

Leadership Letter

new year, fresh start for PSL

2011 brings new faces to Presbytery Leadership

Proposed at the October Meeting of PSL, the following were elected to serve the Presbytery in 2011 beginning in January.

The Rev. Dr. John Blewitt will be installed as Moderator of Presbytery. The Rev. Dr. Don Frampton will be installed as Moderator of Council. And elected earlier was Stated Clerk – The Rev. Dr. Ron Sutto. We are grateful to God for the bountiful talents shared through these servants. We thank them for accepting the challenge and we open our hearts to serve with them.



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Dear Friends,

First, let me thank you for the privilege of serving as the 2011 Moderator of the Council of our beloved Presbytery.

I, like you, have a deep appreciation for PSL, its history and heritage, its incredible post-storm assistance to affected communities which continues, its tenacious spirit, and its sense of hope about the future. Together we can, and will, meet Christ in the world in mission and ministry, in compassionate service, and in genuine love for our neighbors.

Sometimes we worry about not having enough. But the Word of God teaches us that we actually have more than enough. We are grateful and blessed disciples of Jesus Christ, bound together as a community, a family, a presbytery. It will be this sense of oneness that will keep us together, and this unity of purpose that will move us forward.

Your Council will be working much more closely with congregations this year in building, and rebuilding, our common work as Presbyterians. I look forward to working with you as a fellow disciple of Christ.

Faithfully,

Don



mission statement

*In the service of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit
We will promote the spiritual, mental & physical health of our congregations, Minister-Members, Christian Educators and other Church Professionals;
We will help our congregations to carry out their missions and connect them to each other as well as to the larger Church, and
We will coordinate and execute those ministries specific to the Presbytery.
All that we do is dedicated to the Glory of God.*

THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH:

The great ends of the Church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (Book of Order G-1.0200)

Thank You *Mahalo*
Tack **Kiitos**
Grazie **Toda**
Obbrigado **Thanks**
Takk **Merci**
Gracias

On behalf of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, we wish to thank Elder Suzie Craig, the Rev. Dr. John Blewitt and Elder William [Bill] Bottomley for their service. Suzie served PSL as 2010 Moderator with devotion. John – PSL 2010 Moderator of Council, dedicated the year to leadership and transformation. Bill led Presbytery business with a passion for orderly conduct as Stated Clerk over several years. May God bless each of you with accomplishment and appreciation for a job well done. PSL sincerely thanks each of them for their Christian example and their commitment to the task.

psl 10/20

New to our Presbytery's communications network in 2011 will be the trial electronic publication to be known as PSL 10-20. This is in addition to the Leadership Letter and will be email direct to your inbox.

The name comes from the publication dates of this e-newsletter. To be emailed to subscribed individuals in the Presbytery of South Louisiana, this summary will come out on the tenth and twentieth of the month.

To subscribe simply click on the CONSTANT CONTACT link of the forwarded publication. The subscription is free for one year due to a generous grant from the Louisiana Board of Presbyterian Publications.

Pastors of each church in PSL will receive a copy of the first e-newsletter if you have shared your email address with the Presbytery office.

Clerks of Sessions will want to forward their members info as well. Just be sure to use the FORWARD icon on your email system once you receive a copy. We are asking church offices to forward to appropriate individuals also so that they may subscribe.

JUST FORWARD to others once the periodical has reached you. This is a quick and exciting way for all our churches to communicate.

Designed to carry news of PSL activity and churches across our bounds, this electronic version will be open to every church for their use to make announcements. Articles may be submitted by the first and fifteenth of the month for the next issue.

The first issue will be around January 10th.....so look for it and subscribe.

To register your email please contact - secretary@pbysouthla.org and list your church affiliation, position or interest.

For more information, please contact Kathy Randall at kathyran@covad.net or 504.866.7435

Transforming Journey

By John Blewitt, Moderator of Presbytery

Going Missional – Three Shifts

In preparation for our planning and visioning retreat last November, Council Members were asked to do some reading in advance. One of the books we read is Missional Renaissance – Changing the Scorecard for the Church by Reggie McNeal. I appreciate the insights McNeal offers, and I recommend it heartily!

