

**UNIVERSITY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*Newsletter for church members  
and friends*

**December 2015  
January 2016**

**CONTACT**



FROM MY  
**WINDOW**

*"In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace."*

These words to one of our now traditional Taizé sung prayers that we will be singing in Advent are ringing in my ears today. I'm not sure why. Perhaps it is because I'm working on Advent worship or maybe because I'm feeling the oncoming rush of the holidays. Perhaps it is because I want our worship to resonate with the truth of our lives together or perhaps because it is so easy to get caught up in so many other needs, wants and desires. Perhaps it is because, ironically, I tend to scurry around and then wonder why I have no peace. Perhaps it is because we tend to put pressures on ourselves and others and then are surprised when we find ourselves joyless. Perhaps it is because the calendar, even if it's simply full of the hallmark movies we want to watch, is overflowing when what we need is rest.

It's hard to describe, but my favorite part of this repetitive sung prayer comes near the end between the two phrases in the second sentence. In the music, where the comma is in the text, there is a rest. If you read music, you would know it as a quarter note rest. At this point in the song, there is one beat of silence. I love that in this little song the rest always seems to beg us to give it all the value of that one moment of quiet, to draw it out even. I love that the music, and this rest in particular, fit the text and the season of Advent so perfectly.

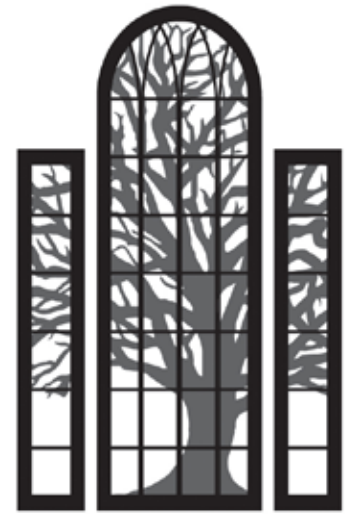
Advent, too, invites us to stop, not just singing but just to stop - to stop, to rest, to be quiet for if but a moment. It is in turning to God that one finds this invitation. Answering it leads to peace, to rest, to joy.

Blessings of a season of peace to you all.

*Pat*

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1         | 10:00 a.m.<br>Noon<br>5:45 p.m.   | Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room<br>Al-Anon - Library<br>UPC Book Group Christmas Party - Parrain's  |
| 2         | 9:30 a.m.<br>Noon<br>Noon<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.  | Day School Chapel<br>UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana<br>Staff Meeting<br>Taizé - Sanctuary<br>Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room<br>Cuba Mission Meeting - Parks Wilson Room  |
| 3         | 5:30 p.m.<br>6:00 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m.<br>7:30 p.m.  | The Gathering - George's on George O'Neil<br>NAMI Family to Family Class - Conference Room<br>Budget Meeting - Fellowship Hall<br>New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal   |
| 5         | 9:00 a.m.   | New Officer Training - Conference Room   |
| 4         | 6:00 p.m.   | High School Youth Group Lock-in - Area 51  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> - <i>Patti Snyder preaching</i>   |  |
|           | 8:30 a.m.<br>9:45 a.m.<br>10:30 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Noon<br>Noon<br>2:00 p.m.<br>4:30 p.m.<br>6:00 p.m.             | Worship<br>Church School<br>Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room<br>Worship<br>Visitor Drop In - Parks Wilson Room<br>Advent Alternative Gift Event - Fellowship Hall<br>Music Club of BR Women's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room<br>Overeaters Anonymous - Library<br>Service Learning Grant Dinner - Conference Room |
| 8         | Noon<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.   | Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room<br>Day School Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall<br>NAMI - Conference Room & Library<br>Mission & Peacemaking Committee - 213 University Highlands  |
| 9         | 9:30 a.m.<br>Noon<br>Noon<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.   | Day School Chapel<br>UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana<br>Staff Meeting<br>Taizé - Sanctuary<br>Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  |
| 10        | Noon<br>7:30 p.m.   | Widows Support Group - Parks Wilson Classroom<br>New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal  |
| 12        | 6:00 p.m.   | Havenar/Moody Wedding and Reception  |
| <b>13</b> | <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> - <i>Patti Snyder preaching</i>   |  |
|           | 8:30 a.m.<br>9:45 a.m.<br>10:30 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m.<br>12:15 p.m.<br>12:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m.<br>4:30 p.m.<br>5:00 p.m. | Worship<br>Church School<br>Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room<br>Worship<br>Diaconate Meeting - Parks Wilson Room<br>New Officer Training - Conference Room<br>New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room<br>Overeaters Anonymous - Library<br>Advent Nights Event/Caroling - Fellowship Hall            |
| 14        | 5:15 p.m.<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.   | Worship Committee - Conference Room<br>UPC Officer Christmas Party - 353 Nelson Drive<br>Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room  |
| 15        | 8:30 a.m.<br>Noon<br>7:00 p.m.  | Nurture Committee Christmas Breakfast - 505 LSU Avenue<br>Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room<br>NAMI Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall  |
| 16        | 9:30 a.m.<br>Noon<br>Noon<br>4:00 p.m.<br>6:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.  | Day School Chapel<br>UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana<br>Staff Meeting<br>Day School Committee - Conference Room<br>Taizé - Sanctuary<br>Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  |



## UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Patti Snyder.....               | psnyder@upcbr.org      |
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**The University Presbyterian Church CONTACT is printed monthly. Articles may be submitted electronically to [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto: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.**

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# OFFICE NOTES



## 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE.....

Contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by 12-31-15 to be reflected on your 2014 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12-31-15 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](mailto:dthrasher@upcbr.org).

## 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.

## OFFICE HELP NEEDED.....

Help is needed in the office to answer phones while Caralyn is on vacation. Shifts are generally 8:30 - 11:30 and 11:30 - 2:30 but are flexible for volunteers.

Dates needed are:

- Thursday, December 10
- Wednesday, December 23
- Monday, December 28
- Tuesday, December 29
- Wednesday, December 30

If you are able to help, please email Pat Wright at [li-mu@att.net](mailto:li-mu@att.net).

## 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.

## VISITORS DROP IN.....

Have you been visiting UPC and want to have a chance to meet a few more people and perhaps ask a few questions about the church? Stop by the Parks Wilson Room (the living room type space near the entrance to the sanctuary) Sundays December 6 and January 3 immediately following worship and chat it up with our pastors and a few church members.

- 17 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Christmas Party - Roux 61 on Bluebonnet
- 6:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party - TBA
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 19 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Concert - Unitarian Church
- 20 **4th Sunday of Advent** - *Mike Watson 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
- 3:00 p.m. Violin Recital - Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 22 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY** - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 26 5:00 p.m. Dupre/Escalante Wedding & Reception
- 27 **1st Sunday After Christmas** - *Patti Snyder 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
- 3 **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
- Noon Visitor Drop In - Parks Wilson Room
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 5 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room
- 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
- Noon AlAnon - Dorm Living Area
- 7:30 p.m. UPC Book Group - 2285 Cedardale
- 6 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
- 7 6:30 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 10 **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
- 12:30 p.m. New Officer Training - Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 11 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 12 Noon Al-Anon - Sr. High Room
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Com. - 213 University Highlands Ct.
- 13 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
- Noon Staff Meeting
- Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
- 5:00 p.m. New Officer Training - Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room



The **UPC Book Club** will have its festive holiday eatout on December 1, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at Parrain's. Please email Ellen at [emmorgan@cox.net](mailto:emmorgan@cox.net) if you plan to attend. The group kicks off the New Year January 5, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., 2285 Cedardale. Happy Holiday reading to all.

## the gathering

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AT UPC

The Gathering meets every other Thursday for some post-work wind down time from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Gathering is a social group generally for mid-twenties through forty-somethings, married, single, with kids, work out of the home, stay at home parent, grad students, or regular ol' worker bees, yet feel free to self identify! There aren't any age, professional, marital, or offspring restrictions. Babysitting is offered at the church when our wonderful volunteer sitters are available. If you would like more information, contact Jill Clemmons at [jclemm1@lsu.edu](mailto:jclemm1@lsu.edu). Our next gatherings...

### December 3

George's Restaurant  
15321 George O'neal Rd.

### December 17

Roux 61  
8832 Bluebonnet Blvd.



## The Back Fence

### Congratulations!

- It's a boy! Congratulations to Alyssa (Bistany) and Mark Talley on the birth of Robert Vincent Talley on October 27.
- It's a boy! Congratulations to Kristen and Louie Eckhardt on the birth of Malcolm Steven Eckhardt on November 6.

