

News and Information

Welcome! Thanks be to God for gathering us to worship. Welcome to University Presbyterian Church. This congregation is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley and More Light Presbyterians, a covenant community dedicated to the pursuit of socialjustice in both the church and the world. If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign the register on the stand inside of the front door of the sanctuary. For more information on the life and work of this congregation, please contact Ron Gilmer at the church (758-5422), by way of e-mail (rongilmer@aol.com) or visit the church's web site:

www.uaupc.org.

PC(USA) The 218th General Assembly convened this summer in San Jose, CA. Gradye Parsons was elected stated clerk. He will serve a four-year term at the Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, KY. Bruce Reyes-Chow, pastor of an "emergent church" in the San Francisco Bay area, was elected moderator of the denomination and will serve in that capacity until the next meeting of the General Assembly in 2010. For a full report on the happenings at this year's event, please join us for a gathering at UPC on Sunday, September 7, 5:30 p.m. Delegates Greg Bentley, pastor of Brown Memorial Presbyterian here in Tuscaloosa, and Sheppards and Lapsley Executive Presbyter Tom Evans are scheduled to lead this presentation.

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery's annual series of educational workshops, The Main Event, will take place at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, August 8-9. Ron Gilmer, Adam Miller and John Whitehead will be representing UPC. The next stated meeting of presbytery is set for Thursday, August 21, at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. Nancy DuPree will serve as UPC's commissioner; Lena Prewitt will serve as alternate.

More Light Presbyterians More Light Presbyterians are still celebrating the General Assembly's proposal to eliminate the "fidelity and chastity" clause from *The Book of Order*. Now presbyteries throughout the denomination will vote on whether to accept the General Assembly's recommendation. Please be in prayer for this series of meetings in which important decisions regarding the church's standards for ordination will be made.

Alabama Arise Alabama Arise, a citizens' policy project, is a coalition of religious, community and civic groups that promote state policies to improve the lives of low-income people. UPC's Peace and Justice Committee has a long-standing commitment to this organization, whose annual meeting will take place Saturday, September 13, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in Montgomery. For more information, contact Gillie Presley or Ruthie Sherrill.

On Worship Our life together as Christ's body, the church, is shaped by a liturgy known as "The Service for the Lord's Day." Our commitment to the Revised Common Lectionary is reflected not only in the reading of the Scripture but also in the litanies and prayers with which we give all praise, honor and glory to God. We follow the rhythm of the liturgical year and now find ourselves midst Ordinary Time, the appropriate color for which green.

On Communion All who confess their faith in Jesus Christ are welcomed at the Lord's table. It, like us, belongs to God and not to any particular tradition within the body of Christ. Baptized children of all ages are encouraged to participate fully in our celebration of the Sacrament. The church gathers around the table when the bread and wine (which is actually non-alcoholic grape juice) are served. The tradition at UPC is to serve each other. When serving the bread, it is appropriate to say, "The body of Christ, given for you," or "The body of Christ, bread of heaven." When serving the cup, one may say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you" or "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." An appropriate response to being served is, "Thanks be to God," "Amen" or "Alleluia! Amen." The congregation is invited to sing during the ritual. The refrains that are repeated throughout this part of the service are: "Holy is the Lord;" "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry;" "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst;" and "Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

In Sympathy Our thoughts and prayers are with Cleveland Hinton following the death of his father Eddie W. Hinton, Sr.

Attendance - July 20— 27, July 13—31 + 2 nursery

Sunday Assignments

July 27

Communion Rob Spencer
Reader Joanna Biermann
Ushers Nancy and Robert DuPree
Welcomer Carla Hall
Greeter Becki Evans
Coffee Hour

August 3

Communion The Miller Family
Reader Chet Alexander
Ushers Steve Borrelli and Norm Baldwin
Welcomer Paige Miller
Greeter Ann Webb
Coffee Hour

Lectionary Readings

July 27, 2008

Gen. 29:15-28
Ps. 105:1-11, 45b or Ps. 128
Rom. 8:26-39
Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

August 3, 2008

Gen. 32:22-31
Ps. 17:1-7, 15
Rom. 9:1-5
Matt. 14:13-21

Let us Pray. . . .

Arlie Vallery, Marie and Joe Stone, Barbara Miller, Jill Martindale, Regina Lassiter, Lucy Morgan, Steve Borrelli and family, Robert Robinson, Lois Field, Wilma Warren, Martha Folmar, Jackie Reid, Kay VanLuvender and Frederick Washington.

This Week at UPC

Sunday 9:30 Choir rehearsal
11:00 Worship
12:00 Coffee Hour

Tuesday 11:30 Lectionary Bible Study
1:30-3:30 Food Pantry
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday Food Pantry Shop Day

Monday 11:00 No Staff Meeting

Friday 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Elders

Nancy DuPree
Linda Grote
Julia Hartman
William Henderson
Adam Miller
Gillie Presley

Lena Prewitt
Annabel Stephens
Garry Warren
Ann Webb
John Whitehead

Deacons

Robert DuPree
Carla Hall
Paige Miller

Mission Statement

We come together as the body of Christ, an expression of God's grace in this community. We are bound together in God's steadfast love and in our mutual love and support for one another. We honor a special commitment to provide nurture, support and encouragement to students. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live with compassion, to work for justice, to integrate faith and learning and to celebrate the gift of our life together. Since God's love excludes no one, our mission is to be inclusive. We trust that in God's time and by God's grace, God will destroy all barriers. We resolve to erect no barriers while working to overcome existing ones. Recognizing that we do not possess all the truth all the time, we affirm a variety of expressions of life and faith. This is an open church. You are welcome here.

Ron Gilmer, Pastor

Stated Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30 and Friday 11:00-12:00

Carolyn MacVicar, Secretary
Office Hours: Monday 9-1



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Ron Gilmer, Pastor
William Henderson, Director of Music
Patrick Rish, Organist

*"University Presbyterian Church is a More Light Congregation,
an Inclusive Church Committed to Social Justice"*

July 27, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Welcome to this ancient place:

A house of prayer for many nations; home to all who come.

Welcome to this gathering place:

Friend and stranger, saint and sinner in all who gather here.

Come with hope and hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

Generous God and generous Savior, touch us through your Spirit.

*HYMN SNC #19

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón
(Please sing first in English, then in Spanish, then repeat)

CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)

from *The Book of Common Worship*

God of our salvation, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have fulfilled your promise to our ancestors in the faith to redeem the world from slavery and to lead us into the promised land. Forgive us for resisting this freedom, for enslaving each other and ourselves and for pursuing lands that you never promised to us. Grant us living water from the rock and bread from heaven, that we may survive our desert pilgrimage and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

KYRIE

arr. Healey Willan, 1930



Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

GLORIA

Thomas Keesecker



Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, gloria in excel - sis De - o! - sis De-o!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b (OT p. 556)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39 (NT p. 158)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
(SNC #171)

Peter Cutts

SERMON

Sighs Too Deep for Words

Ron Gilmer

*HYMN PH #454

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based on Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

In life and in death, we belong to God through the grace of Jesus, the Messiah, who taught that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. Our Lord and Saviour also taught the kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. Christ proclaimed that the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of the household who brings out of his or her treasure, what is new and what is old. We are scribes of the kingdom. We are children of God. Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit ever more;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore, Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise....

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power— and might,
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

LORD'S PRAYER

The prayer, as it will be prayed this morning, begins, "Our Mother God and Father God, who art in heaven..."

AMEN!



A - men, A - men, A - men, A - - men!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation is invited to gather at the Lord's Table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN PH #104

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Alleluia! Amen.

VOLUNTARY