

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.

fpc NEWS



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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Prayer for Our Nation	Sundays, 6 pm
Church Office Closed	Sept 7
Men's Kick Off	Sept 10
rEcess	Sept 11
FAS Crowd Sept. Meeting	Sept 14
Men's Ephesians Study Starts	Sept 17
Habitat Build Begins	Sept 24
Discover First Class	Sept 27
Officer Meetings	Sept 28

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Kirkin O the Tartan Combined Oct 25
Worship and Fellowship

Proud to be Presbyterian!

GERRIT DAWSON, SENIOR PASTOR

If you aren't one, you probably can't spell it. If you are one, you probably can't explain it.

After all, if I sent you to the churches where two of my dear colleagues in town pastor, you'd probably say, "Well, that seemed familiar. Same message. Same gospel, just a bit different style." That's true of the historically orthodox faith, the deep main stream of Christianity: we have the same core, even though Bradley Aucoin at Christ Covenant is a Baptist and Drew Rollins at St. Alban's is an Episcopalian!

So what's distinctive about Presbyterians and why does it matter?

Well, from my point of view, I love being Presbyterian because you can't fire me in one meeting! Nor can a bishop just move me to another location. The presbytery has to consent to any hirings or firings of pastors, and it can't force such moves.

What's a presbytery? The meeting of churches in a region who are interconnected through voluntarily pledging themselves to mutual accountability and submission over the essentials of the faith and the way of church government.

There are about 35 churches in our Gulf South presbytery and we consider that the mission of one church is the mission of all. You might ask, "So why would our whole pastoral team take a Tuesday to drive to Gulf Shores for a meeting with a dozen other Presbyterian pastors? After all, our guys already support each other. Don't we have enough work to do together here?" Because we belong to one another. We care for one another. We hold each other accountable and encourage one another. "Why would Rebecca and Nour Botros go visit dozens of Presbyterian

churches when we support them here?" Because we belong to each other. And now the Botros' mission belongs to hundreds of others along with us.

If Presbyterians didn't think beyond their walls, we wouldn't be here. After all, almost two hundred years ago, the presbytery of Mississippi looked out and realized a gospel mission was needed down here on the Bayou. At great cost and effort, they sent teams to found our church. And because we looked out, Broadmoor, University, River and River South churches came into being. Because we look out, churches grow in our country and around the world.

We belong to a denomination that wants to bring the gospel back to our nation. Research tells us that the most effective way to reach nonChristians is through new church plants. We belong to a presbytery that spans the region of the Gulf South. The elders have pledged sacred oaths to uphold one another. In the near future, we will be working together to bring the gospel to our region through new churches. That's what we do as Presbyterians. We have a high view of God, a God of the whole earth and indeed the whole cosmos. We see how his great commission calls us beyond ourselves. If that wasn't true, we wouldn't even be here!

So I'm proud to be a Presbyterian. And not just because we're stuck with each other! After all, I love being your pastor,

Gerrit



In Memoriam:

August 2, 2015
Joyce Dobbins, mother of Ruth Bennett

August 3, 2015
Spec Lewis, father of Jason Lewis

August 20, 2015
Carol Jennings

August 22, 2015
Jane Pickett, daughter-in-law of Yvonne Pickett

Baptisms:

August 9, 2015
Emma Hardin Jones
Parents are Christy and Andrew Jones

August 9, 2015
Gracie Ivana Grosch
Mother is Mary Anne Grosch

August 9, 2015
Holland Elise Comeaux
Parents are Brittany and Jamy Comeaux

We Want our Children to Live for Him! by Audra Cato

The cry of our Children's Ministry is, "that in everything Christ might be preeminent!" (Colossians 1: 18) Here at First Presbyterian we teach our children what it means to have a Christ-exalting life by equipping them with the tools they need to get there: prayer, gospel love and theologically sound lessons that point our kids to Jesus in every story. We want our kids of First Presbyterian Church not just to know about God but to *know him* in a deep way, such that they would rely upon him in all things. We want our kids to know that Jesus is our all and all so that they may turn to him, pray to him, believe him, trust him and live for him! This is our mission and our prayer.

We teach our children of First Presbyterian about our Triune God, so that they may learn how God the Father creates and watches over us, how God the Son saves and sustains us and how God the Holy Spirit plants faith in our hearts in order to grow it. Our children see the healing mercies of Jesus and how he provides for his people. We, as a church, model this to our little ones and model it well, by God's grace. We show our kids what it means to engage in his mission and what it looks like to take up our cross in order to serve him wholeheartedly. Our church *loves* our children and they flourish in this place where they are "so

loved" and nurtured! Just as our beloved Pastor Gerrit teaches our congregation to return the blessing to God by boldly reading Scripture aloud, the children are reciting and reading Scripture out loud. What music to the ears of our Father in heaven this must be!

