



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of* NATCHEZ

# The Link

January, 2012

## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Early Worship  
(Stratton Chapel)  
8:15-8:45 a.m.

Sunday School  
9:15-10:10 a.m.

Fellowship Coffee  
10:10 a.m.  
(Stratton Chapel)

Worship in  
Sanctuary  
10:30-11:30 a.m.



# IT'S TIME

*for family,  
faith,  
& friends.*

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*Be sure to see our  
online calendar at  
[www.fpcnatchez.org](http://www.fpcnatchez.org)*

[www.fpcnatchez.org](http://www.fpcnatchez.org)

117 SOUTH PEARL STREET NATCHEZ, MS 39120

## A NOTE FROM THE MINISTERS

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ and Happy New Year.

It is not at all uncommon to use the beginning of a New Year as a time of making new promises to ourselves, to burn off the pumpkin pies that have gone to our hips or the eggnog that has made our bellies chubby.

Moving into a new year is like crossing a line into new life. We are familiar with how the process goes though. We are sturdy in our resolve to be thinner and more beautiful, more loving and more kind, until after the newness wears off and our sturdy resolve dwindles into the previous year's habits. We are as aware of our knack for getting stuck in a rut as we are for the need for grace. Yet, grace is not a thing that allows for us to fall back into ruts, it is a thing which pushes us toward deeper faith and deliberate action.

Writer Anne Lamotte puts it beautifully "I do not at all understand the mystery of grace- only that it meets us where we are

but does not leave us where it found us." All indications are that you as a congregation know this with your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength. God's grace has made you who you are and it moves you to do great things. Your invitations and your hospitality have blessed our guests and newcomers. Your annual budget for 2011 has increased because you are dreaming God's dream for First Presbyterian to be the light that shines in the darkness. Your spirits have been generous because you know how God has filled your cup to overflowing. Grace has changed you and you are changing the world.

Though New Year's resolutions come and go, your faith is constant. The constancy of your faith perseveres and brings life to all who are members and all who are not. Your life as a congregation is a testimony that Christ has come!

Rev. Denny Read

### Mark Your Calendar!

*(For more information on upcoming activities, please contact the church office.)*

January 2—Church Offices and Playschool Closed for New Year's holiday

January 16—Church Offices and Playschool closed for MLK Day

February 10-11—Kaleidoscope, 2012

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Think you can't paint?!! Everyone has an inner Picasso. Join the Women of the Church at 11:45 a.m., January 18th, for our luncheon celebrating how we are "Blessed with Artistry." Following the luncheon, Brenda Hicks and Sandy Lane will conduct a workshop, teaching some fundamentals of painting and everyone will create something to take home. (There will be a small fee of \$5 for materials.) Please RSVP to Brenda at 601-446-5202 and plan to join us for lunch and fellowship.

~Sandra Burkes

**Dates to Remember:**

**PW Coordinating Team**, Wednesday, January 4, 9:30 a.m., Westminster Room, Stratton Chapel

**Rebekah Circle**, Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m., Parlor, Stratton Chapel

**Ruth Circle**, Tuesday, January 10, 3 p.m., Parlor, Stratton Chapel

**Lydia Circle**, Tuesday, January 10, 7 p.m., Beverly Aldridge's home, 104 Pecanwood Dr.

**Sarah Circle**, TBA

**PLAYSCHOOL**

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful holiday!

Thank you all so much for the party supplies. We had a fun Christmas party. We feel so grateful to have such supportive parents.

Please note, we will be closed on the following days: Monday, January 3, for New Year's holiday and Monday, January 16, for MLK Day.

We are looking forward to a fabulous new year with your children!

Aretha Davis, C.D.  
Playschool Director

**BIRTHDAYS**

If your birthday isn't listed in the Link or if it is incorrectly listed, please call the church office at 601-442-2581 so we can add/correct our list.

