

**Office Manager**  
**Wedding Coordinator**  
Cheryl Roberts

**PASTOR**  
Revd Fred J. Powell III

**Musicians**  
May Ball; Aya Magavina  
Amanda Wadsworth

**Sexton**

**THE SESSION**  
Claire Trimble, Clerk of Session  
Kristy Ruppel, Treasurer

**Class of 2015**  
Christopher Roberts  
Claire Trimble

**Class of 2016**  
Dariush Asadi  
Jonathan Cone

**Class of 2017**  
Sherri Hutton  
Enjoli Mallary

**THE BOARD OF DEACONS**  
David Capasso, Chair

**Class of 2015**  
Kyle Carmichael  
Diane Kleinfeldt

**Class of 2016**  
Randy Boling  
Carrie Fisher

**Class of 2017**  
David Capasso  
Justin Wood

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**5401 S. Claiborne Ave**  
**New Orleans, LA. 70125**



### **Mr. Murray W. Brashears**

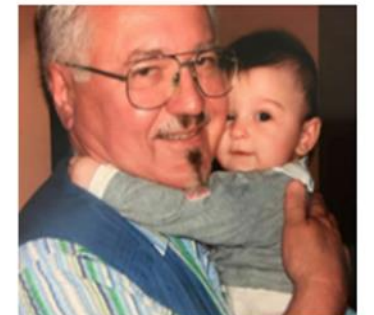
First Presbyterian Church send our deepest condolences to Mary Frances, Shanda, Anais and Cylia on the loss of Mr. Murray Winston Brashears. We will always remember Murray wonderful smile and joyful spirit. As his daughter wrote on her facebook page below, Murray is definitely conducting Mozart in a peaceful place.



**Shanda Brashears**

Mar 10 at 7:11pm Edited

Sad news Facebook friends 😞. This morning, Murray, my "ol' dad" passed on to a more peaceful place. True to form, after weeks with no muscle control at all he went out conducting to Mozart. I loved him "300 skyfulls & all the cars & 10" and while he had a rough past couple of decades, in his day he was a brilliant, hilarious, soulful and compassionate man with a creative spirit and lust for life who could cut a rug like no other. There is no single more formative force in my life and I will miss his laugh every single day.



# Where y'at, Preacher?



## Fighting Fire with Flames of the Spirit

Recently, First Presbyterian and I came under vigorous media and phone attack by people as far away as Australia because we opened our doors to Planned Parenthood and neighborhood women back in March. Groups affiliated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans had been threatening not only the health clinic that is being built by Planned Parenthood down the street from us, but even the construction workers and contractors--their livelihoods and their families. So we hosted a rally in our sanctuary at the same time the construction site was under siege by protesters.

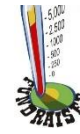
This health clinic is desperately needed by poor and minority women (some of whom are undocumented) who have no where else to turn for all kinds of health care and testing.

But this is only the background. It's my reaction to all the hate and the rhetoric and chaos in the light of the apostles experience after Jesus' resurrection that I want to share. I should have learned from their example. They, of course, had the proverbial 'Upper Room Experience' where Jesus gifted them--all of them--with the Holy Spirit that we will celebrate soon at Pentecost. They went from being scared, unsure and confused; to bonded together, incisive and absolutely convinced of God's power in their lives and the lives of everyone else. Outside that room they had much to fear. The populace was stirred up, and the apostle's speeches just made the people worse.

I, on the other hand, confronted with a modern version of a mob assault on the upper room, gave over to fighting fire with fire in a few cases, writing vituperative responses to asinine attacks...which made absolutely no change in the mobs and left me angry and empty. That is when I started reading Acts more closely and tried another tack. The Apostles didn't let the haters off the hook, but they didn't fight sin with sin. They made positive changes; even though the menace was still there, they reacted by healing and performing miracles, teaching and doing many of the things that Jesus had done.

