

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

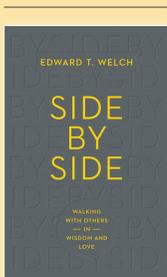
May 2016 Volume 50-05

What Does It Look Like to Walk Side by Side with Each Other?

By Derek McCollum, Associate Pastor of Young Adults and Discipleship

As a preacher, I really wish God worked with a different formula. Here's the one I would like: preaching=immediate change. But God's way of changing us includes another key ingredient—each other. Because God has made us as relational creatures, and because he has called us to the community of the Church, the formula for discipleship looks more like this: God's Truth, processed and experienced in community, creates change. That community piece of side-by-sideness can't be left out of the equation. It's why at First Presbyterian, we really care about community. We want people to walk side by side with each other as they process and experience together the truth of the Gospel.

Ed Welch's book *Side by Side* is a fabulous introduction to this idea. If you want to know some simple, practical ways that our community can process and experience the Truth of the Gospel together, start here. Here's the way Welch describes the book in the introduction...



The basic idea (of this book) is that those who help best are the ones who both need help and give help. A healthy community is dependent on all of us being both. So the book is divided into two parts. The first part guides you in sharing your burdens; the second part guides you in bearing the burdens of others... (God's formula) is the perfect system. If God only used experts and people of renown, some could boast in their own wisdom, but God's way on doing things is not the same as our way. We ordinary people have been given power and wisdom through the Holy Spirit and are called to love others (John 13: 24). From this beginning, we are compelled to move toward others rather than stay away...

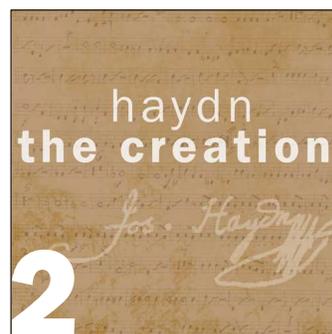
We think the message of this book is so good that we're going to give these books away. Free. **After our combined worship service on May 29, we will have free copies of *Side by Side* at the Connection Center.** Just come get one. Furthermore, we're going to devote one of our Sunday school classes this July to discussing the book and its major points.

Going to the beach this Summer? Need something short but powerful that you can keep by your bedside? Why not read *Side by Side*? And why not read it together?

I hope you'll pick up a copy on May 29. And I hope you'll commit to read it. Talk to a friend, your spouse, your neighbor about reading it together. I think you'll be happy you did.

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MAY CALENDAR

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Gardere Story Time	May 7
Mother's Day	May 8
Returning Hearts Celebration	May 14
Confirmation Sunday	May 15
Joyful Noise Spring Concert	May 15
Community Outreach Meal	May 22
Officer Meetings	May 23
Combined Worship at 10.30 am	May 29
Memorial Day - Office Closed	May 30

UPCOMING DATES

Women in Ministry Luncheon	June 14
Father's Day	June 19

IN MEMORIAM:

March 23, 2016
Tevis Chesney, Son of Cathy Chesney

April 9, 2016
Margaret Samuel, Mother of Suzanne Booth

April 10, 2016
Ben Seward

BIRTHS:

Anastasia Rose Feamster
Parents are Johanna and Michael Feamster
Grandparents are Lois and Steve Rushing

BAPTISMS:

April 10, 2016
Madelyn Claire Chapman
Parents are Chelsey and Jacob Chapman

Charles Grant James
Parents are Amy and Dan James

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 ...

May 1 ... to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane Ellison Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.

May 8 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of my mother, Claudia Lee Tisdale, and my daughter-in-law Kristen's mother, Rebecca Richardson, by Jackie Lee Airhart.

May 15 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Peggy Smith (Mimi) by Ashley, Laurence, Trey, Foster and John Rodgers Lambert.

May 22 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Paul and Hazel Peters and Ned and Jerry Hickel by Cherie and Bill Peters.

May 29 ... in memory of Emogene and Howard Elliott. On 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 by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac Jr.

**Showing Up Together**

By Meagan Greene, Director of Community Life

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." Matthew 18: 20

God has entrusted us twenty-first century Christians with an enormous opportunity: in the midst of a culture that promotes isolation and self-sufficiency, we can show forth the transformative beauty of gospel-centered community.

