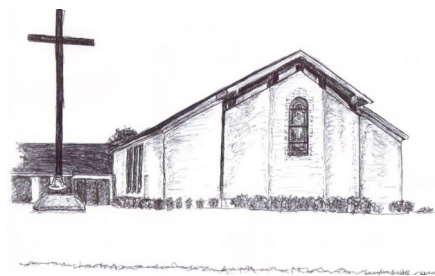


# Presby News

June/July 2013



## FROM THE PASTOR

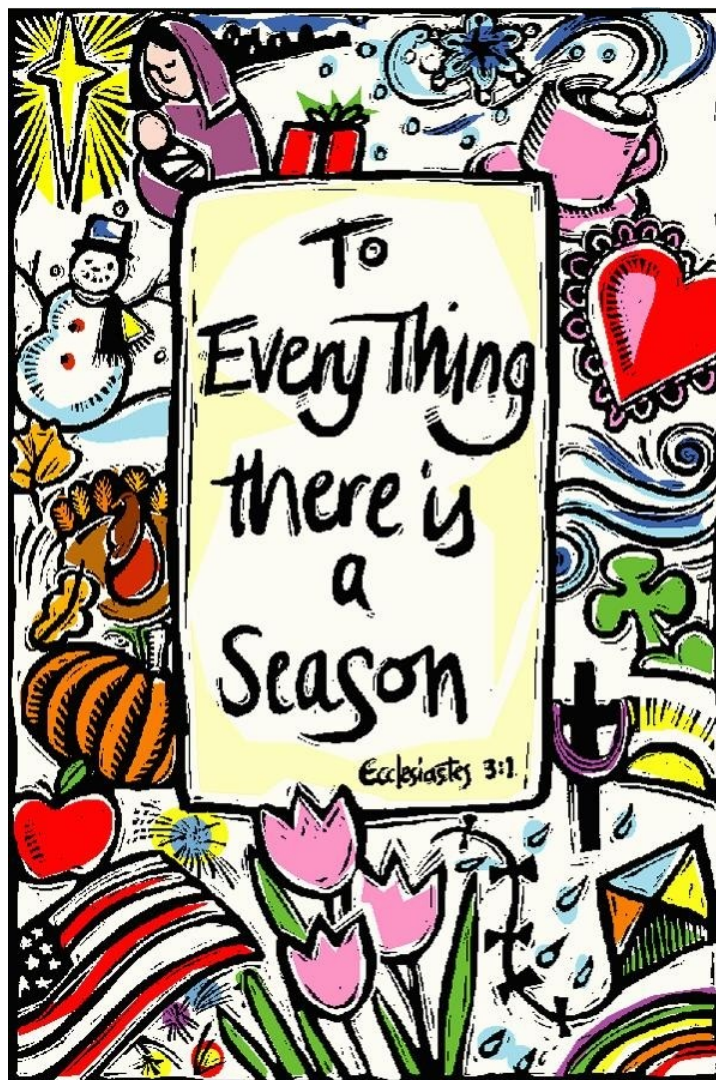
*"The most difficult mountain to cross is the threshold." Danish Proverb"*

The best way to get started is to get started. The task before you as God's people in this place is somewhat daunting. Strangely enough, your biggest obstacle may be your past successes. Many of the things that have worked so well before may no longer be useful. The question may not be "How are we doing and why?" It is more likely "What is God doing and where?" How can we creatively do the work of ministry for Jesus in this age of transition and change?

In the time we have together, I hope to focus on some of the foundational questions the church will need to answer:

- (1) For what purpose does FPC exist? What would be lost if we ceased to exist?
- (2) What unique mission (what do we do best?) is given to our church?
- (3) Whom are we attempting to reach for Jesus?
- (4) What determines if FPC is alive and growing?
- (5) How will we accomplish the task God has given us?

Let us cross this threshold of challenge together and trust fully in the leadership of the Holy Spirit to find His answers to these questions.



## SPECIAL DATES



- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 16
- First day of summer, June 21
- Canada Day, July 1
- Independence Day, July 4



The Session met Monday, April 15 in the church library. Ron Sutto called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened with prayer.

