

Contact

March 2020

University Presbyterian Church Newsletter for church members and friends

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From My Window

Lent has me thinking about Where the Wild Things Are. I'm guessing that many of you know or have heard of Maurice Sendak's children's book by that name. It's on my mind because this Lent, in a variety of ways, we will be focusing on the wilderness, a place we often think of as desolate or full of danger, but perhaps also as a place of possibility and exploration.

In the book Where the Wild Things Are, a mischievous little boy named Max gets sent to his room and goes (in his imagination) to a wild place where wild things "roar their terrible roars and gnash their terrible teeth and roll their terrible eyes and show their terrible claws." Only Max discovers that the wild things (both internal and external) can be tamed, that he has power but that it is limited, that there are creative ways to deal with anger and fear, and that the "wild rumpus" that ensues can even be enlightening and sustaining. Mary Pols of Time magazine wrote that "what makes Sendak's book so compelling is its grounding effect: Max has a tantrum and in a flight of fancy visits his wild side, but he is pulled back by a belief in parental love and to a supper 'still hot,' balancing his seesaw of fear and comfort."

These seem to me to be Lenten lessons, good ones.

I'm not sure, but I think there might be even more that a Lenten season pondering the wilderness, and wildness too, might teach us. On our journey this Lent we will be making use of resources provided by an organization made up of theologian/artists who called their collaboration A Sanctified Art.* They say of the wilderness (or "state of the wild") theme:

"Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness, where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for his ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love."

I'm eager to hear your stories of wilderness and wildness too, and the ways they and you have been, are, or might be transformed by God's love!

With love and prayers that our eyes might be opened to the lessons of the wilderness,

**See inside for more information on these resources.*

March...

1 1st Sunday in Lent

Betsy Irvine preaching, Communion

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- Noon Called Congregational Meeting
- 2 Noon "Visio Divina" Small Group - Conference Room
- 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Conference Room
- 3 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
- 4 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. "Just Mercy" Small Group - 836 N. 7th St. / 1848 Glendale Ave. (alternating)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 5 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
- 6:30 p.m. "Tell Me How it All Ends" Small Group - 120 Beverly Drive / 5189 Heritage (alternating)
- 6 10:00 a.m. Aphasia Support Group - Conference Room
- 7 10:00 a.m. New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Retreat - Fellowship Hall

8 2nd Sunday in Lent

Patti Snyder preaching, Daylight Savings Time begins

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Max Skillen - Sanctuary
- 9 Noon "Visio Divina" Small Group - Conference Room
- 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Huntington's Disease Support Group - Conference Room
- 11 Noon AIAnon - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 p.m. Mission & Peacemaking Committee - 5189 Heritage
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 7:00 p.m. TBR Delegates Assembly
- 11 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
- 12:30 p.m. Technology Committee - Library
- 12:30 p.m. Day School Committee - Conference Room
- 3:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Committee - Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Property Committee - Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. "Just Mercy" Small Group - 836 N. 7th St. / 1848 Glendale Ave. (alternating)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 13 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
- 6:30 p.m. Open Tables - Walk On's on Burbank @ Nicholson
- 6:30 p.m. "Tell Me How it All Ends" Small Group - 120 Beverly Drive / 5189 Heritage (alternating)
- 14 Youth Retreat @ Feliciana Retreat Center (thru 3/15)

Office Notes

•Sunday Flower Donations

Memorial Flower Donation envelopes for 2020 are available in the pews for you to fill out to reserve flowers for 2020 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.

**APRIL
CONTACT
DEADLINE
MARCH 16**

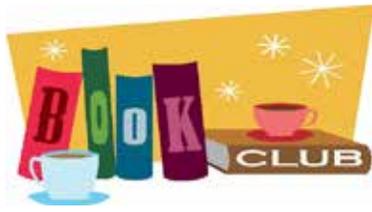


The Pastor's Discretionary Account is currently low on funds. Please consider a donation.

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
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(225)383-0345
(225)383-3495 Fax
www.upcbr.org



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

Mar 3 This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel

April 7 The Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers

Are you ready for some baseball?

Your Fellowship Committee is sponsoring the annual UPC night at Alex Box Stadium, Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., LSU vs. Northwestern (LA). All tickets for this game are \$4.00 each (special pricing for groups at midweek games). UPC will be sitting in section 101. Purchase your tickets before or after the church school hour beginning Sunday, March 29, or e-mail Barbara Hoffman at bhoffman2652@gmail.com.

