

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

July 2017 Volume 51-07

Small World. Big God.

By Lloyd Lunceford

We live in an interconnected world. In Information Technology and Communications. In Economics and Personal Finance. In Politics. Sports. Education. Medicine. It is a global village.

Global communications, for example, have become instantaneous. The internet is worldwide. You can send an email from Baton Rouge and immediately communicate with someone across the Atlantic. With Skype, you can talk face-to-face with anyone on the planet. In Finance, traders follow the Nikkei as much as the S&P 500. OPEC affects the price you pay at the pump and Beijing affects the price you pay at Home Depot. International events also affect U.S. government strategies and policies. Sarin gas in Syria. Trade policy in China. Nuclear tests on the Korean peninsula. Scary stuff, to be sure. (Thankfully, we can place our cares on God, who cares for us.)

Should it be any surprise that our personal walk with Christ and our participation in our local church community is, by God's design, also part of a global movement? When God first called Abraham, God said that through Abraham he would bless "all

the families of the earth." From the start, God had the whole world in mind. Through the prophet Joel, God said "[I]t shall come to pass that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." At Jesus' baptism John the

others in our own community. If our vision stops at the city limits, though, then we will miss the full picture. God wants us to see both near and far. Make no mistake. Jesus' objective was to reach the world.

He ordered his life by this. Men were his method but all humanity was his goal. He invested his time in training the twelve – disciples who would multiply and make more Christ-followers who would reach the world. Jesus' final words to his disciples were "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . ." The Apostle Paul explained in II Corinthians that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself—and has now entrusted that message to us. We are now Christ's ambassadors. Today God

makes his appeal through us. On behalf of Christ, the Bible says, we are to implore others to be reconciled to God.

In what way is your faith a global faith? How can you become more engaged in Christ's worldwide movement? Through the Holy Spirit who dwells within each believer, God can use you to help shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked –

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Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." John the Apostle famously wrote, "For God so loved the world . . ." We are told in Acts that the reach of God's plan for humankind is global, "to Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth." There is a whole world out there in need, and what it needs most is the Savior.

We are to "seek the welfare" of our city of course, by doing good works that help

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ONE
10.30
WORSHIP
SERVICE
JULY 2-23

the armor of GOD

3

CHICKEN
and
Waffles

3

JULY CALENDAR

Combined 10.30 am Worship	July 2-23
Church Office Closed	July 4
Summer Story Time	July 6
WiM Summer Social	July 11
WiM Summer Bible Study Begins	July 11
Congregational Lunch	July 23
Summer Story Time	July 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Missions Conference Aug 19 & 20

IN MEMORIAM:

June 2, 2017 - Craig Morton
Uncle of Dennis DeSimone

June 3, 2017 - Elliott Gentry
Father of Ann Hartman

June 4, 2017 - Ruth Nell Sanders
Grandmother of Dexter McClain

BAPTISMS:

June 11, 2017 - Carter Roy Hart
Parents are Kathyne and Ryan Hart
Grandparents are Pam and Bob Downing

BIRTHS:

May 26, 2017 - Austin Douglas Lala
Parents are Emily and John Lala
Great-grandmother is Marilyn Gladden

WEDDINGS:

May 27, 2017
Betsy Hurst and Brad Ewing

June 3, 2017
Fairly Edrington and Joe Carville

June 10, 2017
Oscar Shoenfelt and Lin Zhu

June 10, 2017
Jarrett Logan and Emily Mann

June 24, 2017
David Wheeler and Yvette Wyatt

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 . . .

July 2 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Homer Dale Spaht, Sue Spaht and Kay Spaht Hutchison given by Dale Spaht, Susan Spaht, Charlie Spaht and family.

July 9 . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Jesse Furr Scoggin and John Irby Moore by Grace and Joe Scoggin.

July 16 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Cole Main, Jr., Thomas Cole Main III, Shelby Main Harris and Milton Harris, Sr. by Mrs. Milton Harris.

July 23 . . . in loving remembrance of Mrs. Dolores Settoon by her family.