Members Present: John Allen, Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready, Brandi Woolam, treasurer Jim Smolenski.

A quorum was present.

The financial statements for March, 2013 were distributed to the Session. The bank statements were reviewed, initialed and approved by Session members.

The Session members reviewed and approved the minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session on March 18, 2013.

**Clerk of Session Report:** Presented by Brandi Woolam:

- ◆ Holy Communion was served on Sunday, April 7, at Emeritus by Rev. Nancy Hendrix with Ruth Coon, Jack and Judy Ready.
- ◆ Holy Communion was also served on during the 11 a.m. worship service.
- ◆ Jim Hockensmith was installed as elder on April 7, 2013.
- ◆ A discussion of the future course for FPC was held April 14 during a church luncheon following worship service.
- ◆ No new membership additions last month.
- ◆ Mail correspondence.

The clerk's report was approved.

#### Committee Reports

**Worship Committee:** presented by Jack Ready and Jim Smolenski. Ready and Smolenski proposed that women and children of Hope House be invited for a Mother's Day service, and that a luncheon be provided after the service. Transportation is an issue and still must be addressed.

**Congregational Life Report:** presented by John Allen.

Upcoming events/dates:

April 17 – Prayer Meeting

April 21 – Centershot (Archery Bible School) Organizational Meeting

April 27 – Craft and Games Day

May 1 – Committee Meetings

May 15 – Prayer Meeting

June 3-7 – Tentative date for Centershot (Archery Bible School)

Discussion of monthly activities for children

**Property Report:** presented by Jack Ready.

- ◆ Compressors fixed on air conditioning units for Sanctuary
- ◆ Ladies' bathroom toilet in hallway beside kitchen repaired.
- ◆ Bathrooms need updating, addition of changing tables – to be addressed with budget approval.

**Personnel Report:** presented by Bill Higgins.

Nursery-age and child care during church worship service was

discussed in addition to ways to get children included in service on Sundays.

**Pastor/Moderator Report** - Presented by Ron Sutto

Sutto encouraged the Session members to attend the event, "Church Training on Transformation," led by Bruce Tischler. The event will be held May 3 and 4 at Drury Inn Suites in Baton Rouge, at a cost of \$25.00 per person.

#### Old Business:

Brandi Woolam was asked to write a letter to Jace Torres for his outstanding efforts of self-improvement during Lent.

Session discussed and established what constitutes a quorum as follows:

- ◆ A quorum for session meetings is a session moderator and two session members.
- ◆ A quorum for a congregational meeting is 10% of the congregation.

#### New Business:

Rev. Farrell turned in her visitation list, and the following individuals will need to be assigned to someone: Will Smolenski, Nancy Smilie, Dravo Noe, Floy Elliott, and Mrs. Kirkpatrick (room 208 in Emeritus). Jack Ready reported that he had visited many of our sick and shut-ins.

Allen Cripps called as a representative for the Willowood Town Homes Association and asked if they could use the church on Saturday, May 25, at 2:00 pm for their Association Meeting. He said they had used the church in the past. The session approved the request.

Jack and Judy Ready requested unpaid personal time off during June and July, 2013. They plan to make arrangements for the music during this time away. The session approved the request.

The Session members discussed interim pastor issues and the Church Information Form, which will need to be completed.

It was moved and carried that the Session engage Doyle Bailey to serve as temporary supply. Terms and conditions of this arrangement shall be discussed.

The Session discussed the need to send a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of South Louisiana requesting permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). It was moved and carried that a letter be sent.

Dee Arnold has requested that she continue as Partners in Prayer contact; however, major information distribution shall be done through the main office secretary for prayer concerns. The request was approved.

Session discussed the need to visit new attendees, and need to send "We missed you at church" cards if members are absent. It was moved that the rolls be purged, and addendum added that names were moved to appropriate lists (deceased, inactive or otherwise) and that the statistical report be approved. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with a closing prayer by Ron Sutto. The next stated meeting will be May 20, 2013.



