



*Plains Presbyterian Church
Zachary, LA*

*Church Profile
July 2008*

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Profile Summary

Overview

Plains Presbyterian Church (PPC) is an established congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and is located in the growing city of Zachary, Louisiana. PPC has over 500 members on the church roll. For most of PPC's history, the church was located in a rural setting, and its congregation was composed of predominately cattlemen and farmers. However, the demographics of the congregation has changed as Zachary has shifted from a farming to a suburban community.

Brief History

PPC was officially organized in 1832 beginning with 27 members. The installation of its first ordained pastor occurred in 1841. PPC left the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) in 1981 and joined the PCA that same year. A daughter church in Clinton, Louisiana was formed as a direct church plant of PPC in 1991.

Demographics

Our City

Zachary is located in East Baton Rouge Parish, 20 miles north of the state's capital city of Baton Rouge and is one of the fastest growing cities in the state. It is home to a diverse business community and the top-rated school district in Louisiana for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. The population of the incorporated city limits is approximately 15,000 residents with approximately 24,000 total residents calling Zachary home. Information obtained from Zachary's Chamber of Commerce reflects that approximately 53% of the people of Zachary describe themselves as religious and 47% report no religious affiliation.

Our Immediate Neighborhood

PPC is located in what was largely an agricultural community slightly northwest of the center of Zachary in a community called "The Plains." In recent years much of the surrounding farm and cattle land has been sold resulting in a large number of residential developments being built in the immediate area.

Our Church Membership & Attendance

The church membership is made up of a large cross section of age groups. The breakdown and percentage of age groups is reflected in the table below.

Average attendance each Sunday is approximately 285 people for the two morning worship services and 210 for Sunday School.

Age Groups	No. of Members	% of Total
1-12	56	11%
13-17	31	6%
18-25	78	16%
26-40	90	18%
41-60	150	30%
61+	95	19%

Ministries & Programs

The current ministries listed below reflect how PPC desires to honor and serve the Lord with its gifts and talents:

- Missions
- Women in the Church
- Covenantal Fellowship Groups (CFGs)
- Ladies' Bible Studies
- Men's Book Studies
- Junior & Senior High Youth Groups
- Congregational Fellowship Dinners
- Men's 3D (Dinner, Dessert, Discussion)
- Praise Band
- Praise Makers
- Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs
- Singing for the Son and Covenant Kids
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Young Marrieds
- Congregational Prayer Meetings
- Senior Ministry – BALL Club
- Nursery

Staff

PPC's current staff consists of two assistant pastors (one being the youth pastor) and a secretary. Part-time positions include a director of music and adult choirs, a director of children's music and a pianist/organist.

Facilities

PPC owns the property and buildings of the church which sit on approximately 11 acres. A Christian Life Center was built in 2005.

Finances

PPC has an annual budget of \$730,000 with 22% of the previous year's income allocated to benevolence. Faith promise offerings have grown to pledges of approximately \$50,000 annually which is above and beyond the 22% of the benevolence budget.

Pastoral Priorities

In the process of defining the qualities, skills and experience desired of PPC's next senior pastor, the Session has identified the following priorities:

- A deep spiritual life, with a supportive wife and family
- A Biblical preacher expository in style with good delivery and content
- Desire for outreach to our community with vision
- A good shepherd to the flock
- Leadership ability with supervisory or administrative skills

Congregational Survey

The pastoral search committee conducted a congregational survey designed to determine the leadership and congregation's desires for the next senior pastor. The results of the survey confirmed that, on most issues, the congregation was in line with the mission and ministry philosophy of the church leadership.

Who We Are

Changing our world one person at a time through reverent and relevant worship, fellowship, education, outreach and service.

Plains Presbyterian Church (<http://www.plainspca.org>) is an established congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (<http://www.pcanet.org>) and is located in Zachary, Louisiana. Zachary is approximately 20 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's capital city. The church's desire is to be faithful to reformed doctrine and to be a vital part of spreading the gospel to a growing community and beyond.

Vision Statement

“The mission of the Plains Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by worshiping Him and going to all the world (beginning at home) and making disciples, baptizing and teaching them, and showing the love, compassion, and mercy of Christ.”



History

PPC was officially organized in 1832. Prior to this, an informal history of meetings was recorded dating back to the 1790's. The strong congregation which began with 27 members was deeply rooted in reformed doctrines and faith, and today includes many direct descendants of those early members.

