



Damnably Lies and Who Tells Them by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

You are a terrorist. You are plotting the overthrow of the government. If the coup had succeeded, you would have been named head of the CIA.

These are some of the outrageous accusations the Rev. Dr. Andrew Brunson faced in his trial in Turkey. This EPC pastor who had served the people of Turkey for more than two decades was jailed for two years and on trial for his life: as an enemy of the state, as the mastermind of a planned rebel coup.

The charges were ridiculous, of course. But they nearly stuck. Who tells such lies? The paid witnesses. The government officials seeking political capital. Paranoid politicians. But behind every outrageous lie, there is another power. Our Enemy. The one Jesus prayed about in the Lord's Prayer: deliver us from the evil one. There are spiritual forces arrayed against truth, against love, against fidelity, against flourishing.

Here in America, the Turkish lies look silly. That's only because we weren't actually immersed in the daily web of deceit. Here, the lies the evil one tells us seem more reasonable. They are so well embraced that we accept them. They get told by the nicest, most attractive people. Even though they are just as outrageous and just as destructive. Such as:

You belong to no one but yourself. It's your life. It's your choice. You must hate women, since you'd restrict abortion laws. You must be a bigot since you believe marriage is between a man and a woman. Gender, after all, is but a social construct. Your children need to experience it all in order to succeed. Games are more important than spiritual formation if you don't want your kids to be weird. All that matters is the bottom line. Money is power. Purchases will soothe me; experiences will fulfill me. You only have one life to live, and it's yours to live. No one has the right to tell me *anything*.

Yes, chances are you've spoken some of those lines, or been told them, or thought them. They are all lies, woven with half-truths. They undo us every day.

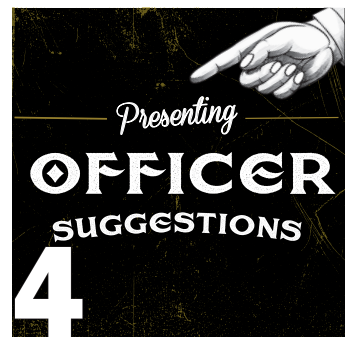
Andrew Brunson found his love and loyalty for Jesus tested to the depths in 700 days of lonely imprisonment. He discovered, in the pit of forsakenness, that love for Jesus was at the core of his being. The ultimate reality. And that Jesus was not only worthy of his love, but worth his suffering.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10.30 am Worship	July 7
S.T.A.R.S. Camp	July 8-11
10.30 am Worship	July 14
10.30 am Worship	July 21
Congregational Lunch	July 21
Christmas Play Tryouts	July 21
10.30 am Worship	July 28
Christmas Play Tryouts	July 28

ONGOING EVENTS

WM Summer Study, Wednesdays at 6.30 pm (excluding July 3)

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

Sunday Evening Prayer Resumes	Aug 4
City Ministry Fair	Aug 25

BIRTHS:

June 4, 2019
Paige Marie Oakes
Parents are Sydney and John Oakes
Grandparents are Paige and D.J. Davis

BAPTISMS:

June 30, 2019
Lydia Gail Bailey
Parents are Melinda and Richard Bailey

MARRIAGES:

June 8, 2019
Connor Hitt to Jessica Touhy

June 15, 2019
Elizabeth Breaux to Jeff Swarner

June 29, 2019
Langley Dillenberger to Gabriel Sampongarno

IN MEMORIAM:

June 6, 2019
Andrew Ferguson
Father of Amy Caillouett

June 14, 2019
Susan Yancey

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of . . .

JULY 7 . . . our nephew, Justin Galatoire Frey, Jr., by Eugenie and Harry Burglass.

JULY 14 . . . Jesse Furr Scoggin and John Irby Moore and in celebration of Grace and Joe Scoggin's anniversary July 14, 2012.

JULY 21 . . . loved ones by Melissa and Mike Thibodeaux.

