed by the church office: New Year's Day, Memorial Day in May, July 4th, Labor Day, Veteran's Day in November, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session.

February Session Notes

The session met on February 15, 2010. Rev. Julia Farrell called the meeting to order. Berry Herndon opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. Farrell used a day devotional "Loving the unlovable"; 1 John 4:11-12 as her devotional.

Session members present were Annalize Benade, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman, Ed Ware, and Wynn Ware.

Members excused Dave Conner.

Jim Hockensmith, treasurer, reported that the church ended the year in the black, a total of \$41,800. This was due to being without a pastor most of the year, \$3600 was sent to the South African Mission along with a designated donation for \$1500 for a total of \$5100.

Thank you notes were received from Margaret Killingsworth and Jack/Judy Ready.

Congregation Life Committee reported that on the following Wednesday nights: March 3, 10, 17, and 24th there will be Lent services led by Rev. Farrell. Maundy Thursday will be observed on April 1, 2010. Sandwiches will be made for the patients at Huey P. Long on March 2, 2010. There will be no committee meetings during the month of March. Ladies Morning Circle will meet March 9, 2010. The Health Worx meal will be prepared on March 16th. Session will also meet on March 16th.

February Session Notes

Evangelism/Worship/Mission reported that Bob and Elizabette Kennedy are visiting South Africa. They will report on the South African mission upon their return. Liz Magee and Emma Jean Huffman will serve communion at the Ash Wednesday service. Ed and Barbara Ware will provide the palm leaves for Palm Sunday. The cross of flowers will be observed on Easter Sunday. Members are reminded to bring flowers from their yard for the cross. Ed and Barbara Ware will be in charge of acquiring Easter Lilies.

Wynn Ware presented advertising information from the Town Talk.

We are in the process of finding a new church secretary. It was decided that we would use the temp. agency for now. We will be advertising for a secretary.

Ed Ware and Dave Conner will serve with Rev. Farrell on the personnel committee.

Rev. Farrell will be in Baton Rouge on February 18, 2010 for a meeting of the COM.

Ed Ware will be our delegate to the Presbytery meeting in March.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session



Wednesday Night Fellowship

This month our Wednesday Night Fellowship will begin on March 24th, with Fried Chicken at 5:45 p.m., followed by Lenten Study.

There will be no program on Wednesday, March 31st.

On April 7th we will have a Sandwich Dinner after which we will hold our regular monthly Committee Night meeting at 6:30 p.m., and choir practice at 7:30 p.m.

Also on, April 14th we will have Game Night at 5:45 p.m., with Fried Chicken. Join us for great food, games, and fellowship.

April 21st our Annual Spring Banquet will be held at 6:30. It will be a great night with music by Dr. Ben Yang. Tickets will go on sale soon.

On, April 28th our Prayer Meeting will begin with a Covered Dish Dinner and Fellowship.

Flowering of the Cross



On Easter Sunday we will have a flowering cross and we ask you to add to it. A flowering cross is an especially striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death of Christ on Good Friday. Remember to bring flowers of your choice with you to worship on Easter Sunday to put on the cross.

April Responders

Communion Servers

Dave Connor
Jeff Huffman
Wynn Ware

Monitors

04 Jim Hockensmith
11 Dirk Benade
18 John Martin
25 Barry Herndon

Greeters

04 Dirk Benade
John Martin
11 Stacey Brown
Elizabette Kennedy
18 Gil Arnold
John Allen
25 Pat Turpin
Sonny Brown

Ushers

04 Bob Kennedy
Stacey Brown
11 Jim & Stephanie
Huffman
18 Jim Hockensmith
Nancy Davis
25 Dave Conner
Elizabette Kennedy

Amazing
LOVE!

March Birthdays

Robert Kennedy	3/07
Brenda Wilson	3/16
Roscoe Wilson	3/22
Elana Benade	3/22
John Martin	3/24

April Birthdays

Dirk Benade	4/04
John Allen	4/15
Kathleen McCurry	4/27

**If you have a birthday in the month of April or March and are not mentioned above please notify the office. We are currently in the process of updating our Members Profiles. Thanks!!*

March Session Notes

The session met on March 16, 2010, with Annalize Benade opening the meeting with prayer. Rev. Julia Farrell had a devotional from the John 15 v16.

Members present were Annalize Benade, Dave Conner, Barry Herndon, Emma Jean Huffman and Wynn Ware.

Member excused was Ed Ware.

Thank you notes were received from the Food Bank thanking the church and the Sojourners Sunday School class for their donations.

The following activities are planned for April: committee night on the 7th, game night on the 14th, Spring Banquet on the 21st (tickets will be \$10.00), prayer meeting on the 28th. Sandwich making for Huey P. Long Hospital waiting room will on the 6th. The ladies' circle will meet on the 13th. A meal will be provide for Healthworx on the 28th. The men's breakfast study group will meet every Thursday morning at 6:30 am. Sunrise Easter services on the 4th and regular church services at 11 am.

Four windows have been replaced.

Jim Smolenski continues to do a good job on keeping the sign changed.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken up on Easter Sunday. "A moment for mission" will be presented on March 28th.

Wynn Ware will get the palms for Palm Sunday. Dave Conner will set up the cross for flowers from our yards on Easter Sunday. Dave Conner will handle getting the Easter lilies.

March Session Notes

Rev. Farrell has asked for a week off in April. The dates are tentatively set for April 15th through the 22th. Rev. Lee Weems will fill the pulpit on April 18th.

The new secretary is working out real well. Courtney is in the church office from 9 am through 1pm Monday thru Friday. She does not have a car and is dropped off. So when there isn't a car in the parking lot that doesn't mean she isn't in –SHE IS.

Sunday school curriculum for the youngsters has been ordered for Delores McDaniel to use in the nursery during church. "Wee Believe" literature has been selected.

COM committee will be meeting at the church on March 18th.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Emma Jean Huffman
Clerk of Session



Annual Spring Banquet

Wednesday, April 21, 2010
6:30 pm

We will be serving Spaghetti, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Iced Tea, Coffee, and a choice of dessert. Ben Yang will provide music for our entertainment. Tickets will go on sale soon, and will be \$10 each.

Any money left over after paying for the banquet will be donated to the Food Bank. The deadline for buying tickets will also be Sunday, April 18th. Everyone is encouraged to come to this event and bring family and friends to enjoy good food, fellowship, and entertainment.

If more information is needed, contact the Church office at 443-7229.

First Presbyterian Church
357 Windermere Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71303

Phone: (318) 443-7229

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Service Times:

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.

Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Nights:

Dinner – 5:45 p.m.

Programs – 6:30 p.m.