

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

The Power of Together by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

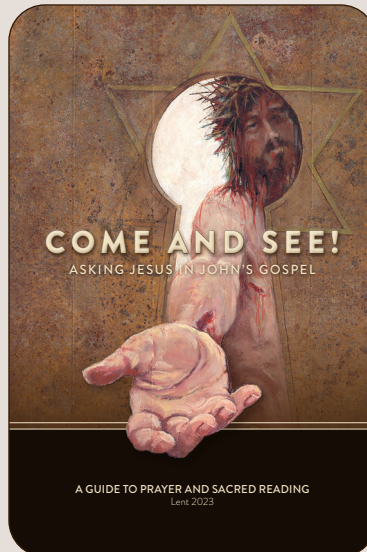
Do you remember our talk last summer? I know you don't. Because it occurred inside my head and heart. I spent about three months in a near constant conversation with three partners: you, the people I met in the Gospel of John, and Jesus. I had one ear cocked to listen to what the characters in the stories were experiencing. I had another ear turned toward your lives. I lifted both up to Jesus. Then I considered deeply his replies to the people in the passages, as if they were for you as well. That's how this year's Lent book, *Come and See*, got forged.

Engaging Scripture is always better together. When the Son of God came to us as Jesus, he entered conversation with us. He didn't just lecture. He asked questions and replied to questions. Christ's teaching occurs in relationship. In the midst of ordinary daily life. And amidst the yearnings, needs, wounds and wanderings of the human heart that stay constant across the changes of centuries and cultures.

The wonder of the Bible is that we can enter into these conversations Jesus had and discover how they include us! When we make the heart connection with the characters, the stories go from being weird, distant events, to urgently relevant for us. That's what we're after in our 100 days in John, and especially during Lent.

For as we pray and read these stories daily, it makes a huge difference to me to know that many hundreds of fellow

believers are engaging at the same time. It motivates me not to skip. It encourages me to pray for my fellow questors for Christ. It gives me warm joy to know we're all connecting to Jesus together.



That's why we try to platform *Come and See* in multiple ways. We'll be giving out the physical book (with wonderful full color art!) February 19 and the Sundays thereafter. We can also send daily emails. People can find the readings, prayers and art on our website and via our app. Wherever you are in the world, you can stay connected to each and all of us.

And, of course, joining a small group means your individual meditations can be enriched by interaction with others. When we verbalize our response to Scripture and listen to others verbalize their responses, we get threaded into the conversation more deeply. All of that gives

us a wonderful unity on Sundays when we are worshiping through the lens of what Jesus has revealed in these stories.

I can't wait for the conversations I had in my head and through my keyboard to become live interactions with you, beloved congregation! Plan now to grab a book (or call us if you're homebound), sign up for the emails, and get connected to a small group. And do consider with whom you could share a copy of *Come and See* with an invitation to join us in this quest to know Christ more.

Gerrit

2 : STAY-TREAT:
5 MYSTERIES IN
JOHN'S GOSPEL

2 : LENT 2023
"COME AND
SEE"

3 : MEN'S
FLY-FISHING
TRIP

3 : ROMANIA
MISSION
TRIP

EVENTS

Stay-Treat	FEB 3 & 4
Blessing of the Beasts	FEB 5
The Bridge S.S. Class Begins	FEB 12
Ladies' 40s/50s Social	FEB 16
Church Office Closed	FEB 20 & 21
Ash Wednesday Worship	FEB 22
First Sunday of Lent	FEB 26
Congregational Meeting	FEB 26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fly-Fishing Trip	MAR 2-5
Women's Retreat	MAR 11

WEDDINGS

January 9:
Sherry McKinley & Bob Tucker

BAPTISMS

January 8:
Lucy Clare Rodeheaver
Parents are Brennan & Mitchell Rodeheaver

January 8:
William Allen Jenkins, Jr.
Parents are Rebecca & Allen Jenkins

IN MEMORIAM

December 22: Edward Esch
Father of Paul Esch

December 23: Thomas Harrell
Father of Alan Harrell

December 24: William Bourgeois
Father of Aimee Daigle

December 24: Raymond McKee

January 2: Tyler Aldrich

January 17: Richard Daniel
Father of Rhonda Dawson

January 20: Lawrence Stirling

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

FEB 5 . . . Open date

FEB 12 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of our father Mack Gregorie Sr. by Ann K. Gregorie and Nancy Sue Gregorie Burton.