The church survived many ups and downs throughout its colorful history. Fire, war, dissension, drought, poor crops, and heavy taxes plagued its building and members, but God was always faithful to provide the means for rebuilding and growth. Many ministries blossomed out of this growth such as the Women in the Church, Sunday School, the youth program, and Vacation Bible School. All of these ministries which began between 1890-1920 are still present today. The most significant change in our current church history took place in 1981 when the church left the PCUS and joined the PCA.

PPC installed its first ordained pastor in 1841, Reverend Frederick L. Ernst. Since this time, 13 pastors have served in this position, and several new positions within the church staff have been established. At the present time, Plains Church's full time staff includes an assistant pastor, youth pastor and a church secretary. The part-time staff consists of a choir director, a children's music director and a pianist/organist.

Several buildings have been erected during the life of the church; some as a response to fire and others because of expansion and growth. The grounds today consist of a sanctuary built in 1957, two educational buildings built in 1951 and 1972, a brick manse built in 1953 (which later became the church office), and a Christian Life Center built in 2005.

Mission work has always been a significant part of the ministry at the Plains Church. Mrs. E.B. Inslee, a daughter of the church, and her husband became the first missionaries to China from the Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1867. Over 120 adult members have been on mission trips to 16 different countries all over the world during the life of the church. Every other summer our senior high youth go on a foreign mission trip.

Ministries within the church have also proven to be effective throughout the course of history as shown by the fact that 12 members have attended seminary since 1995. These ongoing programs and ministries include: the chancel choir and hand bell choir, the children's music program, women's and men's Bible Studies, Covenantal Care Fellowship Groups, Men's 3-D, Vacation Bible School, Women's Circle meetings, the Praise Band, wedding and baby showers, youth ministry and missionary programs, prison ministries, ministry to girls at Greenwell Springs facility, church service video tape ministry for shut ins, BALL Club (Be Active Live Longer) events, and many more activities.

In a time when the city around us is changing rapidly and the majority of families are unchurched, God's harvest can be plentiful. A congregation of 544 members, equipped with an irresistible gospel, backed by a conservative, reformed denomination can be used by the Holy Spirit to do miraculous things. Willing, repentant hearts must be nurtured by the leadership and example of a pastor seeking "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13)

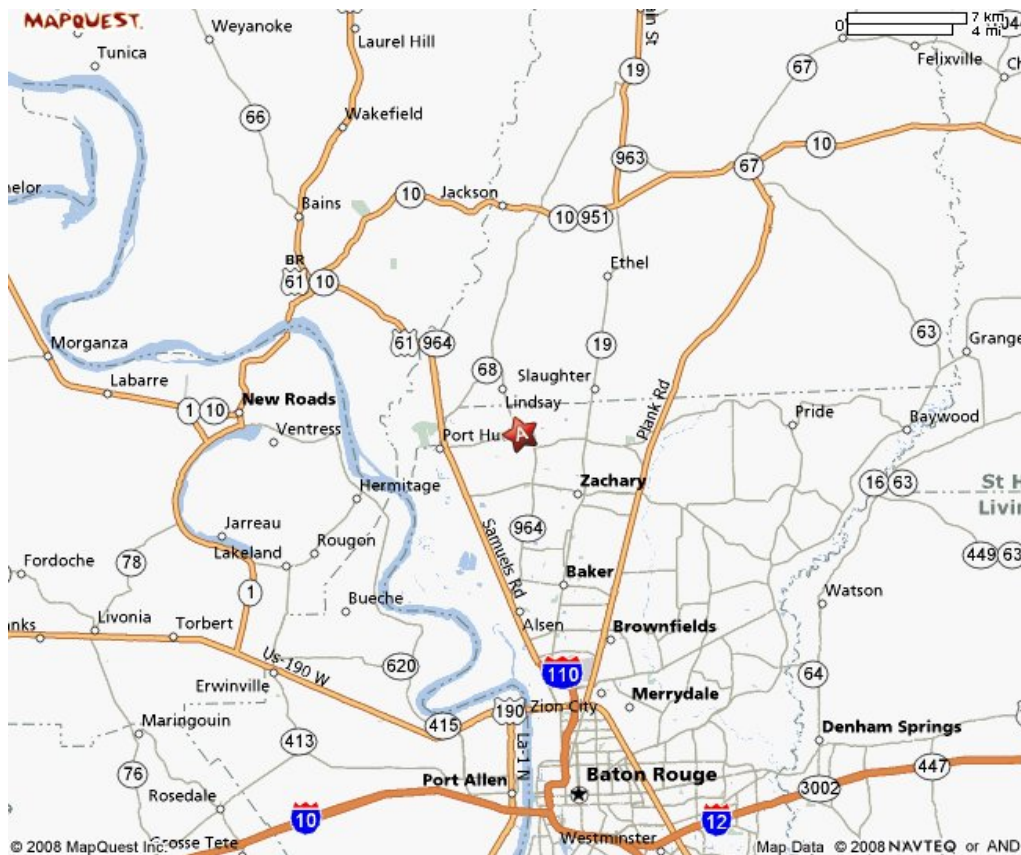
Plains Presbyterian Church has a long, deep rooted history of sound doctrinal preaching and biblical leadership from the session. It rests on a foundation established by the Lord and his apostles, which will continue, God willing, for many years to come.