July 30 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Melissa and Mike Thibodeaux.

Mixing Up the Summer Schedule

The summer months are a bit different this year. Combined worship services are offered four of the five Sundays in July and August has a global missions theme.

JULY SCHEDULE:

First Presbyterian will have just one combined worship service at 10.30 am in the Sanctuary on July 2, 9, 16 and 23 (July 30 resumes the normal three service schedule). We will gather in our Sunday school classrooms at 9.30 am before joining together for worship. Two class options are available and are geared toward a different aspect of living the Christian life.

There is no Sunday school on Sunday, July 2 due to the holiday weekend.

The following class options are for July 9-23.

Track One:

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas “doesn't tell you how to build a better marriage—it shows how your marriage can help you deepen your relationship with God.” This class will be based

on Thomas' book featuring a short video, teaching and discussion.

Track Two:

Seeing and Savoring Jesus by John Piper focuses on what it looks like to “see and savor” Jesus. Three couples (one in their 20/30s, one in their 40s and one in their 70s) will teach and share how they savor Jesus in their stage of life. This will be a relational time with fun stories.

AUGUST SCHEDULE:

August is “global missions month” with the theme of “Catch the Vision!” We are excited to highlight many of our mission partners, International Friendship Partners and many of our overseas mission trips. Both the children's and adult's Sunday school classes will follow the Center for Mission Mobilization's Xplore workbook on July 30, August 6 and August 13.

The Global Missions Conference takes place on Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20. On Sunday, August 20, Dr. Greg Livingstone will teach a combined adult Sunday school in the Sanctuary. Steve Douglass of Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) will be our guest preacher.



We Love A Congregational Lunch!

We love congregational lunches! What a great opportunity to fellowship with members of the church you don't normally see as well as invite a guest. Join us Sunday, July 23 after our last July combined worship service for a chicken and waffles picnic in the gym. The congregation is asked to please bring a dessert. \$5 per person or \$20 per family to be paid at the door.

It's That Time Again

The First Presbyterian Church Officer Nominating Committee nominates church officers (Elders and Deacons) by receiving suggested names of members from the congregation, prayerfully preparing a slate and presenting the slate at the annual congregational meeting in October for election by the congregation.

The first duty of a Deacon is to have sympathy and compassion and exhibit a servant's heart. Duties may include visiting the sick and homebound, as well as caring for the maintenance and preparation of the church facilities. A nominated Deacon should be steady, reliable and well thought of by all.

Elders are to represent the people of the congregation working alongside the Teaching

Elders in the spiritual oversight of the Church. Elders are to study the Word and become equipped to teach, be adept at leading worship and prayer, regularly visit the sick and homebound, assist in the spiritual development of the children of the congregation, watch for those who stray from the Lord and be an example to all.

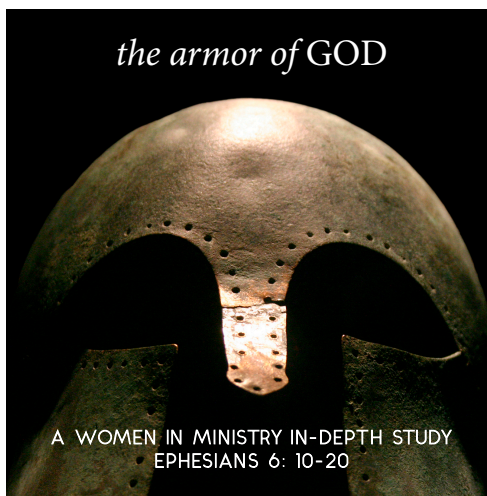
Please meditate on 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 where God gives us his description of officers. Further information from the EPC Book of Order can be found at the Connection Center along with suggestion cards. Cards are also available in the pew racks as well as on the church website (fpcbr.org). Your nominations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to Jaci Gaspard in the church office by the end of July.

Are You Asleep on Your Sword?

Are you actively engaged in the daily battle of your life? Or are you asleep on your sword? Have you ever considered how our Almighty God has already equipped *you*, his beloved daughter, to stand in victory in the face of adversity?