“Missional is a way of living,” writes McNeal. “To think and live missionally means seeing all life as a way to be engaged with the mission of God in the world” (p. xiv).

Going missional will require that you make three shifts, both in your thinking and in your behavior:

- From internal to external in terms of ministry focus
- From program development to people development in terms of core activity
- From church-based to kingdom-based in terms of leadership agenda

These three shifts require a new scorecard. It is true that what gets rewarded gets done. Instead of focusing on “how many (attendance), how often (church activities), how much the offerings,” we need to refocus on changed lives, changed communities, members becoming missionaries. (I would love to redesign the General Assembly statistics we will be completing soon!)

A lot of people thought the Saints would never win a Super-Bowl, but last February they did! One of the reasons that dream became a reality is that when Sean Payton took over as head coach, he “changed the culture.” That is what we as church leaders need to be about – changing the culture in our congregations.

As I move into my year as moderator of the presbytery, I am excited about opportunities to encourage and celebrate leaders and churches making these shifts!

All that matters is the Gospel; everything else is just tactics!

Voting on General Assembly Matters in 2011

When a General Assembly convenes, commissioners approve items that would change our constitution. These items are then sent out to each presbytery. The presbyteries vote on each item. If there are enough affirmative votes across the denomination, the changes to the constitution are made.

This year our presbytery will consider several proposed amendments to the PC(USA) constitution. Additionally, two other items will be voted on:

- Whether or not to add the Belhar Confession to our *Book of Confessions*
- Whether or not to adopt a revised *Form of Government*

Your council has decided to hold a special presbytery meeting to vote on all of these matters. That meeting will be held on **April 5**. In preparation for the meeting, we will have an educational gathering to discuss the implications of each item on **March 15**. The meeting places have not been established yet, but we will make that information known in the near future.

Copies of all the documents are available in the presbytery office. Also, they are or will be available on our presbytery website (<http://pbysouthla.org/>) as well as supplemental resources.

Martin Luther King Mission Retreat

Presbytery of South Louisiana

January 16th -17th, 2011

\$25.00

For Whom: 9th Graders through College Age in the Presbytery.

Purpose: To provide youth and young adults from member churches an opportunity to explore our call as Christians to Seek Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with our God.

When: Sunday evening, January 16^h by 9:00 p.m. – through Monday, January 17th, at around 2 p.m.

Where: Parkway Presbyterian Church, 6200 Camphor Street, Metairie, LA 70003

Cost: \$25: includes lodging (bring a sleeping bag we have air mattresses), Sunday, evening snacks, Monday breakfast and a box lunch.

Sponsored by The Christian Educators of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Leadership: Suzie Craig, Christian Educator, Parkway Presbyterian Church, Metairie, LA.;

The Rev. T. Clint Mitchell, Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA; Kathy and Steve Wilson, Volunteers, Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, Young Adult Volunteers: Katie Turpen (Faith and FPCNOLA), Evan Ponder (Bayou Blue)and Emma Wood (Chinese).

Expectations:

- Churches will agree to support the Senior High youth/ Young adults.
- 1 chaperone gender specific for the majority of the youth for every participants.
- We will be working with Project Homecoming for our mission project on Monday clearing blighted property.

Bring work gloves with you.

NOTE: E-mail will be used for communication.

**Registration
 Martin Luther King Retreat
 Presbytery of South Louisiana
 January 16th -17th, 2011
 Parkway Presbyterian Church**

Due no later than January 10, 2011 with fee of \$25 for each participant

Youth _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Home Church _____

Chaperone _____

Relationship with youth (if any prior relationship) _____

Address _____ E-mail _____



**Checks made out to Parkway with Registration forms must be sent to:
 Parkway Presbyterian Church Attention: Suzie Craig 6200 Camphor Street, Metairie, LA 70003**



