



So Many Ways to Go Deeper in Christ This Fall by Darin Travis



Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. The second is to love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments summarized all of the Old Testament Law and Prophets. Here at First Presbyterian, we have a long tradition of living out these two commands in a myriad of very practical ways. Every Sunday, our heads and hearts are captivated by the high view of the Scriptures being preached, and every Sunday, we offer outstanding Sunday school classes to help foster depth and community. Truly, loving God and loving others is a joy to live out here at FPC!

This August and September we are offering even more opportunities to live out these commandments. The first opportunity will be the *Complete: Why Jesus Alone Is Enough* Family Stay-Treat with Dr. Mary Willson. For those of you who were here a handful of years ago, Mary was our Women in Ministry Director before our beloved Elizabeth Parker arrived. The Lord led Mary to leave our church to pursue a Ph.D, that she might be able to further equip the body of Christ. Now we get to be the beneficiaries of her hard work!

By carving out time from your schedule to attend, you will feast on the relevancy of God's word as Mary unpacks Paul's teaching in the book of Colossians. Those in Colossae battled dangerous teachings that tempted the Christians to look for something "deeper" than Christ, something more "relevant" than his commands or more empowering than our union with him.

Paul dramatically shows that both the person and the work of Jesus Christ are completely sufficient to fill our needs and repurpose our lives. Mary will help us explore these sparkling truths and others. This family retreat will begin at 6 pm on August 10 with dinner and will conclude at noon on August 11. The beauty of being on a Stay-Treat together is that there will be plenty of time to connect over meals and breaks to process what you are learning in community with others. For more information and to register visit fpcbr.org.

Another outstanding opportunity to plug into the body here at FPC is through our small groups. 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 9 short lessons and exercises, delves into the heart of walking in truth and grace. I have recently led a group of men through the book and our conversations from these 2-3 page chapters have provided some of the most invigorating conversations our study has had in a while. I'm eager to have our church engage with this book! One other small group option to note is that there will be

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Can I really base my whole life on Jesus?

1

Does Jesus provide sufficient purpose for my life?

2

Does Jesus save me completely from my sins?

3

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Evening Prayer Resumes Aug 5
 Women's Fall Study Begins Aug 8 & 9
 "Complete" Stay-Treat Aug 10 & 11
 Promotion Sunday Aug 12
 Confirmation Lock-In Aug 17
 LSU Prayer Walk Aug 18
 Created for Connection Aug 24 & 25
 Missions Fair Aug 26
 Youth Fall Kick Off, Area 51 Aug 26

UPCOMING SEPT EVENTS

Mix & Match Sept 9
 IFP Kickoff Sept 9
 Habitat Build Sept 13-Oct 6
 Alpha Course Begins Sept 16

ONGOING EVENTS

"12 Steps with Christ Jesus" Weds., 12.15 pm

BAPTISMS:

July 8, 2018
 Christopher Edward Anderson
 Parents are Elizabeth and Scott Anderson

Michael Brooks Fowler
 Parents are Lauren and Blake Fowler

Adeline Lynn Tomeny
 Parents are Katherine and Jade Tomeny

IN MEMORIAM:

July 3, 2018
 Amber Prigge - Sister of Roxanne Struppeck

July 15, 2018
 John Crabtree, Jr.

July 24, 2018
 Martha Jane Upshaw -
 Mother of Ainsley Lewis

July 25, 2018
 Patsy Hoffman -
 Sister of Terry Spiller

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 . . .

AUG 5 Please contact Kathy Mullins at 291.3095 to donate an arrangement.

AUG 12 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall Shaw, given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Gill, Mr. William Marshall Shaw, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht II and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Holden Spaht.

AUG 19 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

AUG 26 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

Did You Know? A Special Thanks by Nancy Spiller, Worship Arts Director

Dear Beloved Session and Church,

On June 26, I had the opportunity to experience Europe for the first time in my life traveling to Salzburg, Austria. I was invited by my good friends from college, David and Gayle Galasso, of St. Peter's Methodist Church in Katy, TX, to join a mass choir of 145 singers from all around the USA. My two good friends, college roommate Claire Wilson, and Tracy Munson, who sang as well,



the most beautiful and inspiring music (an hour and 15 minutes worth) singing with a professional orchestra and soloists. The soloists were standing in the balcony beside one of the **six** organs in the church! We sang under the direction of two accomplished conductors, and met many other incredibly talented people.

I wanted you to know that the Lord worked it out for me to go. The session decided to give this trip to me as a gift to celebrate my 25th year anniversary working here at First Presbyterian. Not only did I see beautiful Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, but the Lord let me experience it while singing praises to him! I knew this was his doing and his blessing on me. He was loving me through my church.



traveled with me. We participated in the "Jubilate" Mozart Festival, which is held every summer to celebrate the music of Amadeus Mozart. Salzburg is the city where Mozart was born and lived. We sang in the Salzburg Dom (the most beautiful cathedral I have ever seen). Tracy and I worked hard learning

I could not have had anything better given to me! I can't even talk about it without getting emotional, so I wanted to write to all of you and thank you for the gift of a lifetime, and, a lifetime of leading worship for the most amazing church family.

