

The Witness

Volume 11, Issue 2

January 21, 2010

Staff Transition News

On Sunday, January 17, as part of the annual consultative review of clergy staff by our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the decision was reached to move in a new direction. Recognizing the need to reallocate resources and in consideration of current and past issues, the decision was reached by the committee to discontinue the employment of Rita Chiasson.

It is the intent and desire of the SPR to redirect some of the salary package to a position that will provide Youth Ministry. There will still be a need for an accompanist, a position that the committee is actively seeking to fill.

Diane Boso will be taking up the leadership of the Handbell Choir and Children’s Choir. Rev. Bob will step in to serve as the clergy liaison to the Worship Committee and work alongside Joyce Annison with the Shepherd Ministry. The clergy visitation will continue with our remaining clergy staff.

We are thankful for the many ways Rita has served and the lives she has touched. Finally, we encourage you to send her a note of appreciation and support and to keep her in your prayers.

Rita Chiasson
7890 Florida Blvd.
Denham Springs, LA 70726



- February 2 – Agape I Circle meets at 7:00 p.m.
- February 8 – Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.
- February 9 – Education Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Mattie St. house.
- February 13 – United Methodist Men meet at 7:30 a.m.
- February 16 – Agape II Circle meets at 10:00 a.m.
- February 17 – Young at Heart luncheon
- March 14 – Blood Drive

Fundraising Event

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host a major entertainment & fundraising event at the historic Walker Freshman High School auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 30th at 7:00 p.m. It will showcase a wealth of outstanding Livingston Parish talent. Tickets are \$10 at the door or in advance at the church office. For more information, contact Bob Ingalls at 907-4067.

SAVE THE DATE: April 9th-10th, 2010

Family Ministries is sponsoring a FAMILY CAMP for all ages at United Methodist Camp Istrouma in Greenwell Springs. This is for ALL church family, no matter what your marital status. More details will follow. You won't want to miss it!

Altar Flowers

If you would like to give flowers for the altar in honor or memory of someone, please call the office (665-8995) or come by the office to choose a date on the flower calendar.

**ONE MONTH TO LIVE
BEGINNING IN LENT
THIRTY DAYS TO A NO-REGRETS LIFE**



Please notice the newsletter insert featuring one of our Louisiana Conference Mission Ministries: **UM HOPE MINISTRIES**. Our church helped support HOPE in 2009 through apportionments. The Agape II Women’s Circle helped provide toys for children at Christmas. Our Mission Budget gave \$500 of support. We have budgeted \$2000 for HOPE in 2010 Mission Budget. This is a ministry that changes lives for the better in overcoming poverty and homelessness by equipping clients for healthy credit, home ownership, and prioritized lifestyles. *"Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, he eats for life."*

LEAD ME LORD

Baton Rouge District Leadership Training 2010

“Lead me Lord” is a District-wide training event designed to equip congregational leaders with tools to be effective in the area they have been called to serve.

January 23rd, 2010 at BR First United Methodist Church; (Convention Exit Left off I-110 making U-turn on frontage road, crossing North Blvd at light and parking behind church.) 930 North Blvd.; Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Gathering for coffee and fellowship
- 9:00 “Leaders Who Make a Difference: Church Council”
Larry O’Dell
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Breakout Workshops (Choose one from below.)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 “Fighting Fair: Conflict Resolution” - Craig Gilliam

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP SELECTION (Choose one)

- “Connecting the Congregation and the Staff”
(Rev. Ralph Ford, District Superintendent)
- “So I’m a Lay Leader...What Now?”
(Grant Schroeck & Betty Blackman, Laity FUMC Denham Springs)
- “Strengthening Your Adult Sunday School Class”
(Rev. Lee McKenzie, Minister of Education at Broadmoor UMC, BR)
- “Strengthening Your Children’s Sunday School Class”
(Becky Poor, Children’s Minister FUMC BR)
- “Strengthening Your Youth Sunday School Class”
(Myranda Eisworth, Youth Minister Broadmoor UMC BR)
- “Shut the Back Door: Keeping New Members”
(Donna Leggett)
- “Care for the Leader”
(Liz Wyatt)

REGISTRATION

For registration, email Becky Poor <becky@firstmethodist.org>
Please include which breakout session you are interested in attending.
No registration fee. No limitations on number of leaders representing each church.

