

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.

fpc NEWS



Volume 49-03 March 2015

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MARCH CALENDAR

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Prayer for the Nations | Each Wed., 5.30 pm |
| Lent Communion Worship | Weds. at Noon |
| City Ministry Fair | March 1 |
| Community Outreach Meal | March 1 |
| rEcess | March 6 |
| Men's Retreat | March 6-7 |
| Daylight Savings Time | March 8 |
| FAS Crowd | March 9 |
| Discover First Class | March 15 |
| Officer Meeting | March 23 |
| Palm Sunday, one 10 am worship | March 29 |
| Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows, 7 pm | April 2 |
| Easter Sunday | April 5 |

Finding Space for Christ

GERRIT DAWSON, SENIOR PASTOR

It's not easy. I know that. Focusing on God and his Word. Setting aside time to read, pray and reflect. Finding the courage to offer yourself more wholly to your Savior. Listening through his Word to what he has to say. Asking for help and guidance. Thanking and praising. It's just not easy because there are so many distractions.

Here are a few things I find helpful in establishing a more consistent and fruitful time with the Lord:

- Place. There's a chair in our living room where I almost always sit to have time with God. I keep a Bible there. Just looking out the windows or even around the room from that chair puts me in a familiar setting for meeting with God.
- Props. It's not unholy to have something else to look forward to. God doesn't mind if you have a cup of coffee with him. On cool days, I turn on the gas logs. I have coffee in a thermos so I don't have to get up for more. Sometimes I even have a dog in my lap. Part of my thanksgiving is the wonder that I have such great surroundings for meeting with God.
- People. I'm alone (except for the beasts) when I read and pray. But I'm also not alone. Rhonda is in the next room doing the same in her favorite place. That encourages me. During Lent, I know that a thousand of us are also reading the daily Scriptures and praying through the same passages. That helps me. I

may be physically alone but I'm not spiritually alone. We're all helping each other draw near to the Father.

We have a challenging quest before us this Lent: 1) to follow the journey of Jesus to save us by reading the episodes of his saving work, and 2) to sync our hearts to the heart of Jesus by praying psalms with him, saying them after Jesus, knowing he offered these prayers in his days among us, and even now includes these words in his never ending intercession for us.

A theological aside: for those of you who wonder how I can be so sure of Jesus' prayers, check out Revelation 15: 3. The angelic beings around the throne of God are, even now, singing the Song of Moses. Words uttered by Miriam and Moses thousands of years earlier make up part of the continuing hymnbook of the angels. God's Word is eternal, not only for us, but in the heavenly realms.

Quest on, dear ones!

Easter at First

Easter will be upon us in no time. Please note the dates from the calendar as you prepare your hearts for the celebration of our Savior's resurrection.



Baptisms:

February 22, 2015
Savannah Margaret Gaines
Parents are Whitney and Clark Gaines

In Memoriam:

February 11, 2015
Ronald Steigler Robinson
Father of Paige Davis and Jeff Robinson

February 16, 2015
Benny Milligan

Births:

February 3, 2015
Julia Nour Botros
Parents are Rebecca and Nour Botros
Grandparents, Cynthia and Lloyd Lunceford

February 18, 2015
Holland Elise Comeaux
Parents are Brittany and Jamy Comeaux
Grandmother is Pat Canfield

Marriages:

February 21, 2015
James LeBlanc married Kristine Dixon

February 28, 2015
Katherine Munson Creed married Brooks Alan Gold

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 ...

March 1...to celebrate the marriage of Katherine Munson Creed to Brooks Alan Gold and in loving memory of her grandparents Camille Breaux Creed and William Warren Munson by the Munson family.

March 8...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel Eugene Field III given by his father, Dr. Samuel Eugene Field Jr.

March 15...to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Jeanne and Marlin Drake, Jr. of Shreveport, by Lauren Teague Phillips.

March 22... by Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Pollard to honor Reverend and Mrs. Andrew Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Pollard Sr. and their beloved Mr. V. Stacey Shannon.

March 29...to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Hamilton, Dunham and Witty families given by Kathryn Witty.

