



2017
January/February edition

Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 28



Gazing back on 2016 First Presbyterian Church had many obstacles to overcome, but we have accomplished a lot with more to do. We are a small congregation with huge hearts and caring attitude. We are growing in numbers and we will continue to follow the path God has set for us.

An inspiration quote from Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

“If you can’t fly then run.

If you can’t run then walk.

If you can’t walk then crawl.

But, whatever you do, You have to keep moving forward”.



There were two new additions to First Presbyterian Church family, **Sofia Bellau** born July 22, 2016 to Candice and Kenny Bellau; **Stella Donna Mallary** born September 19, 2016 to Kelly and Enjoli Mallary. Babies bring so much love into everyones life.

February First Presbyterian Church was host to The MRTI Presbytery group. Dinner Lab hosted two popup dinners in the Fellowship Hall. **March** – Planned Parenthood held their meeting

in the sanctuary. **April** – Langhorn Slim concert was held in the sanctuary and Housing Job Fair held their meeting in the Fellowship Hall. **June** – Loyola Listening session met in the sanctuary; South Dakota Mission group and Greenville, Tn. Mission group lodged here. **July** – Florida mission group lodged here. **August** – Tulane Welcome Freshman Square dance enjoyed the Fellowship Hall for their meet and greet; DMM Entergy held their meeting in the Sanctuary. **October** – FPC Annual Pumpkin Patch. **November** – new flooring in the Fellowship Hall and Hallway; Metropolitan Church move in. **December** – Advent activities. Let’s not forget the many committees which meet here monthly and groups that meet here weekly. We are a church that WELCOMES EVERYONE.



Many thanks to everyone who made the church hum with excitement and anticipation this past Advent.
We are a small congregation with love and compassion for others.



The First Presbyterian Youth Choir a Christmas Concert on Sunday Birth of Christ the song list included, with, How He Loves Us, emphasizing brings to the world. This year's choir nonmembers adding a beautiful



lead by Billye Constance presented December 18, 2016. To celebrate the Mary did You Know, and ended the enormity of the love Christ included members and diversity and welcome contrast.

Barritone: Gabriel Helms-Capasso, Blaise Bennett, Tyler Bowers, Sean Ricks
Alto: Anton Constance, Nathan Helms-Capasso, Wayne
Mezzo Soprano: Ludovica Ballou, Sylvia Constance, Michelle Colar

Our mission is to grow and develop our youth programs at First Presbyterian. We welcome all members and nonmembers to participate and come as you are.

Many, Many thank yous to all who were able to decorate, gather the poinsettias, sing, light the advent candles, etc. in all the church was beautiful and each service was memorable.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The youth group have been active this fall and in the New Year. Dylan, Michael Chepolis and Blaise Bennett were old enough to participate in the men's help day in the flooded area of this state. Next we had a youth choir that performed for us during advent. The Presbytery finally hired a new youth organizer, Amy Heintz. She organized a lockin at



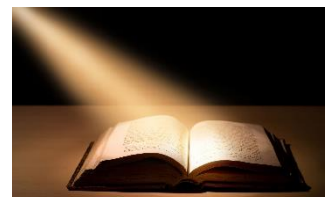
Covington Presbyterian Church in late December. We sent four youths to it, Gabriel, Connor and Michael Chepolis and Blaise Bennett, and I quote, "we had a blast." Then in January for Dr. King Day the youth went to a community garden. I will continue to work with Amy to provide spiritual support, service and fun for our youth. If you have ideas for us, let me know. On the Sunday School front, the adult class has



added some new members and continues to be a source of sustenance for its members. The children started up at the beginning of September led by Kristy, Leslie and Carolyn and assisted by Angela and me. In the New Year Kristy, Carolyn and I will teach with Angela assisting. We could use some male help if you have the heart. Yours in Christ, Tracy René

Seekers Class – Adult Bible Study

The classes are regulated by elder, Hoy Hughes every Tuesday night from 7pm – 9pm in room 208. They are reading and discussing the book of Matthew. If you would like to join this exciting group contact Hoy Hughes @ 504-452-5856. He would love to talk to you and brief you up on what the class has already read.



