



PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA
MARCH 2011

Leadership *letter*

New Church Commissioning for PSL

For some time the Presbytery of South Louisiana has felt some hardships through natural disasters, legal issues, and difficult changes. But we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. For the first time in many years the Presbytery will commission a new church in May. First Mission in Zachary will become First Presbyterian Church of Zachary. Through the hard work and dedication of so many, this congregation will finalize its goal of becoming a church. Please see page 7 for a brief history of the Zachary Mission.

WELCOME KAREN BLEWITT!

On January 25, 2011 the PSL office in Baton Rouge welcomed a new part-time employee, Karen Blewitt. Karen works 10 hours a week assisting Office Administrator, Julia Miller and Treasurer, Tom Tucker. Karen comes highly qualified and recommended. We are so delighted to have Karen join our staff and look forward to a long working relationship with her.

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Congratulations

First Pres. of Bayou Blue!!!

First Presbyterian Church of Bayou Blue in Gray Louisiana was named the Louisiana Environmental Organization of the Year.

Thank you for the extraordinary work you do for us all.

moderator of council:

Dear Friends:

This spring, your council is privileged to embark on a series of visits with the churches of the Presbytery of South Louisiana. Members of the council will be fanning out to cover several churches each. Each pastor and/or Clerk of Session will be asked for a good time for these 30 minute visits.

The purpose of these visits is fourfold:

1.To bring greetings from your brothers and sisters called to serve as members of the Council, and to express gratitude for the community of faith of which each member church of our presbytery is an important part.

2.To make a brief presentation on the present and future of our presbytery.

3.To listen. We are keenly interested in hearing your questions and comments about PSL. It will strengthen our relationship with one another and our common mission and ministry.

That should easily occupy thirty minutes! We are looking forward to seeing you.

Faithfully,
Don Frampton
Moderator, PSL Council

GA Amendments Discussion Meeting

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 your *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 at 1:00 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge**. In preparation for the meeting, we will have an educational gathering to discuss the implications of each item on **March 15 at 1:00 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge**.

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.

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)

psl church transformation

John Blewitt

Tom Bandy will be visiting PSL two times in 2011. In addition to meeting with each congregation involved in the church transformation process, Tom will be offering a Saturday workshop in two locations that is open to any and everyone in our presbytery.

The workshop will offer insight and strategies for:

How to Increase Volunteers
How to Keep Momentum for Change and Growth
More Tips on Stewardship

This workshop will be offered at St Andrew Presbyterian Church in Lake Charles on Saturday, March 12, 9:30 – 12:30. It will be repeated on Saturday, March 19, at Faith Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge, 9:30 – 12:30. **All are welcome!**

Tom Bandy's website is
www.ThrivingChurch.com

Church phone numbers are:
St Andrews 337-477-4667
Faith 225-275-7393

PSL want to help your church be vital and faithful! If you want to explore ways the presbytery might be able to support you, please contact me!

John Blewitt
225-275-7393
johnfpc@bellsouth.net

Handouts and videos from previous Tom bandy workshops are available for free download. Click on the "Church Transformation" Tab from the PSL website or go directly to
<http://psldeeperfurther.org/>



Lent begins
March 9th

GBR Cluster Worship

Charlene Heaton



On February 20, about 100 Presbyterians from the 12 churches of the Great Baton Rouge Cluster met for Sunday afternoon worship and fellowship at Baker Presbyterian Church. Nine clergy took part in leading the service. Rev. Ted Roeling (Pastor Emeritus of Baker) delivered the sermon entitled "Who Are We, Really?", based on I Peter 2. Marie Cotaya, who has served as Music Director at Baker for 33 years, directed the large choir with singers from Cluster churches. Cathy Moss, who has been our pianist for many years, provided accompaniment on the Clavinova. During the rehearsal prior to the service, the Baker choir which ordinarily numbers around 10, was heard to say "Lock the doors and don't let anybody leave...stay with us...we will give you food!" Uniting so many wonderful voices in song, not only in the choir, but in the congregation was truly inspiring.

