

# FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



## FILL YOUR HORN WITH OIL, AND GO

**By Colton Underwood**

Assistant Pastor, Children, Youth & Families

As our youth staff has a habit of doing together, we were recently studying 1 Samuel 16, one of the many passages we'll cover with the teens this school year. This passage is well known for many reasons, not the least is that it contains the account of David's anointing as king. However, before David was set apart and placed on that path, one phrase stuck out to us and inspired a great deal of thought: "Fill your horn with oil, and go."

In the passages preceding it, we find Samuel at a low point. He's been rejected by the people, his own sons have betrayed him, the man he felt forced to anoint as king has failed in dramatic fashion to fulfill his duty of office, and so Samuel now sits in his sorrow over lost years and feelings of uselessness. It's at this juncture in Samuel's life and ministry that God speaks to him in 16:1, saying, "How long will you grieve over Saul?" But after acknowledging Samuel's darkened situation—and perhaps offering a soft rebuke—God speaks those words to his saddened heart. "Fill your horn with oil, and go."

We might be left to wonder why it seems that God doesn't seek to comfort Samuel in his grief, doesn't invite Samuel to process his emotions in the way we might want, but instead gives him work to do. God's intent for Samuel was seemingly to pull him out of his hole by giving him something to do, some sort of service. It was this very idea that got us talking.

Perhaps those of us (and many of our teens) who struggle with anxiety and intrusive thoughts don't need something to think, say, or take. Perhaps we need something to *do*. God's command to Samuel in his own grief was not a callous brushing aside of Samuel's feelings, nor does its example condone the idea of stuffing down and ignoring those emotions. Rather, part of God's design for us as his creatures might just be to work out those feelings through action.

God commanded Samuel to do something that would have been hard for him. The last man he anointed was Saul and that didn't go well. But not only did it challenge Samuel, it forced him to change his perspective from inward-facing to outward-facing. Filling his horn with oil and going was not simply to make Samuel feel useful again. It was so that he could serve his people by anointing David to soon be their king.

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## Our Newest Staff Member

**DANIEL CROSKREY**



Born in Monterey, California, the Navy took Daniel and his family to Japan and then Rhode Island where he spent the vast majority of his childhood. Pursuing ministry was not something Daniel considered until his final year of high school. Through the inspiration of many influential youth leaders, he felt called to encourage youth in their faith just as he was. His excitement to share the gospel's hope and truth grows as he serves and works with youth.

Daniel attended Belhaven University to pursue a degree in Biblical Studies. Throughout his time at Belhaven, he served three different EPC churches; first as a volunteer and later as an intern. In 2020, Daniel met Maegan and they began dating amidst the unique challenges of the pandemic and during their years at Belhaven. They married one month after graduation then quickly moved to Baton Rouge.

Daniel is thrilled to continue acting out his call to youth ministry by serving as the Director of Middle School Youth at First Presbyterian. He hopes to continue his education online through Reformed Theological Seminary to further develop his knowledge of the Word and become more equipped to serve in ministry.

**2** GLOBAL MISSIONS  
CONFERENCE  
2023

**3** WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY  
NEWS

**4** FALL  
DISCIPLESHIP  
NEWS

**5** OUT WITH  
THE OLD, IN  
WITH THE NEW

**AUGUST EVENTS**

- 3-Service Schedule Resumes AUG 6
- Sunday School Mingle AUG 6
- LSU Prayer Walk AUG 12
- Sunday School Resumes AUG 13
- Moving Up Sunday AUG 13
- Confirmation Parents' Mtg. AUG 13
- Youth Parents' Mtg. AUG 20
- 30s/40s Social AUG 24
- Global Missions Conf. AUG 25-27
- IFP Game Night AUG 25
- Ecclesiastes Study Begins AUG 28

**BAPTISMS**

June 4, 2023  
 Willem Wayne Pourciau  
 Parents are Alyssa Beth and Davis Pourciau

July 9, 2023  
 Ellie Kate Guillory  
 Parents are AnnaBeth and Kevin Guillory

**IN MEMORIAM**

May 11: Jodi Cleveland  
 Mother of Hannah Populus

June 20: Jerry Brodnax  
 Father of Marty Brodnax

June 24: Dorothy McCarty  
 Mother of Phyllis Alexander

July 2: Mike Norris  
 Father of Bear Norris

July 5: John Hoppe

July 6: Phyllis High  
 Mother of Jay High

July 15: Carolyn LaBorde

July 22: Johnson Kadair  
 Stepson of Sherry Kadair

**FLOWERS**

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

AUG 6 Open date.

