

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Newsletter for church members
and friends



I've been noticing once again all the runners and walkers that pass by my window at UPC every day. They are there at all hours. Some meander slowly; others sprint. Some push baby carriages, and others pull dogs large and small behind them. Some chat with friends present or on their cell phone. Others are lost in their own thoughts. All of them have histories and dreams for the future. All of them have fears and concerns, loves and losses, joys and blessings.

All these lives, like a parade of humanity's differences and similarities, have been marching not just past my window but through my subconscious these days. They and the long prayer list in the bulletin are filling my dreams with the ways our lives are touched by other people and the way our lives touch others.

It is said that there are six degrees of separation between any two people on earth. Sometimes it seems like more. Like when we have a conversation and somehow talk "past" the other person, never looking into his eyes. Or when we chat but never acknowledge what is really going on - what is weighing heavy on my heart or stirring your soul. In those moments even the person right here seems miles away, like she is seen only through glass.

My family teases that it seems as though there is only one degree of separation between me and just about anyone. It seems so only because I've lived a lot of places and meet a lot of people in my work, so I'm always running into people I know. Their perception really is not true. But I'd like it to be.

The one we follow - the one who was born to bring light in to our world, to help us see - saw people differently than the folks around him. He experienced people differently. And in doing so broke down all the degrees of separation. He refused to let stereotypes govern his expectations, regarded facades with suspicion and what they hid with compassion, looked past anger and defensiveness to the pain or fear that might be behind it. He asked questions and listened to what he heard, to the stories of people's lives.

Of course, in doing this, he made himself vulnerable. But it was vulnerability with incredible gift attached.

The Advent, Christmas, and New Year seasons this year will be as bustling as ever. People will stream past the windows of our lives. Family. Friends. Strangers. People will walk through the doors of our homes, the church, and our lives if but for brief moments. Family. Friends. Strangers. They all have histories and dreams for the future. They all have fears and concerns, loves and losses, joys and blessings. There is much behind the facade and sometimes even more so during the holidays.

I'm thinking that tenderly stepping to the other side of the windows, that we look through at others, might be the best way to honor Christ's presence among us. For in him the degrees of separation are gone.

May surprises of joy and vulnerability, love and compassion come to you this season.

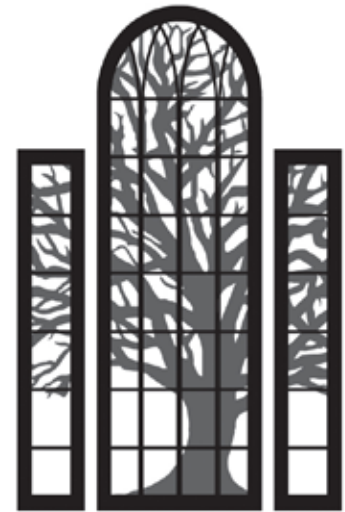
Patti



CONTACT

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 5:15 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 2 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Conference Room
Noon Al-Anon - Dorm Living Area
5:45 p.m. UPC Book Group Christmas Party - Parrain's
- 3 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
Noon Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 4 5:30 p.m. The Gathering - TBA
6:00 p.m. Budget Meeting - Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. NAMI Family to Family Class - Conference Rom
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Cuba Meeting - Parks Wilson Room
- 5 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Lock-in - Fellowship Hall
- 6 6:00 p.m. Shimmy for the Shelter - Fellowship Hall
- 7 2nd Sunday of Advent - Patti Snyder preaching**
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
5:30 p.m. Advent Nights Potluck Event - Fellowship Hall
- 8 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 6630 Boone
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 9 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
6:00 p.m. Together Baton Rouge Gala - Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 10 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
Noon Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11 10:00 a.m. NAMI Parent Support Group - Parks Wilson Classroom
6:00 p.m. UPC Officer Christmas Party - 5666 Forsythia
7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 13 9:00 a.m. Day School Teacher Training - Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - Unitarian Church
- 14 3rd Sunday of Advent - Mike Watson preaching**
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:15 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Conference Room
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
5:00 p.m. Advent Nights Event/Caroling - Fellowship Hall
- 15 6:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party - 6630 Boone
- 16 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee Christmas Breakfast - 505 LSU Avenue
10:00 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
6:00 p.m. Glasgow Middle School Choir Concert - Sanctuary
6:15 p.m. University Outreach Committee - Conference Room
- 17 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
Noon Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room



UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- Patti Snyder.....psnyder@upcbr.org
Senior Pastor
- Mike Watson.....mwatson@upcbr.org
Associate Pastor
- Carolyn Durham Moss.....cdurham@upcbr.org
Administrative Secretary
- Donna Thrasher.....dthrasher@upcbr.org
Financial Secretary
- Lois Kuyper-Rushing.....lkuyper@lsu.edu
Director of Music
- Anne Maverick.....gblgk@cox.net
Organist
- Terry G. Iyasere.....upcdayschool@yahoo.com
Day School Director
- Jill Clemmonsjclemm1@lsu.edu
Clerk of Session

The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is printed monthly. Articles may be submitted electronically to cdurham@upcbr.org or turned in to the church office no later than the 20th of each month. To be removed from the mailing list, please contact the church office.

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
3240 Dalrymple Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225)383-0345
(225)383-3495 Fax
www.upcbr.org

OFFICE NOTES



PRAYER LIST.....

Please contact the church office if you have a prayer request you would like printed in the Sunday bulletin. Also, please remember to update your prayer concerns.

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAID?.....

Hearing assistance devices are available in the hall outside the Sanctuary. Please feel free to borrow one if you have a difficult time hearing in church and return the device to the table when the service is over.

2014 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE.....

Contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by 12-31-14 to be reflected on your 2014 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12-31-14 to be counted as a 2014 donation. If you have questions about your pledge status, please contact Donna Thrasher at the church office, ext. 103 or email dthrasher@upcbr.org.

Alternative Giving Catalogs...

The Presbytery's first homegrown alternative giving catalog is now available! Support our brothers and sisters in our own backyard and learn more about the ministries of the presbytery this Christmas, and let's give alternatively together! In addition the 2014 Presbyterian Denominational Giving Catalog is now available. Copies can be found in the welcome center or by contacting the church office.

DAY CIRCLE NEWS

The PW Day Circle welcomes women and men to its monthly Bible Study and Fellowship. Please join us on Dec. 2 in the Parks Wilson Room, as we explore Lesson 3, *Covenants and God's Enduring Faithfulness*, led by Nita Rossman. Please bring a savory or sweet snack to share. At this meeting PW will be collecting disposable baby diapers, any size, to donate to Iris House. PW is also collecting canned goods for the food bank.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS (continued)

- 18 12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
5:30 p.m. The Gathering Christmas Party - TBA
- 21 **4th Sunday of Advent** - *Patti Snyder preaching, Christmas Joy Offering*
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
6:45 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 28 **1st Sunday After Christmas** - *Martha Robson preaching*
10:00 a.m. Worship (ONE SERVICE ONLY)
11:00 a.m. Caregivers Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 4 **Epiphany** - *Patti Snyder preaching, Epiphany Stars*
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 6 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
Noon AIAnon - Dorm Living Area
7:30 p.m. UPC Book Group - 2285 Cedardale
- 7 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
Noon Staff Meeting
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 8 10:00 a.m. NAMI Parent Support Group - Parks Wilson Classroom
7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 11 **Baptism of the Lord** - *Patti Snyder preaching, Communion*
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group
- 12 5:15 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 13 Noon AI-Anon - Sr. High Room
5:30 p.m. Christian Ed Adult Ed Subcommittee - Library
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Com. - 213 University Highlands Ct.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (continued)

- 14 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 Noon Staff Meeting
 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 15 6:00 p.m. Budget Meeting - Conference Room
 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 18 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
 8:30 a.m. Worship
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 Noon Called Session Mtg./Examination of Officers - Fellowship Hall
 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
 5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group
 6:45 p.m. Joint Session/Deaconate Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
 CHURCH OFFICE AND DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
- 20 10:00 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 6:15 p.m. University Outreach Committee - Library
- 21 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 Noon Staff Meeting
 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 22 9:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team - Parks Wilson Rm
 7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 24 9:00 a.m. Covenant Network Regional Conference - UPC Facility
- 25 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany** - *Mike Watson preaching*
Ordination & Installation of Officers
 8:30 a.m. Worship
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 Noon Caregivers Support Group
 12:15 p.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
 5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group
- 27 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 28 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 Noon Staff Meeting
 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 29 7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal



Mike and a couple of students from UPC were recently a part of the first ever Common Table event at the Wesley Center on Chimes Street. This event was a collaboration between a few other campus ministries engaged around inclusion and justice issues. We hope this will be a new model for campus ministry collaboration at LSU. Stay tuned for more Common Table events to take place sometime in the spring/winter.

