



# FAITHFUL TIMES

## FPC July 2008 Newsletter



### Chris' Column

## New Command vs. Great Commission? Pt.1

On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus said something very interesting to the disciples. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35) This is probably no shock to folks who have been going to church for a while. We’re forever talking about love and loving each other. What I find most interesting about this statement is that Jesus connects love for each other with a witness before the world. Jesus says that people will be able to know that we belong to him by whether or not we have love for each other—are you smelly? (see the May newsletter) It’s an interesting thing to think that people outside the church could look at us and determine whether or not we have anything to do with Jesus by how we treat each other inside the church. One man puts it like this:

“The church is to be a loving church in a dying culture. How, then, is the dying culture going to consider us? Jesus says, ‘By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.’ In the midst of the world, in the midst of our present culture, Jesus is giving a right to the world. Upon His authority He gives the world the right to judge whether you and I are born-again Christians on the basis of our observable love toward all Christians.

That’s pretty frightening. Jesus turns to the world and says, ‘I’ve something to say to you. On the basis of My authority, I give you a right: you may judge whether or not an individual is a Christian on the basis of the love he shows to all Christians.’ In other words, if people come up to us and cast in our teeth the judgment that we are not Christians because we have not shown love toward other Christians, we must understand that they are only exercising a prerogative which Jesus gave them” (Francis Schaeffer, *The Mark of the Christian*, pg. 187)

The command is pretty stark. Love others. Love other Christians when they’re mad at you. Love other Christians when they don’t love you in return. Love other Christians when they tell you that you’re ugly and your mother dresses you funny. Love is risky. It takes a part of you and puts it in a very vulnerable situation for others to accept or reject. Love others anyway—the Master tells you to.

What is the primary motivation for loving other Christians according to Jesus in John 13? Is it that people will think well of you if you do? That may be the case, but that’s not the primary motivation. Loving others is a response to the love you’ve been shown by Jesus—nothing else. His love toward you is the fuel for loving others. “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

To be continued....

chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org

# Financial Update



Estimated Needed Monthly Budget*	Collected in:	Over/Under
	<u>January</u>	
General: \$13,000	17,428	+4,420
Building: \$ 4,700	2,585	-2,115
	<u>February</u>	
General: \$13,000	10,249	-2,751
Bldg: \$ 4,700	4,755	+ 55
	<u>March</u>	
General: \$13,000	19,109	+6,109
Bldg. \$ 4,700	6,378	+1,678
	<u>April</u>	
General: \$13,000	9,052	-3,948
Bldg: \$ 4,700	2,206	+2,494
	<u>May</u>	
General: \$13,000	8,696	-4,304
Bldg: \$ 4,700	4,194	- 506

\*Current needs without provisions for new pastor.

Administration Committee meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 5:45 P.M. and are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Your committee is made up with Harvey Marsolan, Chair, Patty Frutiger, Gary Schoen and Larry Terrell.

# Bishop's Corner

by Pastor Henry Bishop

By all means, let's not be "stuffy"! ("stuffy" churches don't grow, folks!) At the same time, our God is, indeed, a Mighty Fortress, Great and greatly to be praised! The real challenge for us in the church is to keep that healthy balance of reverence for God (reflected by godly living) and enjoyment of Him and each other in relationships of worship and fellowship that are free from stress, intimidation and manipulation.

SANCTIFIED FLEXIBILITY is what I prefer to call it! As we "get better" at it...we'll grow.



"I know we're trying not to be stuffy around here, but let's not refer to 'A Mighty Fortress' as 'Martin Luther's Greatest Hit'."

# Session Update

The session of Faith Pres met May 28<sup>th</sup> and took action on the following items:

- Approval was given to hire a financial secretary
- The Women's Council members were approved
- The pastoral search committee's request for funds related to the search process was approved
- Ruling Elder Barry Ward was released from Active status
- It was decided that all persons with access to the building via a key will need their own personalized access code for the security system and the generic code will be erased and no longer used
- A letter of transfer was sent to the session of Christ the King EPC in behalf of the Harrod family

The next session meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

## Men's Ministry

The men would like to express their thanks to Jeannie Schoen and the rest of the women who honored the Dads at the June Monthly Men's Breakfast. It was a delicious breakfast and a very thoughtful gesture by the women. The July breakfast will be on **July 13th** with Stan Hobart and Erik Johansen doing the cooking. We look forward to all the men in the church attending at 7:45 A.M.

Beginning July 1, the Tuesday Men's Lunch group will begin a 6 week study on Galatians. Any man interested in attending should be at the church at 11:30 A.M. Pastor Chris will lead the study and supply the study material. Bring \$5 each week to defray the cost of your lunch. See you then!



## Women's Ministry

The Women have begun to collect monies to help needy families in the community with their school uniforms. Make your check out to FPC with "school uniform" in the memo and mail or drop it in the collection plate on Sundays. We will collect through July 20th. Our new Women's Council Missions' Chair, Faye Feddeck, will get family names from 5th Ward as well as Abita Elementary. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Continue to enjoy the summer. Next month's newsletter should begin to have a few insights into the women's upcoming year's events. Our year begins in September.

## Welcome!

To our newest members. They are:  
Nancy Little, Jonathan & Amy Miller  
and Karen Terrell.

**Gospel Jam—July 22 at 7 P.M.**



## Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School was a fun week thanks to our volunteers and to all of you who prayed for it. Please keep our little ones in your prayers that the seeds that were planted during VBS will take root and change their lives!

