

Contact

August 2019

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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Church Staff

Patti Snyder

Pastor
psnyder@upcbr.org

Betsy Irvine

Temporary Part-time Parish Associate
birvine@ladeltacorps.org

Caralyn Durham

Office Manager
cdurham@upcbr.org

Stuart Dameron

Choir Director
stuardameron@gmail.com

Anne Maverick

Organist
amaverick50@gmail.com

Courtney Dumas

Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministry
courtneyrdumas@gmail.com

Terry G. Iyasere

Day School Director
upcdayschool@yahoo.com

Robert Gourgues

Custodian
rmgourgues@cox.net

Jeff Perry

Clerk of Session
jperry@lsu.edu



From My Window

“See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” Amos 7.8

The prophet Amos isn't known for his sweet talk. In fact he spoke harsh words to a prosperous nation. His were words difficult to hear. He is known for the image of the plumb line in the midst of God's people.

If you've ever hung a large painting or built a wall or stacked cake layers one on the other even, you know what it means for something to be "plumb." In essence it means straight (not as in "not gay"). It can also mean, when used as a verb and most typically in reference to a body of water, to measure the depths of something or someone.

It seems to me that right now there is much in our nation, perhaps in the world, and maybe in our own lives, that is not plumb, that is out of whack or "catty-whompus" as my grandmother used to say, that lacks depth. Peace makers are being stuffed in trucks. Courageous and smart women legislators who are American citizens are being told to "go back where they are from." Lies are masquerading as truths, the despicable as the venerable, sound bites and chit chat as news, and self interest and pride as faith.

But there is also a movement afoot, or perhaps I should say, plumbing the depths, of what it means to be human and to be beloved as every creature is beloved. This movement is rising from the trash heap of empty and hate-filled words straight to the heart of creation with passion and compassion, with shared joy and sorrow, with creativity, hope and love.

It seems to me that this movement might be God's plumb line in our hearts, in our midst. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, who writes a daily meditation entitled "Unfolding Light," put it this way in a recent poem:

A plumb line held straight
by the gravity of love,
without curve or spin of human twist,
plumb line of blessing
unbowed by curse,
unbent by fear or greed,
plumb line seeking, unerring, the center,
all creatures' belovedness and belonging,
the wellbeing of all Creation.

Measure your acts, O human,
judge your policies, O Nation,
by this and no other.
Does it bless without cursing?
Does it serve without stealing?
Does it join and not divide?

God's plumb line
will not slide sideways
to favor some over others,
but loves all dearly;
it will not sway to sacrifice one's thriving
for another's desires.

The ground is uneven but the line is set.
The corrupt tilt their heads;
the wise discern
and build accordingly.

Amen, Steve. Amen.

With love,

August...

- 1 Day School Closed for Teacher Planning**
2 Day School Closed for Teacher Planning
4 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Betsy Irvine preaching, Communion, CentsAbility Offering*
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 p.m. Potluck Lunch and XELA Presentation
5 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
6 8:30 a.m. Nurture Committee - Conference Room
Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. UPC Book Group - 1725 Eugene
7 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
6:00 p.m. Taizé
7:00 p.m. Universal Christ Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
11 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Patti Snyder preaching*
10:00 a.m. Worship
12 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
13 Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
7:00 p.m. Day School Open House (*Parents Only*)
14 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - Library
5:30 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
6:00 p.m. UPC Fish Fry - Fellowship Hall
18 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Guest preacher*
10:00 a.m. Worship
19 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
20 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - 6630 Boone
21 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. Universal Christ Small Group - Parks Wilson Room
25 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Patti Snyder preaching*
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Caregivers Support Group - Parks Wilson Room
11:15 a.m. Session Meeting - Conference Room
26 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
27 Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
28 9:30 a.m. Contact Folding - Conference Room
10:00 a.m. Membership Committee - Conference Room
11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
29 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
31 6:30 p.m. LSU vs. Georgia Southern @ LSU

Office Notes

•Sunday Flower Donations

Spots for Memorial Flower Donations for 2019 are all reserved. Dates for available Sundays in 2020 will be published starting in December. Thank you for making Sunday services so beautiful.



