

Beautiful Spaces by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

We enjoy an unrepeatable location in the heart of Baton Rouge. We worship in an irreplaceable Sanctuary and Chapel. Our forebears in faith looked well beyond themselves in giving us such beautiful spaces for our life together in Christ.

By God's bounty, this season of the church's life affords us opportunity to enhance and protect what has been left to us. We are able to offer current and future members unprecedented facilities and grounds. The session has approved spending up to \$850,000 in renovations and improvements over the next two years.

Projects include installation of lovely brick and aluminum fencing like we have on our playgrounds. We will enclose both our inner and outer perimeters. We'll be able to go between our buildings or play in our gardens without worry that children will get loose into the street or parking lot. The whole block will feel welcoming but secure, and we'll be adding more lanes for drop off by our entrances. We plan to upgrade all doors and locks with a new security system, including better cameras at the entrances. Inside, we'll be replacing the current Sanctuary screens with brighter, sleeker LED screens and we'll be adding higher quality cameras for livestreaming. The project includes fire sprinkler replacement in the Education Building, electrical surge protection and general beautification in a number of rooms.

Best of all, this project will be funded by the carefully stewarded income from our endowments. We don't plan to ask you for anything more! We never use endowment income for the ongoing operation of the church and its mission—that's why your annual gifts are so very important. But because of these well-managed extra sources, we are able to do special projects like this. How bountifully our God has blessed us, and now we will pass along an even more beautiful campus to those who come after us.

KidsHope

The session recently endorsed augmenting our ministry to the Gardere Community Christian School through beginning a new initiative. KidsHope USA is a national Christian mentoring program which enables churches to undergird schools with prayer and intentional mentoring. Every volunteer mentor has a prayer partner lifting up both the student and the mentor. Each hour spent with children has intentional activities designed to build character, communicate love and improve academics. Annette Lamond will direct our program and I'd love for you to contact her to find out more. And, as ever, I give thanks for you as I rejoice in being your pastor,



Gerrit

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

rEcess	Oct 4
Couples' Workshop	Oct 18-19
Art Therapy Class	Oct 16
Media and Mochas	Oct 20
Men's Ministry BBQ	Oct 24
Kirkin' O' the Tartans	Oct 27

ONGOING EVENTS

12 Steps with Christ Jesus	Weds. at noon
Evening Prayer Gathering	Sundays at 5 pm

UPCOMING NOV EVENTS

Women's Ministry Ruth Retreat	Nov 1-2
Good Grief Seminar	Nov 9
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 10

IN MEMORIAM:

September 10, 2019
Courtney Benton

September 15, 2019
Pat Gervin
Mother of Elizabeth Rennhoff

September 20, 2019
Jonathan Martin
Father of Amanda Vincent

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of . . .

OCT 6 . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydston, Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr. parents of Nan and Herb Boydston.

OCT 13 . . . Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean Glisson, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wesley McLean by Mike and Linda Glisson and family.

OCT 20 . . . Kay Curry, beloved mother and grandmother, given by Ryan, Mary, David, Luke and Mary Claire Dickerson.

OCT 27 . . . Mr. and Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. & Mrs. James S. Carr and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.

Tackling Technology by Audra Cato, Director of Childhood Family Ministry

We have a battle on our hands as we struggle with our kids' love for screens, games and the information on the internet. In our home, this is a constant struggle for Kinch and me. The battle is real but it is a battle worth fighting, unto Christ. Now that school has started we have embraced a new rhythm and part of this rhythm is limiting screen time as much as possible. What Kinch and I have learned, is that it starts with us, as the parents. We have to model what we are asking of our children. We have to turn off our computers, TVs and phones so we can make eye contact and have meaningful conversations. It isn't always easy but the reward is worth the effort and consistency. The Catos do not allow iPads and gaming during the week and on the weekend their time on screens is limited. We also have decided not to grant our 10-year-old son's request for an iPhone. Yes, I have been told I'm the meanest mom ever but eventually they get over it and love me again. I am just trying to be the parent God has called me to be. Sadly, screens can be used, by us, to remedy our children's suffering or boredom. I am guilty of this. However, I have learned over the years what a dangerous distraction for our children this can become. I have also learned that it is OK for our children to be "bored." In fact, God is at work when our children are bored and their boredom can lead to much creativity and innovative thought.

Beloved parents, my heart is burdened by the propaganda that our children have easy access to via the internet. Our kids are exposed to too

much, too soon and do not understand how to handle it. Young children are not mentally capable of handling the effects of social media. Social media at an early age is accepted in our culture yet sadly leads to loneliness and anxiety which has become a childhood epidemic. Social media destroys our sense of self and the goodness of life God wants for us. We have to band together and go against the current culture so we can teach our children how to live a godly life in an un-godly world.

We face real dangers both in the world itself and the cyber world. However, there is good news. As Christian parents, our security and true hope is in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ will return and make all things right. His Word is living and active and written to guide us and help us.

So, what shall we do? Let's let the body of Christ minister grace to us in the name of Jesus. Pray for yourselves as parents and don't be scared to share your needs with others in the body. Confess sin that is causing you to feel defeated or alone. Let's keep our focus on the glory of God and his redemptive purposes in our lives and in our families. Pray against the dangers of the cyber world. Pray against the devil. Through Jesus, God has given us the power to resist Satan and pray against darkness. Pray for the spiritual defense of our children and may we pray together as one.

