



Joy & Katie @ Hound Dogs



Luther & Chansley



Richard captures a cutie



Taking a break @ George's



Ken & Mark



Andy & Darin



Karaoke stud



Guy corners a cute one



Cody & Chansley



Jimmy & friend



Singing & dancing



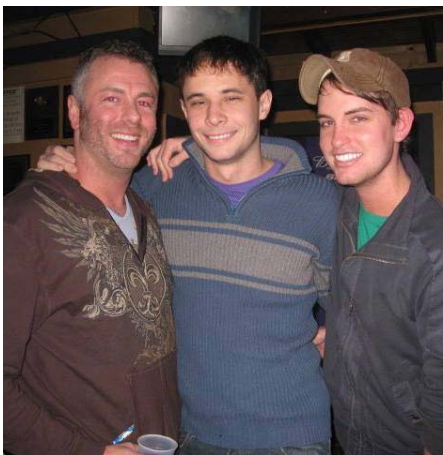
Chica LaRouge



Richard & Philip



James relaxing with a friend



Luther chatting with friends



Michael, Jared, Luther & Chansley



Group picture - George's



Having fun @ George's



Enjoying a night out on the town



Cody & Richard

OUT ON THE TOWN ~ BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ~ PHOTOS BY BRAD BENEDICT

860 ST LOUIS STREET * BATON ROUGE, LA 70802 * 225-387-9798

Upcoming Events:

**Sat Dec 26
Krewe of Divas 11 pm**

**Thurs Dec 31
New Years Eve
Karaoke 10 pm-2am
Free Champagne and Party Favors
at Midnight**

**Every Monday
\$2.00 Test Tube Shots!**

**"Hump Day Happy Hour"
Hot Male Dancer!
Every Wednesday 5pm-9pm**

**Karaoke every Tues, Wed, & Thurs
Hosted by Cody King
10pm-2am**

**"Drinking With The Divas"
Every Tuesday Happy Hour
6pm-9pm Free Food!**

**Male Dancers Every Friday Night!
9pm-2am**



GEORGE'S PLACE
BATON ROUGE'S PREMIERE VIDEO CRUISE BAR

www.georgesplacebr.com

**Business Hours:
Mon - Fri 3pm-2am
Sat 5pm-2am**

**Happy Hour:
Mon - Fri 3pm-7pm
Sat 5pm-7pm
\$2.50 Well Drinks & Domestic Beer**

hot tails of red stick ...from 34

for the season, and a stroll around the fountains by the River Center is a must. Put on a coat and head out to this beautiful setting. You will be glad you did.

If you were able to make it to Natchitoches on the first Saturday of this month, you got to see another spectacular light display. It's been a while since I went to this event, but I know several who made the journey this year. It is a full day of outstanding activities, and when that switch is thrown to turn on all the lights in the downtown area, it is something of unbelievable beauty. I don't know of another city that does this so elaborately as Natchitoches.

Lots of neighborhoods are all decked out in lights again this year. Even Spanish Town has a few that are nice to see. I do think that lots of people don't go all out for home decorations anymore. However, there are some communities that sponsor contests. It's nice to just relax with a car full of friends and drive around looking at these lights.

I even did this in New Orleans last week. As a former resident of the city, I wanted to see all this beauty first hand. Of course, I had to dine at Jack Dempsey's in the Bywater, attend the theater presentation of "The Color Purple," and view the lights on the way out of town on my way back to the capital city. I do miss living in the Crescent City and wish I still had my apartment in the French Quarter, but time has a way of changing things. What are left are the beautiful memories.

One of my big pleasures of visiting New Orleans was to stop by the bookstore on Chartres to chat with Fred. When he passed away, it was just never the same. I also used to love to visit with Shan at his book and antique store on down the street, a block or so from the Beauregard-Keyes House. And it was also a special treat to stop in at Brocato's for a little ice cream. These excursions also included so many of the bars that were and still are in the Quarter. Even an occasional stopover at **Ambush** Headquarters on Bourbon Street was always such a treat. I sometimes wonder why I don't get out more, so I'm going to have to make myself a list of things to do in 2010 and get back to the basics.

