

**UNIVERSITY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*Newsletter for church members  
and friends*

December 2016  
January 2017

**CONTACT**



It's that time of year. It's the time for family gatherings, dinners with friends, and parties of many sorts. It's also the time for scheduling crunches, budget blowing shopping, and often - perhaps even more so in the wake of this year's political season - tense or shallow conversations over turkey or cocktails.

It's that time of year. It's the time for the offering of our pledges of support for the work of UPC in the coming year, officer preparation, committee repopulating, gifts for children in need, epiphany stars. It's also the time - in 2017 - to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ministry of UPC, to prepare for the time of my Sabbatical (February-June of 2017), and to open our doors once again, this time to share our space with folks coming from all over the country to help in the rebuilding of South Louisiana after the flood of 2016. *(See the article on page 7)*

It's time, once again, to be serious about hospitality.

Most of us think of hospitality just in terms of having folks over and being nice or welcoming. Yes, there's something to that. However, there's more to it than that. Hospitality is also about being able to receive the invitation of others into their homes, churches, or hearts. Hospitality is about welcoming the stranger and, as St. Benedict, put it "seeing the face of Christ." Or perhaps seeing someone on the other side of the table or political divide and seeing the face of Christ. Or maybe for you it is being able to look in the mirror and daring to see Christ in your own reflection. Hospitality is inherently about making all kinds of room.

In Presbyterian pastor Nanette Sawyer's book Hospitality-the Sacred Art, she claims hospitality as the calling to radical openness, self-discipline, and a willingness to be changed by the other. She suggests that the practices of receptivity, reverence, and generosity are the hallmarks of the spiritual practice of hospitality.

So wonder with me, would you? How might I, how might we, how might you approach this time with receptivity, reverence, and generosity? Think about it for a moment.

How might we show hospitality to God in our daily lives? How might we show hospitality to our authentic selves? How might we show hospitality, our full presence, to those closest to us? How might we show hospitality to those nearby, pursuing kinship and genuine relationship rather than polite distance? How might we extend hospitality to those we might think of as enemies?

How might the concepts of receptivity, reverence, and generosity impact our giving, our holiday celebrations and conversations, our use of time, our thoughts about the next year or the next 75 years of this church's life, our commitments?

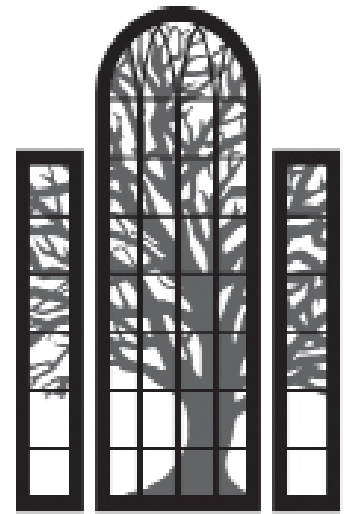
It is a challenging season, an exciting time. Perhaps we will make it not just about good old Southern hospitality but make room for a different kind of hospitality?

May the season of Christ's coming stir us once again to make room in the inn.

With love,

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 Noon Glasgow Middle School Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Glasgow Middle School Choir Christmas Concert - Sanctuary
- 2 8:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock In - Area 51
- 3 TBA Choir Christmas Party - 7401 Sevenoaks
- 4 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  
Noon Advent Alternative Gift Event - Fellowship Hall  
2:00 p.m. Music Club of BR Women's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room  
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 5 11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room  
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 6 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room  
Noon Al-Anon - Library  
5:45 p.m. UPC Book Group Christmas Party - Parrain's  
6:00 p.m. Day School Teacher Training - Conference Room  
6:00 p.m. TBR Community Gala - Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church
- 7 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
- 8 Noon Widows Support Group - Parks Wilson Room  
12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room  
6:00 p.m. Day School Staff Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting - Conference Room
- 11 3rd Sunday of Advent - Patti Snyder preaching, Howell Baptism, New Members**  
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 - Parks Wilson Room  
12:15 p.m. Middle & High School Youth Groups Gift Wrapping - FS Hall  
2:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room  
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library  
5:30 p.m. Advent Event - Cookies and Caroling - Fellowship Hall
- 12 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 13 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee Christmas Breakfast - 505 LSU Avenue  
Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room  
7:00 p.m. NAMI Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Star Party - 6630 Boone
- 14 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel  
Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana  
Noon Staff Meeting  
5:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Adult Ed. - Library  
6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 15 6:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party - 3839 Claycut Rd.
- 16 6:00 p.m. Officer Christmas Party - 1222 Kimbro
- 18 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  
4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library  
6:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room