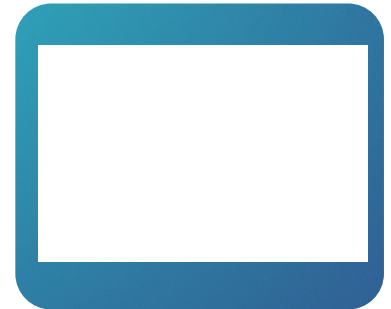
FEB 19 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Howard and Emogene S. Elliott by their family, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac (Elizabeth Elliott) and Dr. Clifton O. Bingham III.

FEB 26 . . . Open date

February 3 & 4 Stay-Treat: 5 Mysteries in John's Gospel

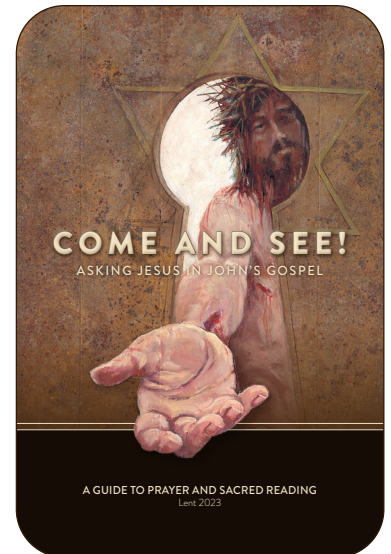
The Word, The Foot Washer, The Vine, The Helper, The Triune Gift.

John's Gospel gives us titles for Jesus found nowhere else. These simple words contain ocean depths of meaning. They are mysteries made known. Secrets that are open. Easily understood on one level, intriguing for a lifetime of exploration at deeper levels. There's great stuff in John that we can't get to in the Sunday messages. So we're hosting a stay-treat; time set apart for focused study, worship and fellowship where you still get to sleep in your own bed! Friday night includes a delicious dinner, two presentations and wonderful dessert. Saturday morning includes a light breakfast and three exciting presentations. There's even a kids track! Register online at fpibr.org.



All Things Lent

Small Groups. We are thrilled that small groups are ramping back up for the Lenten season! Again and again, the feedback from previous years is that connecting over the Lenten guide with a group of like-minded believers, in a weekly format, wonderfully produces personal spiritual growth and love for one another. This year we are trusting God to once again allow us to press into knowing Christ by asking Jesus some of the most heart-moving questions, all from the Gospel of John. "Come and See" explores the signs and wonders John describes that point us toward deeper and deeper faith in Christ. The community we experience in small group will allow us to be on that journey together. Groups are forming now. If you would like to get connected to (or lead!) a gathering of fellow believers asking Jesus the deep questions of life, contact Kelly Wood (kelly@fpibr.org). Groups begin meeting the week of February 26.



Ash Wednesday and Lent Weekly Worship. Join us February 22 as we kick off Lent with an Ash Wednesday noon service in Dunham Chapel. Please stay after worship for some gumbo made by our beloved Sexton Emeritus, Shelton. Suggested donation of \$5. All are welcome. Bring a coworker. Noon services will continue, without lunch, each Wednesday throughout Lent.

Daily Lent Emails. Our 2023 Lent study focuses on Jesus' interactions with people in John's Gospel. Printed books will be distributed Sunday, February 19. You may also sign up for the daily emails by visiting fpibr.org. Emails begin Saturday, February 25.

Introducing, The Bridge

We are excited to announce The Bridge, a new young adult ministry for ages 18 to 23. As one embarks on college or beginning a career, the transition to adulthood is full of exciting opportunities as well as challenges. Connecting with like-minded believers is crucial to navigating this season well. Along with regular socials, we will meet weekly during the Sunday school hour to study God's Word and pray for one another. (Sundays in room EB 301b; 10.10 am to 10.50 am). Come join Katherine and Jade Tomeny as they lead the group members in their pursuit of Christ while discovering the plans God has for them! Come on Sunday at 10.10 am or contact Katherine (ktaylor91@comcast.net) to connect with the group.

Women's Ministry Events

40s and 50s Social

Love is in the air! Let's celebrate GALentine's Day with a Ladies' Night IN! Each month, Women's Ministry plans a social for women in specific decades. There's no agenda! These are simply extra opportunities to gather together outside the church walls for food, fellowship and fun.

This month we are celebrating women in the 40s/50s age range, but truly anyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend or anyone on your heart that would love connecting with others! GALentine's Day-themed food will be provided, but you may bring your favorite dessert or bottle of wine! Thursday, February 16, 6-8 pm at the home of Mary Ann Yeagain (13412 Woodmont Ct.)