Media and Mochas

Want to learn how to tackle technology in the home? All parents and grandparents are invited to join us for a free and important Parenting Workshop on Tackling Technology, Media and Mochas. Angelle High with our mission partner, Manners of the Heart, will equip us on how to tackle tech in the home. Angelle has spent hours of time and research on this topic and is passionate about encouraging and equipping parents on how to manage and navigate such issues.

When: Sunday, October 20, 5-7 pm Where: FPC Church Sanctuary Registration: fpcbr.org.

While you are spending time with us, your children can attend the following programming.

- Infants – Preschool: So Loved Nursery
- Kindergarten and 1st grade: J-A-M (Jesus and Me) kids choir
- 2nd – 5th grade: Joyful Noise Choir
- 6th – 12th grade: Youth programming



Kirkin' O' the Tartans and Congregational Meeting

Wear your plaids, your kilts and your tweeds as we celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith on Reformation Sunday, October 27. Worship begins at 10 am on the Sanctuary steps enjoying the bagpipers. After the bagpipers, we'll follow the procession of the Bible, the tartans, the pastors and choir as we enter God's house. During the service, we will hear of the daring, sacrificial faith of the first Presbyterians. We will call the clans and invite those of Scottish descent to lead each and every one of us in affirming our faith in Christ our Lord. We'll all thrill as the organ and the bagpipes are unleashed for the stirring "Highland Cathedral." Bring your friends and don't miss it!



Our congregational meeting will be a part of our service as we elect new elders and deacons as well as vote on proposed changes to the church Articles of Incorporation.

2022 NOMINATED CLASS OF ELDERS AND DEACONS The congregation has nominated the following members for the 2022 class of officers: **Elders:** Jane Cooper, Ryan Dickerson, Brett Furr, Sue Miley, Hank Mills, Hans Othmer, Bill Peters, Tom Sawyer, James Slaton and Hardy Swyers. **Deacons:** Laurie Adams, Trey Birch, Gene Booth, Ray Gaspard, Charles Goebel, Mark Lamond, Sara Lemon, Shawn Mills, Jonathan Schellack and Garland Wilson.

CLAN TARTANS FOR THE KIRKIN' We want your clan's tartan to be represented at the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans. Call Jaci to see about including yours, 620.0221.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH After worship stay for a congregational lunch of grits and grillades in the gym for \$5 (\$20 per family). Special music will be provided by James Linden and Jim Hogg.

Women's Ministry Ruth Retreat

Throughout the history of the church, Ruth has been understood in many ways: as a romance novel, as a genealogy of King David and eventually Jesus, and simply as a model of faithfulness for Christians to emulate. But there's more. Ruth quietly reveals that the heart of our salvation lies in the relationship between the Father and the Son. Come study Ruth like you've never studied it before with our sweet sister Arden Flynt. This will be a time of study, fellowship, reflection and fun . . . and maybe even some s'mores!

November 1-2, 2019
Solomon Episcopal Center, Loranger
\$100: Double Occupancy
\$130: Single Occupancy

Register online at fpcbr.org.



Men's Ministry BBQ

Men of First Presbyterian, we have some exciting events coming up for men's ministry!

On October 24, we will have a BYOM BBQ at elder Brett Furr's house. Bring Your Own Meat is an opportunity to bring that big game you harvested on your last hunting expedition or swing by your favorite butcher to select that perfect cut of steak. Whatever you bring to eat, Brett will have the grills sizzling hot. Make sure to also bring a heart that is eager to connect with other men from our church that we might continue to press deeper into Christ! The church will provide sides/drinks/etc. Please register online at fpcbr.org. No charge and friends are welcome!



Looking further ahead, we will have a skeet shooting adventure in Jan./Feb. of 2020, and already have a men's retreat booked with the Solomon Center for March 27-28.

Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss any of these events!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
October 27: One 10 am Service

OCTOBER SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

OCTOBER 6 2019
1 Corinthians 15: 4-23

OCTOBER 13, 2019
Acts 1: 6-11

OCTOBER 20, 2019
To be determined

OCTOBER 27, 2019
Romans 5: 5b, 8: 12-17

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



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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
brchristiancounseling.com

Art Therapy Returns!

If you missed out on the summer fun, we are hosting another painting class for adults of all ages.

When: Wednesday October 16, 4-6 pm

Where: 4th-5th grade Sunday school room, Sanctuary Building.

How much: \$20 donation for our teacher Maryam. She brings all supplies.

Sign up at the Connection Center in October or email Nancy Spiller (nancy@fpabr.org).



Celebration of Vision and Hope

Celebrate God's work through Gardere Community Christian School. The annual fundraising gala is a joyful evening of fellowship and witness to the transformation in the lives of our students. Admission is free: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 6 pm to 8.30 pm at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. Please visit gardereschool.org to RSVP.



Couples' Therapy: Oct. 18-19

Lost some of that loving feeling? Looking to get more connected? Closer? Want to stop the bickering and the same-old-arguments? Trouble communicating?

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center is offering a couples' workshop October 18 and 19 based on Dr. Sue Johnson's book, "Hold Me Tight" and Emotionally Focused Therapy. Emotionally Focused Therapy is a research-proven therapy which shows significant improvements to relationships in 90% of couples who participate. Details and registration are online at brchristian-counseling.com.