So often our culture measures success by how much we can accomplish without the help of anyone else. We rarely feel the need to communicate face to face. So many of us have access to anything and everything right at our fingertips. We do not even need to leave the privacy of our own homes to create a dramatic worship experience on any given day or time: pick your favorite pastor, download his sermon with the most likes on Facebook, incorporate the up-and-coming praise and worship music and *voila!*, you have yourself a "church service" that keeps you entertained. I hear it all too often: "I livestreamed this week because I wanted to sleep in. I just didn't want to have to get up early, put on make-up, you know, it's just so hard when I work all week long."

I regret that I have been guilty of this kind of attitude myself. To be sure, for those people who are unable to participate in corporate worship or community groups, access to technology can be an invaluable resource and they should feel no shame in using it. Technology is not in and of itself a dreadful thing, but it becomes debilitating when we use it in a way that diminishes our participation in the Great Commission to which the Lord has summoned us.

What a joy it is that God has given us the gift of going "deeper in Christ and further into the world" together, as a family who meets together regularly to spur one another on as we exalt the Lord Jesus through our worship and our mission!

Through my job, I have the privilege of meeting many visitors and new members of our church. It always warms my heart to hear their experiences as visitors and it makes me very grateful for each and every one of you. I hear comments like "this is the friendliest church I have ever attended" or "I've been searching for a church for a long time and this place truly feels like family." These friends of ours would not have the opportunity to participate in Christian community if we were not present here. Because we are present here, we know the joy of putting the gospel on display as we love one another, care for one another and partner together in ministry.

Thank you for inviting your friends, neighbors and co-workers to church. Thank you for reaching out to new faces and inviting them to your Bible studies, Sunday school classes, small groups or even into your homes for dinner. When you see a new face in your Sunday school class or during the greeting time, thank you for making an effort to reach out to them and introducing yourself.

Friends, let's continue to show up together, for the glory of Christ and the good of one another.

First Presbyterian is brimming with opportunities to participate in Christian community. If you would like to talk about connecting more with First Presbyterian, please contact me (meagan@fpcbr.org).

Joseph Haydn's, *The Creation*, May 15

The Chancel Choir will be joined by Magnolia Strings for a musical presentation of Part One of Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*. This oratorio is considered to be Haydn's masterpiece. The Creation will be presented during the 11 am service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 15.

The text of this work for chorus, orchestra and soloists is taken from Genesis, Psalms and the creation portion of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Part One celebrates God's creation of primordial light, the Earth, the Heavens, bodies of water and plant life.

This unique occasion offers the opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to worship in a distinctive way that reveals there is a God who is Lord and sovereign over all. It is an opportunity for God's own people to hold him in awe, to praise him and to magnify him through scripture, poetry and music.

Combined Worship, May 29. On Sunday, May 29, First Presbyterian will have just one combined 10.30 am worship in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

Update from the Magruders

Ashley and MacGregor Magruder, along with their three children, (members of First Presbyterian) are serving globally with Center for Mission Mobilization (CMM) based in Nairobi, Kenya. Their ministry is focused on mobilizing the Global Church and through discipleship plant missions movements toward the remaining unreached people groups. God has arranged that the Global Church, established from the last 100 years of missions, be located in strategic places using those who are similar to the unreached in culture, language and appearance. What has historically been the mission field is now becoming the mission force. Ashley is part of the Member Care team and MacGregor is the International Operations Director. Together, they oversee and care for team members in China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, United Arab Emirates and two locations in the United States. MacGregor also works closely in partnership with With Open Eyes whose mission is to directly mobilize East African pastors toward the unreached in the Sudan and Somalia.



Looking ahead to the near future, CMM will be hosting a new staff training for about 20 new international field workers in Kenya. The Magruders will then be in Louisiana for a home leave assignment where they hope to reconnect with family and friends and rest a bit before returning to the field.

Praise and Prayer: The Magruders are so thankful for the recent visit by Pastor Whitney and the love and encouragement that he shared from First Presbyterian. They pray that after being sent in 2008 from FPCBR that the current body, and particularly the new members, know and walk alongside them and their ministry. You are invited to visit mobilization.org for greater ministry detail and themagruders.blogspot.com for a catalog of their monthly updates.

It's Their Treat! FPC is producing an updated membership directory which will include pictures and contact information. Each Sunday through May 29, members may come to the Parlor between 8.45 and 12.30 pm to have photos taken. No appointment needed. A copy of the church's current roster will be available for you to correct any outdated information. Having your photo taken for the membership directory automatically enters you to win one of several prizes. Five of the prizes are lunch with a pastor (it's their treat) or a reserved parking spot in the Convention Street lot. You must have had your photo taken by May 15 in order to be eligible. One entry per directory listing.

