

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.

# fpc NEWS



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## JUNE CALENDAR

Prayer for the Nations	Each Wed., 5.30 pm
Officer Meetings	June 1
WiM Screwtape Letters Study Begins	June 2
Promise Keepers	June 5-6
WiM Summertime Luncheon	June 9
Blood Drive	June 14
Lindy Weiner Retirement Reception	June 21
Father's Day	June 21
Officer Meetings	June 29
WiM Psalms of Ascent Study Begins	June 30

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Combined 10.30 Worship	July 5, 12, 19 & 26
VBS (Family Night, July 6)	July 7-10
Buddy Greene Concert	August 23
Men's Ministry Fall Study Begins	Sept 17
Habitat for Humanity Build	Sept 24-Oct 10
Parenting Conference	Oct 9-10

## No Worship this July

GERRIT DAWSON, SENIOR PASTOR

That is, at the usual times! We're worshipping as one church the four Sundays in July at 10.30 am in the sanctuary. Each of the four services will follow a similar order of worship with varying musical accents. Every service will be a bit like and a bit unlike services you know. Each one has been carefully planned (already!), and will be lush with instruments, prayers and great stories from Genesis. Each service has been designed with all of us in mind.

The opportunities will be ripe to make new friends, renew old friendships, go deeper in worship and rejoice in being one church. Children's Sunday school and a single adult Sunday school will be offered at 9.30. We have a chance to enjoy the Lord's Day without the hectic pace of our usual Sunday mornings.

Meanwhile, for June and July we are taking up the stories of Jacob and Joseph. These dramatic narratives highlight God's power to transform people and circumstances as he weaves his work of redemption in the world.

### Running Reverends

Our sister church, Abounding Love Ministries, has organized a community run/walk for Saturday, June 20 at 8 am. I'll be there as will many of our runners and walkers. It starts on the North Boulevard Square and includes lots of fun with an emphasis on spiritual and physical health.

### Buddy Greene Concert

Nashville recording artist Buddy Greene will perform a concert for us Sunday, August 23 at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Best known for writing and recording the song "Mary Did You Know?" Buddy performs all over the world, bringing the gospel in a style that appeals to all ages. Buddy will be leading the music at our 9 and 11 am worship services that morning, then performing in the evening. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring a friend.

### Hello and Goodbye

Summer means travel and transitions. We're saying goodbye to some new friends (Kate Mills on Children's Ministry staff) and some old friends (Lindy Weiner after three decades). We're saying hello to some old friends in new positions. Seminary student Josh Woltmann joins us for a summer of pastoral internship. Jaime Carnaggio joins our children's ministry team. And Whitney Alexander returns from sabbatical. Celebrate the great talent God brings into and sends from our church.

I hope each and all of you will get a time of refreshment this season.

As I enjoy the rhythm of summer with you, please know that, as ever, I love being your pastor!



### In Memoriam:

April 25, 2015  
Patty Ory: Aunt of Carol Cleveland

May 8, 2015  
Marilyn Merriman:  
Grandmother of Jamy Comeaux

May 13, 2015  
Roy Johannessen:  
Brother of Bill Johannessen

May 19, 2015  
Estelle Wall: Grandmother of Chad Lott

### Births:

April 15, 2015  
Robert Dale Barham  
Parents are Amy and Robert Erle Barham  
Grandparents are Lindy and Dale Weiner

April 17, 2015  
Emerson Brantley Kees  
Parents are Lauren and Ben Kees

April 23, 2015  
Thomas Rowan McKinley  
Grandparents are Sherry and Rusty McKinley

May 4, 2015  
Abraham Ambrose Wood  
Parents are Amy and Jim Wood

May 24, 2015  
Evangeline Sophia Behrnes  
Parents are Rebecca and Jacob Behrnes  
Grandparents are Bunny and Ron Ferris

### Weddings:

May 16, 2015  
Kristen Novak married Mark Morgan

May 23, 2015  
Lydia Gikas married Patrick Cook

May 30, 2015  
Valerie Ayres married Corey Burge

## 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 ...

**June 7** ... in honor of the 68th wedding anniversary of Sue and Bill Edrington by Susie and Buzzy Heroman, Leah and Billy Edrington, and Lynn and Mark Edwards.

**June 14** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Monroe Gill by Winnie, Wyn and Jane Gill.

**June 21** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jack H. Field by Sharon, David, Stephanie, Sydney and Estin Field.

