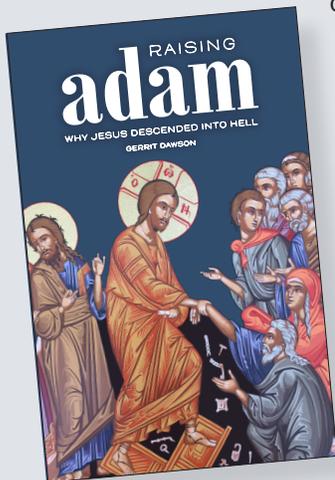




Back from Sabbatical by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

It's great to be back home with you. We are so grateful that you generously gave us this summer as a sabbatical to rest and refuel. The days passed like a wonderful dream as all of our rhythms slowed down. Time enough at last to pray, to read, to walk, to be with family, to see friends, to be together as a couple, and discover that turning 60 is not so bad. I've decided to stay young as long as possible. So, thank you! It was also grand to have time to work slowly and deeply on next spring's Lenten prayer guide. We'll be delving into the names of Jesus day by day. Finishing touches were also applied to *Raising Adam*:



Why Jesus Descended into Hell. After five years of preparation, it will be a thrill to see it in print this October.

Most encouraging to me was a passion that rose up from the depths: I seriously, madly love to be your pastor and I pray God will give me strength to lead you for years to come. So hang on as you read this issue because there is lots going on.

We're continuing to explore the mystery made known in Paul's

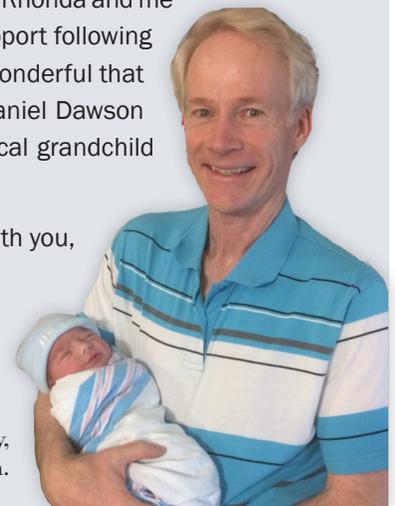
letter to the Colossians. I'm thrilled that our Sunday school children are tracking with the same passages. Nearly 200 folks attended the kick off to our youth program: Paula, Thomas and the youth team already have it in high gear. Our members are providing invaluable support as school begins at Buchanan Elementary and Gardere Community Christian School. Small groups are organizing around town as together we explore the gospel of grace. And soon we'll all be pulling together to blitz build our sixth Habitat for Humanity home. All that and football season too!

Finally, our heartfelt thanks from Rhonda and me for your great outpouring of support following the death of her brother. How wonderful that it was the same week Caleb Daniel Dawson entered the world. Oh yes, a local grandchild to spoil!

Glad to be doing life together with you,

Gerrit

Gerrit with his newest grandbaby, Caleb Daniel Dawson.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Labor Day - Office Closed	Sept 3
rEcess	Sept 7
Mix & Match Small Group Kickoff	Sept 9 & 16
IFP Kickoff	Sept 9
Habitat Build	Sept 13-Oct 6
BR Concert Band Performance	Sept 30
Communion Training	Sept 30

ONGOING EVENTS

"12 Steps with Christ Jesus" Weds., 12.15 pm
 Sunday Evening Prayer, 5 pm each Sunday

UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

WiM Day Retreat	Oct 6
Discover First Dinner	Oct 7

BAPTISMS:

August 12, 2018
 Harrison Everard Russ
 Parents are Lindsey and Kyle Russ

IN MEMORIAM:

July 27, 2018
 Donald Taylor - Father of James Taylor

August 11, 2018
 John Melton, III - Brother of Anne McElveen

August 14, 2018
 Dick Fox

August 20, 2018
 Sandy Mills - Mother of Kevin McCarter

August 21, 2018
 Richard Daniel - Brother of Rhonda Dawson

MARRIAGES:

August 18, 2018
 Robert Gandy married Kaitlyn Sepulveda

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 . . .

SEPT 2 . . . In loving memory with thanksgiving for Van Andrew Wilson on his birthday weekend by his parents Steve and Claire.