News from Hospitality Hall

It is a policy of the Hospitality Hall that student groups do not pay to stay in our dorm. These groups usually have limited budgets. In January, a group of students stayed in the dorm from Cornell University and worked with our school partner, Park Elementary. They wished to gift us something for our generosity and this week a new projector and ceiling mounted screen were installed in Fellowship Hall. The screen is 60" by 109" and will make presentations so much easier to view.

We have no groups scheduled for April at this point and two groups scheduled for a May!

March...

15 3rd Sunday in Lent

Patti Snyder preaching

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting -Conference Room
- 16 Noon "Visio Divina" Small Group - Conference Room
- 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 17 9:30 a.m. Helping Hands - Conference Room
- Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee - Conference Room
- 18 9:30 a.m. Day School Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. "Just Mercy" Small Group - 836 N. 7th St. / 1848 Glendale Ave. (alternating)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 19 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
- 6:30 p.m. "Tell Me How it All Ends" Small Group - 120 Beverly Drive / 5189 Heritage (alternating)
- 21 8:30 a.m. Day School Teacher Training - Fellowship Hall

22 4th Sunday in Lent

Patti Snyder preaching

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- Noon Youth Group Practice for Youth Sunday
- 23 Noon "Visio Divina" Small Group - Conference Room
- 2:45 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 24 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room
- 7:00 p.m. NAMI - Conference Room & Library
- 25 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga - Parks Wilson Room
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé - Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. "Just Mercy" Small Group - 836 N. 7th St. / 1848 Glendale Ave. (alternating)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 26 11:30 a.m. Soul Feast Small Group - Library
- 6:30 p.m. "Tell Me How it All Ends" Small Group - 120 Beverly Drive / 5189 Heritage (alternating)
- 28 8:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering - UPC facility

29 5th Sunday in Lent

YOUTH SUNDAY

- 9:45 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:30 p.m. New Member Party - Place TBD
- 30 Noon "Visio Divina" Small Group - Conference Room
- 31 Noon AI-Anon - Parks Wilson Room

Volunteer Opportunities

Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge

Did you know that UPC is a member of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge? Well... we are, and have been since it's beginning. In fact, the organization's offices were once at UPC! Our Mission and Peace-making Committee watches over our relationship with the Federation and our connection to the programs offered through them (particularly the annual Community Prayer Breakfast and the Holy Grill summertime lunch program), but we are in need of two folks willing to serve as our liaisons. If interested, contact Lorinda Sealey for more information on the role of the liaison.



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.

Christian Education at UPC Spring 2020

Please join us for Church School every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.

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 - Conference Room

"Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross"

Looking at the Lenten season as an occasion to look beyond personal disciplines towards the creation of beloved communities in our own backyards- communities reflecting the inclusive and healing love that Jesus modeled as he made his way to the cross.

Adult Parks Wilson Room

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 1 | Dr. Alex Torres and Youth Panel of English Learners from McKinley HS. "Challenges and Opportunities for Immigrant Youth" |
| March 8 | Melissa Yarborough, "How Do We Engage?" |
| March 15 | Dr. Cat Jacquet, LSU Department of History, "Teaching History in Louisiana prisons." |
| March 22 | Robin McCullough Bade, Executive Director, Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, "Lenten Lessons" |
| March 29 | Robin McCullough Bade - "Lenten Lessons" |
| April 5 | Bizza Britton - Update on Congo |
| April 12 | Easter - No Sunday School |

**TOGETHER
BATON ROUGE**

Delegates Assembly

Tuesday, March 10

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Wesley United Methodist
Church**

544 Government St.

You don't have to be a delegate to attend. Sign up in the Welcome Center. All are invited!





A POEM FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

“The Wilderness is Somewhere We’ve Been Before”

by Sarah Are

*I’m not the first.
That’s what I tell myself when I wake up in
the wilderness—
Big sky, worried heart, wondering which way
to start.
I have been here before.
We have been here before.
For as long as there has been creation,
There has been wilderness.*

*First it was an endless void,
Until God and God’s paintbrush painted the
sky gold.
And then it was all that lies east of Eden,
Which is everywhere that our story unfolds.*

*So like a child memorizing their home address,
You’d think I’d learn my way out of
this wilderness.
But like the Israelites who wandered for forty
plus years,
I think I’ll spend most of my day to day here.
For the wilderness is everywhere that I start
to grow.*

*Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies take hold.
And the wilderness is every single place
of unknown,
Or when shame and fear move into my home.
And the wilderness is where dusty feet tread,
Familiar with the truth that we have days left.*

So where is God, you ask?