PROGRAM OF HOPE

You are not alone.

The POH has grown not only in size, but also in the number of volunteers who have chosen to devote their time with us. We are extremely happy we are still able to help those in need. Since November, 2016, we have had the opportunity to team up with Tulane residents who are now giving TB tests not only for the program, but also in collaboration with the Salvation Army to help them when they need this testing done there. So far, it has been a success and we are hoping to have it the first week of every month. Clothing for men and women are always needed so clean out your closets for the New Year and bring us your cleaned seasonal clothing.

submitted by: Diane Kleinfeldt, director



News from the Worship Committee

How does the church function without a pastor? Is that even a thing? Yes it is! How? With strong leadership and well-oiled committees, one of which is the worship committee, that's how. We have been working hard behind the scenes to bring you a reliable and meaningful Sunday morning worship service every week. The worship committee schedules the guest speakers and has been cultivating relationships to establish some regularity in that area. We currently have a rotation of recurring ordained ministers mixed with our own members who fill out a typical four week month.

When there is a 5th Sunday in a month we plan for a hymn sing or other special service. The upcoming rotation includes the Rev. Kathy Crighton, Rev. Crawford Brubaker, Justin Wood, Steven Strength, Bruce Robertson, and Tracy Rene Helms Capasso. We are excited to host Rev. Crawford Brubaker for our Easter Sunday service.

Some of the services we'd like to highlight:

New Year's Day meditation and all-request Hymn Sing. This format was really successful and we are so blessed with a pianist, Amanda Wadsworth, who can play anything from the hymnal on the spot.

Epiphany Sunday where we picked paper stars from the offering plate that each listed a unique attribute. This is a sort of New Year's resolution that is bestowed, not chosen.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning:

A calendar oddity resulted in back-to-back Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services. Several of our regular members and worship leaders travel over the holidays, which is understandable in our melting pot of a city. We held our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, and Christmas morning we held a joint service with the new congregation that is renting the fellowship hall as their worship space. We are grateful to them; it was a wonderful collaborative service.

Other highlights of the Christmas Season were the lighting of the Advent candles, Lessons and Carols which included the greening (decorating) of the Sanctuary, a Blue Christmas service led by Henry Kleinfeldt, and a choral performance during worship by the youth led by Billye Constance.

100th Birthday Celebration for Opus 635 (1916) Austin Organ

Our magnificent pipe organ has been in continual use for the past 100 years! (Interruptions in the organ's service were only due to being moved to a new church location in 1938, and to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.) We chose November 6th to celebrate this centennial and had a wonderful party with old and new friends of all ages, fabulous food, and inspiring music all on a beautiful Sunday morning.

(continued news from the Worship Committee)

We welcomed our dear former organist Gregory A. Nussel, back to the choir loft organ bench to play the service. Greg and his wife Vanessa came from San Antonio, Texas to play the service. In addition to the amazing music during worship, Greg showed the children how this remarkable instrument can mimic the sounds of many other instruments, like a modern electric keyboard, but remember the organ is 100 years old!

While a resident of the New Orleans area, Mr. Nussel served many churches, including positions with First Presbyterian, All Saints Episcopal in River Ridge, and, following Hurricane Katrina, Interim Organist at Christ Church Cathedral. He has enjoyed a variety of church assignments during his 46 years of playing. After his retirement from federal government service in New Orleans, with his wife Vanessa, he relocated to San Antonio, Texas, where he remains active in church music, playing each Sunday at Epiphany Anglican Church, but also playing a wide diversity of other assignments in Episcopal, Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist Churches.

We have an audio recording of the service available should anyone be interested in getting a copy please contact the church office.

The FPCNO budget committee met on Tuesday January 23rd to set the budget for 2017. We presented the budget to the session on Sunday January 29th for approval. We are pleased to present a balanced budget based on current occupancy of the building as well as an alternate budget based on obtaining a long term lease for the space formerly occupied by Lycee. We want to thank the congregation for their continued financial and spiritual support to get FPCNO on solid financial footing.



