



2024 Community

Prayer Breakfast

**Enhancing
our**

A photograph showing a hand placing a wooden block on top of a stack of wooden blocks. The blocks are arranged in a stepped pattern, with the stack being taller on the right side. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

FOUNDATIONS

Thursday, Sept. 26 ● 7-9 am

Boudreaux's ● 2647 Government St.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Enhancing Our Foundations

Boudreaux's on Government
September 26, 2024 – 7:00 am

Musical Prelude

Everett G. Parker, Sr., Piano

Welcome

Joshua W. Poole
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
President of the Board

Greetings and Opening Litany

Led by Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President, East Baton Rouge Parish

Leader: Increase our faith and our love, that our prayer will bring down blessings upon us
and grant success in all our endeavors:

Response: May our faith and love increase.

Leader: May our eyes be open to the needs of our community:

Response: May our vision include unity, justice and peace.

Leader: May our ears listen to our neighbors, near and far:

Response: May our hearts listen to those who are different from us.

Leader: May our differences provide opportunities for greater understanding:

Response: May we learn to embrace our shared humanity.

Leader: May the One who created us pour grace upon us:

Response: May love fill our hearts and our community.

Leader: Let peace begin with us.

Response: Indeed, let peace begin with us!

Opening Prayer

Rev. Lynn Hooks
St. James Episcopal Church

Introductions and Theme

Rev. Jon Parks
Executive Director, Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge



Introduction

Errin Gaines
IFED Board Member

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Bryan Owen
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Table Conversation

What are sources of unity in our community?
How might we make that unity stronger?

Community Prayer

Led by Joel Clement
IFED Board Member

Leader: Let us pray: Sustainer God, we are more aware now than ever of our divisions – how easily we divide ourselves based on politics, class, skin color or religion.

People: And yet that which binds us together is stronger than that which drives us apart.

Leader: While divisions are obvious, help us look for the things that bring us together.

People: May we seek the hard path of unity, even when it eludes us.

Leader: May we long to listen and understand, rather than simply state our point of view.

People: May we wage peace and seek unity, no matter the cost. AMEN.

Musical Interlude – “Like Dew In the Morning”

Maestro Billy Overton, Steel Drum
Everrett G. Parker, Sr., Piano



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Introduction

Jenny Hastings
IFED Board Member

Reflection

Dr. Press Robinson

Table Conversation

What is the relationship between Justice and Peace?

Where do we lack Justice in our community, and how can we cultivate it?

Community Prayer

Led by Min. Linda Piper

IFED Board Member

Leader: Let us pray: God of Truth, our community is desperately in need of Peace.

People: **Yet without Justice, there can be no Peace.**

Leader: Help us to see the places where Justice is needed, even though we may not want to look.

People: **May we strive to make our community a place where all are treated with dignity and respect, where every person has what they need.**

Leader: Then let Justice roll down like waters.

People: **And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. AMEN.**

Musical Interlude – “Wade in the Water”

Maestro Billy Overton, Steel Drum

Everrett G. Parker, Sr., Piano

Celebrating Retirements: Tonia Causey & Joyce Evans

Rev. Jon Parks



PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Introduction to Prayers

Rev. Jon Parks

The First Foundation

Shelter

Let us pray for those experiencing homelessness, for immigrants and refugees. Let us also pray for those who are working to provide both shelter and “home.” (A brief silence)

Leader: As we sit in this room where we are sheltered from the heat and storms, we recognize that there are many in our community who have inadequate shelter, or none at all. We also recognize there are many who are searching for more than just a shelter – they need a place to call “home,” a place to belong.

People: May our community be a place they can find a welcome, and may we be the first to open our hearts and our doors. AMEN.

*This candle is lit by Councilman Darryl Hurst, Metro Council District 5.
The prayer for this candle is offered by Erick Swenson, IFED Board Member.*

The Second Foundation

Food

Let us pray for those experiencing hunger. Let us also pray for those who work tirelessly to provide food for body and soul. (A brief silence)

Leader: We remember those in our community who do not have enough to eat, and we give thanks for all those who devote their time to feeding and helping them. May we have open hands to help those in need. May we have open hearts to give them more than just food. May we have open eyes to see where our communities are failing, and courage to change systems and policies that keep people in poverty.

People: May we strive not just that our community would be fed, but that we can be made whole. AMEN.

*This candle is lit by Tonia Causey, Holy Grill Program Coordinator.
The prayer for this candle is offered by Joel Clement, IFED Board Member.*

The Third Foundation

Safety

Let us pray for those who find themselves in harm's way, or who live in fear of violence. Let us also pray for those who work to make our community a safer place for all. (A brief silence)

Leader: Today we recognize that there are many in our midst who feel unsafe, who live with threat of violence or danger. It is hard to focus on other needs when we are afraid for our safety and the safety of those we love. We give thanks for first responders, firefighters, for those in law enforcement, and for all who promote the safety and well-being of our community. Grant courage, wisdom and safety to all those who strive to maintain peace and good order.

