



FAITHFUL TIMES

FPC December 2007 Newsletter



From the Desktop of Pastor Chris



Transitions...

When a composer has developed a musical idea and wants to further the development, but feels that the current musical key cannot forward the piece, he or she will begin to start using musical notes that aren't in the original key. For instance, if a composer wants to develop the piece forward from the key of C (for which the notes are: C D E F G A B C) to the key of G (G A B C D E F# G), the composer will begin the process by using notes in the new key to 'hint at' the new key. The musical transition from one key to another is sometimes drawn out over many measures, with hints given here and there, and sometimes the transition is done very quickly. Sometimes the transitions lead to new musical material, but the one we're probably most familiar with is the transition that leads to a restatement of the main musical theme in a higher key.

Jesus, as the great composer (*Hebrews 12:2*) has made it clear to Faith Presbyterian what we are to be 'singing'—we have a very clear mission that you can find on the cover of our bulletin every Sunday. We have core values that you can read on the back of that same bulletin every Sunday. The Master composer has given Faith a 'tune to sing', and we'll continue to sing that tune, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author (originator, founder, initiator, and I would add composer) of our faith.

We are not free to sing a tune that the Scriptures do not teach—we are bound to the Scriptures as our rule of faith (*Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 1, Larger Catechism Q. 3-5, Shorter Catechism Q. 2-3*).

Here's how we see this transition working itself out over time. I will be making sure that we have pulpit supply until the interim arrives. My calling at Faith as an Assistant Pastor is filled with things other than preaching, but sometimes I will be preaching, and sometimes we will have men familiar to our Faith family preaching. On occasion, we might even have some new faces in our pulpit, but rest assured that the Bible will be preached, whether by me or anyone else in the pulpit. Our *Book of Worship* says this regarding preaching:

...no worship is complete without the reading and preaching of the Word. For this reason, the Pastor and Church Session should be careful to protect the pulpit in each particular church that the Word be truly preached.
(BOW 2.6.D)

The session in conjunction with our presbytery are currently searching for an interim pastor for our congregation. There are multiple vehicles for putting the word out for an interim, some of which are posting on the EPC's website, posting to seminary websites (RTS, Covenant, Westminster, etc), as well as pastoral networking. An interim will bring consistency to our pulpit for Sunday mornings, so themes can be developed over a longer period of time. But God still speaks when His word is preached, whether it's the same preacher every week or not, and that's awesome! All thanks to the Spirit of God who makes His Scriptures sing to us! An interim will also be helpful to us in this transition in other ways too, being able to see things from an outside perspective.

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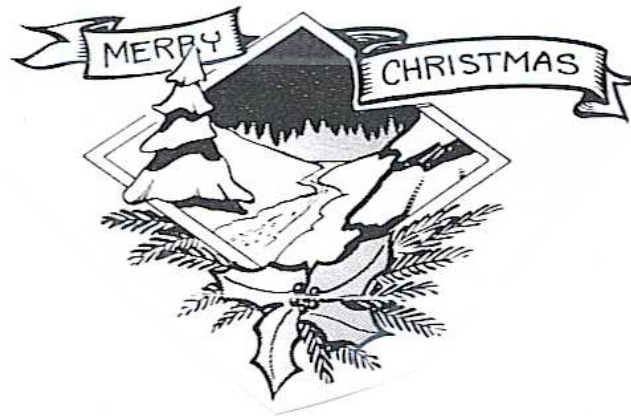
When it's time to start the search for a permanent pastor, the congregation will have a few workshops in order to fill out what is called the *Congregational Information Form*, which is a profile of Faith Presbyterian church. This will be a time when we take another look at who we are and how God has built us together as a congregation. At some point, a search committee will be elected and will begin the process of interviewing pastors for the permanent position.

That's a lot of stuff to think about, for sure!

Our congregational life will continue throughout this whole process. We will continue to have opportunities to learn the Scriptures, learn about each other through fellowship, and learn about ourselves through serving. Every week, you will be called to worship the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus (*Hebrews 12:2*), who will continue to lead his followers in doing His work, the work of the Church—reaching the world with the Good News of the Gospel. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, the master composer, realize that He is also the master conductor—and we'll continue to sing His tune together in whichever key He decides.