Demographics

Our Church

Plains Presbyterian is part of the Southeast Louisiana Presbytery and is the largest PCA church in Louisiana. The congregation is made up of both blue & white collar workers, farmers, cattlemen, retirees and homemakers. Students at PPC attend public, private and home schools.

The church is located approximately 5 miles from the center of Zachary in the community called “The Plains.” In addition to Zachary, it also draws its members from several surrounding cities and towns including Baton Rouge, St. Francisville, Clinton, Jackson, Slaughter and Baker.



Our City:

Welcome to

Zachary, Louisiana



City of Zachary

Location

Zachary is located in East Baton Rouge Parish, 20 miles north of Baton Rouge and 80 miles northwest of New Orleans. Zachary encompasses 23.7 square miles of land area and is approximately 100 feet above sea level.

History

The town of Zachary was incorporated on August 2, 1889. The main occupations during much of Zachary's history have been cotton, livestock and dairy farming. Today, Zachary is a thriving community of nearly 15,000 residents. It is home to a diverse business community and the top-rated school district in Louisiana. Since the early days, one thing has been consistent among Zachary's citizens: a strong sense of community built upon a foundation of civic pride and loyalty.

Climate

On average, there are 218 sunny days per year in Zachary and there are 98 days per year with rain. The average rainfall is 64 inches. The average annual snowfall is zero. The average high temperature in July is in the mid 90's and the average low in January is in the low 40's.

Population

The population within the incorporated city limits is 14, 245. The 70791 zip code area is home to 23,917 residents.

Demographics

(70791 zip code)	
Total households	8,373
Avg household size	2.78 people
Median age	35.2 years
Female population	51.52%
Male population	48.48%
Married population	62.18%
Single population	37.82%

Religion

52.68 % of the people in Zachary describe themselves as being religious. 47.32 % say they do not prescribe to any religious affiliation.

Catholic	23.22%
Protestant	26.66%
Baptist	14.66%
Episcopalian	1.33%
Pentacostal	3.16%
Lutheran	0.56%
Methodist	5.71%
Presbyterian	1.24%
"Other" Christian	1.73%
Islamic	0.39%
Jewish	1.90%
Eastern	0.03%

Ethnicity

White	63.53%
Black	33.73%
Hispanic	1.02%
Asian	0.45%
Indian	0.24%
Other	1.03%

Voting

Dem	44.81%
Rep	54.42%
Indep	0.77%

Population by Occupation

Management, business and financial operations	9.76%
Professional and related occupations	18.36%
Service	14.01%
Sales and Office	27.61%
Farming, fishing and forestry	0.60%
Construction, extraction and maintenance	12.81%
Production, transportation and material moving	16.85%

Top Employers

Georgia Pacific (Paper Mill)	1,094
Lane Regional Medical Center	650
Zachary Community School	300
Walmart	250
DEMCO (Electric Utility)	250
City of Zachary	200

Education

The Zachary Community School District has been ranked number 1 in the state for the past 3 years.

Public Schools	Enrollment
Zachary High School	1,042
Northwestern Middle School	882
Copper Mill Elementary	604
Zachary Elementary	576
Northwestern Elementary	604

Provided by Zachary Chamber of Commerce

How We Operate

Plains Presbyterian Church is in large part a committee driven church. Each ministry and program of the church receives guidance and oversight from one of the following five standing committees.

Christian Education
Music and Worship
Youth
Missions
Administrative

Each of the first four committees listed above comprise three elders, one staff pastor, and a varying number of congregational members. The Administrative Committee is made up of three elders, three deacons, and the senior pastor. The Administrative Committee was formed several years ago to aid in expediting session meetings by discussing and forming recommendations of agenda items as well as serving to share information and input between the elders, deacons, and staff. Recommendations from all the different committees receive their final approval by the Session.