People: May our community be a place where all feel safe, protected and nurtured. AMEN.

*This candle is lit by Dr. Muriel Harrison, Executive Director at Gardere Initiative.
The prayer for this candle is offered by Mary Ellyn Hale, IFED Board Member.*

The Fourth Foundation

Health

Let us pray for those this day who face health challenges, whether physical, emotional, mental or in other ways. Let us pray for those who work in healthcare, and who strive to bring care to those who don't have access to it. (A brief silence)

Leader: We remember this day that there are many in our community who face sickness and disease of body, mind and heart. When we are not healthy, it affects almost every area of our lives. We give thanks for those in our midst who work tirelessly for the health of our community. May they find daily strength and courage to find balance in a in a world where so many need care. May our leaders and businesses make decisions that prioritize health and wellness for all people.

People: May we dare to envision a community where every single person can find not just health, but wholeness. AMEN.

This candle is lit by IFED staff members Dalina Merchant and Joyce Evans.

The prayer for this candle is offered by Robin Palmer Blanche, IFED Board Member.

The Fifth Foundation

Environment

Let us pray for those who face danger because of the environment around them. Let us also pray for those who are working toward a sustainable and flourishing environment. (A brief silence)

Leader: We remember those in our community and world who are in peril because of our environment: droughts, pollution, storms, famine, extreme heat and other disasters. The earth is our common home, and it falls on each of us to do our part. We give thanks for those who help to heal our world, from research to recycling, from gardening to sustainable energy, changes great and small.

People: May each of us have courage to do our part, so that all our neighbors – near and far – can have a healthy place to live. AMEN.

This candle is lit by Susan Hymel.

The prayer for this candle is offered by Joyce Robinson, IFED Board Member.

The Sixth Foundation

Community

Let us pray for those in need of a community, or whose local communities are failing them. Let us also pray for those who build and strengthen our communities through government, public services, social work and non-profit work. (A brief silence)

Leader: We recognize that we need each other, no matter how independent we might wish to be. Some in our midst are isolated and lonely, or live in fear because their neighborhood is unsafe. Everyone needs a place to belong. We give thanks for those who work to make our society a safe and structured place. We pray for leaders and those who work build and strengthen our communities.

People: May they have wisdom to make decisions that promote justice, equity and dignity for each and every person. AMEN.

This candle is lit by Rev. Linda Drewery, Coordinator of BREC Cadillac Street Park.

The prayer for this candle is offered by Eleanor Perret, IFED Board Member.

The Seventh Foundation

Education & Work

Let us pray for those who need employment and those in need of education, no matter their age. Let us also pray for those who assist others in finding meaningful work, and those involved in education. (A brief silence)

Leader: Today we remember those who struggle to find work for whatever reason, and those who are engaged in the lifelong task of education. We recognize that education and employment are essential, both for personal fulfillment and for a thriving community. We give thanks for those who devote themselves to helping others succeed.

People: May each of us commit to helping our neighbor flourish and thrive. AMEN.

This candle is lit by Dr. Press Robinson.

The prayer for this candle is offered by Jenny Hastings, IFED Board Member.

The Eighth Foundation

Hope & Purpose

Let us pray for our local faith communities and for those who lead them. (A brief silence)

Leader: We remember the many diverse faith communities of Greater Baton Rouge. Shared faith gives us purpose and hope, vital foundations for every person and community. May spiritual leaders have energy and wisdom to create vital places of worship – places where peace is shared in abundance, where comfort is sought and found, and where acts of mercy and love enrich the lives of both giver and receiver.

People: **May we find challenge through our faith to cultivate Unity, Justice and Peace in our community and in our own lives. AMEN.**

This candle is lit by Bishop Michael G. Duca, Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge.

The prayer for this candle is offered by Errin Gaines, IFED Board Member.



BLESSING AND SENDING

Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally –
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

CCLI License #1987235

Blessing and Dismissal

Rev. Jon Parks



THANK YOU

- ...to you for joining us today, and for supporting the ongoing work of the Federation!
- ...to Eleanor Perret for her passion and energy in coordinating another year's Prayer Breakfast.
- ...to Boudreaux's for hosting and working with us for today's event, and for accommodating the date change.
- ...to several key donors who support the mission and work of the Federation, including:
 - Capital Area United Way and the 225GIVES Program.
 - The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation.
 - The Emergency Food and Shelter Program of the U.S. Government.

