

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.

# fpc NEWS



Volume 49-08 August 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Buddy Greene in Concert and Worship**

**Belonging to God Is the Truest Thing About You**

By Whitney Alexander

**Refueling Through Fellowship**

By Jaime Carnaggio

**Men's Fall Kick Off**

**Meet a Volunteer**

## AUGUST CALENDAR

Prayer for Our Nation	Sundays, 6 pm
Caring for Others Mtg.	Aug 18
Buddy Greene Workshop	Aug 22
11 am Services Combine	Aug 23
Buddy Greene Concert	Aug 23
Officer Meetings	Aug 24
Joyful Noise Ice Cream Social	Aug 30

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Men's Kick Off	Sept 10
Habitat Build	Sept 24 - Oct 10
Parenting Conference	Oct 9 - 10

## How Do I Get Tickets?

GERRIT DAWSON, SENIOR PASTOR

Gotta love the all-access ticket. It gets you in everywhere. I have friends who get passes for a PGA tournament every year. Their all-access pass not only gets them on the course but into all the tents for free food and drink. They can go anywhere. At church, we have key fobs for access to the buildings. Occasionally, they don't work and people can't get where they want to go. My usual smart-alek reply is, "Well, if you'd just pay your church pledge..." Seriously, an access pass takes you to a place you want to go. It gives you privileges. It opens doors otherwise closed.

Access is one of the deep themes in the book of Hebrews. Access to the throne room of the Most High God. For the Christian, there is an all-access pass into the presence of the King. A ticket to the bounty of his table and the fulfillment of his service. Hebrews calls this a new and living way. The all-access pass gives us the confidence to "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." The access pass is actually not a ticket. It's the blood of Jesus, poured out for us. It's the body of Jesus torn for us. It's the relocation of our lives into his. We go to God by being in Jesus. Joined to Christ, he takes us into the wonder and mysteries of the great reality of God.

Beginning August 9, we'll be diving deep every week into the book of Hebrews, discovering more and more what it means to have access to the King of kings. I hope you'll start reading through this extraordinary book of Scripture on your own, make it part of your prayer life, talk about it with others and get ready to learn more about

Jesus our brother, our king, our priest and our access. It's the ticket you've just got to have!

It's great to be back after four weeks in the mountains. Well, the heat's not actually great, but seeing you is wonderful. And I could hear you all the way in North Carolina - singing out in worship and rejoicing in fellowship during our July combined services. Kudos to Derek, the music leaders, the fellowship organizers and all the participants in a great summer series.

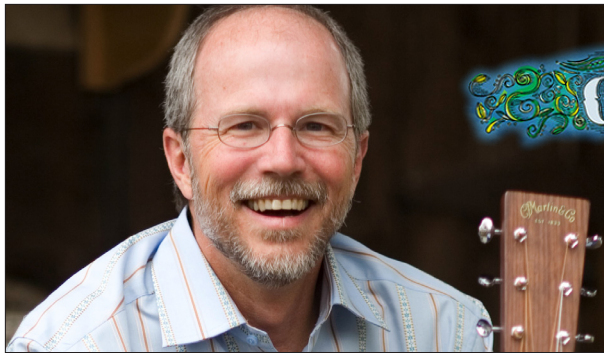
You'll see elsewhere in this issue that Nashville composer and musician Buddy Greene is joining us for worship and a concert Sunday night, August 23. You're going to love him. Trust me on this one and bring lots of friends.

I'm so sad to let you know that our beloved organist Melvin Hale has accepted a job as organist/choir master at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. A cradle Episcopalian, Mel wanted to finish his sterling career serving this beautiful historic church. He loves us and wants to remain close to us. Mel's last Sunday will be August 30. He'll choose the hymns for Classic Reformed worship and finish with a triumphant postlude. We'll follow church with a reception of thanksgiving for his decade of ministry among us. Melvin, we love you and wish you every blessing.

Looking forward to a great Fall season with you,

*Gerrit*





## Singer/Songwriter, Buddy Greene at Worship and in Concert

Sunday, August 23, Nashville recording artist and songwriter Buddy Greene will join us for worship at the 9 & 11 sanctuary services. Sunday night Buddy and his keyboardist, Jeff Taylor, will perform a concert in the sanctuary at 6 pm. Buddy delights audiences of all ages with great musicianship, crossover style and a passionate faith. He is most famously known for writing the Christmas hymn, "Mary Did You Know?"

On Saturday, August 22, Buddy will teach a workshop called "How to Worship Well and Lead Worship Well." Those interested in learning more about leading worship can join us in the sanctuary from 3 pm to 4.30 pm. Cost is free, but it is essential to sign up online ([fpchr.org](http://fpchr.org)) for the workshop and childcare (4 years and younger). You may also register at the Connection Center.

