

GOLD

The Power of the Name by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

I used to dread Lent. The austerity and sheer length of it daunted me. But now I eagerly anticipate this season. Why? Because I finally get to share with you what I've been working on for eight months! This year we're focusing on *Lord Jesus Christ: Living into His Name*. When I began preparing our guide book last summer, I wondered if I could find enough names and titles of Jesus to fill 42 days.

Silly me! The challenge was actually limiting the selection of amazing titles given to Jesus in the Scriptures. And each one is a pathway into knowing him better and praising him more.

I'm stunned by how powerful it is to pray the names of Jesus. Each title is like the facet of a diamond. As we admire a particular facet, discovering and rehearsing its beauty before the Lord, the splendor of the whole stone lights us up. Names are intimate. They speak of the essence of a person. They grant entrée into someone's life. As we pray the names of Jesus, we know him better and therefore love him more. Loving him through his names, we discover how he transforms us.

This Lent, I want to lead you into the kinds of prayer that opened up the names of Jesus for me. I long to guide you down paths of contemplation which I had seldom walked but now cherish. I'm eager to read and pray daily with you, to be in small groups with you, and to take up these gorgeous names of our savior each week in worship.

I sincerely believe this could be the most powerful Lent we've

yet experienced. Not because anything that comes out of me is so great. But because Jesus is so magnificent. And his Spirit leads us to experience that glory as we take his names on our lips and offer him the praise that arises from deep consideration of his Word.

Please, please plan now to attend a Lenten home group. Sign-ups begin February 17. Books will be distributed March 10 with groups beginning that night. You will also be able to sign up for e-delivery which includes access to songs and hymns we have recorded to go with the series.

Stewardship Update

You continue to amaze me! The final count on our Christmas offering for city ministry has now topped \$60,000! Gardere Community Christian School and the Christian Outreach Center will put these funds to great use. Meanwhile, our estimates of giving for 2019 have broken all records. We've had a significant increase in the number of people making estimates of giving, and therefore a wonderful increase for the mission and ministry of the church. This was truly great timing and answered prayer. Several years ago, we used some special funding for Sunday worship enhancement. As those funds conclude, the augmenting of our worship music needed to be picked up by our regular budget. Now we can do that! And of course we will be expanding mission and church programming as well. God has worked through you to keep our church strong and surging forward. I'm so thankful!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

rEcess	Feb 1
Global Missions Conference	Feb 2-3
Created for Connection Workshop	Feb 8-9
Lenten Small Group Sign Ups	Feb 17
Gold Youth Gala	Feb 22
Congregational Meeting	Feb 24
Discover First Dinner	Feb 24

ONGOING EVENTS

"12 Steps with Christ Jesus" Weds. 12.15 pm
 Sunday Evening Prayer at 5 pm

UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

Ash Wednesday	Mar 6
Weekly Lent Worship Begins	Mar 6
First Sunday of Lent	Mar 10

BAPTISMS:

January 13, 2019
 Vivienne Kathleen Forsthoff
 Parents are Katie and Ryan Forsthoff

Hazel Grace Maddox
 Parents are Elise and Brandon Maddox

MARRIAGES:

January 5, 2019
 Victoria Bechnel and William Bacon

IN MEMORIAM:

December 23, 2018
 J.B. Smith

January 12, 2019
 Michael Harrison-cousin of Alfred Shelton

January 19, 2019
 Lucille Harris-mother of Janet Lemoine

January 24, 2019
 Ann Brent-mother of Greg Boyd

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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of . . .

FEB 3 . . . Helen and John Waldie, parents of Joann Thurston and Robert Moore Thurston, father of Scott Thurston, given by Joann and Scott Thurston.

FEB 10 . . . Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Cabbage and Mr. and Mrs. Frances G. Frazier, parents of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson.

FEB 17 . . . Clifton Frank Fabr , Sue Spaht and Susan Spaht by Margery, Kip, John, David, Farin and Calvin Fabr .

FEB 24 . . . James Howard and Emogene S. Elliott by their family, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac (Elizabeth Elliott) and Dr. Clifton O. Bingham III.

Safety, Beautification and Budget by Barry Phillips, Ministry Executive



If you really invest your spiritual energy in your church, which would include time on campus, it won't be long before you realize that there are layers upon layers of life-giving and even life-altering aspects of First Presbyterian "church life." Over time, the truth that's borne on each sermon or Lenten lesson or small group study takes root and bears fruit. God's Word discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts and draws us into God's grace and life in his Beloved Son. Life flourishes. Lives are altered. One begins to recognize the subtleties of hallway embraces and the roar of Sunday worship greeting time and see how we love one another. It becomes evident in so many ways. We teach and care for kids and families in our community through Mother's Day Out. We display the art of members who've been gifted to speak through charcoal and pastels and oils. We grace our place with seasonal decorations and care for this grand old structure to ensure it will live even into the 22nd century (God willing); the recent waterproofing and roofing project gives testimony. As the chill of a winter morning is cut by an outdoor fire on our multi-tiered terrace or as guests are welcomed into our Sanctuary for the annual Christmas pilgrimage or we welcome those who visit our campus to mourn the loss of friends or loved ones, Christ's love is extended graciously. It comes, literally, as second nature to us as we live out new life in Christ Jesus.

And the not so apparent layers provide foundation for it all. Recent decisions of our Session to proactively provide an added layer of protection for our people has launched Security Response Teams that are present at each of our services and major events. Should there be a time of trouble or danger, they are equipped to respond. These same decisions ushered in an effort to improve the basic security of our campus, particularly enhancing the inner perimeter entrances, landscaping and fencing (similar to our playgrounds). All this while enhancing the beauty of this place at the same time. The final architectural rendering for these improvements will be reviewed next month. Work will begin in the spring.