Session news



The Session has been busy the past few months. With the resigning of Marshall Fisher, Sherri Hutton has taken the role of acting clerk of session until a replacement is voted in.

Last November, we welcomed the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) as a full time tenant. Metropolitan Community Church of New Orleans is an LGBT-affirmative church in New Orleans. It is a member of the Metropolitan Community Church denomination, directed by Pastor Alisan Rowland. We are very happy to welcome them as we share many of the same beliefs and have worked together in the past. MCC uses the Fellowship Hall for their worship services and Room 202 as their office.



The Fellowship Hall floor has been redone! Thanks to an anonymous generous gift, our Fellowship Hall floor was been able to receive some much needed repair this past November. The termite damage was repaired and the entire floor was refinished to it's original pristine condition. The stairwell leading to the Fellowship Hall was also repaired.



We are still in search of a full time tenant for the school area. Currently, the space is occupied by the Vamonos Spanish Immersion Program who uses the space for day campus a few times per month. Our goal is to accept a full time school that has the capacity of students and capability to lease the entire educational wing for many years. We are moving forward with the help of God's guidance.

Men's Group



The men of First Presbyterian Church have been keeping the grounds of the church in tip top shape and repairing the inside of the building. They meet once a month. Come join them as they are not always working, but love to grill and burn things. They are a great group of men that enjoy leisure time well spent. If interested contact: Zane Fisher 504-450-8969; Chris Roberts 225-302-3428; Randy Boling 504-810-7436.

Women's Group



The Women of the church will restart a Women's group that will meet monthly. The first meeting will be held at Carolyn Graetz apartment at 24 Audubon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Carolyn can make most any evening available during the week. At the first meeting we will make a list of ideas of what we want to accomplish each month. The topic does not have to be the same each month. For more details contact Carolyn @ 504-957-0547



Friday, February 10 @ 7:pm— Cheryl invites all ladies to a paint and sip party here at First Presbyterian Church in room 102. What to bring? *Yourself*. Cheryl will provide everything you need. Please contact Cheryl @ 504-866-7409 or 225-288-6606 to get a head count of how many ladies will come. We will have tons of fun.



Mark and Leslie Schutt graciously invite our members each year to view most of the day parades (and some of the night ones as well) from the median close to their house on St Charles Ave. it is the median between Constantinople and General Taylor. Call or text them the week before to make sure they are attending the parade you're interested in; You are welcome to bring drinks and snacks to share, as well as your own fold up seat! Needing to know how to get to their spot call Leslie @ 504-715-0255.

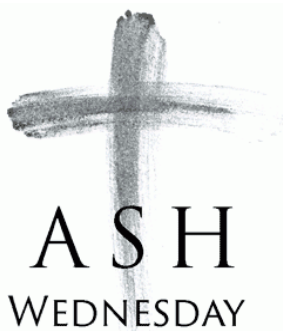
A couple of our members are actively involved in Carnival activities...here's where to find them!

Peter Cho riding with the **Krewe of Alla**, **Sunday, February 19 at 2pm** Uptown.

Ken Allen riding with the **Krewe of Tucks**, Saturday, February 25 at 12pm Uptown

Carrie Fisher will be marching with **the Dames de Perlage (Ladies of Beadwork)**

The purpose of the Dames de Perlage is to preserve the art and history of perlage so often used in costuming during the carnival season by kings, queens, maids, Big Chiefs, Spy Boys and other Mardi Gras Indians. Also, look for **Carrie and the Dames de Perlage** in the **Krewe of Freret**, **King Arthur**, **Tucks**, and a special **second line** through the French Quarter on Lundi Gras at 3pm.