**CONFIRMATION RETREAT
 Presbytery of South Louisiana
 January 28th -30th, 2011
 Feliciana Retreat Center**

For Whom: 6th - 8th Graders in the Presbytery. (Registration limited to 40 youth and adults total) **Purpose:** To provide youth from member churches/youth groups an opportunity to explore the meaning of Confirmation, i.e. affirming one's baptismal vows. Focus: Faith Journey, Church History, Confessions and Polity. **When:** Friday evening, January 28th by 8:30 p.m. – through Sunday, January 30th, Noon. **Where:** Feliciana Retreat Center in Norwood, Louisiana (registrants will be sent a map) Accommodations will be in the Glencoe Cabins as well as the Log Cabin.

Cost: \$100: includes lodging, Friday and Saturday snacks, Saturday 3 meals and Sunday Breakfast.

Sponsored by The Christian Educators of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Leadership: Suzie Craig, Christian Educator, Parkway Presbyterian Church, Metairie, LA.;
 The Rev. T. Clint Mitchell, Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA; Kathy and Steve Wilson, Volunteers, Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, Young Adult Volunteers: Katie Turpen (Faith and FPCNOLA), Evan Ponder (Bayou Blue)and Emma Wood (Chinese).

Expectations:

- Churches will agree to support the youth and assist in preparation and follow-up.
- An significant adult, who could be pastor, elder or other person with whom the youth of your church can relate, will accompany your youth participants. (1 chaperone gender specific for the majority of the youth attending from your group, for every 7 youth)
- Each youth will participate in the retreat, and share in the tasks such as meals, clean up, and/or worship.
- All will observe the guidelines the group agrees upon the first evening.

NOTE: E-mail will be used for communication.

**Registration
 Confirmation Retreat
 Presbytery of South Louisiana
 January 28th -30th, 2011
 Feliciana Retreat Center**

Due no later than January 15, 2011 with fee of \$100 for each participant

Youth _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Home Church _____

Chaperone _____

Relationship with youth (if any prior relationship) _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

**Checks made out to PSL with Registration forms must be sent to:
 Parkway Presbyterian Church Attention: Suzie Craig 6200 Camphor Street, Metairie, LA 70003**

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

Camper Youth Covenant

— 2011—

As a child of God and in an effort to be with others in a safe way and have fun as a Christian community, I will covenant to:

1. Attend all scheduled activities, and be an active, helpful participant in our community.
2. Treat all people (camp leaders, counselors, new and old friends) with dignity, respect, and sensitivity.
3. Refrain from possession and use of tobacco products, alcohol and non-prescription drugs.
4. Respect God's beautiful creation and the property of others.
5. Leave at home ipods, radios, C.D. players, television sets, and all other electronic games or devices.
6. Abide by all guidelines established for our community.

I agree to uphold this covenant. I will take responsibility for my actions, show Christ's love and respect to others and myself, and be open in heart and mind.

I understand that failure to keep this covenant may result in being sent home at my family's expense and/or not being allowed to participate in future Presbytery events, as well as notification of my church session.

Print Participant's Name _____

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Print Parent's or Guardian's Name _____

Parent's or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

MEET THE YAVS



My name is Lauren Rampy, and I am serving as a Young Adult Volunteer in New Orleans. I am originally from Dallas, TX and graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in Religion. I came to the YAV program after college as a way to serve the community and discern the inevitable need for a “big girl job.” The events that have brought me to this place have offered me an amazing gift that comes from serving God.

I am currently serving as a Volunteer Village Manager with Project Homecoming, a wonderful ministry of this presbytery. My job allows me to form relationships with the volunteers who give up a week of their lives elsewhere to come and serve in New Orleans. This has given me the opportunity to meet people from all over the country and to see the passion God has for this city as He sends multitudes of volunteers throughout the year to a project that has fallen off the media map in the 5 years since Katrina. As others forget or assume the damage has been fixed, these servants continue to come to New Orleans year after year. Their dedication to the city has

inspired my love for New Orleans as well.