We were pleased that Yvonne Mackey, Development Specialist for Evergreen Ministries, traveled from Alexandria to introduce the special offering for Evergreen. The amount collected was \$660. Dr. Alan Cutter pronounced the benediction and all adjourned

to the Fellowship Hall. Each church brought to the reception a display board highlighting their mission and ministry. Baker's Hospitality Committee provided cakes and cookies. The event, whose date was chosen by the Cluster 9 months earlier, was planned by a Baker team: two elders, Lee Jenkins and Marie Cotaya, and the Baker Pastor, Rev. Charlene Heaton. We were pleased that so many members of the Cluster came from north and south and east and west to share in this special time. The Baker church is over 100 years old and we remain grateful for the full restoration of our sanctuary after serious Gustav damage. It was a special joy for Baker to have the Cluster visit our pretty little church.

A prayer from the dedication of the Chapel of the PCUSA Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, appeared on the cover of the Cluster Order of Worship:

O God, Make the door of this church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this church a gateway to Your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Birthdays

8	The Rev. Joe Hahn, Jr.
12	The Rev. Lisa Lani Easterling
16	The Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Sanders
24	The Rev. Dr. John G. Blewitt
25	The Rev. Dr. F. James 'Jim' Stayton

Calendar

8	Mardi Gras PSL Office Closed
9	Ash Wednesday / Lent begins
15	GA Amendment Discussion at Faith BR 1:00
	CPM Meeting PSL Office 11:30
	Admin. Commission Meeting PSL Office 12:00
17	COM Meeting 10:00 St. Patrick's Day
17- 4/3	Tom Bandy Visit
20	Western Cluster Meeting @ First Church, Lake Charlet
26	PW Spring Gathering : John Calvin Church, Metairie

mark your calendar:

GA Amendments Vote
April 5th, 1:00 p.m. Faith Church, BR

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.

First Presbyterian Church Zachary
Commissioning
May 8, 2011

Presbytery Meetings:

June 7, 2011,
St. Charles Ave. PC

October 15, 2011
Highland PC

Louisiana Presbyterian Cursillo
June 23-26, 2011



announcements

Canal St. Presbyterian Church has a set of green and yellow choir robes to donate. Please contact the church at 504-525-3198 if you are interested.

The Presbytery of South Louisiana announces a mission trip to the Presbytery of Matanzas, Cuba, May 18-25, 2011. Circumstances in Cuba and in the USA have delayed the announcement; therefore your prompt action is necessary. **I MUST APPLY FOR CUBAN VISAS BY APRIL 1.**

Eligibility: must be a member of a PSL-PC(USA) congregation
must have passport valid for 6 months after return date

Estimated cost: \$1700

For full description and requirements, call or e-mail:

Margaret "Nell" Johnston,
PSL Coordinator for Cuba Partnership
57 O.K. Avenue, Harahan, LA 70123
504-737-1691; [mjjohn@bellsouth.net](mailto:mjohn@bellsouth.net)

Westminster Church in Sulphur has an organ to donate. The Organ is operational and free to anyone in need. Please contact Leslie Mansell @ 337-625-5249

Joining Christ in the world, the



Presbytery of South Louisiana strengthens congregations, empowers leaders, and impacts communities.

REPORT FROM THE "FRONT LINE"

*"Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before . . ."*

Ministry to LSU students, faculty, and staff through the Outreach ministry of University Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge includes two innovative programs. Here are some highlights from the Rev. T. Clint Mitchell., serving on the front line at LSU.

In spring of 2010, the Food4Thought series focused on the interplay between faith, food and the environment. The fall 2010 series focused on loving our neighbors and the role of LSU in the larger Baton Rouge and Louisiana communities. This series included a conversation with state legislators about the impact of potential budget cuts on state universities and the role of faith communities in supporting higher education, as well as a lecture by LSU Chancellor Mike Martin on the roll of LSU in developing blighted neighborhoods and undeveloped areas near the university.

