

Office Manager
Wedding Coordinator
Cheryl Roberts

PASTOR
Revd Fred J. Powell III

Musicians
May Ball; Aya Magavina
Amanda Wadsworth

Sexton
Adria Buchanan

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



Program of HOPE 7th year Anniversary!

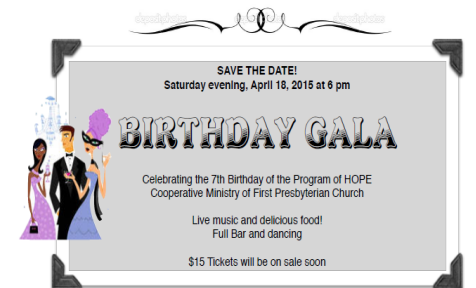
On April 1st the Program of Hope located at FPCNO will start it's seventh year helping the many homeless and needy people in the community. It has been exciting and meaningful past year's and we look forward to helping those in need in the many years to come. We now have 6 other churches and many more volunteers who have committed to working with the program, but the numbers don't stop there, the number of services we provide has also increased such as: resume' writing, job search, medical needs and so much more, as have the number of clients we get each week. So, we invite you to come out one Wednesday morning to see what it's all about.

The Program of Hope has 2 events in April, a Special Luncheon and a Fundraiser.



The Volunteer Luncheon will be **Wednesday, April 8 at 11am** in appreciation for our hardworking, dedicated volunteers. Every Monday afternoon volunteers come to the church to set up the many items and clothing in the sanctuary (*this all takes time and patience*) to be ready for the Wednesday Ministry day. Wednesday mornings can be hectic or smooth sailing, but in all it is worth the time, especially when we receive the many thank yous from the clients we have served that day. So, of course we want to say Thank You to Our Volunteers. All are welcome to come

The Birthday Gala Fundraiser will be on **Saturday, April 18 from 6pm until 10pm** in the Fellowship Hall with square dancing, food and drinks. Tickets are \$15 and there will be a cash bar, tickets can be purchased from Fred, Diane, or from the church office, ALL of the profits will be used for the Program of Hope Homeless Ministry.



Come join us and kick up your heels, dance, eat and enjoy great friendship. Hope to see you there!!

Diane Kleinfeldt, *director*

Where y'at, Preacher?



March Madness

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

“The LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live” NUMBERS 21:8

A few months ago I was approached by someone after church who was puzzled about what he saw us do with bread and wine. For him it was as bizarre as the first time I saw people repeatedly clapping round wooden wedges to their foreheads then throw them on the floor in a Thai temple.



I recounted Jesus’ breaking the bread and sharing the cup and how it fit in with Jesus’ death, and most importantly, Jesus’ resurrection and his assurances of our own life after death. My new friend asked, laughing “Is that just literature that you have to read, or do you actually believe it happened?”

It was wonderful to see and hear our crazy story through the eyes and ears of someone completely alien to it; to get a fresh view into the madness that is faith...whether it be faith in Christ and the Trinity, or Moses curing snakebite by showing a fake snake, Mohammed flying to Jerusalem in an instant and leaving a footprint in stone, or Siddhartha pouring fire and water from his body simultaneously. Some or all of these may seem completely nonsensical to us, but wars have been fought; lives --and indeed, nations--have been transformed; and great happiness has been born from abandoning all sense to the contrary and trusting in the power of God that is greater than ourselves.

I can’t talk about other faiths reliably, but I do believe with my whole heart in our “March (to the cross and resurrection) Madness”. I trust the witnesses to Christ I have read and journeyed with who have proved authentic; I trust the small resurrection experiences in my life, and I trust the goodness that I have been given. Goodness that does not originate with me, sinner that I am, but goodness that points me step by hesitant step in the direction of deepening faith, life and happiness. And I invite you to go crazy too and do things that will improve the lives and souls of yourself and others this March.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Fred*

Our Seminarian, Chad Pitman needs your help!



On February 24 Chad Wright-Pittman, an FPCNO member who is studying at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta GA, was 'moved to candidacy' by our Presbytery on February 24. This means that he is in the next to the last stage before he is ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. Most of his studies have been self funded, but he needs to raise \$1300 to pay for a very special class—in Hungary and the Czech Republic! Each 2nd year seminarian is supposed to explore ministry out of their comfort zone for a month. Students are sent as far away as South Africa and Korea for this experience, and Chad was selected to be sent churches in Eastern Europe. While he is there he will be meeting with Christian leaders in the area, learning the history and culture of this part of the world and exploring the challenges and opportunities faced by the church in that region.

