



UNIVERSITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Circuit Writer

January 2012

## *Our Journey Together*

The new year is here, and we begin it in church!!! It's an excellent time for covenants, rather than resolutions.

Followers of John Wesley, as do many others, use this time of ending and beginning anew to reflect on the past, speak honestly with God about the life we've lived, and covenant with God who has committed himself to us. While this is akin to making New Year's resolutions, it is a much deeper and serious commitment which relies on God, not a strong and determined will. We are under no illusion that we can do this alone.

Accordingly, whole worship services were designed for this holy endeavor. Wesley, in his time, borrowed freely from others and adapted the prayers and liturgies for the Methodists. The tenor of the service is set by the acknowledgement of God's sovereignty and grace and giving thanks for all God has done. Only then is the Christian life proclaimed a story of redemption from sin and consecration to God. All such covenants are initiated by God. During this service persons were asked to recall the covenant made at his or her baptism. In light of the promises of God, persons were invited to yield to God and pledge themselves to being wholeheartedly his. We will incorporate a small portion in our services on January 1.

Consider this beautiful prayer ("A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" – UM Hymnal 607):

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me that what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low by you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

May we consider God's blessing, ours in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit, and determine whether we are ready to yield ourselves in this way to such a loving God.

Many years ago, D. L. Moody said the world has not seen what can be done through a person completely at God's disposal and chose to be such a person. What about you and me? Is 2012 the time? If not now, when?

May God's richest blessings be yours in the coming year.

In Christ,

*Charlie*

# Ladies' Circles Celebrate Christmas

## Joy Circle



The Joy Circle meets every third Thursday at 9:30 a.m. The co-chairs are Betty House and Louella Kirkum.

Shown above are: Nell Hayes, Helen Hebert, Betty House, Melinda Graham, Janet Troutman, Blanche Gibbs, Helen Cooke, Evelyn Hoffman and Louella Kirkman.

## Adams-Creel Circle



The Adams-Creel Circle meets every third Thursday at 2:00 p.m. Mary Ann Denger serves as chair of the circle.

Shown above are: Mary Ann Denger, Anita Tarasiewicz, Carol White, Margery Reeves, Pauline Rentrop (hostess), and Nell Hayes.

## Angel Tree Project

### Big Thank You

Thanks to those that participated in the Angel Tree Project. This project donated gifts to children who have an incarcerated parent.

## University Church Bell Ringers



Thanks to the bell ringers who volunteered with the Salvation Army on December 3 and 10 at the Nelson Wal-Mart.

- |            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| Evelyn     | Elva    | Nell   |
| Janet      | Kendall | Lori   |
| Shirley    | Anita   | Ken    |
| Charlie    | Janice  | Donna  |
| Diane      | C.L.    | Doris  |
| John       | Cindy   | Martha |
| Natalie    | Sandy   | Rick   |
| George Ann |         |        |

## Children's Sunday School Perfect Attendance

### September

Jeffrey Chatagnier William Swann  
Haley Chatagnier Gaby Weemes

### October

Marley Hiatt Abbie Sonnier  
William Swann Ethan Sonnier  
Gaby Weemes

### November

Marley Hiatt Henry Swann  
Jeffrey Chatagnier JR Watts  
Hayley Chatagnier Abbie Sonnier  
Gaby Weemes Ethan Sonnier  
Jeremiah Hiatt William Swann



Sunday School

## Social Lights

January 16 @ 11:30

## Zeus

409 W. Prien Lake Rd.

## Leadership for a New Year

The new year brings new challenges and opportunities, and we have a great team to lead us. **David McCain** will again chair the Church Council with **George Baldauf** as his vice and **Janice Parkerson** as secretary. Our Lay Leader is **Robbi Dowden**, and our Lay Delegate to Annual Conference is **Jennifer Swann**. Our administrative committees are to be headed by **Allen Abshire** (finance), **Bob Shannon** (Staff-Parish Relations Committee), and **Connie David** (Permanent Endowment). The Trustees Chair will be elected at their first meeting.

