

Press into Jesus by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

As for me, it is good to be near God (Ps. 73: 28). This verse became my personal theme last summer as I had the luxury of intentional time to be with the Lord. Out of those times of personal worship and deep meditation came our study for Lent. I'm eager to share it with you, and personally eager to return to the practices that refreshed me so much.

Lent begins this Wednesday! As ever, we will host a noon service in the chapel. This includes the marking with ashes as we prepare for this intentional season of focusing more on Christ.

Then, I heartily invite you to participate vigorously in this year's theme: *Living into His Name*. We will be raiding the vaults of Scripture for treasure! Each day we will bring forth a jewel, a beautiful name for Jesus. We will study it and pray it, inviting Christ more deeply into our hearts as we more robustly praise him through his names and titles.

What's new this year is the ways in which we will strive to move through head knowledge to heart-knowing. Every day I will invite you to close by praying in song: and there will be links to our

website where each song will be presented by our own team of Lauren Honea and Joshua Staes, accompanied by Rachel Reese and Steve Gustafson. You can sing with them! Every day I will invite you to use the ancient *Jesus Prayer*. We will have an opportunity to discover something most Presbyterians have never been taught: how a repetitive Scriptural prayer can dramatically deepen intimacy with Christ. In the home groups we will study Bible passages and also practice time-honored forms of prayer by which Christ can fill our hearts. In our Sunday messages, we will extol the name of the Lord Jesus Christ by working through the great Bible themes of his person and work.

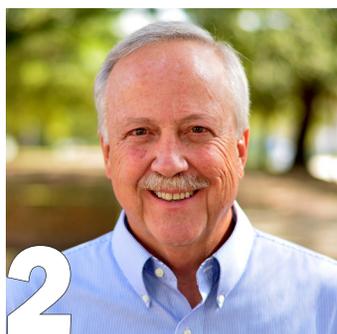
I can promise you: you won't be bored! But you will be nourished, stretched, comforted and challenged. If you and I engage this study daily for 42 days, trusting the process, we will, without doubt, know Christ in a marvelously deeper way. Dive in with me! *As for me, it is good to be near God*. And, as ever, it is good to be your pastor!



Gerrit

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

rEcess	Mar 1
Lenten Small Group Sign Ups	Mar 3
Church Offices Closed	Mar 4-5
Ash Wednesday	Mar 6
Weekly Lent Worship Begins	Mar 6
First Sunday of Lent	Mar 10
Daylight Saving	Mar 10
Blood Drive	Mar 17

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

Godspell Musical	Apr 5, 6 & 7
Palm Sunday	Apr 14
Maundy Thursday	Apr 18
Easter Sunday	Apr 21

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION:

On March 1, 2019, Jessie Gray turns 100! Happy Birthday, Jessie!

BIRTHS:

February 20, 2019 - Helena Comeaux
Parents are Brittany and Jamy Comeaux

BAPTISMS:

February 10, 2019 - Jennings Alden Mayo
Parents are Sarah and Erik Mayo
Grandparents are Terry and Lindsey Spiller

Gregory Welton Boyd, III "Wells"
Parents are Caitlyn and Greg Boyd

MARRIAGES:

February 2, 2019 - Holly Odom and Taylor Cappe

IN MEMORIAM:

February 2, 2019 - Brian Ward Wampold,
brother of Mike Wampold

February 9, 2019 - Marjorie Raborn

February 9, 2019 - Gay Meadors Barnett,
mother of Leah Edrington

February 24, 2019 - Bob Meek, father of
Terri Douglas

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 . . .

MAR 3 . . . our parents, Hazel and Paul Peters and Jerry and Ned Hickel, by Cherie and Bill Peters.

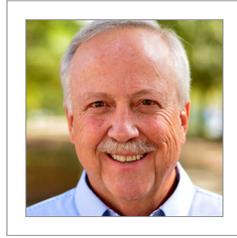
MAR 10 . . . Samuel Eugene Field III, given by Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Eugene Field, Jr.