BOARD MEMBERS

Robin Palmer Blanche (Unified Jewish Congregation)
Suzi Brown (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
Joel Clement, Vice President (Baha'i Faith)
Macky Crawford, Treasurer (St. Paul Lutheran Church)
Errin Gaines (St. Mary Baptist Church)
Mary Ellyn Hale (Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge)
Jenny Hastings (St. Margaret's Episcopal Church)
Eleanor Perret (St. Thomas More Catholic Church)
Linda Piper (Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church)
Joshua Poole, President (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
Joyce Robinson (St. John United Methodist Church)
Erick Swenson, Secretary (St. Joseph Cathedral)

STAFF

Rev. Jon Parks – Executive Director
Tonia Causey – Holy Grill Program Coordinator
Dalina Merchant – Holy Grill Meal Coordinator
Joyce Evans – Bookkeeper
Mike Perkins & Caleb Gauthier – Holy Grill Assistants

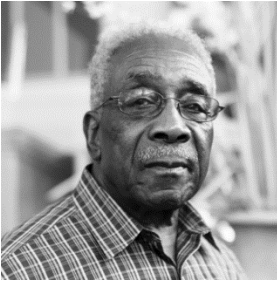
Before you go, please...

- Fill out a form to receive regular news updates by email
- Donate to support the Federation's mission
- Take a calendar of upcoming Federation events to share



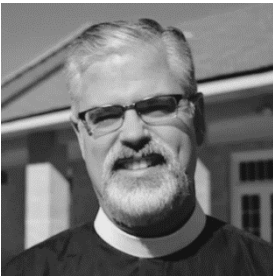


Today's SPEAKERS



Dr. Press Robinson, Sr. is a dedicated educator and social activist, devout in his endeavors to ensure that every student has the means to excel. Dr. Robinson began his career as an assistant professor of chemistry at Southern University Baton Rouge. He retired forty-one years later, having served as associate vice chancellor at Southern University Baton Rouge, chancellor at Southern University New Orleans, and vice president of the Southern University system. Dr.

Robinson received a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Howard University in 1964; a Master of Science in Physical Chemistry from Howard University in 1962; and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Morehouse College in 1959. He served twenty-two years as an elected member of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and has served in numerous other civic organizations. Dr. Robinson is the author of Pressing Forward—My Life as a Baton Rouge Community Pioneer, which was published by LSU Press.



Fr. Bryan Owen, originally from Tunica, Mississippi, was baptized and raised in the United Methodist Church. He was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 1996 on the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin.

Fr. Bryan earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School, a Ph.D. in Religion, Ethics, and Society from Vanderbilt University's Graduate Department of Religion, and a certificate in Anglican Studies from the School of Theology at the

University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Fr. Bryan accepted the call to serve as Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge starting in January 2013. Before St. Luke's, Fr. Bryan served as Rector of the Church of the Incarnation in West Point, Mississippi and as Canon for Parish Ministry at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi.



Who We Are

Founded in 1986, the Interfaith Federation is a gathering point for people of all faith traditions in the Baton Rouge region. Though we may have different beliefs, all our traditions have a common core tenet – to love and help our neighbor in need. We bring people together, and leverage our togetherness to cultivate Unity, Justice and Peace in our community and beyond!



Our Vision

A Baton Rouge community where every person is treated with love and respect, where people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds can understand our differences, but choose to come together around the things that unite us.



Our Goals

We Cultivate UNITY through dialogue, education, and shared experiences. We Cultivate JUSTICE through shared work in the community. We Cultivate PEACE one person at a time.



What We Do

Interfaith
DIALOGUES



SOUNDS
OF COMMUNITY





Prayer Breakfast

Sept. 26, 7:00 am
Boudreaux's



Workshop

Sun. October 6, 2:30 pm
Bluebonnet Library



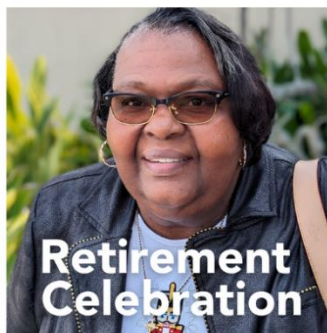
Meditation Retreat

Sat. October 12, 9:00
Tam Bao Temple



Sukkot Festival

Wed. Oct. 16, 6:00 pm
Unified Jewish Synagogue



Tonia Causey

Sun. Oct. 20, 3:00 pm
Charles R. Kelly Center



St. Luke's Benefit Concert

Sun. November 3, 3:00 pm
University United Methodist



Interfaith Assembly

Sun. Nov. 17, 2:00 pm
St. Paul Lutheran



Giving Tuesday

December 3
Online, IFED Office

