

# UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Newsletter for church members  
and friends

February 2016

CONTACT



They say “it takes a village to raise a child.” Who “they” are seems to be up for debate. Some say the proverb is of African or Native American origin, others dispute that thought. Hillary Clinton is surely part of the “they,” as this was the focus of her 1996 book on the need for communities to show their support for families by investing in the next generation. Some suggest that her motives in writing said book were not pure, or that the book and the idea are outdated. One on-line comment I’ve read suggests that “It really only takes two involved, self-respecting, loving parents to raise a child.” To which I’d respond for a number of reasons, “Well....?”

But all of that is not why this phrase has been coming to my mind recently. And actually, the book title is simply “It Takes A Village.”

The difference is important.

It takes a village – colleagues, black lives, friends, neighbors, coaches, folks with a few years on them, teenagers, women, politicians, lesbians, fellow Americans, folks from every area of the cities in which we live, transgender folk, students, babies, therapists, clients, men, young adults, teachers, the interfaith community, librarians, mentors, friends’ parents, bosses, families of origin and choice, children, gay people – you get my drift, to help anyone grow.

Some of the current movement toward grass roots political activism (think Together Baton Rouge and the “Bern”) has gotten me thinking about just how important diversity – of input, of exposure, of thought, of all sorts - is to growth. I mean the growth of individuals, the development of families, the deepening of the church, and all sorts of growth.

Often in the church, folks say things like “we need to have good programs for children and young families because they are the future.” And “they” (there’s that word again) have a point. However, I’d suggest that young families and children are also the church’s present. Unfortunately, the idea of “investing” in this particular demographic is often really about making sure the some particular idea of church continues, that the “institution” survives. It is often spoken from a place of fear.

“It takes a village...” is, in my view, an inherently hopeful, faithful statement.

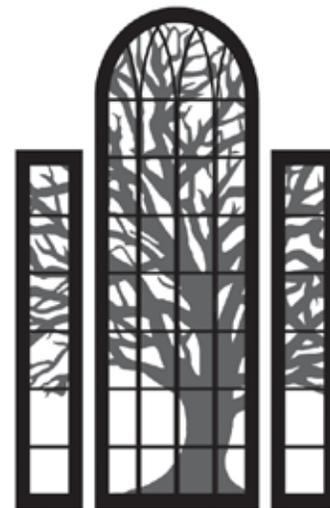
So I’m thinking today of all the people, and organizations too, who have helped “raise” me and those who even now are “raising” me to higher consciousness and deeper understanding, who are helping me grow. I’m thinking of the people and organizations that I’m “village” for as well.

Who would be on your lists? Who has been, who is, in your “village?” Who’s missing? For whom are you “village?” In what ways are you, or could you be in new ways, part of UPC’s “village?”

Blessings this Lent as we seek to be the “village” we have been called to be.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 2 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room  
10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Conference Room  
Noon Al-Anon - Library  
7:30 p.m. UPC Book Group - 2285 Cedardale
- 3 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel  
Noon Staff Meeting  
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 4 7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 7 Transfiguration Sunday** - *Mike Watson preaching, Communion*  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
**Noon Congregational Meeting**  
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 8 DAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 DAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 10 Ash Wednesday**  
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 *Ash Wednesday Service* - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11 Noon Widow Support Group - 1545 Patrick Dr.  
5:30 p.m. The Gathering - Your Mom's Restaurant, 250 W. Lee Dr.  
7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 12 5:00 p.m. Youth Retreat - Feliciana Retreat Center (*thru 2/14*)
- 13 8:00 a.m. Day School Teacher Training - Fellowship Hall  
TBA Mission & Peacemaking Volunteer Day at Restore
- 14 1st Sunday in Lent** - *Patti Snyder preaching*  
*Sermon on the Mount sermon series begins*  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 16 9:00 a.m. Stated Presbytery Meeting - Church of the Way  
10:00 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room  
Noon AlAnon - Parks Wilson Room
- 17 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel  
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana  
Noon Staff Meeting  
4:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room  
5:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Adult Ed. Subcommittee - Library  
6:00 p.m. Taizé  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 18 7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 19 6:30 p.m. Open Tables - The Italian Pie, 7731 Perkins Rd.



## UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- Patti Snyder.....psnyder@upcbr.org  
*Senior Pastor*
- Mike Watson.....mwatson@upcbr.org  
*Associate Pastor*
- Carolyn Durham.....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 Clemmons .....jclemm1@lsu.edu  
*Clerk of Session*

**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.**

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
3240 Dalrymple Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225)383-0345  
(225)383-3495 Fax  
[www.upcbr.org](http://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.

## WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP.....

Our Widows Support group will meet on Thursday, February 11th at 12 noon. We will gather at the new home of Peggy Carroll, 1545 Patrick Drive. No need to bring a brown bag lunch this time as "award winning" soup will be provided. If you haven't tried the group yet, we hope you will join us. It is a relaxed time of conversation that flows with whatever is needed. If you have any questions or need directions please call Peggy Carroll (726-7856).



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

The book club will meet February 2 to discuss a Cajun themed book, The Great Big Door Step by E.P. O'Donnell. Kathie Pohlman will offer our book selection for March 1st. For information contact Ellen Morgan at 344-3930 or [emmorgan@cox.net](mailto:emmorgan@cox.net).

## 21 2nd Sunday in Lent - 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
- 12:15 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. High School & Middle School Youth Group Bowling
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 23 Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 a.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 24 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
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 25 5:30 p.m. The Gathering - Bistro Byronz, 5412 Government St.
- 7:00 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
- 26 8:00 a.m. NAMI Conference - Parks Wilson Room & Classroom
- 6:00 p.m. UPC Officer Retreat - Feliciana Retreat Center (thru 2/27)
- 27 8:00 a.m. NAMI Conference - Parks Wilson Room & Classroom

## 28 3rd Sunday in Lent - 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 Caregivers Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 12:30 p.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
- TBA High School Youth Group Service Day
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library

## Sunday Flower Donations

Memorial Flower Donation envelopes for 2016 are available in the pews to fill out to reserve flowers for 2016 Sunday services. Available dates for donation can be found in the Sunday bulletins 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.

## Church School Volunteers Needed

The pre-K Sunday school class is looking for volunteers! Adults are needed to help the teacher during the spring semester. It is not a commitment for every Sunday; rather the goal is to have several teachers that can alternate each week. No experience with children is necessary and it is a great opportunity to have fun, relearn your bible stories and see young minds develop. If you are interested, please contact Paul Wallace at [pwallace1@bellsouth.net](mailto:pwallace1@bellsouth.net).

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**The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 7, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report on the 2016 budget, address changes in the terms of call for our pastors, and elect the 2016 Congregational Nominating Committee.**

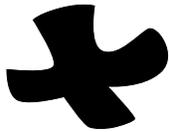
# EXPERIENCE

the stillness

the music

## the prayer

for a whole new season



# Taizé

## Sung Prayers

in the form of the ecumenical prayer community in Taizé, France

Taizé services will start February 3 at 6:00 p.m. and continue through March 16 for Lent. The February 10 service will include the imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday.

*Make Taizé a part of your Lenten preparation.*

# UKIRK

PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

UPC had a fantastic trip to the Montreat College Conference in early January. We stayed in a beautiful house along with students from St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian in New Orleans, a couple of young adult volunteers, and a student from ULL. We shared meals, laughter, and a lot of great conversation as we dug into the depths of John 3:16, a verse with a lot of baggage yet much potential. We heard from Jason Brown, former NFL player and director of the First Fruits Farm (<http://wisdomforlife.org/first-fruits-farm.html>), as well as Lutheran minister and author Nadia Bolz-Weber ([www.nadiabolzweber.com](http://www.nadiabolzweber.com)). We are grateful to the church and the Presbytery of South Louisiana for letting these trips happen!

## Youth Group

Our sadness over not having Youth Sunday this year is tempered by the excitement of the senior high class trip to Cuba this summer! We will gather for a retreat February 12-14 to do some team-building and trip preparation. We've got a lot of excitement on the horizon! Middle schoolers will join the fun the following week for a trip to the bowling alley. We'll conclude our month with a day of service. Happy Mardi Gras, everyone!