The Community Service Grant program was established in 2006 in coordination with LSU's Center for Community Engagement, Learning and Leadership to encourage and empower LSU students in reaching out in service to the greater Baton Rouge Community. The program provides grants of up to \$1000 to service-learning courses and student organizations to work with non-profit organizations. In 2010, we awarded four grants to groups developing community garden in blighted areas of the city, developing writing skills with students at Broadmoor High School, working with students and Lee High School to develop better English skills with ESL students, and developing math skills with the children at South Downs Pre-School Academy. All of these grants took students out of the classroom and off campus to work with members of the Baton Rouge community.

This is our mission dollars at work on the front line.

**More from the LSU "Front Line" to come
as our Christian soldier's report continues.**



Ash Wednesday
March 9th

COMMUNITY



“ON A MISSION FROM GOD”

If you missed the presbytery meeting held at St. Andrew in Lake Charles Tuesday February 15th, you missed a couple of special guest appearances. It is still being discussed who actually invited them much less how did they get into the meeting?

No one knew they were even there. Then the moderator, Rev. John Blewitt, at precisely 11:10 AM announced the next item of business on the agenda to be Louisiana Presbyterian Cursillo. Rev. Blewitt gave a short testimony of his personal experience with Cursillo and the positive effects Cursillo is having on the members at Faith in Baton Rouge. At this point, with little introduction, he invites the special guest to speak to the body further about Cursillo.

What a site! This guy prances up to the front dressed in white shirt, black thin (out of style) tie, black fedora and black rimmed dark sunglasses. He is met at the front by another character dressed exactly like him. Everyone is quiet and obviously wondering. They both face the body, head down pose and then one speaks;” My name is Jake Blues and this is my brother Elwood. You may know us as the Blues Brothers and we are here on a mission from God”. Jake does all the talking while Elwood stands silent in obvious support of his brother. He goes on to tell about their Cursillo experience and describes it as “being with Jesus in the flesh”. “Cursillo is a gift from God”, he says, “and God has sent he and his brother to tell all the fine folks about this gift”. He makes the point that everyone in attendance at the presbytery meeting because they are leaders chosen by God and that each one of them is interested in growing God’s church. He told them that Cursillo is one of the ways God is using to do this but they must attend in order to witness the miracles that happen in people’s hearts.

Although everyone was amazed, it appeared they couldn’t believe that anyone would get up and address this august body looking like they had been teleported from the 80’s. Little did they know that wasn’t the end of the Blues Brothers this day.

The time was nearing the end of the meeting and originally the Resolution was to be given by Dwyer Broussard and Rev. John Blewitt. However, with no objections being recorded, Jake Blues takes it upon himself to again prance to the front, met by his brother Elwood, to recite the resolution as written;

“Where As We are on a mission from God.
Where As God blesses and redeems all creation.
Where As PSL joins Christ in the World doing His work.
Where As PSL strengthens churches
by chartering a new congregation in Zachary,

by celebrating ministry in Jennings,
and by participating in the transforming church movement mentored by Tom Bandy.

Where As PSL empowers leaders
by celebrating the retirement of Allen Cutter,
by supporting and mentoring the candidates preparing for ministry and by acknowledging the fine work of Bill Bottomley as our stated clerk and by the gift of Cursillo and being nourished with the provision of the fine lunch served by the members of St Andrew Presbyterian Church.

Where As PSL impacts communities by supporting young adult volunteers,
project homecoming and encouraging pro active preparation for emergencies.

Therefore be it resolved that the 117th meeting of the Presbytery of South Louisiana is grateful to God for the hospitality of St Andrew,
and we are sent into the world even as God sent Jesus and we know God uses all of us, even the Blues Brothers.

The crowd showed their appreciation through applause and laughter. The duo did not stay for pictures but gave this reporter permission to use this shot found in the archives from a previous performance at one of the Presbyterian churches in this presbytery.



We appreciate their appearance, being part of the presbytery meeting and sharing their own faith story of how God has touched their lives and continue to use them for the advancement of His Kingdom.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CHURCH (NCD) OF ZACHARY

A Brief Historical Sketch

At one time in the recent past, there were two churches of South Louisiana Presbytery with a Zachary address: the Plains Presbyterian Church, located in the nearby countryside north of town, and the Zachary Presbyterian Church, located in the business area downtown.