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

Aug 6 Thirteen Moons by Charles Frazier
(the August meeting will be held at 1725 Eugene)

**SEPTEMBER
CONTACT
DEADLINE
AUGUST 20**

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

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

Keeping You Connected

Realm®

The life of the church doesn't always happen inside a building on Sunday. Get signed up with Realm, our online communications and record keeping platform, to connect to UPC easily and safely, on any day, at any time. Get church news, ministry updates, service opportunities, reports, and financial tracking all on your favorite device or computer. To set up your account login to <https://onrealm.org/UniversityPresb15909> or email Caralyn for an invitation.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands will meet again on Tuesday, August 20. Sewing skills are not essential. We have many projects that don't involve sewing. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Caregivers Support Group

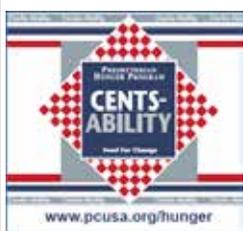
The Caregivers Support Group at UPC meets on the last Sunday of the month right after church. It is available for church members who are caregivers to elderly parents, friends, or adult children. Caregivers will meet again on August 25. If you have any questions or would like to have a particular topic of interest scheduled for a meeting, call Jane Smith at 225-315-4946.

Cuba Anyone?

UPC is planning a sustainability trip to Cuba the last week of October to visit our partner church in San José de los Ramos as well as other locations. If you think you would be interested (no commitment yet) please contact George Strain at strain@lsu.edu for details.

Circle News!

The Day Circle will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 a.m., in the Parks Wilson Room. Please make plans to attend for fellowship, Bible study, and shared mission. All are welcome to join! (We even have a few men!)



**Are you collecting change at home?
UPC will be collecting coins to
support the Presbyterian Hunger
Program, Cents-ability, on the first
Sunday of every month.**

www.pcusa.org/hunger



Taizé

Sung Prayers

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

**Wednesday, August 7,
at 6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary**



GAME DAY PARKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once again UPC will open its parking lot for LSU Football Game parking. For several years we have provided this service which doubles as a fund raising event with proceeds going to support youth, education, and mission projects. The home game schedule is:

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------|
| August | 31 | GA Southern |
| September | 14 | Northwestern State |
| October | 5 | Utah State |
| | 12 | Florida |
| | 26 | Auburn |
| November | 23 | Arkansas |
| | 30 | Texas A&M |

Game times are subject to change due to television. Typically volunteers arrive four or five hours before game time, and are done an hour before kickoff. To volunteer, contact Randy Nichols at rknichols@homelessinbr.org or 225-241-6374.



2019
Fish Fry
Wednesday, August 14 - 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
Cost: Adults \$5 Children \$2 • No family pays more than \$20

Choir Begins August 28

We hope you'll consider JOINING US! There is no audition, so if you like to sing (whether or not you read music), please come to the first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, August 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The choir's first Sunday singing for the 11:00 a.m. service is September 8. Contact Stuart Dameron (stuardameron@gmail.com) or Anne Maverick (amaverick50@gmail.com) for more information.



Youth Group

Attention UPC Youth: Youth Group meetings will kickstart on Sunday, September 15 after the 11:00 a.m. service. You will meet with youth leaders Larry Reynolds, Courtney Dumas, etc. to begin planning for the new year. Lunch will be provided!

**To receive text updates on youth group, text @upchig to the number 81010*



Potluck Lunch and Mission Trip Information

On Sunday, August 4, there will be a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the Mission Trip to Guatemala in June of 2020. We will hear from special guests, Leslie and Mel Dinkel, Executive Directors of Xela Aid Partnerships for Self-Reliance, the group through which our mission trip is organized. Come prepared by reading more about Xela Aid on their website, www.xelaaid.org

The 2020 mission trip will be an inter-generational trip where youth and adults will serve side by side with the teachers and students of the Xela Aid School and other partners.



Sunday, September 8 9:45 a.m.

Join us at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 8 in the Fellowship Hall as we officially launch Church School programming for the year. We will have fun activities, teacher and shepherd introductions, and course offerings for everyone!