### February

- 7 NO YOUTH – Mardi Gras
- 12-14 Cuba Retreat at Feliciana (leave church at 5:00pm)
- 21 Bowling Night (Middle School Included)
- 28 Service Day

### March

- 6 Field Trip TBD (Middle School included)
- 13 Cuba Lunch Meeting
- 20 Discussion Night
- 27 NO YOUTH - Easter

## Day School Registration

Registration began on Tuesday, January 19, for our Summer 2016 and Fall/Spring 2017 school terms. Registration is open to present students, siblings of present students, and University Presbyterian Church members, on a first come, first served basis. Your registration is complete only when your registration fee, application for enrollment, contract, and habits profile are received and accepted by the Day School Office. You will receive an official acceptance letter at a later date. On Monday, February 1, registration will be open to the general public. Registration forms are available in the Day School office or by contacting the Day School at 344-8077.



**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.**



Top row pictured L to R: Linda Walker, Tom Shelton, Mindy Vande Brake, Vincent Grossi, Jane Snyder, and Amanda Richey. Bottom row pictured L to R: Mike Watson, Emily Ruppel, Rosa Campbell, Gus Britton, Natalie Adams, Benjamin Morrison, and Kasey Smith

# Christian Education at UPC 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 for the thermometer graphs in the Welcome Center showing the progress each class is making toward its goal.

### 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*

### Bible Study Class - February 7

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.

### Bible Study Class - February 14 - March 20

We Make the Road by Walking by Brian D. McLaren

This Lenten Season, small groups will study this idea of "seeking aliveness." Following a devotional book by Brian D. McLaren, groups will explore Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the gospel of Matthew. This church school class will function as a small group. For more information on small groups, check out the Lent section of this edition of Contact.

### Parks Wilson Class - February 7

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.

### Parks Wilson Class - February 14

Funny Valentine? February 14th and Presbyterians

*Teachers: Betsy Wilks and Christine Kooi*

### Parks Wilson Class - February 21 - March 20

Poets on Death: Faith and Doubt in Antebellum America

*Teacher: Jerry Kennedy*

This class will focus on Biblical passages on death, decay, and resurrection as they illuminate poems by Bryant, Longfellow, Emerson, Sigourney, Poe, Dickinson, and Whitman. The focus will be on religious revivalism, the rise of science, the onset of skepticism, and varied poetic responses to death and the afterlife.

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## Open Tables at the Italian Pie - February 19

UPC's Fellowship Committee is thrilled to announce the next Open Tables to be held at the Italian Pie, an esteemed Pizzeria located at 7731 Perkins Rd (225-761-0650, by Essen). Everyone is heartily invited to dine and socialize on Friday, February 19, at 6:30 PM.

Open Tables has become a UPC tradition to meet your friends (and make new ones) at a fine local dining establishment. Each month the Fellowship Committee aims to identify a local restaurant with good food and a friendly family atmosphere (the reader can decide for him/herself which is more important). The Committee then sets a date and spreads the word. If you have any questions or if you would like to recommend an eatery for a future event, please contact Jonathan Hubchen (225-620-8048, jhubchen@agcenter.lsu.edu). We look forward to seeing you!

# COMING ALIVE IN LENT

*“We want to be alive. To feel alive. Not just to exist but to thrive, to live out loud, walk tall, breathe free. We want to be less lonely, less exhausted, less conflicted or afraid...more awake, more grateful, more energized and purposeful...The quest for aliveness is what we’re hoping for when we pray. It’s why we gather, celebrate, eat, abstain, attend, practice, sing, and contemplate.”*

*We Make the Road by Walking: Seeking Aliveness, by Brian D. McLaren*

This Lenten Season our spiritual practices, in worship and small groups, will center on this idea of coming alive! As we move from Ash Wednesday through to resurrection Sunday, the themes of what makes for death and what makes for real life are rich. We hope that you will join in as we open ourselves to the new life God’s Spirit has in store.

## Small Groups

Small groups will study this idea of “seeking aliveness” by following a devotional book by Brian D. McLaren. Groups will explore Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in the gospel of Matthew. Groups will begin on February 14th and run throughout the season of Lent. As always, we have a few options that meet on different days and times to best accommodate your schedule. Consider joining one of these groups to meet new people, connect deeper with those you already know, and to join together in exploring one another’s faith journeys.

If you are interested in joining a group, look out for sign-up information on the website, via email, in the welcome center on Sundays, or email your interest to Christine Kooi: ckooi1@lsu.edu

## Sunday Morning Worship

During Lent this year our worship will center around the following texts from the Sermon on the Mount:

2/14 Matthew 5:1-16      3/6 Matthew 6:19-7:12  
2/21 Matthew 5:17-48      3/13 Matthew 7:13-29  
2/28 Matthew 6:1-18

These are the same texts as will be used in the small groups, worship serving as a “prelude” to the small group discussion for the week.