MAR 17 . . . my parents, Jeanne and Marlin Drake, Jr. of Shreveport by Lauren Drake Phillips.

MAR 24 . . . Bart Bennett by Ruth Anne, Claire, Adriane and Sarah.

MAR 31 . . . Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr. (7/2/1940-6/11/2018) by Dadie and Princeton Bardwell.

Far and Near by Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions



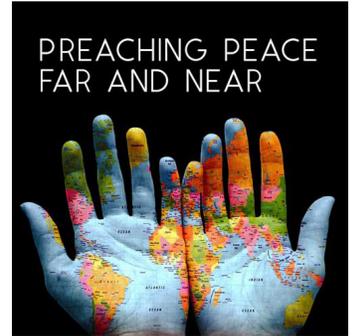
The 2019 Global Missions Conference was a joy to see the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of our missionaries in Lebanon, Peru and Malaysia. Rebecca and Nour Botros from Beirut, Lebanon

shared their hearts with us, and were vulnerable about what God is doing in their lives as they pour into Syrian refugees. Marilyn and Ralph Toliver from Peru presented our church with a New Testament that they spent thirty years translating into the Ambo-Pasco-Quechua language. MacGregor Magruder shared all the Lord is doing in their family as they serve in Malaysia.

Valerie Gastinel and the IFP team planned an International Friendship Luncheon in the gym that was a blessing for the 50 international students who attended along with 150 from the FPC family. If you are interested in being an International Friendship Partner, please

contact Valerie Gastinel, 225.241.1386.

On Sunday morning, Scott Castleman preached from Ephesians 2 "Preaching Peace Far and Near." His passion for missions was evident in his heart as he poured his life into us. God is leading us into a season of renewed enthusiasm as we prepare for our next mission trip to Romania, June 7-16.



Our next Romania meeting will be Sunday, March 10 after worship from 12.15-12.45. Please join us in room 202 in the Educational Building if you are planning to go to Romania this summer. Read a bit more about the trip below.

Mission Trip to Romania

Whitney Alexander is organizing a mission trip to Romania to assist the Smiles Foundation June 7-16, 2019. The Smiles Foundation is a Christian charity with vision, commitment and determination to make a difference: a difference for people in Romania who need a little help from a friend. Many of the people they assist are living alone, in poverty and are desperate.

Smiles wants to be their friend and we need your help to achieve our mission. Contact Whitney for more information (whitney@fpcbr.org or 225.810.2607).

Irreplaceable

Irreplaceable. That's what the Returning Hearts Celebration means to inmate dads like "Hutch" Hutchinson. It's the only time of the year inmates get to have unhindered meaningful time with their children.

The Returning Hearts Celebration is May 18. It's because of your prayer and partnership with Lifeline Global that opportunities like these are offered to inmates like Hutch. It means so much to them to just be able to be the parent they wish they could be every day. And they have come to this realization because of what they've learned through the Malachi Dads program for dads. This is where the real transformation takes place.

One inmate several years ago said this with a gentle smile on his face, "I was able to lead all three of my daughters to the Lord today."

That's why we do Returning Hearts Celebration.

We need 600 volunteers to make this day happen. Please put it on your prayer calendar—May 18, the "irreplaceable" day.

To learn more about the Returning Hearts Celebration, or to sign up to volunteer, visit lifelineglobal.org.



Mission Trips Can Change Lives!

Mission trips *can* save lives. The problem is that planning a mission trip takes a LOT of time and coordination. **PROBLEM SOLVED!**

SERVE ORLANDO exists to make it super easy and affordable for us to bring a team to Central Florida for a week of spiritual growth, learning, connecting and seeing lives impacted for eternity! Their team will customize our mission trip so that all we have to do is show up and serve through opportunities to **LOVE** our neighbors, **SERVE** God and **GROW** our faith.