January 1     Archie Willett  
                  Larry Holder  
                  Ethan Aldridge  
                  Colby Costa

January 3     John Williams  
January 7     Sawyer Allen  
January 10    Doris Ann Benoist  
January 12    Cappy Stahlman  
January 14    Hayden Butts  
January 18    Jon Borum  
                  Buddy Rhodes  
January 20    Olivia Edgin  
January 21    Esther Jeffus  
January 22    Everard Baker

January 23    Gay Lyn Eby  
January 26    Bob Dearing  
                  Floyd Eppinette

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## SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important, not only because of the star that guided the magi, but also as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.



## MUSIC

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 states "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."*

It is with mixed emotions that I announce to you my retirement at the end of December, 2011, as your organist and accompanist of choirs. It has been challenging, as well as rewarding, and I have gained more self fulfillment than I imagined was possible. What started with a job that I said I would "try for a year" has lead to almost ten years, and I am now tired. I need a daily afternoon nap!

As it always does, life calls me to move on, particularly to have week-ends free again. Our daughter, Sarah, with 2 babies and a fulltime job occasionally needs me to help out in Mandeville. I would love to see my Mom in Jackson, and family on the East coast. And Bazile and I would like to travel more and visit Buddy where he is.

I have been blessed to work with Becky Jones and Jerry Yonkman, Music Directors, and also pastors Dave deVries, John Larson and Noelle and Denny Read. They each required different styles of music, and that kept my work from getting boring.

I am proud that we, as a congregation, were able to get the organ restored and hosted several organ recitals, including a taping of Diane Bish's show "*The Joy of Music*". We have, no doubt, become known as the "music church" in our community. Everyone knows we have the best organ in town, and it has been a blessing for me to be able to play it for ten years.

So take care of our wonderful organ. I've got to go start the next chapter of my life.

Jeanie Lanneau

## SMOKED PORK LOINS

Our renown chefs Everette Ratcliffe and Rusty Jenkins will be smoking delicious pork loins on January 8th! YUM! Just in time for the LSU/Alabama BCS Championship game or any other entertaining you may be doing! They will be ready for pick up following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Each delicious loin weighs approximately 3-4 pounds. One loin per ticket. Tickets will cost \$20

and are available from members of the Pastor Care Team or in the church office.

Proceeds go to the Pastor Care Fund.

If this is successful, we may consider smoking loins again for the Super Bowl!

Edie Christian  
Pastor Care Committee

## JANUARY 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.

**January 1**—Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

**January 8**—Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**January 15**—1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**January 22**—Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 29**—Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH** meet each Sunday evening in Fellowship Hall, unless otherwise announced. Fellowship begins at 5 p.m. followed by a Bible lesson at 5:30 p.m. Supper is served at 6 p.m. You are invited and encouraged to attend.

Listed below are those providing supper this month.

### **Sunday Night Children and Youth Suppers**

**January 1**—Will not meet. Happy New Year!

**January 8**—Pam McDonald

**January 15**—Noelle and Denny Read

**January 22**—Denise Seale

**January 29**—Sharon Sharp

**CONFIRMATION CLASS AND JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** meets each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for fellowship and Bible class.

### **Wednesday Night Youth Supper**

**January 4**—FPC

**January 11**—Lee Carby

**January 18**—The Borums

**January 25**—Connie Moreland

*Opportunity for engagement: If you would like to volunteer to provide a meal for 15 people for either group, please call the church office (601-442-2581).*

## FPC OFFICERS

### ELDERS

#### CLASS OF 2012

Russell Butts	Christian Education
Chuck Borum	Christian Education
Everette Ratcliffe	Property
Shields Brown	Worship

#### CLASS OF 2013

Judy Heard	Membership and Evangelism
Steve McNerney	Administration
Chesney Doyle	Mission
Rosemary Hall	Clerk of Session

#### CLASS OF 2014 Officers-Elect

Sessions Brown  
Sandra Burkes  
Hal Hicks  
Randy Smith

### DEACONS

#### CLASS OF 2012

Marcia Passman  
Linda Bates  
Rusty Jenkins

#### CLASS OF 2013

Kinney Carlton  
Edie Christian  
Betsy Feltus

#### CLASS OF 2014 Officers-Elect

Lynn Britt  
Cara Serio  
Ryan Sharp

*New Officers' ordination/installation will January 22. Please pray for them as they prepare for their roles of leadership in our church.*