## SESSION NOTES



Session met in the church library May 20, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. Pat Wadsworth, Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Louisiana, served as Moderator for the meeting.

Members Present: Bill Higgins, Jim Hockensmith, Elizebette Kennedy, Jack Ready, Brandi Woolam, treasurer Jim Smolenski.

Treasurer Present: Jim Smolenski

Elders Excused: John Allen

Guests Present: Doyle Bailey, FPC - Long Term Supply Pastor

A quorum was present.

**Finance Report:** Presented by Jim Smolenski, Treasurer

The financial statements for April, 2013, were distributed to the Session. The bank statements were reviewed and initialed by Session members and approved.

### Minutes:

The minutes for the April 15 meeting were reviewed and approved by Session .

**Clerk of Session Report:** Presented by Brandi Woolam

- ◆ Holy Communion was served on Sunday, May 5 at Emeritus by Rev. Nancy Hendrix assisted by Elders Wynn Ware and Brandi Woolam.
- ◆ Holy Communion was served on Sunday, May 5 during worship.
- ◆ Rev. Doyle Bailey was called as Temporary Supply Pastor, effective May 1. The Terms of Call for Rev. Bailey were approved.
- ◆ Mail correspondence.

The Clerk's Report was approved as presented.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SESSION ACTIONS

**Worship Report** - None

**Congregational Life Report** – Calendar of Events was presented.

**Property Report** – Presented by Jack Ready

- ◆ Sexton Charles Bell will strip floor tile and wax in parlor in next few weeks.
- ◆ Working on the addition of Changing Stations in bathrooms.

**Personnel Report** – None

**Pastor/Moderator Report** - Presented by Doyle Bailey, Long-Term Supply Pastor

Bailey thanked the Session for the warm reception he and his wife, Barbara, had received. He asked for any feedback from the Session members and itemized some concerns and suggestions that might be helpful to the new pastor. His main focus currently is visiting the membership, as well as those in the nursing home and the homebound. He invited the Session members to come by and visit him in their home.

**Old Business** - None

### New Business:

The Session discussed the need to make an effort to be involved in church events: Bible Study, Wednesday nights, etc. It was noted that when the congregation sees involvement by the Session, they are more likely to become involved themselves.

### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. with a closing prayer. The next stated meeting will be June 17.

### Called Congregational Meeting

The Called Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, Louisiana, was called to order at 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 2, 2013, by Rev. Nancy Hendrix.

A quorum was present.

The purpose of the meeting was to nominate and elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Rev. Hendrix read the procedure for nominating and electing a Pastor Nominating Committee from *The Book of Order*.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has nominated three individuals for this duty. Rev. Hendrix asked for additional nominations from the floor. No further nominations were made.

Elizebette Kennedy presented the following Session nominees for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee: Jim Hockensmith, Jim Smolenski and Brandi Woolam

It was moved and carried unanimously that nominations cease, and the nominees be elected by acclamation to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee.

There being no further business, Ed Ware closed the meeting in prayer.





# Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Greeter Front Door	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>June 2</b>	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct - May) Alternate: Helen McDaniel (May - Oct)	Liz Smith & ?	Jim Hockensmith	Annelize Benade Dirk Benade
<b>June 9</b>	Jim & Stephanie Huffman	John Allen & Liz Magee	Dirk Benade	
<b>June 16</b>	Bob & Elizebette Kennedy	Bill & Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct - May) ? (May - Oct)	
<b>June 23</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers & Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	
<b>June 30</b>	Mac & Georgia McBurney	Liz Smith & ?	Bill Higgins	
<b>July 7</b>	Ben Yang Sulin Best (Oct - May) Alternate: Helen McDaniel (May - Oct)	Liz Smith & ?	Dirk Benade	Jim Hockensmith Liz Magee
<b>July 14</b>	Jim & Stephanie Huffman	John Allen	Roger Best Alternate: Leon Coody	
<b>July 21</b>	Bob & Elizebette Kennedy	Bill & Martha Higgins	Roger Best (Oct - May) ? (May - Oct)	
<b>July 28</b>	Jim Hockensmith John Allen	Mike Vickers & Pat Turpin	Jim Smolenski	