Serve the Orlando community at places like Give Kids the World, Coalition for the Homeless, Clean the World, Orlando Union Rescue Mission and many other options.

During a Serve Orlando Mission Trip we will stay at beautiful Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center, sleep in hotel style rooms (each equipped with a bathroom and shower), eat fabulous meals at Canterbury and picnic lunches at area parks during our serving days, partner with two other mission organizations each day, have free time in the evening to enjoy the lake, canoes, high ropes course (extra cost) and relaxing atmosphere, end our evening spending time with our group in one of the meeting spaces perfect for worship, small group discussions or indoor games and end our week with a special meal and closing worship service in the beautiful chapel.

DATES: May 26-June 1, 2019

COST: \$400 (\$100 deposit due at time of registration)

WHO CAN GO? 9-12 graders!

Ready to sign up? Go online to fpcbr.org, email: paula@fpcbr.org. Call: 337.370.1760.

Get Ready to Take the Great Escape!

GREAT ESCAPE is our Middle School Summer Camp, located at Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, MS. We, along with 150 other middle schoolers from around the country, will get to explore the beauty of nature, worship, play games, compete and draw closer to Christ as a church.



DATES: July 15-20, 2019

COST: \$300 (\$100 deposit due at time of registration). Please contact Paula Walker (paula@fpcbr.org) or Whitney Alexander (whitney@fpcbr.org) if you are interested in a scholarship.

WHO CAN GO? All 6-8 graders! All friends of that age are welcome, too!

WHERE IS IT? Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, Mississippi (just south of Jackson).

GOLD

The Youth Ministry GOLD Gala brought in close to \$35,000 to the mission trips and programming for Youth Ministry. Well done Gala Committee:

Rachel Bass, Jennifer Cagley, Kristen Carney, Betsy Edwards, Stacy Henry, Amber McConnell, Meredith Taylor, Amanda Vincent, Jennie Wilbourn, Kelly Wood and Christina Yi.



MARCH 10

Move Your Clocks Forward One Hour

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

MARCH SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

MARCH 3, 2019

John 17: 1-5

MARCH 10, 2019

Exodus 3: 13-15; Deuteronomy 6: 4-6;
1 Corinthians 8: 5-6

MARCH 17, 2019

Isaiah 9: 6; Luke 1: 30-33

MARCH 24, 2019

Daniel 7: 3-4; Matthew 26: 63-64

MARCH 31, 2019

Exodus 3: 13-15; John 8: 51-59

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
Director for Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



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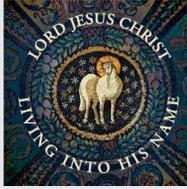
Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com

Daily Lent Emails

Exploring the names associated with Jesus will necessarily engage our minds and hearts, our thoughts and affections. We will seek to gush over the titles for Jesus revealed to us in Scripture. We will stretch our minds to reach toward the heights and depths to which he has gone to save us. We will strive to sync our daily lives up with the will of the Lord Jesus Christ for his creation.



Daily emails begin Saturday, March 9, 2019.

Sign up online at fpcbr.org.

Godspell Musical

Liza Doolittle. Shirley Temple. Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*. Annie Oakley. These are some of the *Godspell* cast of characters who will be guided by an unseen hand into an old abandoned theatre. They will discover they have been brought there to re-enact the Passion and the triumph of Christ for a very special audience—you!



First Presbyterian Church announces *Godspell*, a free musical as reimagined by local director Terry Byars, April 5-7, 2019.

Friday, April 5 at 7 pm
Saturday, April 6 at 4 pm
Sunday, April 7 at 4 pm

Free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken.

Show Love, Donate Blood

LifeShare Blood Center is hosting a blood drive at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 17. From 8 am to 1 pm, a LifeShare Bus will be parked in the Convention Street parking lot. No registration is necessary. Please come ready to donate blood to help those in need.



Session Income Allocation Grants

The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications through 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).