- |           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| 14        | Noon  | Widows Support Group - Parks Wilson Room                            |
|           | 7:30 p.m.   | New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                              |
| 15        | 7:00 p.m.   | UPC Women's Retreat - Feliciana Retreat Center ( <i>thru 1/17</i> ) |
| 16        | 8:00 a.m.   | Sign Language Training - Conference Room                            |
| <b>17</b> | <b>2nd Sunday After the Epiphany - Mike Watson preaching</b>  |   |
|           | 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                                      |
|           | 6:30 p.m.   | Joint Session/Deaconate Meeting - Fellowship Hall                   |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</b>                        |   |
|           | CHURCH OFFICE AND DAY SCHOOL CLOSED                           |   |
| 19        | 10:00 a.m.  | Helping Hands - Conference Room                                     |
|           | Noon  | Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room   |
| 20        | 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  |
| 21        | 7:30 p.m.   | New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                              |
| <b>24</b> | <b>3rd Sunday After the Epiphany - Patti Snyder preaching</b> |   |
|           | 8:30 a.m.   | Worship   |
|           | 9:45 a.m.   | Church School   |
|           | 10:00 a.m.  | Choir Rehearsal   |
|           | 11:00 a.m.  | Worship   |
|           | 12:15 p.m.  | Session Meeting for the Examination of Officers - Fellowship Hall   |
|           | 12:15 p.m.  | Membership Committee - Conference Room                              |
|           | 4:00 p.m.   | High School Youth Group   |
|           | 4:30 p.m.   | Overeaters Anonymous - Library                                      |
| 26        | Noon  | Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room   |
|           | 7:00 p.m.   | NAMI - Conference Room & Library                                    |
| 27        | 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  |
| 28        | 7:30 p.m.   | New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal                              |
| <b>31</b> | <b>4th Sunday After the Epiphany - Patti Snyder preaching</b> |   |
|           | <i>Ordination and Installation of Officers</i>                |   |
|           | 8:30 a.m.   | Worship   |
|           | 9:45 a.m.   | Church School   |
|           | 10:00 a.m.  | Choir Rehearsal   |
|           | 11:00 a.m.  | Worship   |
|           | 12:15 p.m.  | Soup & Pie Luncheon - Fellowship Hall                               |
|           | 4:00 p.m.   | High School Youth Group   |
|           | 4:30 p.m.   | Overeaters Anonymous - Library                                      |

## Pancake Breakfast Special Thanks

We had a wonderful start to the Annual Campaign on November 1 at the UPC Pancake Breakfast. Special thanks to the following individuals who helped to make it such a success:

- Peggy Carrol and Maggie Richardson who chaired the committee.
- Mike Olinde, Jerry Trahan and Doug Walker who cooked the pancakes.
- Linda Babin, Deanna Black and Joyce Moreland who cooked the sausage.
- The Elders and Deacons who served the food.
- Meredith Veldman, the Sunday School teachers and the students for the interesting and informative presentations about their plans to raise funds for Habitat International.
- and Robert, who set up the tables, rearranged the tables, and put away the tables.

# Christian Education at UPC 2015-2016

## Church School Offering

Church school classes this year will be collecting an offering for Heifer International. Each class will be choosing animal gifts that their money will go towards. They'll even be naming their animals and giving them a little personality! Look out for the thermometer graph in the Welcome Center showing the progress each class is making toward their goal. Also, look for an Alternative Giving Fair to be held at UPC during the Advent season.

## Pre-K and Kindergarten (Ages 4 - Kindergarten) Room 105

**Curriculum:** Grace and Gratitude, "Ages 3-5," a quarterly curriculum that will help transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. Each session shares a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us. Through fun, age-appropriate activities, and prayer, children and their leaders will celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God.

*Teachers: Pat Strain, Barbara Gray, Griffin Campbell*

## Elementary (Grades 1-5) Room 213

**Curriculum:** Grace and Gratitude, "Multi-age 5-10," a quarterly curriculum that will help transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. Each session shares a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us. Each class begins with a time of singing together before moving to a time of exploring a Bible story, doing crafts, and praying together.

*Teachers: Betsy Wilks, Christine Russell, Lynne Wallace, Linda Walker, Robbie Phillabaum*

## Middle School (Grades 6-8) Room 203

**Curriculum:** Feasting on the Word, a lectionary-based curriculum that provides intentional connections between education and worship. Youth are figuring out who they are as they search for whose they are. Feasting on the Word materials provide opportunities for this age group to explore their personal and communal identity in Jesus Christ through meaningful community-building experiences, engaging Bible study, and relevant learning activities.

*Teachers: Kelly Kerr, Jill Clemmons*

## Senior High (Grades 9-12) Room 206 (gathering location)

The Senior High church school class continues its tradition of faith walks to a caffeinated holy place (Highland Coffees). **Curriculum:** Contemporary Issues: Living Your Faith and Moral Questions, "The Thoughtful Christian" downloadable studies created by church leaders. Remember Jesus' call to love God with our minds as well as our hearts and souls (Matt. 22:37).

*Teachers: Amy Braymer, Jennifer Bravinder, Melody Joachim, Stephanie Launey*

## Adult Church School - Advent (COMBINED)

Mary Had a Baby, An Advent Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals

The Parks Wilson Class and Bible Study class will meet together in the Conference room for the season of Advent to join together in a devotional that explores the stories behind many beloved spirituals. Suggested book donation - \$5.

## Parks Wilson Class - JANUARY

### Together Baton Rouge – Community-wide Activism

*(Sponsored by the Mission and Peacemaking Committee)*

Individual class meetings will provide a history and overview of Together Baton Rouge's first five years and highlight ongoing issues:

- The city-parish health care crisis and loss of B. R. General
- The persistence of food deserts and related nutrition problems
- The ongoing struggle between public education and private schools
- Other local, neighborhood issues that a UPC "house meeting" might identify and target.