"A New Man" Retreat

All men are invited to attend a retreat at the Solomon Center in Robert, LA in March. Dr. Dan Doriani of Covenant Theological Seminary and author of "A New Man" will be the guest speaker. Learn more about Dr. Doriani by visiting covenantseminary.edu.

The two day retreat will be a combination of teaching, small groups and relaxing fellowship in a quiet wooded setting (solomoncenter.org). The retreat kicks off with dinner on Friday night, March 6 and ends in time for you to return home for dinner on Saturday, March 7. Your overnight stay will be with a roommate of your choice or a "potluck" random pick. Cost is \$125 (scholarships are available). Register online at fpchr.org. Please contact Derek McCollum if you have any questions or if you require financial assistance to attend the retreat, 225.588.5300.

a
new
man



Dr. Dan Doriani

A Confession by Lisa Head

*Even the course of one single day
in the life of one person
is an uninterrupted chain of small
betrayals, of innocent jabs against love.*

Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote the above quote to indicate the depth of sin in our hearts, a daily stream of small, innocuous decisions we make against Jesus. And I have to confess to a not-so-small one. Part of my job here at the church is to proof-read everything that goes out—yes, the mistakes on the bulletins and screens are generally things I have missed! Recently I had the more daunting undertaking of proofing Gerrit's Lenten Guide, *All Loves Excelling*, and I promise that when I was done with it, I seriously wanted to be done with it!! It is difficult for me to turn off my proofing eye and just enjoy material like this that comes through the church. Last year, I completely rebelled and followed a different devotional to avoid looking at any mistakes. That thinking comes from my own pride and arrogance. What makes me think that somehow I could take away from someone's experience with the Holy Spirit by missing a comma? And then I committed the more blatant sin of allowing that prodigal comma to interfere with my own opportunity to join with my church body in a transformational time devoted to our Lord and the depths he went to in order to save us.

I'm happy to report an improvement in that thinking this year. Though I considered rebelling again, I have been compelled to continue looking at this material, in spite of the "overexposure." It is intriguing to consider what happened during Jesus' descent and even more, to experience his feelings through the Scripture that he drew from on his path to death. It is devastating to think of him "not here" as he lay in the tomb and I imagine where I might be had he not chosen to join his heart to mine...had he left me without himself. I shudder at the thought.

When I read the Balthasar quote and saw my bad attitude in it, the conviction drove me to look at this devotional in a new way, with new eyes that get to study Jesus in ways that even the angels long to look into. Asking God to turn off my critical eyes and replace them with his Son's has already moved me into a new level of awareness with this devotion time, a true sense of his precious heart. I am thankful for this opportunity and for God's grace and patience with me even as I continually make jabs against his love. But here is one place I can fall into step with him and allow him to move me into a new place of understanding him from his own perspective. I encourage you all to take this Lenten season very seriously and stay on track with this guide...feel free to keep me accountable as well. May our hearts join together as we join more intentionally and intensely with Jesus.

FAS Crowd to Visit the LeJeune House

The Fun After Sixty Crowd has planned a getaway for its March 9th meeting. All are welcome to join us for a bus ride to New Roads where we will tour the LeJeune House. This Creole Greek Revival home was built in the 1800's as part of a 500-acre plantation on the banks of False River. Lunch will be at Morel's Restaurant following the tour (Dutch treat). Cost is \$10. Please RSVP to the church office, 387.0617. Meet in the church lot at 9 am.



City Ministry Fair

Our CITY MINISTRY FAIR is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 in the reception room after the 9 am and 11 am worship services to highlight our local ministries and offer ways you can get involved in 2015. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the directors of each of the ministries that are supported by First Presbyterian Church.

Our next COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 in our gym from 3.30-5.30 pm. Please join us and consider bringing a chicken spaghetti casserole, bread and/or a dessert. Please RSVP to Mike Salassi (225.241.4917) if you are interested in participating or preparing a casserole or dessert.



Join Gerrit and Derek on Sunday, March 15 for this lively and informative look at what it means to join our church. We will explore what we believe, what we expect from members and how to get more involved. Dinner and childcare provided. 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Visit Sherry at the Connection Center for more information.