## CELEBRATIONS

### **Birthdays**

June 10 - Sue Shipman  
June 14 - Kelli Willson  
June 18 - Ruth Goforth  
June 20 - Dee Sutro  
July 7 - Doris Hockensmith  
July 8 - Wynn Ware  
July 9 - Jim Huffman  
July 9 - Liz Smith  
July 10 - Annelize Benade  
July 12 - Liz Magee  
July 15 - Nancy Smilie

July 21 - Justin Ware  
July 22 - Rocky Willson  
July 23 - Christelle Benade  
July 23 - Roy Pitchford  
July 31 - Dee Dee Ellington


### **Anniversaries**

June 4 - David and Sue Shipman  
June 9 - Robert and Helen McDaniel  
July 3 - Roger and Margaret Killingsworth  
July 16 - David and Elana Glynn  
July 16 - Bill and Martha Higgins  
July 30 - Jim and Doris Hockensmith

## Happy Birthday!



# Youth Page - June

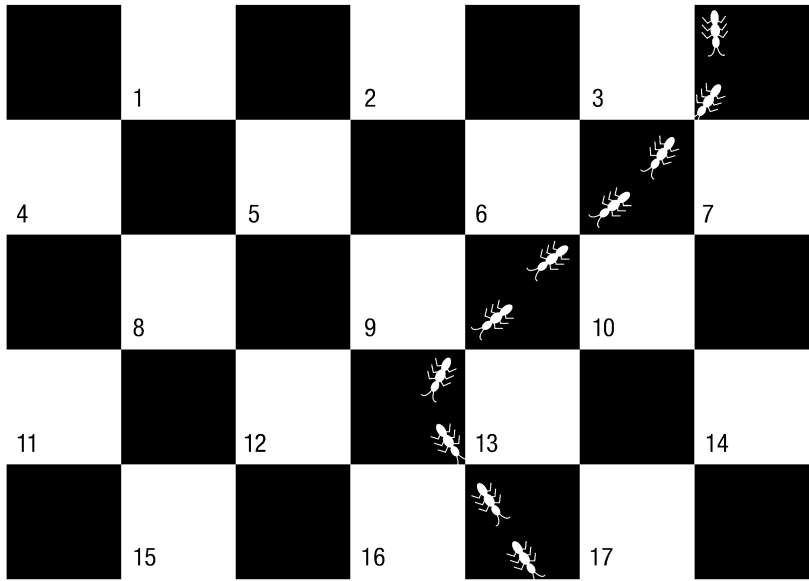


*The ants go marching...*

God created amazing insects and says we can learn lessons from their hard work.

**Directions:** Use the word bank below to fill in the tablecloth grid for ant-based wisdom from Proverbs 30:25, NIV.

4. of	6. strength	15. summer	12. food	9. store	2. are
8. they	3. creatures	5. little	7. yet	10. up	14. the
1. Ants	16. Proverbs	17. 30:25	13. in	11. their	

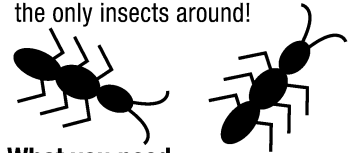


Answer: "Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer." Proverbs 30:25, NIV



## ANTS ON A HILL

Make this fun snack for a summer picnic — and hope these ants are the only insects around!



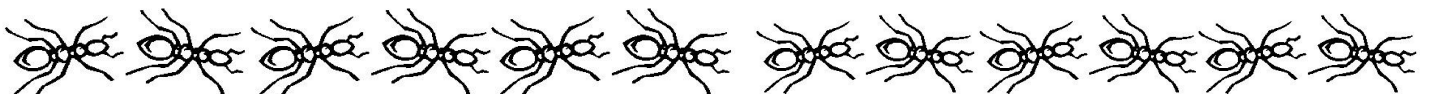
### What you need:

- one box instant chocolate pudding mix
- milk
- graham crackers
- zippered baggies
- rolling pin
- clear plastic cup
- chocolate chips, raisins or dried cranberries



### What you do:

1. Make the pudding according to directions on the box.
2. Put one whole graham cracker (four rectangles) into a zippered baggie. Seal and crush the crackers with a rolling pin.
3. Fill half the plastic cup with spoonfuls of chocolate pudding (dirt).
4. Add the crushed graham crackers (sand hill).
5. On the hill, place chocolate chips, raisins or dried cranberries (climbing ants). Enjoy!