Speakers from TBR who have been engaged in these efforts will provide added perspective and explain why real transformation of community deficits requires deeper engagement church by church.

## Bible Study Class - JANUARY

Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts - Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture

Join us as we explore this book by Biblical Scholar Dr. Frances Taylor Gench. We will study some of the Apostle Paul's most challenging texts regarding women and, through our conversation, examine what it truly means to speak of "Biblical authority" in the presence of such difficult passages. Suggested Book Donation - \$15



## Youth Group News.....

The first University Youth event went extremely well given the rainy conditions! Youth from UPC, UUMC (next door), and University Baptist all joined together for a photo scavenger hunt between our church and the Methodist church on November 1st. After a few get-to-know-you games, we divided up into diverse teams and sent them off on their mission! The youth had a great time getting to know other youth, and we ended with a great collection of photos on Instagram! The next University Youth event will be a lock-in at Area 51. Collaboration is a fantastic way to remind ourselves of the diversity within the body of Christ and the many opportunities we have to share in fellowship, study, and service. Stay tuned for more University Events into the Winter and Spring! Until then, here's the upcoming calendar:

### December

- 4 (Fri) Lock-In at Area 51
- 13 Festive Sweater Party and Caroling

### January

- 10 Welcome Back Event – Games and Fellowship
- 17 No Youth Group (MLK Weekend)
- 24 Field Trip and Conversation on Race
- 31 Service Activity

## Silent Auction

### to Benefit the Women's Retreat.....

The Women's Retreat Committee is asking the congregation to donate homemade food, art, or other items for a silent auction which will take place during the alternative gift giving event on December 6. The intention is to lower the cost of the retreat per participant. Please contact Betsy Wilks by December 2, if you have something you would like to donate.

### Widows Support Group.....

The Widows Conversation Group will meet on the second Thursday of each month at noon in the Parks Wilson Room. The women who gathered in October included widows of five months to twenty-four years. There is no structured program, just a time to visit with others who have similar conversation needs. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for an hour. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Carroll at (225)695-6661 or [peggoc@eatel.net](mailto:peggoc@eatel.net).

### UPC Blood Drive: A Success.....

We had a successful Fall Blood Drive on November 8. Our target was 12, and we actually had 15 donations. We are very thankful for our UPC donors.

If you want to donate in the coming months, please schedule your appointment with United Blood Services at their website <https://www.bloodhero.com>. When you donate, please remind them to credit UPC.

### Directory Photos.....

If you took photos with Lifetouch for the directory and did not order a package, your free 8x10 portrait is in the church office. If you are unable to come in during the week, please contact Caralyn to make arrangements to pick it up.



## GIVE TO CHARITY WHILE DOING YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING

Living Waters for the World has a very easy way for you to use Amazon.com and give to Living Waters at the same time. Go to [www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org). It will open their home page. About half way down you will see an Amazon.com button. Press that button and it will take you to Amazon where you can do your shopping. Between 2% and 5% of your total purchase price will go to LWW through Amazon's charitable giving initiative. You must go through the LWW web site in order to have your purchases recognized for charitable giving.

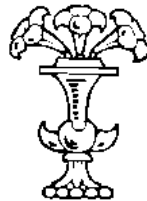
And yes, we recognize that shopping local is our first responsibility, but if you can't find that special item and you must use Amazon, please consider Living Waters and their work to bring clean water throughout the world.

October 31, 2015

To all the kind people at UPC who brought food, set tables, arranged flowers, put out plates and forks, coordinated all the everything, washed dishes, organized the food on the tables, made phone calls, packed leftovers, bestowed warm smiles and greetings, took out the trash, and so much more:

Our gratitude, thanks, and appreciation!

The Robson Family



## SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS

Memorial Flower Donation envelopes for 2016 are available in the pews for you to fill out to reserve flowers for 2016 Sunday Services. Available dates for donation can be found in the Sunday bulletins (starting December 6) or by contacting the church office. Place your completed envelope in the offering plate, and we will take care of the rest. Thank you for making Sunday services so beautiful.

## Taizé

A time for reflection, meditation, and reverence

Songs for wholeness and peace for oneself, others, and the world



Taizé is an ecumenical worship service consisting of quiet meditation, songs, and silent prayer.

Join us this advent to celebrate the season or any time. All are welcome.

Starting December 2, services are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

through December 16

Call 383-0345 for more information or visit the official Taizé website at [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

# ADVENT ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

**Sunday, December 6**

**12:00-2:00 p.m.**

Need some help buying presents for certain friends or family members? Consider doing something different this year by supporting several different ministries connected to UPC, including:

- Presbyterian Church USA Mission Agency
- Church School Heifer Project
- One Stop Center for the Homeless
- UPC Women's Retreat

There will also be an opportunity to make Christmas ornaments that you can pair with your gift to make the act extra meaningful.