ASH
WEDNESDAY

And
Imposition of Ashes
March 1, 2017

Stay tune for more info. from
the Worship committee.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

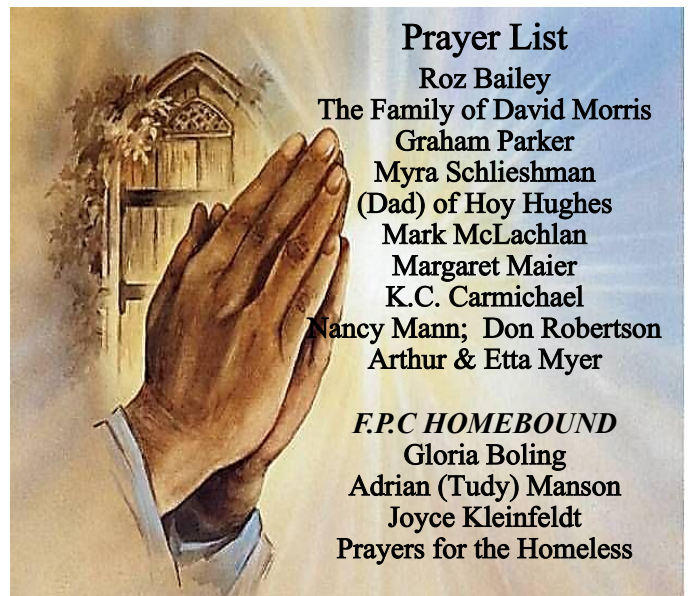


JANUARY

2 - Maria Hansell

FEBRUARY

8 - Dylan Boling
11 - David Capasso
16 - James Anthony Schutt
18 - Jennifer Strength



Prayer List

Roz Bailey
The Family of David Morris
Graham Parker
Myra Schlieshman
(Dad) of Hoy Hughes
Mark McLachlan
Margaret Maier
K.C. Carmichael
Nancy Mann; Don Robertson
Arthur & Etta Myer

F.P.C HOMEBOUND
Gloria Boling
Adrian (Tudy) Manson
Joyce Kleinfeldt
Prayers for the Homeless

Tis' The Season to Eat Jolly! New Years/Mardi Gras Recipes

Here are some recipes to start your New Year and Mardi Gras off right!

Creole Coffee Punch

Chicory was used in New Orleans during the Civil War to stretch limited coffee supplies. Over the years, blending the slightly bitter root with coffee beans has become our local tradition.

- 4 cups strongly brewed coffee-chicory-coffee blend (like Café du Monde)
- 6 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons whole milk
- 1/2 cup orange liqueur, such as Rhum Clement or Creole Shrub
- Ice cubes
- Orange twists, for garnish



Combine coffee-chicory blend, milks, and liqueur, and stir to combine well. Refrigerate until well chilled, at least 1 1/2 hours. Serve over ice, garnished with orange twists. makes 6 servings

CARNIVAL PARADE SCHEDULE (EASTBANK) 2017

Saturday – Feb. 11

French Quarter

Krewe du Vieux 6:30pm
Krewedelusion follows

Sunday – Feb. 12

Metairie

Krewe of Little Rascals 12:00pm

Friday – Feb. 17

French Quarter

Krewe of Cork 3:00pm

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Oshun 6:00pm
Krewe of Cleopatra 6:30pm

Metairie

Krewe of Excalibur 7:00pm
Krewe of Athena 7:30pm

Saturday – Feb. 18

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Pontchartrain 1:00pm
Krewe of Choctaw follows
Krewe of Freret follows
Knights of Sparta 6:00pm
Krewe of Pygmalion 6:15pm

Marigny

'tit Rax 5:00pm
Chewbacchus 7:00pm

Metairie

Krewe of Caesar 6:00pm

Sunday – Feb. 19

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Femme Fatale 11:00am
Krewe of Carrollton follows
Krewe of King Arthur and Merlin follows
Krewe of Alla follows
Krewe of Alla follows

French Quarter

Krewe of Barkus 2:00pm

Wednesday – Feb. 22

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Druids 6:30pm
Krewe of NYX 7:00pm

Thursday – Feb. 23

Uptown New Orleans

Knights of Babylon 5:30pm
Knights of Chaos 6:15pm
Krewe of Muses 6:30pm

French Quarter

Krewe of Bosom Buddies 11:30am

Friday – Feb. 24

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Hermes 6:00pm
Krewe d'Etat 6:30pm
Krewe of Morpheus 7:00pm

