

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Newsletter for church members
and friends

May 2018

CONTACT



May always surprises me. I always think that it's going to be a low-key month. I'm always wrong.

This May our worship will be chock full and varied - with baptisms, communion, the Shower of Stoles, a commissioning service, Education Sunday, a hymn sing, and lots of new liturgy from the new Book of Common Worship! We'll have a Taizé service and a memorial for Malcolm Reynolds. This May we'll be gathering for the annual crawfish boil, hosting volunteers from the Presbytery of the Pacific, and some of us are headed to Cuba! This May we will be deep into filling out our surveys to keep the UPC Moving Forward project, well...moving forward, and then we'll be figuring out what we'll DO to incorporate what we learn into our lives together. This May we continue to be "low" on staff hours, particularly with the recent resignation of Financial Secretary, Donna Thrasher. This May I have a family graduation, a couple of weddings, an anniversary, a board meeting in Chicago, and a quick visit to cheer on an old friend in a bike race. I know your calendars are equally full with end of school year activities and on and on.

May is an easy month to get overwhelmed or at least, as my dear husband puts it, "whelmed," if not downright anxious. I thought it might be a good moment, as we enter into the joy, the change, the variety, the expectations, the hopes, the sorrows, the responsibilities and all the rest of May to start with some wisdom from the gospel of Matthew originally addressing concerns about food and drink and dress, about what we have and look like. But that also applies to busyness and anxiety about life in general. I'm sure you remember the words from the Beatitudes, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink..." Eugene Peterson concludes his translation (Called The Message) of this segment of the gospel this way:

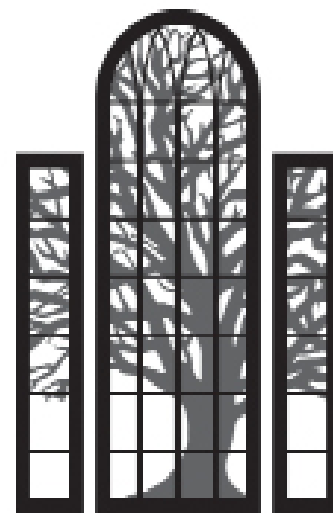
"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

Indeed, in all that we do, paying attention, not just to our calendars and our to-do lists, or to what we anticipate either with joy or fear, but to what we sense God is up to right now, in the midst of all of it, is key. It is key to not just making it through this or any other month, but to doing so without missing the blessing in every day.

God is at work, right now, in your life, in my life, in our lives together; let's pay attention!

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room
 10:00 a.m. Day Circle - Parks Wilson Room
 Noon AIAnon - Library
 7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 287 Baird Drive
- 2 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 3 6:30 p.m. Hospitality Community Dinner - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. Day School Art Show - Fellowship Hall
- 6 6th Sunday of Easter** - *Patti Snyder preaching, New Members, Baptism*
 8:30 a.m. Worship
 9:45 a.m. Church School
 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting - Library
 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 7 11:30 a.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 8 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 Noon TBR Lunch - Location TBA
 12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
 6:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Com. - City Club, 355 North Blvd.
 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 9 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - Library
 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 10 1:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 12 8:30 a.m. Day School Teacher Training - Fellowship Hall
 8:30 a.m. Sign Language Testing - Conference Room
- 13 7th Sunday of Sunday** - *ONE SERVICE STARTS, Randy Nichols preaching*
CE Sunday, Teacher Appreciation, Mother's Day
 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
- 14 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 15 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
- 16 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana
 5:30 p.m. Personnel and Administration Committee - Library
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 17 1:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 19 2:00 p.m. Malcolm Reynolds Memorial Service - Sanctuary
- 20 Pentecost Sunday** - *Patti Snyder preaching, Shower of Stoles, Communion*
 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. UPC Crawfish Boil - Courtyard
 2:30 p.m. New Orleans Gay Mens Chorus Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
- 22 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 23 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
 Noon UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana



UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- Patti Snyder.....psnyder@upcbr.org
Senior Pastor
- Betsy Irvine.....birvine@ladeltacorps.org
Temporary Part-time Pastor Associate
- Carolyn Durham.....cdurham@upcbr.org
Administrative Secretary
- Amy Vidrine.....avidrine@upcbr.org
Financial Secretary
- Stuart Dameron.....stuardameron@gmail.com
Choir Director
- Anne Maverick.....amaverick50@gmail.com
Organist
- Terry G. Iyasere.....upcdayschool@yahoo.com
Day School Director
- Jeff Perry.....jperry@lsu.edu
Clerk of Session

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

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70802
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OFFICE NOTES



THERE'S ART IN THE NICHE IN THE WELCOME CENTER!