God bless you all.

City Ministry Presents Its 2018 Fair

Our City Ministry Fair will be Sunday, August 26 in the Reception Room from 9 am to 12.30 pm. We want to highlight our local ministries and offer ways you can get involved in 2018-19 local missions. Interested in building a home? Our local schools? Habitat for Humanity, Gardere Community and Buchanan Elementary will be there. Or maybe serving the homeless is your calling? Pastor Moore with Open Air Ministries can answer your questions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about each local ministry FPC supports.



Why Should You Help?



Habitat for Humanity'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" than to participate in our sixth sponsored Habitat build? It's also a great opportunity to fellowship with our brothers and sisters. And—it's fun! Dates for the FPC 2018 build are September 13-October 6. Register to volunteer online at fpcbr.org.

Women's Fall Studies by Elizabeth Parker



Each of us has times in life where we feel unwanted, misunderstood and possibly like an outcast. The message of Luke's gospel speaks directly into each of those hurts. Luke highlights for us Jesus' love and care for everyone, but especially those who were disenfranchised and rejected. Luke presents Jesus to us proudly—here is the Savior, who lived among his people, all people, the sinners, the broken and the rejected.

Join us this semester for Part 1 of the Gospel of Luke. We will study the life of Jesus from Luke's perspective both in the Fall and the Spring 2018. Elizabeth Parker, Director of Women in Ministry, will teach the Luke study and would love to have you come! There is no homework; just bring your Bible and yourself!

The Luke study will begin Wednesday, August 8 and Thursday, August 9. They will meet weekly until the week before Thanksgiving. The Mother's Study led by Jaime Carnaggio begins September 6.

Early morning person? On Wednesday mornings at 6.30 am Lisa Head will be teaching through Ecclesiastes. Contact Lisa Head (lhead3@cox.net) with any questions.

WiM STUDY TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday Afternoons (Luke):

1.30 pm at the home of Sally Graves

Wednesday Mornings (Ecclesiastes):

6.30 am Library

Wednesday Evenings (Luke):

6.30 pm Contact Elizabeth Parker

Thursday Mornings (Luke):

9.30 am Education Building Room 202
9.30 am Education Building Room 301 -
Mother's Bible Study (begins September 6)

Colossians for Kids by Audra Cato, Director Children's Ministry

This fall our children are going to dig deep into God's Word and learn what it really means to be a Christian. Over the summer, I had the privilege of writing a 16-week Sunday school curriculum for kids. Beginning in August, we will teach our children the same Scripture text Gerrit will preach on during his sermons. The theme of Colossians is that Jesus Christ is pre-eminent. This means that Jesus Christ is supreme, all powerful, superior and has authority over all things. We will teach the children who Paul is and why he wrote this letter to the Christians in Colossae. Through studying Colossians, we will teach our children who Jesus is, what he has done for us and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The book of Colossians will help us remember who we are in Christ and what we have because of him. As we study together, I pray the Lord will redirect our often-distracted focus back to Christ. We will kick off our new kids' Colossian series on Sunday, August 12, promotion Sunday.

Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Do you feel led to teach the Word to our younger children? If so, "Help Wanted." We are currently recruiting teaching volunteers to teach Children's Sunday School. Currently, we need Preschool teachers and a third grade teacher. If you feel led to teach, please contact me. There are several ways you can serve. We will kick off the new semester on August 12 and will be teaching a Colossian Kids Curriculum that will match Gerrit's sermon texts.

May this unite our entire family in the Word. I look forward to hearing from the future Ministers of the Gospel. Please contact Audra (audra@fpcbr.org) if you'd like to volunteer.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

AUGUST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

AUGUST 5

Psalm 100

AUGUST 12

Colossians 1: 1-8

AUGUST 19

Colossians 1: 9-11

AUGUST 26

Colossians 1: 12-14

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



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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

brchristiancounseling.com

Created for Connection Couples' Workshop

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center is offering a couples' workshop August 24-25 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.

Visit brchristiancounseling.com for more information and to register.



LSU Prayer Walk, August 18

LSU will be home to close to 2,000 international students this 2018/2019 school year. Three quarters of them are graduate level students; the brightest and best from their countries. On Saturday, August 18 from 8-9.15 am International Friendship Partners will meet on the front steps of the LSU Union for a prayer walk. Please join the International Friendship Partners Initiative on the front steps of the LSU Union.

Save the Date: IFP Semester Kickoff

Help us welcome our international friends. Please save the date and plan on joining us for a fun, interactive afternoon of games on Sunday, September 9 from 3-6 pm.

So Many Ways *cont. from page 1*

a group focused on parenting using Family Life's new content entitled *The Art of Parenting*. We are hosting a "mix-and-match" after worship on September 9 to help connect interested people to groups.

The last opportunity I wanted to share about that will be kicking off this fall at FPC is called Alpha. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith that God has used around the world. It creates space to explore life's big questions, to say what you think, and to hear other people's points of view. It is a global conversation that began in London which millions have gone through in over 168 countries and into 112 different languages. We are hosting Alpha Sunday mornings beginning September 16 continuing to October 28. Check out fpcbr.org for more information.

Darin