# Youth Page - July

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SNACKS

Bring joy to a friend by sharing a "peace" of this yummy dessert!

### What you need:

- adult help
- two 8" cake pans
- cooking spray
- 9 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 tablespoons butter
- food coloring (green and red)
- 9 cups crisp rice cereal
- mini chocolate chips



### What you do:

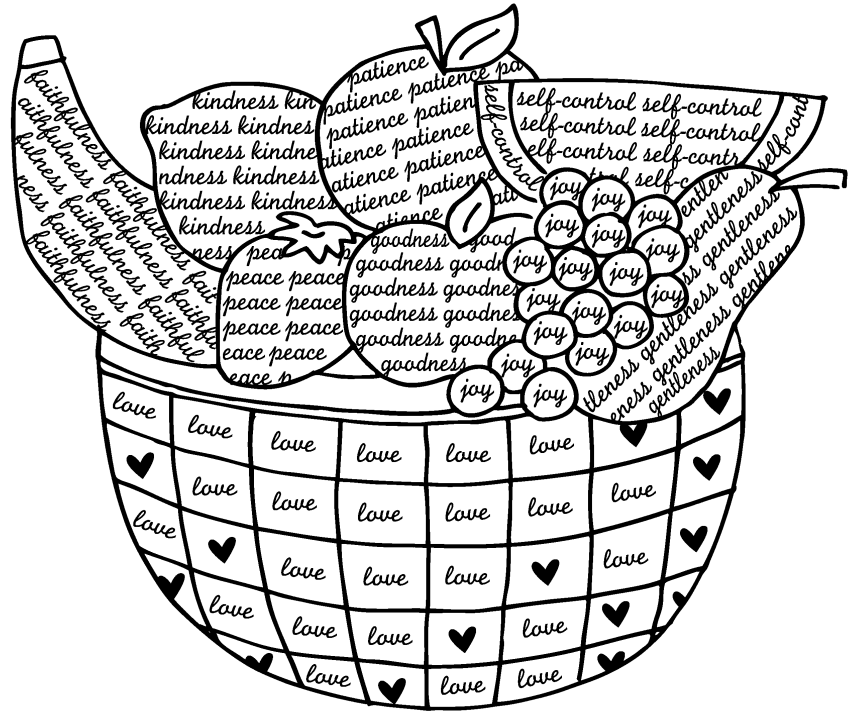
1. Spray cake pans.
2. Melt 4 cups marshmallows and 2 T. butter in microwave or on stove top. Add green food coloring. Stir.
3. Pour 4 cups cereal into bowl. Add green mixture. Stir with buttered spatula.
4. Put half into each pan and press along the sides with buttered hands.
5. Repeat using 5 cups marshmallows, 4 T. butter, 5 cups cereal and red food coloring.
6. Press half into the center of each pan, leaving a narrow outside border of green. Smooth the top.
7. Press mini chocolate chips into the red mixture.
8. Let cool. Then cut into wedges. Enjoy!



## Seasonal Fruit

Although some fruit is seasonal, God encourages us to share the fruit of the Spirit with other people all year long. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits we should give away.

Directions: Count each fruit (full words only) and write the numbers below.



Love= \_\_\_\_ Joy= \_\_\_\_ Peace= \_\_\_\_ Patience= \_\_\_\_ Kindness= \_\_\_\_

Goodness= \_\_\_\_ Faithfulness= \_\_\_\_ Gentleness= \_\_\_\_ Self-control= \_\_\_\_

Answers: Love=24, Joy=18, Peace=7, Patience=7, Kindness=7, Goodness=6, Faithfulness=6, Gentleness=6, Self-control=5



## "O water-born"

I've loved this anonymous invitation since I first read it: "O water-born, go where the Spirit calls." It's part of an early Christian prayer (fifth century or older), perhaps used by bishops performing baptisms.