Damn Katrina! That storm changed so many things, but now we have the Saints and the city is alive again. That means the basics have to return and will include more bar

hoppin' and dining and visiting with friends. It means more parades and parties during Mardi Gras. And it will be a time for enjoying those king cakes again. Life is short, and we all need to celebrate every day to the max. Let's all make this a part of our resolutions for the new year.

Just James

I had breakfast again last week at Strands on Laurel, but it was a little different this time. I got to observe a beautiful young man, one I've known for a while but always a little on the shy

side. At least it would appear that he is shy, but I have my doubts. I think there is a smoldering inferno beneath the surface. He had several text books on the table and was checking something on his laptop. Occasionally, there would be a slight smile. Then he would just gaze at the table as if

[continued on 38]

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THE pink PASTOR

by Rev. Clinton Crawshaw
Email: pastor@bigeasymcc.com
www.bigeasymcc.com

In Constant hope....

It is a little observed fact that despite protestations of cynicism on the part of the public, and our mistrust of people in many different areas, we are still overwhelmingly hopeful. Humanity is an expectant people.

We still hope that our leaders will prove superhuman, we still hope that our religious leaders will prove infinitely better than human beings can be, and more than this – we still have a basic expectation that tomorrow will be better than today. Cynics will say this is misguided, but apart from the few with selective memories, most of us accept that in the broad areas of human development, today is a great deal better than a hundred, two hundred or a thousand years ago. We in the LGBT community understand this better than most – in just fifty years we have gone from a violently persecuted people, living in constant threat of jail and public disgrace, to a people whose time is coming – that have a place at the table. All is not achieved but it is a great deal better than it was.

Hope is not foolish – we hope that our leaders will learn, we hope that our pastor's will practice what they preach and we hope that progress will mean a

hot tails of red stick ...from 36

in deep thought. He even got up, went outside for a cigarette, and then came back to resume his studies or whatever he was doing.

What intrigued me about him the most was a discovery I had not seen before. He straightened up in his chair, leaned back as if to stretch, and at the same time pulled his T-shirt tightly down from his chest. My goodness! I almost fell out of my chair. I had no idea he had such a dynamic form beneath those clothes. Well, I had observed those tight jeans, but for some reason never got as high as the chest. The guy has a magnificent set of muscles hidden from view. It was then that I knew for sure that this one is a remarkably sexy young man.

With blonde hair and a nice smile, James is a wonderful specimen of young manhood at its finest. I recall when he lived around the corner and was dating a friend on our street that he managed to display that shy, almost reserved air of privacy. I miss seeing him now that he has moved out of Spanish Town, but I do recall all those times when he was that quiet neighbor, minding his own business, keeping to himself, and going back to his apartment at dawn. Having a loving relationship now seems to have changed him somewhat, but that quiet and shy appearance still lingers. I find him to be one of the sexiest guys around.

With Christmas so near, I could easily see this stud as an ornament on my list. Talk about ringing some chimes! Oh, my goodness!

Merry Christmas, my friends – and a Happy New Year too!

better life. This is not unrealistic, but it is optimistic.

The season of Advent, culminating in Christmas, is all about the triumph of hope – not a hope born of certainty and security, but the tenuous hope that clings on despite everything the world can throw at it.

Jesus was not the messiah that people expected or wanted – they wanted a messiah on their own terms who would 'set everything right' – renew the Jewish nation as they thought it should be, and wreak horrible revenge on all who had ever hurt them. Instead they got the living embodiment of loving kindness, the God made flesh who turned all their expectations on their heads. This Jesus offered them much more than the messiah they wanted, but in order to partake of it they had to abandon pride, vengeance and embrace forgiveness and love.

For many people today this is too hard to even contemplate. We are little better than those who condemned Jesus, as most of us want blessings on our own terms – if they come packaged in ways that call upon us for change and growth we run in fear. But despite our failings, hope kindles within us and is very hard to extinguish. This thing that characterizes the love of Christ more than anything else for me is endless forgiveness – endless returning – even after a year of struggle and failure, successes and disappointments have embattled us; we are still able to approach Christmas with hope and a sense of new possibilities.

