

fpc NEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

January 2016 Volume 50-01

Godspeed Dick and Judie!

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

An era ends. I can't believe it's been a decade. Dick Gates is retiring January 31 and he and Judie are moving to Arizona to be near their family.



Now the rest of us pastors are going to have to work for a living!

Dick has been a visiting, praying, mission promoting machine. His absence will be felt. His shoes are impossible to fill.

In fact, it's nearly impossible to overstate the impact he has had on our church.

A decade ago, tensions between our services were real. They're pretty much nonexistent now. Loving care of each and every member who is ill, grieving or in crisis goes a long way in creating unity.

A decade ago, we made some hard decisions about day care, denominations,

service time changes, and a commitment to renovate our buildings. In a time when questions got asked, attendance dipped and my leadership could have been questioned, it wasn't. A committed session joined a loyal pastoral staff. And none more loyal than Dick Gates. He has always, always, always had my back. He never hesitated to tell me directly if he saw me making an errant turn. He never hesitated to follow decisions I made, even dumb ones, and no one could get him to utter a negative word. We got through that season and entered a time of great advancement. Dick's passionate loyalty was key in that.

Under Dick's leadership, global mission got re-energized even as it got more personalized. It takes a globe-trotting pastor to keep the ties tight between a church and its missions around the world. Dick had the vision to invite Sameh Maurice here, and that ignited our partnership with Kasr El Dohara Church in Cairo, allowing us to see a dynamic influence for Christ through these partners. And that inspired new full time missionaries from our church to hit the field. Our mission conferences still grow in both excitement and attendance. Dick's leadership has raised our profile in the world community of evangelical churches.

And he has taught us to love prayer. Every week, between the 9 and 11 services, Dick and a team pray for people with particular needs. Every week, he leads prayer for our nation and community. Every week, he visits dozens of people, with his faithful beloved beside him, to pray for those facing surgeries, funerals or crises.

Talk to him ten minutes, and he will get you promising to pray for suffering Christians in the Middle East. Ten more minutes and you will be on a plane to do a mission trip!

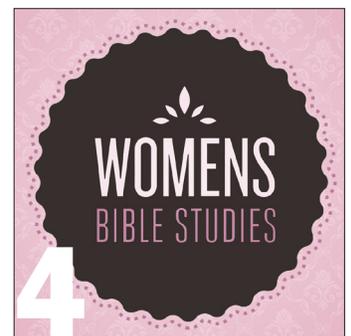
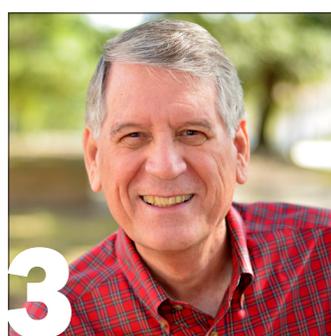
Dick works with the joy of the Lord. His whistling and his laugh are heartiest in the early morning, and he refuses to let us be grumpy in the office. We could never get him to give up the Buckeyes as his favorite football team, but we did teach him how to shoot pistols!

Soon, a search committee will seek an Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, Prayer and Spiritual Growth. Whitney, who shares Dick's vibrant passion for global as well as local mission, will add world mission to his full pastoral plate. Whitney will also help coordinate pastoral care until the new associate arrives. The church will go on, far better for this decade of wonderful, consecrated service. But oh, how we will miss Dick and Judie!

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JANUARY CALENDAR

Church Offices Closed	Jan 1
Wim Book Study Begins	Jan 6
FAS Crowd	Jan 6
rEcess	Jan 8
BRSO Concert	Jan 14
Gates' Farewell Gala	Jan 17
Community Outreach Meal	Jan 24
Global Missions Conference	Jan 30-31

UPCOMING DATES

Vivaldi Four Seasons Concert	Feb 4
Ash Wednesday	Feb 10
BRSO Concert	Feb 11
Discover First New Members Class	Feb 21

IN MEMORIAM:

December 1, 2015
David Lindrew

December 2, 2015
Beverly Robinson

December 16, 2015
Bob Munson

BAPTISMS:

December 20, 2015
Jane Carlisle Valluzzo
Parents are Nick and Rebecca Valluzzo

December 20, 2015
Hannah GuangYue Norris
Parents are Michael and Elizabeth Norris

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The Advent poinsettias will remain in the Sanctuary and Chapel until January 6.