The Welcome Center niche enjoyed the slate paintings of Beverly Smiley Jones for the month of April. We are looking forward to photography by Anita Melon in May. Don't forget to contact Peggy Carroll at peggoc@yahoo.com to share something in the niche.

CALLING ALL GRADS...

If you are graduating in May, we want to hear from you! Please send information about where you are graduating from and what your future plans are to the church office at cdurham@upcbr.org so we can share your great accomplishment with the congregation in the June/July issue of CONTACT!

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.

UPC DIRECTORY.....

An update to the UPC Directory is currently available in the Welcome Center between Sunday services, or you may obtain one by contacting the church office. One copy per family.

MAY CALENDAR *continued*

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 24 | 6:30p.m. | Hospitality Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall |
| 27 | Trinity Sunday | - Memorial Day Weekend "New Fashioned" Hymn-Sing |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Caregivers Support Group - Parks Wilson Room |
| 28 | MEMORIAL DAY | |
| | | Day School and Church Office Closed |
| 29 | Day School Closed for Teacher Training | |
| | Noon | AlAnon - Parks Wilson Room |
| 30 | Day School Closed for Teacher Training | |
| | Noon | UPC Fun Club - BJ's Restaurant - Mall of Louisiana |
| 31 | 1:45 p.m. | Staff Meeting |

Memorial Day Weekend "New Fashioned" Hymn-Sing

You know you have your favorite hymns – the ones you grew up with, the ones that stay in your head all Sunday afternoon, the ones that one or another "new" hymnbook taught you, and the ones that you want sung at your funeral. Some of you will even admit that you'd just as soon sing a bunch of hymns on Sunday as hear a sermon! Well, this is your chance to suggest your favorite(s) and to join in singing (or listening to if you're one who doesn't actually sing) UPC's top 10 in worship.

On Sunday, May 27th we'll be having "New Fashioned" Hymn-Sing in worship. Not "Old Fashioned" because we won't be calling out hymns from the pews, but "New Fashioned" because on two Sundays earlier in the month (May 6th and 13th), you'll have the chance to nominate your favorites at a table set up in the Welcome Center. The hymns with the most nominations will be included in worship on the 27th. There will be hymnbooks available to prod your thinking, and then you just write your favorite titles and what makes each one a favorite on slips of paper, put the slips in the glass jar, and come back on the 27th to see if one of your nominees made the cut. So.....top 10? What do you think will make the cut?

UPC HEADS TO CUBA

Four staunch UPC members (Carl Motsenbocker, Edward Peterson, Frances Sullivan-Gonzalez, and George Strain) will be traveling to Cuba the week of May 7-12 to reconnect with our partner church in San José de los Ramos. Our church partner of 25+ years has a new "pastora" - Zorky Crespo, and a new assistant (candidato al pastorado) – Anier González. There is also a new operator of our Living Waters treatment system - Yeni Lezcano. There is much change in Cuba, both with our partner church and nationally with the replacement of Raúl Castro with Miguel Diaz-Canel as president. The group will also visit the church in Varadero, the seminary in Matanzas, and the Cuban Council of Churches in Havana. ¡Buen viaje!



UPC Day School Art Show

May 3, 2018 • 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



The **UPC Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
287 Baird Drive

May 1 The Island of Dr. Moreau
by H.G. Wells

June 5 The Underground Railroad
by Colson Whitehead

CE SUNDAY

Sunday, May 13

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 13th. This is a special Sunday when we honor all of the wonderful people who have taught our children, youth, and adults for the past year. We will also honor the hard-working youth advisors of our Middle and High school youth groups.