*God is in the big sky and in my worried heart.
God is the sidewalk cracks where new
life starts.
God is in the realization that I am not the first.
So may we take these limited days left
And remember that we’ve been here before—
God and I and this untamed world.
God and the Israelites and the
gathered assembly.
God and the horizon and the new
day beginning.*

WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR LENT/HOLY WEEK

- February 26** **Ash Wednesday Taizé** Service including the imposition of ashes
- March 1** **1st Sunday in Lent** – *Betsy Irvine preaching*
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Matthew 4:1-11
- March 4** **Taizé**
“The Wilderness is a Place of Beginnings”
This year our Lenten Taizé services will center on scripture related to and meditation on Lenten poem/prayers by Sarah Are from A Sanctified Art
- March 8** **2nd Sunday in Lent** – *Patti Snyder preaching*
Psalm 121
John 3:1-17
- March 11** **Taizé**
“The Wilderness is a Place of Mystery and the Unknown”
- March 15** **3rd Sunday in Lent** – *Patti Snyder preaching*
Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42
- March 18** **Taizé**
“The Wilderness is a Place of Isolation; It is Also a Place of Connection”
- March 22** **4th Sunday in Lent** – *Patti Snyder preaching*
Psalm 23
John 9:1-41
- March 25** **Taizé**
“The Wilderness is a Place of Disruption”
- March 29** **5th Sunday in Lent** – *Youth Sunday*
- April 1** **Taizé**
“The Wilderness is a Place of New Life – Resilient Life”
- April 5** **Palm Sunday** – *Betsy Irvine preaching*
- April 9** **Maundy Thursday** – 7:30 p.m.
Communion Service
John 13:1-17; 31b-35
- April 10** **Good Friday** – 7:30 p.m.
Service of Tennebrae (Extinguishing of Lights)
John 18:1-19:42
- April 12** **Easter Sunday** – *Patti Snyder preaching*
TWO SERVICES 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
Communion
Psalm 46
John 20:1-18



Suggestions for Lenten Meditation/Devotion

This year we are offering three choices as to devotional material for your Lenten devotional or meditation practice:

1. Devotional Booklets published by A Sanctified Art on the theme of the Wilderness. These are available on Realm or hard copies are available in the Welcome Center or the back of the Sanctuary. Contact Caralyn in the church office for Realm sign on info or for extra copies.
2. Devotional cards, also with a wilderness theme, that you can either choose for yourself each Sunday from the box in the Welcome Center (hard copy) or receive via our Facebook page (virtual). Each card contains a theme for the day, a related scripture verse, and a prayer.
3. "Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross."- Every day, a Scripture reading, short reflection and closing prayer tell the powerful story of how God's love in action is changing lives. Also featured in the devotional are ancient and modern mosaics depicting the life of Jesus. Readers are invited to pause and ponder the reflection question that accompanies each picture. The mosaics underscore how each person's action, gift, prayer and desire for a better world are necessary — and beautiful — pieces in the picture of God's kingdom here on Earth. This devotional is available in the Welcome Center and at the back of the sanctuary.



**INTERFAITH
FEDERATION**
of GREATER BATON ROUGE

30th Annual

Sounds of the CommUNITY Concert

Sunday, March 29, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
185 Eddie Robinson Sr. Dr., Baton Rouge
Free will donation - Reception follows



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.

Lenten Small Groups

This Lenten Season, five small groups are being offered. Small groups are a great way to meet new people and deepen our relationships with God and one another. This year's groups will begin the week of March 1 and will run until Holy Week. Sign up sheets are available in the Welcome Center or by contacting the group leader.

Visio Divina

Facilitator: Patti Snyder

Mondays (March 2 - April 6) at Noon - UPC Conference Room
Latin for "divine seeing," this small group will use resources in the Sanctified Art Wilderness series to explore - through meditation on visual art, artist's statements, bible study, and group discussion around the theme of Wilderness.

Limit 10

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Facilitators: Betsy Irvine, Randy Nichols, and Eleanor Canon
Wednesdays (March 4 - April 8), 6:30 p.m. at 836N. 7th St / 1848 Glendale Ave

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization.