## Taizé

Once again we will join together to worship in the Taizé style of sung prayer each Wednesday during Lent. In keeping with our emphasis on new life, each week we will hear and meditate upon one of the biblical stories of new life.

## Devotion Box

What thoughts, meditations, prayers have come to you during this Lenten season? What images shape your experience of coming alive during this season? You can anonymously share your devotions with your church family by writing them down and placing them in the Lenten devotion box in the Welcome Center. Pieces of paper are available beside the box, at the ends of the pews, and in the Meditation Room. You can also email your thoughts to [upclent@gmail.com](mailto:upclent@gmail.com). Messages will be anonymously posted to UPC’s Facebook page and on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

## Meditation Room During Lent

The small classroom on the 2nd floor (that used to be the middle school room - Rm. 104) will be set up for meditation. Music, yoga mats, meditative art, reading material, and more will make this quiet spot perfect for a few moments on Sunday morning or anytime during the week when the building is open. Stop by and find ways to enhance your journey.

## UPC Volunteer Day at the NEW



10300 Perkins Road (behind Ethan Allen furniture store)

Saturday, February 13

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Watch the UPC website and your email for more details!

thank you  
**THANK YOU**  
**THANK YOU**

The members of the congregation were very generous donors to UPC in 2015. We had pledges of \$522,874, but actually received \$543, 315. That is \$20,441 extra! Thank you.

The congregation gave generously in other areas, too: the totals for loose offering, church school offering and other gifts were also up. We have just ended our second year of the three-year commitment to the Capital Campaign. We had anticipated receiving \$300,151 in 2015, but you actually gave \$337,982. The total gifts to UPC last year amounted to more than \$900,000. That is wonderful. Thank you so much.

We have received 110 pledges for 2016, totaling \$516,470. This is good but it is still 13 fewer pledges than in 2015, and less than was pledged in either 2014 or 2015. It is not to late for you to pledge. If you have not pledged for 2016 and wish to, please e-mail Donna Thrasher (dthrasher@upcbr.org) or call her (383-0345, x103) to tell her about your plans for giving. Remember, there are many ways that folks give to UPC with time, talent, and financial resources. While we can see the sum total of time and talents in out life together, no one knows how much any individual gives. As it comes to financial gifts, only our financial secretary, Donna Thrasher, knows how much individuals pledge and give to UPC.

On Sunday, February 7, we will present the 2016 budget to you at the Congregational Meeting.

Thank you for your many gifts of time, talent, and treasure to UPC.  
Beth Paskoff, Chair  
*Stewardship & Finance Committee*

**Contributions.....**

Please remember to write a separate check for your Capital Campaign contribution and write "CC" in the memo line of the check. This helps keep our donation totals correct.

Also, contribution envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Welcome Center. If you do not want your envelopes, please put them in Donna Thrasher's box. If you want envelopes, please contact Donna at dthrasher@upcbr.org.



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 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! 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. Our next gatherings...

**February 11**  
Your Mom's Restaurant  
250 W Lee Dr.

**February 25**  
Bistro Byronz  
5412 Government St.

**March 10**  
Tokyo Café  
7584 Bluebonnet Blvd. Ste. A

**March 24**  
Breck's Bistro  
3930 Burbank Dr. Ste. F

**IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS** *(as of 1/21/2016)*

Budget amount needed - \$9,932

Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received \$23,914

Budget amount needed - \$29,796

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 2 GIVING STATUS**

Total amount pledged - \$900,455

Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$55,405

Inception-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$766,428

**MARCH  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
February 18**

# UPC'S CUBA PARTNERSHIP AND MINISTRY

By George Strain

Have you ever wondered what's the deal with UPC and Cuba? Here's some background for you:

Presbyterians first arrived in Havana, Cuba in 1890, but this first church closed in 1895 during the Spanish-American War. In 1900 missionaries arrived and a Presbyterian ministry under the auspices of the Synod of New Jersey was begun in 1904, lasting for 60 years. In 1946 the Evangelical Theological Seminary (SET) was established in Matanzas by Presbyterians and Methodists. After the Cuban revolution in 1959, the church lost its schools and greatly shrank in membership. In 1967 it took the status of an autonomous and independent church (Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba, IPRC), maintaining fraternal relations with the PC(USA). Membership grew greatly in the 1990s following reduced government restrictions on religious organizations. The IPRC today consists of one central body, the Synod of Cuba, and three presbyteries: Havana, Matanzas, and El Centro. Most recently available data counts 53 established churches across the island but only 31 pastors for 15,000 members.