Ukirk students will also be traveling to the Montreat College Conference, January 1-5th, with some other students and adults in the Presbytery. The theme this year is Peace Bound. Pray for a safe trip as our students enjoy time in the mountains, growing close to God and one another.

the
gathering
 YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AT UPC

December 4

the Londoner on Sherwood Forest

December 18

at the Zovar home

Sitter service will be available at the Church.

RSVP for sitters by Dec 15.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please e-mail Marissa

**(mcbaham@gmail.com) or Candace
 (cchri03@yahoo.com) for more information**

LEGACY CHRISTMAS CD_s

UPC's PW will be selling CDs, Legacy Christmas: Nativity Carols and Hymns, \$ 15.00 each. Proceeds will be split evenly between Living Waters for the World and the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. To date, net proceeds of \$100,000 have been raised through the sale of the first CD issued last year. This is what partnership in mission is all about.

As with last year's CD, the music on the new record is stunning and features some of the world's best instrumentalists and vocalists of the genre. This collection picks up where the last CD leaves off, beginning with Celtic-influenced pieces and progressing to Appalachian stylings common to churches of the 1700-1800's.

Legacy Christmas: Nativity Carols and Hymns will become a treasured part of one's Christmas music collection. What a wonderful way to bring cheer to your church members and other groups while raising money to help children and their families with the gift of clean water!

Advent and Christmas at UPC

Advent and Christmas Worship

This year our Advent celebration will focus on questions that arise from the anticipation of Christ in our lives and in the world and from the experience of his presence. Join in worship on Sunday mornings and for Taizé sung prayer on Wednesdays as we explore the season in Word, music, prayer, and life together.

The season's themes will be enhanced as we learn and sing together each Sunday, hymn No. 89 "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"

First Week in Advent

November 30 First Sunday in Advent

"What are we looking for?"

Patti Snyder, preaching

Communion - intinction

December 3 Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

"Hope"

A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession.

Second Week in Advent

December 7 Second Sunday in Advent

"What enables us to see?"

Patti Snyder, preaching

December 10 Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

"Peace"

Third Week in Advent

December 14 Third Sunday in Advent

"What is it like when things begin to happen?"

Mike Watson, preaching

December 17 Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

"Joy"

Fourth Week in Advent

December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent

"What will come of all of this?"

Patti Snyder, preaching

December 24 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

5:30 pm A family-friendly service that centers on the story and music of the season. Communion is celebrated.

December 28 First Sunday in the Christmas Season

One Service - 10:00 am (no church school)

Martha Robson, preaching

Advent and Christmas Season Festivities

December 2 - Book Club Christmas Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Parrain's on Perkins

December 5 - Choir Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m.

3630 Gladiola

December 7 - Advent Nights 2014 Potluck - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a potluck dinner and Christmas song/hymn sing-a-long (practice for caroling!)

December 8 - Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 6:00 p.m.

6630 Boone

December 11 - UPC Officers Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m.

5666 Forsythia

December 14 - Advent Nights 2014 - 5:00 p.m.

Join us for our Second Annual Festive Christmas Sweater Contest and neighborhood Christmas caroling. Dinner provided by Fellowship Committee.

December 15 - Staff Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m.

6630 Boone

Advent Devotionals.....

Copies of Silence, and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent are available in the welcome center for the next few weeks. Stop by to pick one up. Suggested donation is \$5.



EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JANUARY 4, 2014

Don't miss the annual distribution of the Epiphany Stars!