By the end of the twentieth century, however, both congregations had chosen to exercise the “escape clause” negotiated for former PCUS churches in the *Plan for Reunion* between the PCUS and the UPC(USA) to form the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Plains Church affiliated with the fledgling Presbyterian Church in America, while the Zachary Church united with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Soon after the EPC affiliation, several members and elders of the Zachary Presbyterian Church found that membership in the small denomination — centered primarily in rural Michigan — was not a meaningful expression of Presbyterian identity, nor a viable way of participating in Presbyterian mission and connectionism. They began to seek a way of re-connecting with the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

They began their efforts by applying to the State of Louisiana for incorporation as a non-profit religious organization under the name New Covenant Church, and received their corporate charter under that name in 1986. They worshiped together regularly and began to seek acceptance as an existing congregation by the Presbytery.

In order to conform more closely to Presbyterian order and the procedures expressed in the Form of Government, that corporation was dissolved in 1987. An administrative commission was appointed by the Presbytery to guide the new group. With the formation of Developing Congregations Committee, a Task Force of the committee was appointed to guide this group and another mission that eventually

became the River Community Church.

A recurring issue through the time of oversight by the DCC was the question of how to determine the group’s readiness to be organized as a congregation. Initially certain membership goals were the standard, but finally the classic marks of the church and the readiness of members to serve as officers were considered sufficient criteria.

With the disastrous hurricanes of 2005 and the subsequent reorganization of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, the Developing Congregations Committee was dissolved, and the Zachary mission was left without a clear pathway toward formal organization until the matter was recently brought to the attention of the Committee on Ministry, who speedily acted to rectify the situation.

In the nearly twenty-five years that have passed since the group began to worship together, there was an extended period in which they had no regular place of worship. They met at various locations, beginning with the old Zachary Branch Library at the Louisiana National Bank building, then at the BREC community center on Rollins Road, and at the Masonic Lodge in Zachary. During this time, they regarded themselves as a “church on wheels” — an experience that is still commemorated with items displayed in a shadow box in the entry hallway of the present location.

During the “church on wheels” era, regular worship and the provision of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments was provided through the assistance of Presbytery and the DCC task force. The pastoral services of the Rev. Chuck Smith, Stated Supply, and pulpit supply by the Rev. Rick Pilcher, elder Ralph Brewer, and others will be remembered with gratitude as guiding lights during this period.

In 1993 property was secured for the construction of a regular place of wor-

ship, and a building was erected on the property located just off Zachary’s primary business street, near the new Zachary Branch Library and numerous new banking and retail facilities.

The interior of the present sanctuary is paneled with “pecky” cypress, and is adorned with beautiful stained-glass windows depicting Christian themes, created by a local Louisiana artist. In addition to beautifying the setting for Christian worship, they express a desire for peace and beauty that is further reflected by the continuing weekly meetings of the Melange Art Guild in the education room.

After completion of the building, members and friends of the mission continued to worship regularly with continued ministry by the Rev. Mr. Smith, then by Organizing Pastor Brint Pratt-Keyes (1998-2003) and Organizing Pastor Randy Richmond (2003-present).

The financial condition of the mission is sound. The property costs and mortgage expenses from the 1993 construction were paid in full in the year 2000 — a 20-year note paid off in seven years — using monies from memorial gifts, a grant from mission funds of the Synod of the Sun, and a share (along with River Community Church) of proceeds from the 2000 Pentecost Offerings of churches of the Presbytery. The members and friends of the mission continue to worship regularly in the building on Lakewood Drive in Zachary, unencumbered by loans or liens, and operating debt-free thanks to the generous support of those members and friends.




The mission continues to be a regular supporter of the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of South Louisiana and the Presbyterian Church (USA) through regular *per capita* and Mission Support giving.

The continuing presence of this mission is due to the faithful labors of many individuals, some of whom did not live to see their hopes fulfilled. Among these are elder Otto Yllander; elder Lotis White and Mrs. Mary Myrtle White; elder Jean-Marie Schneider and Mr. Walter Schneider; Mrs. Lottie Schroeder; Mrs. Myrtle McVea; Mr. J. B. Sigrest; Mr. Preston and Mrs. Mary Kennedy; and others. With heartfelt gratitude and thanks to God, their love and support will be remembered.

