



FAITHFUL TIMES

FPC January 2008 Newsletter



From Pastor Chris' Desktop

Transitions still...

Last time I wrote about the transition that Faith Presbyterian is undergoing. Jesus as the Master Composer *and* Conductor is on the podium, conducting His church so that we might sing the tune that He has written for us to sing. This is not the time for us to be timid singers—sensitive singers, but not timid. This is the time for us to take up the song and sing with all we've got.

I have always loved hymn writer John Wesley's *Instructions for Singing*. They were first published by Wesley in *Select Hymns* in 1761. I was struck in particular by one of the instructions.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature...and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually...

I think this instruction applies to much more than the literal act of singing. I think it's also applicable to our congregation's 'singing' the tune Jesus has given us to sing.

Wesley encourages the singer to 'Aim at pleasing him [God] more than yourself, or any other creature.' That should be our aim as well—to please God more than ourselves or anyone else, which is hard. I like to have things my way, and so do you. We should not make the mistake of thinking that just because we want things a certain way that God is automatically on our side. Rather, we should be asking, 'What pleases God and how do we go about doing those things?' We should also be asking God to change us so that we prefer the things that please Him. To keep up the singing analogy, we are to know that Jesus is the Composer and Conductor and we follow Him, rather than trying to convince Him that we are the composers and conductors and that He should be singing *our* tune, in *our* choir following us.

The question then arises: How do we know what pleases God? The answer is found in the Scriptures. It is clear from the Scriptures that the church has the dual obligation to live for those inside the church while *at the same time* living for those *outside* the church. We might think of this as taking care of the sheep that are in the fold *as well as* bringing more sheep into the fold. Now, we know that the Holy Spirit is really the one that moves someone to come into the fold, but He uses men and women and children in that process.

Once we are informed by the Scriptures about the things that please God, we set about asking 'How are we to do them.' The 'how' will change from church to church and from generation to generation. The Bibles we read are great examples of this. The King James Version enjoyed a prominent place in the hearts of American Bible readers for a long time. I would imagine that many of us hold fond memories of its poetic style. As a matter of fact, when I think about some of the most often quoted verses from the Bible, I think I repeat them in the King James.

Continued on next page

Did you know that before the King James that there was the Geneva Bible? If you were to see a copy of the original Geneva, you would see spellings of words that would be a bit confusing. The only time a letter that looks like 's' is used is at the end of a word. Otherwise, a character that looks like a fancy 'f' is used.

It is fort of frange and filly and furprifing to fee fuch a frange fpelling of words, ifn't it?

Martin Luther was a champion for the Bible to be translated from Latin into German. Why? So the German people could read it in their own language. And if we go back even further than the Latin versions, we see that the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and a little bit of Aramaic. When the New Testament was written, God saw fit that it was recorded in Greek—a continuation of the same story, but in a different language. The content of the Scriptures stays constant, but the particular words that are used in a certain time period differ. This is an example of the 'how' changing from generation to generation. I'm pretty convinced that if Jesus were to be born in Covington in 2007 rather than Bethlehem in the first century, that He would speak SE Louisianan English, not Aramaic.

Every generation of the church has to struggle to find how to best go about living out the Gospel in the town in which they live. Although the content will be the same, the 'how' of living out the Gospel will change from the 1930's in Covington to the 1980's in Covington and will change again by the time we get to 2020 in Covington. The question is: How do we go about responsibly passing the faith on to the next generation so that the faith can flourish in each new generation for generations to come?

Now is the time to sing with all we've got. I would like to call you all to pray for our church. Pray that Jesus would continue to show us the 'how' of the work that He has for us to do. Pray that He would bring us an interim pastor. Pray that the Holy Spirit would show us the difference between pleasing God and wanting to have our preferences met (because although we all know what we *want*, we don't always know what we *need*). Dream and pray about what you think Faith Presbyterian can be in 3 years. Pray and dream about what Jesus could do in us and through us in 10 years on the Northshore. Think about ways that we can continue to use our fabulous building on Hwy 1085 for the good of Covington. Invite a friend to church. Invite an enemy to church (Mt 5:6, Lk 6:27-28, Lk 6:35, Rom 12:14). Find a way to serve. Repent. Forgive. Hope. Love. Trade grin for grin and tear for tear (Rom 12:15). Sing Jesus' tune—He's on the podium. Let's follow His lead.

Pastor Chris
chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org

Happy New Year! May your 2008 be filled with PEACE!!

The theme of peace is everywhere around Christmastime. We see the word "peace" in shop windows and lawn decorations; we hear it on the radio and in our churches; we find it on Christmas cards and even on stamps. Peace is everywhere. And yet it's nowhere. In spite of the prevalence of the word, we tend to miss out on its significance this time of year. We hear about peace so often that we tune it out just like we tune out the muzak at the grocery store. Our challenge to you is to not let that happen this year. Slow down a bit and be on the lookout for peace. Look around you in the coming days for the connection between the birth of Christ and the unity of his Body. Then you might actually *experience* that peace that you hear and see so much about.

From Peacemakers

Friends, Christmas is a time for peace and reconciliation, based solely on what God has done for us in Christ. This is good news—it is tidings of comfort and joy, indeed! And it is reason to join together and sing praise to our Lord. May we all embrace one another with *true* love and brotherhood for the glory of Christ, the Prince of Peace. Happy New Year to you all!

Children's Ministry

Big thanks to Pastor Chris, Miss Melinda, our adult bell ringers and our precious children for worshipping our Lord with music during Advent. Your performance gave glory to God and put smiles on many faces!

