

June '09 News



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Our Mission Statement

“We are a gathering of God’s people, committed to worshipping God and to sharing his love and salvation through Jesus Christ by meeting the spiritual,

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Life of Power – Life of Witness

By Jeanne Furse

Somewhere along the way, we’ve all seen the unknown sourced quote, “Friends are angels who lift our feet when our own wings have trouble remembering how to fly.” During my dad’s terminal illness this spring, I was blessed with encountering angels throughout seemingly endless days and nights as I waited for the inevitable. Close family friends, friends that I see all the time, mere acquaintances, and people whom I was meeting for the first time as they tended to my dad were sharing their life stories, lifting and holding me up, as they directed me to God’s strength and power.

One of my dearest and oldest friends sent me a card that read, “Good morning, this is God. I will be handling all your problems today. I will not need your help, so have a great day.” How can you not but willingly surrender yourself to God with a smile at this thought?

Janina Gomes is communications manager at the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mumbai, India. She contributes regularly to the “Speaking Tree” column of the Times of India, a column devoted to philosophy and religion. She wrote, “The life of Jesus on this earth was one of deep and staying relationships. Jesus always called people by name. And to call a person by his or her name is to enter into a deep relationship with them. The less we package the gift inside us, the more lasting and durable the friendship will be.”

Everyday I am in awe and gratitude as my feet and heart are lifted by the Lord through the power of those angels who witness for him. We should not package “the gift” inside ourselves, but offer it to whoever has wings having trouble remembering how to fly.

“DIVE IN” – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our VBS will take place the week of **July 13-17**, from 9-3 each day. We are excited about being able to serve the children of our community and share with them the love of Christ. The theme is “Dive In,” and will feature sea creatures, as we share stories from the Bible that will help them learn about that love.

We are looking for people who would like to serve as teachers or helpers. There is plenty to do, and we can find something for any of you who would like to help.

We are also looking for donations to help cover the cost. If God has blessed you in a way that you can spare a little extra, we would be grateful. We do not budget for this, but totally rely on God to lead people to support this ministry.

And we also ask for your prayers. Start praying right now that God will lead people to this ministry—the ones that he wants to be involved—and that he provides the resources.

Once again, the youth from St. Paul’s in Neenah, WI, will be in town to help us out. This is their third year with us.

If you want to help in any way, contact Pastor Jim.

CARING BRIDGE

Are you or someone you love struggling with or recovering from cancer? Do you wish you could stay connected better with your loved ones? Would you like to

support your loved one? Would you like to be able to read about others' struggles as a way of being encouraged and given hope?

There is a wonderful website that can help you do that. It is caringbridge.org. Go to that site and check it out. See what they can offer. You will be glad you did.

Pastor's Prattle

By Pastor Jim Shears

The youth's annual mission trip to Atlanta is coming up again soon. More than 20 of us are headed to Smyrna Presbyterian Church in Conyers, GA, a community just east of Atlanta, for another week of service to the people of that area.

So, why do we go? The simple answer is to work on the homes of the poor and elderly, who do not have the resources to make even the simplest repairs or improvements on their property. The smallest little things that we can do for these people makes a big difference to them. Maybe the most significant thing for them—and I know of one person who actually said this—is that they are amazed that young people from around the southeast will come so far and give up their time to do something for people they don't even know. It makes a big impression on them.

There is a deeper answer to the question of why we go. We go in order to be the face of Christ for the ones we serve. A part of each day at someone's home is a short Bible study at lunch, to which our residents are invited. And we pray with them. We want them to know that what we are doing for them is because of the love of Christ in us that he expects us to share. We want what we do for them to somehow show them that Jesus loves them. That is Christ's call to us when he said, "Love the Lord your God.....and your neighbor as yourself."

This annual mission trip should be an example to all of us as members at Gethsemane. We are making serious efforts to serve the people of our community. We house groups that come to help. We open up our space to 12-steps groups every night of the week. On a more limited basis, we help people with emergency needs. We would do even more, if resources were available. God has rebuilt Gethsemane, so that we can be of service to St. Bernard Parish.