SEPT 9 . . . To the glory of God in loving memory of Jerry Johnson by his wife, LaNelle Johnson and their daughters Debra Matthews, Joy Pennington and Jeri J. Cochran.

SEPT 16 Open date. If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the Sanctuary chancel, contact Kathy Mullins (291.3095).

SEPT 23 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of E. David Kendrick and Mr. & Mrs. L.S. Bridges by Bobbie Kendrick and family.

SEPT 30 Open date. If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the Sanctuary chancel, contact Kathy Mullins (291.3095).

Habitat Build 2018

On September 13, First Presbyterian will begin work on its *sixth* Habitat for Humanity house. This is a major commitment for our church, and we hope you will join us in this important City Ministry project!

When? Friday, September 13, through Saturday, October 6. No work on Sundays and Mondays. We will work from approximately 7.45 am to 3.30 pm. The house dedication is tentatively set for October 6.

Where? The house site is 1005 North 31st Street, 70802.

Who can help? YOU! Although building skills are welcome, no experience is necessary! The Habitat staff is skilled and extremely patient in training volunteers for tasks. Youth must be 16 or older to work on site. Alternatively, you can be a "hospitality" volunteer on site to serve beverages and food or you can provide snacks or meals.

How can I sign up? You can register on the church web site: fpcbr.org. Contact Meagan Greene to volunteer to bring food (meagan@fpcbr.org).

What should I bring? Habitat provides all tools and materials. Beverages, snacks and lunch will be provided. Sun block is a good idea.

What should I wear? Wear comfortable clothing that can get dirty. Layers are good as temperatures can change. Close-toed shoes are mandatory. Safety goggles and gloves are provided.

How does Habitat work? Habitat for Humanity selects families and individuals for its



Sandy and David Franz with 2015 Habitat build homeowner Marah Bowie.

homeowner program based on need, ability to repay the loan and willingness to partner which includes the completion of hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" as well as homeowner education classes. Homeowners make a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, and the houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans.

Why should I help? From the Habitat web site: "Habitat's ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ we must reflect Christ's love in our own lives by loving and caring for one another. Our love must not be words only—it must be true love, which shows itself in action." What a better way to show this love and our Church's "heart for the city!" It's also a great opportunity to fellowship with our brothers and sisters. And—it's fun!

Conversations Daytreat by Elizabeth Parker, Director of Women in Ministry

We are constantly in a conversation of some sort. Sometimes we're talking one on one, sometimes it's Twitter or Facebook, sometimes we're listening to lectures. There are conversations going on all around us at all times. But there are conversations that have been going on since the beginning of time. We know the Trinity existed in love and fellowship among each member before humans were ever created. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit conversed with one another. God lovingly brought humanity in on that conversation when he created Adam and Eve. The conversation was warped when sin entered the world. But even in the midst of sin, we are invited to be a part of the conversation God has established. We do this by conversing with God, conversing with ourselves and conversing with others. Today we want to talk about how we have lost conversation with God and how we can get that fellowship back. And, in turn, how we can allow our relationship with God to recalibrate every conversation we have with ourselves and with each other.

Mark your calendars for an October 6 Women in Ministry "daytreat" at Nan and Herb Boydston's farm. We will have fellowship, food, prayer and hear from speakers. Be on the lookout for registration. We can't wait to see you there!

Meet & Match Small Group Mixer



Every fall, we join together in living rooms across the Baton Rouge area to study the Scriptures and form friendships. This year the content for most of our small groups is going to be from a book entitled, *Gospel-Centered Life* by Robert Thune and Will Walker. This book, comprised of nine short lessons and exercises, delves into the heart of walking in truth and grace.

On Sunday, September 9 and 16, our annual Meet & Match will be in the Reception Room between 9 am and noon. Meet & Match lets you find a group based on the criteria that matters most to you. All of our groups will be represented allowing those unattached to mingle, meet and match up with a group that represents the best fit.