Limit 10

Soul Feast by Dorothy Bass

Facilitators: Mary Mikell and Betsy Irvine

Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. - UPC Library (ongoing)

This group looks at a variety of "spirituality" texts; both ancient and modern. Through discussion and conversation about the texts and the various spiritual practices of our lives, we strive to entertain new ways of understanding ourselves and others.

Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross

Facilitators: Various leaders- Conference Room Bible Class
Sunday School Bible Study Class 9:45-10:45 - UPC Conference Room

Looking at the Lenten season as an occasion to look beyond personal disciplines towards the creation of beloved communities in our own backyards- communities reflecting the inclusive and healing love that Jesus modeled as he made his way to the cross.

Tell Me How it All Ends by Valeria Luiselli

Facilitators: Betsy Wilks and Lorinda Sealy

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (Soup and Salad) at 120 Beverly Drive (B Wilks) / 5189 Heritage (L Sealy)

A damning confrontation between the American dream and the reality of undocumented children seeking a new life in the US.

Limit 10

**CREATIVE FUNDRAISER
FOR
HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE
SOCIETY OF AMERICA!**

Beautiful postcards have been produced by many folks since this project began in September, but we're not done yet! Can you assist in any of the following ways?

- Attend the Helping Hands meetings in March, April and May, on the 3rd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 a.m. We'll be cutting fabric, designing and fusing pieces, and machine-stitching layers together.
- Attend the Huntington's Disease Support Group meetings, 2nd Mondays of the month, at 7:00 pm. We do the same activities as Helping Hands, and get to know our friends affected by HD.
- Join in the production at Betty Armstrong's house, 7401 Seven Oaks, BR 70806, March 13, 1-3.
- Offer to stitch final layers on your sewing machine at home!

For more information, PLEASE contact Barbara Hoffman bhoffman2652@gmail.com

**New Life for
Children's Shoes**

The UPC mission/service group headed to Guatemala in June doesn't plan to go empty-handed! We've received a specific request from Leslie and Mel Dinkel for new and gently used shoes for children attending the XELA Aid school. There are 100 children who attend the school. They often go bare-footed, resulting in inevitable cuts and scrapes. Shoes and socks would be a great help! We're gathering new and barely used shoes and new socks from the smallest made to adult size 8 for teenagers. Also of great use at the school are children's books in Spanish or English.

If you wish to donate any of these items, there will be containers in the Welcome Center.

If you have questions, contact Peggy Carroll at peggoc@yahoo.com or call her at 726-7856.

**Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of South Louisiana**

"Creating Relationship"

Saturday, March 28, 2020, University Presbyterian Church

All are welcome!

- HELP is NEEDED to prepare for our guests. Please contact Linda Walker c 225. 936-6268 or email: LSTODWALK@bellsouth.net to indicate your interests... or sign-up on the poster hung on the Bridal Room door. Thank you!
 - DONATIONS requested: Please put the following in the basket provided in the Welcome Area, by March 25: old cassette tape players, children's stories with storybook included, and sturdy plastic zipper bags that sheet and pillow sets are sold in; also travel-size toiletries
 - WORSHIP LEADER: Patrice Butler, serving 1st Presbyterian Church, Scotlandville.
 - WORKSHOPS: Bertha Hinojosa, PW coordinator for Justice, Peace and Mission; and Hannah Nielsen, pastor of Okra Abbey community initiative in New Orleans.
- This promises to be an energy-packed and inspiring event. Don't miss it!



**Presbytery of South Louisiana
Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering 2020**



*Creating relationship with fellow believers, relationship in our communities and the world,
relationship with the earth, and relationship with God.*

**Saturday, March 28, 2020
University Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

**Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
Program begins at 9:30 a.m.**
Coffee and pastries as well as lunch will be served.

Cost \$15.00

Registration deadline is March 21.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ E-mail _____

Please send check payable to PSL Presbyterian Women and registration form to:
PW Presbytery Treasurer: Pat Wright, 287 Baird Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

UPC's Cuba Partnership History and Update

by George Strain

Day School

Promote the UPC Day School

by Linda Benedict

A goal for 2020 for the UPC Day School is to increase enrollment, and we need your help. We have the capacity for 156 children, and we now operate at about 90% capacity. But we want to increase that margin to 93% to help bring in more revenue to cover the much-needed raises we gave to our hard-working Day School with our 2020 budget, which was approved by the Session at its Feb. 16 meeting.