AUG 13 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.

AUG 20 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley, by Cathy, Catherine and David Pugsley.

AUG 27 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

**LORD, ENLARGE MY VISION** by Steve Tubré



It seems our lives are consumed with diversions that fill our days and distract us from where we're heading . . . or, where we thought we were heading. Occasionally, it occurs to us that we might be offtrack, but those thoughts are fleeting as we quickly focus on the next diversion. Our vision gets muddled. Our purpose becomes an illusion. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but blessed is the one who keeps the law." Global Missions is a place to expand our vision, or receive a new vision from our Creator.

On August 25, 26 and 27, we are privileged to draw from two men earnestly engaged in the visions our Savior has bestowed upon them at our Global Missions Conference. Gabriel de Guia of EPC World Outreach, and our longtime beloved global missions partner, Peter Kiwanuka, will share with us their pursuit of those visions.

Gabriel de Guia has served with CRU, Jesus Film Project and has been the Executive Director of EPC World Outreach since 2021. Upon his call to be Executive Director of EPC World Outreach, he said, "I just have a grand sense of God ushering us into this great adventure. It wasn't something I was planning on or dreaming of, but that makes it all the more confirming that this is something God is calling us to. That brings about a ton of excitement." World Outreach focuses on those with the least access to the gospel while being about the work of bringing the kingdom of God to earth. Gabriel will preach at 9 and 11 am and lead adult Sunday school in the Sanctuary at 10.10 am Sunday, August 27. On Saturday, August 26, David and LeeAnn Kozan will host a brunch where Gabriel will share about the work of EPC World Outreach.



Peter Kiwanuka is the founder and director of Bethany Centre Primary School in Jjungo, Uganda. The school offers day and boarding education for children aged 3 to 15. Peter attended LSU and returned to Uganda with a great desire to help his community. He will speak about life and education in Uganda to our FPC children for a special global missions Sunday school class. In addition, Peter will have on display special batik artwork in the Reception Room. Any of this artwork created by the Bethany children will be available for purchase and will benefit the school. The children are very excited to have a professional artist work with them to help teach them the skill of batik which can be beneficial to their futures. Calvin and Melissa Fabr  are hosting a social gathering at their home from 5.30 to 8 pm Saturday evening where Peter will share about the Bethany Centre. Reservations for Saturday's gathering may be made by visiting [fpabr.org](http://fpabr.org).

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOMEN'S MINISTRY?

1

**ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SUN**

**FALL**  
bible study

This world is confusing, frustrating and futile. We wonder if what we do matters. We wrestle with the vanities and toils of life. Is there anything new under the sun?

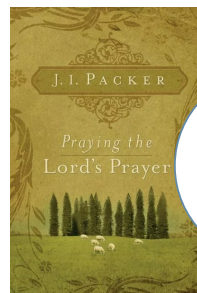
The book of Ecclesiastes has enduring relevance as we ask the hard questions. In an unflinchingly honest way, it reminds us that we can trust God in a world of passing pursuits, even when we don't have all the answers. We find joy and purpose amid life's perplexities as we learn to fear God and embrace his divine wisdom. "For everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Join Women's Ministry this fall as we study the wonder and richness of Ecclesiastes.

Bible Studies kick off the week of August 28.

There are three options to participate:

1. Mondays: 7.30 am, FPC Library (geared toward ladies in their 20s/30s)
2. Wednesdays: 6.30 pm, Virtual (link on website)
3. Thursdays: 9.30 am, FPC Room 202 (childcare available by request only)

2

**2023-2024 Circles****PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER**

by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women's Ministry

"How's your prayer life going?" When someone asks me that, I feel convicted. Insecure. Guilty. I understand the importance of prayer, but the act of prayer can feel challenging. The answers that run through my mind go something like . . .

"I should pray more often. I wish I desired to pray more. I should enter prayer with more trust. I feel intimidated to pray because I don't think I'm saying the right things. I even doubt that God hears me . . . or cares."