We need to stand up to hate, lies and willful misunderstanding wherever it is found, but counter it with firmness of faith, the truth, and trust that "Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us." (Desmond Tutu)

*Grace and peace,  
Pastor Fred*



**The FUNdraising Committee**  
**(We Put the Fun in FUNdraising)**  
**Rummage Sale \$1,214.47**



Not bad at all for our first sale and something that we first started discussing about six weeks ago. Never underestimate the power of the small but mighty First Pres. A few more dollars may trickle in with some after-the-fact sales.

All thanks goes to Mina Crais, our fearless leader. She was the reason for this shindig! It was her idea and she led the way! So many other folks helped out and thanks goes to (in no special order): Co-chair Justin Wood, Chris Roberts, Sue Young, Pastor Fred, May and Larry Ball, Mary Frances Brashears, Candy Bellau, Miss Toni, Arthur, Claire Trimble, Amanda Bennett, Carrie Fisher, Amie B Wood, Hope Loughran, Justin's Square Dance crew, Cheryl Roberts, Carolyn Graetz, Bruce Robertson, KC Carmichael, Tracy Rene and the Youth Group, Mark & Leslie Schutt, Cleo, Kevin, Mina's friends whom I don't know by name, LOTS of donators from the church, Lycee, Mina's 'hood, and elsewhere, and...and...others I'm sure I'm forgetting. (Apologies for those I've missed. Allergy fog + fatigue = poor working memory.) Thanks also to anyone who donated to support First Pres!

We still have the Go Fund Me ([www.gofundme.org/fpcnokitchen](http://www.gofundme.org/fpcnokitchen)) on going, as well as events coming up to support the Program of Hope and Unity.

*Dee Boling*



**October 16, 17, 18, 2015**

In addition to our Pumpkin Patch, we will be the centerpiece for the October Presbytery meeting, with a party on Friday night (Oct. 16); Presbytery meeting on Saturday (Oct. 17); and a guest preacher from Cuba on Sunday (Oct. 18)!



## OFFICE BREAK – IN

The break-in which happened on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> was discussed. There was unanimous agreement that building security needed to be increased. A door-access system for the S. Prieur Street entrance was discussed. Chris said he would ask the Lycee' Francais School which company they used for their system.

Building and Grounds Committee:  
*Ken Allen, Zane Fisher, Christopher Roberts, Randy Boling and Fred Powell*



## **KITCHEN RENOVATION (Final Payment)**



Project Homecoming has submitted their final invoice for the kitchen renovation. The only thing that hadn't been completed was mounting the sink to the wall. That was pending a \$500.00 change order that would add a stainless steel back splash behind the sink. Zane Fisher and Ken Allen negotiated the installation of the backsplash which Project Homecoming supplied and installed at their expense. The backsplash was installed on Friday, June 26, 2015.

### **Refrigerator**

Eric, one of Carrie and Zane Fisher's neighbor, an expert in kitchen renovation and who also owned a restaurant, came to the meeting to talk about commercial refrigerators. He was presented with 5 commercial refrigerators that Chris Roberts found were within our budget and he gave us his recommendation, which happened to be the cheapest one. Eric recommended that we go to Restaurant Depot to check and see if they could match the price or better.

Chris met with Eric on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to walk through the kitchen. Eric inspected the kitchen and gave some recommendations. He said the stove is fine, it just needs a good cleaning; there was a hood vent in the past and the electrical hookups were still there; the remaining wooden baseboard around the kitchen would have to be replaced with rubber baseboard; the non-stainless steel tabletop in the kitchen is fine but the wooden top needs to be removed.

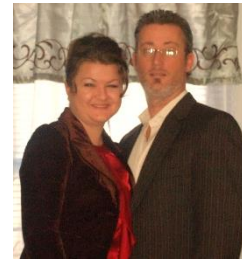
## **OTHER REPAIRS CONTEMPLATED**

### **Stairs**

Fred Powell has spoken with Eddie Ramos (who repaired the pew in the sanctuary) about the stairs. Eddie is putting together an estimate. He also said there was termite damage under the stairs, which is being handled by our exterminator.