So as you observe our Children's Ministry program here at First Presbyterian Church, look for Christ. He is on the move! You can see him through our many volunteers pouring into the lives of our little ones. You can see him when you see prayer cards the children have written out on Sunday mornings. You can see him when our children are offering their only coins and dollars, or simply touching the offering plate giving himself or herself to God. You can see him in the attentiveness as they receive gospel-centered teaching in Sunday school. Their hearts are hungry and we want to all take part in equipping these little ones early so that they may know him and accept him as their personal Savior.

I am honored and truly blessed to take part in the life of each child—your child. My family and I reap the blessing of this God-given mission every day. I am grateful to walk alongside you as a sister, parent and friend. May Jesus Christ be praised!

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 6 ...in loving memory with thanksgiving for Van Andrew Wilson on his birthday weekend by his parents Steve and Claire.

Sept 13 ... 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 20 ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. McKowen II, Mr. and Mrs. Alex C. McKowen Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodford by Jeanie McKowen Thuneman, Wayne McKowen, Ann McKowen Gerald and Allie McKowen.

Sept 27 ... To the glory of God and in loving memory of E. David Kendrick, and Mr. & Mrs. L.S. Bridges by Bobbie Kendrick and family.



Men's Kick Off and Tailgate. On Thursday, September 10 at 6 pm, Men's Ministry will kick off the fall Ephesians study with a tailgate event on the terrace garden. Formerly Faith & Football, this annual event is a chance to hang out with friends, eat good food, get excited for the best season of the year, and get a glimpse of Ephesians as we prepare to study together in the coming weeks. Make your \$15 reservation by visiting fpcbr.org.

Men's Ephesians Weekly Study. Beginning September 17, FPC is resuming a church-wide, weekly men's study on the book of Ephesians. If you're a man, this study is for you. We'll meet at 6.30 am in the reception room each Thursday. Breakfast served.

Habitat for Humanity FPC 2015 Build Everyone benefits!

Come build homes and hope with us!
Fifth First Presbyterian Build
2806 Madison Ave. Lot #1

Register online at fpcbr.org. Build schedule is below for your planning purposes.

WEEK 1: **SEPTEMBER 24-26**

Framing
Windows
Electrical Rough In
Plumbing Rough In
HVAC Rough In

WEEK 2: **OCTOBER 1-3**

Siding
Sheetrock Work
Siding, Fascia and Soffit
Prime and Paint Interior and Exterior
Cabinetry

WEEK 3: **OCTOBER 15-17**

Interior Trim
Doors
Hardware
Finish Painting
Mailbox, House Numbers & Mini Blinds
Landscaping

Women's Bible Studies

Bible studies will begin the week of Labor Day.

Tuesdays, 6.30 pm: Elizabeth Parker will teach a 10 week study on Ephesians for women of all ages. Meet at Elizabeth's house, 2502 McGrath, Apt 6. Contact Elizabeth for more info. and for her apartment gate code (elizabeth@fpabr.org).

Weds. at 2 pm: Elizabeth Parker will teach Ephesians at the home of Sally Graves, 6 Oak Alley. Please contact Elizabeth for more information (elizabeth@fpabr.org).

Weds. at 6.30 am: This study on 2 Samuel is for women of all ages and is taught by Lisa Head and Liz Thurston. Contact Lisa for more info (lisa@fpabr.org).

Thurs. at 9.30 am: See below for the three Bible study offerings at the church.

Ephesians: Elizabeth Parker will teach to women of all ages in EB 202.

Ephesians: Jaime Carnaggio will teach to Mother's of Little Ones (MOLO) in the library.

Hebrews: Robyn Zartman and Barat Travis in the bride's room beside the chapel. *This group meets every other week.*

Thanks for the Memories

by Melvin Hale

My dear friends--my family in Christ, it is very hard to say goodbye to you. During my ten years at First Presbyterian you have become a part of me. You will always have a place in my heart that no one else can fill. I will remain a true friend of the church and will use every opportunity to stay in touch with you.

I have been called to serve as Music Director of Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. I feel led by God in this endeavor and I have accepted the call to Grace Church. But I have wrestled with the decision because of my deep devotion to you - the congregation of First Presbyterian. In short, it breaks my heart to leave you.

That said, why do I feel compelled to leave? I am Episcopalian and my faith is deeply rooted in the Anglican tradition. I am not getting any younger and realize that this organist/choirmaster position at Grace Church is very likely the last opportunity I will have to serve an Episcopal church through the ministry of music. Please keep me in your prayers as I embark on this new phase of my ministry. I assure you that all of you will remain uppermost in my thoughts and prayers. Love to you all!