Shimmy for the Shelter 2014
presents
CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

A dance showcase to benefit
the IRIS Domestic Violence Center

University
Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Drive
Baton Rouge

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014
6:00 pm
(doors open at 5:30)

Tickets \$10
\$8 with food bank
donation

for advance tickets
call 954-0643

IRIS
Domestic Violence Center

Christian Education at UPC Fall 2014

Church School Offering

The Church School offering this year will go to Park Elementary, one of our mission partners in Baton Rouge. Please take some time each Sunday morning to bring along extra cash to help out young students in our city. This gift is a great expression of our connection to our community.

Pre-K and Kindergarten (Ages 4 to Kindergarten) "Godly Play"

Room 105. Teachers: Pat Strain and Mary Mikell

Elementary (1-5th Grade) "We Believe"

Room 213. Teachers: Betsy Wilks, Alicia Lewis and Ed Britton

Middle School (6th-8th Grade) "Faith and Sacraments"

Room 203. Teachers: Amy Vidrine, Jill Clemmons, and Kelly Kerr

Senior High (9th-12th Grade) "Love Wins"

Room 206 (gathering location). Teachers: Joe Skillen and Linda Babin

Adult Bible Study Class

"Silence, and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent"

Usually when we think of the Advent story, Mary, Joseph, and the angel Gabriel come to mind. This Advent devotional by Enuma Okoro invites us to take a different approach, looking at the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth instead. Join us as we reflect on our own experiences of waiting, longing, community, and hungering for God.

Conference Room (122) Facilitator: Peggy Carroll

"What Am I Born to Do?"

November 16th through December 21st

Leading us through the Advent season will be a unique class on exploring who we are and what we do. Join us as we hear a diverse range of members of the UPC family discuss how their careers intersect with their calling. Different classes will focus on: Art (11/16), Care (11/23), Building (11/30), Service (12/7), Nature (12/14), and Learning (12/21). The open ended discussions will lead us not only to get a better picture of how we spend our time during the week but also to reflect on the nature of vocation and the many ways we find ourselves called to manifest our faith in the world.

Parks Wilson Room (108) Facilitators: Jon Cogburn and Christine Kooi

Adult classes for the winter and spring are still being developed. We have exciting things underway! Stay tuned for emails and announcements in worship bulletins regarding new classes as they arrive. Small Groups will resume again during the Lenten season.

Interested in going to Cuba but need more information?

In April 2015 UPC members are going to help celebrate the third anniversary of our Living Waters for the World installation at our partner church in San Jose de los Ramos, Cuba. Would you like to be part of this celebration and get to know our partners?

An interest meeting is being held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4th in the Parks Wilson room at UPC. There will be a short presentation about Cuba, our partner church in San Jose and a rough idea of what the trip will look like and how much it will cost.

If you have an interest, this is your meeting! Please join us.

Youth Group News

Youth Groups have continued to have very busy, yet fun semesters at UPC. Senior Highs will have their lock in and Christmas Gift shopping on the evening of December 5th. Middle Schoolers will help wrap presents on December 7th. All the youth will join together for the Christmas caroling event with the church on December 14th. The winter/spring schedule is still underway, yet both groups should plan for a welcome back from break celebration event on January 11th.

PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

UPC has been selected as one of 500 churches to take part in the Presbyterian Panel. The Presbyterian Panel is a three-year research project, published by PC(USA), that provides information on the beliefs and practices of Presbyterians. You can find more information on the Presbyterian Panel by visiting their website: www.pcusa.org/research/panel.

UPC has been asked to provide its membership list and contact information (mailing and email addresses) for members. A random sample of members from UPC will then be chosen and contacted by Presbyterian Panel. If you are selected, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire and become a panelist for a three-year term, starting in 2015. If you are one of the members randomly selected, you are not obligated to participate, even if you are randomly selected.

The contact information sent to PC(USA) will only be used for The Presbyterian Panel. We have been asked to send both mailing addresses and email addresses. If you would prefer to have either your email or postal address omitted, please let Jill Clemmons (jclemm1@lsu.edu) know by December 7.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregivers Support Group at UPC meets on the last Sunday of the month right after church. It is available to all who are caregivers to elderly parents, friends, or adult children. The next Caregivers Support Group meetings will be after church on December 28 and January 28. If you have any questions or would like to have a particular topic of interest scheduled for a Support Group meeting, feel free to call Jane Smith at 315-4946 or Pam Bartlett at 925-2693.