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Godly Play helps our children explore their faith through story, gain religious language, and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upck to the number 81010*

Early Elementary (1st-3rd Grade)

Whirl Curriculum: Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, complete a creative leaflet activity, and work on a craft relative to the story.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcel to the number 81010*

Upper Elementary (4th-5th Grade)

Whirl Curriculum: Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, complete a creative leaflet activity, and work on a craft relative to the story.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcel to the number 81010*

Junior High

Making Sacred Art Curriculum: students will create various forms of art (poems, murals, music, videos, etc.) as they learn important life lessons through the stories of the Bible.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upcmid to the number 81010*

Senior High

Students will enjoy walks to our caffeinated holy place (Highland Coffees) and take a closer look at what the Bible says on a variety of life relevant issues that they face on a daily basis at school.

**To receive text updates on this class, text @upchig to the number 81010*

Adult Bible Study

The Conference Room class will explore a variety of biblical texts through the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Adult Parks Wilson Room

We will explore a variety of topics throughout the year beginning with "Your Faith and the Environment."

**DAY SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY
AUGUST 13
7:00 - 8:00 PM
(FOR PARENTS)**

Fall small groups

Variable Topic Tuesdays

Facilitator: Joe Skillen

Meeting times: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Parks Wilson Room
September 10 - October 22

Not Safe for Church: 10 Commandments for New Generations

Facilitator: Jill Clemmons

Reaching new generations requires new conversation. Churches say they want to reach younger generations, but are those generations interested in churches? Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations by F. Douglas Powe, Jr. and Jasmine Rose Smothers will serve as the starting point for conversations in this group. All generations, points of view, backgrounds and senses of humor welcome. We want to hear what you have to say!

Meeting Time: Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
UPC in the Youth Room (2nd Floor)
September 9 - October 7

Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life by Marjorie Thompson

Facilitators: Mary Mikell and Betsy Irvine

Soul Feast is a book for seekers who wish to explore the riches of Christian spirituality. Marjorie Thompson offers a framework for understanding and nurturing classic spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, spiritual reading, self-examination, worship, and hospitality. This best-selling devotional book has been used by both individuals and groups to deepen and expand their inner spiritual lives. We will finish Soul Feast and then move on to additional "soul-stirring" texts. This group is open to all-whether you read the text or not. Come for the talk and the fellowship.

Meeting Time: Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.
UPC Library
Starting August 29

Thirst: An Awakening

Facilitators: Lori Tucker and James Wilcox

Mary Oliver's Thirst, a collection of poems, will provide a touchstone for our wide-ranging weekly discussions. The surprising ways grace manifests itself in our lives is just one of the themes we'll explore in Oliver's poetry. Each week we'll have a chance to engage not only with personal responses to our favorite poems, books, and movies, but also with a deeper appreciation of the gifts of nature in our spiritual life.

Meeting Time: Sundays following the 11 a.m. service
UPC Library Starting September 15

Participants are welcome to bring their own lunch or a snack

Volunteer Opportunities

Opportunities at Park Elementary

UPC Public School Partner, Park Elementary

• Become a UPC Reading Friend at Park Elementary We Need YOU!

Are you looking for fulfilling ways to connect to your Baton Rouge community? Please join UPC members who are each reading a few hours a month with an eager young student at our partner school, Park Elementary, through the Everybody Reads program of Volunteers in Public Schools. Training sessions have already started for this fall (<http://vipsbr.org/everybody-reads-training-registration/>). Please call Karen Foote, 387-2594, for help signing up and more info on the UPC Reading Friends.

• Pencils (and MORE) for Park

Park Elementary needs your supply donations. Please bring #2 pencils by Sunday August 11. You are welcome to donate other school supplies as well. Please put supplies in the marked container in the Welcome Center. Thank you from the Mission and Peacemaking Committee and your partners at Park Elementary!

UPC Food Ministry

Many UPC folks have volunteered to provide meals to folks who may be recovering from surgery or illness or welcoming a new baby into their home. If you know of someone who has a need, please contact Rev. Patti Snyder or Pat Ho. If you wish to volunteer for the food ministry, please contact Pat Ho.



Presbyterian Women Fall Rallies 2019

Saturday, August 17 - West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church, Port Allen, LA

Saturday, August 24 - First Presbyterian Church, Deridder, LA

Join PW for a morning of Fellowship and Bible Study
Lunch will be served at noon

Love Carved In Stone

A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

By Eugenia Anne Gamble

Registration is \$15 for either event and can be sent to PW
Presbytery Treasurer, Pat Wright, 287 Baird Drive, Baton
Rouge, LA 70808

Gathering begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration
Welcome and Program Introductions begin at 9:00 a.m.

