

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

April 2016 Volume 50-04

Deeper Magic

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

Can you figure out this puzzle? Can you decipher what C.S. Lewis is talking about in the excerpt below?

"Yes!" said a great voice behind their backs. "It is more magic." They looked round. There, shining in the sunrise, larger than they had seen him before, shaking his mane stood Aslan [the great Lion] himself.

"Aren't you dead then, dear Aslan?" asked Lucy.

"Not now," said Aslan.

"But what does it all mean?" asked Susan.

"It means," said Aslan, "That though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of Time. But if she could have looked a little further back....she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backwards."

So, did the solution come to you as you read? I knew it would. Lewis wrote an allegory in which Aslan the great Lion represents Christ. He gave his life to save a traitorous young boy, but in doing so,

he broke the power of the White Witch and shattered death. Just so, Jesus the sinless man, gave his life for a traitorous humanity on the cross. Then he rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin, death and the devil.

The gospel is a familiar story to most Christians, so well known that sometimes we aren't dazzled by its brilliance like we used to be. That's where stories like *Narnia* become so important. They bring the power of the gospel to people who may have had bad experiences with the church, or those who may have grown bored with the old story, or those who may never have heard it before.

In two weeks, your church will present *Narnia* in our Sanctuary. The production values of this musical will reach standards set by *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Roots and Promises*. But here's the twist: the truth of the gospel will never have been more clearly presented in one of our plays intended for outreach to the community.

You won't want to miss it. That goes without saying if you love and support our church. But will you, and I, take the next step, and invite others to join us? It's the story we love presented with quality of which we can be proud. Pack the house dear ones!

Church of the Resurrection

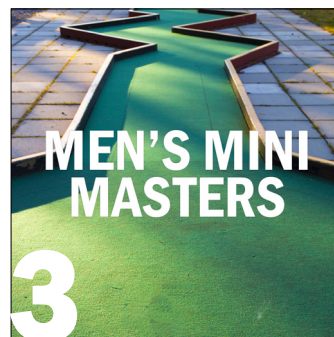
I'm excited to tell you that one of our biggest initiatives over the last year is coming to fruition. Our church leads a network of Presbyterian churches in the Gulf South region who have joined to plant an EPC church in New Orleans. This past month we called the Rev. Ben Cunningham to be the church planter. Ben has been the assistant pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in uptown New Orleans. Now Ben, and his wife Jenny (finishing her medical residency in N.O.), will begin the long journey of meeting people and gathering worshipers to become the Church of the Resurrection in an area of New Orleans intersecting the lower garden district and the central business district.

Church planting succeeds best when it digs deep and starts slowly. We do not expect a full out worship service for at least a year. New Orleans is a notoriously tough place to sink church roots. But all year Ben and Jenny will be gathering folks to become the launch team of the new church. Do you know someone in New Orleans who might be looking to be part of this exciting venture? Contact Ben: cunninghambenj@gmail.com. You can also hear him preach in our pulpit on May 29. Please pray for God to establish the Church of the Resurrection in a powerful way.

Gerrit

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APRIL CALENDAR

Foto Sisters at 9 and 11 worship	Apr 3
Men's Mini-Masters	Apr 8
rEcess	Apr 8
Crawfish Boil	Apr 10
Narnia Musical	Apr 15-17
Community Outreach Meal	Apr 24

UPCOMING DATES

Mother's Day	May 8
Joyful Noise Concert	May 15

IN MEMORIAM:

- March 1, 2016
Frances Halligan
- March 1, 2016
Herschel Smith, father of Brenda Richards
- March 6, 2016
Yvonne Pickett
- March 16, 2016
Barry Steele, father of David Steele
- March 21, 2016
Mary Jane Smith
- March 25, 2016
Aline Squires
- March 28, 2016
Charlotte Ingram, mother of Shawn Mills

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 ...

- Apr 3** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Jeanne and Marlin Drake Jr. of Shreveport, by Lauren Teague Phillips.
- Apr 10** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aylce and Sidney Bennett, parents of Barton, by Ruth Anne and Barton Bennett.
- Apr 17** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rev. Dellic Alphonse (Jack) Martin, father of Beverly Setliff, by Beverly and Richard Setliff.
- Apr 24** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Yvonne and Selser Pickett by Winnie and Jane Gill.