Our **Session**, as of July 2008, is composed of 14 ruling elders who regularly meet the second Sunday of every month. The desire of the Session is to support our pastoral team with prayer and with shared responsibility and leadership. There is currently no elder rotation system in place.

Our **Diaconate** is made up of 23 men. Under its stewardship responsibilities, the diaconate prepares and administrates the church's annual budget. Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, with a joint Session-Diaconate meeting held quarterly.

Ministries & Programs

Missions

PPC has always had a strong commitment to missions within its congregation. In recent years members have served in Mexico, Belize, Peru and the Philippines. Teams as well as individuals have been supported and sent on short-term mission trips by PPC. These groups have helped build schools, churches and medical clinics, shared the gospel, and served as health care providers in impoverished areas. Through faith promise offerings PPC has distributed more than \$250,000 within the last 10 years.



Women in the Church

Women in the Church (WIC) is a vital ministry of PPC. It includes all female members of the congregation, together serving God by serving one another, their church, their homes, and their community. WIC's primary purpose is "that every woman know Christ personally and be committed to extending His Kingdom in her life, home, church, community, and throughout the world." (WIC Yearbook, 2008). The philosophy of this ministry is grounded on woman's helper design as seen in Genesis 2:18, "The Lord said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

WIC strives to have a Leadership Team of approximately 10-15 women, appointed by the Session, to oversee the function of Women in the Church: service, outreach, education, and ministry. Their goal is to implement the Titus mandate, Titus 2:1-5, where women are instructed to nurture other women through training in biblical truths and providing opportunities to develop nurturing relationships.

Some of WIC's programs include monthly "Circle" meetings; weekly Bible studies; an annual Ladies' Tea for Mother's Day; and the Covenantal Care Ministry, which prepares and delivers meals for the sick, those recovering from surgery, and new parents. WIC also blesses women in the congregation by providing a baby shower for a firstborn child and a bridal shower for a church member or a member's fiancée. Other WIC programs include a card ministry for soldiers, missionaries, the sick, and those that have suffered loss; the Goodwill ministry, which prepares a meal for families during the loss of a loved one; the Springhouse Ministry, a ministry to young girls and teens in a group home setting; and the Flower Committee, which provides arrangements for Sunday worship services, special occasions and other services.

Programs & Activities

PPC offers a wide variety of programs and activities in order to provide growth and ministry opportunities for the entire congregation.

BALL Club (Be Active Live Longer) – This senior ministry involves trips, activities, and fellowship.

Congregational Prayer Meeting - Held every first Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Covenantal Fellowship Groups (CFG) – Ten small groups currently exist which meet in homes. CFG is designed to encourage and develop meaningful relationships within the church body.

Fellowship Dinners – On the second Wednesday night of each month, Plains families get together to share dinner and fellowship in the Christian Life Center.

Men's 3D (Dinner, Dessert, Discussion) - Men are encouraged to bring friends and enjoy great food and a speaker each third Wednesday night of the month.

Nursery - Completely staffed by our membership for Sunday morning worship services, the nursery is well organized with a comprehensive child protection policy in place.

Chancel & Hand Bell Choirs - These are led by Music Director Tom Jones.

Praise Band - A small group of musicians and vocalists who perform a 15 minute prelude for both worship services

Praise Makers - Composed of 6th grade-high school girls, the choir meets on Sunday afternoons and performs at various functions.

Singing for the Son and Covenant Kids - A music and teaching ministry for K-6th, which also includes children from the community. They meet each Wednesday afternoon of the school year with major performances at Christmas and in the spring.

Sunday School - Adult as well as children's Sunday Schools have always been a strength and a priority at Plains and are well attended.

VBS (Vacation Bible School) – Over 100 teachers, workers, and helpers work tirelessly to make this beloved tradition a top summer feature.

Young Marrieds - Filling a large need in our church and our community, the group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month for food, fellowship and discussion.

Youth Groups Junior and Senior High - Groups meet on Sunday evenings under the direction of Campbell Silman, our Youth Pastor.