As we serve, we believe that he wants us to shine HIS light into the community. The reason we help people is to help them experience the love of Christ. We love others with the love that God has put into our hearts. It is the underlying reason for everything that we do for others. To do for others with any other motivation is not God-given. It must always be connected to the fact that Jesus loves them and gave himself for them. Our sacrifice of time and effort and resources is nothing more than a reflection of Christ's sacrifice.

I am inviting you to become more involved in this ministry to the community. Ask yourself these questions:

Do you believe that Jesus loves me?

Do I love him?

Am I showing that love to others?

Is there something I can do that I'm not doing to show that love?

How can I support Gethsemane's efforts to serve the community?

Be honest with yourself about these questions. If you find yourself lacking on any one of them, then you need to be in prayer about it. Ask God to show you his love in a new way and to lead you to do whatever it is that he wants you to.

I pray that we all can experience the love of God in special ways and that we will do all that we can to move Gethsemane into greater service in St. Bernard.

Pastor Jim

Gaby's Senior Moment

By: Gaby Serpas

One day, I allow myself. If I have more than one, I just forget them.

One Sunday morning, I faithfully set up the coffee, pour the distilled water, add a paper filter to help keep out the gritty stuff, measure the grounds, all while chatting with PJ who comes in early as well. The grounds smell delicious, much better than I, as I just come from the dog walk, a bit sweaty.

I leave to go home for my shower and change. Wow! It hits me. It is Sunday, not Saturday night..... and I did NOT plug in the coffee pots. Oh well, PJ will notice and take care of that, but I already used my one allowed Senior Moment for the day. Better be smart now.....

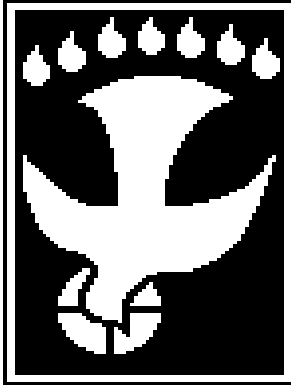
One thing I never forget is my contribution, my return to God a portion of what he has given me. Ah, yes, I used to forget my checkbook too, or the envelope, or had to scribble frantically while the basket is coming closer and closer. Not anymore.

Twice a month, right after payday which, by the way, is an automatic deposit, I set up an automatic transfer or withdrawal to the Gethsemane account. Dawn helped me with that. "Good" I think in a Forrest Gump kinda way, that now I don't have to worry about money anymore, "One less thing."

No, it is not a full tithe, no. I still have leeway (where does this word come from, anyway? leeway?) to help other causes, dedicated funds, charity outside of Gethsemane, but the bulk is already there for our church family to steward and do God's mission.

Interested? Ask Dawn and she will help. It is as easy as filling out a simple piece of paper. dawn.glcMgr@yahoo.com is her email.

One Senior Moment less. Happy Giving Back & God Bless.



CRAWFISH CORNERS

Aaaaaayyeeeeeee! I'm back!

I FINALLY got my Road Home money and have been able to get my place rebuilt. Was able to make some improvements. Built on higher ground (still below sea-level) and have a nice, new chimney. You should come by and visit sometime, you.

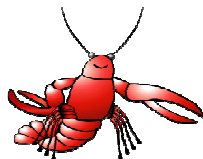
I was missing St. Bernard so much for the past 3 ½ years! I was living with some relatives in a very nice rice paddy by Lafayette, but it wasn't home. It was nice, except for early in da year when we had to make sure we stayed away from dem traps. Didn't want to end up in someone's pot!

I can see that things have changed 'round here. I see some familiar faces, but lots o' new ones, too. And what's with all da dollar stores? At least Rocky and Carlo's is back. Gotta get over dere and some of dose awnion rings.

Oh, sha! Da church looks nice! Kinda different, but kinda da same. Good to see dat! I can't wait to get to church and see ever'body again.

Stopped by da preschool and saw dat dey back in operations. Dat's great! Was good to see all dem kids dere. But I gotta fine out what's up wit all da beds. And showers! An laundry machines! Sometins up.

Well, I got some unpackin' to do, me. It's good to be back. I'll be seein' ya down da road.