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

Jan 10 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dana Othmer by Hans, Devan and Jacob Othmer.

Jan 17 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Norwood Jr. and Larry Charles Musgrove Sr. by Chrystal Norwood Musgrove and family.

Jan 24 ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clifton Frank Fabré by his wife, Margery, and children: Natalie and Kip Fabré; Sandy and John Fabré; Lauren and David Fabré; Farin and Marty Ware and Calvin Fabré and the girls.

Jan 31 Open Date.

Closing Thoughts By Dick Gates

Dear Ones,

This is a final opportunity to share a few things with you as I will retire January 31, 2016. Judie and I are moving to New River, AZ, to be near our two sons and granddaughter's families. We will move sometime after the middle of February. We have had a house built and have our house here on the market.

When we moved here in May of 2005, we knew the reputation of FPC but not the depth of love and fellowship that has made this church the most wonderful ministry opportunity of all the six churches I have pastored the last 41 years through seminary and beyond! Judie and I have experienced much love and joy serving you all. It has truly been a labor of love for us both. We are very excited about being with our family but the sadness of leaving a large part of our hearts here is painful. You have been gracious to us and I believe Gerrit Dawson is the best Senior Pastor in the EPC! I won't even miss his awesome sermons because I can watch him on streaming video in AZ!!! Our staff also is and the best days for Global Missions are just ahead with Dr. Whitney Alexander and the Global Missions Committee.

Magnolia Strings to Perform *The Four Seasons* By Steve Rushing

First Presbyterian Church Baton Rouge welcomes The Magnolia Strings to the Sanctuary on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7 p.m. for a special concert presentation of Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. This most popular of Vivaldi's works has been recorded over 1000 times and excerpts from this work can be heard in covers, remixes, themes in theater and opera, soundtracks in films and video games.

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* is a set of four concertos. The solo concerto as a genre suggests a conversation of sorts between a solo instrument and a larger ensemble. The solo instrument in *The Four Seasons* is the violin; Borilsava Ilitcheva will be the featured soloist.

Vivaldi's concertos were published in 1725 as part of a set of twelve, *The Contest of Harmony and Invention*. The concertos were inspired not just by the seasons themselves, but by a set of four sonnets written about spring, summer, autumn and winter. *The Four Seasons* can therefore be classified as "programmatic," music that intends to evoke something extra-musical.



Coming Up In the New Year

Please plan to attend the Decision America Prayer Rally 2016 with Franklin Graham on January 13 at noon on the corner of North Blvd. and 3rd Street (Town Square) to pray for America please.

We continue to meet every Sunday in the Sanctuary from 5 to 6 pm to pray for our country and the Church.

My final Global Missions responsibility will be our Mission Conference January 30-31, with Rev. Dr. Sameh Hanna Sr., Associate Pastor of Kasr El Dobra Evangelical Church in Cairo, Egypt. This event promises to be very insightful on what is happening in the Middle East and how the Gospel is at work by the Holy Spirit there. Please invite your friends because what Sameh will share you will not hear on the evening news! Thank you for praying for these opportunities to go Deeper in Christ and Further into the World with the Gospel.

I am in your debt for the privilege of serving you as one of your p

astors these last short ten and a half years. I/we love you deeply.