Mission & Peacemaking



RSVP online at www.ifedgbr.com
or call 225-267-5600

COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Save the date for the Annual COMMUNITY Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, September 12 at 7 a.m. at the Catholic Life Center.

Making a Difference Workshop

September 24-26

Making a Difference is an interfaith retreat for clergy and those involved in full-time ministry who want greater clarity about their purpose and the direction of their ministry as well as their personal lives. A national team from the Mastery Foundation will lead it. See more information on our web site: <http://ifedgbr.com>



PSL/Presbytery of Matanzas participants (left to right): Tania Petersson (moderator of Presby of Matanzas), Laura St. Clair (St Charles Ave Presby Church, NO), Christine Eisenbrey and Wynn Gillan (First Presby, Hammond), Lorinda Sealey, Linda Walker, and George Strain (University Presby BR), Liz Eleyne (pastora of Union de Reyes church, Matanzas Presbytery, Cuba), and Nell Hahn (First Presby, Lafayette).

Mission and Peacemaking Summer Activities

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee last met on June 11 for a brief business meeting and our annual pool party; however, the committee and congregation members have been busy fulfilling our commitment toward economic, racial and social justice in the community. Here is a summary of our summer activities:

- On June 2, we completed the plastic bag collection for the National Association of Colleges and Universities Residence Halls philanthropy project to weave mattresses for the homeless.
- The Mission and Peacemaking committee organized UPC volunteers to serve lunch at the Holy Grill, a program of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. Fourteen UPC members participated during the week of June 10 – 14.
- The Mission and Peacemaking Committee coordinated attendance at a 90-minute orientation to the operations of the LSU Food Pantry. This orientation was conducted by the Food Pantry coordinator and is required of anyone desiring to volunteer at the Food Pantry. Thirteen UPC members completed the orientation and to date, at least eight UPC members have worked in the food pantry sorting and stocking shelves, and labelling and packaging food.
- George Strain, Linda Walker, and Lorinda Sealey attended the Cuba Partners Network (CPN) annual meeting held in New Orleans in June. CPN provides an organized structure for Presbyterian Churches (PCUSA) having mission relations with the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) to collaborate, cooperate and share resources and information related to Cuba partnerships. The conference was attended by leaders of the IPRC and representatives from PCUSA churches across the US. Topics covered included the history of Protestants in Cuba, what's happening in Cuban society in general and the IPRC in particular, strategies for establishing new partnerships and sustaining existing partnerships,

recommendations for partnership travel, and strategies for advocating for change in US policies towards Cuba.

- On Saturday, July 20, from 9:00 a.m. - noon, members of the congregation gathered once again in the Fellowship Hall to sort school uniforms by size and condition as part of the Catholic Charities Uniforms for Kids in Need program.
- The congregation-wide CentsAbility offering is ongoing.

Local and Worldwide Benevolences

Every year, in addition to funds allocated to specific organizations, a small portion of the Mission and Peacemaking Committee's budget is dedicated to helping local or worldwide organizations as needs arise. This year, NECHAMA is one of the recipients of assistance (\$1000) from our local and worldwide funds. NECHAMA, which means comfort in Hebrew, is a Jewish response to disaster, offering sustained direct services in the US following the onset of a hurricane, tornado, flood, or other natural disaster. NECHAMA is inclusive, welcomes volunteers of all faiths, and assists disaster survivors regardless of religious affiliation. Their work provides disaster survivors with critical comfort and hope. This organization was actively involved in offering flood relief services in response to the 2016 Baton Rouge flood and was in fact housed at UPC during that time. NECHAMA aims to offer hope from the initial muck and gut response on a home shortly after a storm hits until its final repair and rebuilding work is done. NECHAMA expressed gratitude for our donation. In their words, "We cannot do it without you. Every single donation has impact. It may be a hammer that helps repair a home, or a meal that feeds a volunteer....every penny counts."