Finally, this will be a vegetarian potluck, so please consider bringing a vegetarian dish to share.

This event will be great fun for ALL ages, so please consider joining us after church on Sunday, December 6th!



**Over-the-top festive  
Christmas  
sweater competition,  
chili dinner,  
and caroling**

**December 13 @ 5:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

We encourage everyone to wear a fun holiday sweater. Think outside the box and maybe you'll bring home the over-the-top crown. Save the date and knock the dust off that light-up, jingle bell sweater in your closet. See the Fellowship Committee for more details.

**FEBRUARY  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
JANUARY 18**

## UPC Women's Retreat - January 15-17, 2016 Feliciana Retreat Center



This year we will explore how we see God in ourselves, each other, and our worlds: Past, Present and Future. We are particularly hopeful that this will be another intergenerational retreat reflecting UPC's long history of gaining wisdom from those who have gone before us and learning from those that are to carry on.

Reserve your spot for this fabulous weekend filled with:

- Meeting new folks and spending time with old friends
- Expanding your connections with the women of UPC
- Laughter, fellowship and learning new ways of imagining.

Please fill out a registration form found below, on our website ([www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)), or in the Welcome Center and turn it in to Caralyn with your deposit. We have exciting plans and high hopes for a UPC fundraiser to support the costs of this retreat. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Diana Reynolds at [dreynol@lsu.edu](mailto:dreynol@lsu.edu) and/or Betsy Wilks at [betsywilks@cox.net](mailto:betsywilks@cox.net).

### UPC Women's Retreat Registration

*(Please turn this form into the church office by January 8, 2016)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Room-mate/s \_\_\_\_\_

If you plan to attend for only part of the retreat, please indicate:

1) When you plan to arrive and depart? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(include payment for all meals during that time)*

2) Which room arrangement you prefer:  
\_\_\_\_ Triple for Friday through Sunday with meals comes to \$146.00  
\_\_\_\_ Double for Friday through Sunday with meals comes to \$170.00  
\_\_\_\_ Single room for Friday through Sunday with meals comes to \$194.00  
*Meals include Friday Supper thru Sunday Lunch*

Single per night: \$62.00    Double per night: \$50.00    Triple per night: \$38

Breakfast: \$9.00    Lunch: \$12.00    Dinner: \$14.00

Please do not let the cost deter you from attending this wonderful weekend of laughter and fellowship. This year we are making a special effort to make sure the Retreat is within everyone's budget. We will be subsidizing the cost of the Retreat with a fundraiser and scholarships. Please send full payment with your registration if you are able; otherwise, a 50% deposit will hold your place.

# Advent and Christmas at UPC

## Advent and Christmas Worship

*This year our Advent celebration will focus on the classical themes of hope, peace, love, joy, and the things we do to prepare the way for Christ to be born anew in our hearts and in our community. In our joint adult church school class we will study traditional African American spirituals and with our UPC Advent Devotional prompts, we will engage in prayer and reflection. Worship will be filled with the beautiful sounds of seasonal music brought to us by the choir (who will sing at both services during the season), the joyful interaction with children as we share in children's sermons each Sunday, and the sights of our sanctuary glowing in the light of Christ as each advent candle is lit. Of course there are always plenty of parties during this time of year, but ours will be focused on sharing our gifts. On the 6th we will gather in an alternative gift event to support various needs close to home and far away and on the 13th we'll don our most fun Christmas attire and head out to carol for some of our more homebound church members. For a meaningful and rich holiday, celebrate with your UPC family!*

## First Week in Advent

### November 29 First Sunday in Advent

*Mike Watson, preaching  
Communion - intinction*

### December 2 Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

*Turning hearts toward God as we prepare a way  
A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession*

## Second Week in Advent

### December 6 Second Sunday in Advent

*Patti Snyder, preaching*

### December 9 Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

*Repentance as we prepare a way*

## Third Week in Advent

### December 13 Third Sunday in Advent

*Patti Snyder, preaching*

### December 16 Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

*Promises fulfilled in Christ*

## Fourth Week in Advent

### December 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Mike Watson, preaching  
Christmas Joy Offering*

### December 24 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

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

### December 27 First Sunday in the Christmas Season

*One Service – 10:00 am (no church school)  
Patti Snyder, preaching*

## Advent and Christmas Season Festivities

### December 1 - Book Club Christmas Dinner - 5:30 p.m.

*Parrain's on Perkins*

### December 6 - Advent Alternative Gift Event - Noon

*Join us for a vegetarian potluck and an opportunity to support local charities, our church school classes in their gifts to Heifer International, and UPC's women in a silent auction to support the annual Women's Retreat.*