## 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 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



## 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE.....

Contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by 12-31-16 to be reflected on your 2016 Contribution Statement. Stock donations must be in UPC's name on 12-31-16 to be counted as a 2016 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).

## 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:

- Monday, December 12
- Tuesday, December 13
- Tuesday, December 27
- Wednesday, December 28
- Thursday, December 29

If you are able to help, please email Pat Wright at [li-mu@att.net](mailto:li-mu@att.net) or call 225-276-2092.

## 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, December 8 and January 12, at noon in the Parks Wilson Room. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. This is a relaxed time of conversation that flows with whatever is needed. If you have any questions, please call Peggy Carroll (726-7856).

## HELPING HANDS.....

Helping Hands will not meet in December. At our January gathering on January 17 at 9:30 a.m., we will make 20 bags for the beds in our dorm. Bring your sewing machines and join us in the Conference Room.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR *continued*

- 20 Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 5:30 p.m. New Officer Preparation - Conference Room
- 21 Noon Staff Meeting
- Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY** - *Patti Snyder preaching, Communion*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (**ONE SERVICE ONLY**)
- 26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 **1st Sunday After Christmas** - *Patti Snyder preaching*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (**ONE SERVICE ONLY**)
- 2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 3 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
- 4 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
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 8 **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
- 9 5:30 p.m. New Officer Preparation - Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Library
- 10 Noon Al-Anon - Sr. High Room
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Com. - 6630 Boone
- 11 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
- 12 Noon Widows Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Budget Meeting - Conference Room
- 14 10:00 a.m. PWPSL - Parks Wilson Room
- 15 **2nd Sunday After the Epiphany** - *Mike Watson 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
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 6:30 p.m. Joint Session/Deaconate Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 16 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
- CHURCH OFFICE AND DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
- 17 10:00 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
- Noon Al-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 5:30 p.m. New Officer Preparation - Conference Room



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

**December 6**

Christmas Celebration 5:45 p.m.  
at Parrain's on Perkins Rd.

**January 3**

Kitchens of the Great Midwest  
by J. Ryan Stradal

**Spread the Joy!**

This holiday season UPC will again be working with Catholic Charities and Presbyterian Childrens Home and Services to provide Christmas gifts for children. Sunday Mornings through December 4, members of the Mission and Peacemaking Committee will distribute names and wish lists of local children for the congregation to shop for. Cash donations also will be used by senior high youth to shop. Each year UPC helps provide a happier Christmas for more than 70 local children. Please stop by the table in the Welcome Center. Contact Jim Hanifen if you haven't received a name and would like to participate. **All wrapped gifts must be returned to UPC by December 11.**

**Prayer Concerns**

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.

**JANUARY CALENDAR** *continued*

- 18 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 3rd 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
- 12:15 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 12:15 p.m. Session Meeting for the Examination of Officers - Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 24 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 25 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 4th Sunday after the Epiphany** - *Patti Snyder preaching*  
*Ordination and 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
- 12:15 p.m. Soup & Pie Luncheon - Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 p.m. Caregivers Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
- 4:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
- 4:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous - Library
- 31 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room

**Presbyterian Women News**

The PW Day Circle welcomes women and men to its monthly Bible Study and Fellowship. At its November meeting, **the Day Circle collected \$315 for the Churchwide PW Thank Offering**, which sponsors grants in the US and abroad for efforts serving women and children.

**Please join us on Tuesday, December 6**, at 10:00 a.m., in the Parks Wilson Room for our annual Christmas party. Lee Jenkins will lead the discussion of Lesson 4, "Who is Jesus, According to John?" We will celebrate Christmas by each bringing finger food to share. We will also be collecting new twin bed blankets to donate to youth in need through the LSU School of Social Work.