..... Small Groups Recap

UPC's second round of small groups concluded in mid-November. Although they met in different locations with different group facilitators, they were all rich with meaningful discussion and deepened relationships. Enjoy these recaps from the voices of each group facilitator and look out for small groups to resume during the season of Lent, 2015.

Nourishing Life

Group Leader: Randy Nichols. Reflection written by Lori Tucker

Our Tuesday evening group began each session by enjoying a meal together, and while we were tempted to linger at the table to share cooking and food-shopping tips, we also were eager to discuss "Leading Lives That Matter." The readings in the book were a great catalyst for discussing the many facets of career, work and meaning, including many tough questions. How much choice do we have in choosing meaningful work? Are some people "called" to specific work? Are some lives more significant than others? In times of crisis, are those who keep the home fires burning leading lives that matter as much as those in the trenches? The book laid the foundation for our conversations by presenting a wide range of responses humans may have to these questions from well-known voices in literature and history. The small group setting allowed people to share their own experiences on a more personal level than often is the case. Some individuals in the group are facing significant transitions in their work life and found this a safe place to talk about what's happening in their lives. As our scheduled sessions came to an end, we were thankful to have found a way to set aside some time to explore these topics together and felt some reluctance to concluding the conversations.

Soup Group

Group Leaders: Melody Joachim and Juliana Sheffield

The Soup Group gathered in a different home each week for a delicious meal and lively discussion. Our conversation wandered freely as we shared our personal stories alongside the writings from our study book. At first, we defined vocation as a personal calling but by the end of our time together we began to see a communal nature to vocation - that our stories are interconnected and the relationships in our lives help us become who we are meant to be. Our weekly meetings led to thoughtful questions, diverse insights, tremendous laughter, and enriched friendships. If you get the chance to be part of a small group, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity! It was well worth the time and effort!

Caffeinated Conversation

Group Leaders: Eleanor Canon and Jan Boydston

Caffeinated Conversations loved meeting at La Divina for our small group discussions! We are now addicted to their Cucumber Basil Lemonade. The group was great. We met during the day so our members were all retired or no longer employed outside the home. With that being said, our group read the book! We also printed out the list of suggested movies and swore we would get together in the spring to watch the movies! Each week we found ourselves discussing our past work experiences, how we arrived at the work we did do, and particularly we talked about the influence of family on who and what we became. We learned so much about each other in our seven or eight weeks together. We were all moved by some of the readings each week. We all favored different ones. It was definitely a wonderful small group experience!



NEW LOGO... ✓

NEW WEBSITE...

COMING SPRING 2015



*Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church
Family Life Center*

9700 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70807

A fund-raiser and celebration of our work to strengthen citizen leadership and make our community a better place to live.

\$40 per person

RSVP online at togetherbr.org

Covenant Network Regional Conference

Marriage Matters: A Matter of Life and Love

January 24, 2015

In late January, UPC will host one of the regional conferences of Covenant Network. The mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is "to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA)." UPC has been a Covenant Network congregation for more than ten years and remains the only church in Louisiana to be officially affiliated with this organization.

In the year leading up to General Assembly (GA), Covenant Network holds a national conference. In the year following GA, there are regional conferences; UPC is hosting the conference for presbyteries all along the I-10 corridor from Houston to Tallahassee. The regional conferences this year all have the same title, "Marriage Matters," and are focused on the following objectives:

1. To educate about church polity and the proposed changes to the Presbyterian Constitution
2. To celebrate and support one another in helping the church move towards inclusion and same gender marriage
3. To work on a strategy for moving forward changes in the Constitution

The regional conference at UPC will be held on Saturday, January 24. The conference opens with worship led by the Rev. Ken Kovacs, Pastor and Chief of Staff at Catonsville Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, whose partner is from Louisiana. The plenary session will be led by the Rev. Cynthia Rigby, the W.C. Brown Professor of Theology at Austin Seminary. There will be two sets of workshops, which will include the following sessions:


1. Legal Matters: Legal Review and Update on Court Decisions (Chris Otten)
2. The Bible Matters: the Changing Definition of Marriage in the Bible and the Church (Rev. Cynthia Rigby)
3. Marriage Matters: Stories of Life and Love (Rev. Ken Kovacs, moderator)
4. Welcoming Matters: Is My Church Gay Friendly?