### December 8 - Day School Christmas Party - 6:00 p.m.

*Fellowship Hall*

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

*Jim & Patti's, 6630 Boone*

### December 13 - Advent Event - 5:00 p.m.

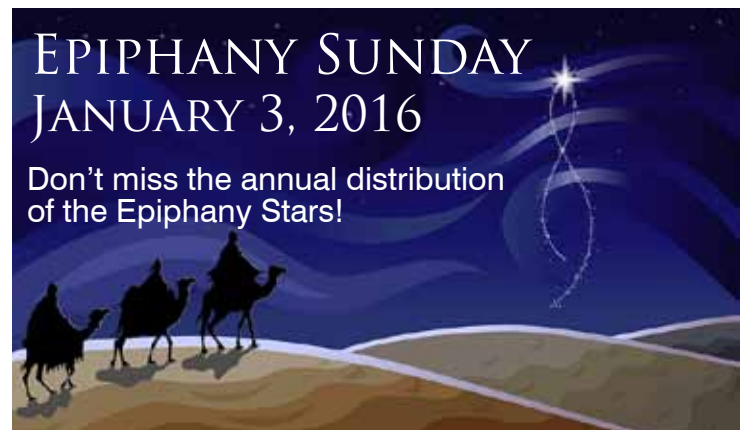
*Join us for our Third Annual Festive Christmas Sweater Contest and neighborhood Christmas caroling. Dinner will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.*

### December 14 - UPC Officers Christmas Party - 6:30 p.m.

*353 Nelson Drive*

### December 17 - Staff Christmas Party - 6:00 p.m.

*LOCATION TBA*



## EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2016

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

### IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS *(as of 11/16/15)*

Amount actually received - \$6,521

Budget amount needed - \$10,055

Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received \$461,994

Budget amount needed - \$462,542

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 2 GIVING STATUS

Amount actually received - \$1,043

Total amount pledged - \$900,455

Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$302,238

Inception-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$675,279



## HAVE YOU PLEDGED TO UPC FOR 2016?

Your pledge to UPC is your plan to give to the church so we can effectively budget our spending for the coming year. We hope to see an increase in the number of pledges this year as well as an increase in the amount pledged. Together our funds can make a larger impact on our community and our world.

### Who pledges to UPC?

Our pledges come from members of the congregation and from friends and visitors who have not joined but who want to support UPC. There are no "dues" to be a Presbyterian. The decision to pledge and amount are the result of prayerful consideration by each of us.

There is no right or wrong amount to give. Some members can afford to give large amounts to UPC, and we are grateful. Other members can afford to make smaller pledges, and we appreciate these gifts as well. "... from each according to his ability..." Acts 11:29

If you have never pledged to UPC before, please make this the year you make a pledge. A pledge of even a few dollars a week will help us to plan a better budget for the church. If you have pledged in the past, perhaps you can increase your pledge this year. If UPC has become your church home, even if you are not a member, we would like your support.

### How? When? Where?

Pledging is easy. You may return the pledge card that came to you in the mail or pick up a pledge card at church or send an email to Donna, our Financial Secretary, at [dthrasher@upcbr.com](mailto:dthrasher@upcbr.com).

You may make your gifts by cash or check to UPC on a weekly or monthly basis using the envelopes we will provide. Some members give annually or quarterly and will not need to use envelopes. If it is more convenient, you may have your gifts deducted automatically from your bank account

### Why do we pledge?

This is the big question, which only YOU can answer. The decision to pledge, and the amount are the result of prayerful consideration by each of us. We've been hearing from some members about why they pledge. Here are some of the reasons we have heard:

- Out of gratitude to God
- Because we can accomplish more when we all give together
- Because I love the fellowship at UPC
- Because the Day School ministers to over 100 children
- Because I want to be a part of what UPC can accomplish
- Because worshipping at UPC makes my life better
- Because give to the church that has given so much to me and my family
- Because Christian Education is important
- Because our pastors help us in the hardest times and the best times
- Because through UPC we support 25 other worthwhile organizations and opportunities
- Because UPC welcomed me

### Why do you pledge to UPC?

#### UPDATE ABOUT THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to those of you who have pledged to UPC for 2016. We welcome pledges from those who have pledged before, from members who have never pledged, and from visitors who have made UPC their church home. If you have not pledged for 2016, pledge cards are available in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary.

**As of 11/16/15 we have had 68 pledges for a total of \$402,076. Our total budget for 2015 is \$677,470, which was based on 123 pledges. We need to increase the number of pledges and the total amount pledged.**

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you for your generous gifts to UPC as we pay off the loan that was used for our recent building improvements. Capital Campaign Phase II is a three year pledging commitment that takes us through 2016. We had pledges of \$900,455, and have already received \$674,236. Thank you!

As we come to the end of the year, please remember to make your Capital Campaign contributions by writing a check and noting "Capital Campaign" in the memo line. Even if you did not pledge, you can make a special contribution to help us with our debt reduction.