In *Praying the Lord's Prayer*, J. I. Packer presents an encouraging truth: Prayer is the most natural activity in which we ever engage. We were created to pray. And our Lord Jesus has given us a powerful model for prayer, helping us better understand the privilege it is to pray, the power it has, and the purpose behind it.

Join one of Women's Ministry's Circles this year, as we carefully consider the truth of each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, applying it to our own lives in such a way that we experience more intimate conversation with him.

"Let us, then, with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

3

**DECADES  
SOCIAL**

**Save the Date**  
**30S/40S LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

Each month, FPC Women's Ministry organizes social fellowship gatherings targeting women in specific decades. There is no agenda! These are simply extra opportunities to gather together outside of the church walls for food, fellowship and fun. Save the date for our next social for 30s and 40s on Thursday, August 24. We'll gather from 6.30 to 8.30 pm at the home of Kristen Carney (3235 Fritchie Dr.). Please RSVP to Jaime Carnaggio ([jaime@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaime@fpcbr.org)).



3

**FALL DISCIPLESHIP**



1

**FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL** by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship



We have many things to look forward to in the life of the church this fall. One thing to be excited about is the return of our Sunday school classes which resume August 13. I talk to so many in our church who long to have a growing relationship with Christ,

long to know his Word better and long for deep connections within the church. Our Sunday school classes offer a perfect opportunity for all three objectives to be accomplished. Scripture tell us to “not be conformed to this world, but renew our minds” (Romans 12:2). Our teachers would love to help you do just that. Each of these returning classes would love to welcome you: Barry Phillips’ CrossRoads class, the rotation of teachers in the Tom & Jerry class, Ryan Dickerson’s Kingdom Builders class or the Journeys class led by Kyle Beall, Jeff Swarner and Shawn Wilson. For the young adults, we have The Bridge with Jade and Katherine Tomeny. In every class, you’ll find seminary-level depth taught by teachers who are loving and eager to help you get grafted in!

And, in the words of a 1980’s game show host, “But, that’s not all!” This fall we launch The Well, a brand-new class taught by Scott Graham. One of Scott’s outstanding qualities is his passion for helping Christians grow in spiritual formation. Join him in the Library for a new study on spiritual gifts. You’ll learn about the Holy Spirit and how he empowers every believer with gifts to edify and bless. Explore how God has gifted you, how you can be a part of blessing Christ’s body and make some great friends in the process!

4

2



**BACK TO (SUNDAY) SCHOOL MINGLE, AUGUST 6**

Now that the summer is wrapping up, join us Sunday, August 6 at 10.10 am in the Reception Room to reconnect with friends and gear up for fall. We’ll have information about Sunday school for both kids and adults, “enhanced snacks,” and lots of pictures from our fun summer events. It’s also a great opportunity to meet our two new staff members: Director of Childhood Ministries, Candace Walker, and Director of Middle School Youth, Daniel Croskrey. Welcome back!

3



**SMALL GROUP UPDATE**

As you plan your fall calendar, don’t forget to leave room for small groups! We will follow along with Gerrit’s sermon series on Ephesians. Group discussion questions will be available starting Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in joining a group or leading a new one, connect with Kelly Wood ([kelly@fpcbr.org](mailto:kelly@fpcbr.org)).

4



**RIGHT NOW MEDIA**

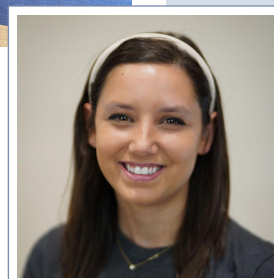
Do you know that our church pays for a subscription for all congregants of FPC to Right Now Media? Not sure what Right Now Media is and why we’d make this subscription complimentary to you? At First Presbyterian, we believe that God is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. To do so, Scripture tells us to renew our minds and think about things that are pleasing to the Lord. Right Now Media is an online platform of countless videos and resources to help equip you in your journey to follow Christ. Looking for a good Bible study on a particular book of the Bible? Looking for an engaging and educational kids series for your little ones? Do you want practical Christian teaching on a topic like battling anxiety or forgiving those that have harmed you? Right Now Media has a treasure trove of content waiting for you to discover. Many have compared the entertainment section to a Christian version of Netflix, or the teaching section to an online seminary experience. Visit our church website to create your account and enjoy all that Right Now Media has to offer. We trust it will benefit you greatly in your effort to be a disciple of Christ and disciple others.

**OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!**

The brand new McKinley Elementary has opened its doors for the new school year and the teachers and staff are thrilled to welcome students to this beautiful, state-of-the-art facility. First Presbyterian's adopted school Buchanan Elementary has merged with University Terrace to form McKinley Elementary School located at 575 W. Roosevelt St. With enrollment expected to be near 600 students, Principal Veronica Sanders will have lots of challenges ahead of her. First Presbyterian will continue to support our beloved school and will be recruiting Reading Friends, Teacher Encouragers, Storytime Classroom Readers and Special Event Helpers in September. Stay tuned for information on how you can join this vibrant ministry, or contact Laura Shaw ([laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)) for more information.



**Congratulations to Kylie Altier**  
Buchanan Elementary first grade teacher, Kylie Altier, has been named Louisiana's 2024 Teacher of the Year! We are so pleased for her and the school.



**Building Life-Changing Relationships: Become a KidsHope USA Mentor**

First Presbyterian's abundant desire to share God's love and belief that all children matter to Jesus is evident in it's partnership with Kids Hope USA at Gardere Community Christian School. This faith-based mentoring partnership is making a difference!

Visit [kidshopeusa.org/volunteer](http://kidshopeusa.org/volunteer) to learn more. Or contact our Kids Hope USA director Annette Lamond ([annette@fpcbr.org](mailto:annette@fpcbr.org)).



**LSU Prayer Walk, August 12**

Let our love and passion for Christ mobilize us to intercede for the unreached international and American students at LSU and in our city. Join us to walk and pray by 2s and 3s across the LSU campus. Prayer guides will be available. Meet under the shady oaks in front of the LSU Union at 8.15 am on August 12. Parking is usually available directly in front of the Union or in the parking lot behind Barnes & Noble across from the Union. Contact Steve Tubré if you have questions ([tubresteve@gmail.com](mailto:tubresteve@gmail.com)).

**SERMON TEXTS**

AUGUST 6, 2023  
Psalm 73:1-5, 13-26

AUGUST 13, 2023  
Ephesians 1:1-3

AUGUST 20, 2023  
Ephesians 1:4-6

AUGUST 27, 2023  
Missions Sunday with  
Gabriel de Guia

**PASTORAL STAFF**

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS  
Associate Pastor for Disciple-ship

SCOTT GRAHAM  
Associate Pastor for  
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD  
Assistant Pastor of Children,  
Youth and Families



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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool  
225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center  
225.387.2287  
[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)



**Volunteers for Childhood Ministry**

Volunteers are needed for the So Loved nursery, Children's Church and Kingdom Kids Sunday school. Please contact Candace Walker for more information ([candace@fpcbr.org](mailto:candace@fpcbr.org)).

## **Enlarge My Vision, cont.**

Gabriel and Peter will help kick off our Global Missions Conference Friday, August 25 with "Game Night" in the Gym from 6-8 pm. This has become a favorite International Friendship Partners event with internationals, First Presbyterian members and other church friends. There will be many activities for all ages. Arrive hungry! There will be plenty of Chinese food, cold drinks and sweets. So, bring your kids, your relatives and your friends.

We want to see full engagement by First Presbyterian in the Great Commission for all nations. We long to discover new pathways for this engagement while maintaining our focus on the least reached. So clear away your diversions, put on your comfortable shoes and come enlarge your vision!

# 6

### **Game Night**

Friday, August 25  
6-8 pm in the Gym

### **Brunch at the Kozans'**

Saturday, August 26  
10 am to 1 pm

### **Dinner at the Fabrés'**

Saturday, August 26  
5.30 to 8 pm

### **Worship with Gabriel de Guia**

Sunday, August 27  
9 and 11 am

### **Children's Global Missions Sunday School Class with Peter**

Sunday, August 27 at 10.10 am

### **Adult Sunday School with Gabriel**

Sunday August 27 at 10.10 am

## **Fill Your Horn, cont.**

To put it very simply, God made us to work and he made us to serve, yet we live in a world filled with inaction disguised as action and one that makes self-service and an inward-facing life more possible than ever. What difference might it make for our hearts and in the lives of others if when we next sought to face our darkness, we did so by seeking to do something productive, specifically for the sake of another?