Continuing as Treasurer and Membership Secretary are **C. L. Callihan** and **Pauline "Bo" Rentrop**. **Bob and Nell Hayes** will head the UM Men and UMW respectively. **Kailyn Sonnier** will represent the youth on the Church Council, **Peyton Boozer** is the District Camp Representative, and **Tamra Weemes** is the Children's Home Representative.

The program ministry teams will be led by **Jayne Muzzy** (Celebrating), **Ellice Allen** (Nurturing), and **Sheila Champagne** (Outreach & Witness). We still need leaders for the Congregational Care and Communications ministry teams.

We have three classes (based on the last year of their term) of at-large members on the Church Council. The class of 2012 will be **Joyce Caesar**, **Matt Fuller**, and **Jimmy Leger**. **Carol Lines**, **Pat McKee**, and **Kim Taylor** make up the class of 2013. Coming on the council as members of the class of 2014 will be **Vicki Fuller**, **Faith McCain**, and **Linda Watson**.

## Staff-Parish Relations

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee assists the pastor in determining the needs and goals of the church, determining staffing needs and filling those positions, and evaluating staff effectiveness. In doing this they are liaison between the pastor and the congregation. They determine pastoral needs and evaluate pastoral performance. They communicate this information to the district superintendent and bishop and work with them in the appointive process whereby ministerial staff are assigned to the church.

This year's committee is led by **Bob Shannon**. Other members are **Barbara Hebert** and **Dan Sonnier** (class of 2012); **George Baldauf**, **Rick Gilpin**, and **Paula McDonald** (class of 2013); and **Marla Chatagnier**, **Ruth Cleland**, and **Matt Fuller** (class of 2014). Please don't hesitate to contact one of these persons with a concern and keep them in your prayers as they undertake their very important tasks.

## I Am a Follower

Are you male and an early riser? If so, or you're a man willing to get up early on Wednesdays, you are invited to join the men's group that meets in Charlie's office at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. Beginning January 4, the group will begin a study (slow-paced and user-friendly) of Leonard Sweet's new book *I Am a Follower: The Way, Truth, and Life of Following Jesus*. On that day Charlie will introduce the book, and we will view and discuss the YouTube video that inspired the book and illustrates Jesus' call to

## The Story Resumes

After taking a break for *The Journey*, we will return to *The Story* on January 1! We concluded with King David in November, and we start again with King Solomon (chapter 13) as we continue through the Old and into the New Testament. It is not too late to invite others to join us. We will celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 8, and finish *The Story* on May 6.

## Our Christian Sympathy to the families of:

Hillary Faris	Ernest Morgan
Kory Crowell	Floyd Gibbs
Maxine Gordon	Merle Gould
Paul Mitchel	Helen Williams
Greg Hemphill	

**University United Methodist Church**  
**3501 Patrick Street**  
**Lake Charles, LA 70605**

**(337) 477-2003**  
**(337) 478-8106 fax**

**[www.universitymethodist.com](http://www.universitymethodist.com)**

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### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford\
Program Director	Marj Robinson
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Business Manager	Randy Morgan
Day School Director	Katie Stewart
Staff Assistant	Glynetta Phenice
Church Sexton	Shane Truxillo
	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested



### **Financial Peace, A Good Beginning**

With the encouragement of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana, 24 of the 26 units (married or engaged couples and single adults), which began Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) on September 4, completed the course on December 4. The participant's comments were extremely positive, and the group saw a substantial reduction in their indebtedness during the period.

Because of this response, we are looking at the possibility of offering FPU twice in 2012. The first of these sessions will begin around the end of January, or first of February, and finish toward the end of April. Details as to the day and time are being determined and will be announced in early January. There will be preview sessions, for persons who think they might be interested, where questions can be answered. All persons (members and non-members, single and married, younger (teens may participate with their parent(s) or older, low income or high) can benefit by gaining control of their finances and learning godly principles for managing their resources. Be looking for the announcement.