Women in Ministry Spring Luncheon

Mark your calendars for a luncheon on Wednesday, April 22. We will enjoy one another's company and hear Nancy Zito share what is happening at Gardere Community Christian School Elizabeth Parker will share what is happening in Women's Ministry. Be on the look out for more details as we get closer to the date!

SIAC Scholarship Applications.

The Session Income Allocation Committee is receiving applications between Feb. 23 and March 20 for financial grants for individuals interested in seminary. Please contact Jaci if you have questions (387.0617).

MARCH CIRCLES

1ST MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

Circle 15 Cafe Phonecia @ 7 pm
Zachary

2ND MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015

Circle 13 C-P Apts. @ 2 pm
Circle 14 Kristen Carney's @ 9.30 am
3161 Svendson Dr. (921.0030)

1ST TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

Circle 1 Margery Fabre's @ 9.45 am
5754 College Dr. (928.3600)
Circle 2 Mary Lilly Boutwell's @ 9.45 am
3113 E. Lakeshore Dr. (338.1806)
Circle 3 Margery Fabre's @ 9.45 am
5754 College Dr. (928.3600)

2ND TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

Circle 4 Amanda Boggs' @ 6.30 pm
6136 Chandler (338.9455)
Circle 5 Rachel Williams' @ 10 am
2142 Oleander St. (344.7015)
Circle 6 Suzanne Booth's @ 10 am
1211 Keed (926.1929)
Circle 8 Shannon Scott's @ 6.30 pm
1122 Melanie (922.7974)
Circle 9 Please contact Ann Gregorie for
Circle location. (937.0488)

3RD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

Circle 10 Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm
5412 Government St.
Circle 16 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 am
7662 Seven Oaks (329.5662)

1ST THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015

Circle 11 Church Library @ Noon

1ST FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

Circle 7 Peggy Anderson's @ 2 pm
322 Wiltz Dr. (344.0127)

Lenten Noon Communion

Lenten Noon Communion services continue on Wednesdays in the chapel through March 25, followed by a light lunch. Also, St. James Episcopal hosts a Friday noon service for the community followed by gumbo. Gerrit preaches there March 13.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Come Worship with Us!

7.45 am Chapel Communion Service
9 am Contemporary Service
11 am Classic Reformed Service
11 am Acoustic Communion Service

March 1, AD 2015

Psalms 139: 13-16; John 1: 14-18
"He Became Man"

March 8, AD 2015

Psalms 40: 6-10; Matthew 3: 13 - 4: 11
"Tempted Just As We Are"

March 15, AD 2015

Psalms 107: 1-9; Mk. 5: 1-20
"To the Far Places"

March 22, AD 2015

Psalms 62: 1-8; Matthew 26: 36-40
"Face Down in the Garden"

March 29, AD 2015

Psalms 88: 3-12; Mk. 15: 21-41
"Abandoned of All Hope"

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
Director of Student Ministry



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010

www.fpibr.org

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



PALM
SUNDAY
march 29

One 10 am Palm Procession
& Worship Service

Congregational Lunch,
Pony Rides, Egg Hunt,
Balloon Twisters and
Face Painters.

*Note to Parents: Please bring one
dozen plastic eggs per child (no
chocolate), taped closed, before Palm
Sunday.*

*Drop off is in the So Loved or
Kingdom Kids Halls.*

EASTER
april 5

6:30 Sunrise
9:00 Contemporary
11:00 Classic Reformed
11:00 Acoustic Communion

**Maundy Thursday Service of
Shadows.**

On Thursday, April 2, at 7 pm, we enter into the passion of Christ, recounting his arrest, trial and death through the service of shadows. We will end the service in silence on the terraced garden where the stone is rolled over the tomb.

He Is Risen Signs. Let's share the joy of our Lord's resurrection with our neighbors. "He Is Risen" yard signs are available for purchase at the Connection Center. Before Easter turn the blank side toward your street. After Easter turn it around to reveal "He Is Risen." The \$5 per sign covers the cost of this Children's Ministry project.



SOUND THE TRUMPETS!

Prepare the Way!
Our King Is Coming!

VBS 2015, July 7-10
Save the Date!