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 • Dean Kerr • Tabitha Lewis • Don Snyder • Gerri Ward
Gerard Klein • Jonathan Lewis • Talia Daigre • Bettye Burford
Pat Kennedy • Lois Liggett • Mary Timmons • Gary Meise**

- **Patti Snyder**, with a concussion and broken rib
- **Kay Lindsey**, upon the death of her partner, Cathy Laufer, on July 19
- **Becca Bartlet**, preparing for upcoming surgery
- **Pat Strain**, recovering from surgery
- **Joachim Singleman**, husband of Lorinda Sealey, recovering from a heart attack
- **Tavia Crumpler** - recovering from surgery
- **Linda Benedict**, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- **Shelby Lewis**, recovering from surgery
- **Alicia Lewis**, recovering from foot surgery
- **Joe Costello**, father of Brannon, hospitalized for dehydration and complications associated with an as-yet undiagnosed illness
- **Courtney Dumas**, recovering from surgery
- **Terrance Iyasere**, son of Terry Iyasere (our Day School Director), recovering from multiple gunshot wounds
- **Mariano Hinojosa**, recovering from a stroke.
- **Barbara Behrmann**, in hospice care in North Carolina
- **Charley Fisher**, having severe back pain
- **Phil Quartararo**, undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- **Art**, Cynthia Peterson's brother, diagnosed with cancer
- **Betty Crawford**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, recovering from a stroke
- **Chenault Taylor**, friend of Olivia Singelmann, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- **Jeanette Hanifen**, Jim Hanifen's mother, recovering from a fall
- **Melanie Driscoll**, with chronic Lyme Disease
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O'Connor, diagnosed with bladder cancer
- **Kelli Carruth Miller**, friend of Kathy Rossman, undergoing immunotherapy
- **Fred Kuntz**, uncle of Christine Kooi, with liver cancer
- **Joyce Dotson**, friend of Kenton Cooper, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, with Parkinson's
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **Janice Frugé**, friend of Tavia Crumpler and Darla O'Conner, with Stage 4 metastatic lung cancer
- **Frances Sullivan-González's mother's family** in Masaya, Nicaragua, and the rest of the country in this time of civil unrest and political turmoil
- **Norma Fernández and her husband Panchito** from San José de los Ramos.
- **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 Betty Armstrong
- 6 Lorinda Sealey
- 7 Steven Hartmann
- 8 Darla O'Connor
- 9 OPEN
- 10 OPEN
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Carl Motsenbocker
- 13 Mary Mikell
- 14 OPEN
- 15 Nan Patt
- 16 OPEN
- 17 OPEN
- 18 Cordell Haymon
- 19 Kristin Savicki
- 20 Jennifer Bravinder
- 21 Linda Benedict
- 22 Lee Jenkins
- 23 Pat Wright
- 24 Betsy Wilks
- 25 OPEN
- 26 Barbara Gray
- 27 Edward Peterson
- 28 OPEN
- 29 OPEN
- 30 Junita Meier
- 31 Andy Maverick

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

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank needs your help!

Please place your contribution in any of the large marked FOOD BANK boxes located around UPC or bring it to the front of the sanctuary during the service.



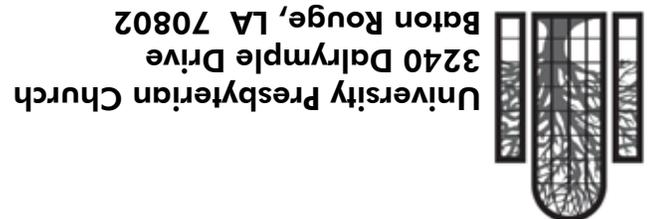
Check out UPC on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian

August Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Patti Meredith Megan Richey Susan Seifert | 11 Rowen Fontenot Stafford | 19 Virginia Davis Marc El Koubi Anita Melon | 25 Wes Mainord |
| 3 Linda Benedict Jim Hawley | 12 Greg Pitcher | 20 Alan Hale Mercer Richardson | 27 Baldwin Rice |
| 8 Wright Brewer Emily Cogburn | 14 Barbara Bahs Andrea Neighbours | 21 David Hall | 28 Elisabeth Davis Tanner Short |
| 9 Ellen Morgan | 16 Priscilla Burch Reily Kennedy Jane Smith | 23 Miranda Britt Rosa Campbell Sarah Kennedy | 29 Kerry Everitt Whitney York Giger AJ Meek |
| 10 John Earle Kyle Reeves | 17 Caroline Robertson | 24 Lamar Jones | 30 Patricia Crowe |
| | 18 Joe Skillen | | 31 George Strain Betsy Wilks |

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