Staff

Reverend Richard D. Bailey, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Bailey began his ministry at PPC as Youth Director in 1991 and continued in that role until 2007. In 2001 he was installed as the first Assistant Pastor. His responsibilities with the youth ceased when a new youth pastor was hired in 2007. Reverend Bailey's current duties include preaching and administering sacraments at PPC and, as needed, within Southeast Louisiana Presbytery congregations; leading worship; home and hospital visitation; coordinating and organizing men's ministries; working with the Session's Christian Education Committee; serving on the PPC Missions Committee; serving as Chairman of Southeast Louisiana Presbytery Missions Committee where he oversees church planting and Reformed University Fellowship; counseling individuals and families; and contributing articles for the Plains Church newsletter, *The Visitor*.

Reverend A. Campbell Silman, Assistant Pastor, Youth

Reverend Silman began his ministry at PPC in January 2007. He attended Plains Church as a youth from 1987-1994, while Dr. Andrew Silman, his father, served as pastor. His responsibilities as Assistant Pastor of Youth are to organize and oversee Junior (6th-8th grade) and Senior (9th - 12th grade) High ministries, including weekly group meetings, Bible Studies, Sunday School, summer camps, Senior High mission trips, and evangelism in the community and schools. His duties also include serving on the Advisory Committee for Reformed Youth Movement; leading worship; providing oversight to the Plains Church Praise Band; preaching and administering sacraments at PPC and, as needed, within Southeast Louisiana Presbytery congregations; teaching catechism for children in Singing for the Son and Covenant Kids; overseeing Vacation Bible School; home and hospital visitation and contributing articles for *The Visitor*.

Mrs. Tweety M. Dufrene, Secretary

Mrs. Dufrene has served PPC since 2006. She provides administrative support for the church office; prepares and prints the weekly church bulletin for Sunday worship; and prepares, prints, and mails *The Visitor*.

Mr. Thomas B. "Tom" Jones, Director of Music and Adult Choirs

Mr. Jones, an accomplished musician and director, began his second period of service at PPC in 2004. His responsibilities include choosing the worship service music, securing musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists), leading and directing the Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs, assisting the pastor with the Sunday worship schedule and organizing and co-directing yearly Christmas and Easter musicals. He is an ex officio member of the Music and Worship Committee.

Mrs. Lucie H. Mashburn, Director of Children's Music

Mrs. Mashburn has served the children of Plains Church since 1994. She organizes and directs three children's choirs: Singing for the Son (Kindergarten – 2nd grade), Covenant Kids (3rd – 6th grade), and Praise Makers (6th – 12th grade females). Singing for the Son and Covenant Kids meet weekly during the school year for rehearsal and for catechism, lead by a pastor. Praise Makers also meets weekly during the school year. Choirs perform annual spring and Christmas musicals and during various worship services. Mrs. Mashburn also organizes and directs music and the skits during Vacation Bible School and occasionally contributes articles for *The Visitor*.

Mrs. Kathy Overfield, Pianist/Organist

Mrs. Overfield joined Plains Church in June 2008 as the pianist and organist. She plays for Sunday morning worship services and accompanies the Chancel and Children's Choirs, under the direction of Mr. Tom Jones and Mrs. Lucie Mashburn.

Facilities

Plains Presbyterian sits on approximately 11 acres which encompasses a sanctuary, 2 educational buildings consisting of Sunday School and fellowship rooms, an office building and a Christian Life Center (CLC). The CLC contains classrooms, infant and toddler nurseries, a commercially equipped kitchen and a basketball court.



Finances

Budget and Giving

The table below provides PPC's overall budgets for 2006, 2007 and 2008 as well as benevolence disbursements and faith promise offerings.

Plains Presbyterian Church Annual Budget			
	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>\$577,697</i>	<i>\$724,311</i>	<i>\$730,620</i>
<i>Benevolence</i> <i>(22% of previous years income – part of General Fund)</i>	<i>\$125,400</i>	<i>\$147,795</i>	<i>\$149,633</i>
<i>Faith Promise</i> <i>(in addition to General Fund)</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>

Congregational Survey

The Pulpit Committee conducted a survey of the congregation to help define what the church was looking for in a senior pastor. A survey was handed out during worship service. The congregation completed it and turned it back in over the next two weeks.

The congregation overwhelmingly agreed that proclaiming the Word and worship leadership were its two highest priorities. Spiritual development of members, evangelism, and teaching followed closely. These priorities were consistent with the results of another part of the survey where the congregation, again overwhelmingly, answered that preaching ability was the most desired strength in a senior pastor. The next three senior pastor strengths were teaching, evangelism, and worship leadership. Over half of the survey respondents also listed church administration as an important pastoral strength.