

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

fpc NEWS

March 2017 Volume 51-03

Jump in the Fountains!

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

A phrase became famous during the Protestant Reformation: *ad fontes!* Literally, to the fountains. What?! The phrase meant “Go to the source.” The Reformers realized that for the church to be renewed, we all needed to go back to the deep source of truth, the Scriptures. When faith gets dry, go back to the fountain of truth that is in God’s Word. When life gets confusing, go back to basic practices

of prayer: thanksgiving, adoration, confession and intercession.

When you feel far from Christ, go play in the fountain of baptism by remembering how you belong to Christ.

Go drink from the endless cup of his life-giving blood in the Supper. *Ad fontes.* Go to the source to renew life and faith. The Reformers changed the world doing just that.

So this Lent, we are going to go *ad fontes*. We’re going to dive deep into the source of all Christian prayer: the prayer that Jesus taught us. *Living from the Lord’s Prayer* is a 42 day guide to sacred reading and prayer for each of us to use during Lent. The books will be given out during worship March 5. You can also sign up to have the daily readings sent to you in an email. Or you may access them on the church app. We will spend a week on each of the six phrases in the Lord’s Prayer. We’ll see how Jesus’ own prayer is sourced in the Hebrew Scriptures, and we will let the psalms he prayed flow through us as we join him in prayer.



Committing to 20 minutes a day for these 42 days will revolutionize your prayer life. How can I be so confident? Because everything comes from the source of God’s Word. And God’s Word is truth. And when we pray from God’s Word, the Spirit flows in us and through us. *Ad fontes.* Jump in the fountains. The fountains of prayer that flows from the Word. It’s the guaranteed way to refreshment!

Give Meaning to Your Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning? The Purple Cow needs quality furniture and housewares. We’re stacked with clothes right now. But furniture is needed and all proceeds support the amazing ministry of the Christian Outreach Center (COC) transforming our neighborhood for Christ.

Speaking of COC, did you know we raised a record \$66,000 at our Christmas Eve Offering. These gifts were shared between a) COC as it launches new job training, financial literacy and Bible study groups and b) Gardere Community Christian School, now with over 80 students and a new principal in place to undergird our teachers and the daily administration of the school.

Church of the Resurrection

Our church plant in New Orleans, the Church of the Resurrection, has found a fabulous facility for worshipping. We’re meeting at the newly restored Felicity Church in the Lower Garden District. We’re also organizing to send 8 to 10 people down each week to support Rev. Ben Cunningham and the congregation. Check out our website or visit the Connection Center to learn more.

Gerrit

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ken
BOA



**A Men’s Gathering
Saturday, March 4
Renaissance Hotel**



MARCH CALENDAR

- Mar 1** Ash Wednesday
- Mar 3** Weekly Lent Worship Begins
- Mar 3** rEcess
- Mar 4** Ken Boa Men's Gathering
- Mar 12** Daylight Savings
- Mar 12** Congregational Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 9** Palm Sunday
- Apr 13** Maundy Thursday
- Apr 16** Easter Sunday

IN MEMORIAM

January 27, 2017
Loran Thomas, friend of the Dunham Family

January 30, 2017
Tom Graves

February 2, 2017
Laurice Honea
Grandmother of Lauren Honea

February 17, 2017
Bill Edrington

BIRTHS

February 6, 2017
Theodore Dean White
Grandparents are Fran and Darrell White

February 17, 2017
Margaux Mae Fielding
Grandparents are Debra and Bob Cooper

WEDDINGS

February 4, 2017
Molly Ewing married Thomas Stephenson

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 . . .

Mar 5 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Warren Munson and Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Pipes by Sarah Munson and family.

Mar 12 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel Eugene Field III given by Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Eugene Field, Jr.

Mar 19 . . . Open Date.

Mar 26 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aylce and Sidney Bennett, parents of Barton, by Ruth Anne and Barton Bennett.

After the Great Flood of 2016

by Jay High, Director of Media, Technology and Facilities

Is it 2017? Did we really just live through the (not so) great flood of 2016? How could God have shown us so much favor, and rallied his body of Christ to help us through this natural disaster? Is this painful and difficult chapter of our lives finally ending? Are we really settling into our beautiful home in another neighborhood and approaching the closing date of our flooded/gutted house?

It is difficult to comprehend how good God has been to us, and sometimes as difficult to receive. I guess that is what grace's unmerited favor is all about. It's humbling. I cannot fathom going through this without the support system at First and beyond.

You may know me as the media guy in black, holed up in the AV booth. So many of you were at my flood-ravaged house swinging hammers, hauling debris and trudging through filth, demonstrating your love of Christ through works of faith. Words cannot express my thankful appreciation, but thank you.

"Six months later, I am just now getting back into my daily work routine."

As the rising floodwaters flowed through my driveway, I was texting Barry and Gerrit about missing Sunday services, needing somewhere

to stay and something to drive since it was clear the flood was taking our house and cars. Within hours, we had lodging, loaner cars, meals, and everything else needed lined up. It was overwhelming.

Six months later, I am just now getting back into my daily work routine overseeing media,



technology and facilities at First. My latest projects are overseeing replacement of all windows in the Education Building, and preparing to fix all roofing and waterproofing leaks campus-wide.

It's also my pleasure to supervise First's incredible media and facilities team. If you enjoy our beautiful campus, it is because of our awesome sextons. Everything you hear in the services, or see on the screens, are due to our highly trained and dedicated media team. They are amazing!

Have you had a chance to watch our livestream of the Sunday Sanctuary services? It's the next best thing to being there! If you are traveling, home sick or want to recommend First to a friend, then the livestream is ideal. You can livestream from our website, or from the First Presbyterian app, and even watch archived entire services!

It is a joy to serve First Presbyterian Church. I love you all!