Metairie

Krewe of Centurions 7:00pm

Saturday – Feb. 25

Westbank

Krewe of NOMTOC 10:45am

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Iris 11:00am
Krewe of Tucks 12:00pm

Mid-City

Krewe of Endymion 4:15pm

Metairie

Krewe of Isis 6:30pm

Sunday – Feb. 26

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Okeanos 11:00am
Krewe of Mid-City 11:45am
Krewe of Thoth 12:00pm
Krewe of Bacchus 5:15pm

Metairie

Corps de Napoleon 5:00pm

Monday – Feb. 27

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Proteus 5:15pm
Krewe of Orpheus 6:00pm

Tuesday – Feb. 28 (Mardi Gras Day)

Uptown New Orleans

Krewe of Zulu 8:00am
Krewe of Rex 10:00am
Krewe of Elks Orleans follows
Krewe of Crescent City follows

Metairie

Krewe of Argus 10:00am
Krewe of Elks Jefferson follows
Krewe of Jefferson follows

Weddings at First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, La.



For information on booking your wedding, call our wedding coordinator, [Sue Young](#), at 504-891-6136. Non-members and guest pastors are welcome in our sanctuary. We are very experienced at doing weddings at First Presbyterian Church. We can assure you that you will enjoy working with us so that your wedding experience will be enjoyable and deeply meaningful. We do many destination weddings in which neither the bride nor groom live in the New Orleans area. We do many mixed faith weddings. The sanctuary of the church is ideal for a wedding - long central aisle, and classic gothic church architecture.

Some information about our beautiful sanctuary:

350 people maximum seating capacity (including pews, balcony and chairs), Suitable for weddings, concerts, recitals, and other types of ceremonies.

The fee for a wedding at First Presbyterian Church are as listed:

Wedding & rehearsal (includes pastor fee) is \$1450. A Wedding with the couple's own minister is \$1200. Fee for existing church members negotiable. A deposit of \$300.00 will confirm your date. Your \$300.00 deposit is fully refundable, up to 3 months before the date. The balance of payment to the church must be received by the church two months prior to the wedding date. The total cost for the rehearsal and wedding at First Church is \$1200.00. This does not include musician's fees (organist/band/soloist/etc), reception space/staff or fees to your own officiate or First Presbyterian Church pastor.



First Presbyterian Church Pumpkin Patch 2016

Another year has passed and our annual pumpkin patch has gone. We would like to thank all who diligently came out to volunteer the whole month of October to sell those AWESOME orange pumpkins, gourds and carving kits. We endured some bad weather on a couple of occasions, but it did not stop the community from coming out to buy their special pumpkin/s. We were successful and the proceeds were split between the Program of Hope Homeless Ministry and the Christian Education

department of First Presbyterian Church. The funds help provide the Program of Hope with much needed supplies to continue to help those in need, and to provide books and supplies for the Christian Education program. We are grateful for what this type of Fundraiser brings to so many. First Presbyterian Church will continue to open the pumpkin patch to the community, schools, daycare centers and Nursing Homes. We love our returning customers and new customers. Without your participation we could not continue to serve the public. See you all in October of 2017.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Office Manager
Cheryl Roberts

Musicians
May Ball; Aya Magavina;
Amanda Wadsworth

Wedding Coordinator
Sue Young

Sextons
Todd and Ladonna
Vandergrift

THE SESSION

Sherrri Hutton, *Acting Clerk of Session*
Candice Bellau, *Treasurer*

Class of 2016
Christopher Roberts
Tracy Rene' Helms/Capasso

Class of 2017
Sherrri Hutton
Zane Fisher

Class of 2018
Diane Kleinfeldt

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

David Capasso, Chair

Class of 2016
Randy Boling
Carrie Fisher

Class of 2017
David Capasso
Justin Wood

Class of 2018
vacant
vacant

First Presbyterian Church
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