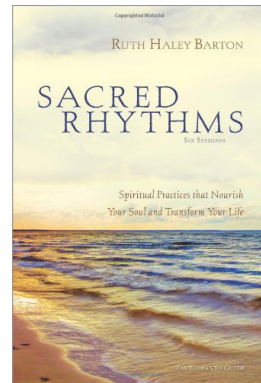
JULY 28 . . . Billie Hyde and her surviving family by her sister, Patty Ruth Wilkinson.

Solitude, Silence, Rhythm by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship

There are cherished rhythms that happen every year at our church. One of these happens during the month of July when we combine services on Sunday mornings. By being all together, we can enjoy fellowship with the whole church. Another benefit is that we give our year-long Sunday school leaders a chance to rest from their weekly teaching responsibilities, and thus, space is created for new teachers to lead us in Scripture and topics that are important for our church. Beginning July 7, we have three powerful Sunday school options for you to consider providing spiritual growth as well as opportunity to reconnect with old friends or make some new ones.

Option 1: Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation

In our hectic and splintered world, the practice of having solitude, silence and space to examine one's inner world can seem like an unattainable goal. This in-depth class will help you on your journey of learning the sacred rhythms of life for inner spiritual vitality. We will consider topics such as *Work and Rest Through*

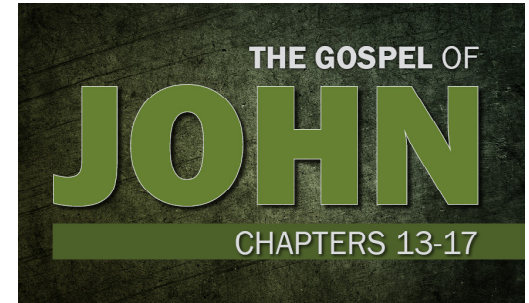


Establishing a Sabbath, Intimacy with God Through Prayer, Creating Space for God Through Solitude, and Recognizing and Responding to the Presence of God Through Discernment. Come join Whitney Alexander, Judy McGimsey and Hans Othmer as they lead us in the formation of transforming communities. Room 202 of the Education Building.

Option 2: Jesus' Farewell Discourse in the Gospel of John, Chapters 13-17

John's Gospel is an evangelistic and apologetic masterpiece that was written so that "you may believe." Chapters 13-17 depict Jesus' transition from focusing on his public ministry in the world to a powerful interaction between Jesus and his most intimate followers. Join us each Sunday as we delve into the significance of these chapters happening during Passover, the magnificent promise of the coming Holy Spirit, the beauty of abiding in Christ the Vine and the intimate conversation of God the Son

speaking with God the Father in chapter 17. This class will be taught by Jamy Comeaux, Braden McIntosh and Blake Fowler. Room 220 of the Sanctuary Building.



Option 3: Smart Stepfamily

Did you know that there are 67 forms of stepfamilies today? Did you know that strong stepfamilies have been proven to help heal the brokenness that comes with divorce? Did you know that stepparents can have a major impact on the young lives in their families? Please come and join Nancy and Rick Spiller as they lead a Bible study based on the newly-revised book by Ron Deal called *The Smart Stepfamily*. We will combine instruction and encourage-



ment that affirms both husbands and wives and their intent to build strong families. We'll look at seven fundamental steps to blended family success. Whether married or soon-to-be married, you'll discover how to communicate effectively and solve the everyday puzzles of stepchildren relationships. Room 219 of the Sanctuary Building.

Each of these Sunday school options will provide a fantastic opportunity for growth and fellowship. Please note, to give adequate time to study these topics, we are beginning a bit earlier than previous summers. Plan to join us beginning July 7 at 9.15 am.

Celebrate Creative Arts in July! by Nancy Spiller, Creative Arts Director

Beat the summer heat by doing something fun indoors! We are excited to offer a series of painting classes where you will come away with a painting after one two-hour class! Classes will be on Tuesdays, July 9, July 16 and July 23 from 4-6 pm in the Sanctuary basement (4-5th grade Sunday school room with the orange couch). The following classes will be offered:

July 9: "Mom and Me" A painting class for mothers and their children ages 6-11. Adult must accompany child for the class. The children and parent will paint together "Whale in the Ocean."