YAV'S






QUESTIONS

-  **Y** What are the Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) of PSL inviting you to on March 19th @ 6:30pm?
-  **A** How can you support the Presbytery of South Louisiana YAVs?
-  **V** How will the funds benefit the YAV Program?



ANSWERS

-  **Y** The PSL YAVs are hosting a Trivia Night to raise support for the YAV Program and continue our service to the presbytery! Saturday, March 19th, 6:30pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, 2525 Apollo Ave., Harvey. For more information, call (504) 858-4592.
-  **A** Create a team and register by Thursday, March 17 by emailing kgturpen@gmail.com or calling (504) 858-4592. The cost is \$5 per person with a maximum of 8 people per team. Dinner and drinks will be FREE.
-  **V** Each YAV committed to raise \$6,500 to support our year of service. These funds help cover the costs of housing, health insurance, and programming that provides opportunities for us to reflect on our service experience and grow in our faith.

First Presbyterian Church, Jennings

At the February Presbytery meeting First Presbyterian church, Jennings was celebrated. The history of the church, printed below, was read by Sue Candler during the meeting. The church will officially be closed when the property is sold.

A Brief History of First Presbyterian Church, Jennings

Today we review the past of the Jennings Presbyterian Church and remember with gratitude the labors and contributions of those who have gone before and are here today. First Presbyterian Church is the oldest religious organization in Jennings. Back in 1884, when the village of Jennings was settled by Northern church-going people they felt the need of some spiritual teaching. There were no churches in Jennings, but there was a Southern Pacific Railroad station depot where they had disembarked at the end of their journey. Here the first Sunday school, "Union Sunday School" was organized and several classes were conducted. From this beginning we have the oldest continuous organization in Jennings. It was not uncommon to hear the strains of the organ and voices raised in exultation singing "Shall We Gather at the River" or "Jesus Loves Me". Everyone in Jennings attended. The only other fulfillment of spiritual need was through the services of a Catholic priest who traveled from place to place on horseback and said Mass.

On April 28, 1886 a church was organized and all denominations attended. A Congregational minister Rev. J. A. Jones, was the first pastor and the church became Congregational. It was incorporated on May 12, 1886, and the construction of the first church building began on July 26. The church was only 24x40 feet and the minister was paid \$100 a year. Home Missions aided in paying this until 1896. Since then the church has been financially independent. This church was the center of community life. Everyone in the family went to church-as a family-and they sat together.

In 1889 the church was enlarged and in 1888 they purchased the first organ. During that time as the church grew they were often remodeling and adding on to the building. A bell tower was built in 1888 and the first bell was donated by Grinnell College in Iowa. Jennings was the first Congregational congregation south of the Mason Dixon Line. The bell cracked and in 1899 the children of the church raised enough money to purchase a bell which still works today. It was rung for the last worship service on February 13, 2011.

The church purchased land for a manse in 1902 and built the house for \$1,431. It had been occupied until Rev. Tom Reigney moved a couple of years ago. It is on the market at this time.

On April 12, 1931, the congregation voted to become Presbyterian rather than Congregational. It had been difficult to obtain Congregational ministers. Rev. O.G. Davis had been supply minister and he was Presbyterian. He could not or would not remain unless it became a Presbyterian church. A petition circulated and on June 1, 1931 the church officially and legally became Presbyterian.

In 1939 the church almost split. The old church was demolished after the last service on February 20 of that year. A new church was to be built. Dr. McLeod was the minister. Money was tight during this time and the bank would not lend any money. If Dr. McLeod had not personally signed the note there would not have been a new church. The big controversy was over the cutting of the trees. Here ensued a bloody battle. It was well known that one couple, taking opposite sides, actually had a "family fight" over it. There was a congregational meeting and they finally voted to cut down the trees. After the vote was taken, Dr. McLeod stood with great dignity, held his 6 foot plus frame straight as a poker and in his special voice said "Bill Bollich (who built the church) has been taking orders from me, but if you want those trees cut, you'll appoint a committee to tell him to do so, because I won't." It is needless to say the congregation chickened out, the committee was not appointed the stately trees still stand in the church yard, Dr. McLeod was happy the architect was happy but no one has said how that family resolved their issues. Two live oak trees are still on the property.