As I reflect on the past 4 months living in a city I had never even visited before moving here in mid-August, it is obvious that this city has something to offer everyone who comes to help. At times I find myself overwhelmed with disaster shock as I look at the properties that remain untouched and forgotten, but I am quickly brought out of it through a conversation with a homeowner or volunteer. The mission we are a part of is not just the physical rebuilding of homes, but about the building up of God’s body through the restoration of His people. To see life return to the face of a homeowner through the work of volunteers and to see the Spirit fill the volunteers as they interact with their homeowner is something I cannot describe through words. It is truly a God thing. Anyone can build houses. There are plenty of contractors and property developers out there to do this work, but the importance of what we do is about so much more than the houses we build. The true meaning of the labor of the volunteers and staff of Project Homecoming can be seen at each home dedication as a family returns not just to a house but to their home.



To hear more about my year and to keep up with my experience, please visit my blog, lrampy.blogspot.com

In Christ,

Lauren Rampy

announcements

Don Frampton, Senior Pastor of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, is serving as the interim “pastor to pastors” for PSL, in wake of Marv Groote’s departure. The best way to contact Don is through is email, Frampton@scapc.org. Please email him if you need to talk about anything related to your work as pastor. This applies to educators as well. Thanks.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Interim General Presbyter for the Presbytery of South Louisiana. Administrative leadership required. Part-time position in Baton Rouge office. Must be able to travel Lake Charles to Slidell. Small stipend plus expenses. Applicants are asked to respond electronically to PSLjobs@bellsouth.net with resume by January 15.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Presbytery of South Louisiana is seeking applicants for the position “Volunteer Coordinator – Project Homecoming.” This full-time, exempt position oversees the volunteer operations of Project Homecoming, a ministry of the Presbytery of South Louisiana that is focused on rebuilding homes and communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. This position is responsible for 1) directing the “Olive Tree” volunteer village operations; 2) coordinating volunteer relations and recruitment; and 3) administering Project Homecoming’s participation in Americorps and other long-term volunteer programs. The position supervises 2 ½ staff members who work with the Volunteer Coordinator to fulfill the responsibilities related to Project Homecoming’s volunteer operations. The person filling this position must possess flexibility and a willingness to grow with the position as it develops. It is expected that Project Homecoming will spin off from the Presbytery of South Louisiana during 2011. As such, this position with the Presbytery of South Louisiana is temporary and will exist only until that time when Project Homecoming spins off as a separate 501(c)3 non-profit. At that time, the Board of Directors of Project Homecoming, Inc will be responsible for employing staff and may decide to continue this position and the person hired for it, though that is not guaranteed. A full job description can be obtained by contacting Jean Marie Peacock at jmpeacock@pslrecovery.org. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to jmpeacock@pslrecovery.org by January 10, 2010.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Presbyterian Foundation of Louisiana has opened its application process for a limited number of scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to select students working toward a degree in medicine or engineering.. In the case of medicine, the applicant must be studying to be a medical doctor and must be accepted into a medical school for the approaching term. The candidate pursuing a career in engineering must be a student at the third or fourth year undergraduate level.

Scholarship applicants are considered without regard to their creed, sex, national origin or state in which they reside or study. Those persons wishing to apply for consideration may request an application form from:

The Presbyterian Foundation of Louisiana
Scholarship Committee
Mrs. Nell Johnston, Chair
O.K. Avenue
Harahan, LA 70123-4743
(Phone: 504-737-1691) (e-mail:
mjohn@bellsouth.net)

Requests for application MUST be received by March 1, 2011, and returned by March 15, 2011

The Presbyterian Foundation of Louisiana encourages anyone wishing to make a gift, which increases the endowed scholarship fund and thereby the amount of aid available, to please contact Nell Johnston at the above address.