Ken Boa to Speak at Men's Gathering

Please join us for a men's gathering with guest speaker Ken Boa. Ken Boa is engaged in a ministry of relational evangelism and discipleship, teaching, writing and speaking. Dr. Boa is the President of Reflections Ministries, an organization that seeks to encourage, teach and equip people to know Christ. He is

also President of Trinity House Publishers, a publishing company dedicated to the creation of tools that help people live with an eternal perspective in the temporal culture by drawing them to intimacy with God and a better understanding of the culture in which we live.

Space is limited so register soon at fpcbr.org.

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017
Time: 11.30-1.30, lunch served
Place: Renaissance Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Bienvenue Room
Cost: \$20
Title: Eternal Perspective-Temporal Living: A Conversation with Ken Boa



Lenten Guide 2017: “Living from the Lord’s Prayer”

The most familiar prayer in the world is known as the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus taught it to his disciples when they asked him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” The prayer is bold, direct, simple and confident. It begins with startling intimacy as Jesus instructs his disciples to pray to the Most High, only God as “Our Father.” They are to pray as those who have a claim of family ties upon the Creator of the universe. It then moves to a series of petitions. One might even call them demands, because each request is written as an imperative. It’s as if they are to say, “Father, do this!” There is no begging or bargaining, just the straightforward plea of those who dare to appear before God with the rights of children.

This year’s Lenten study can energize your relationship to the Lord Jesus. Yet, when we study and share in community, we grow even more through our spiritual fellowship.



As we give ourselves to meet the Lord in his Word, he will come to meet us! As you and I approach this project with a prayerful willingness to dive deep into God’s Word and an openness to what he has to show us, he will engage us powerfully. That’s because this guide is mainly Scripture. And Scripture is where the

power of God’s truth resides. It is the way his Spirit has chosen to speak to us.

The potency of this Lenten study is in the Lord’s Prayer and all the passages that undergird it.

On March 5, everyone will receive a daily devotional. Over the 42 days of Lent, we’re going to dive deep into the power of God’s truth energizing your relationship to the Lord Jesus. Visit fpcbr.org to sign up for the email daily devotions. The church app will also have the daily readings.

Lenten Choral Concert

The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble (BREVE) will present a concert of all-sacred music, Sunday afternoon, March 12, from 3 to 4 pm in the Dunham Chapel. The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble is one of the few early music ensembles in the state of Louisiana. BREVE is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation and

is dedicated to the study and performance of Renaissance and Baroque music. The concert will focus on music for Lent. The group is directed by Dr. William Plummer, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The presentation is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken.

Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi

On Sunday May 7, during the 11 am Classic Reformed Service, the Chancel Choir will present Antonio Vivaldi’s *Gloria* with soloists and orchestra. This inspiring work is a beautiful setting of sacred text dating from the 4th

century. The Chancel Choir is rehearsing on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8 pm. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact Steven Rushing (steve@fpcbr.org).

Supernatural, Factual Tales from God’s Word!

This March Joyful Noise children’s choirs will learn fun, memorable songs and basic music education while hearing God’s word! This will ultimately result in a dinner theatre production of a mini-musical called *Fish Tales*. There are multiple speaking roles and solo opportunities

available. Join us each Sunday evening from 5 to 6.30 pm for rehearsal. Casting decisions will be announced in mid-April. *Fish Tales* will be presented this coming October. For more information, contact Lauren Honea at lauren@fpcbr.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

MARCH SERMON PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

March 5
Ezekial 36: 22-28

March 12
1 Chronicles 29: 10-13

March 19
TBD

March 26
TBD

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 & Praye

Darin Travis
Director, Discipleship and Men’s Ministry



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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

Mid-Week Lenten Communion Worship

Ash Wednesday, March 1, starts our weekly Lent services. Break from your work week and come worship with us at noon each Wednesday. Then stay for a light lunch in the Reception Room for \$5.

March 12, Congregational Meeting

The session has called for the annual meeting of the congregation to hear reports on the amazing work of God in our midst in 2016, to hear a report on the 2017 budget, to elect at-large members of the officer nominating committee and attend to any other business pertinent to our life together. Join us Sunday, March 12 at 10.15 in the Sanctuary. There will be no adult Sunday school.

SIAC Grant Applications

The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications between February 13-March 24 for financial grants for individuals interested in seminary.

Please contact Jaci if you have questions (jaci@fpibr.org or 620.0221).

Romania Mission Trip Meeting

Trip dates are June 24 - July 8, 2017. If you are interested in learning more about this mission trip to help the Smiles Foundation, please come to an informational meeting on Sunday, March 12 at noon in the Reception Room.

Relief Crews Need Helpers & Chiefs

Two very large groups of out-of-state workers are coming to Baton Rouge to help local flood victims. Additional workers and crew chiefs are needed. If you are interested in helping the March 4-5 group, please contact Pat Canfield (pjcanfield@cox.net or 573.3480). Contact Whitney Alexander if the March 13-17 group works better for you (whitney@fpibr.org or 810-2607).

What Is Pickleball?

Come be part of the new PPP (Presbyterian Pickleball Players). Mike Glisson and Rick Spiller have organized a church Pickleball club. Not familiar with Pickleball? Come check it out Thursday mornings at 8 in the church gym. Experienced players and novices are all welcome. For more information call Mike at 936.8994 or Rick at 278.5760.

2017-2018 College Scholarships

College scholarships are available for entering or continuing students through the Women in Ministry Memorial Scholarship Fund of First Presbyterian Church. Applications can be emailed to interested students or are available online at fpibr.org. Considered criterion: need, academics and family membership at First Presbyterian Church. The deadline to apply is June 1. Contact Jaci Gaspard for more information (jaci@fpibr.org or 620.0221).