**The January Day Circle meeting is January 3.** Barbara Hoffman will lead the Bible study, "Who is Jesus, According to Paul?" Bags of small toiletries and snacks will be assembled for distributing to homeless people. Bunny Heroman will provide refreshments.



# Advent and Christmas at UPC

## Advent and Christmas Worship

*“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though being in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.” (Phil 2:5-7)*

*The current calendar year culminates with the hopeful expectation for a miraculous birth. Jesus’ lowly beginnings and his model of humility set the tone for a season and a faith that begins small but grows into the fulfillment of great longing. Advent reminds us of the humble roots of the Christ-child, the expectation of “a new and glorious morn,” and our own need to live into the way. This advent we will consider together what can come from small or simple beginnings.*

## First Week in Advent

### November 27 First Sunday in Advent

*Mike Watson preaching  
Communion - intinction  
Charlotte New baptism*

### November 30 Taizé Service - Sanctuary 6 p.m.

*A simple candlelit service of sung prayer and intercession*

## Second Week in Advent

### December 4 Second Sunday in Advent

*Patti Snyder, preaching*

### December 7 Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

## Third Week in Advent

### December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

*Patti Snyder preaching  
Reception of new members  
Adam Howell baptism*

### December 14 Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

## Fourth Week in Advent

### December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Mike Watson preaching  
Christmas Joy Offering*

### December 21 Taizé Service – Sanctuary 6 p.m.

### 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*

### December 25 Christmas Day

*One Service – 11:00 am (no church school)  
Patti Snyder preaching  
Communion is celebrated*

### January 1 First Sunday in the Christmas Season

*One Service – 11:00 am (no church school)  
Patti Snyder, preaching*

## Advent and Christmas Season Festivities

### December 4 - Advent Alternative Gift Event - Noon

*The Christian Education Committee is once again sponsoring an Alternative Gift Fair after the worship services on the second Sunday of Advent. The children and youth church school classes will be selling items to raise money for their class heifer project fundraisers. Mission and Peacemaking will also be present with a fundraiser for a mission partner of ours, Habitat for Humanity. Help contribute to our vegetarian potluck by bringing a dish to share! See you there.*

### December 6 - Book Club Christmas Dinner - 5:30 p.m.

*Parrain’s on Perkins*

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

*Fellowship Hall*

### December 11 - Caroling Extravaganza - 5:30 p.m.

*We’ll gather for fellowship, soup, and **new to 2016**: a cookie swap! Bring your best cookies and we’ll load up on sweets before heading out to sing Christmas carols.*

- 5:30: Soup and Cookies in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:30: Caroling around the city Falalalala or Bust!

### December 13 - Mission & Peacemaking Chili & Star Party - 6:00 p.m.

*Jim & Patti’s, 6630 Boone*

### December 15 - Staff Christmas Party - 6:00 p.m.

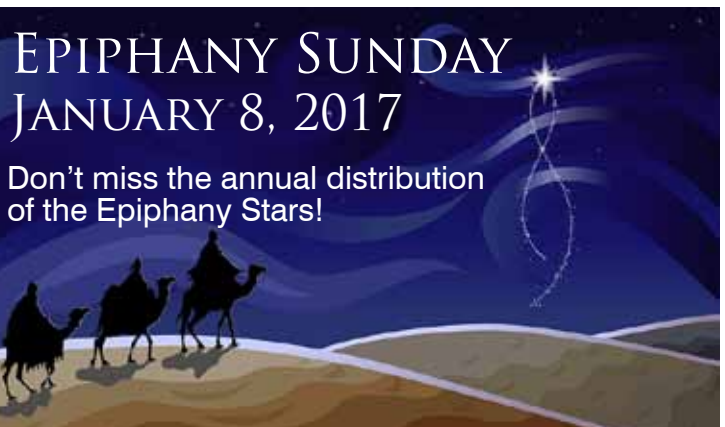
*Mike & Melody’s, 3839 Claycut*

### December 16 - UPC Officers Christmas Party - 6:00 p.m.

*Ed & Bizza’s, 1222 Kimbro*

### December 18 - Christmas Pajama Movie Night - 6:30 p.m.

*What, you say tacky Christmas sweater competitions are passé? No problem! Introducing UPC’s First Annual Christmas Pajama Movie Night. There will be a competition for the best festive Christmas pajamas. Cider, hot chocolate, and snacks provided. We’ll watch the movie out in the courtyard so make sure to BYOB (blanket)!*



