

The Link

First Presbyterian Church

June, 2010

First Presbyterian of Natchez is a community in Jesus Christ
that is discovering and sharing God's love.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Early Worship

8:15-8:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:15-10:10 a.m.

Worship in

Sanctuary

10:30-11:30 a.m.

*(One service at 10:30
only on Communion
Sundays—no early
service.)*

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Church calendar is on line at fpcnatchez.org	

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERS

Pentecost is upon us! The very Spirit who blew through the lives of the disciples is the same Spirit at work in our lives. This movement of the Holy Spirit gives life where there have been dry bones, nourishment where our spirits have been starving. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the life of this congregation. God's Spirit has invited 5 new members into our fellowship. With the ground swell of young people coming through our doors, the Christian Education Unit felt led to split the weekly Children's Sunday School class ages 3-6 and 7-12. The teachers will be Lynn Britt, Denise Seal, Brenda and Hal Hicks, and Kay McNeil. What a delight it is to see these followers of Jesus Christ responding faithfully to His call to serve. Those who have visited and worship with us regularly know what a warm and welcoming congregation First Presbyterian is. Our property committee seeks to make the church as physically welcoming as it is spiritually. Its members and other servants have been painting and beautifying the grounds of the church in order for all to experience the hospitality of Jesus Christ. Your involvement as a congregation may best be signified by the

fact that over 75 % of you had your pictures taken for the church directory. What a great turnout! And what a wonderful way of telling others that we are a vital, involved community of faith! The call to serve our children is also being lived outside of our walls and indeed outside of our country. Chuck Borum and George Bates are missionaries to Haiti helping to support the people whose lives have been wrecked by that country's tragic earthquake.

At the last Presbytery meeting, God's call to others was apparent. First Presbyterian Church's own Joan Gandy has been certified ready to receive a call, which is the last step toward being ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our Presbytery is also working with its Haitian partners to repair 6 of the 22 Living Waters Projects, a project in which churches help to create clean water systems. And finally, the Presbytery has revived the Youth Council to plan and carry put retreats and other youth events. Thanks be to God for the movement of His Spirit!

In Christ's service,
Noelle and Denny Read

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MEETINGS

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team will meet on Friday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the women's room in Stratton Chapel.

The **Rebekah Circle** will meet Tuesday, June 8, at 10:30 a.m. Check with circle leader for location.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet Tuesday, June 8, at 3:00 p.m. Check with circle leader for location.

The **Lydia Circle** will meet Tuesday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. Check with circle leader for location.

Summer is here! Don't forget the PW luncheon on June 16th at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is our last luncheon this year. I hope you all get to have some vacation time, rest and refreshment this summer.

Our nominating committee will be calling people about positions on the Coordinating Team for next year, starting in September. Please pray that women will agree to serve our women and our Lord.

Yours, in Christ, Beth Troutman

PLAYSCHOOL

Wow! It is hard to believe that I am writing an article for the June Link already!

Thanks to each of you for your prayers, love and support for the Playschool, staff and children throughout the year. The Playschool is a truly special place. Our mission is to provide a nurturing Christ-centered education and share God's love and message with as many families as we can. Thank you for helping us to do this.

The month of June always comes with a touch of sadness as we say goodbye to the children who are leaving for kindergarten. We will miss

you but we know that you will enjoy your new school and new friends. We know that they are prepared for new adventures.

For the month of June, the Playschool will focus on Ocean Life, Father's Day, Community Helpers and Beach and Summer Safety.

Aretha Davis, C. D.

BIRTHDAYS

June 2	Elise Mophett
June 4	Sherry Hanson
June 10	Hannah Feltus
	Ann Ballew
	Russ Butts
	Butch Brown
	Stacey Parker
	George Rutherford

June 17	Linda Bates
June 22	Ginny Benoist
	Ben Lewis
June 24	Charles Hall
June 30	Will Godfrey



If your birthday isn't listed in the Link, please call the church office (601-442-2581) so we can add your birthday to our calendar.

MUSICAL NOTES

Children's Choir was a wonderful joy and blessing this year! The pictures are worth a thousand words! Thank you, parents. Thank you, Dedra Edwards. Thank you, Esther Jeffus. Thank you, Jeanie Lanneau!

Children's Choir sings for worship services every 4-6 weeks.



The Children's Choir performed their end-of-the-year musical program for the Playschool.