The following volunteers and supporters are the BEST!

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Jamie Annessa                                  | Elizabeth Harp              |
| Morgan Beard                                   | Brooke Jacobs               |
| Daisy & Henry Beck                             | Donna Kelly                 |
| Pastor Henry Bishop                            | Mary Louise Kinkaid         |
| Claire Bishop                                  | Susie Lange                 |
| Clarence Blaw                                  | Simone Lewis                |
| Helen Brooks                                   | Nancy Little                |
| Diane Buquoi                                   | Joy, Harvey, Renee, Ryan    |
| Tom Calvert                                    | Rebecca & Tyler Marsolan    |
| Matt & Dan Crain                               | Pat Massoth                 |
| Pastor Chris & Melinda, Tessa & Mekenna Curtis | Amy Miller                  |
| Jessica, Gabe, Emily                           | Flora Neff                  |
| Carolina & Caleb Dale                          | Gary, Maria & Sarah O'Keefe |
| Caroline Favrot                                | Sarah Ratcliff              |
| Faye Feddeck                                   | Tom Rue                     |
| Leslie Fitzmorris                              | May Sammons                 |
| Eddie, Candy & Abigail Foster                  | Gary & Jeannie Schoen       |
| Patty & Lauren Frutiger                        | Nikki & James Slaton        |
| Lynn & Frank Fury                              | Karen & Larry Terrell       |
| Ruth Gurder                                    | Madeline Vicari             |
|  | Lynette Ward                |

### A Letter from One of VBS' Volunteers

*Hey Folks,  
I had a wonderful time at VBS. Thank you for your prayers for our success, safety and well being.*

*Frank and I went home tired each day but felt very blessed for what we had experienced. I was very impressed with the young people at VBS. They were smart, attentive, respectful and generally well mannered. Most of them willingly participated and tried to do what we asked them to tackle. Best of all, I think they enjoyed the activities.*

*However, we could not have accomplished our tasks with the enthusiasm of our wonderful volunteers. We were very thankful for the leadership of Ms. Pam who had the courage and wisdom to step up and try a new and interesting VBS program.*

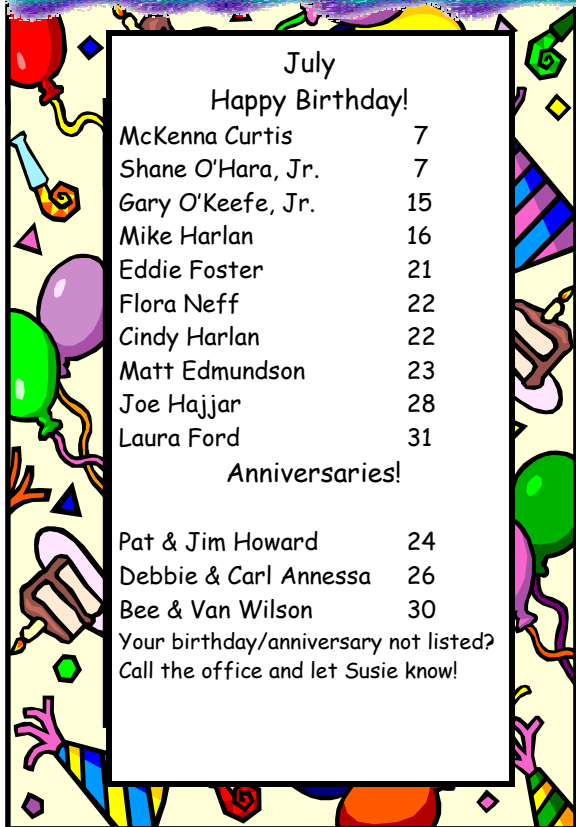
*After having the opportunity to observe and work with these wonderful young people from the church and community, I am confident that these young people will be a strong and reliable foundation for our growing church.*

*Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and to praise and glorify his name.*

Lynn Fury

# July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:30a Men's Study	2 10a Women's Study	3 6:30p Choir	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8 11:30a Men's Study 7p Session	9 10a Women's Study	10 6:30p Choir	11	12
13 7:45a Men's Breakfast	14 5:45p Ad. Committee meeting	15 11:30a Men's Study	16 10a Women's Study — last in this series	17 6:30p Choir	18	19
20	21	22 11:30a Men's Study Gospel Jam	23	24 6:30p Choir	25	26
27 Communion	28	29 11:30a Men's Study	30	31 6:30p Choir		



**July**  
**Happy Birthday!**

McKenna Curtis	7
Shane O'Hara, Jr.	7
Gary O'Keefe, Jr.	15
Mike Harlan	16
Eddie Foster	21
Flora Neff	22
Cindy Harlan	22
Matt Edmundson	23
Joe Hajjar	28
Laura Ford	31

**Anniversaries!**

Pat & Jim Howard	24
Debbie & Carl Annessa	26
Bee & Van Wilson	30

Your birthday/anniversary not listed?  
Call the office and let Susie know!

**FPC Contact Info**  
**Telephone:** 985-875-1212  
**Fax:** 985-875-1213  
**Church/Office Street Address**  
 16330 Hwy 1085 Covington LA  
 70433

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

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



**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!

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



The Faithful Times Newsletter of  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
16330 Hwy. 1085  
Covington, LA 70433



**God Bless America!**



**Have a Happy and  
Safe 4th of July!**