## Youth Group

Sorting through craft supplies is a great time to chat about what's going on in our world. The youth group has worked hard this month to help clear space for our upcoming guests in the hospitality hall. While testing markers, throwing out old supplies, and sorting paper, we also had a chance to talk about the fear and anxiety in our world and in school. Our youth have been raised well to care deeply for those who are marginalized. May this care continue to develop into action.

### Upcoming Schedule:

December 2 (Friday 8:00 p.m.)

Youth Lock-In at Area 51

December 11 (noon - 2 p.m.)

Christmas Gift Wrapping

January 15 (info TBA)

PSL Youth Day of Service

January 22

Middle School recreation activity

January 29

Senior High recreation activity

## Christian Education at UPC 2016-2017

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

Godly Play helps our children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Join us on Sundays as we play together.

Teachers: Pat Strain, Griff Campbell, Betty Shelton, Linda Green

### Elementary (Grades 1-5) Room TBD

Feasting on the Word for children is a lectionary based curriculum that connects with the church's lectionary cycle. Once a month, this class will focus directly on worship and music. This class will help connect the worship experience in a meaningful way with what is going on in church school. Teacher: Betsy Wilks

Shepherds: Linda Walker, Mary Mikell, Maggie Richardson

### Middle School (Grades 6-8) Library

We will be using a new service-learning-based approach that will combine lessons from church school into youth group activities, which will occur monthly. The Middle School offering will be used in conjunction with the service learning projects. We will use Faith Practices curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ.

Teachers: Kelly Kerr, Jill Clemmons

### Senior High (Grades 9-12) Gather in Welcome Center

The Senior High church school class continues its tradition of faith conversation walks to a caffeinated holy place (Highland Coffees). We will be following the Feasting on the Word lectionary cycle Bible studies, along with periodical topical conversations.

Teachers: Kurt Ozier, Kelley Massengale, Ed Peterson, Cynthia Peterson

## Sunday Flower Donations

Beautiful flowers appear every Sunday thanks to a dedicated group of UPC folks. This year's flower arrangements have been provided by Eleanor Canon, Anita Melon, Kenton Cooper, Tom and Betty Shelton, and Peggy Carroll. Your donations make such wonderful tributes possible. Right now it is time to make next year's flower schedule. If you would like to join our group to try your hand at flowers, please contact Peggy Carroll, peggoc@yahoo.com or 726-7856. It's fun!

Memorial Flower Donation envelopes for 2017 are available in the pews for you to fill out to reserve flowers for 2017 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.

### Adult Bible Study Class Conference Room (122)

The Bible Study class will join the Parks Wilson class for the season of Advent. In January, the adult Bible Study class will continue its journey through Brian McLaren's We Make the Road by Walking. These classes follow the church year through exploring different Scripture readings as they relate to the roads we all walk in our lives. This class is group facilitated and all are welcome to join at any time.

### Adult Parks Wilson Class Parks Wilson Room (108)

TED talks, "ideas worth spreading," will spark UPC members' thinking about such topics as the nature of faith, the power of forgiveness, catalysts for spiritual awakening, and race and gender issues. We will watch a short TED talk followed by discussion.