Living Water: A Women's Ministry Reflective Retreat

Join us as for a full morning of goodness! We will study through the powerful story of the woman at the well from John 4, hear heartfelt testimonies from several of our sisters-in-Christ, enjoy fellowship and food and spend time reflecting personally with the Lord. Come and quench your thirst as we contemplate the wondrous experience of Jesus as our Living Water! Saturday, March 11, 9 am-1.30 pm at the home of Chelsea Smith (6448 Oak Cluster Dr., Greenwell Springs).

It's On! Men's Fly-Fishing Trip

Men's Ministry is having a fly-fishing trip to the Little Red River in Heber Springs, Arkansas! We will leave Baton Rouge Thursday, March 2, fish the Little Red all day Friday and Saturday then return home Sunday, March 5.



The Little Red offers 29 miles of ideal premier-class trout fishing where the icy cold waters emerge from Greers Ferry Lake dam. Brown trout running from 5 to 8 pounds are common, and a 40 lb. 4 oz. brown caught in 1992 on the Little Red held the world record for 17 years. Might another monster brown be caught by our eager band of churchmen? We'll see!

Lindsey's Resort has fantastic views of the Little Red River, clean and comfortable accommodations, and excellent dining. We have 2 cabins and 18 motel-style rooms blocked off for our group. The cabins have 2 bedrooms with 2 beds per room and the motel-style rooms have two beds per room as well. Each man will have their own bed. Space is limited to 30 men so register soon. All the details and registration are online at fpcbr.org. Contact Darin Travis if you have any questions (darin@fpcbr.org).

Romania Mission Trip by Gee Gee Hargon

Last year's Christmas mission trip was a real joy. I witnessed first-hand, a country 30+ years post-communism beginning to become a "baby capitalist" society. With that transition, there are classes of people (elderly, mentally handicapped, orphans, homeless) and cultures (Gypsies, Ukrainian refugees) that have been left without meaningful support.

The Smiles Foundation has been operating in this region during this entire time and has made a constructive difference within these classes and cultures. Some of what I saw was hard to believe, but my biggest surprise is how effective true Christian philanthropy demonstrated by the Smiles Foundation has been and continues to be.

I want to invite you to a "showing" at the church February 9, from 6.30 to 8 pm in room 202. You will see—in pictures and stories—what we saw and the power of positive Christianity. Then on Thursday, March 9, the man who leads the Smiles Foundation, Kevin Hoy, will be in Baton Rouge to give a presentation at my house (5148 Mimosa St.) at 6 pm. Please RSVP to Whitney Alexander (225.810.2607). Our next Romania mission trips are May 19-27 and December 1-10.

SERMON TEXTS

February 5
John 4: 4-15

February 12
John 4: 27-45

February 19
John 5: 1-16

February 26
John 6: 30-40

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM
Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Assistant Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



PH: 225.387.0617
fpcbr.org

763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

Parents' Social for Nursery Parents, February 9

Parents of So Loved (nursery age) children, it's your turn! Join us for a laid-back evening of gathering together with other parents in the same stage of life on Thursday, February 9. No agenda; just fellowship and food (of course)! We'll meet at Hattie and Jonathan Guidry's home (1401 Knottaway Drive, St. Gabriel,) from 6 to 8 pm. Email Jessica Saffell (jessica@fpabr.org) to RSVP. Please bring a dessert or bottle of wine. We will provide appetizers and finger food!

Congregational Meeting. The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 26 at 10.10 in the Sanctuary. The purpose is to receive a report on 2022, hear a presentation from The Foundation, propose the 2023 budget, elect at-large members to the nominating committee and conduct any other business that is before us. These annual meetings give us a great opportunity as one church to give thanks for all that God has done and is doing in our midst. There will be no adult Sunday school classes that day.

Get Your Mutt Blessed! The "Jurassic Bark" Krewe Of Mutts parade passes down North Blvd. Sunday, February 5. Join Scott Graham, and his sheepadoodle Schubert, in front of the Sanctuary beginning at 12.30 pm to have your dog blessed!



God's Heart for the Nations Class

"Journey: God's Heart for the Nations" is a limited edition missions course offered at The Chapel-LSU. Come learn about God's plan for all the nations through all of Scripture. The course is similar to Perspectives but more condensed and meets Sundays, February 5-March 26, 12.30 pm to 3 pm. More information is online (chapelbr.com).