Six

Gaby's Gab on this year's **SYNOD**

ASSEMBLY

(gab = to talk in a rapid or thoughtless manner)

This year's Synod Assembly 2009 was, among other interesting things, a dull lesson in the drudgery of Robert's Rules of Order. Much time was spent on listening to talk on the microphone, chatter about things unrelated to the

issue on hand, people trying to be persuasive but not hitting the point, votes on how long one can speak on the mike, votes on how to vote, and votes on if we need to vote again on something voted on. Oh dear.

Remember that the use of these rules is self imposed. They are rules, and not a law. Unfortunately the Robert's Rules were referenced quite a bit more often than God's Word, the Bible. Hmmmmmmm. I wanted to suggest that we draw lots instead of all this talking and voting on voting. The disciples drew lots to choose Matthathias to replace Judas. The Roman Soldiers drew lots for Jesus' robe (well, can't always use the Roman acts as a guide).

Whining aside, the worship services were uplifting, and most of the key note addresses were captivating enough to remain engaged. I don't really enjoy the drone of financial reports, and Lutherhill's presentation was much more riveting last year when all their staff came dancing and singing into the assembly room, bringing their fresh outside air and spirit with them. The Peru and African slides were a joy to watch, I enjoy anything to do with travel to other countries and learning about God's world and work. The changes of Christian presence in the Holy Land were brought near to us by the sellers of Olive Wood souvenirs. More about this in another gab.

It was again an interesting event. More and more people spoke up publicly about their true convictions, while some still just talked around the hot spots as if it was a steaming bowl of oatmeal, too hot to touch yet.

Alongside votes for synod council members, mission work to Peru and Central African Republic, Spanish language in our service, the hot issue of course dealt with human sexuality, mainly the ordination of gay and lesbian persons to be pastors. This topic dominates the assembly now for many years.

Where do I stand? Where do we as a congregation stand? Where do we as a synod stand? Where do we as an organization stand? Do I stand with them? There is no answer, nor guidance on this in Robert's Rules but there is certainly an answer and guidance in God's Word. **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23**

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God
(R. Kelso Carter, 1886)

WINN-DIXIE COMMUNITY PALS

Community Pals 2008 Earnings - \$2,740.00

Most of you may cringe or want to look the other way when you hear that this or that club is doing a fund raiser. Not that you don't want to help, but you will probably end up ordering something or buying something that you won't use or just don't need. Well here is a fundraiser that you can participate in over and over again.

Many of you who shop at Winn Dixie probably already have a Customer Reward Card. This card entitles you to discounts at the register if you are a card holder. Well, Gethsemane is part of a program put on by Winn Dixie called Community Pals. Enclosed in this newsletter is a letter explaining the program and a Community Pals Activation Sheet. All you have to do is present the activation coupon with your Customer Reward Card. You only have to do this one time and GLC will be linked to your reward card. By doing this simple task you are participating in an ongoing fundraiser and everytime you shop at Winn Dixie you raise money for GLC with no more effort on your part. We raised \$2,740.00 last year and all you had to do was "make groceries".... How easy is that?

P.S. – Be sure to make copies and give an activation coupon to family and friends.

Did You Know??

Cody Helmke graduated from Holy Cross High School with honors and will be attending Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

Thomas Palmeri graduated from Chalmette High School and will be attending University of Lafayette.

Mackenzie Spangler graduated from Kindergarten at Walker Elementary School.

Joshua Guillot was elected "Student of the Month" in April at Belle Chasse Primary School and also received a 4th Quarter Honor Roll award and an All Year Honor Roll award. Great job, Josh!!

Proud mom, Kerri Switzer said that Claire Diana is now CRAWLING and has 2 teeth. They recently celebrated the wedding of her cousin Angela Perperone to Kane Jankoski on May 23rd and is looking forward to her brother-in-law, Kevin Switzer's marriage to Heather Starkey on June 27th in Richmond, TX. Her cousin Joelle is expecting her third child in January...she has 2 boys so Kerri's hoping for a girl cousin and playmate for Claire

From Robin Calecas....Brittany made the principal's honor roll at Trist Middle School and will be in the 7th grade next year. She also made the school's dance team!!