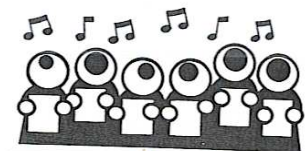
Blessings to you this Advent as we wait for Jesus' coming,

Pastor Chris
chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org



Join us as we go **CAROLING**

Did you know that you not only sound better in the shower singing but you also sound better outside with a group of friends. So, join us on **Saturday, December 15th at 5 P.M.** and no one will even notice if you can't hold a note! We will meet at Pastor Chris' house at **2179 Biron Street in Mandeville** and when we are done caroling we'll go in for some refreshments. Talk with Chris for directions.



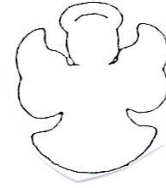
Women's Update

Faith Circle will meet at the home of Ruth Gruder on December 11th at 12:30 pm for a holiday lunch.. They will start the year off with their regular monthly gathering on January 8th . This group of ladies meet on the second Tuesday of each month for a dessert and Bible Study. Talk with Mary Edmundson about joining in.

WHAM (Women's Helpful Activity Monday) starts up again on **January 7th** at 9:30 A.M.

Double Nickels will have fun on **January 21st** at noon. Mark your calendars!

Be An Angel, Pick An Angel



The Angel *Giving* Tree is ready for you to pick an angel. To participate, just pick an angel and furnish the item written on it. Have it wrapped and labeled (just **put the white paper angel you picked taped to the top of the gift**) and placed under the tree by **December 16th**. The gifts will be delivered on December 17th.

**It worked for Oprah -
why not us?
FPC's BOOK CLUB
is about to begin!**

The first book is: "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey. Let us know by January 7th if you want in and we will order a book for you (cost \$10). We will read a section on our own (we will divide the book up into maybe 4 sections) and meet once a month to discuss and share coffee. This will be an evening meeting so you working ladies will have a chance to join in.

BOOK CLUBS are where it's at! So get in with the trend and join Faith's **BOOK CLUB** today!!!

Your Women's Council takes this opportunity to wish all the ladies of Faith a blessed and peaceful holiday. They look forward to serving you in 2008!

*Patty Frutiger, Nikki Slaton, Lynette Ward, Cindy Harlan,
Pat Howard, Lynn Fury and Ruth Gruder*

Children's Ministry

by Pam Greenbaum



Mark your calendars! Sunday, December 16, all of our children, Nursery through 6th grade, will perform Christmas songs and play bells with our adult ringers during worship service. We will have our final rehearsal with Pastor Chris during Sunday School on the 16th. So be sure to have your 4 year old—6 grader children in Sunday School so they can be assigned their bell color and invite your friends and family.

On Sunday December 23rd we will have our birthday party for Jesus during Children's Church. Moms and Dads, if you would like to help with this special celebration please contact me.

SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!

Can you name that tune?



Each line below is a clue to a well-known yuletide song. You'll have to decode some lofty language to come up with the carols, so if you're ready...get humming!

1. Listen to the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds.
2. Embellish the interior passageways.
3. Twelve o'clock on clement night witnessed its arrival.
4. The Christmas preceding all others.
5. Small municipality in Judea south of Jerusalem.
6. Omnipotent supreme being who elicits respite in distinguished males.
7. Nocturnal time span of unbroken quietness.
8. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
9. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums in inverted, metallic, resonant cups.
10. In awe of the eventide characterized by religiosity.



Thanks to Michelle Harrod for this input! We miss you and yours!