Layers upon layers of testimony and prayer, preaching and teaching, worship and the Table, attending to the work of missions abroad and ministries at home, our church is alive, living and active, unified in life and love so that the world may know that God sent his son to save us.

And then, there's the budget. The reality of the western world. The cost of doing business. We maintain no inventory nor do we sell products or services. We don't rely on fundraisers or benefactors. We rely on each other to recognize the financial reality of what's required to be the church. We trust that the Lord will draw us into his economy to invest in his kingdom. We examine our blessings and resources and we know from whence they come. And then . . . we cheerfully give.

Our Stewardship this year has exceeded any before. Through you, God has provided for his church. Your estimates of giving for 2019 exceeds \$3,000,000. It will provide full support for all the layers of mission and ministry God has called us to. We can look forward to the coming year with great expectation for what he is going to do in us and through us. Thank you for your faithfulness and cheerful giving.

Grace,

Created for Connection Couples' Workshop, February 8-9



Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center is offering a couples' workshop February 8-9 based on Dr. Sue Johnson's book, "Hold Me Tight" and Emotionally Focused Therapy. Emotionally Focused Therapy is a research-proven therapy which shows significant improvements to relationships in 90% of couples who participate. Details and registration are online at brchristiancounseling.com.

FOUND: A Worship Mosaic by Lauren Honea, Director, Joyful Noise Choir Director

Mosaic is defined as a surface decoration made by inlaying pieces of variously colored material to form pictures or patterns. I think God thinks in mosaics. Bringing together each horrible and wonderful thing that happens, God creates a beautiful picture of redemption. What a bursting of joy to find that every misstep, broken heart and joyful laugh of our lives can be an offering of worship to a grand Artist. Therefore, worship isn't simply confined to church services. Colossians tells us that: "Whatever you *DO*, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Worship can be anything!

This spring Joyful Noise Children's Choir will work toward presenting an offering of worship.

It is a worship experience for children led by children where they are allowed to explore worship in as many forms as possible. We will focus on the visual arts, physical movement, music and fellowship. Our children will use these various art forms to reenact how Christ finds us through the story of the Prodigal Son. A different art form will be explored each Sunday with a master artist sharing their craft and their heart. On May 5 at 5 pm, Joyful Noise will present this special worship in a service called *Found: A Worship Mosaic*. There will even be a celebratory meal afterward—just like the story of the Prodigal Son! If your child hasn't joined us yet, now is the time! Join us as we come together to celebrate and create a living mosaic to the One who finds us time and again.

Interested in a Mission Trip to Romania?

If you are interested in learning more about this mission trip to help the Smiles Foundation, please come to an informational meeting on Sunday, February 24 at 12.15 pm in Room 202. Trip dates are June 7-16, 2019. For more information, please contact Whitney Alexander (whitney@fpcbr.org).



Let Them Eat Cake!

Come join us for a festive time of fellowship and fun! We will taste King Cakes from various local bakeries and vote for our favorite!



Then, we will spend time sharing with you all of the exciting things happening in Women's Ministry. We are eager to hear your feedback and answer any questions. We will end our time together in focused prayer for the ministry and for our women. Registration is coming soon. No cost – just come! Laissez les bon temps roulez!

Women's Ministry Vision Gathering
Tuesday, February 19 at 6.30 pm
At the home of Jaime Carnaggio
15535 Esprit Drive

FPC YOUTH MINISTRY
 INVITES YOU TO THE 2019
 YOUTH GALA

**GO
 LD**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22 6.30 PM
 COUNTRY CLUB OF LOUISIANA
 COCKTAIL ATTIRE

\$100 PER PERSON
 \$1000 FOR TABLE OF 8

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
 THE GIVER: \$500
 THE PURIFIER: \$1500
 THE REFINER: \$2500

**DETAILS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE
 ONLINE AT FPCBR.ORG.**

**ONLINE BIDDING GOES LIVE
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
 9 am Contemporary
 11 am Classic Reformed

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

FEBRUARY 3, 2019
 Missions Sunday
 Ephesians 2: 11-18

FEBRUARY 10, 2019
 Luke 7: 18-23

FEBRUARY 17, 2019
 Luke 7: 24-35

FEBRUARY 24, 2019
 Luke 7: 36-50

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
 Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
 Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
 Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON
 Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS
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 Men's Ministry & Young Adults



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 Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
 225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
 225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com

Discover First Dinner

A few times a year, senior pastor Gerrit Dawson hosts a Discover First dinner. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry.

Our next Discover First Dinner is Sunday, February 24, 2019 from 4 - 7 pm. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Meagan Greene (meagan@fpcbr.org or 225.454.2504).

Care to Share?

FPC is collecting art to display for one year in our Art Gallery on the 1st floor of the Education Building. Contact Meagan Greene (meagan@fpcbr.org) with any questions.

Session Income Allocation Grants

The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications between February 11-March 25 for financial grants for individuals interested in pursuing full time Christian ministry. Please contact Jaci if you have questions (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

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Congregational Meeting

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 24 at 10.15 in the Sanctuary. The purpose is to receive a report on 2018, hear a presentation on our 2019 budget, elect at-large members to the nominating committee and conduct any other business that is before us. These annual meetings give us a great opportunity as one church to give thanks for all that God has done and is doing in our midst. There will be no adult Sunday school classes that day.



Gerrit