In 1988 the PC(USA) and the IPRC approved a formal partnership, its first, between the Presbytery of South Louisiana (PSL) and the Presbytery of Matanzas. After a PSL-sponsored trip to Cuba in 1989, individual church-to-church partnerships were established, with UPC's partnership being the second in the PSL and possibly the second in the US. The UPC session approved negotiating a partnership with Iglesia Presbiteriana Getsemaní in the rural town of San José de los Ramos on Oct. 21, 1990, which was formally approved by the PSL in January of 1991, 25 years ago.

Several UPC and PSL trips to Cuba occurred over the ensuing years, including a UPC youth group trip with pastor Clint Mitchell in 2004. Several Cuban ministers in turn visited UPC, including Joel Dopico, Leticia Ramos, and Daniel Izquierdo. In 2012 it was decided that the youth group's quadrennial international trip would again be to Cuba. Linda Walker and George Strain took a planning trip in March, and the youth trip occurred in July, with three adult leaders and 12 youth. Eight different churches and missions were visited, and work was performed at the San José church. At each of the churches the UPC youth met and socialized with youth from those churches. Various cultural and recreational sites were also visited.

During the 2012 planning trip it was recognized that water quality was a severe health issue at San José (and at other locations throughout the country) because of damaged sewer lines. The UPC Mission and Peacemaking Committee proposed and the Session approved making a water purification system a major investment in our partnership. Four UPC members underwent training in the PC(USA) Synod of Living Waters mission program (Living Waters for the World, LWW), and a team traveled to San José in April of 2013 to install a water treatment system and train church members in system operation and water hygiene. UPC contributions for the system components and group travel exceeded \$17,000. Participants were Patti Snyder, Debbie Serra, Linda Walker, Bob Gambrell, John Miller, and George Strain. Over 230,000 gallons of treated water have since been dispensed to members of that community. Return trips in 2014 and 2015 monitored system operation and strengthened the partnership.

A second LWW system was installed by a PSL team (including George Strain) at Matanzas Central Presbyterian Church in Nov. 2013, and a third UPC LWW system was installed in Sept. 2014 at the Havana Cuba Council of Churches (CIC) headquarters (Debbie Serra, Bob Gambrell, John Miller, Michael Strain, Jennifer Rasberry, Mariano and Bertha Hinojosa, and George Strain). LWW has been active in Cuba for seven years, and there currently are 34 LWW installations.

Our partnership with San José has encompassed much more than the LWW system. Over the years we have provided financial support through donations and worship supplies (communion set, stoles and paraments, digitized hymnals), craft/small business supplies (sewing machine, crochet supplies), infrastructure support (window screening, internet signal amplifier, computer accessories), food ministry for seniors, and seasonal cards and gifts. We also have strong friendships with pastors and members at several other IPRC churches, including Dora Arce Valentín in Varadero, El Príncipe de Paz in La Playa (Matanzas), Iglesia del Buen Pastor in Unión de Reyes (Matanzas), Luyanó in Havana, and at the Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC) in Havana.

The partnership is strong and continues to grow in our joint mission to advance the word and works of Christ.

This spring George Strain, Michael Strain, Linda Walker, Carl Motsenbocker, Cheryl Giles, Pat Wright, Julie Launey, and Mike Watson will head to Cuba again. Stay tuned for ways you can help with this important mission.

## Open House

The UPC congregation is invited to celebrate the marriage of

### Melody Joachim & Mike Watson

### Saturday, March 19, 2016

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**6630 Boone**  
Home of Jim Harifen  
and Patti Snyder



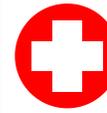
Please bring your favorite dessert recipe to share with the newlyweds.