There are many advantages for parents to choose our Day School. First of all, it's one of the best in the Baton Rouge area. For the second year in a row, it received "Honor Roll" status from the Louisiana Department of Education. Other advantages include:

- Location. It's next to the LSU campus and close to downtown and state offices.
- Reputation. We are known as a warm and friendly day care center with an open-door policy for parents to air concerns.
- Part of a progressive church. Our church is known for social justice, hospitality, and helping those in need; we are open to a diverse clientele, and some day care centers in town are not.

Registration is now open for the summer and the 2020-2021 school year. We serve children ages one through Pre-K. Our rates are comparable to day care centers similar to ours.

Please help spread the word about the award-winning UPC Day School. To find out more, go to www.upcbr.org and click on Day School.

UPC has had a partnership with Iglesia (church) Getsemaní in rural San José de los Ramos, Matanzas Province, Cuba, since the fall of 1990, soon after the first US presbytery to Cuba presbytery partnership was established between the Presbytery of South Louisiana and Matanzas Presbytery in 1988. Over the 30 years of our partnership the level of activity has waxed and waned, but has grown significantly in recent years. A major step began with the international mission trip of the senior high youth group in the summer of 2012, led by Linda Walker, Hannah Samson, and George Strain. On the planning trip we observed poor water quality because sewer line collapses across the country had caused widespread water contamination. This led us to train for (Fall 2012) and install (April 2013) a water treatment system at San José under the PC (USA) Living Waters for the World (LWW) program (we've participated in three other LWW installations since). Since then the church has treated and dispensed over ½ million gallons of purified water to the community. Susana Arévalo, the initial system operator, is now studying for the ministry in Seminary. Many blessings have resulted from this system and we continue our commitment to sustain the operation of the system by providing replacement filters and parts, usually through an annual sustainability visit. UPC also financially supports the operation of the church and its programs through our Mission and Peacemaking Committee. The UPC senior high youth group returned to San José in 2016, so two "generations" of high school students have had the opportunity to learn about Cuba and develop friendships with our partners. Many additional trips have occurred since 2012, keeping our partnership strong. Our copy of our Covenant Document, signed by the sessions of both churches, is on display in the Visitor's Center near the coffee pots.

Iglesia Getsemaní will celebrate its 115th anniversary throughout the month of May of this year, and they are excited for our planned sustainability visit in late April and will make us a part of the celebration. There have been many pastors at the church over this period, because of turnover as well as a shortage of Presbyterian pastors in Cuba. In all of Cuba there are 54 churches (as of 2018) but only 25 active pastors, so each is assigned two or more churches. The last full-time San José pastor was Armando Guédes (2012-2016); since then they've had an interim, then a triple-assigned pastor ((Zorky Crespo) whose primary responsibilities are elsewhere. In 2019 a former pastor who had left the ministry, but felt a call to return, has been assigned full-time to reestablish his full status – Josué (Joshua) Montejo. His impact has been nothing short of phenomenal, and everyone desperately hopes that the Presbytery of Matanzas returns him to full pastoral status and assigns him permanently to San José, where he grew up and first served in the ministry.

After an extended period of dormancy, the church community is now organizing and maturing and being revitalized. They have grown from an average attendance of 30 adults and 12 children in December to 32 adults and 16 children in February. Their Christmas program, including their choir, had 75 adults and 31 children in attendance. They've created work teams for visitation, lunch, liturgy, and Christian education. Their elders, all in their 70s and 80s, are training replacements, and mid-week activities are increasingly drawing participants. We share our prayer list names with Josué, and he does the same. The presence of the Holy Spirit is clearly being felt in San José, which brings us all much joy.

A UPC team will be making a sustainability visit to San José and other areas in Cuba in late April, bringing with us LWW system supplies as well as our financial donation to the church. Prayers are requested of the congregation as we travel. We also hope to begin periodic meetings at UPC for those interested in Cuba and our partnership – not just to plan future trips, but to learn more about Cuba, issues faced there, and anything that might come from those discussions. We want to revitalize and grow our Cuba ministry as well. We welcome all with an interest to join us. Watch the UPC Facebook page for periodic updates and communications from Cuba.