- 11/27 Hope: The Power of Vulnerability, Brené Brown  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/brene\\_brown\\_on\\_vulnerability?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability?language=en)
- 12/4 Peace: Can a Divided America Heal? Jonathan Haidt  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan\\_haidt\\_can\\_a\\_divided\\_america\\_heal](https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_can_a_divided_america_heal)
- 12/11 Joy: A conversation about happiness, joy, gratitude, David Steindl  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_steindl\\_rast\\_want\\_to\\_be\\_happy\\_be\\_grateful](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_steindl_rast_want_to_be_happy_be_grateful)
- 12/18 Love: Reconnecting with Compassion, Krista Tippett  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/krista\\_tippett\\_reconnecting\\_with\\_compassion?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/krista_tippett_reconnecting_with_compassion?language=en)
- 1/8 Resolutions: My Year of Living Biblically, AJ Jacobs  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/a\\_j\\_jacobs\\_year\\_of\\_living\\_biblically?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/a_j_jacobs_year_of_living_biblically?language=en)
- 1/15 Moving from Anger to Action, Kailash Satyarthi  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/kailash\\_satyarthi\\_how\\_to\\_make\\_peace\\_get\\_angry](https://www.ted.com/talks/kailash_satyarthi_how_to_make_peace_get_angry)
- 1/22 Injustices in Incarceration, Bryan Stevenson  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan\\_stevenson\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_an\\_injustice?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice?language=en)
- 1/29 TED Class. What faith communities can learn from campus queer kids, Jessica Rathbun-Cook  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzKRu2fkZrU&feature=youtu.be>



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.

# HOSPITALITY HALL

WE'RE NOT DONE WITH OUR WELCOME!

Many of you remember how we opened our doors after Katrina to new mothers and their families and then to volunteers who came to Louisiana to help. All of you are quite familiar with our hospitality to similar families and to the Nechama work groups after this summer's floods. Now it's time for the next chapter!

The Session recently approved the opening of what we're calling "Hospitality Hall." Once again our dorm space on the second floor over the Parks Wilson Room will be home to volunteers coming to Louisiana to help rebuild. We are entering into a partnership with the Presbytery of South Louisiana, Americorps, PCUSA's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, and two other Presbyterian Churches (First Presbyterian in Lafayette and First Presbyterian in Hammond) to welcome, host, and put to work teams of volunteers coming to us from churches all around the country to help those most in need in our area to rebuild. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's call center will register and assign the groups to a location; the Presbytery is providing a program coordinator – Christina Drake; there will be Americorps workers coordinating each church site and facilitating each team's work with a local agency, and we will provide housing. Contact Mary Mikell or Victoria Robertson to find out how you can help!

*Greetings to the entire University Presbyterian Church community,*

*Mark McGilvery with NECHAMA here. I don't know where to begin. Honestly, I don't have a clue... You all opened your hearts, kitchens, arms, church, adorable babies, volunteers, donations and so much more to NECHAMA and, more importantly, to your Baton Rouge community during their darkest of hours.*

*I have been doing my work long enough to know that when the fires are burning post disaster, one's truest stripes are always revealed. Some will run towards the trouble initially to help. Others may stick around a bit longer until the adrenaline wears off. However, bravery truly begins long after the dust settles (water recedes) and it is no longer convenient to help those in need. For several months now, the entire UPC community has continued to fight for those in need. That's courage! That's character! That's love! Your true stripes are beautiful. The cumulative effect of these acts of kindness and generosity IS what will repair the world around you in Baton Rouge.*

*Over the last 75 days in Baton Rouge, TOGETHER, we were able to utilize 600+ volunteers to contribute 15,000 hours of direct cleanup assistance to 114 families! Every second of every hour of service was provided completely free of charge to the flood survivors! How remarkable is all that!? You all are to thank for this! YOU ALL!*

*There are times when I leave a community behind and I am so fearful of what's to come for those in need. I have no such fear this time around. Will there be challenges ahead with the ongoing recovery efforts? Yes, certainly. However, every one of you is a wonderful example that we can change the world around us and I have no doubt that's what the UPC community will continue to do for those recovering in Baton Rouge.*

*My words will undoubtedly fall short of the feelings I have in my heart for each of you. Thank you.*

*Regards,*

*Mark Jude McGilvery*

*From the moment Ms. Mary opened the church doors to us back in August, NECHAMA felt so loved. That's something I'll forever remember. Thank you.*

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

UPC THROUGH THE DECADES

Members past and present are invited to join us during 2017 as University Presbyterian Church celebrates 75 years of ministry to the Baton Rouge community. For eight Sundays beginning January 8, 2017, we will come together in worship to commemorate the history of our church through the decades. Look for our "Share the Decades" box where you can contribute some of your own memories of the life of UPC. Sunday, February 26, will conclude our anniversary celebration with a potluck luncheon, where all members are invited to dress to represent their favorite decade...from the 1940's to the present. So let's go "Back to the Future" and dare to imagine what the next 75 years will bring!