# Pray For . . .

**Gerri Ward • Dorothy Bankston • Cecil Jarreau • Ralph Brewer  
Dan & Ruth Bivins • Pat Kennedy • Tristyn Bemis • Tabitha Lewis**

**Betty Campbell • Jim Johnson • Gerard Klein • Kent Walker • Joyce Kuyper**

- **Dianne Garton**, recovering from back surgery
- **Sue Candler**, now diagnosed with lung cancer
- **Nita Rossman**, at St. Claire Nursing Home
- **Debbie Vetvick**, daughter of General Presbyterian, Ron Sutto, recovering from surgery
- **Linda Hubchen**, with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- **Gery Price**, sister-in-law of Betty Burford, hospitalized and in serious condition
- **Jack Tillay**, father of Rachel, diagnosed with cancer
- **Jim Hanifen**, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer
- **Jane Skillen**, mother of Joe, with a recurrence of cancer necessitating another round of chemotherapy, and his father
- **Bill Mathews**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, recovering from heart surgery
- **Ashton Thrasher**, daughter of Donna Thrasher, with anemia
- **Lee Wirth**, brother of Karen Paterson, with Hodgkin's lymphoma
- **Nancy Flournoy**, godmother of Maggie Richardson, undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma
- **Darryl Hargis**, father of Robin Evans and grandfather of Quentin Wright, in hospice care
- **Houston Haymon**, son of Ava and Cordell, with colon cancer and undergoing chemotherapy
- **Nancy McCracken**, in hospice care
- **Foster Madeley**, friend of Betty Armstrong, being treated for Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- **Charles Grenier**, friend of Jerry Kennedy, at home following a stroke
- **Paige Christian**, cousin of Mike Watson
- **Lisa Stoddard**, wife of Linda Walker's nephew, healing from 3rd degree burns
- **Kyle Craig**, cousin of Melody Joachim
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, 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
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **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
- **Val and Dan Johns**, friends of Patti Snyder. Dan is undergoing chemotherapy.
- **Kristi Hammatt**, friend of Katie New, and her 18- month-old daughter dealing with serious heart and lung problems
- **Rene Benoit**, cousin of Travis Thompson, with brain cancer
- **Bill Galbreath**, Lois Kuyper-Rushing's brother-in-law, with a recurrence of lymphoma, and his wife **Ellen**, who cares for him
- **Beth Whelen**, friend of Debbie Abernathy
- **Nic and Rachel Ciraldo**, friends of Griff Campbell, and their son, **Luca**, who has kidney cancer
- **Marion Boyd**, grandfather of Cheri Strain, in ailing health
- **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.
- **Broadmoor and Scotlandville 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 OPEN
- 8 Jeff Perry
- 9 Gus Rowland
- 10 OPEN
- 11 Pat Ho
- 12 OPEN
- 13 OPEN
- 14 OPEN
- 15 Kay Lindsey
- 16 OPEN
- 17 OPEN
- 18 Brannon Costello
- 19 OPEN
- 20 Susan Ourso
- 21 Robin Patty & David Hall
- 22 Ann Miller
- 23 Kelley Massengale
- 24 Kelly Kerr
- 25 John Cogburn
- 26 OPEN
- 27 Linda Babin
- 28 OPEN
- 29 OPEN
- 30 OPEN
- 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)

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 2 Ron Garton<br>Ian Strain                              | 11 Andrew Armstrong<br>Ethan Bihm<br>Pat Ho<br>Kurt Ozier                               | 21 Robin Patty                               |
| 3 Margo Brault  |   | 22 Beverly Smiley Jones<br>Elizabeth Roberts |
| 4 Dean Angert   | 12 Jack Angert  | 23 Cheryl Giles<br>Joyce Moreland            |
| 6 Ellen Gochnour<br>April Whitting                      | 13 Kay Broders  | 25 Dana Trahan                               |
| 7 Barbara Gray<br>Robbie Phillabaum<br>Shannon Stafford | 14 Cheryl Walker<br>Hasten  | 26 Christopher Carroll<br>Blythe Trosclair   |
|   | 18 Stephen Hoffman  |  |
| 10 Ryan Black<br>Amy Braymer                            | 20 Miles Freeman<br>Graham Nichols<br>Ashley Reeves<br>Greer Rice<br>Timothy Terry, Jr. |  |

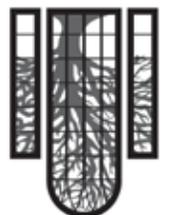
**PEOPLE ARE  
HUNGRY!!  
DONATIONS  
ARE NEEDED!!  
The Greater  
Baton Rouge  
Food Bank  
needs your  
help!**

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

**\*\*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