Mission & Peacemaking Committee

Submitted by Lorinda J. Sealey, chair

Active Committee Members: Linda Clark, Melanie Driscoll, Samantha Faulkner, Karen Foote, Jim Hanifen, Jerry Kennedy, Carl E. Mosenbocker, Kristin Savicki, Lorinda Sealey, Patti Snyder, George Strain, Chris Whittington, and Pat Wright

The Mission and Peacemaking (M&P) Committee had a very active year fulfilling the church's commitment to benevolence and outreach to the congregation and community. We met on the second Tuesday evening of the month, except in July. We supported and strived to sustain our relationship with 20 local and worldwide organizations whose aims are consistent with the committee's mandate to respond to local and international issues concerning human rights, peace, economic and social justice, inclusion, and diversity. Following are some highlights of Mission and Peacemaking activities for 2019:

1. World hunger and food Insecurity were a major focus of Benevolences and community engagement this year. To this end, Mission and Peacemaking collaborated with Christian Education to raise awareness and encourage action among adult as well as youth church members to address these concerns.

- a. The year-long Cents Ability Offering was launched in January and concludes today. As intended, 50% of offering will go to the National PCUSA hunger program, and 25% will be distributed locally. To date, not including today's collection, the Cents Ability offering totals 1,546.75
- b. The LSU Food Pantry was added to the list of recipients of benevolent contributions; thirteen UPC members completed an orientation and to date, 12 have volunteered in the food pantry sorting and stocking shelves, and labelling and packaging food during the summer when the need for help was greatest. We plan to repeat this activity in the coming summer.
- c. Fourteen UPC members volunteered to serve lunch at the Holy Grill, a program of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, during the week of June 10 – 14.

2. In keeping with the committee's mandate to support human rights, and social and economic justice, the committee sought to engage in appropriate activities and to educate the congregation about relevant national and local issues.

- a. Love is Love/Rainbow Doors display
- b. We completed the plastic bag collection for the National Association of Colleges and Universities Residence Halls philanthropy project to weave mattresses for the homeless.
- c. Three committee members attended the Cuba Partners Network (CPN) annual meeting in New Orleans in June and discussed strategies for sustaining existing partnerships, and recommendations for partnership travel. Following a trip to our sister church in Cuba this fall, George Strain presented an adult church school class to update the congregation

about our partnership with our mission church in Cuba.

- d. The committee was a sponsor of the Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI) celebration of World Refugee Day.
 - e. In collaboration with the Fellowship Committee and LORI, we hosted a catered red beans and rice dinner with a viewing of the film *This is Home: A Refugee Story*, in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a panel moderated by Dauda Sesay, President of LORI and made up of Ann Sperry, State Refugee Coordinator Catholic Charities, Alex Torres, Humanity Amped and Jean Dresley, Director of Refugee Resettlement of Catholic Charities of the Dioceses of Baton Rouge. There were approximately persons 50 in attendance.
 - f. Lorinda Sealey and Patti Snyder attended the Synod's Imagine Compassion conference and toured the camp in Matamoros, Mexico, where Asylum Seekers are waiting to state their case for asylum before American Immigration officials. Their experience was the topic of an adult church school class.; we explored opportunities for assisting refugees and asylum seekers in our area.
3. Goals for the coming year:
- a. Continue to support local efforts to meet needs of local communities, such as Rebuilding Together Baton Rouge.
 - b. Explore partnerships with local organizations working to support refugees and asylum seekers in our community.

We encourage members of the congregation to share ideas with us about how we may continue to meet our committee mandates, and we encourage you to become a member of the Committee or to join us on selected activities.

Fellowship Committee

Submitted by Jonathan Hubchen, chair

During CY 2019, the UPC Fellowship Committee met monthly and coordinated the following activities:

- Soup & Pie Contest, Jan 27
 - Easter Brunch, Apr 21
 - UPC at the Box (LSU Baseball), May 7
 - Spring Crawfish Boil, May 19
 - Ice Cream Social, July 28
 - Fall Picnic and 1st Annual Kickball Grudge Match, October 13 - Team Bizza (Saints) beat Team Hub (Sinners) 13-5
 - Advent Soup, Cookies and Caroling, December 22
- In addition, the committee assisted in the following:
- Supported four potlucks initiated by other committees or groups
 - Prepared a list of Fellowship Committee Potluck Assistance procedures
 - Organized three open tables

The committee roughly operated within budget. The committee anticipates that 2020 activities will be similar.