**\*\*On Sunday, August 23, both 11 am worship services will combine in the sanctuary.**

### In Memoriam:

June 19, 2015

Edith Frazer

Grandmother of Ashley Sides

June 28, 2015

Greg Glueck

Brother of Randy Glueck

July 14, 2015

Wylie Mae Greene

Grandmother of Boyd Greene

July 24, 2015

Billy Dever

Brother of Mary Blumentritt

July 29, 2015

Allen Harris

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Sanctuary flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary ...

**Aug 2** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall Shaw given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Gill, Mr. William Marshall Shaw, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht II and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Holden Spaht.

**Aug 9** ... to the glory of God and with grateful appreciation for our pastors and the church staff by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac, Jr.

**Aug 16** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy, and Catherine Pugsley.

**Aug 23** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

**Aug 30** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydston and Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr., parents of Nan and Herb Boydston.

## Belonging to God Is the Truest Thing About You by Whitney Alexander

God has been working deep in my heart and soul over the past 100 days during a sabbatical, a Romania Mission Trip, Fuller graduation, General Assembly and the Transforming Community Retreat.

This quote from *Wilderness Time* by Emilie Griffin describes part of my journey: "Times come when we yearn for more of God than our schedules will allow. We are tired, we are crushed, we are crowded by friends and acquaintances, commitments and obligations. The life of grace is abounding but we are too busy for it. Even good obligations begin to hem us in." The past few months have been healing for my soul as I reflected on Jesus' words to Bartimaeus in Mark 10: 51: "What do you want me to do for you?" My desire is to be in God's presence but this has been difficult over the past year. The German theologian Meister Eckhart puts it this way: "The reason we do not see God is the faintness of our desire."

Normally shying from emotion, I have learned that it is important to let yourself feel how deep your desire goes. Desire is the fuel that drives the spiritual journey. Bartimaeus was able to cry out and throw off his cloak, get up and follow Jesus. Similarly, Jesus has invited me in during the sabbatical to help heal my heart and soul. When was the last time I felt a longing for God and a desire to awaken my soul?

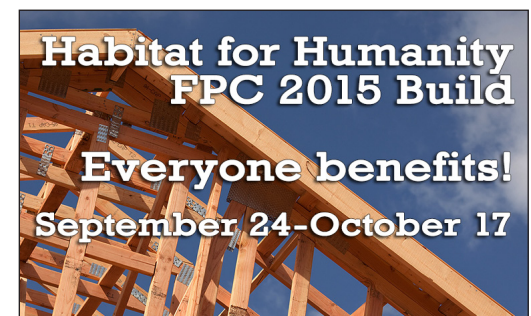
## Men's Kick Off

Save the date for the annual Men's Fall Kick Off (formerly called "Faith and Football") at 6 pm on Thursday, September 10. This evening will "kick off" our Fall study on the book of Ephesians. Following Monday's event, we'll meet weekly on Thursdays at 6.30 am. All men are invited - bring your friends!

God does heal us, and I have felt this process beginning. The safest thing is to be open with Jesus. I have asked myself several questions lately: *Am I able to feel Christ's compassion for the part of me that yearns for something I do not yet have? Am I able to be compassionate with myself? Who attempts to silence my desire?*

Desire is the truest thing about you — desire to belong, to contribute to God's kingdom, to live with the people you love and to live well with God. When I am in touch with desire, a myriad of opportunities begin to open up. Questions often come to my heart: *What does Christ want to show me about myself if I am really honest about my desires? What parts of my desire seem to come from my ego-self or from my true self? Is there something Christ is inviting me to do in order to live out my heart's desire? What aspects of my desires are something only Christ can accomplish? And am I really willing to keep owning my desire in Christ's presence if I can trust in his timing?*

These are questions I will continue to bring before God. Spiritual transformation is a process that only Christ can accomplish in us for the sake of others. God is the only one who can transform my heart and soul. I am learning what it truly means to be still and know who God is in my heart and soul (Psalm 46: 10). This spiritual transformation journey is for the rest of my life.



## Refueling Through Fellowship

by Jaime Carnaggio



Left to right: Brittany Comeaux, Rosemary Beall, Jaime Carnaggio and Carol Osborne.

Let's see. An average day in the life of a mother of young children: Make coffee, make beds (if time), change diapers, brush teeth and hair (don't forget self), sign homework papers, wipe up spill, grab breakfast to go, spend 20 minutes loading up car, wipe up another spill, drop off 5-year-old at school, go to grocery, realize 2-year-old doesn't have shoes on... And it's only 8 am. So when Thursday morning rolls around, there is nothing I'd rather do than to refuel in fellowship with my Mothers of Little Ones group (MoLo), to be rescued from life's many distractions and focus on Scripture.