From Larry and Carol Fauchaux.... We have had a lot to celebrate recently. Our grandson, Zachary Fauchaux finished eighth grade at R.C.Loflin Middle School, Joshua, TX and was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Grandson, Zachary Trippi graduated from eighth grade at Covenant Christian School, Mobile, AL and granddaughter, Becky Trippi graduated from High School at Cottage Hill Christian Academy, Mobile as class Salutatorian. It's been a busy time. It goes without saying that we are very proud of all of them. Larry and I are getting ready to celebrate our 53rd wedding anniversary next week. Where have the years gone? Keep in touch.

Maria Serpas just received her plaque for 14 years of dance.

From Cheryl Bergeron....Hey Dawn, Todd Allen Bergeron, Jr. and Alexander J. Tritt, Jr. were confirmed on Sunday May, 30, 2009 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in

Picayune, MS. Kayce Mason is expecting a baby in November. Eli Holt Mason, son of Nathan and Melissa Mason celebrated his 2nd birthday on May 24, 2009. Tony and Louise Zanca are on a cruise celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. (April 19, 2009) and Tom and Elaine Mason are with them celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary (June 27, 2009)

From Patti Jo Bene....On the Dean's list again with another 4.0 GPA!!! Yay!!! I have to revel in it while I can because I know Nursing School is gonna be even harder... Hopefully I can keep it up with being on the Dean's list while in Nursing School even if my GPA drops a little LOL...

Gabrielle Griffin is now a certified first responder.

Maria Serpas, Jeanette DeVeer and Margaret DeVeer worked as facilitators at the Synod Assembly May 28th – 30th in Sugarland, TX and did a great job I might add.

Madison Spangler is a member of Walker High's Softball team and recently made 1st Team All District Utility Player and 2nd Team All District Outfield.

From Gayle Francke....Rachel Francke was inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society at Southeastern University and she is on the Dean's List. She is studying nursing. Also, Jason Mayo is to be married on June 13, 2009. He is marrying Jeanette Mitchell of Denham Springs.

Stewardship

By Diane Allison

1 Corinthians 16:1 *Now concerning the collection for the saints . . . on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper . . .*

Bill-paying time - it's not easy! There's a big stack of bills and a little stack of money. The calendar seems to show that you'll run out of money before you run out of month. Payday just doesn't come around fast enough. There's the mortgage, car payment, insurance payment, utilities, medications, and groceries to pay for - will it ever end?

The Bible contains many words of wisdom about managing our money. We can get advice on managing our household budgets from financial experts. But what about giving to God: where does that come in?

Even in Paul's time this was an issue. The Christians in Jerusalem were experiencing a famine and, as Paul traveled on his missionary journeys he took up a collection to be delivered to the Christians in Jerusalem. In his first letter to the Christians in Corinth Paul advises them, in the words above, to give to God first. Note that Paul doesn't tell the Corinthians to give to God after they've paid all their bills, but to give to God on the *first* day of the week, *before* paying all those bills.

This month accept Paul's challenge: give to God first, before writing your other checks. God will shower you with His blessings and what you give will be returned to you many times over because no one can out give God. Giving to God on the first day of the week makes Him a priority in your life, and allows Him to show you how He'll provide for you the remaining six days of the week. Our

God shouldn't get our leftovers: we should give to God from the top.

In Loving Memory



Please keep the families of the following people who passed away since our last mailing in your prayers.

+ Irma Hartman + Bill Stitch + Bessie Morreale +
+ Louis & Gloria Miller + George Decondris +
+ Shirley "Honey" Catanzaro + David Songe +
+ Donald Pecquet + George Zerr + Anselm Wetzka +
+ Henrietta Bower + B.J. Helmke + Michael" Tran +

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE:

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY, ILL, or HOSPITALIZED:

Angie Sullivan, Sandra Terminie, John Hauck, Karen Salathe, Hans Renckly, Helen R., Stephanie Manich, John Mercier, Allie Williams, Dana C., Pastor Elizabeth, Sid Guttuso, Sr., Joyce Dupont, Camden King, Dave Blum, Patty, Bruce Palmeri, Gayle Buras, Eula Mae Moss, Vic Michon, Golda Buras, Erin S., Macey Catherine Dennis, Jessie Stevens, Erin Verhey, Mr. Martin & Fly., Evelyn Powell, Joe "Big Daddy" Thibodeaux, Betsy LeBeouf, Joyce Keller, Greg Dove, George Fuller, Jason Brown, Lisa Gonzales, Herman Bonette, Brooke Lacoste, Mike Young, Anne Leonard, Mickey Terminie, Barbara Fray, Kitty Johnson, Lucille Treitler, Joseph Brandt