Let's Face It, We Need Each Other

By Elizabeth Parker, Women in Ministry Director

As an only child my perspective of the church is kind of unique. Let me tell you why. Only children can't help but be just a little bit spoiled because on a day-to-day basis we didn't have to share toys until we went to school. There was no competition with siblings so we were always winners. There was never a brother around to (literally) pound some humility into us and there was never a sister around to steal our most beloved dresses. One of my favorite compliments is someone seeming surprised that I'm an only child. It's always strange when someone asks me if I had siblings and, after I answer, the reply is "Oh yeah, that makes sense."

As a member of the Church (God's people from Adam to eternity) we are NOT only children. We are a part of a huge family. This is the family that God uses to bring about his purposes and to bring glory to himself. When we function as a family we put our gifts and skills together with others and we use that combination of gifts to fulfill our calling as the Church. We work together to take our faith and the truth of the Gospel to our city, our country and to all the world. Our western notion of individuality is not biblical and is anti-church. How is that so? We are called in Scripture to be life-givers to one another. We are called to serve, to sacrifice and to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to be each other's greatest

prayer warriors lifting one another up to God just as Christ intercedes for us in heaven. Women's ministry, youth ministry and all the other ministries of the church are not there to give you just another thing to do. Speaking for the women's ministry specifically I can say we really have a lot of fun! Bible studies are enjoyable and there is often laughter. Retreats are exciting in that we get away from daily life, play fun games and laugh with (hopefully not at) one another. HOWEVER, Women in Ministry doesn't primarily exist for fun. Every Bible Study, every luncheon, every retreat we do is primarily to take women further into Christ and to connect them with one another.

At First Presbyterian, I have found men and women who are committed to praying for me; not just as the women's ministry director, but as a 20-something young woman trying to figure out her life. I have men and women who pour into me their knowledge of God and their experience of his sovereignty and goodness. Some of you have taken the time and energy to meet with me and share about God's faithfulness in your lives and you challenge me when I fear he will not be faithful in mine. I have had the privilege of walking with women through excruciating life circumstances. I have reaped the benefits of loving reminders of my sinfulness. Thank you for being my brothers and sisters. Thank you for welcoming me into your family.

Aslan Is On the Move!



C.S. Lewis' famous book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, comes to life at this Baton Rouge production of *Narnia, the Musical*. Join us for one of three, FREE performances: Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 at 7 pm. Then again on Sunday, April 17 at 2 pm.

NARNIA CAST

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|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aslan Bobby Struppeck | Mrs. Macready Hallie Garrison | Squirrel Grace Hall |
| White Witch Angie Bush | Professor Hans Othmer | Fox Keely Slaton |
| Peter Jacob Caillouet | Father Christmas Tom Ferris | Rabbit Anna Kathryn Slaton |
| Susan Kassy Randazzo | Spirit of Song Lauren Honea | WITCH'S "CRUELIES" |
| Edmund Eryn LeBlanc | White Stag Jessica DeSimone | Priscilla Alaina Carson |
| Lucy Leah Lott | "ASLANIANS" | Olympia Cheryl Lott |
| Mr. Beaver Ray Gaspard | Unicorn Elizabeth Shaw | Lucinda Virginia McCollum |
| Mrs. Beaver Jennifer Ellis | Owl Caitlin Gustafson | Druscilla Hallie Garrison |
| Beaver Twins Lexy Travis, Anna-Beth Henley | Leopard Marissa Haynes | WITCH'S LITTER BEARERS |
| Mr. Tumnus Chad Luttrell | Bull Jacob Struppeck | Rick Spiller, Hal Gorman, |
| Felicity Lee Ferriss | Dog Rebekah Struppeck | Joe Willis, Hans Othmer |
| Fennus Ulf Tootie Perry | Eagle Abby Travis | |

Botros Ministry Update



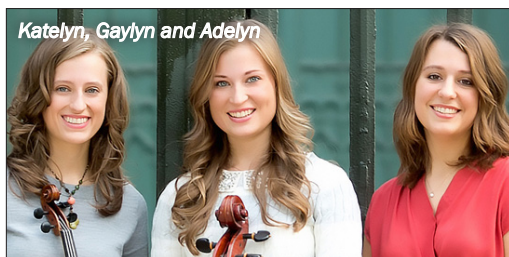
Rebecca and Nour Botros (members of First Presbyterian) are serving in the Middle East with World Outreach, the sending branch of the national Evangelical Presbyterian Church. They are serving a community of about 300 Syrian refugee families in a poor urban area of Beirut with weekly church meetings, discipleship, home visits and food and clothing distribution. They also serve in partnership with a local Lebanese church where Nour serves as a worship leader and is involved with youth and prayer ministries. Rebecca takes Arabic lessons three times a week and is reading and

writing in Arabic as she builds her grammar, vocabulary and speaking; all while in seminary at Gordon-Conwell. Nour continues to scriptwrite for the weekly Sat7 kids show *Bible Heroes*.