The recorded history of the church is full of times when new additions, remodeling and new organs were purchased. The people of Jennings loved their church and have a history of caring for it. Currently the education building needs repair but the sanctuary is beautiful. The stained glass windows have been dedicated by family members of the past. Those walls have many stories to tell.

First Church Jennings and First Church Welsh were yoked together in 2003 sharing the same pastor. This arrangement was dissolved in 2009.

The Jennings church had 17 pastors from the Congregational Church and 13 Presbyterian pastors. The Jennings Presbyterian Church has been a strong Christian Presence in Jennings and in the presbytery. They have produced outstanding leaders who did not put their lights under a basket. We thank God for the servants who served the Lord in Jennings both then and now. We thank God for First Presbyterian Church in Jennings.

Presbyterian Women's of South Louisiana Spring Gathering

Date: March 26, 2011

Location: John Calvin Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall
4201 Transcontinental Drive (Office: (504) 888-1375)
Metairie, LA 70006

Registration: 8:30 - 9:00

Cost: \$12.00 (includes lunch)

Make check payable to Presbyterian Women

Morning Sessions*: 9 - 10, 10:30 - 11:30

Lunch: 12 - 1:00

Concluding Session: 1: - 2:00 - Communion, Rev. Harry Brown

***Guest Speaker:**



Brenda Phillips, Ph.D.

Solar Under the Sun

Professor at OCU, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Pre-registration: Please mail pre-registration form and \$12.00 fee by March 21, 2011 to

Dianne Boan

4201 Transcontinental Drive

Metairie, LA 70006

Offering: Solar Under the Sun



-----Pre-registration Form-----

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

from the treasurer

WHERE IN THE TREASURY IS BENJAMIN?

(Episode 3)
Tom Tucker

In last month's episode our hero Benjamin, aka a \$100 bill, had opted to stay in the receiving account so he could visit more places in the Treasury while his original destination, PSL Per Capita, was fulfilled by another Benjamin. Jay, the head of PSL accounting services, is coming down the hall.

"Glad I got that done," Jay sighs, referring to sending Per Capita contributions to be used by PSL and General Assembly. "Now, you guys over here," Jay motions to a large group of Benjamins, "let's get you on your way to your destinations. Line up in a large group and two smaller groups."

Our Benjamin notices a certain pride as his cousins hustle to their appointed locations. He nudges the bill next to him, "Where are you headed?"

"I'm not sure," is the reply, "I heard it is the real work and calling of Presbytery, so I'm excited. It sounds challenging, but I'm big and strong so I think I can handle it."

Where in the Treasury is Benjamin? Got enough clues? The real work, three groups, if you think that sounds like Shared Mission you got it right. Shared Mission contributions are distributed ap-

proximately 83% to PSL, 8% to Synod of the Sun, and 9% to General Assembly. These funds are used to pay the mission expenses of these governing bodies which are the majority of their budgets. Local churches perform fabulous local mission work, but they depend on governing bodies to organize and coordinate larger scale mission that include local regions, state wide, multi-state, national, and international projects.

"You two groups," Jay directs, pointing to the two smaller groups of Benjamins, "report to accounts payable to become checks to be sent to the mission fund at Synod of the Sun and General Assembly. The rest of you report to the Presbytery Operating Fund. And, hustle a little, they are over worked and underfunded and need you as quick as you can get there."

Benjamin falls in line near the lead. As he leaves the receiving account he hears cheering from his cousins left in the receiving account. Benjamin steps out of line and turns to look back. What is going on, he asks himself.

(Fade to black – tune in next month to learn what is going on.)

Please Pray for:

The Rev. Shirley Frazier and her daughter Lainey. Lainey is battling stage 4 Cancer.

For all those who are ill.

Dr. Tom Tucker as he recovers from eye surgery

The Rev. Dr. Ron Sutto, for strength as he works as the Interim General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk of PSL.

The Presbytery of South Louisiana

All the employees and volunteers of Project Homecoming

PSL's YAV's