All of the concertos demonstrate virtuosic musical displays by the players but especially by the soloist. "Spring" begins with the crispness of a cloudless spring day and features singing, murmuring streams, thunderstorms birdsongs, a barking dog and a lively dance for country folk. "Summer" begins slowly with the feeling that it is too hot to move. Other effects include a slow singing bird and a summer wind that foreshadows a coming storm. "Autumn" returns to the themes of the first concerto but this time rejoicing in a successful harvest. A fall hunt with horn calls and a chase are evoked. "Winter" opens with shivering cold, icy winds and chattering teeth and ends with a reminder that even the coldest of seasons has its specific charms and moments of contentment.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to hear Vivaldi's work in its entirety with the original instrumentation. What an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to our beautiful sanctuary for an event that surely will be unforgettable. The concert is free and open to the public and supported by Benn and Amanda Vincent.

2016 WiM Studies

We want to welcome you to Women in Ministry's (WiM) offerings for Winter/Spring 2016.

C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE

Each Wednesday in January we will gather around the fireplace in the parlor of the Sanctuary to discuss C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. Elizabeth Parker, WiM Director, is excited about facilitating this dialogue. Our first book discussion is at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6 and ends Wednesday, January 27. Women of all ages and stations are welcome. There will be hot chocolate... as if studying a C.S. Lewis book isn't enough to persuade you to join us. Please register online (fpcbr.org) for childcare.

1 SAMUEL

Beginning the first week of February, Elizabeth will teach through the first part of 1 Samuel. Join her Tuesday evenings at 6.30 at her home (2502 McGrath Ave. Apt. 6 - contact her for the gate code), Wednesday afternoons at 2 (location to be determined) or Thursday mornings at 9.30 (Education Building room 202) to partake in what is sure to be a challenging, encouraging and enjoyable study of God's redemptive plan found in 1 Samuel. All ages are welcome. Don't hesitate to contact Elizabeth directly at elizabeth@fpcbr.org, or Sherry at sherry@fpcbr.org, for further information. Please register online (fpcbr.org) for childcare.

PROVERBS

Also beginning the first week of February, Jaime Carnaggio will start a Bible Study for mothers of little ones (MoLo) on Thursday mornings at 9.30. Jaime will teach through the book of Proverbs pointing us toward Christ each week. This Bible study meets in the church library. Contact Jaime for more information, jaim@fpcbr.org. Please register online (fpcbr.org) for childcare.

OLD TESTAMENT

Lisa Head and Liz (Thurston) Kreitler are teaching studies in the Old Testament each Wednesday morning at 6.30. Currently studying Kings, this energetic and devoted group of women is dedicated to learning and applying God's truth in a personal way, progressively going through the Bible chapter by chapter. All women are welcome to join us! Contact Lisa for more information, lhead3@cox.net.

GRACE BASED PARENTING

Robyn Zartman and Barat Travis will begin the parenting series *Grace Based Parenting* by Tim Kimmel. This group of women meets every other Thursday morning at 9.30 in the Bride's room beginning the first week of February. Please register online (fpcbr.org) for childcare.

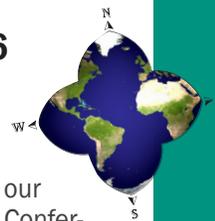


Tryouts for Narnia, The Musical

The Creative Arts Department is excited to announce "Narnia" The Musical, directed by Terry Byars, coming to the Sanctuary on April 14, 15, 16 and 17. Tryouts will be Saturday, January 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the choir room. Please be prepared to sing a selection of your choice. Call backs will be Sunday, January 10 at 4 pm. Ages 12 and over only.

Mission Conference 2016

The Global Mission Committee is happy to welcome back Sameh Hanna from Kasr el Dohara Evangelical Church in Cairo, Egypt as our guest for the 2016 Global Mission Conference. Mark your calendars now for a weekend of learning and praise. Stay tuned for further details.



January Circles

1ST MONDAY, JAN 4

WoW Circle 15 Not meeting this month

1ST TUESDAY, JAN 5

WoW Circle 1 Bea Ferris' @ 9.45 a.m.
10364 Hillyard Ave (293.0695)

WoW Circle 2 Church Parlor @ 9.45 a.m.
WoW Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 a.m.

