

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

June 2017 Volume 51-06

In Motion and At Rest

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

The rhythm of summer has begun. With the conclusion of the school year, many of us look forward to sleeping longer and doing less. But we're also on the move. Vacations often include travel. Some even say they look forward to going back to work so they can rest from their holidays! The church also moves into both rest and motion. We have four Sundays with single services in July. But meanwhile many of us are traveling.

We've already had two dozen elementary students head to Lake Forest Ranch for a week of recreation and beautiful gospel reflection. (I can always tell in confirmation interviews which kids have gone to Lake Forest: they know the gospel). A dozen middle schoolers have been in New Orleans working with Mission Lab on service projects. And fourteen high schoolers are heading to New York City for eight days of urban service projects in hopes of being inspired to do similar work in our city.

Several of our leaders will be heading this month to Fair Oaks, California for

the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It's always wonderful to go to Assemblies where there is no fighting over essential beliefs, but a joyful focus on sending missionaries, equipping the church, worshipping the Triune God,

to some vacation in the North Carolina mountains. We'll celebrate Rhonda's mother's birthday, see family, hike, read and eat way too much. And I hope to begin research on next year's Lenten Study, called *Real Identity: Living as Christ Defines Us*. Rhonda will be bringing her creative magic to several garden projects and working on some new oil paintings. During the weekdays of July 17-21, I'll be in Orlando teaching a Doctor of Ministry course to a dozen pastors. Theology of Ministry is the course title, but my secret mission is to affirm and refuel these guys who spend all year on the frontlines of ministry.

One of my former doctoral students, Scott Bowen, has become the pastor of the vibrant Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN. Scott is writing his dissertation on the role of pastors and elders in shepherding congregations. He could really use your help via a five minute survey. I told him I would invite you all to take the survey and help his project. *continues on pg. 4...*

refreshing leaders and strengthening our ties of fellowship.

At the end of June, we expect to host over 100 children again for our annual Vacation Bible School. Students can look forward to visits from Biblical characters and a lively week of creative teaching.

Personally, the Dawson's look forward



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JUNE CALENDAR

Open Air Ministries	June 4
Discover First Dinner	June 11
WIM Summer Social	June 13
Father's Day	June 18
Children's Story Time	June 22
VBS Family Night	June 25
VBS	June 26-29

UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

Combined Worship Sundays	July 2-23
Global Missions Conference	Aug 19-20

IN MEMORIAM:

April 27, 2017 - Rusty McKinley

May 2, 2017 - Bob Bradford
Son of Archer Postlethwaite

May 5, 2017 - Yvonne Clay
Mother of Fran White

May 9, 2017 - Jackie Lee Airhart

May 10, 2017 - David Gustafson
Father of Steve Gustafson

May 18, 2017 - Helen Alexander Miller
Aunt of Whitney Alexander

May 21, 2017 - Brother Gabriel Babin
Cousin of Steve Rushing

May 22, 2017 - Rick Parker
Uncle of Elizabeth Parker

May 23, 2017 - Mona Shaw
Mother of Jeff Shaw

May 23, 2017 - Austin Perret

BAPTISMS:

May 14, 2017 - Abigail Rose Beall
Parents are Rosemary and Kyle Beall

BIRTHS:

May 22, 2017 - Michael Henry Fritscher
Parents are Jenna and Patrick Fritscher

WEDDINGS:

May 20, 2017 - Mary Emeline Dawson and
Christopher Rester

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 . . .

June 4 . . . in celebration of the wedding of Fairly Edrington and Joe Carville and in memory of Sue and Bill Edrington.

June 11 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Monroe Gill by Winnie, Wyn and Jane Gill.

June 18 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jack H. Field by Sharon, David, Stephanie, Sydney and Estin Field.

June 25 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Dorothy and Joachim Aubert and Emma and Pete and Ramos by Fe' and Murphy Aubert.



Momentous, Meaningful and Memorable

by Audra Cato, Director of Children's Ministry

It's that time of year. Teachers get ready for a much-needed break and parents readjust their lives for summer. We plan camps, vacations, play dates and extra family time. As

teachers wind down children's ministry winds up. One of the greatest ministries in our church is Vacation Bible School. Why is our VBS ministry so important?

During VBS we have our children with us for an entire week of the summer. This is so exciting for us in children's ministry. We take this time seriously and provide a fun and dynamic way to teach children the Bible and point them to the gospel. We use a variety of teaching elements to reach kids for Christ . . . music, drama, art and physical education.

So, this is great for kids but why is it important for us? We are in this together! During each baptism at First Pres we take a vow to set a godly example and invest in the spiritual nurture of our children. My husband Kinch and I do not have family in Baton Rouge. We could not have made it through our journey as parents without our church family, the nursery staff, the children's ministry team and the many Sunday School teachers that have poured into our children over the past eight years.

VBS is an excellent opportunity to minister to our children in our church and in our community. By word of mouth, we continue to increase our numbers each year. Friends invite friends. During the week of VBS, our church becomes a melting pot for kids from different schools and different backgrounds.

