



The E-pistle

January 23, 2012

Happy New Year!

It is the Chinese New Year—the year of the dragon. I don't know about you but it will take me FOREVER to stop writing year of the rabbit on my checks!

Really Good to be Back

I went to Florida for a continuing education event and stayed a few extra days and drove a few extra hours to see my parents. We also worshipped at another United Methodist Church in the town where my parents live. Let me say that it is really good to be back in Alexandria. Being away for a short time makes me appreciate what we have here.

Thank You, Staff

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn Fletcher and her family in the loss of her father. She was in charge of a District event Saturday which went off without a hitch due to the pulling together of the rest of the staff. Thanks to all who helped out!

Confirmed in Christ

If you know of someone who is 12 years old, in the sixth grade (or above) and has not been confirmed, please get their name to Jaime Gentry. We would like to make sure that everyone who would like to be a part of confirmation will have the chance to attend Confirmation Day with the Bishop at the Wesley Center on March 10.

Witness Meeting

There is a Witness meeting this Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Transitions room. The biggest agenda item is to review the Live Nativity to prepare for next year. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Coming Attractions

This Sunday will feature the following texts:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8: 1 - 13

Mark 1: 21 - 28

The sermon is called: *What's God Saying?* How do we know what God is saying to us today?

Midweek M.A.S.S.

Food is served from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays Come gather with your friends and church family.

Midweek Bible Study

We still doing a chapter by chapter study in Mark. We are covering about a chapter a week in this adult study in the 50/50 class room. It is never too late to start. Consider trying us out Wednesday at 6:15.

Midweek Communion

If you are looking for a good way to have a mid week spiritual pick-me-up consider joining with us Wednesday. Worship in the sanctuary begins by singing a few hymns. Prayer, scripture and a brief sermon follow and we end the service around the communion table.

My Heart's All A Twitter

Search for barryhoek at www.twitter.com. Also, if you would like to be my "friend," contact me at www.facebook.com.

Words With Friends

Hey, iPhone, iPad and Android users, I am always up for a game of Words with Friends — but beware, I'm pretty good at it! Play me by setting up a game for BarryHoek.

UMC News

Would you like to keep current on other United Methodist news? Click on the following: <http://www.umportal.org>.

LOUISIANA NOW, Now Available Online

The conference newspaper is available by clicking on [Louisiana NOW!](#)

In Closing

This one made the rounds awhile back but perhaps you didn't see it, or forgot the punch line:

The year is 2016 and the United States has elected the first woman president who happens to be from Louisiana. A few days after the election the president-elect, whose name is Debra Sue, calls her father and says, "So, Daddy, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?" "I don't think so. It's at least a 10 hour drive." "Don't worry about it Daddy, I'll send Air Force One. And a limousine will pick you up at your door." "I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What will your mother wear?" "Oh Daddy," replies Debra Sue, "I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom-made by the best designer in Washington." "Honey," Dad complains, "you know I can't eat those fancy foods you eat." The President-to-be responds, "Don't worry Daddy. The entire affair will be handled by the best caterer in Washington; I'll ensure your meals are Cajun special. You and mom just have to be there." So Dad reluctantly agrees, and on January 20, 2017 Debra Sue is sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's dad and mom. Dad, noticing the senator sitting next to him, leans over and whispers, "You see that woman over there with her hand on the Bible, becoming President of the United States?" The Senator whispers back, "You bet I do." Dad says proudly, "Her brother played football for the LSU TIGERS."

And Finally

If this girl was an actress I would say that she has perfected the acting style of Ashley Judd of the male lead on the new TV show Whitney. I am impressed with the wave effect.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zx39v3JUUI>

Have a great rest of the week and I look forward to seeing you at church this week!

**Peace!
Barry**