SEPTEMBER CIRCLES

Women of the Word (WoW), our Circle Ministry, is rich with fellowship and Scripture. These once a month meetings are a time to gather with other women, pray, study a Scripturally based book and even provide service opportunities. In a desire to have the title of 'circle' more fully represent the content of the meetings we have decided to include the title "women of the word" (WoW) to show that our primary focus is the study of the Word of God. We have also included next to the Circle (WoW) numbers the location of each meeting to be more descriptive in our branding and therefore more convenient to a woman seeking a group.

CIRCLE 1: Meets in various homes on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9.45 am. For more information contact Sharon Dixon awsad@bellsouth.net.

CIRCLE 2: Meets in various homes on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9.45 am. Contact Peggy Anderson for more information, 344.0127.

CIRCLE 3: (Downtown WoW) Meets at First Presbyterian in the education building room 201 B on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10 am. Contact Eugenie Burglass, eburglass@cox.net, for more information.

CIRCLE 4: (Highland WoW) Meets at the home of Amanda Boggs on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30. Contact Bonnie Adams for more information, adams.b@me.com.

CIRCLE 5: (Garden District WoW) Meets at the home of Rachel Williams (2142 Oleander) the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11 am. Contact Bonnie Peden for more information, 456.5255

CIRCLE 6: Meets in various homes the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 am. Contact Judy McGimsey for more information, jmcgimsey@cox.net.

CIRCLE 7: (Garden District WoW) Meets at the home of Sarah Blankenstein the 1st Friday of the month at 2 pm. Contact Virginia Simeral for more information, 275.5535

CIRCLE 8: Meets in various homes the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm. Contact Elizabeth Rennhoff for more information, erennhoff1@gmail.com.

CIRCLE 9: Meets at different restaurants on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm. Contact Ann Gregorie for more information, 926.7042.

CIRCLE 10: (MidCity WoW) Meets at Bistro Byronz the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5 pm. Contact Pat Canfield for more information, 295.0084.

CIRCLE 11: (Downtown WoW) Meets in the church library the 1st Thursday of the month at noon. Contact Tootie Perry for more information, 939.4265.

CIRCLE 14: (Bocage WoW) Meets in the home of Kristen Carney (3161 Svendson Dr.) the 2nd Monday of the month at 9.30 am. Contact Kristen Carney for more information, 229.4087.

CIRCLE 15: (Zachary WoW) Meets at the home of Jess Conciencie (22721 Hickey Ct.) on the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm. Contact Jess Conciencie for more information, 892.3212.

CATH/PRES: Meets 2nd Monday of the month. Contact Lisa Head for more information, lisa@fpabr.org.

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

AUGUST SERMON TEXTS

Sept 6, AD 2015

Hebrews 4: 11-16

Sept 13, AD 2015

Hebrews 5: 1-10

Sept 20, AD 2015

Hebrews 5: 11 - 6: 12

Sept 27, AD 2015

Hebrews 6: 13-20

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

Associate Pastor of Student Ministry



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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

Fall Ministry Opportunities

Put your faith into action this fall in as little as an hour a week:

Jobs for Life: Weekly mentoring of a person participating in this life skills program of the Christian Outreach Center. Begins Thursday evening September 15.

Gardere Community Christian School Fall Banquet: September 15 at 7 pm, Renaissance Hotel.

Buchanan Volunteers: Reading friends, mentoring, teacher encouragement. Begins week of October 5.

Habitat Build: Swing the hammer, create a home. Thursday - Saturday, beginning September 24.

For more information, visit the Connection Center or contact Whitney Alexander: whitney@fpcbr.org.

September FAS Crowd

Come kick off the new FAS Crowd season and join us for lunch at Portobello's Grill. (Bocage Village at the corner of Jefferson Hwy. and Old Hammond Hwy.)

Monday, September 14 at 11.30 am

RSVP to the church office by Thursday, September 10, 387.0617.

Come prepared to share your ideas and suggestions for the new season.

Appetizer, entrée and drink:
\$14.50 per person plus tax and tip.

(to be paid at the restaurant)

\$5 optional dessert



Assessing the Needs of Our Members

Meeting the needs of the flock can be challenging. There may be a need for food, visits, rides, handymen projects, etc. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please call the church office. Also, we need *you* to volunteer. A buddy system can be arranged. God bless you for praying and considering this meaningful outreach. For additional information, please contact Pastor Dick Gates, dick@fpcbr.org or 573.9149.

SIAC Accepting Grant Applications

The Session Income Allocation Committee of First Presbyterian Church will begin accepting requests for the fall 2015 grants for ministry/mission opportunities beginning Sept. 1 and ending Sept. 28. Applications are available at fpcbr.org or by calling Jaci Gaspard, 620.0221. Applications should be sent to First Presbyterian Church, Attn.: SIAC/Jaci Gaspard, 763 North Blvd., BR, LA 70802.