The Seminary pays the largest part of this class, but because of the travel involved, Chad is going to have to pay for his airfare and some other expenses. We, as his church, are supposed to help his education and training, and if you would like to help Chad Pittman in this you can do so by going to his “Go Fund Me” site here —> <http://www.gofundme.com/n8it2c> and donating!

FUNdraising Committee



Are you ready for some FUNdraising! ..

It’s hard to believe that the FUNdraising Committee has only been in existence for a little over six months. In that time we launched a successful effort to open our lot for Tulane home games (now that Yulman Stadium has opened a few blocks down Claiborne) and we partnered with the Waldorf School to sell Christmas Trees. The final numbers are coming in, but it looks like together both efforts made more than \$1,600. Not too shabby for our first year out. ..

After that flurry of activity, the committee took some time off but finally managed to get back together again (Thanks, Chris!) in late January. We brainstormed a lot of new ideas and we’re currently looking into ways to utilize our space here at First for more rentals, considering ways to earn funds with some online tools, and we’re finding new ways to promote weddings. We have literally dozens of other ideas that we hope to jump on as time permits. ..

Just last week, we submitted a grant application to Union Presbyterian Seminary that we hope will come out on top. It was for the Elinor Curry Award and is designed to help vital church ministries that “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” That’s the very definition of our Program of Hope so we are optimistic that our application will find favor with the judging committee. ..

We’ve also started what we hope will become a viral campaign called “We’re with First.” The basic idea is to promote who we are – the diversity of people who attend and call this church home. After all, more people in the pews means more giving in the plate! That’s what our fall stewardship campaign was all about (and we hope you remember the Bayou Home Companion from WFPC!). So if you are out and about, capture pictures of yourself and your families – in church, at a parade, at a festival, wherever you are to show that First Presbyterian members are everywhere. ..

We have set a regular schedule for our meetings – the last Saturday of the month at 9:00am in the Session Room. New energy and new ideas are ALWAYS welcome. Together, we can move mountains! ..

--Dee Boling

Our Church Secretary

What's up with the kitchen?

In November, we started the exciting process of renovating our once-decrepit kitchen. This Phase of the renovation included new plumbing, flooring, and electrical work. There have been a few snags in the process along with quite a few holidays but Project Homecoming has promised us that all work will be completed soon.



In detail, what's been done is:

- new plumbing throughout the kitchen
- replacement of old water heater with two new water 40 gallon water heaters that were placed in the attic
- new 3-compartment commercial sink
- hand washing sink
- new grease trap
- new sub floor
- installation of gorgeous ceramic tiles
- a floor drain near the sinks
- hookups for a commercial dishwasher (future item)
- keypad lock for the kitchen door and deadbolt lock for rear kitchen door
- repair of drywall damage in the right-side hallway of the stage

This is a great start and will give us a serviceable kitchen but we're not done yet! After the renovations are done, we (the church) will be doing some finishing touches like painting the cabinets and organizing everything.

Phase II would involve getting rid of our ancient stove, along with new appliances including a commercial refrigerator and freezer, ice maker, hood vent, etc. so that we'll finally have a full-fledged commercial kitchen.

Submitted: Chris Roberts



Cheryl Roberts, wears several hats here as First Presbyterian Church's Office Manager as well as the FPCNO Wedding Coordinator. Her main job is to assist the pastor and also manage use of the building by outside groups. She also works extensively with brides and grooms in the year before their wedding as well as day of, during and after the ceremony. Cheryl has also been a member of this church for more than 20 years. Her two children De'antra Armstrong and Christopher Roberts were nurtured here at FPCNO when they were young and Cheryl's three grandchildren, Ka'mari, Ke'maya and Kaileigh Armstrong visit here as well. She has been providing office support for First Presbyterian since 1996 with a break to work for a major law firm in New Orleans for 4 1/2 years. When hurricane Katrina hit, she moved to Bryan, College Station, Texas, (a place she had never heard of before) and began working at [First Presbyterian Church](#) there as an Administrative Assistant. She learned to love Texas and First Presbyterian, Bryan, and still keeps in contact with them. She returned to New Orleans and to the staff of First Presbyterian Church in 2010.

She says: "God makes a path for all of us to follow, just follow it. There are obstacles he will put in front of you, but with God's strength you can overcome these hurdles, and your life will be filled with joy, happiness and prosperity. Out of all the jobs I have had, the most rewarding one is being a church secretary. I have been led from one state to the other to share my Christian faith with others. My duties in life are to help and serve others through God's faith in me. Thank you First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans and Bryan, Texas for keeping me grounded."



HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY – 11:00 am worship, March 29th. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem in word and music

HOLY THURSDAY – 6:00 pm Thursday, April 2nd. Start in the Fellowship Hall with a "Stations of Deliverance" Passover experience as you make a personal, quiet, journey with Jesus through food and prayer at your own pace to 6 different stations that tell the story of Exodus and Jesus last Supper with his disciples (6pm to 6.45 pm). Then we will gather for a short communion service in the sanctuary at 6.45.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER CENTERS -Noon to 3pm and 6pm to 7 pm Friday, April 3rd. The sanctuary will be open for prayer both in the afternoon and the evening. We will have a labyrinth, stations of the cross and other devotions to help you participate in Christ's passion and death.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE - 7 am, Sunday, April 5, with Parkway Presbyterian Church at the main shelter in Lafrenière Park in Metairie

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT and EASTER BONNET COMPETITION FOR ADULTS AND KIDS – 10:30 am, Easter Morning, Sunday, April 5. Make a wild and crazy beautiful bonnet and wear it before church on Easter Morning. We also ask that you bring either plastic eggs or a bag of candy to put in the eggs...for the kids (and well, may be couple of Gold Brick Eggs for adults...) Bring your children and grandchildren for the fun!

EASTER SERVICE of THE RESURRECTION - 11am Easter Sunday, April 5th Bring your family and friends for this joyous Communion service. In all the excitement, please don't forget to bring canned goods and donations for the hungry!

EASTER MONDAY - The church office will be closed in observance of Easter.

Committee Teams

The Session decided at our last meeting that we'd like to highlight the various committees and volunteer opportunities at FPCNO, to garner enthusiasm and hopefully recruit some new faces.



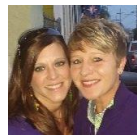
On Palm Sunday (March 29) we're going to include an additional bulletin insert with a brief description of each committee's mission and projects, as well as give you all a chance to promote your group. We're giving you a heads up so you can discuss this in your next committee meeting or over email.

Here's what we need from you:

- 1) Each committee should **draft a 75 - 150 word introduction to your committee for the bulletin** insert. You might include primary responsibilities, current projects, past successes, easy opportunities to volunteer, etc. Please include the time and date of your April meeting. (Due: Wednesday, March 18)
- 2) Designate someone to give a **30 second "elevator pitch" during the service** on March 29 – what's great about your committee, your current must-do project and what they can do to start helping right away.
- 3) **Volunteer to help with Palm Sunday Preparations!** We need a theme ... and maybe a cake? Do you have a favorite "all hands on deck" hymn we should sing? Want to edit the bulletin insert? Let me know!

-Claire

Update from the SESSION



Enjoli Mallary is joining the Session for the first time. *Enjoli is on the right and Kelly is on the left.* Enjoli is a Metairie native and the inspection manager in the "life safety industry" for a large company, which means overseeing the licensed fire alarm, sprinkler, and suppression inspectors for their New Orleans district. She and her wife Kelly have three dogs (Cayenne, PJ and Tattoo) and will be celebrating their one year anniversary on April 1. Enjoli is a self-professed "adrenaline junkie" and loves roller coasters, water parks and haunted houses! **Sherri Hutton** took a year hiatus, but is returning to the Session. Sherri is an attorney and has lived in Uptown New Orleans since 1999. She has provided invaluable service in drafting and following up with our lease commitments with the Lycee Francais. **Steve Strength** and **Bruce Robertson** are rolling off the Session.

We are a little congregation with a big heart and a big building. Unfortunately, the day to day realities of keeping up an historic property and juggling community activities is difficult with a small congregation. The Presbytery's **Committee on Ministry** has been meeting with the Session for a year now in order to assist us with

our unique financial and personnel issues. In December, a **Listening Team** spent three evenings hearing the concerns of congregation members and friends. The Listening Team was genuinely impressed with the deep caring and commitment of those they met with and had these recommendations:

- 1) Form a personnel committee to determine the specific roles of the pastor, the office manager and sexton.
- 2) The Session and the pastor need to agree upon a common vision for FPC's long-term ministry and viability.
- 3) The church needs to front-end financial solvency information at every Session meeting.

As the Session, we have a duty to be careful financial stewards of the resources of First Presbyterian Church. The Session is deeply grateful to the **FUNdraising Committee**, who on their own initiative have begun meeting and following through on new fundraising ideas. We also created and tasked a **Budget Subcommittee of the Session** with reviewing our current income and expenses and making a recommendation for 2015. They are always looking for new friendly faces.