Calling All Moms by Jaime Carnaggio, Children's Ministry Assistant Director

It's the hard truth. No matter how hard we try, every mom can attest to the pestering power of mom guilt. Whether you're a mom to toddlers or teenagers, chances are you strive daily for some measure of parenting success that you don't reach. We constantly set ourselves up for failure. We set expectations for ourselves that we can't meet. We go to bed feeling regret over what we didn't accomplish rather than joy over what we did. Frankly, I've just about had it with #MomGuilt. Can I get an Amen to that?

This is exactly why I run (not walk!) to our Mom's Thursday Morning Study. Not only is this a time of deep, expositional Bible study, but it's also a time of meaningful (and much needed!) fellowship with other tired moms like me, needing to refuel and reconnect. Each week, I learn more about our Savior, and I'm reminded of who I'm truly performing for. This time together helps me refocus on what's really important (him, not me!). We have prayer time dedicated to praying over our children, our marriages and our parenting joys and struggles. This is a safe place where we gather together in his name on behalf of our families. I leave feeling refueled, secure in Christ and more in tune with God's desire for me as a wife, mother and friend. Mom's Bible Study meets on Thursdays from 9.30-11 am in Education Building Room 301. The majority of women who attend are mothers in their 20s, 30s and 40s, basically anyone who has kids still at home and in the season of "active" parenting! We are not formal at all. Come in your activewear! We offer childcare for children five and under, but you can even bring your babies with you to study if you prefer. All are welcome!

Our fall semester begins Thursday, September 6, and we will be studying through Jesus' parables in Luke's Gospel. Jesus often teaches through the use of parables, illustrative stories that convey spiritual truths. My prayer is that we grow deeper in our understanding of how these stories were important to the disciples, and also that God grants us the wisdom to teach the spiritual truths found in the parables to our children and apply these lessons to our everyday lives with our families.

We would love to have you! Contact me (jaime@fpcbr.org) if you have questions.

Hope Restored: Healing After Abortion by Katie Forsthoff

The tumult surrounding abortion leaves many women with hearts torn apart. Feeling trapped under the weight of this haunting transgression, some feel alone. Some don't think they have a right to grieve the loss of their child. But, there is a Savior who sees you fully and knows all of the nooks and crannies of your broken heart. Jesus longs to make redemptive beauty out of the ashes in your life—for your good and his glory! Hope Restored is a 10-week small group focused on ministering God's healing grace to women who

are struggling with the aftermath of abortion.

No matter if your experience with abortion has been recent or decades ago, we invite you to contact Melissa Bennett (225.366.7041) or Katie Forsthoff (404.518.9765) to have a discreet one-on-one dialogue about this safe and confidential group beginning in September 2018. This group is not exclusive to First Presbyterian members. All are welcome.

Because of the potentially emotional nature of the group, it will be limited to eight members.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

SEPT SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018
Colossians 1: 15-18

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
Colossians 1: 19-23

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018
Colossians 1: 24-2: 3

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
Colossians 2: 6-15

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
Colossians 2: 6-15

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 for Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010

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

Buchanan Elementary Month by Laura Shaw

September is Buchanan Elementary Month! Plan to check out all of the service opportunities at our adopted school Buchanan Elementary each Sunday in September at the Connection Center. You can sign up to be a Reading Friend, Teacher Encourager, Classroom Storytime Reader or a Special Events Helper. No previous experience is necessary – all you need is a love for children and a willing heart. The commitment is small but the rewards are great!

We are also collecting school supplies for Buchanan. They are in need 8 and 16 count crayons, glue sticks, Fiskar student scissors, classroom clocks, eraser tops, and always #2 pencils! Items can be dropped off at the Connection Center.

Help us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors just two miles from our church! For more information, stop by the Connection Center, email Laura Shaw at laura@fpabr.org or call 387.0617.

Games Galore!

Sunday, September 9, 2018
2-4.30 pm



Help us warmly welcome internationals to Baton Rouge with an afternoon of fun and games for the whole family.

Get to know a few internationals and why they're here and for how long! Enjoy a diversity of cultures. Please pray for this gathering for God to bring those internationals he wants us to connect with to our event. This event is free but we ask that you please register online to attend (fpabr.org). Invite your friends too!

We encourage you to bring your favorite finger food and board games to share.



**Sunday Night
Youth Group Starts
September 9,
5-7 pm**