VBS serves as an opportunity to reach families for Christ. We offer home connections for parents so they can connect their kids to the gospel at home. Kids learn and guess what? They want to talk about it and have lots of questions about the Bible and Jesus. Some of them even give their hearts to Jesus. We equip parents to foster these conversations at home and often times parents themselves are being spiritually impacted by what their children are learning at VBS and talking about at home.

We want to foster spiritual formation for our children, volunteers and parents. VBS will not only foster spiritual formation but you will end up spiritually refreshed. Our VBS leaders, teachers and volunteers leave VBS week so spiritually full we start planning the next year the following week. We leave singing hymns with our children, talking about the Bible, discussing the gospel of Jesus and jamming out to fun and exciting songs from our VBS CDs. Last summer my family and I took a road trip to New York and we listened to our VBS CD over and over (and over) again.

As we like to say during VBS week, "Keep calm and VBS on!" Please join me in praying for our children the week of VBS at First Presbyterian. Volunteer opportunities are available online at fpcbr.org.



VBS Family Night:
Sunday, June 25

VBS Dates:

Monday, June 26–Thursday, June 29

(Registration Deadline June 12)

have poured into our children over the past

Are You an Artist?

The Congregational Life Committee is collecting art to display for one year in our FPC Art Gallery on the 2nd floor of the Education Building.

Artwork will swap out in July of each year. Contact meagan@fpcbr.org with any questions.

Men's BBQ Cook-Off, June 8

Join us for our men's ministry kickoff event of the summer. On Thursday, June 8 we will have a BBQ cook-off at 6 pm at Amanda and Benn Vincent's home (6232 Windrush Hollow). Get ready for some really great food and connection with each other! The church is providing the main BBQ entree for everyone and all are invited to bring their favorite side dish. BBQ competitors should bring their entry dish already prepared. Attendance is free but we do need a head count. Register online at fpcbr.org. Please contact Darin Travis for further details, darin@fpcbr.org.



Four Out of Five Sundays in July

First Presbyterian Church will have just one 10.30 am worship service in the Sanctuary for the first four Sundays in July (we resume the normal three service schedule on July 30). Sunday school will be at 9.30 am on these combined worship days.



30 Days of Prayer: May 26-June 25

During the month of Ramadan May 26-June 25, join us in prayer for the Muslim world. We will pray for the hearts of our Muslim brothers and sisters that they come to know the truth of the gospel and the hope that is in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior! Beginning June 4, prayer guides will be available in the Connection Center. Contact Whitney Alexander (whitney@fpcbr.org) for more ways to reach the Muslim world around us.



Women's Summer Socials

You know that feeling when you want to ask a question but you feel like it's the dumbest question ever? Last year's "Now That's a Good Question" summer socials were such a hit, we're doing them again. We're going to give you an opportunity to ask that "dumb" question anonymously.



Join us on Tuesday, June 13 and again on Tuesday, July 11. Come enjoy fellowship and this fun format where a panel of pastor(s) and trained women will answer some commonly asked questions on theology, the church and Christian life.

Luncheons will begin at 11.30 am in the Reception Room. It'll be fun so bring a friend and don't forget to bring your questions.

\$10 per person. Register online or at the Connection Center. Childcare provided.

Ladies Only!

Mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters! Please come and sing for Father's Day, Sunday, June 18 at 9 am and bless the men of our church with your angelic voices. There will be just one rehearsal on Wednesday, June 14 at 6.15 in the Sanctuary. Contact Nancy Spiller at nancy@fpcbr.org.

Discover First Dinner

The next Discover First Dinner is June 11 from 4-7. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. For more information or to sign up, please contact Meagan Greene (225.387.0617 or meagan@fpcbr.org).



Story Time

You and your children are invited to join us in the library on June 22, July 6 and July 27 from 10 to 11.30 am for story time and a play date. Parents are welcome to bring bag lunches for further fellowship. Contact Audra Cato if you have any questions (620.0243).



SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
One 10.30 am service the first four Sundays in July.

JUNE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

June 4
1 Kings 9: 1-9, 11: 1-8

June 11
Ecclesiastes 1: 12-2: 11

June 18
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

June 25
Song of Solomon
Selections to be determined.

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions

Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry

Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive

Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

Darin Travis
Director for Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



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fpcbr.org

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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
www.brchristiancounseling.com



In Motion and At Rest *continued from pg. 1*

Here's the web address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZS26MX9>.

While I'm away the first two Sundays of July, the pulpit will be ably filled. Our Director of Discipleship, Darin Travis, will give his first Sanctuary sermon July 2. And on July 9, our pastor emeritus, Russ Stevenson will be filling the pulpit July 9. I am forever grateful for the twenty years of Word-centered, connective and innovative ministry Russ gave us. July 16, the Foto Sisters will join us to give us a musical treat in the midst of that summer heat. And on July 23, Albert White will deliver a dynamic message as we share leadership to continue to model racial reconciliation in our city. A picnic will follow that service. Also, the Magruder family will be back from Kenya during the summer and we can expect to hear from them during our summer services. Also, several elders will be giving personal testimonies during that time.

So I hope you find some rest this summer, even if you are in motion part of the time. I'm grateful for such a great team of elders and staff who will work together to keep the church pulsing even as we rotate our key staff through some days of refreshing.

I love to be your pastor,

Gewit