*Front row, l. to r.: Dedra Edwards, assistant director; Brandon Wheeler; Ethan Read; Ginny Borum; Ciera Demby
Back row, l. to r.: Piper Mophett; Katie Borum; Alina Sharp*

Adult choirs are taking a much-needed and well-deserved break for the summer, but we still have wonderful music planned for worship. There will be ensembles and solos and duets. If you want to play or sing, please call me (601-442-2581).

The Natchez Community Choir that meets in Stratton Chapel on Tuesday evenings is taking a summer break. I'll keep you posted when they resume rehearsals in the fall.

Blessings, Becky Meason Jones

JUNE LECTIONARY

Like many other Christians throughout the world today, our church follows what is called the Revised Common Lectionary, which provides Scripture readings for each Sunday throughout the year. We can prepare our hearts for Sunday worship by reading these texts prior to the service.

June 6—1 Kings 17:8-16; Ps. 146; Gal. 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

June 13—1 Kings 17:8-17; Ps. 146; Gal. 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

June 20—1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a; Ps. 42 and 43; Gal. 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 27—2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Ps. 77:1-2, 11-20; Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

PEW BIBLES

The donations for memorials and honorariums for the new pew Bibles have been outstanding. If you wish to make a donation, please fill out the form on page 8 and return it to the church office. So far, 36 members have donated 101 Bibles. The following donations have been received:

In Memory Of

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Davis Gilbert
 Jack Bryan Stubbs
 Gail Massey
 Gail Massey
 Christopher Weir Holder
 Jim Bob Meason
 Doris Higgason Jones
 Sue Meason
 Bob Meason
 Ray Colter
 Jac C Ruffin
 Calvin C. Seyfarth, Sr.
 L. Arminta Seyfarth
 Sim Callon
 Caroline Shields Brown
 Irene Shields Godfrey
 Priscilla Parker Hobson
 Joy Parker
 Frederick C. Parker, Sr.
 William J. Feltus III
 Mr. and Mrs. Bazile Lanneau, Sr.
 Mr. Jack Benoist
 Mary Ethel and Gerald Mooney
 Reverend Doris and Alwyn Potter

Given By

Ruth Gilbert Emrick
 S. B. A. Zaitoon, M.A., CLU
 Jeanie and Bazile Lanneau, Jr.
 The Ruth Circle
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Becky and Louis Jones
 Elfriede Seyfarth
 Elfriede Seyfarth
 Amon Jordan
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry L. "Butch" Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry L. "Butch" Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parker
 Lane Feltus
 Debbie Hudson
 Debbie Hudson
 Barbara Potter
 Barbara Potter

In Honor of

Susan Emrick Smith
 Dr. and Mrs. Fred Gilbert Emrick
 Joan W. Gandy, on her graduation
 from Columbia Seminary
 Helen Boyte
 Our Church Family
 Amon Jordan

Given by

Ruth Gilbert Emrick
 Ruth Gilbert Emrick

 Mary and Edward Eidt
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greene
 Denny, Noelle and Ethan Read
 Becky and Louis Jones

Continued on page 5

PEW BIBLES

The donations for memorials and honorariums for the new pew Bibles have been outstanding. If you wish to make a donation, please fill out the form on page 8 and return it to the church office. So far 47 members have donated 125 Bibles. The following donations have been received:

In Honor of

Given by

Joan Gandy, on her graduation
From Columbia Seminary
Gay and Albert Metcalfe
Her Parents, Bobby and
Frances Meason

Amon Jordan
Amon Jordan

Donna Meason Ball

This list reflects purchases of pew Bibles from April 19th through May 19th. Orders received after that date will be acknowledged in the next Link. If your name should be listed and isn't, please contact the church office (601-442-2581) so we can acknowledge it in next month's newsletter.

PEW BIBLE ORDER FORMS

Thank you for purchasing a Pew Bible for First Presbyterian Church. (Each Bible is \$20.) Please fill out the form below and return to the First Presbyterian Church, 400 State Street. Please PRINT the names you want as you want them to appear on the Bible book plate. If you have any questions, please call the church office (601-442-2581).

Your Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Number of Bibles ordered _____
Amount of check _____ Check # _____

In MEMORY of

In HONOR of

NATCHEZ IN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Rand McNally, America's most trusted source for maps, directions and travel content, has chosen First Presbyterian Church's Natchez in Historic Photographs Gallery over hundreds of locations as a unique travel destination for the prestigious *Best of the Road*® award program.

Rand McNally's travel experts scour the country for outstanding trips and stops, representing the best America has to offer. Of the many submissions, Rand McNally editors drive five new road trips and share their findings in the annual Road Atlas.