Our K.L.I.C.ers (Kids Living in Christ) will meet Sunday, January 20th, for the first get-together for 2008. We will enjoy a pizza lunch and make "top secret" teacher appreciation gifts and have lots of fun.

The following activity came from Children's Ministry magazine:



Feed the Birds:

As the weather cools, kids can help care for their feathered friends as God cares for us by making simple bird feeders. You'll need a bagel for each child, resealable bags, solid vegetable shortening, plastic spoons, yarn, birdseed, and a Bible.

Kids can use spoons to cover the bagels with shortening. Then place each bagel in a bag with birdseed and shake it to coat the bagel. Tie yarn through the bagel's hole to hang it. Read aloud Matthew 6:26 and tell kids that just like they're taking care of the birds, God always takes care of us.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..." Jeremiah 29:11

A JOYOUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!
SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!

Men's Ministry: The monthly Men's Breakfast will be on **January 13th** at 7:45am at the church.



Women's Ministry

A **big Thank You** goes to Lynn Fury, Covenant Council Chair, and her many helpers who worked so hard to make the Church-Wide Christmas party such a success. The food was DELICIOUS, it was arranged beautifully (some special help from Joy Marsolan and Melinda Curtis) and the entertainment delightful! (Chris, with Tyler Marsolan and John Harlan had everyone laughing in the aisles!!).

Thank you also to all the ladies who helped to make our church look so beautiful for the Christmas Season.

W.H.A.M (*Women's Helpful Activity Monday*) will meet on **January 7th to un-decorate the church**. This is a big job and we need your help!!!! Show up at 9:30 A.M. and any man is encouraged to come. **We need the help!!!**

Faith Circle is a group of ladies that meet once a month either at various members homes or here at the church for a meeting, a Bible Study and a dessert. All women are invited to join this group. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month. This month they meet on **January 8th** at 1:30 P.M. here at the church. Ruth Fisher will be the hostess and Joy Hobart will lead the study.

The Women meet every **Wednesday** at the church for a 10 :00 A.M. Bible Study. A new study will begin on the **January 9th** on Ezra, Nehemia and Ruth. Talk with Daisy Beck about joining in! (note the new date!)

The Double Nickels will have another fun luncheon on **January 21st** at noon. We will eat well and play some kind of game for prizes. We will also discuss a special outing for the April Double Nickels. This is for MEN and women over 55 years of age—but we don't check I.D.s ! Don't miss it!

FPC's Book Club is about to begin! You need to order the book "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey through the church office by January 7th. The cost is \$10. Nikki Slaton is leading the discussions and will let you know which evening you will be meeting. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to a church activity with no pressure—a one shot deal. Please pray about your involvement and talk with Patty Frutiger, Nikki or call the church office.

Food Bank: This month DOG FOOD for Fairhaven's pets!

There are plans in the works for a terrific 2008. There are Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Breakfasts, Double Nickels and a Spring Luncheon that are all being worked on to provide the women of FPC wonderful opportunities. We hope you take part in as many of these events as you possibly can!

As usual , the Giving Tree effort here at FPC was a great success. Please read the Thank You and update on page 3

God Has a Sense of Humor.....

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once, while she was driving, " he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No", replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

9 year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no Mom. But, if I told it the way she did, you'd never believe it!"

CHURCH SMILES

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in her?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..."Energy efficient vehicle; Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what her Sunday school lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." The mother, being perplexed, asked the teacher later on about the lesson. She said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk!

New Mailing Address

We will soon stop using our P.O. Box address and start receiving mail at our physical address of:

**16330 Hwy. 1085
Covington, LA 70433**

You may start using this new address now!

FYI: Austin's new address is:
Austin Olive
885 CR 21 S
Fayette, AL 35555
205-932-4646 (Home)
520-437-8289 (Cell)
email theolive@earthlink.net

Giving Tree Thank You

To all you wonderful people who so generously gave to this year's Giving Tree, you are truly Christmas Angels! FPC helped 3 needy families in our community and will also be helping two families throughout the year with utility bills. A special thanks goes to Cindy Harlan for her organizing of this mission. FPC has shown the true meaning of Christmas to some very special people. May God bless them and each of you as well! Happy New Year!!

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed</i>	2 <i>10a Bible Study</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>Communion</i>	7 <i>9:30a WHAM Come help un- decorate church 6p Violin</i>	8 <i>12p Men's lunch 1:30p Circle</i>	9 <i>10a New Women's Bible Study begins</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>7:45a Men's B'fast Installation of new officers Deaconate Mtg.</i>	14 <i>5:30p Administra- tion Mtg. 6p Violin</i>	15 <i>7p Session</i>	16 <i>10a Bible Study</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>KLICers</i>	21 <i>12p Double Nickels 6p Violin</i>	22	23 <i>10a Bible Study</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>2-3p Violin recital in church</i>	28 <i>6p Violin</i>	29	30 <i>10a Bible Study</i>	31		

**January
Happy Birthday!**

Janene Bulloch	2
Judy Hahn	7
Gwen McMillian	10
Vickie O'Hara	12
Mary Edmundson	13
Doris Baio	17
Noel Marsolan	18
Joshua Foster	18
Ruth Fischer	22
Abigail Foster	23
Tyler Marsolan	23
Erik Johansen	25
Thomas Marshall	27
Pat Howard	31

FPC Contact Info
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 Covington, Louisiana 70433

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

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

Be sure to begin using our new mailing address of:

16330 Hwy 1085
 Covington, LA 70433