When I Googled the phrase to learn more about it, the search engine asked if I meant "water-borne." No, I didn't: We are born of water and the Holy spirit through baptism.

Then it dawned on me: Aren't we also borne on that baptismal water infused with the Word of God? The grace of baptism carries us through the ups and downs of life. When we rest in it (like floating on our back in a summer lake), rather than struggling (swimming) against it, we let the water take us gently wherever God's Spirit would have us go.

— Heidi Mann

## Living thanks



"Thank you!" I exuded, after receiving a hefty bag of homegrown tomatoes. I set the produce on the kitchen floor; I would attend to it shortly. But I got distracted - for days.

Finally, I lifted the bag to make use of the gift, and the bottom fell out. Many of the tomatoes had become squishy, their juices soaking the paper beneath them. Instead of making good use of the generous gift, I was left cleaning up rotten tomatoes and throwing many of the veggies away.

We do the same with God's gifts: "I'll practice piano tomorrow ... next week ... next month..." until soon we don't remember how to play at all. We pass up chances to visit someone dear and, when she moves away, regret squandering the friendship. We opt to sleep in instead of attending worship, unaware of what gifts of God's Word and Christian fellowship we'll miss.

Next time I receive something — from God or anyone else — may the Spirit help me not just *give* thanks but *live* thanks by using and enjoying the gift!

— Heidi Mann

## Take care of first

Legendary Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden often inspired his team with stories. Here's one that former players cite as a favorite:

As a college baseball player, Bowden had never hit a home run. Finally, he hit one down the right-field line, into the corner. He ran past first base and looked to the coach, who waved him on.

Bowden made it home and hit the plate, thrilled to have his homer. But as he was accepting his teammates' congratulations, the opposing pitcher took the ball and threw to the first baseman. The umpire immediately called Bowden out because he'd neglected to touch the base.

Reflecting on the incident, Bowden said, "You have to take care of first base. If you don't honor the Lord first, then it doesn't matter what else you do."

Similarly, we need to take care of first things first. Unless we honor the Lord in all we do, nothing else will matter.

## Count the Stars

"Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them," God told Abram (Genesis 15:5, NRSV). On a clear summer night, especially if you can get away from city lights, try this yourself: "Look toward heaven and count the stars."

Although none of us can count them all, someone has calculated (don't ask me how!) that if a grain of sand represented a star, you'd need 94,608,000 railroad

hopper cars full of sand to represent all the stars of the universe. If you watched all the cars pass by, one per second, you'd be standing there for three years!

As we gaze at the sky on a warm summer night, our minds can't comprehend such a vast universe. Yet our hearts can comprehend a God great enough to craft it.



Christendom is one great people composed of persons of every country in concord in their faith and their love because there is One God, One Lord, One Spirit, One Hope. That is the marvelous mystery of the people of God.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## First Presbyterian Church

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Doyle Bailey, *Pastor*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Jack Ready, *Choir Director*

Judy Ready, *Pianist*

Delores McDaniel, *Nursery*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*

Sue Shipman, *Newsletter Editor*

### Wednesday Night Schedule

June 5	ALOHA NIGHT Chicken - Brandi Open - Brandi
June 12	Pizza - John Open - Annelize
June 19	No Meeting - Vacation Bible School
June 26	Covered Dish (A-G: Veggie; H-N: Main; O-Z: Dessert) Open - John
July 3	No Meeting
July 10	Chicken - Debbie Committee Meetings Open - Ruth
July 17	Pizza - John Open - Annelize
July 24	Covered Dish (A-G: Main; H-N: Dessert; O-Z: Veggie) Open - ?
July 31	Subway - ? Open - ?

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd.

Alexandria, LA 71303

**Come experience God's love at First Presbyterian Church**

Sunday School—9:45 a.m., Worship—11:00 a.m.