After lunch, we will learn more about the history of Covenant Network and how the church got to where it is today, followed by a time of working in presbytery caucuses to strategize about the upcoming presbytery vote on the proposed changes to the Constitution.


On Saturday evening, Ava and Cordell Haymon will be hosting a fundraiser for Covenant Network at their home. While the conference is open to anyone, it is particularly geared towards Presbyterians, and we hope the evening reception will be a great opportunity to invite more people from the community to learn about Covenant Network.

We hope you will consider joining us for this day of learning and celebration. The committee is looking for additional volunteers, particularly to help with logistics (e.g. serving lunch). Please contact Jane Smith at (H) 383-9441, (C) 315-4946, or by e-mail jmvsmith@bellsouth.net if you are interested in getting involved.

Registration will soon be open at <http://covnetpres.org/baton-rouge-la-regional-conference/>. You can also find paper registration applications at University Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact the co-chairs: Jane Smith (jmvsmith@bellsouth.net) or Allison El Koubi (allison.elkoubi@gmail.com).



Covenant Network of Presbyterians
Regional Conference
University Presbyterian Church



marriage | **MATTERS**
A Matter of Life and Love

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2015 (9am - 3pm)
Plenary Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Austin Seminary
Preacher: Rev. Ken Kovacs
Registration: \$35 (students - no charge)
Register at: covnetpres.org/conferences/regionals

3240 Dalrymple Drive • Baton Rouge, LA • 70802

**PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY!!
DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!!
The Greater Baton Rouge
Food Bank needs your help!**

Please place your contribution in any of the food barrels located around UPC or bring it to the front of the sanctuary during service.

Appreciate, Dedicate, Celebrate, And Pledge!

Beth Paskoff and Robbie Phillabaum for the 2015 Annual Campaign

December and January are times filled with hopes, promises, and joyful celebrations. All these words apply to our annual stewardship:

- We hope that your promises, your pledges, will enable UPC to fund our visions, operations, missions, and programs, all of which celebrate God's gifts and bring joy and new hope to those who benefit from these programs.
- We appreciate your pledges. At the time of this writing, we have received 72 pledges for a total of \$380,218.

We still have a long way to go, and we need to hear from you soon. On December 4, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will meet with UPC committee chairs to hear budget requests; on January 15, the Budget Committee will meet to draft the 2015 budget.

If we don't have your pledge, we can't put it into the budget. We need your financial support to realize our hopes. What could we achieve if everyone gave something? What a cause for celebration that would be! Pledges are confidential and can be adjusted as needed, and pledge cards may be found in the pews. Give what you are able to with joy and thanksgiving, "for it is in giving that we receive."

(Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)

Heard of Stephen Ministries?

Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people. Stephen Ministers are often called the "after people." They are the people who come alongside you- or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, relatives – and provide support and comfort after a crisis, illness, significant life change, death of a loved one, etc. for as long as needed. The Stephen Series® is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around a congregation. UPC does a great job supporting and caring for those around us who are struggling, yet our Nurture Committee is wondering if this system would expand and enrich our ministry, and therefore we are pondering enrollment. Is this something you think would be beneficial for UPC? Have you had previous experience with Stephen Ministries? Would you be interested in learning more about this and possibly become a Stephen Minister? We need your feedback! Please contact Juliana Sheffield (juliana421@hotmail.com or 225-313-3728) with your thoughts, suggestions, interest, and general feedback. For more information, check out www.stephenministries.org.

Sunday, December 14th
3pm-5pm

Church of the Way [Fellowship Hall]
250 S. Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Join Us as our Special Guest
Child & Family 1st Annual Christmas Event
*Holiday Feast * Games * Fellowship*

RSVP to Lynn Howard (225) 276-1421 lynn.howard@pchas.org

 Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services
of Texas and Louisiana



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
2285 Cedardale.