All Women Mother's Day Choir. Only one rehearsal is required on Wednesday, May 4 at 6.15 for the May 8, 9 am Mother's Day worship service. Daughters and mothers are all welcome! Please email Nancy Spiller at nancy@fpcbr.org or call 387.0617 if you have questions.



May Circles

1ST MONDAY, MAY 2

WoW Circle 14 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 am
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

WoW Circle 15 @ 7 pm
Contact Jess Concienne (892.3212)

1ST TUESDAY, MAY 3

WoW Circle 1 Meet in church parking lot at 9 am
Caravan to Lake Rosemound at 9:30

WoW Circle 2 Sally Graves' @ 9.45
6 Oak Alley (927.0585)

WoW Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 am
WoW Circle 8 Cheryl Brodnax's @ 6.30 pm
36263 Toulouse St (677.5929)

1ST THURSDAY, MAY 5

WoW Circle 11 Church Library @ noon

2ND MONDAY, MAY 9

WoW Circle 13 CP Apts. @ 2 pm

2ND TUESDAY, MAY 10

WoW Circle 4 Michelle DeSimone's @ 6.30 pm
2055 Old Carriage Ln (349.8598)

WoW Circle 5 No meeting this month
WoW Circle 6 Judy McGimsey's @ 10 am
1538 Louray Drive (769.0648)

WoW Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 pm
Contact Ann Gregorie (937.0488)

2ND FRIDAY, MAY 13

WoW Circle 7 Sara Blankenstein's @ 2 pm
2030 Terrace Ave (344.7911)

3RD WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

WoW Circle 10 Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm
5412 Government St.

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

MAY SERMON TEXTS

May 1, 2016

"Spiritual Fire Eaters"
Exodus 3: 1-12

May 8, 2016

"The Burning Bush"
Exodus 3: 13-22

May 15, 2016

Text to be determined

May 22, 2016

Text to be determined

May 29, 2016

One combined 10.30 am Worship
Acts 4: 1-12

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor

M. Whitney Alexander

Associate Pastor of City Ministry

Derek McCollum

Associate Pastor for Discipleship

and Young Adults

Barry Phillips

Ministry Executive

Josh Maddin

Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry



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fpcbr.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

Because I Love You

By Lauren Honea, Joyful Noise Director

Our heavenly Father loves us just because! We are fallen yet greatest of wonders, he does not abandon us. On May 15, Joyful Noise Children's Choirs will lead a short time of worship celebrating his love! We will hear a story and then lift our hearts in song. After the brief service in the Sanctuary, there will be a reception in the gym. In teaching these children I have learned new things about the Lord. As I prepared for each rehearsal, I would discover a new characteristic or I would come to better understand and, as I would tell the children, my heart softened. This love is a big deal! I think it's time we celebrate! All are invited to come on May 15 at 5.00. Why? Because he loves you!

Grace our Halls! Share Your Art! The Congregational Life committee would like to adorn the halls and adult classrooms of our Education Building with the work of our own talented church artists. Would you consider lending us a painting for a year? We are looking for work that reflects the beauty of the Creator and his creation and will inspire the work, study and planning done in the Education Building. Contact Meagan Greene, meagan@fpcbr.org, for more information.



VBS 2016

What's in the Bible?

June 27-June 30

9 am-12 pm

Register online at fpcbr.org.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

VBS Family Night

Sunday June, 26 at 5 pm

Calling All Fun, Theatrical Church Mem-

bers! On Saturday, May 7, First Presbyterian will facilitate Story Time Saturday at Gardere Community Christian School! It will be a day of fun, food and a lively story telling of the Armor of God in Ephesians 6: 10-18. Please contact Katy Cosby for details on how to get involved (225.205.0151).

Returning Hearts Celebration 2016.

The annual Returning Hearts Celebration will be May 14 at Angola Prison. This is a beautiful celebration where incarcerated parents are reunited with their children for a day. Please contact Bob Downing for more information (223.505.0253).

Deadline May 27. If you are interested in the second annual medical mission trip to Lebanon, please contact Whitney Alexander, whitney@fpcbr.org. Trip dates are August 26-September 4, 2016.

KDEC Sports Camp. The 9th annual KDEC Sports Camp is August 3-14 at the Beit el Wadi in Egypt. Please contact Whitney Alexander if interested in being a counselor.