Family in Need

A local family who lost their home to a fire is in need of help. They are a family with 3 children and no insurance. They need everything, from couch to washing machine. Anything at all would help. Please contact Len Taylor LenTaylor@cox.net if you can help.

**CHARGE CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010
4:00 P.M.
in the SANCTUARY**



Choir Notes

All women and girls of all ages are invited to sing in the choir January 31st. We will rehearse at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27th and at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, January 31st. It is a very easy, singable melody, and we would like to fill the choir loft with the women and girls of our congregation!!

April 1st is Maundy Thursday, and the choir will present the "Living Last Supper". If you would like to be a part of the choir please let Diane know. We have CDs with the voice parts that you can practice at home, and it will not require a lot of rehearsals.

Children from Pre-K to 6th grade: We will be starting a choir program on February 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the church. There will be more information coming your way very soon.

Food Pantry News

Thanks to everyone who continues to support the Emergency Food Pantry. Special thank to the following groups for their donations of food or money:

- Boy Scout Pack #19 (First Baptist Church);
- Pelican State Credit Union (food drive);
- Exxon-Mobil (grant);
- FEMA (GRANT);
- Office of District Attorney Scott Perrilloux

We welcome Joan Ellis, a new volunteer. The Food Pantry is still in need of volunteers to dispense food and to act as buyers. Contact Marilyn (791-6592) or Dottie (665-4856) if you wish to volunteer. The Food Pantry is located at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Maple Drive. Hours are 10:00-11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Special Gifts

The following special gifts have been made to First United Methodist Church:

In Memory of:

- **Thomas Jones Annison** by Ora Annison
- **Darlene "Miss Willie" Monceaux** by Margarine Smith; George & Marlene Milton
- **Ricky Williams** by Carmen Gerald
- **John Crichlow** by Margarine Smith
- **Loretta Schultz** by Lela Alexander; Joyce Annison; Keith & Jean Hotchkiss; Dot. Wells.

In Honor of

- **Dot Davis** by Margarine Smith
- **Carol Sue Parker** Diane Boso
- **Jimmie Lee DeLaune** by Diane Boso
- **Marguerite Benton** by Donna Welch

We give thanks to God with . . .

Our Prayers:

Members in Nursing Homes: Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Fay Kling; Keith Hotchkiss

Members in Hospital: OLOL- Janice Azlin; **Rehab** – Jo Roberts; **Neuromedical Center** – Wally Waldrup; **Ochsner** – Claude Slaton

Other Concerns:

Bill Benton	Hilda Neal	Shirley Callender
Josephine Schultz	George Smith	John Blackman
Ray Foster, form of Leukemia		
Becky Lambert, at home recovering from double knee surgery		
Margarine Smith, injuries from fall		
Mattie Cook, back surgery February 2 nd		
Willie Mae Easterly, heart problems, Ernestine Hood's sister		
Vanora F. Nelson, back problems, Ernestine Hood's sister		
Ermalee Eller, stroke, Ernestine Hood's sister		
Betty Mae Street, heart problems, Ernestine Hood's sister		
Melvin Myers, brain tumor, friend of Robbie Lamm		
Hazel Creamer, cancer, Shirley Callender's sister-in-law		
Gabe Hilliard, Hodgkins Lymphoma, son of Jeff & Jeanie Hilliard		
Bonnie Bishop, Bob Blum's sister		
Sue Rupert, Shannon Arnold's grandmother		

Our Sympathy:

Our sympathy is expressed to the following individuals:

- **Josephine Schultz** at the death of her daughter-in-law, Loretta Schultz.
- **Erin Sandefur** at the death of her grandfather, Joe Melilli.

Our Presence:

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
1/17/2010	94	221
	* * *	

A Record of Our Faithfulness – January 17, 2010

Operating Account	
2009 YTD	\$23,016.25
2010 YTD	\$22,492.51
Building Fund Contributions	
Received 2010 year-to-date	\$5,098.00
Total funds available for construction	\$2,445,628.00

Acolytes for Sunday, January 24, 2010:

8:30 a.m. – Victoria Page & Ainsleigh LaCombe
11:00 a.m. – Darby Miller & Sage Annison

Thank You

Dear friends,
Thank you, each one, for the many phone calls, cards, and visits. It truly means so much to us to be a part of this "family". John is in dialysis 3 times a week. We expect him to do well. We will see you as soon as possible.

Blessings,

Betty and John Blackman