January

Birthdays

9	The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Harsch
11	The Rev. Dr. Jim Rollins
21	The Rev. Keith Abramowski
22	Ms. Sue Candler
26	The Rev. Kwan Jun Park
26	The Rev. Lesley Paine
29	Ms. Mary Dukes
30	The Rev. Charlene Heaton

Calendar

1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
13	FMT MEETING
16-17	MARTIN LUTHER KING MISSION RETREAT / HOLIDAY
18	COUNCIL MEETING
22	GBR CLUSTER MEETING
28-30	CONFIRMATION RETREAT @ FRC
29	GNO/BAYOU CLUSTER TRAINING

mark your calendar:

**117th STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011
ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LAKE CHARLES**

GBR cluster-wide worship service Sun. Feb. 20, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at Baker Presbyterian Church. Offering will be for Evergreen Ministries. Charlene Heaton is coordinating the service.

Summer Camp 2011

Intro Camp for 1st and 2nd graders will be held **MAY** 13, 14, and 15, 2011.

Camp Agape and Wrangler Camp will be held June 12 through 18, 2011.

In addition to Wrangler Camp we are offering Adventure Camp for Senior Highs during this week.

Full information will be available at the February Presbytery meeting when registration will begin.

PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**JUNE 7, 2011
ST. CHARLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEW ORLEANS**

**OCTOBER 1, 2011
HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
BATON ROUGE**

General Assembly Amendment
Discussion and Voting Sessions:

March 15, 2011

April 15, 2011

from the treasurer

WHERE IN THE TREASURY IS BENJAMIN?

“Hello everyone, my name is Benjamin and I’m a well know form of legal tender. The individual I’m named after was a thinker, inventor, writer, and statesman. The author of this series has asked me to visit the Treasury of the Presbytery of South Louisiana and send back reports from time to time about what I find there.”

Benjamin, aka, a United States \$100 bill, arrives at the PSL office frequently. Usually he is disguised in the form of a check often for several Benjamins, but occasionally some genuine currency does show up. Let’s listen as we hear what Benjamin experiences as he travels through the banks, books, and accounts of Presbytery.

Benjamin’s first experience at PSL is being released from an envelope along with a document that identifies his purpose. Benjamin is promptly deposited in a bank account where he joins several of his clones. They seem to be waiting for someone. What Benjamin doesn’t know is the lovely lady who deposited him notified that someone that he had arrived and also identified the purpose that Benjamin was sent to fund.

Were in the Treasury is Benjamin? I’m sure you figured out he is in the receiving account where he is being credited to the Church or other source that sent him to Presbytery. This is an important stop for Benjamin because good record keeping begins here. Each Church in the Presbytery can check published reports from time to time to see that all the Benjamins they sent arrived and were properly credited to the purpose for which they were intended.

Benjamin is about to be transferred to a designated source, the purpose he is to fund. What are these purposes? Tune in next month as Benjamin travels to one of them.



**Happy
New Year!**

COUNT DOWN

Presbytery has received **8** replies to the 2011 Giving Requests that were sent out, **53** left to go.

BE ON THE LOOK OUT:

We will be mailing out the annual packet from the PSL Office in January containing the 2011 remittance forms and envelopes, and a contact information update sheet. Please include your contact sheet with your first remittance to the office.

Thank You!

Just a reminder to all churches:
Please don’t forget to go online to do your statistical reporting.

We didn’t get reports from several churches last year and our goal for this year is to have 100% reporting.

Thanks, and God Bless!

Please Pray For:

The victims of the flooding from recent storms in California

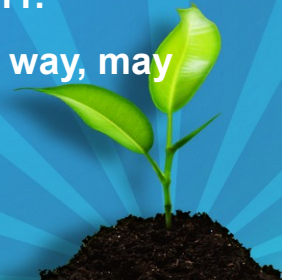
All those negatively affected by the recent blizzards across the country

The Rev. Matthew George of Borean Presbyterian Church, he is recovering from a blood clot in his leg.

All the outgoing officers of the Presbytery for all of their dedication and hard work through a difficult year.

For all of the incoming officers of the Presbytery, may the Lord be ever present to guide them through the challenges they will face in 2011.

For all of our Military members across the world and in harms way, may they come home safe and quickly.



verse of the month:

Philippians 3:13-14 *No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. [\(NLT\)](#)*