## THIS AND THAT

**READS' RAINBOW**—Thank you to those who provided meals for the Reads in December. If you are interested in helping with this ministry for Noelle, Denny, Ethan and the babies, please contact Linda Bates at 601-442-8956 (home); 601-807-2375 (cell); or lindabbates@gmail.com. If you would like to help feed or spend time playing with the babies, please contact Esther Jeffus (ejeffus@yahoo.com or 601-445-0335)

**CHURCH OFFICES AND PLAYSCHOOL** will be closed January 2 for the New Year's holiday and on January 16 for MLK Day.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT**—If you are looking for opportunities for service, we have them! For *Mission* volunteers, contact Chesney Doyle (601-445-6639); for *Children and Youth*, con-

tact Russell Butts (601-442-9796), Chuck Borum (601-446-5117) or Denny Read (601-442-2581); for any of our *choirs*, contact Jerry Yonkmann (601-442-2581); for *ushering*, contact Sessions Brown (601-445-8163); for *helping with coffees, luncheons*, etc., contact the church office (601-442-2581); for *prison ministry*, contact Randy Smith (1-337-781-6114); for reading to children at the *Playschool*, contact Aretha Davis (601-445-0700).

If you have a question about these volunteer opportunities or others at the church, please contact Rev. Noelle Read or Rev. Denny Read at the church office (601-442-2581).

# Presbytery Of Mississippi



**Kaleidoscope 2012**

**February 10th and 11th**

**Keynote: Dr. Stephen A. Hayner**

See old friends and meet new ones while you grow in knowledge and love at the annual Presbytery of Mississippi education event: Kaleidoscope.

Find out about the exciting work going on in your Presbytery and lend your voice.

**Classes include:**

Planning a Mission Trip for Your Youth

Music

Worship Committee—Do's and Don't's

How to Moderate Meetings

Getting New Members for your Congregation

Living Waters for the World

Special Youth Events

Friday Events: concert by Mississippi College Singers

Dinner in the museum, Youth Events

**For more information, contact the Presbytery Office or go to**  
[www.presbyteryofms.org](http://www.presbyteryofms.org).

## DIACONATE NEWS

One of God's greatest gifts to us is that of hearing our prayers. Prayer is the most dynamic force in the universe. It can change one life or change the world. Keeping this in mind, the Diaconate has declared the year 2012 a "Year of Prayer" for our church.

We encourage each member of First Presbyterian Church to examine and renew his or her prayer life. If we all do this, we will end 2012 as a much different congregation than we began it.

To get the "Year of Prayer" started, the Diaconate will sponsor several activities. We hope each of you will consider participating in one or more.

The activities will include such things as:

- Continuation and expansion of the Advent Prayer Partners
- A study group on prayer
- A prayer shawl ministry
- Distribution of a wonderful book on prayer (My Little Book of Prayers by Lynette Douglass) which is already available in the church office

We know that many of you will have other wonderful ideas to strengthen the prayer life of our members. Please let us hear from you.

## MISSION

*The Mission Unit received this letter, regarding our Mexico mission work:*

Hi Natchez team,

Thanks so much for your continued support of the work of the church in Campeche area. You know that LWW (Living Waters for the World) values relationships above all else, and you are a MODEL of maintaining relationships.

I'm optimistic that we will continue with the clean water ministry well into the future, so whenever your team wants to jump back in, we'll be more than happy. Meanwhile, we'll keep you posted about LWW things in the

peninsula.

Wishing you a JOYFUL Christmas and New Year,  
~Joanie

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Ministry — Danna Mooney (601-445-2071)

Food/Shelter — Hyde Carby (601-334-6224)

Environmental Ministry — Cara Serio (601-304-1602), Steve McNerney (601-445-0774)

Prison Ministry — Randy Smith (1-337-781-6114)

Disaster Relief Ministry — George and Linda Bates (601-442-8956)