



# FAITHFUL TIMES

## FPC February 2008 Newsletter



### Transitions still...(again)...

It wanted to take a few lines to tell you about some exciting things that have been happening at Faith. The first is that Henry Bishop has agreed to be our interim pastor! He'll be preaching regularly beginning Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and will also be available for visitation—so don't miss the opportunity to have a visit with him! I am excited to be able to work with a seasoned pastor, and I'll be picking his brain as much as I can—I am looking forward to learning much from him. Let me tell you how the Lord works in 'strange and mysterious ways'...

I got a call from a pastor friend of mine in Alabama. *He called me* one day—on my day off. We were discussing things, and I asked him if he happened to know of anyone that might be interested in being an interim pastor. He thought of Henry Bishop and gave me Henry's phone number. That's how the path of Faith Church crossed Henry Bishop's path. From a phone call—how's that for 'strange and mysterious'? And that's really where God does a lot of His work in our world—through the seemingly mundane, insignificant, and ordinary things in our lives. I just thought I was catching up with an old friend, but apparently there was an interim pastor in the mix for Faith Church. We're often waiting for thunder and lightning bolts, but more often than not, God will use our everyday, ordinary lives—our job is to be available in those moments, being sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Another** exciting thing happening is that we have a 'family conversation' planned for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, which will be in conjunction with a potluck meal. This will be a time when we can get together and discuss Faith Presbyterian Church and what the next steps are for us as a church. One of the concerns that I have heard voiced recently is over communication. This will be a great time for us to get together and *communicate about communication*. I hope that you will all be present for the discussion and will have your questions ready. (See the announcement on pg. 4 for more details)

We will be going through a number of steps in the coming months. Along with forming a search committee, we will be filling out what is called a CIF, a church information form. This is a document that tries to reflect who we are as Faith Pres. It's almost like a 'church resume'. It has sections for: church information, building/financial information, church characteristics (i.e. describing the strengths, struggles, and goals of the congregation), leadership expectations (expectations of the pastor Faith is looking for—there is a list of 42 qualities/characteristics of a pastor of which the church chooses 12), and a section on the history of the particular church.

As you are thinking and praying about the future of Faith Church, I would encourage you to look at a copy of the CIF—the church characteristics and leadership expectations sections in particular. It's available online:

<http://epc.org/ministries/ministerial-vocation/church-info-form.doc>

We can also make printed copies available through the office of the church. Just call 875-1212 and let us know.

Continued on page 2

**Another** exciting thing is that the youth and I will be attending a youth rally in Baton Rouge in the middle of February called *Acquire the Fire* ([acquirethefire.com](http://acquirethefire.com)). We will also be joined by an honorary teenager as a girls' chaperone. Here's a snippet from the brochure, 'At Acquire the Fire, God's voice can be heard calling young people to come and FOLLOW HIM.' And from the brochure with pictures of a stadium filled with youth, guys holding guitars, and a man with a megaphone, it appears that it might be LOUD, which will be good, because my eardrums really haven't rattled like paper much since I stopped directing marching band. I'd like to finish this part of the article, but I need to find my earplugs.

**Another** exciting thing is that Faith Church hosted a Gospel Jam night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday night of January. A 'jam' is an event where musicians get together and play music. Some might call it a 'pickin'". There was a large group in the sanctuary, but we anticipate that as the weather warms that smaller groups will meet around the church grounds. There were musicians there from Slidell and Baton Rouge as well as folks from around Covington. Anne and Stephen Calvert brought their violin/fiddles, Charles Macgowan brought his bass, and I played a mandolin. We even had a nice group of people from Faith who came to sing and enjoy the music! The plan is to continue to host this event on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. We would love for you join us next month for a good time. If you're wondering what it was like, ask any of the players mentioned above, or Flora Neff, Tom or Daniel Calvert, Lloyd Haugh, or Henry Beck. Watch your bulletin for announcements about the next event on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. They start around 7pm, and this one broke up around 9:30. It's very informal—you can come and go as you please and there was plenty of red beans and rice for all (even though it was on a Tuesday evening.)

But the best part about it for me was that Faith Presbyterian got to love God through serving our neighbors in the community through hosting this event in our building.

So, get yourself a copy of the CIF, set up a time to meet with Henry Bishop, come to the Gospel Jam on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, and loan me some earplugs for the Acquire the Fire rally on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.

See you in worship...

Pastor Chris  
[chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org](mailto:chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org)



Come tap your toes on Bootlegger Road! Drop in at FPC any fourth Tuesday night beginning around 7 P.M. to hear some Gospel Jamming!!! Invite a friend—It's a cheap night out!!!

**ATTENTION CHOIR PEOPLE!** Beginning February 7<sup>th</sup> the choir will rehearse EVERY Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. We look forward to seeing and hearing you then! Interested in joining, talk with Chris. He'd love to hear from you too!



## A Word from Pastor Henry Bishop

Originally from Fairhope, Alabama I now make my home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. My son George lives with me and I have a daughter, Abby, in Richmond, Kentucky. She and her husband Mike have six children. Since leaving Fairhope in 1954, I have served in the Navy, finished USM where I met and married Mary Arden Wilson, was a banker in Mobile until entering Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi in 1968. After graduating from RTS we spent an additional year of study at PSCE in Richmond, Virginia. I have served pastorates in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, retiring in 1999 from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, Alabama where I served for nine years. Since retiring I have served three churches in a supply capacity and am now blessed with worship opportunities given by Faith Presbyterian Church, for which I am thankful.