- Dec 2 Eat at Parrain's (tentative)
- Jan 6 The Magnificent Ambersons
by Booth Tarkington

"Help wanted"

NOW - volunteers to be Reading Friends at Park Elementary (requires only 1 hour a week) are still needed (contact Karen Foote)

Any time - volunteers to join a team of gardeners to work on the small planting areas of our new landscaping (contact Griff Cambell)

1/24/15, 7 to 5 - volunteers to help with set up, welcoming, food, and clean up for the covenant network regional conference (contact the church office)

Every month - around the last day of the month, for a few hours in the morning- volunteers to help in processing the mailing of the Contact (contact Mary Wardlaw)

Adults to help with Kids' Night Out
-2 Thursdays a month (5-8 p.m.)
-Parents provide food; you provide entertainment
-Contact Candace Wright (cchri03@yahoo.com)

People who live or work in the area to help water our new trees. Contact Griff Campbell (gcampbe@lsu.edu)

**FEBRUARY
CONTACT
DEADLINE
January 19**

Pray For . . .

Gerri Ward • Dorothy Bankston • Lynda Perry • Cecil Jarreau
 Ralph Brewer • Dan & Ruth Bivins • Pat Kennedy • Tristyn Bemis
 Tabitha Lewis • Nita Rossman • Betty Campbell • Jim Johnson
 Gerard Klein • Kent Walker • Judith Schiebout • Helen Fant

- David Hall, recovering from back surgery
- Karen Paterson, facing shoulder surgery on Tuesday
- Diana Reynolds' father, recovering from surgery
- George Strain's mother, with a broken leg
- Kristi Hammatt, friend of Katie Watson, recovering from surgery
- Michelle Sager, friend of Katie Watson, in Rocky Mount, NC
- Robert Bayer, uncle of Caralyn Durham, recovering from open heart surgery
- Midge Reed, mother of Barbara Hoffman, in assisted living in Baton Rouge
- Charles Grenier, friend of Jerry Kennedy, in critical condition following a stroke
- Lois Liggett, mother of Sarah Kennedy, undergoing chemotherapy
- Shirley Bemis, mother of Scott Bemis, with colon cancer
- Sue Candler, with Presbyterian Women of S. LA, recovering from surgery for bladder cancer
- Rev. John Bade, husband of Rev. Robin McCollough-Bade
- John & Gwen Hughes, Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers, injured in an armed attack in Ethiopia
- Ben Miller, brother of Terry Miller, undergoing treatment for lung cancer
- Molly Kennedy, our seminary student
- Marla Kerr-Lawson, Kelly Kerr's sister
- Edna Faust and her son Gregory, friends of Kay Lindsey
- Joyce Kuyper, mother of Lois Kuyper-Rushing, in assisted living
- Kelly Kerr's aunts, Mary Jane and Carolyn
- Rayne Nelson, friend of Donna Thrasher, with an aggressive malignant brain tumor
- Katie and Henry Nelson, parents of Bizza Britton
- Margarita Suarez, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, in hospice care
- Fred Heroman, husband of Bunny Heroman and stepfather of Betsy Wilks
- Cathy Paterson, who has Huntington's Disease; Karen Paterson, her mother; and all H.D. families
- Robin Carroll, undergoing treatments for a blood disease
- All workers at risk in Liberia (and W. Africa in general)
- Brandon Dove, grandson of Ben Payne, diagnosed with thyroid cancer
- Camille Beck, friend of Katie Watson, with thyroid cancer
- Jessica Meehan, friend of Erik and Emily Strain, with breast cancer
- Randall Lewis, brother of Donna Thrasher, with a tumor on one of his lungs
- Ken Jeansonne, friend of Charley Fisher, with Parkinson's
- Maurice Pecquet, grandfather of Brittney Shelton
- Anne Stewart, mother of Kathleen Richey, diagnosed with stage three cancer
- Baker, Broadmoor, and Highland Presbyterian, as they move through pastoral transitions
- Bobby Ferguson, friend of Gerard Klein, recovering from injuries sustained in an auto accident
- Marcia Campbell, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, with lung cancer
- Peggy Ourso, sister of Susan Ourso
- Beth Whelen, friend of Debbie Abernathy
- The family of Darlene Rowland's friend Sarah
- Nic and Rachel Ciraldo, friends of Griff Campbell, and their 4-year-old son, Luca, who has kidney cancer
- All those who suffer with mental illness and emotional disorders
- Oncology patients of Debbie Abernathy
- Men and women serving in the armed forces
- Those who are going through separation or divorce
- Those who are affected by domestic violence
- Those who are affected by alcoholism and addiction
- Our partner church, La Iglesia Presbiteriana, in San José de los Ramos, Cuba, and its pastor, Armando Guedes