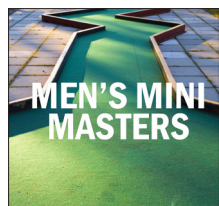
Looking ahead to the near future, Rebecca and Nour are searching for a new furnished apartment to rent closer to their ministries. In June and July (Ramadan) they hope to partner with other local churches for a large special outreach project.

Current Prayer Requests: Secure the new apartment they desire and discernment on whether to enroll Julia in daycare.

The Fabulous Foto Sisters



On April 3, the string and vocal trio the Foto Sisters, will be offering special music and accompaniment at both the 9 and 11 am Sanctuary services. Many have seen the cover article in *InRegister* featuring these three fabulously talented young women, who are rich in both faith and musicianship.



Men's Mini Masters

Calling all men to compete for the prized green jacket. Join us April 8 from 5-7 pm for mini golf at All Star Lanes

followed by dinner at the Sides' house. There is no charge, but you must register online at fpcbr.org.



Family Crawfish Boil

All are invited to a family crawfish boil in the terrace garden on Sunday, April 10 from 5-7 pm.

No childcare will be provided. Hot dogs and snow cones will also be available. \$5 suggested donation per person.

April Circles



1ST MONDAY, APR 4

WoW Circle 15 Lagniappe Restaurant in Zachary @ 7 pm
Contact Jess Concienne (892.3212)

1ST TUESDAY, APR 5

WoW Circle 1 Linda Glisson's @ 9.45 am
3451 Gladden Ave. (389.9698)
WoW Circle 2 Jeanette Rackley's @ 9.45 am
14332 Highland Road (751.4917)
WoW Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 am

1ST THURSDAY, APR 7

WoW Circle 11 Church Library @ noon

1ST FRIDAY, APR 6

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

2ND MONDAY, APR 11

WoW Circle 3 CP Apts. @ 2 pm
WoW Circle 14 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 am
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

2ND TUESDAY, APR 12

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 Suzanne Kennon's @ 10 am
5087 Sweetbriar Street (924.2222)
WoW Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 pm
Contact Ann Gregorie (937.0488)

2ND FRIDAY, APR 8

WoW Circle 8 Sheri McKey's @ 6.30 pm
21627 Turkey Creek Dr. (505.7934)

3RD WEDNESDAY, APR 20

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

APRIL SERMON TEXTS

April 3, 2016

"Christ, Who Is Your Life"
Colossians 3: 1-17

April 10, 2016

"Regime Change"
Exodus 1

April 17, 2016

"Birth of Moses"
Exodus 2: 1-10

April 24, 2016

"A Burst of Anger"
Exodus 2: 11-15

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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Mother's Day Out and Preschool:
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center:
225.387.2287

www.brchristiancounseling.com

Fairytale Theme for April rEcess



David Franz playing with the children at the March rEcess.

rEcess had loads of fun this March blasting off into outer space with the children of Baton Rouge who have special needs and their siblings. Please join us April 8 as we go to Neverland with princesses and dragons. The theme of the night will be fairytales!

Prayer for Our Nation

Sundays at 5 pm in Dunham Chapel

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Who Doesn't Like BBQ After a Hard Day's Work?!



The Heritage Ranch Workday was a success! We had a blast working alongside the HR boys and work crew. It was a beautiful day with lots of hard work and the day was finished off with some delicious Pride, La BBQ. Thanks to everyone who came out! We will be looking forward to another successful workday in the Fall!

New FPC Member Directory

FPC is producing an updated membership directory which will include pictures and contact information. Each Sunday, from April 3-May 29, members may come to the Parlor between 8.30 and 12.30 pm to have photos taken. A copy of the church's current roster will be available for you to correct any outdated information.

Download the FPCBR App Today! Our app features video and audio-based sermons as well as downloadable transcripts. Visit fpcbr.org or iTunes to download.