July 16: "Ladies Night Out"

July 23: "Fun After 60" for men and women

There is a \$20 donation for supplies! Sign up at the Connection Center or email Nancy Spiller (nancy@fpcbr.org). Class is limited to 20 people!

Meet our Art instructor: Maryam Jahan

Maryam is one of our international students here at FPC. She has been painting since childhood and has worked as a professional artist for over 15 years. She believes that art can greatly enrich one's life, ultimately making the world a better place to live. Her deep love for painting and teaching has made her spend most of her time sharing her passion and knowledge with others. Her motto is "Life is precious, so we should value its every moment."



Also, on Sunday, July 28, all FPC church artists are invited to bring their art work and creations to decorate our Sanctuary. We will celebrate our Creative Creator God and all his beauty! Plan to bring your art anytime between 9 and 10.30 am and place in the windows of the Sanctuary. Artwork can be collected after the 10.30 service.

Christmas in July? *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* Tryouts

Attention all middle school students (6th, 7th and 8th graders). Tryouts for our Christmas play will be Sunday, July 21 and Sunday, July 28 immediately after worship at 12 pm in the choir room. Please come prepared with a one-minute monologue. It doesn't have to be memorized but it helps! You will also be asked to read scenes from the script. Auditions will be 15 minutes each. Please sign up at the Connection Center for a spot! Performances are Friday, December 6 at 7 pm (Festival of Lights), and Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm.

In this hilarious and heartwarming Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids—probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem and the fun when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on! This delightful comedy is adapted from the best-selling young adult book and has become a holiday staple for groups across the United States! Features great roles, favorite Christmas Carols and a lot of laughs!

Congregational Lunch, July 21

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. Please join us for our July lunch in the gym Sunday, July 21 following our combined worship service. We will enjoy being together over hamburgers, french fries and hotdogs. \$5/person or \$20 family.

Quest Pool Party

In honor of our rising 6th graders moving up to Confirmation we are having a pool party Sunday, July 28, 4-6 pm at Southern Oaks Aquatic Club. If you have a child entering 6th grade or a child in our Quest class, we would love for you to join us for some fun swimming, snacks and fellowship before our summer comes to an end. This event is for parents and children.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10.30 am Worship Each Sunday in July
Our normal three service schedule resumes
Sunday, August 4 (7.45, 9 and 11 am).

JULY SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

JULY 7, 2019
Luke 24: 13-25

JULY 14, 2019
To be determined

JULY 21, 2019
Joshua 1: 9; 2 Corinthians 4: 16

JULY 28, 2019
Psalm 31

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 of Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults

STEPHEN NEWMAN
Director of Worship



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fpcbr.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
brchristiancounseling.com

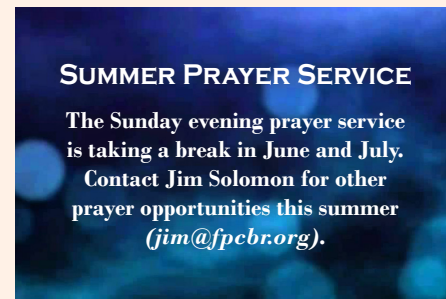
Officer Suggestions

The Officer Nominating Committee nominates Elders and Deacons by receiving suggested names of members from the congregation, prayerfully preparing a slate and presenting the slate at the annual October congregational meeting for election. Please be in prayer about who you might suggest. Nomination cards will be available beginning July 7.



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 8-12 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 Whitney Alexander (whitney@fpcbr.org or 225.810.2607) for more information.



Damnably Lies, *cont. from page 1*

That truth cut through the despair in the web of lies in Turkey. It still cuts through the fog of illusions in our culture.

At FPC, we are a truth-telling, love-inspiring, idol-smashing, mission-propelling community. We're proud that Andrew Brunson is part of our denomination. He is a faithful prophet with a word for us. Wherever you go this summer, dear ones, stay close to the one who is Truth. Expose the damnably lies you get told, and the damnably lies your own heart generates. Stay close to each other, because we can't do this alone. May you refresh and return as together we go deeper in Christ the way, the truth and the life and further into the world with his shimmering, loving truth.

Gene