Answers:

1. Hark the Herald Angels Sing; 2. Deck the Halls; 3. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; 4. The First Noel; 5. O Little Town of Bethlehem; 6. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; 7. Silent Night; 8. Frosty the Snowman; 9. Jingle Bells; 10. O Holy Night

Year-End Giving Tips



Contributions must be received in the church office or post-marked on or before December 31, 2007 in order to be included on the giver's 2007 contributions report from the church. If you would like to prepay all or part of your Building Fund pledge or your General Fund estimate of giving for 2008, you may do so before year-end by so indicating on your check. Your check will be deposited and reported this year, with the funds used by the church next year.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities are welcomed and will be liquidated by the church upon receipt. You will receive contributions credit for the liquidated amount. These gifts may be applied to your current year's pledge, your 2008 pledge, or to the Building Fund. If you would like to make such a gift, please contact the church office to make arrangements'

In-kind gifts may be included on your 2007 contributions report if you provide documentation of cost to the church office by December 31. These gifts include anything you buy and give to the church without receiving reimbursement.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing financial support of Faith Presbyterian Church! Please let the office know if you have any questions.

*What shall I give for Christmas
To Him who gave Himself for me?
To Him I give my life, my love,
For time and for eternity.*

- Anon.

Give your all to Christ;
He gave His all for you.



Church-Wide Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 2

4-6 P.M.



Wear your holiday finery—party finger foods & punch will be served.

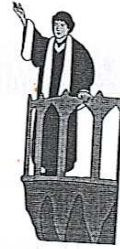
Transportation, if needed, can be provided. Call the church office for arrangements.

It is not required but if so moved, during this season of giving, we ask that you consider bringing a small wrapped gift (under \$10) for a child at Fairhaven. Please mark the gift tag with girl/boy or either and an appropriate age on the outside of the package.



List of Sunday Preachers for December

- Dec. 2 - Chris Curtis
- Dec. 9 - Earl Williams
- Dec. 16 - Dale Robertson
- Dec. 23 - Dale Robertson
- Dec. 30 - Kent Bull



Thank You

I am so grateful for your prayers, visits, and cards. Your expressions of love were definitely a part of healing. Our church family is such a blessing!

In Christ,
Jeannie

Christmas Wishes



The Session, Deaconate and Staff would like to send each of you their wishes for a very blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service


5:30 P.M.



Don't miss this beautiful time in the life of our church. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. We would love to have them visit!

There will be NO nursery during the Candlelight Service.

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 4p Youth 5:30p Supper 6p Prayer		Men meet for lunch every Tuesday				1
2 Communion 4-6p Church Wide Christmas Party	3 No WHAM	4	5 10a Women's Bible Study 6p Violin	6 6:30p Choir	7	8
9 No Men's B'fast 12p Deaconate mtg. 2p Violin	10 5:30 Administra- tion Meeting	11 12:30p Circle at Ruth Gruder's home 7p Session	12 10a Bible Study	13 6:30p Choir	14	15 Violin early pm 5p Caroling starts at Chris' house
16 Children perform Angel gifts due in	17 Angel gifts delivered	18	19 10a Bible Study	20 6:30p Choir	21	22
23 Birthday Party for Jesus during CC No Youth	24 Office Closed 5:30 p Candlelight Service	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 No Youth	31 Office Closed					

**December
Happy Birthday!**

Dorothy Dofter	7
Debbie Annessa	11
Joy Lynn Hobart	13
Rebecca Marsolan	14
Carl Annessa	17
Bob Allen	22
Kristin Bulloch	24
Immanuel	25
Chris Curtis	30

FPC Contact Info

Telephone: 985-875-1212
 Fax: 985-875-1213

Church/Office Street Address
 16330 Hwy 1085

Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 1630
 Covington, Louisiana 70434

Church Office Hours:
 Monday through Thursday
 9 am—4 pm


E-Mail:
 Susie.lange@faithpreschurch.org
 Chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org
 Pam.greenbaum@faithpreschurch.org
 Web: www.faipthpreschurch.org

Sunday Times:
 Sunday School: 9:00am
 Fellowship: 10:00am
 Worship: 10:30am

Deadlines

Bulletin announcements need to be in the office by noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday they are to appear.

Newsletter items need to be in the office by the third Thursday of each month!



If your birthday does not appear in the Happy Birthday section to the left, please call the church office during regular office hours and let Susie know so you can be included next year!