It grieves me that we set our failures between us and God, when in fact those failures are just part of the human landscape – to be erased in a moment by the grace of God. Those things we call sin are a much bigger problem to us and to our conscience than to the God who made us **as we are**, who knit us together in our mother's wombs – warts and all.

For me, it is my failures that have been the source of my greatest growth, and my greatest blessings – the urgency of sin is to learn from it and rise above it, not to get bogged down in endless self recrimination and guilt. Self acceptance and self respect are essential parts of the Christian life – it is not about denial, but transformation. Without my God-given flaws I would have floated along in a kind of half life, never spurred into action, and never spurred into self examination and progress.

Christmas is not about giving (at least not about gifts), it is not about food or even family. Christmas is about hope – the hope that God robed in human flesh – God in Jesus Christ, brought 2000 years ago and **continues to bring** again and again, as often as we need it, despite all the struggles and despite our fear and trembling in the face of the future. Christmas says God lives with us, Christmas says that God, the incomprehensible maker of heaven and Earth, of the far flung stars and the innumerable galaxies touches human experience. Furthermore, this God

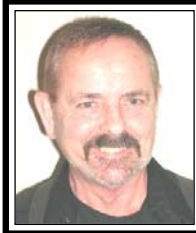
touches us and feels us and gathers us up at our most vulnerable and broken. In the bitterness of Calvary God has even tasted our despair.

In the face of such a God there is no other alternative **but** hope!

Happy Christmas Everyone!

Rev. Clinton Crawshaw is the pastor of The Big Easy Metropolitan Community

Church, part of the only worldwide LGBT-affirming denomination. The Big Easy MCC meets every Sunday at 5pm at St. Matthew's Church, 1333 South Carrollton Avenue, NOLA 70118. Check out their website at www.bigeasymcc.com. Pastor Clinton can be reached at 504.214.4340 or revcrawshaw@yahoo.com.



TRODDING THE BOARDS

by Patrick Shannon, III
Email: nedcat@earthlink.net

Lin' Janis

A few people have been seeing Elvis Presley wandering around the Oakwood Shopping Mall, but I never seem to spy the guy. But, last night I did get to see Janice Joplin live and wonderful on the stage of Le Chat Noir. If I hadn't been a big fan of her during her days in the 1960s thereby knowing she would now be in her late 60s, I could have almost been fooled as I enjoyed a stunning tribute to Ms. Joplin as she was reincarnated live and raw by the remark-

who was just an "ugly girl from Port Author, Texas" until her great talent as a singer exploded all over the country in the mid sixties.

I've got to say the guys in the band, Brian Brossard, Bill Davis and Michael Dollars - they were magnificent and made the whole show really work. The script written by Dorian Rush was clever and accurate, giving us a clear glimpse into the life and work of the sadly deceased Ms. Joplin. The dialogue was natural and interesting and eventually very moving.

"Well come down, come down," were the opening lyrics of her first song and that set the tone for the evening. It was totally 60s rock like we once heard years ago living in New York; and Ms. Rush and the boys in the band recreated the essence of this sound with uncanny artistry. The nearly full house gave the performers a standing ovation. I can still hear her singing the song Kris Kristofferson wrote for her, "Busted flat in B a t o n



Dorian Rush

able Dorian Rush in *Lin' Janis*, which she also wrote.

I was amazed at the accuracy of Ms. Rush's body language, gestures, vocal nuances and strong singing voice. There was a raw intensity that exploded on stage when she sang Ms. Joplin's great hits. It was like a religious experience of the Holy Spirit when she got into it, I mean really got down and into it, the singing of those remembered songs and lyrics. Ms. Joplin said at one time she wanted to be the first white black blues singer and she was. Ms. Rush shows why and how. Bessie Smith, Leadbelly, Odetta, and Big Mama Thornton were a big influence on Joplin

Rouge... Me and Bobbie McGee... Na na na na na..." Or her acapella. version of "Lord, won't you by me a Mercedes Benz." I wonder what Janice Joplin would have thought about her reincarnation. I can hear her now saying, "Well f**k man, she sounds, acts, and looks just like me. Far out man..."