Christian education is one of the ways we nourish one another in the faith and teach about our tradition and mission as a church. Education is more than the hour between the 8:30 and the 11:00 service. Christian education also includes our Bible studies, small group studies, youth group, and mission trips. In addition to the many people who have served as teachers, assistants, group facilitators, and shepherds, we also take this time to recognize the children and youth who are in transition from kindergarten to elementary, from elementary to Middle school (5th grade moving to 6th), those moving into high school, and, of course, our graduating seniors. We mark these transitions with special gifts to remind everyone that we are part of a living and always learning body of Christ in the world.

To honor our many teachers, the CE committee has planted two fruit trees at the edge of the UPC parking lot. The fruit trees will not only provide us with delicious satsumas and lemons (some day!) but also serve as a reminder of the sustaining power of education in the church. Please join us on Sunday, May 13th.

The Christian Education Committee is also on the look out for new teachers to join the ranks of the current honorees! Please let Betsy or Peggy Carroll know of your interest in teaching. There is a wide array of ages and classes of children, youth, and adults who will welcome you with open eyes, ears, and

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOSPITALITY HALL?

Hospitality Hall will host two groups in May. The week of April 28th through May 5th, we host a group from Presbytery of the Pacific. This is a returning group. All of you who met them before and any members with California/Hawaii connections, please join us for the Community Dinner on May 3rd. They are a delightful group! We expect about 12.

The week of May 19 through May 26, we have a group from Shenandoah Presbytery. These men are also a returning group. Because fewer groups of volunteers are coming down to help, this group will take back the shower trailer parked in back of the church and make it available to groups in other areas of the country. Come say hello again to these men at the dinner on May 24th. They will also be here for the Crawfish Boil! We expect about 8 in this group.

You may have heard or read that there was a break in in April at one of the houses on Delaware Street that is managed by Rebuild Together Baton Rouge, the group with whom we partner for work sites. All tools were stolen plus the newly installed toilet! In the usual spirit of resilience that is such a part of these groups, tools were brought in from other work sites and the work continued. The homeowner is on schedule to to move back into her home soon!

NEW MEMBER PARTY

A party for new members of UPC and their families will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2018, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Brunch will be served at the home of Darla O'Connor and Tavia Crumpler at 6374 Muir Street. Watch your mailbox or email for an invitation to this fantastic event!



Taizé

Sung Prayers

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

Wednesday, May 2,
at 6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

**JUNE/JULY
CONTACT
DEADLINE
May 20**



Pentecost Sunday, May 20
At University Presbyterian Church

The Shower of Stoles Project is an extraordinary collection of over one thousand liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people of faith. These religious leaders have served in over thirty denominations and faith traditions and come from six countries on three continents.

This collection celebrates the gifts of LGBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Project bears witness to the huge loss of leadership that the Church has brought upon itself because of its own unjust policies. The collection tours constantly around the country, being exhibited in local congregations, universities and seminaries, and regional and national denominational gatherings.



**Celebrate the
Gift of the
Holy Spirit
to Christ's
followers**

**Pentecost
Sunday
May 20**

**Pentecost Offering
will be collected
Wear Red!**



UPC CRAWFISH BOIL Sunday, May 20

The UPC Institute for Crustacea-Theology (AKA the Fellowship Committee) has determined the following:

1. Crawfish turn red when boiled.
2. Red is the traditional color of Pentecost

If you wish to observe how Presbyterians apply this knowledge, you are welcome to the UPC Pentecostal Crawfish Boil on May 20 after the 10:00 service. To offset costs, we would appreciate \$10 per person or \$30 dollars per family.

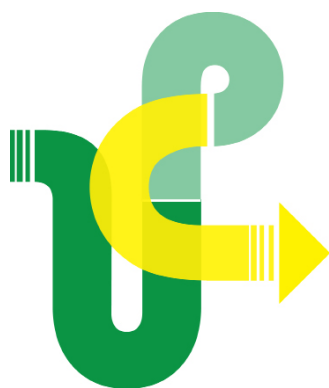
Please join us in this important theological research!

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

you're supporting ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Christ.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



**"UPC Moving Forward"
Have you filled out
your survey yet?**

UPC MOVING FORWARD

We're on our way!