### The College Conference at Montreat – "Faith in 3:16"

College-age students are all invited to join a trip up to the beautiful Montreat Conference Center, January 1-5 for the annual College Conference. Speakers this year include the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber and Jason Brown. The Conference preacher is none other than UPC's former pastor, Carla Pratt Keyes! Cost is only \$100. Please contact Mike if you are interested in joining us. Check out conference details here: <http://www.montreat.org/college/>

### Common Table

Common Table had a fantastic event this past month with Edgar Cage from Together Baton Rouge. Edgar spoke about low-access food areas in our city and ways we can respond. The students gathered were deeply engaged around this topic and several joined together to assist in food distribution through the mobile pantry in North Baton Rouge! Huge thanks to Edgar for joining us. **The next Common Table event is a Game Night on Sunday, January 24th, at 7:30 p.m.** All students are more than welcome to attend! Stay tuned or contact Mike for further details.



**Sunday, January 31, 2016**  
**Noon**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Once again the congregation is invited to submit entries for both the best pies and the best soups. The Fellowship Committee is requesting that, if possible, soup makers supply their own ladles and bring their soup in crock pots. Also, to prevent anything getting lost, we recommended that contributors label their crock pots & lids, soup pots, ladles, pie plates, etc. with their names on masking tape.



### **Wheelchair Needed**

The Nurture Committee is in need of a loaner wheelchair for the medical closet. If you have one you can donate, please contact Pat Ho at [ccpaho@cox.net](mailto:ccpaho@cox.net).



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

Please place your contribution in any of the orange barrels located around UPC.

## **HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE PCUSA!**

In a religious landscape that has been changing substantially in recent history, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its agencies have been wrestling with what these changes mean for the church, its identity, mission, and focus. The Office of the General Assembly seeks new ways to faithfully carry out the direction given by the General Assembly in the 21st century. In the midst of these changes and this collective discernment, the important question arises as to whether the purposes and mission of the agencies that have served the church in the past are right for our future as a church.

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly has called for a church-wide consultation that seeks to engage the whole denomination in a conversation about what the church is called to be and do, what it means to be a connectional church, and what our shared identity is so that the 222nd General Assembly in 2016 will be substantively informed by the insights and wisdom of congregations, councils, and agencies when it gathers in Portland to ponder these things.

What are we called to be and do as a denomination in the 21st century? The objective of this study is to engage the whole church in conversation and to provide a summary of this conversation to commissioners at the General Assembly in the summer of 2016, where they will weigh important matters of purpose, function, mission, and ministry. We have the opportunity to share our hopes and dreams about the church with the General Assembly. Will you join the conversation?

All you need to do is go to [pcusa.org/identity](http://pcusa.org/identity) and participate in the survey. You will also be given the option of getting a hard copy of the survey questions (many of which are short answer) in order to ponder your answers prior to submitting them.

**THANKS FOR BEING PART OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PRESBYTERIAN!!**

### IN MEMORIAM

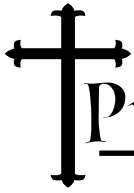
**Helen Fant, who died on November 23, 2016**



**Please remember that the parking spaces in front of the education building and behind the Parks Wilson Room are for persons who are handicapped. If you are dropping something off, please do so quickly; then move your vehicle so those who need the space can park.**

### **OFFICERS MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

The 2016 Officer Retreat will be held at  
**Feliciana Retreat Center on  
Friday, February 26, 2016  
and Saturday February 27, 2016**



# Pray For . . .

Gerri Ward • Dorothy Bankston • Cecil Jarreau  
 Dan & Ruth Bivins • Pat Kennedy • Tristyn Bemis • Tabitha Lewis  
 Betty Campbell • Jim Johnson • Gerard Klein • Kent Walker  
 Joyce Kuyper • Sue Candler • Ralph Brewer