Join us for an in-depth study of Ephesians 6: 10-20. A dynamic group of women will take us deep into the text. Come dust off your armor and prepare for battle.

This five-week study begins Tuesday, July 11 at 6.30 pm at the home of Joann Thurston (2304 Fairway Drive).



Women's Summer Socials

Women in Ministry is having its second "Now That's a Good Question" summer social. We're going to give you an opportunity to ask that "dumb" question anonymously.

Join us on Tuesday, July 11 for fellowship and this fun format where a panel of pastor(s) and trained women will answer some commonly

asked questions on theology, the church and Christian life.

The luncheon begins at 11.30 am in the reception room. It'll be fun so bring a friend and don't forget to bring your questions.

\$10 per person. Register online or at the Connection Center. Childcare provided.

PARENTING CORNER By Audra Cato, Director of Children's Ministry

Do you know what the most important tool is for Christian parenting? Your own relationship with Christ. Seek the Lord in his Word daily so that your own relationship with Christ will deepen. Your own walk with the Lord through prayer and the daily reading of his Word will equip you on how to have healthy conversations and discussions with your children. I know life is busy. In a world that offers us way too much we feel as though there is no time for what is important. However, God's mercies are new every morning and he wants to care for you and grow you closer to him so you may be used to point your kids to the gospel. He loves your children far more perfectly than we ever will and he wants us to rely on him and grow deeper in his Word. Let us start with the Word of God. It is the Scriptures that give us wisdom to minister to our children.

"This is our tool, because it is his tool. This is our means of doing ministry, because it is his means of doing ministry— both in us and through us." - Rev. Jason Helopoulos

Story Time

You and your children are invited to join us in the library on July 6 and July 27 from 10 to 11.30 am for story time and a play date. Parents are welcome to bring bag lunches for further fellowship. Contact Audra Cato if you have any questions (620.0243).



SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
One 10.30 am service July 2-23

JULY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

July 2

Luke 18: 9-14

July 9

Deuteronomy 29: 10-15; 30: 15-19
Psalm 127: 1-5

July 16

Matthew 20: 1-16

July 23

To be determined.

July 30

To be determined.

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions

Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry

Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive

Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

Darin Travis
Director for Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010

fpabr.org

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

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and widen the global circle of faith of those who have been transformed through trusting Christ as Savior and have come to know God's love and forgiveness.

This year our church has declared August "global missions month." The theme is "Catch the Vision!" A special

conference on August 19 and 20 with two internationally renowned speakers will highlight the month. Throughout August, though, we hope each week to increase awareness about global missions in the life of our church. We hope you will reflect on the many exciting and creative ways

you can participate in changing the world for Christ and his Kingdom. As a congregation, let's "catch the vision" together!



Lloyd Lunceford
Session Class of 2016
Global Missions
Committee

Serving the Homeless Each Month. On the first Sunday of each month, members of First Presbyterian meet at the corner of Florida and 17th Street at noon to serve Open Air homeless ministries. We feed the homeless and lead over 30 homeless children in children's church. Please join us in caring for and serving our homeless community! For more information contact Katy Cosby (katy@fpcbr.org or 225.205.0151).

50 on 50 Testimonies, July 23. Our 50 on 50 supper groups began this winter

and we'd like to hear how it's going. If you participated in a supper group, please consider sharing your 60 second testimony at the 10.30 am worship service on July 23. Contact Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221) to sign up.

MDO Teacher Needed. Mother's Day Out is looking for a co-teacher for the two-year-old class beginning in August. If you know of an individual with a passion for loving and teaching little ones, please contact Whitney Weiner (mdo@fpcbr.org).

Sports Camp Needs Volunteers. The S.T.A.R.S. sports camp is looking for men and women volunteers excited to share the gospel with kids in inner city Baton Rouge. We will join our sister church, Abounding Love Ministries July 17-21 to coach kids in soccer and basketball while also leading them in gospel-centered Bible studies that correlate with our play on the field. Please contact Katy Cosby (katy@fpcbr.org or 225.205.0151) for more information.