On Sunday, April 22, a large group of UPCers stayed after worship for a pot luck and were joined by consultant Ann Philbrick who shared information previously shared with church officers on national church trends, generational theory, and typical patterns of "incline, recline, and decline" in church life. She added UPC's particular trends in membership and ministry to that information so that we're all on the same page as we make decisions and take action in moving forward. We are in a great position with new members and healthy resources. If you couldn't attend, we missed you! And we can't fully live out our call together without your voice.

Get on board by watching the video located on our website (www.upcbr.org). Church members and regular visitors are encouraged to then FILL OUT THE SURVEY that was sent to you via email. If you didn't receive an email, you may pick up, fill out, and turn in a hard copy of the survey located near the church office or in the Welcome Center. You will also be contacted by one of our officers for a conversation regarding our movement forward. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! WE DON'T WANT TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT YOU!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Holy Grill

Once again we will be serving lunch at the Holy Grill the week of June 11-15. Please watch your bulletins and the June/July edition of Contact for information on how to sign up to volunteer.

PRIDE FEST

Saturday, June 16th is Pride Fest 2018 at the River Center from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. UPC is looking for some volunteers to help staff a table at Pride Fest and help with table set-up on Saturday prior to the start of the event. Let the church office know if you are able to help.

New Book of Common Worship

There's a new Presbyterian Book of Common Worship! It was sent by the publisher this week and you'll be seeing, hearing, and saying things from it in the weeks, months, and years to come. "What?" you ask. "What's a Book of Common Worship?" or perhaps you are thinking, "We don't have them in the pews, so I didn't even know Presbyterians had one!"

Indeed, Presbyterians do have one. You'll note references to it at the end of our bulletin on many Sundays. The last one was published in 1993 and previous Director of Music at UPC, Lucy Hair, was on the committee that developed it. Our connection to the Book of Common Worship continues, as David Gambrell (Corise and Bob Gambrell's son) who grew up at UPC, is one of the co-editors for this new one.

A Book of Common Worship in our tradition provides suggested orders of service as well as content for worship that is based on reformed theology and builds on the worship practices of the church. In each version an attempt is made to honor our tradition of both form and freedom in worship and renewed attention is given to what the Spirit is calling us toward in our continual reformation. This edition is no exception.

Each Sunday, our prayers are written by the preacher for the day or used by permission from a variety of liturgical sources. Particularly in the month of May, much of our liturgical language will come from the new Book of Common Worship. Let us know what you think by contacting the Worship Committee via Leslie Green (chairperson) or Patti Snyder.

A Tale of Love and Fishes

Steve,* like many of us in South Louisiana, enjoys a fishing trip. "There's no better way to spend a warm, sunny day---outside, close by the edge of the lake---fishing," he said. For many of us, going fishing is an ordinary activity, but for Steve and his fellow AIDS patients at St. Anthony's Home, the UPC 2017 Fishing Rodeo was a very special event. At the lake, the air was filled with talking, laughter, and the joy of being outdoors in the sunshine. And there were shouts of excitement when a fish was caught.

UPC Members fried fish, hush puppies, and french fries; they had also brought salads and cookies for the picnic lunch. Patients, their caregivers, and UPC members enjoyed sharing food and stories, relaxing in a beautiful setting, taking a break from their normal daily routines. All appreciated the food and fellowship. As the goodbyes were said, everyone hoped that they could all get together soon. It had been a wonderful time together.

Hope to see you soon, Steve.*

**Not his real name*

Thanks to Jan Boydston for providing the information for this article.

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 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.

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.

