

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Maybe when you saw my picture in the newsletter you asked, "Is he still here? I thought we were getting someone new." Believe me, I have said the same thing a couple times. So I want to give you an update on where the search for a new pastor is right now. The SPRC has been meeting and reviewing candidates. But unfortunately, a suitable candidate willing to move to Franklinton has not been found. This is due to a number of issues. First, there seems to be a shortage of pastors nationwide, particularly in our denomination. Second, when the GMC was formed, the overwhelming majority of churches that left the UMC to join the GMC left with their pastor, probably because they liked each other. This is what Centenary did. Unfortunately, Cecil's unexpected call to his Heavenly Home left Centenary without a pastor. Third, the majority of younger candidates want to live very near to a major metropolitan area and are reluctant to move to smaller, rural areas. Lastly, health insurance premiums for the Pastor and his family are taking a much larger percentage of the benefit package than in the past. Based on numbers we have received from our Presiding Elder, that percentage may approach 30% of the total compensation package next year. Which of course means the pastor will have to live on less than what similar aged and experienced people in the work force receive.

So what's the answer? We are still working on that. Centenary may join with Mt. Hermon on a two-point charge to increase the compensation package. Perhaps clarifying some compensation misunderstandings with our Presiding Elder will help us to be able to entice more candidates. Or maybe, God will impress on the right person the desire to come and be a part of this wonderful church. I think you have demonstrated what kind of church you are over the last 4 ½ months since I have returned on an interim basis. Our attendance and giving has not suffered much, if at all. We are continuing to do Missions, Worship, Bible Study, Sunday School and have started back our Children's and Youth activities. Please, don't get discouraged! Encourage one another with your attendance, your prayers, and your love. I believe God has equipped the right Pastor to come and lead this Church into the next decade. Please continue to pray that whoever that person is will soon be here. I leave you with the words from our Youth Group lesson this past week, *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* - *Philippians 1:6*.

Blessings,

Brian

VERA CHESTER CIRCLE OUTING

For many years, the Vera Chester Circle ladies have enjoyed a surprise destination for the August meeting. As the ladies gathered to depart, Lee Dudley (our custodian) asked the ladies what was happening. The conversation led to Lee being invited to go along. Eleven ladies and Lee went to Café Bouchee to enjoy the food and fellowship. The ladies warned Lee that what happened at Café Bouchee, had to stay at Café Bouchee.



Emmaus Walk

In August, Craig Meyer, Laina Asprion, and Brenda Locke were reunited at a planning meeting for the Fall Walks for women and men. If you are interested in attending, ask Craig or Laina for information. They will both exclaim how wonderful the experience is for participants.

BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd

Why are there so many denominations? Do we all believe the same thing? Are we right and everyone else wrong? If you have ever asked some of these questions, come join us on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we have a one hour discussion on different denominations. We will look at what we have in common with other denominations and where we, as Methodists, differ. We will close the discussion on a topic that has sometimes come up in Franklinton regarding Calvinism and how it relates to other denominations.

MINI-METHODIST AND YOUTH

Sunday, August 24th, the Mini-Methodist and Youth met in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza was served for lunch followed by games and devotion time. Brian, Cindy, and Tacy worked with the youth. This was the first time the youth have met since Cecil's death and the moving of Brenda Locke, their leader. The turnout of kids and adults was good. The plan is to meet every fourth Sunday. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 28th. If anyone would like to provide the meal, please contact the office.

MISSIONS

The Mission Team is putting together 25 flood buckets. Each bucket cost approximately \$100. The table of supplies is located in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your support of this project. The project has a completion date of September 15.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pouches for collecting change will be distributed soon to go towards the Kenya Uniform Drive. On October 5th, a Chicken Dinner will be held at the church to benefit the Kenya Uniform Drive and the Methodist Children's Home.

The Mission Team, donated \$1,000 to the Southeast LA Pregnancy Center in Bogalusa.



GREENLEAVES

Greenleaves enjoyed a delicious meal of pulled pork, green beans and potato salad in August. Steve and Laina Asprion were our chefs. Faith gave a program which consisted of some funnies and more seriously, some prayers.

The next gathering is September 16th at noon. Mary Beverly, Jane Johnson, and Sandy Miller will provide the meal.

SPPR

The SPPR committee is still in the process of searching for a new minister. Our presiding elder, Jonathan Beck met with the SPPR committees of both Centenary and Mt. Hermon Methodist Church on Thursday, August 28th.

Continue to pray for the committee, our church, Brian and Cindy, and our presiding elder.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

The Youth and Mini-Methodist enjoyed a fun Sunday afternoon at the home of Hope and Robert Reid Smith. The kids enjoyed the water slide and hotdogs.



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY-TACY GAUTHREAUX

(337) 356-5733

Tacy will begin working in the office on September 2, 2025. She will work with Faith, while she learns the ins and outs of the job. Please introduce yourself if you have not yet met.

Tacy is married to Ray Gauthreaux and they have a daughter, Mia. Tacy is working with our youth with Brian and is a member of our choir.



AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 3	SS	45	Worship Service	81
August 10	SS	44	Worship Service	79
August 17	SS	33	Worship Service	74
August 24	SS	50	Worship Service	108



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Jane Burris	9/14 Steve Asprion	9/25 Holly James
9/2 Betty Logan	9/14 Michael Mobley	9/25 Thomas Richardson
9/3 Lee Dudley	9/16 Ashley Foret	9/29 Emma Matise
9/3 Gerry Foret	9/21 Max Bahm	
9/6 Mark James	9/22 Logan Walker	
9/9 Richard Jenkins	9/24 Keaton Catrett	





PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Alston, Irving Andre, Baby Jack, David Berlin, Beth Blalock, Sherell Blunt, Joan Brooks, Bob Burris, Will Burris, Irma Clark, Jim Cody, Gayle Collier, Heather Young Crawford, Harrison DeLouche, Vignan Deshaboina, Patrick Dier, Sanjana Saraswathi Ganginen, Paul Givens, Barrett Green, Ann Holmes, David James, Katie Johnston, Ed Ladner, Melissa Lebo, Marguerite Lipani, Ed Lyles, Madelyn Massicot, Kathy Mauthe, Cynthia McCormick, Jimmy McInnis, Leighann Morel, Pam Penny, Mike Perez, Jane Rester, Iris Reviere, Chris Smalley, Virginia Stager, Drew Stevens, Bonnie Stokes, Katelyn Strate, Sandy Winkle, Rodney Wood.

Families of: :Patricia Corderman, Carol Isbel, Everett "Smitty" Smith, Stephanie Morgan, Sargeant Eisworth, Betty Knight Carr, Melody Gill.

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Mulina: Parents: Caleb & Jessi Mulina, Centenary Grandparents: Criag & Ellen Meyer, and Centenary Aunt Alexis Meyer.

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield, Dillon Mitchell, Mason Knudson, Jonathan Pignato.

CONTACT US

Brian Ridgedell (985) 323-3889

Faith (985) 515-0134

Church Office (985) 839-3808

Pastor: Brian Ridgedell
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

office@centenarymethodist.com

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

HAPPY LABOR DAY

Centenary Methodist Church
1015 Cleveland Street
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438