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Ken Pearson, Chris Iennusa, Corp Moises Barrientos Jr., Brian Robinson, Sandra Lachica, Elliott Vann, Austin Vann, Matthew Roberts, Eric Dove, Bill Hewitt, Larry Varnado, Jr., Sean McCalla, Tom Bell, Justin Fortado, Joshua Cullia, Shane Mailhes, Joy Nunez, Patrick Buuck, Jason Medine, Michael Donnelly, Mike Perez, Jennifer Hessock, Mark Nunez, Darryl Ayer, Jon Clay, Jared Landry, Jonathan Shears, Manny Campo

OTHER CONCERNS: Bill & Viv Beyer, Chuckie Beyer, Adrianna & Dustin King, Heather Connors & Fly., Marion Songe & family, Debbie & John Melady, those suffering from depression, Denver & Roslyn Nobles, Beth Bauer, Kelly, Zoe, Hayden & Noah Bauer, Kristen, Robbie, Gabriel, Lisa, Fay, Marcia, Natalie, Len's son, Glenn Gonzales & fly., Jared Landry & family, K.S., A.S. & family

HEALTHY PREGNANCY & BABY(IES): Luke & Kasie Anglin, Billy & Lara Thonn George, Kaylie Buras, Jeff & Kristi Blum, Regina Resendez

BATTLING CANCER OR WHO ARE IN REMISSION: Lenny Ingargiola, Brenden Maestri, Haydyn Guttuso, Roy "Peanut" Reed, John Franceski, Rita Montelero, Judy B. Jenny, Shane

Draughan, Patricia Haydel, Paul Daigrepoint, Treschelle Reis, Pam Bell, Brooke Salazar, Erlene DuBose, Sonia Evans Gabb, Joan Switzer, Roy Fernandez, Sr., George Francke, Kathy & Paul Miller, Toni Brown, Dotty Reggio, Mr. Weiskopf, Erlene DuBose, Patsy Werling, Kathy M., Nicky Levine, Anna, Isabella, Scott Hayworth, Susan Faucheux, Cyndi Jones, Merrick "Ricky" Joachim Sr., Len Hadley, Susan Mallory, Penne Hebert, Bob Ducombs, Tim Pritchard, Judy Nunez, Mary Kabel Smith, Gilda Spinner, Peggy Seago, Barbara Forestier, Rosie Wiggle, Karen Henderson, Joan Switzer, Jo Ann Senko & mother, Leo Barnes, Cindy Barnes Varnado, Karen Pace, Karen Herrmann, Christine Dittman, Devan Young, Danny Licciardi, Haley Hunter, Earline Thompson, Melissa Ruedsill

GYM Gethsemane Youth Ministries

Servants of Christ picked up the foods we collected and they were very appreciative. The Forsyth's are working "down the road" because the need is much greater there. Many people have no money and no way to travel to get help. The Servant's new home is in Reggio. The food products weighted 92 pounds thanks to the three cartons of baby formula!! The box at church is already filling up so we will have another contribution for them soon.

The junior/senior high Sunday School class will not meet during the summer months. We will start up again at rally day. We had an average of 5-7 students each week and hope to grow even more next year.

Featured Youth



This issue's featured youth is Krista Brunet. She is the daughter of Barbara (Perez) and Terrell Brunet and one brother, Trey. Krista attends Chalmette High School where she maintains a 3.0 GPA. She loves to play sports and volleyball and softball are activities that she enjoys outside of school. She also sings with Gethsemane's Praise Band on Sundays at the 10:30 service.

When asked what a unique characteristic about herself was she replied, "I'm stronger than I look."

Below are some of her favorites:

Band – Nickelback

Movie – *She's the Man*

Actress – Hillary Duff

Song – *Come Clean* by Hillary Duff
Book/Author – Warrior series books by Erin Hunter
TV Show – Ghost Whisperer
Color – Blue and Green