2019 Annual Reports

Membership Committee

Submitted by June Klimash, chair

Committee Members: Eleanor Canon, Barbara Gray, June Klimash (Chair), Ellen Morgan, Darla O'Connor, Robbie Phillabaum, Susan Ourso, Ann Vidrine, Mary Wardlaw. Ex-Officio: The Rev. Patti Snyder; Jeff Perry, Clerk of the Session.

- Reviewed and maintained the current membership rolls as required by the Book of Order.
- Membership committee meets once a month to fold the Contact and conducts business during that time. Membership duties are assigned to task teams who keep work of the committee moving forward and report progress at the end of each month. 3-4 times per year a regular committee meeting is held. This structure will continue to be evaluated and changed to ensure the committee accomplishes all expected duties.
- Generated a master list of Active Members and provided that list of members eligible for election to church office to the nominating committee.
- Contacted visitors to the church. Each person who signed the visitor's list was contacted by phone, note, or email. Those attending several times or requesting information on membership received that information electronically or by mail. Following discussion with Rev. Snyder, a revised tracking system will be implemented in 2019 to provide more information on visitor interest and assist pastor with visitor follow-up.
- Reviewed member church attendance quarterly to note absentees who might need additional attention and care. Consultation with the pastor determined whether to send a note, make a telephone call, or suggest a pastoral call. This task is being transitioned to the current class of Deacons.
- Mailed Christmas cards to 23 member families who had been absent from church to let them know they were missed and to wish them a Merry Christmas.
- Conducted an annual review of the church rolls to determine if there are persons who should be considered for removal from church membership rolls. This review is ongoing and recommendations are made to the session only after absent members have been contacted and provided sufficient time to respond as to their continued interest in UPC membership.
- Introduced a new church category called "Friend of the Church" for members who cannot attend or contribute monetarily to the church but want to stay in touch with the life of UPC.
- Assigned sponsors for new members. The sponsor is available to the new member for a one-year period and can answer questions and help integrate the new member into the life of the congregation. In response to the "Moving Forward" survey, the new member sponsor process has been revised to allow new member sponsors to be assigned just prior to a member joining UPC. This will allow the new member to know or even meet their sponsor on the Sunday they join UPC, providing a smoother and faster transition into the church life.
- Successful participation of UPC in Pride Fest in June of

2019. Jill Clemmons coordinated the UPC Pride Fest table and volunteers and was a wonderful leader. UPC also purchased advertising space in the Pride Fest event brochure.

- Introduced new members to the congregation through photos on the bulletin board and articles in the Contact. June Klimash is our photographer and maintains the bulletin board.
- Continued to update the ACS system.
- Kept the pew racks neat and stocked with necessary materials (June Klimash, Mary Wardlaw, Ellen Morgan, Robbie Phillabaum, Barbara Gray, Eleanor Cannon and Darla O'Connor). The committee purchased new red church attendance registration books for the pews this year.
- Coordinated greeters for Sunday morning services by Ellen Morgan.
- Folded and mailed hard copies of the Contact and providing hard copies for placement in the sanctuary and welcome center.
- Committee welcomed one new committee member in 2019 – Eleanor Cannon

Office records show that UPC gained 15 members. UPC lost 19 members, 3 to death, 3 transferred membership, and 13 were removed by the session. A very special thanks go to Patti Snyder for her patience, intelligence and guidance, to Caralyn Durham for her design help and expertise, and to all the committee members who have served so willingly and faithfully.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Submitted by Drew Patty, chair

In 2019, the Committee was reorganized after a new Treasurer, Drew Patty, was appointed by the Session while the church was establishing account procedures with the help of Edward Peterson and an outside accounting firm. The Committee was reconstituted with 4 subcommittees, annual campaign (Drew Patty, chair), assets and insurance (Cordell Haymon, chair), accounting (Edward Peterson, chair) and budget (Adam Knapp, chair). The Committee began the drafting of a manual of operations for the church's accounting processes, oversaw an outside accounting firm's re-design of the accounting function and placement of accounting systems into a new, cloud-based accounting system (ACS), inventoried financial assets and insurance coverage, and examined alternative payroll service providers in order to determine what to recommend for outsourcing vs. handling within the church, as relates to payroll and accounting functions. The committee completed the annual campaign and pancake breakfast in the fall, and refined the process of generating new financial reporting to the Session each month, in order to facilitate better tracking of revenues and expenses against budget, including at the Session committee level. The Committee also initiated the budgeting process for both the church and the day school in the fall, with a goal towards making the budget format consistent with the new financial reporting to the Session. All of these steps were not without their challenges along the way, but progress has been made towards a sustainable stewardship and finance function for UPC.