1ST THURSDAY, JAN 7

WoW Circle 11 Church Library @ noon

1ST FRIDAY, JAN 8

WoW Circle 7 Sara Blankenstein's @ 2 p.m.
2030 Terrace Ave (344.7911)

2ND MONDAY, JAN 11

WoW Circle 13 CP Apts. @ 2 p.m.
WoW Circle 14 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 a.m.
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

2ND TUESDAY, JAN 12

WoW Circle 4 Michelle DeSimone's @ 6.30 p.m.
2055 Old Carriage Ln (349.8598)
WoW Circle 5 Contact the church office
WoW Circle 6 Suzanne Booth's @ 10 a.m.
1211 Keed Ave. (926.1929)
WoW Circle 8 Brenda Martinez's @ 6.30 p.m.
3856 N. Bluebonnet (663.6752)
WoW Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 p.m.
Contact Ann Gregorie (937.0488)

3RD WEDNESDAY, JAN 13

WoW Circle 10 Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm
5412 Government St.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 a.m. Chapel Communion Service
9 a.m. Contemporary Service
11 a.m. Classic Reformed Service
11 a.m. Acoustic Communion

JANUARY SERMON TEXTS

January 3, 2016

"Do This"

I Corinthians 10: 16-17; 11, 23-26

January 10, 2016

"Playing in the Fountain"

I Peter 3: 21-22

January 17, 2016

"She Wet His Feet with Tears"

Luke 7: 36-50

January 24, 2016

"Changing Soil"

Luke 8: 4-8

January 31, 2016

Mission Sunday

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Services

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

Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry



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Mother's Day Out and Preschool:
225.620.0245

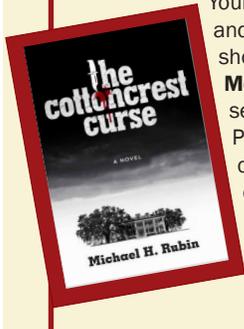
Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center:
225.387.2287

www.brchristiancounseling.com

JANUARY FAS CROWD

Local author and nationally-acclaimed public speaker Michael H. Rubín will share a multi-media presentation on his latest book, *The Cottoncrest Curse*. A multigenerational thriller that begins with the Civil War and ends in the present day, Rubín will speak on the legal and historical background of his book.

**Wednesday, January 6 at 11:30 am
Juban's Restaurant**



Your check for \$25 made out and mailed to Winnie Gill should be received by **Monday, January 4** and will serve as your reservation. Please indicate on your check if you would like chicken or fish.

**Please mail your payment to: Winnie Gill
37 Jamestowne Court
Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

Be an Encourager

The Buchanan Elementary ministry still has two teachers at the school who haven't been adopted by an encourager. Ms. Gotch and Ms. Traylor would love their very own encourager! Stop by the Connection Center or email Laura Shaw at laurashaw2@yahoo.com if you would like to help.

Here to Help!

The Diaconate has a growing passion to help the home bound and needy within our congregation. Perhaps you know of someone who could use a ride to Sunday worship; or an elderly member who could use occasional help with small household tasks. These are examples of the kinds of small and often unspoken needs that exist within our church community and where the deacons hope to help.

If you have a need, or know of a member with a need, or would like to participate, please contact Barry Phillips at the church office at 387.0617 or barry@fpcbr.org.

Godspeed, cont.

Dinner to Honor the Gates

The church will host a ticketed, catered dinner Sunday, January 17 at 5 p.m. to honor (and maybe roast a wee bit) Dick and Judie. Tickets are \$15 and limited to 300 people. Child care and children's choir will be provided concurrently. Email Gerrit if you would like one of a limited number of complementary seats.

Global Mission Conference

Dick's final weekend includes his favorite event: the annual missions conference. Pastor Sameh Hannah from Cairo will be our speaker during Saturday morning sessions, Sunday services and a special Sunday evening prayer event. I can't think of a better way to encourage Dick than to swell the house for this conference, especially for the prayer focus Sunday night. It means so much to him: we can bless him on his way by supporting this great event.