



Looking Back and Visioning Forward by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

The weeks following Easter are a time for both gratitude looking back and visioning forward. Your leadership takes a breath, giving thanks for the full seasons that ran from Advent and Christmas through Lent and Holy Week. What a glorious time we had! And we start now to anticipate and shape our direction for the fall.

I write, of course, as the senior pastor whose rhythms follow the church year. Other ministries aren't taking a breath at all. Youth ministry gears up, not down, with summer trips and Children's Ministry steams into a week of camp at Lake Forest, then Vacation Bible School week. We take advantage of the pauses in our students' schedules to get them involved in service and study.

For me, these are the days when I can give thanks for all you make possible through your outpouring of time, prayer, money and service. Our membership remains steadily dedicated in all these areas week by week. You make possible this ridiculously talented, faithful and harmonious staff team. You make possible a myriad of ministries into our community. You undergird our church plant in New Orleans: Church of the Resurrection is

now two years old, with more than 100 making membership commitments. The Gardere Community Christian school pulses through its seventh year, with more than 125 students learning in an exciting, faithful, loving environment.



The Christian Outreach Center has put hundreds of students through job training in a climate of faith in Christ, many of whom have moved into financial self-sufficiency. Our worship services inspire us each week with glorious, textured music featuring talented musicians and an expert technical team. Now you've made possible a full time worship pastor to take us into the future. We underwrite mission efforts around the world and engage a faithful, mission oriented denomination as part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Your gifts and your service make all these relationships possible. The numbers tell us that you are one of the most generous congregations in the nation. I fight the sin of pride regularly! So, thank you for loving your Lord through loving your church in such tangible and significant ways. How could I not love being your pastor?

Gerrit

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Women's Ministry Spring Picnic	May 1
rEcess	May 3
Created for Connection Workshop	May 3-4
"Found" Children's Musical	May 5
Mother's Day	May 12
Sanctuary Stained Glass Tour	May 18
Confirmation Service	May 19
Combined Worship	May 26
Church Offices Closed	May 27

UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

Father's Day	June 16
Women's Ministry Summer Study	June 19
Vacation Bible School	June 24-27

ONGOING EVENTS

Sunday Evening Prayer at 5 pm

BIRTHS:

March 27, 2019
Caleb Maxwell Woltmann
Parents are Katy and Josh Woltmann

April 1, 2019
Pema Marie Hoek
Parents are Deki and Chris Hoek

April 16, 2019
Margot Amelia Lapeyrouse
Parents are Amelia and Jeremy Lapeyrouse

IN MEMORIAM:

April 2, 2019
Nell McMullan

April 14, 2019
Jolie Berry

April 21, 2019
Calvin Lee Schoonmaker

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 . . .

MAY 5 . . . Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane Ellison Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.

MAY 12 . . . three mothers, all very special to our family: our mother, Jackie Lee Airhart, her mother, Claudia Lee Tisdale, and Kristen's mother, Becky Richardson, by the children of Jackie Lee Airhart.

MAY 19 Open date.

MAY 26 . . . n this Memorial Day weekend, we especially want to give thanks to all our servicemen and women who have kept and are keeping our country safe. Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac, Jr.

On the Receiving End of Pastoral Care by Jim Solomon

While I have felt humbled and honored to see what the Lord is doing in and through the ministry of Care and Prayer, I have wondered how it would all go without me. Well, as I suspected, it has gone just fine; in fact beautifully!

As many of you know, my wife Anne recently had emergency surgery and will have a few months of recovery. At times like this, what is a Pastor of Care and Prayer to do? Simply put, he is to carry out what God's Word says to elders and deacons when called to care for the church. First, focus on the care of his own wife and children (1 Timothy 3: 5) allowing others to care for him (1 Corinthians 12:7). Well, I have felt unspeakably cared for by you through your care for my wife, our daughters and myself. As a result, I cannot thank you enough!

In Acts 2: 43b-45 we read, "Many wonders and miracles were being done through the apostles." In other words, they were using their gifts to serve others and not themselves, as seen in the passage immediately following this text where Peter heals a crippled beggar. We read also that they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

How do we give of ourselves? In at least three ways:

1. We give *ministerially* by using our spiritual gifts and abilities to serve others rather than ourselves. God's Word is very inclusive when it comes to the question of who is eligible to give in this way! We all are! 1 Peter 4: 10 tells us we each have at least one gift to share with others! I truly enjoy recruiting and equipping my sisters and brothers in Christ to serve in their realm of giftedness, as I believe and have seen that everyone is great at something!

2. We also are called to give *financially* (Mt.23: 23 and 2 Cor. 9: 5-16), whether you make \$20,000 or \$200,000 per year; whether you are a multi-millionaire or feel you barely have enough to get by (Luke 21: 1-4, Acts 20: 35)!

3. We are called to give *voluntarily*, motivated by joy and thanksgiving rather than guilt and obligation, as we follow the One who gives us everything (Romans 8: 32)!

My mother always said, "The more you give the more you get." I add to that, "as long as you don't give to get." My dad did pretty well as an accountant but even well paid professionals

may not have much money when supporting a wife and twelve children. Somehow, all twelve got through college. How? I believe it was due not so much to my dad's budgeting but more so my mom's giving. I remember moving to a neighborhood where we felt like the poorest on the block. Yet my mother would have me help her load up clothes and other items we no longer needed to drop off to the Salvation Army. She did not always have what she wanted while she was on this earth, but when she left this earth, I realized she always had what she needed. Jesus promises us if we rely on him and not ourselves for provision then we will have our needs met.