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.

**Lois Liggett • Mary Timmons • Gary Meise • Ruth Bivins
Dean Kerr • Tabitha Lewis • Don Snyder • Gerri Ward • Charlie Fisher
Jonathan Lewis • Bettye Burford • Gerard Klein • Melanie Driscoll**

- **Laina Fontenot Stafford and her family**, upon the death of her father, Paul Fontenot
- **Linda Allen**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, in hospital in Gulfport
- **Andy Shelton**, Tom's brother, with liver cancer
- **Phil Quartararo**, recovering at Amber Terrace
- **Peggy Carroll**, awaiting biopsy results
- **Lee Wirth**, brother of Karen Paterson, entering a new treatment for lymphoma
- **Mona Truluck**, recovering at home from surgery
- **Beverly Jones**, recovering from foot surgery
- **Shirley Vidrine**, Ann's mother, in rehab
- **Cathy Richardson**, sister of Susan Seifert, recovering from a hip fracture in a rehabilitation facility in Lafayette
- **Chris Heyn**, father of Maggie Richardson, recovering from spinal surgery to alleviate chronic back pain
- **Alan Tobie**, father of Betsy Irvine, who is peaceful despite waning health
- **Darla O'Connor**, with broken ribs and a concussion following a snowmobile accident
- **Marla Kerr-Lawson**, Kelly Kerr's sister, undergoing chemotherapy
- **Kim Kirby**, daughter-in-law of Betty Armstrong, recovering from surgery
- **Ethel Foster**, mother of Linda Benedict, recovering from surgery at home
- **Gina Tharp**, friend of Ann Miller, undergoing treatment for Stage IV colorectal cancer
- **Terry Calendar**, friend of Wes Mainord, seriously ill following a stroke and with advanced cancer
- **Mary**, Kelly Kerr's cousin, recovering from a mastectomy and infection
- Ben Stoker's **Uncle Jody**, with advanced stage cancer
- **Mike and Chip**, friends of Robbie Phillabaum, facing difficult cancer treatments
- **Jerry Fabre**, friend of Susan Seifert, living with ALS
- **Barbara Behrmann**, in hospice care in North Carolina
- **Art Belcher**, Cynthia Peterson's brother, diagnosed with cancer
- **Betty Crawford**, friend of Robbie Phillabaum, recovering from a stroke
- **Ralph Simone**, friend of Darla O'Connor, undergoing treatment for bladder cancer
- **Joellen Hawkins**, Aunt of Emily Cogburn, with Alzheimer's
- **Alan Williams**, brother of Virginia Davis, with Parkinson's
- **Edna Faust and her son Gregory**, friends of Kay Lindsey
- **Norma Fernández**, recovering from a foot amputation due to severe diabetes, 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**
- **For people in our partner church in Cuba: Seminary students Merian and Nereida, Marvel Castellanos and her family, and pastor Josué Montejo**



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 Beth Paskoff
- 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!

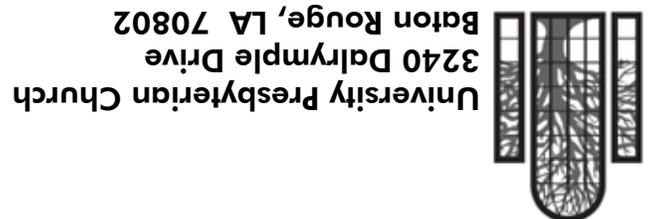
www.facebook.com/universitypresbyterian

March Birthdays

1 Nicholas Paubel	8 Chris Richardson	18 Linda Babin	23 Mary Collier Wilks
2 Marissa Baham	9 Katheryn Barry	20 George Armstrong Josie Costello	24 Jason New Katie Strain New
4 Courtney Dumas Lee Jenkins Samear Zaitoon	10 John Mazoch	Adam Knapp Terry Miller	Rachel Sheffield Jack Watson
5 Johnny Cook Matt McGraw	12 Tom Shelton	21 Adam Howell Andy Maverick	26 Gus Britton Phil Quartararo
6 Heather Atwood Gabi Perry	13 Charles Folk-Cruthirds Ann Vidrine	22 Faimon Roberts II Aden Rowland	29 Cameron Motsenbocker Emory Wright
	14 Salem Fontenot Stafford		

****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