HOSPITAL VISITS BY UPC OFFICERS

- 1 OPEN
- 2 Stuart Irvine
- 3 Mary Mikell
- 4 OPEN
- 5 Juliana Sheffield
- 6 Barbara Hoffman
- 7 Lori Tucker
- 8 Jeff Perry
- 9 OPEN
- 10 Griff Campbell
- 11 Pat Ho
- 12 Lynne Wallace
- 13 Henry "Skeeter" Cedars
- 14 Doug Walker
- 15 Kay Lindsey
- 16 Katie Watson
- 17 Beth Paskoff
- 18 Brannon Costello
- 19 Joe Skillen
- 20 Suzanne Trahan
- 21 Scott Bemis
- 22 Ann Miller
- 23 OPEN
- 24 Beverly Smiley
- 25 John Cogburn
- 26 Mary Wardlaw
- 27 Linda Babin
- 28 Linda Lee
- 29 Jerry Kennedy
- 30 Tom Shelton
- 31 Eleanor Canon

On your chosen date, please remember to contact the church office to check for people to visit!



The Pastor's Discretionary Account is currently low on funds. Please consider a donation.



Check out UPC on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Christopher Austin
Louie Eckhardt
Alexander Gochnour | 15 | Bill Behrmann
Kelley Massengale |
| 2 | Ben Fisher | 18 | April Armstrong
Chase Bemis |
| 3 | Kathy Perry | 20 | Steve Whitting |
| 4 | Emma Hopkins
Veronika Stubblebine | 21 | Jonathan Hoffstetter
Pat Strain |
| 5 | Bill Martin | 22 | Bill Cooper, Jr.
Elijah Fontenot Stafford |
| 6 | Angela Hoffstetter
Linda Lee | 25 | Leslie Green
Layne Motsenbocker |
| 7 | Gina Costello | 26 | Cindy Rice |
| 8 | Bunny Heroman
Hattie Knapp | 27 | Jakob Hendrix |
| 10 | Dorothy Jones
Nicholas Patty
Jacqueline Samson
Jim Serra | 28 | Eleanor Canon
Audrey Cogburn
Danielle Terry |
| 11 | Joe Scott | 31 | Silas Irvine
Amy Phillips |
| 12 | Richard Brown
Tobie Irvine | | |

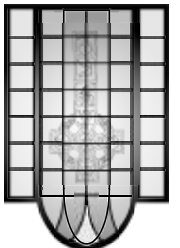
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Lori Hopkins | 20 | Riley Brown
Jim Johnson |
| 2 | Leo Broders
Kenneth Owens | 22 | Griffin Campbell |
| 4 | Jo Ann Lea | 24 | Bill Stubblebine |
| 6 | Kathleen Richey | 25 | Richard Kilgore
Lynne Wallace |
| 8 | Ralph Brewer
Paul Nguyen | 26 | Doug Brown |
| 9 | Dianne Garton | 27 | Brittney Shelton |
| 10 | Suzanne Trahan | 29 | Kathy Poché
Jan Reeves |
| 11 | Matt Faulkner | 30 | Dirk Burton
Rachel Gellrich
Mitch Patty |
| 12 | Cordell Haymon
Gerard Klein
Carl Motsenbocker
Jeff Perry
Jaiden Shelton | 31 | Albert Adjaottor
Donna Schlotzhauer |
| 15 | Deanna Black | | |
| 16 | Forest Benedict
Lori Hyatt Pilley
Darlene Rowland | | |

****Please remember to contact the church office if your contact information changes.****

Mission Statement
 In response to God's grace,
 University Presbyterian
 Church of Baton Rouge
 seeks creatively – through
 nurture, education, worship
 and community outreach
 – to sustain an inclusive,
 compassionate family of
 faith; it seeks to promote
 spiritual growth by
 awakening souls to God's
 infinite mercy embodied in
 the reconciling love of Christ.
 --Adopted by the Session
 December 1995

**University Presbyterian Church
 3240 Dalrymple Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802**



Change Service Requested