### LENT

**Emphasis:** A time to travel with Jesus toward his death. Although Jesus is under constant attack, he ministers effectively to the crowds. Lent follows the gathering storm (begins Ash Wednesday, six-and-a-half weeks before Easter; [February 6] includes Palm Sunday and ends at sunset on Thursday of Holy Week. [March 20])

**Spiritual Challenge:** Lent is a time for repentance through self-examination and renewal through identification with the journey of Jesus. A time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

#### Lent - A Time to Repent

Although we praise our common Lord for all kinds of reasons, we praise and glorify him above all for the cross. [Paul] passes over everything else that Christ did for our advantage and consolation and dwells incessantly on the cross. The proof of God's love for us, he says, is that Christ *died for us while we were yet sinners*. Then in the following sentence he gives us the highest ground for hope: *If, when we were alienated from God, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life!*

John Chrysostom (AD 347-407)



What is the primary spiritual journey of Lent?

Lent is a time to travel the road with Jesus toward his death.

What are the Lenten themes for worship and personal spirituality?

The temptation of Christ. Nicodemus' call to abandon pharisaic religion.

Say *no* to sin as did the woman of Samaria. Like the man born blind, we can be healed. Prepare for Holy Week.

Why does Lent emphasize fasting, prayer, and almsgiving?

Fasting from food is a symbol of the discipline it takes to turn away from sin.

Prayer is the act of turning to God in dependence.

Almsgiving is the symbol of the virtue we are taking on to replace our sin.

What is a suggested discipline for Lent?

Put off: sloth, faintheartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.

Put on: chastity, humility, patience, and love.

This year, instead of a Maundy Thursday service we will hold a Good Friday Service. Watch the bulletin for time or call the church office.

## Children's Ministry

Our Children's Church kids are working on a special verse every Sunday. After we all master John 3:16, we will receive awards during service. So Moms and Dads, review John 3:16 with your children to help them "hide it in their hearts" and live the WORD!

Our 3rd—6th grand Sunday schoolers have been receiving awards. Every time they "show up", bring their Bible, complete their "take home" assignment or recite last week's memory verse, they receive one sticker. If they bring a friend to Sunday school, they ear two stickers! Ten stickers equals an award!!!

Our K.L.I.C.ers had a great meeting in January. We had lots of fun eating pizza and cookies. We made "top secret" teacher appreciation gifts and played a game based on Galatians 6:2-3 — "carrying each others burdens".

!!!!!!!SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!!!!!

### Attention Men

The men will meet on **February 9th at 7:45 A.M.** for their regular monthly breakfast at the church. Good food and a devotional are always on the agenda. Frank & Harvey are cooking—Barry is doing the devotional. All men are encouraged to attend!

## Pot Luck Family Conversation Sunday, March 2

What's this all about? Well, in an effort to promote better communication, the church family will gather for food and talk. Come prepared with questions, concerns and ideas to mull over with your church family in a round table format. If it proves to be successful and beneficial, we will incorporate more of them!

Be on the lookout in the bulletins as to what you are to bring to the Pot Luck Dinner. Miss Pam will have something for the kids to do/watch during the "conversation".



## Women's Ministry

**Circle News:** The Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 12 th at their usual time of 1:30 p.m. Hella Franklin will host.

**Note:** A Big Thank You to the ladies of Circle. They have graciously donated a large banner to the church which will soon be out by the highway. This banner will be an invitation to all who pass to "Come Worship With Us!" Thank you ladies for your thoughtfulness.



**The women will host a Breakfast on Sunday, February 17th at 8 A.M.** The food is always delicious, the sisterhood is always great! Please set your clocks a little early so you won't miss out!

**The Wednesday Bible is thriving.** This group meets every Wednesday morning at the church at 10 A.M. Talk with Daisy Beck about joining in.

**The FPC Book Club begins in February** and will meet once a month for four months. The participants meet on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening at 6:30 P.M.

Their meeting dates are:

February 19 - 20 (February 19 will meet in the Library)

March 18—19



April 15—16

May 13—14

**Food Bank:** For February, we will be helping to stock the pantry of a neighbor of the church who has fallen on some hard times. She cares for four of her grandchildren during the day (ages 4, 3, 6 mos. and newborn) She is diabetic so diet sodas only. Also, she is using banana crates for storage now and would love a chest of drawers if anyone has an old one not in use. Place your donations on the pew!



# February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Men's Lunch Every Tuesday At noon Beck--n-Call			1 PRESBYTERY IN	2 NATCHEZ
3 Communion No Youth No Praise & Prayer	4 No WHAM 6p Violin	5 Mardi Gras  Office Closed	6 Lent Begins 10a Bible Study 7p Administration Com. Mtg.	7 6:30p Choir	8	9
10 7:45a Men's B'fast 4p Youth 5:30p Supper 6p Praise & Prayer	11 6p Violin	12 1:30p Circle 7p Session	13 10a Bible Study	14  6:30p Choir	15 Chris & Youth at ACQUIRE THE BATON ROUGE	16 FIRE IN
17 8a Women's B'fast KLICers No Youth 5:30p supper; 6 P&P	18 6p Violin	19 6:30p Book Club	20 10a Bible Study 6:30p Book Club	21 6:30p Choir	22	23
24 4p Youth 5:30p Supper 6p Praise & Prayer	25 6p Violin	26	27 10a Bible Study	28 6:30p Choir	29	



**February  
Happy Birthday!**

Grayson Harrod	4
Charles Macgowan	4
Gary Schoen	4
Ashley Steele	7
Nancy Johansen	11
Van Wilson	13
Joy Marsolan	17

**Happy Anniversary!**

Don & Patty Frutiger	28
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**FPC Contact Info**  
**Telephone:** 985-875-1212  
**Fax:** 985-875-1213  
**Church/Office Street and Mailing Address**  
 16330 Hwy 1085,  
 Covington 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  
 Web: www.faipreschurch.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!