- **Barbara Hoffman and family**, upon the death of her mother, Midge Reed, on November 28
- **Darryl Hargis**, father of Robin Evans and grandfather of Quentin Wright, in hospice care
- **Jim Hanifen**, diagnosed with prostate cancer
- **Houston Haymon**, son of Ava and Cordell, with colon cancer and facing chemotherapy
- **Nancy McCracken**, in hospice care
- **Matthew Shipe**, nephew of Kathy Perry, transferring to a correctional facility in PA
- **Glenda Mathis**, sister of Ron Garton, who had an auto-immune paralysis event and is now out of intensive care and in rehab
- **Foster Madeley**, friend of Betty Armstrong, being treated for Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- **Marcia Campbell**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, with lung cancer
- **Peggy Ourso**, sister of Susan Ourso
- **Charles Grenier**, friend of Jerry Kennedy, at home following a stroke
- **Charley Fisher**, at home recovering from spinal surgery
- **Rene Benoit**, cousin of Travis Thompson, with brain cancer
- **De Ingraham**, mother of Patti Snyder
- **Marion Boyd**, grandfather of Cheri Strain, in ailing health
- **Nita Rossman**, Regency Place Nursing Home
- **Danny Farris and his family**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum. Danny is recovering from extensive reconstructive surgery at home.
- **Mike and Gwen McDaniel**, friends of Diana Reynolds. Gwen has been diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a rather rare and aggressive cancer.
- **Kay Collier**, friend of Betty Armstrong, being treated for cancer
- **Linda Hubchen**, undergoing chemo for Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- **Paige Christian**, cousin of Mike Watson, recovering after a double mastectomy
- **Lisa Stoddard**, wife of Linda Walker's nephew, healing from 3rd degree burns
- **Gordon and Alice Holcomb**, friends of many at UPC, who were struck by an oncoming vehicle while they were crossing the street
- **Kyle Craig**, cousin of Melody Joachim
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, diagnosed with Parkinson's
- **Michelle Sager**, mother-in-law of Katie New, in Rocky Mount, NC
- **Lois Liggett**, mother of Sarah Kennedy, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Rev. John Bade**, husband of Rev. Robin McCollough-Bade
- **Molly Kennedy**, our seminary student
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister
- **Felicia Lewis**, sister-in-law of Donna Thrasher, diagnosed with lupus
- **Bill Galbreath**, Lois Kuyper-Rushing's brother-in-law, with a recurrence of lymphoma, and his wife **Ellen**, who cares for him
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- Kelly Kerr's aunts, **Mary Jane** and **Carolyn**
- **Katie and Henry Nelson**, parents of Bizza Britton
- **Cathy Paterson**, who has Huntington's Disease; **Karen Paterson**, her mother; and all H.D. families
- **Brandon Dove**, grandson of Ben Payne, with thyroid cancer
- **Anne Stewart**, mother of Kathleen Richey, diagnosed with stage three cancer
- **Val and Dan Johns**, friends of Patti Snyder. Dan is undergoing chemotherapy.
- **Kristi Hammatt**, friend of Katie Watson, and her 18-month-old daughter dealing with serious heart and lung problems
- **Beth Whelen**, friend of Debbie Abernathy
- **Nic and Rachel Ciraldo**, friends of Griff Campbell, and their 5-year-old son, **Luca**, who has kidney cancer
- **Baker, Broadmoor, Scotlandville**, and **Highland Presbyterian**, as they move through pastoral transitions
- **Hospice patients of Life Source Hospice**
- **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 Chris Whittington
- 2 Marissa Baham
- 3 Meredith Veldman
- 4 Ed Green
- 5 Juliana Sheffield
- 6 Barbara Hoffman
- 7 Lori Tucker
- 8 Jeff Perry
- 9 Gus Rowland
- 10 Griff Campbell
- 11 Pat Ho
- 12 Adam Knapp
- 13 Henry "Skeeter" Cedars
- 14 Doug Walker
- 15 Kay Lindsey
- 16 Katie Watson New
- 17 Beth Paskoff
- 18 Brannon Costello
- 19 Joe Skillen
- 20 Susan Ourso
- 21 Robin Patty & David Hall
- 22 Ann Miller
- 23 Kelley Massengale
- 24 Kelly Kerr
- 25 John Cogburn
- 26 Mary Wardlaw
- 27 Linda Babin
- 28 Johan Skillen
- 29 Jerry Kennedy
- 30 Tom Shelton
- 31 Kathy Poché

**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](http://www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

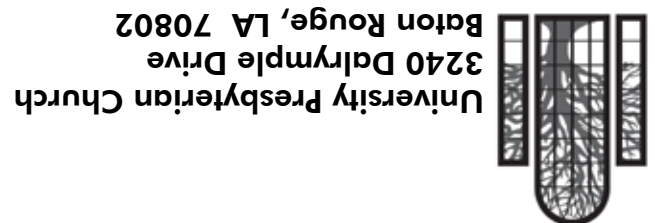
1	Christopher Austin Louie Eckhardt Alexander Gochnour	15	Kelley Massengale
2	Ben Fisher	18	April Armstrong Chase Bemis
3	Kathy Perry	20	Steve Whitting
4	Veronika Stubblebine	21	Jonathan Hoffstetter Pat Strain
6	Angela Hoffstetter Linda Lee	22	Elijah Fontenot Stafford
7	Gina Costello	25	Leslie Green Layne Motsenbocker
8	Bunny Heroman Hattie Knapp	26	Cindy Rice
10	Dorothy Jones Nicholas Patty Jacqueline Samson Jim Serra	27	Jakob Hendrix
11	Joe Scott	28	Eleanor Canon Audrey Cogburn Danielle Terry
12	Tobie Irvine	29	Claire McKinley
		31	Silas Irvine Amy Phillips

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

**\*\*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



Change Service Requested