Janice Lyn Joplin over dosed on pure heroin on October 4, 1970 at 1:30am. But, she was vibrantly alive one night at Le Chat Noir and I got to see her, hear her, and love her all over again. Thank you Dorian Rush. Man, you've got a real talent when you can pull this off!

Amy Di Milo

B-Bob's
DOWNTOWN
MOBILE, AL

New Year's Eve
2010
2010

DJ
ROBBIE C.

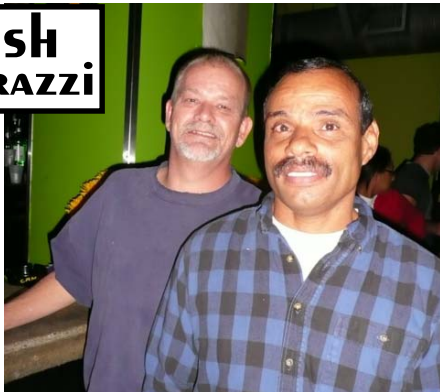
COMPLIMENTARY
PARTY FAVORS!
FREE CHAMPAGNE!
SHOW AT 12:30
FEATURING THE
B-BOB'S CAST &
AMY DE MILO!
DOORS OPEN
@ 9:00 PM!!

**UN
CORKED**

\$500 BALLOON DROP!



Entertainer of the Year Coca & Bartender of the Year Jeff in for Oz's Sunday Night Show



C&B Enterprises' GM John & Ronald pop into Oz for the Sunday show



Chanel & Tubby's Golden Lantern Mgr. Lance



Richard & Paul at Satyricon's Christmas Bazaar & Auction



The fabulous Mercedes Ellis Loreal stars in Sunday Show Night @ Oz



Tubby's Golden Lantern Bar Baron Rick & new bartender David @ the Lantern



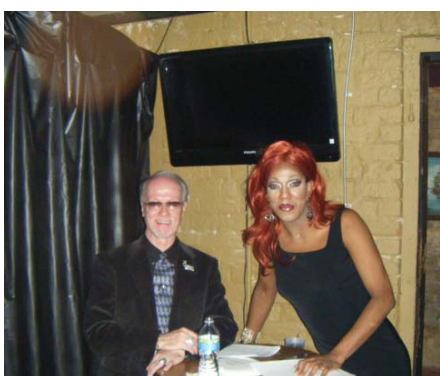
Queen Satyricon Wedon, Christina & Troy at "Silent Night of the Lambs" opening at Le Chat Noir



David, Marcelo, Orlando & Willie @ Society Page's Christmas Party



DJ of the Year Tim Pflueger with Oz's Sunday MC Blanche Debris, the Saints' biggest cheerleader on Bourbon Street



MC Gary Glitter & pageant coordinator Rikki Redd at Miss Tubby's Golden Lantern Pageant



Satyricon Capt. Mickey @ with Queen Satyricon V Hoyle at "Silent Night of the Lambs" opening



Until It Is Over's Don, Randy & Jonathan celebrate @ Society Page's Christmas Party



Another Sunday night showstopper, Tyra Van Ryan @ Oz



Gizelle Bouvier with Miss Tubby's Golden Lantern 1st Runnerup Vanessa Carmichael



Ted & Becky Allen at Satyricon's Christmas Bazaar & Auction at The Friendly Bar Annex



Society Page's Christmas Party brought in the Cutter's brigade



Blanche's daughter, Dusty Debris makes her debut on stage @ Dance Bar of the Year Oz



Miss Tubby's Golden Lantern Judges: Entertainer of the Year Coca, GL's Winston & Starlight's Javier



Tim & Tom at Satyricon's Christmas Bazaar & Auction



Bartender Vaughn served cocktails for Society Page's Christmas Party

So Much More in The Big Easy ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Ambush, Tony Leggio