What can you do to help the Session?

- 1) **Make a pledge!** If you have not yet made a pledge for 2015, please contact Pastor Fred. Literally any amount will help us plan and grow this year.
- 2) **Volunteer with a committee!** First Presbyterian is volunteer powered! If you're not sure, just come watch. We love new ideas for worship planning, fundraising or just social gatherings! Join us on Palm Sunday (**March 29**) to get more information.
- 3) **Pray for First Presbyterian Church.** In church or in your car, say a little pray for the wonderful people and passions of this Community of God.

2014 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

2014 Total Income: \$241,058

This includes all building and wedding rentals, reimbursements, tithing and open-plate giving, Program of Hope donations, the roof law suit, and Pumpkin Patch income. Transfers from the endowment were not included.

2014 Total Expenses: \$276,817

This includes building expenses (insurance, utilities and repair), staff and contractor salaries, office supplies, committee expenditures and benevolence.





Account Balances as of December 31, 2014

General Fund: \$7078

Transformation Fund: \$3779

Total Endowment: \$67,034

Program of Hope: \$14,454

Cuban Salsa meets every Sunday at 7pm Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Communion Sunday (Elder -Bruce Robertson) (Liturgist - Chris Roberts) (Usher - Diane Kleinfeldt)	2 Randy and Dee Boling B/D 2:30pm - Staff mtg	3 5:30pm - Worship Com. mtg	4 9am-11am Program of Hope 11am - HIV testing	5  6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	6 7pm - Tango class	7 9am - Women United in Prayer
8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder -Jonathan Cone) (Liturgist - Enjoli Mallary) (Usher - Randy Boling)	9	10	11 Joyce Kleinfeldt B/D 9am-11am Program of Hope 11am - POH Advisory Board mtg	12  6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	13 7pm - Tango class	14
15 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder -Danush Asadi) (Liturgist - Dee Boling) (Usher - David Capasso)	16 Lambert House	17	18 9am-11am Program of Hope 7pm - Deacons mtg	19 COM - Baton Rouge  6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	20 7pm - Tango class	21
22 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder -Claire Trimble) (Liturgist - Justin Wood) (Usher - K.C. Carmichael)	23 Mark Schutt B/D	24	25 Kourash Asadi B/D 9am-11am Program of Hope 6:30pm - Session mtg	26  6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	27 7pm - Tango class	28 9am - FUNdraising Committee mtg
29 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder -Enjoli Mallary) (Liturgist - Bruce Robertson) (Usher - Carrie Fisher)	30	31	<h1>March 2015</h1>			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1 K.C. Carmichael B/D</i> 9am-11am Program of Hope 11am - HIV testing	<i>2 Olivia Cone B/D</i> 6pm-HOLY THURSDAY “Stations of Deliverance” (in the Fellowship Hall)	<i>3</i> 12pm-3pm & 6pm-7pm GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER CENTERS (in the sanctuary) 7pm - Tango class	<i>4 Betty Norris B/D</i> 9am - Women United in Prayer
<i>5</i> EASTER SUNDAY 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder –Sherri Hutton) (Liturgist - Mary Frances Brashears) (Usher - Justin Wood)	<i>6</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 9am-11am Program of Hope 11:30am POH Anniversary party	<i>9</i> 6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	<i>10</i> 7pm - Tango class	<i>11 Dariush Asadi</i>
<i>12</i> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder –Chris Roberts) (Liturgist -) (Usher - Randy Boling)	<i>13</i> 5pm - Staff mtg	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 9am-11am Program of Hope	<i>16</i> 6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing COM - Baton Rouge	<i>17 Bill Norris B/D</i> <i>Amie Benson B/D</i> 7pm - Tango class	<i>18</i> 6pm - 10pm Program Of Hope Fundraiser
<i>19</i> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder –Jon Cone) (Liturgist -) (Usher - David Capasso)	<i>20</i>	<i>21 Enjoli Mallary B/D</i>	<i>22</i> 9am-11am Program of Hope 6:30pm - Session mtg	<i>26</i> 6pm - Evening Prayer and Anointing	<i>27</i> 7pm - Tango class	<i>25</i> 9am - FUNdraising Committee mtg.
<i>26</i> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:20am 4yr-4th grade Sunday School 10:40am 5th grade up Sunday School 11:00am Worship (Elder –Dariush Asadi) (Liturgist -) (Usher - K.C. Carmicahel)	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<h1>April 2015</h1>	