You may have heard about a man who went on a trip to Israel and was about to enter the famous and impressive Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv to take in a concert by the famed Israel Philharmonic. The man was admiring the unique architecture, the sweeping lines of the entrance and the modern décor throughout the building. Finally, he turned to the Israeli tour guide and asked, "Is the building named for Thomas Mann, the world-famous author?" "No," the tour guide responded. "It's named for Fredric Mann, from Philadelphia." "Really? I never heard of him. What did he write?" asked the tourist. To which the tour guide responded, "A check!"

You can be involved in your family, or even in a church family, by giving money, but you can only be committed to God and his children by giving of yourself.

I think you can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. Although Our Resurrected Lord said that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20: 35), I have been so blessed by your giving to me for a period of time when I was unable to continue giving to you. For that, Anne, our daughters and I thank God for you!

Learn more about the many ways you can join Prayer and Care Ministries by visiting fpcbr.org. These opportunities to serve continue to grow as our church continues to grow!

Thank You for 26 Years by Nancy Spiller, Creative Arts Director

Dear Congregation, Staff and Worship Team,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside of you these past 26 years as your worship leader. Thank you for always encouraging me, praying for me and my family, and walking along side me through life's trials. I pray you continue to lift the name of Jesus high, to give thanks in all things and remember his goodness to us all. I will work part time from May 1 to December 2019 with some fun things planned ahead! I will see what new direction the Lord has planned for me after December. My heart's desire is to be planted somewhere in the "real" world where I can make a difference. Hopefully, I have done that at FPC as well. I will leave you with a favorite verse because it talks about my two favorite things; singing and rich food!



I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods, with singing lips my mouth will praise you (Psalm 63: 2-5).

With much love and a grateful heart.

Set in Stone: A Study of God's Character and His Timeless Commands for His People

We are excited to announce the Women's Ministry Summer Bible study will be taking a deep dive into the Ten Commandments. So much of what we say is flexible; it isn't set in stone. Well the Ten Commandments are literally set in stone! The Ten Commandments are God's words to us that display his character. They describe his nature; who he is. They also show us how we are called to live; but it is daunting and impossible to live perfectly under the submission of these commands. Are the commands even relevant for us now? What if they are? Think back over your life or even the past week. Can you honestly say that you have fully kept each of these rigid, stony rules in your heart? Yet there is good news! They also show us beautifully how Jesus fulfilled them perfectly when we cannot. This study will highlight the incredible grace God shows to us in Christ and we are all about hearing that message! Come to Dunham Chapel at First Presbyterian each Wednesday from June 19 to July 24 at 6.30 pm (excluding July 4). Bring a friend or two!

Stained Glass Tour, Saturday, May 18

We all recognize the beauty in the First Presbyterian Church stained glass windows. We have the benefit of enjoying them each Sunday in worship. But have you ever sat quietly wondering about the symbolism of the windows? What about the techniques used in their creation? Their depiction of the life of Christ, from the Old Testament to the New, inspires reverence and awe. The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans agrees and will include First Presbyterian on an upcoming tour of Baton Rouge church stained glass windows, *Stained Glass Art in Sacred Places Goes to Baton Rouge*. Our own Steve Wilson will give this tour which is Saturday, May 18 from 11.45 am to 12.30 pm. While you'll have to go to prcno.org to sign up for the tour of all four churches, the Society has opened up the First Presbyterian tour to our members at no charge. No registration required.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

MAY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

MAY 5, 2019
Genesis 2: 15; Ecclesiastes 3: 9-13; 9: 10a

MAY 12, 2019
TBD

MAY 19, 2019
Ephesians 4: 28; 1 Corinthians 3: 10;
Colossians 3: 17

MAY 26, 2019
One 10.30 am Worship Service
1 Samuel 1: 1-21

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 of Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults

STEVE NEWMAN
Director of Worship



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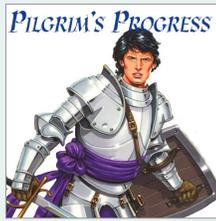
Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com

VBS 2019 - Sign Up Today!

Children's Ministry VBS 2019 registration is open! Visit fpcbr.org/vbs to register your child to attend or volunteer.



VBS dates are Monday, June 24-Thursdays, June 27, 9 am-12 pm each day for 1st-5th graders.

There are many ways you can volunteer. For those of you who cannot serve during the week of VBS, there are other volunteer opportunities available such as providing snacks and supplies. Contact Audra Cato for a full list of volunteer opportunities.

Nursery is provided for children entering Kindergarten and younger for VBS volunteers only.

Found: A Worship Mosaic May 5

Found: A Worship Mosaic is a worship experience for children led by children. Join us on Sunday, May 5 as the children explore worship in as many forms as possible. We will focus on the visual arts, physical movement, music and fellowship. Our children will use these various art forms to reenact how Christ finds us through the story of the Prodigal Son. There will even be a celebratory meal afterward—just like the story of the Prodigal Son! Join us as we come together to celebrate and create a living mosaic to the One who finds us time and again.



Your Amazon Purchases Can Benefit FPC

Looking for another simple, automatic way to continue supporting First Presbyterian? Start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com. You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, without creating a separate account.

Through AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the church. Just another way to help fund how we go deeper in Christ and further into the world.

FPC Note Card Sets

The church commissioned an artist to paint the Sanctuary and Chapel. Those paintings were made into notecard boxed sets which are available for purchase at the Connection Center for \$20.