**Ruth Bivins • Tristyn Bemis • Tabitha Lewis • Don Snyder
Henry Lanius • Gerri Ward • Betty Campbell • Gerard Klein
Jonathan Lewis • Cathy Laufer • Pat Kennedy • Dorothy Bankston
Charles Grenier • Bettye Burford**

- **Bradley Glass**, father of Suzanne Trahan, who recently lost his wife, Linda Glass, due to MS and is dealing with the loss and his own condition of Parkinson's Disease
- **Arlis**, sister-in-law of Bunny Heroman, recovering from a stroke
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O Connor, diagnosed with bladder cancer
- **Henry Nelson**, father of Bizza Britton, in ICU with dehydration and renal failure
- **Kelli Carruth Miller**, friend of Kathy Rossman, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Bea Castricone**, friend of Lee Jenkins, Mary Mikell, and Jane Smith, diagnosed with breast cancer
- **Elisabeth Davis**, studying abroad in South Korea, and her mother, Virginia Davis
- **Becca Bartlett**, undergoing breast cancer treatment
- **Phil Quartararo**, undergoing treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- **Fred Kuntz**, uncle of Christine Kooi, with liver cancer
- **Joanne Ernest**, cousin of Christine Kooi, with breast cancer
- **Marieke Vanhaelen**, aunt of Christine Kooi, recovering from a serious bicycle accident
- **Yvonne Bienvenu**, step-daughter of Betty Armstrong, undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer
- **Joyce Dotson**, friend of Kenton Cooper, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Dean Kerr**, father of Kelly Kerr
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Talia Daigre**, struggling with mental health issues
- **Melanie Driscoll**, with chronic Lyme Disease
- **Bill Mathews**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, with Parkinson's
- **Lois Liggett**, mother of Sarah Kennedy
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **Nic and Rachel Ciraldo**, friends of Griff Campbell, and their son, **Luca**, who has kidney cancer
- **All families affected by Huntington's Disease**
- **All hospice patients and their families**
- **All those who suffer with mental illness and emotional disorders**
- **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 Zorky Crespo Orozco**



HOSPITAL VISITS BY UPC OFFICERS

- 1 Lois Kuyper-Rushing
- 2 Peggy Carroll
- 3 Doug Walker
- 4 Thomas Shelton
- 5 OPEN
- 6 Lorinda Sealey
- 7 Jerry Trahan
- 8 OPEN
- 9 OPEN
- 10 Jane Smith
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Carl Motsenbocker
- 13 Alicia Lewis
- 14 Andreas Giger
- 15 Nan Patt
- 16 Daniel Burch
- 17 Amy Vidrine
- 18 Cordell Haymon
- 19 June Klimash
- 20 OPEN
- 21 Linda Benedict
- 22 Lee Jenkins
- 23 Pat Wright
- 24 Betsy Wilks
- 25 Patti Meredith
- 26 Barbara Gray
- 27 Edward Peterson
- 28 Bizza Britton
- 29 Leslie Green
- 30 Bunny Heroman
- 31 Andy Maverick

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

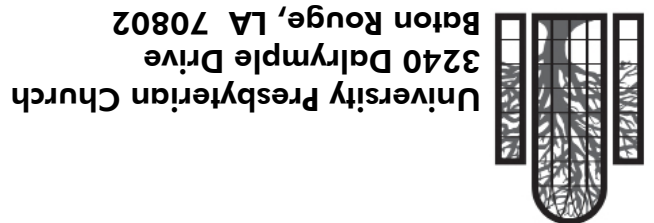
- 1 Ronnie Fenasci
Mary Timmons
- 2 Juanita McGregor
John Richardson
- 3 Jimmy Robertson
- 4 Joseph Nguyen
Marcel Shihadeh
- 5 Skeeter Cedars
- 9 Garrett Haynie
- 11 Stuart Irvine
Morgan Patty
- 12 Bettye Burford
Melanie Driscoll

- 15 Bill Armstrong
Joseph Reynolds
Valerie Richardson
Henry Rowland
- 17 Elizabeth Chapman
Karen Foote
Cormac Wiedenfeld
- 18 Lila Kopplin
Esther Walker
- 20 Albertha Hubchen
- 21 Caralyn Durham
Betty Silvey
- 22 Robert Gourgues
Grace Richardson

- 23 Etih Teboh
- 24 Kay Lindsey
- 25 Judy Dedrick
Ann Stone
- 28 Alyssa Bistany Talley
Anna Roberts - Waggenpack
- 30 Ruth Bivins
Steven Hartman
Madeline Thompson
- 31 Jennifer Guidry
John Guidry

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

Change Service Requested



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