For the 2011 Road Atlas, Rand McNally editors have developed and presented several two-to-three day trips, among them is one called *Following Old Man River: Natchez to Tunica, Mississippi*.

In developing the trips, editors consider locations that are lesser-known or off the beaten path, are unique or have special character,

capture the region's essence, and appeal to a broad range of people. Each trip includes maps and directions and lists of "best known" spots. In addition, Rand McNally's experts have presented stops along the route that showcase the unique aspects of each region.

"We congratulate First Presbyterian Church's Natchez in Historic Photographs for being identified in our 2011 Best of the Road® listing. While there are multiple options for planning and on-the-road navigation, Americans continue to rely upon the Rand McNally Road Atlas each year to give them the big picture and the finer details of each road they travel," said Dave Muscatel, CEO of Rand McNally.

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a docent at the Natchez in Historic Photographs gallery, you may call Al Davis (601-304-1263) or the church office (601-445-5797).

NEW MEMBERS

Chuck Morehead (letter of transfer) 215 Linton Ave., Natchez, MS (601-445-6963)

Steve Davis (letter of transfer)—215 Linton Ave., Natchez, MS (601-445-6963)

Ryan Sharp (reaffirmation of faith)—107-A Creekbend Rd., Natchez, MS (662-549-8323)

Susanna Sharp (transfer of letter from Pine Ridge Presbyterian)—107-A Creekbend Rd., Natchez, MS (662-549-8323)

Alina Sharp (non confirmed member)—107-A Creekbend Rd., Natchez, MS (662-549-8323)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Because our congregation is growing, the Christian Education Unit has decided to split our children's class into 2 classes: one for ages 3-6 and the other for ages 7-12. Beginning June 6th, the younger group will meet in the Children's Music Room; the other students in the current

Children's Sunday School room.

Also starting on June 6th, the Ministers' Class will begin a study entitled *The Book of the Twelve, A Survey of the Minor Prophets*. The class meets upstairs in Stratton Chapel.

All are welcome.

PRAYING THROUGH THE YEAR—JUNE PEACEMAKING



Prayer plays an essential role in our faith journey as individuals following Jesus and in our corporate life as we gather to worship. In prayer, we pour our hearts and minds out to God. In prayer, we listen to God, seeking insight and guidance for our living.

Prayer plays an essential role in peacemaking. The psalmist encourages prayers for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6). Jeremiah urges the exiles to seek the welfare of the city where God had sent them and to pray on its behalf (Jer. 29:7) Jesus teaches us to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”. (Matt. 5:44)

Prayer is the center of peacemaking: “How will peace be achieved: By disarmament? Certainly, but not only by disarmament. By global economic reform? Certainly, but not only by global economic reform. By the change of political structures? Basically, at the heart, it is a matter of the way we see the world through the eyes of Christ. It is a matter of praying and yearning. It is an inner response to God, who loves the whole world and whose Spirit calls for and empowers the making of peace.”

—(192nd General Assembly—1980, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, Peacemaking.)

The Commitment to Peacemaking recognizes prayer as one of the ways we engage in peacemaking. Prayer opens us to God’s transforming grace; prayers are themselves acts of peacemaking. Laying our brokenness and the wounds of the world before God for healing is peacemaking. Joining hearts and hands with neighbors we do not like too well is an act of peacemaking. Renewing our allegiance to Jesus Christ in a world where so many human institutions and causes would claim our ultimate allegiance is peacemaking—a reminder that we are first of all, God’s children through Christ. Let us pray together each month throughout the coming year, as we work to heal God’s creation and all of His people. These prayers are all taken from *Justice and Peace Shall Kiss: Praying Through the Year*, edited by W. Mark Koenig, published by Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.



Prayers For Peace

Lord Christ,
at times we are like strangers on this earth,
taken aback by all the violence, the harsh oppo-
sitions.

Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the
Spirit of peace.

Transfigure the deserts of our doubts,
and so prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation
wherever you place us,
until the day when a hope of peace
dawns in our world. Amen.

Brother Roger of Taizé, *Book of Common Worship*

Send Thy peace O Lord, which is
perfect and everlasting,
that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that we
may think, act and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that we
may be contented and thankful for
Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that amidst
our worldly strife, we may enjoy Thy bliss.
Send Thy peace O Lord, that we
may endure all, tolerate all, in the thought of
Thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that our lives
may become a Divine vision and in Thy light,
all darkness may vanish.
Send Thy peace O Lord, our Father and Mother,
that we Thy children on earth may all
unite as one family.

Anonymous