### **Fellowship Hall Floor**

Repairing the floor was discussed. It would have to be addressed after the termite treatment has been completed.



## **REDEMPTION CHURCH**

*(New Church Nested in the Fellowship Hall)*. Pastor Todd and his wife Ladonna Vandegrift and their members will have their first worship service in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 5, 2015 at 10:00am. Pastor Vandegrift's congregation is small, but with the love of God connected so tightly in their hearts, we know that the right church has come aboard with us. They will also be providing cleaning services for the building.

They were excited to begin the cleaning duties on June 17, 2015. Their cleaning schedule will be Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, *(their assistance will help defray the cost of the Fellowship Hall rental fee)*. Pastor Todd hopes that a Saturday night service will be possible once they start to grow. We welcome with open arms the Redemption Church.



## **THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Pastor, C. Maxille Moultrie and his congregation have come aboard with First Presbyterian Church also. They have begun meeting every Thursday evening at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for their Thursday night services, and Sunday mornings from 9:00am – 10:30am. We are overjoyed to have them here. Pastor Moultrie and his congregation are very thankful to First

Pres. for the opportunity to begin worshipping here and watching their congregation begin to grow. When you see them, say "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, we are glad you are here". You are invited each Sunday morning to coffee hour with them before our 11:00am service

## **FPCNO's Master Carpenter, Eddie Ramos!!**



Eddie Ramos, a regular visitor to First Presbyterian, is gifted with an appreciation and reverence for wood. Not only was he featured in the Louisiana Heritage section of this year's Jazzfest at the New Orleans fairgrounds, he has been making his expertise available to his church too! In April he noticed that some of the pews were in dire need of repair, where the backs had completely split from the seats and that several of the seats had split lengthwise, (making it a difficult proposition to sit down

without getting a nasty pinch!) so he brought his tools and did the repairs so well that Pastor Fred couldn't tell which pews had been damaged when he showed them to other church members.

## ST. CHARLES AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RHINO GROUP

Over the past 2 weeks we have had 2 groups of about 10 high school students from Virginia and Texas here painting, cleaning and sprucing up the building. There was much planning about the RHINO group's projects around the building. Ken Allen offered to pay for many of the supplies they needed. They were tasked with beginning to paint the kitchen, redigging the garden, cleaning the sanctuary floor, walls and woodwork amongst other things. Please go up and check out the Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, second floor hallway and Sanctuary.



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## MISSION GROUPS

Since Hurricane Katrina we've opened our doors to groups coming to rebuild in the NOLA area.



This summer we will have three groups camping out in the church.

**June 14-20** we hosted the Youth Group from **First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wisconsin, lead by Rev Paul Huxtable**. This was the first time since shortly after Katrina that they had worked in the New Orleans area. They worked with Habitat for Humanity and Project Homecoming.

Then, **June 28 - July 3 First Presbyterian of Greenville TN** led by Rev. Greg Cartwright

has been with us also to work on projects in the area. A very special thank you to the Greenville, TN group. The last week of June we were pleased to host an this energetic group of adults and youth who, not only stayed with us, but did an enormous amount of work and repair around the church for us. They completely scraped and repainted the kitchen, rewired and connected the washer and dryer, repaired the leak in the men's shower and repaired the ceiling in the back hall, among other many other deeds of kindness. They also contributed new items to the kitchen and did many other things as well for New Orleans. We are entirely in their debt.



Lastly, **Bethel Presbyterian church from Seattle WA, led by Scott Gronholz** will be finishing their work project in Jackson MS at the Spencer Perkins center where they will be working with racial reconciliation, community and youth development. They will then come to FPCNO for the weekend of **July 10 to 12**, to help at the church and also tour New Orleans.

All of these groups give donations for their housing and also help do various projects around First Presbyterian in addition to the work they do elsewhere in the city. Please do make them feel welcome here in our city and our church.

## 2015 New Orleans Bridal Magazine Bridal Show

On Friday, June 10, 2015 First Presbyterian attended their first Bridal Show. Dee Boling, Sue Young and Chris Roberts and Fred Powell had an amazing time.