*Luncheon*

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**

**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.

**FEBRUARY  
CONTACT  
DEADLINE  
JANUARY 18**

## MY CUBA REFLECTION

by Sam Wallace

Traveling to Cuba was an amazing experience. Meeting new people and exploring a new culture, as I prepared to leave home for college, expanded my understanding of God's love and generosity in people. I had a lot of fun spending time with our sister church and the activities planned in the more scenic destinations. Situated in such a pivotal time in politics and my own life, this was a trip that I will remember for a long time.

## Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

It's not too late to make your pledge to UPC for our 75th Anniversary and Stewardship Campaign for this coming year. Pledge cards as well as time and talent forms can be found in each pew. For this year's Stewardship Campaign, as of November 21, 2016, we have received 66 pledges for a total of \$368,852. The church's budget in 2017 requires \$147,618 more in pledges for the year in order to continue our current mission pathways. Make your pledge today for the future ministry of UPC in 2017!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COUNTDOWN 2017

### Pledges for the Capital Campaign Countdown as of 11/21/16

Countdown total:	for 2016	\$6,575
	for 2017	\$137,786

### IDENTIFIED GIVING STATUS (as of 11/21/2016)

Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$468,788  
Budget amount needed - \$466,809

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 2 GIVING STATUS

Total amount pledged - \$900,455  
Year-to-Date Giving: amount actually received - \$223,257  
**Remaining loan payable - \$325,099**

## CUBA CORNER

The Living Waters for the World water filtration system installed by UPC in April 2013 has produced 354,550 gallons of clean water for their sister church La Iglesia Presbiteriana Getsemani and surrounding community in San José de los Ramos, Cuba as of November 5th, as reported by operators Susana and Manuel Arrevalos. Gracias a Dios!

*Photo taken outside the gates of the Seminary in Matanzas. Please note the box of the yarn and other small gifts donated by members of UPC!*



*David Cortes, Mission Co-worker and professor of New Testament and Greek at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas receives the computer donated by UPC's George Armstrong for a new student, delivered by Linda Walker.*



*Edelberto Valdés Fleites attended the Cuba Partners Network meeting in New Orleans in September 2015 during his tour as one of the PCUSA International Peacemakers. He said he was given this shirt while visiting Tampa, FL.*

See more photos on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center! And watch for news of future programs and mission trips to Cuba. If you would like more information about UPC's 25 year partnership with a small rural church in San José de Ramos, please contact Debbie Serra (co-chair of Mission & Peacemaking Committee, and coordinator of PSL Living Waters for the World) or Linda Walker.



# Prayer Requests

To add a name, remove a name, or update information on our prayer list, please contact the church office by noon on Thursday at [cdurham@upcbr.org](mailto:cdurham@upcbr.org).