It has been such a blessing for me to lead such a strong group of women each week who are hungry for the gospel. I honestly don't know how I would survive this season of life without this beautiful community of women to lean on, study with, pray with, laugh with and even cry with. I'm in awe of their insight, the comments shared and questions raised, all of which push us deeper into our understanding of our Father. Madeline Ellis told me, "I always leave grounded in the Word, renewed in spirit and tethered more tightly to women I love and trust more every day." And Lindsey Cotton has said, "MoLo is an answered prayer in my life. This group has provided lifelong friendships and a deep study of God's Word. To be able to pray for your fellow sister in Christ and encourage one another is truly a gift." I echo both of these women's sentiments. I love being connected to each of these women through prayer and study, and I leave every week feeling so re-energized and inspired by each of them.

The majority of the women in MoLo are in their 20s and 30s with younger children. Our fall semester starts on Thursday, September 10 from 9.30-11 am, and we will be studying Ephesians. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at [jlcaraggio@yahoo.com](mailto:jlcaraggio@yahoo.com).

## MEET A VOLUNTEER



thank you

### BONNIE PEDEN

#### How long has Bonnie been a member of First?

4 1/2 years

#### How long has Bonnie been volunteering at First?

1 year

#### Volunteer responsibilities:

Answering phones and doors and realizing that when people call, she is the voice they are going to associate with First Presbyterian. She feels it is important to reflect the Spirit as she works. Will do anything anyone asks her to do.

#### What does Bonnie do in her "off" time?

She is a mom with lots of grandchildren and spends a lot of time with her sons. Loves to study God's Word and listen to Christian radio and broadcasts. Explores any opportunity to grow in God's Word and follow his call. Hosting and hospitality are very important things she pursues as well.

#### Hobbies?

Gardening, cleaning, cooking for shut-ins.

#### Favorite Color?

Blue—reminds her of the sky.

#### How has Bonnie been blessed by volunteering?

Getting the exposure to the pastoral and support staff has enabled her to grow by leaps and bounds—realizes first hand how hard the pastoral and support staff works on a daily basis; how difficult the day to day effort of running a church this size is. It has enabled her to want to do more. She has not grown in her careers in the way she has grown in Christ via her volunteer efforts.

## Caring for Others

If you are interested in serving those in your church who are experiencing personal difficulty and need a meal or an encouraging visit, please pray about meeting Tuesday, August 18 at 1 pm in the library. We will discuss ways to minister and bless others. Contact Dr. Gates ([dick@fpabr.org](mailto:dick@fpabr.org)) or call 620.0228.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**Come Worship with Us!**  
7.45 am Chapel Communion Service  
9 am Contemporary Service  
11 am Classic Reformed Service  
11 am Acoustic Communion Service

### AUGUST SERMON TEXTS

**Aug 2, AD 2015**

Genesis 50: 15-21

**Aug 9, AD 2015**

Hebrews 1: 1-14

**Aug 16, AD 2015**

Hebrews 2: 5-18

**Aug 23, AD 2015**

Hebrews 3: 1-6

**Aug 30, AD 2015**

Hebrews 3: 7 - 4: 2

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Gerrit S. Dawson**

Senior Pastor

**Richard "Dick" Gates**

Associate Pastor for Global Missions and Pastoral Care

**M. Whitney Alexander**

Associate Pastor of City Ministry

**Derek McCollum**

Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Young Adults

**Barry Phillips**

Ministry Executive

**Josh Maddin**

Associate Pastor of Student Ministry



PH: 225.387.0617  
FAX: 225.338.1010

[www.fpabr.org](http://www.fpabr.org)

763 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool:  
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center:  
225.387.2287

[www.brchristiancounseling.com](http://www.brchristiancounseling.com)

# Ice Cream Social



Please join the Joyful Noise Children's Choir at an Ice Cream Party! All families with children are invited to come meet the new directors, play games and have ice cream! The party will be held in the gym on Sunday, August 30 from 4 to 6 pm. For more information, please contact Lauren Honea, [lauren@fpabr.org](mailto:lauren@fpabr.org).

## Making a Difference In Our Schools

School is just around the corner and we will soon be recruiting volunteers to join our ministry at Buchanan Elementary. Consider donating a small amount of your time this year by serving as a Reading Friend, Teacher Encourager, Storytime Reader or Event Volunteer. We have an urgent need this year for someone to coordinate the Teacher Encourager program. This role involves matching church members with teachers that would like an Encourager and sending reminders throughout the year to the Encouragers to keep them on track. If you would like more information on the Coordinator role or any other volunteer opportunities, please email Laura Shaw at [laurashaw2@yahoo.com](mailto:laurashaw2@yahoo.com) or call 225.278.1929.

## Fall Promotion Sunday

On Sunday, August 16, Children's Ministry will promote our kids to the next grade/class level. On this Sunday, we will also kick off the new semester of children's Sunday School. During each new lesson we will focus on the magnificent character of our great God and point our kids to the good news of Jesus in each story. Our new curriculum will present a great God who is worthy to be admired and imitated! This is an excellent time to have your children join us in Sunday School!

## Parenting Conference in October

The Children's and Youth Ministries are planning a parenting conference for the night of Friday, October 9 and the day of Saturday, October 10. Mark your calendar!