Our amazing FUNdraising committee executed a brilliant marketing plan that night, and we are just delighted with the results. For over a decade our church has been welcoming to all couples seeking a church wedding, and we maintained a modest presence in print and web advertising. But, June 10 First Presbyterian attended our first Bridal Show and we had an amazing time: The New Orleans Bride Magazine Bridal Show was a great fit for us, and being the personable and friendly group that we are, we were able to engage with brides, grooms, parents, and friends face to face, and tell them about our beautiful Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, and our welcoming stance towards all couples. We told them that we are happy to accommodate mixed faith weddings, LGBTQ commitment ceremonies, and that we are experienced with destination weddings. We also mentioned that even if we didn't work out as their venue, we'd love to see them on Sundays at 11am.

Dee Boling said, "I was encouraged by the brides who truly seemed interested, and by the general positive vibe from everyone, even if they had venues or pastors already picked out."

A huge bonus was the ability to network with other wedding professionals. Caterers and event planners were impressed with the Fellowship Hall and commented that it would fill a niche for those seeking the rustic vibe. Hotels commented that their destination brides want a church wedding but don't know where to go.

We are excited to continue reaching out to people in this way and hope to attend more bridal shows in the future.

Read more about our experience on our web page.

<http://www.fpcno.org/csfdc/content/our-first-bridal-show>

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## MARRIAGE IS MARRIAGE



On Friday, June 26, the very day that the Supreme Court struck down the same sex marriage ban, FPCNO had a table at the very first LGBT wedding show in the South. Pastor Fred Powell, Enjoli and Kelly Mallary and Kevin Atchley were in attendance. It was held at "The Chicory", a venue in the CBD and featured great music, exceptional food and beverages, a bridal fashion show, and of course an incredible celebration. FPCNO received its first booking for a same sex wedding two hours after the Supreme Court handed down its decision.

# July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NO Cuban Salsa this month			<b>1</b> 9:00am – POH  5:30pm – Staff mtg.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  7:00pm - Tango	<b>4</b>  
<b>5</b> 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Chris Roberts Deacon – Randy Boling Liturgist – Mary Frances	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Eleanor Maier B/D</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am - POH	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Bethany</b> <b>Presbyterian</b>  7:00pm - Tango	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Mission Group</b>  11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Jon Cone Deacon – David Capasso Liturgist – Bruce Robertson	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am – POH  5:30pm – Staff mtg.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:00pm - Tango	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Chris Roberts Deacon – K.C Carmichael Liturgist – Justin Wood  12:00pm - Memorial Service for Murray Brashears	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Henry Kleinfeldt B/D</b>  6:30pm – Session mtg.	<b>22</b> 9:00am - POH	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00pm - Tango	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Claire Trimble Deacon – Carrie Fisher Liturgist – Amanda Bennett	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am - POH	<b>30</b>	<b>31 Justin Wood B/D</b>  7:00pm - Tango	

# August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Enjoli Mallary Deacon – Liturgist – 7:00pm – Cuban Salsa	3	4	5 9:00am - POH	6 Hiroshima Day	7 7:00pm - Tango	8
9 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Sherri Hutton Deacon – Liturgist – 7:00pm – Cuban Salsa	10	11	12 9:00am – POH 5:30pm – Staff mtg.	13	14 7:00pm - Tango	15
16 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Chris Roberts Deacon – Liturgist – 7:00pm – Cuban Salsa	17	18	19 9:00am - POH	20	21 7:00pm - Tango	22
23 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Jon Cone Deacon – Liturgist – 7:00pm – Cuban Salsa	24	25 7:00pm – Budget mtg	26 9:00am - POH	27 Terry Ruppel B/D	28 7:00pm - Tango	29
30 Ray Whitlow B/D 11:00am - Sunday Worship Elder – Jon Cone Deacon – Liturgist – 7:00pm – Cuban Salsa	31					