- Ruth Bivins • Tristyn Bemis • Tabitha Lewis • Don Snyder • Gerri Ward  
Betty Campbell • Gerard Klein • Kent Walker • Joyce Kuyper  
Pat Kennedy • Dorothy Bankston • Judy Eubanks • Charles Granier**
- **Lee Wirth**, brother of Karen Paterson, in Florida with returning lymphoma
  - **LiAnn Larguier**, friend of Cindy Rice, with cancer
  - **Val and Dan Johns**, friends of Patti Snyder. Dan is in end stage cancer.
  - **Barbara Gant**, friend of Dianne Garton, with bone cancer
  - **John Harrison Doucet**, 20-year-old distant cousin of Anne Miller, who was electrocuted and is in the burn hospital in Augusta, GA
  - **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
  - **Jeffrey Thrasher**, husband of Donna, recovering from surgery to remove a kidney
  - **Jitte Vanhaelen**, cousin of Christine Kooi, with bone cancer
  - **Talia Daigre**, struggling with mental health issues
  - **Michelle Jeansonne**, daughter of visitor Susan Jeansonne, friend of Linda and Doug Walker, undergoing radiation therapy
  - **Deborah Landau**, Eleanor Canon's former neighbor, with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
  - **Melanie Driscoll**, with chronic Lyme Disease
  - **Jack Tillay**, father of Rachel, diagnosed with cancer
  - **Bill Mathews**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum
  - **Nancy McCracken**, in hospice care
  - **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
  - **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister
  - **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
  - **Beth Whelen**, friend of Debbie Abernathy
  - **Nic and Rachel Ciraldo**, friends of Griff Campbell, and their son, Luca, who has kidney cancer
  - **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.
  - **Paige Christian**, cousin of Mike Watson
  - **Kyle Craig**, cousin of Melody Watson
  - **Cathy Paterson**, who has Huntington's Disease; Karen Paterson, her mother; and all H.D. families
  - **Kristi Hammatt**, friend of Katie New, and her daughter dealing with serious heart and lung problems
  - **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 La Pastora, Leticia Ramos Portieles, serving as its interim pastor**



## HOSPITAL VISITS BY UPC OFFICERS

- 1 Chris Whittington
- 2 Marissa Baham
- 3 Meredith Veldman
- 4 Ed Green
- 5 Juliana Sheffield
- 6 Barbara Hoffman
- 7 Jerry Trahan
- 8 Jeff Perry
- 9 Gus Rowland
- 10 Jane Smith
- 11 Pat Ho
- 12 Victoria Robertson
- 13 Alicia Lewis
- 14 Andreas Giger
- 15 Kay Lindsey
- 16 Daniel Burch
- 17 Michael Strain
- 18 Brannon Costello
- 19 June Klimash
- 20 Susan Ourso
- 21 Robin Patty & David Hall
- 22 Ann Miller
- 23 Kelley Massengale
- 24 Kelly Kerr
- 25 John Cogburn
- 26 Robbie Phillabaum
- 27 Linda Babin
- 28 Bizza Britton
- 29 Leslie Green
- 30 Bunny Heroman
- 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

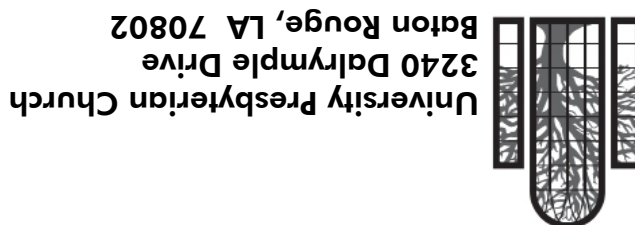
1	Christopher Austin Louie Eckhardt Alexander Gochnour	18	April Armstrong Chase Bemis
2	Ben Fisher	20	Steve Whitting
3	Kathy Perry	21	Jonathan Hoffstetter Pat Strain
4	Veronika Stubblebine	22	Elijah Fontenot Stafford
6	Angela Hoffstetter Linda Lee	25	Leslie Green Layne Motsenbocker
7	Gina Costello	26	Cindy Rice Anna-Karin Skillen
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	29	Claire McKinley
12	Tobie Irvine	31	Silas Irvine Amy Phillips
15	Kelley Massengale		

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Kenneth Owens	22	Griffin Campbell
4	Jo Ann Lea	24	Bill Stubblebine
6	Kathleen Richey	25	Richard Kilgore Lynne Wallace
8	Paul Nguyen	26	Doug Brown
9	Dianne Garton	29	Kathy Poché Jan Reeves
10	Suzanne Trahan	30	Rachel Gellrich Mitch Patty
12	Cordell Haymon Gerard Klein Carl Motsenbocker Jeff Perry	31	Albert Adjaottor Donna Schlotzhauer
15	Deanna Black Jennifer Bravinder		
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



Change Service Requested