**June 28** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents: Dorothy and Joachim Aubert and Emma and Pete Ramos by Fe' and Murphy Aubert.

## Blessed to Serve

 by Lindy Weiner

When I joined the staff of First Presbyterian in 1987 as the director of children's ministry, my own three children were in elementary school and my hair was a lot darker! For fourteen years, I had the honor of teaching your children the love of Christ and working alongside many of you in Sunday school, VBS, confirmation class, children's church and lock-ins. To all those who gave their time and hearts to children's ministry, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Proverbs 22: 6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Those of us who have been here as long as I have can see this to be true, as these children, including my own, have grown to know Christ and have begun to teach their

own families to live for him.

For the last fourteen years serving you as director of congregational life and director of events, I have experienced the joy of seeing these families begin to take shape as I've coordinated the weddings at the church. I have also been privileged to hold the hands of those of you who have lost loved ones as I assisted with the funerals. What an honor to serve all of you in such important moments of your lives!

Join us for a reception  
honoring Lindy's 29 years  
at First Presbyterian.

Sunday, June 21  
10.10 am in the FPC gym.  
Brunch will be served.

I have truly been blessed to serve the many ministries of First Presbyterian Church. I'd like to thank the pastoral staff (two senior pastors and thirteen associate pastors during my tenure!) and our wonderful support staff. Together they represent a true church family! With much love and joy I pass the crown of most veteran staff member to Nancy Spiller. May she wear it well! And may God continue to pour out his grace over FPC!

## Buchanan Ministry Celebrates Another Wonderful Year

 by Laura Shaw

School is out for summer and we pray that the faculty and students at our adopted school, Buchanan Elementary, enjoy the rest and relaxation they need and deserve!

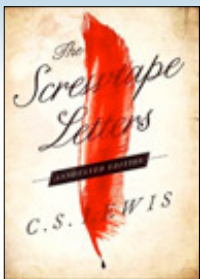
Our church was busy at the school this year with our members serving as Reading Friends, Storytime Readers, Teacher Encouragers, Library Helpers and Special Event Coordinators. First Presbyterian Church's impact could be felt at the school with someone from the church serving the children and staff nearly every day. It was great to see a child's eyes light up when their Reading Friend walked

through the classroom door or a group of children listening intently as a Storytime Reader read a favorite story. What a great way we shared the love of Christ by encouraging a teacher with prayer, treats and hugs and always when they seemed to need it most!

A dedicated group of volunteers worked with Principal Jones to give a staff prayer breakfast at the opening of school and a wonderful end of the year Teacher's Luncheon to encourage and celebrate the staff. The fifth graders were invited to a lovely graduation luncheon at First Presbyterian Church where they were treated to music, stories and an organ concert! The younger students were able to enjoy an afternoon of music and fun when FPC sponsored a concert by Johnette Downing in the school gym. Hands were clapping and faces were smiling and the children were still singing as they left to go back to their classrooms!

These are just highlights from our school year at Buchanan - so much more goes on behind the scenes and is greatly appreciated by the school. We want to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, our Buchanan ministry committee members and the many circles, Sunday school classes and church members that donate their time and resources to help all of this become a reality. We look forward to continuing our work next school year and invite you to come on board! For more information, contact Laura Shaw, [laurashaw2@yahoo.com](mailto:laurashaw2@yahoo.com) or 225.278.1929.

## C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" Study



Women in Ministry is offering a series of discussions on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Please join us at the home of Annette Lamond (1020 Pastureview Drive) each Tuesday in June at 6 pm. This highly engaging and intuitive book promises rich conversation. Please purchase your copy individually in advance and be prepared to discuss the first 7 chapters on June 2. It is a quick read.

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Women in Ministry is having a summertime luncheon on Tuesday, June 9 from 11.30 am to 1 pm. All women of the church and their guests are invited to come have lunch and hear a lesson from WiM director, Elizabeth Parker. Please RSVP for the lunch and/or childcare at the Connection Center or online at [fpchr.org](http://fpchr.org). \$10 per person.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Old Testament prophets warned the people of Israel to prepare their hearts for the coming Messiah. In the New Testament, John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness for repentance because the Messiah was at hand. "The King Is Coming!" rings out with the hope that Christ's return is near and bids us prepare for the glorious moment. Our prayer is that through VBS this year, children who are believers can be encouraged to learn that Christ is returning to gather his saints from this fallen world, and that those who don't know him will receive him because his return is imminent!

### VBS 2015, July 7-10

Camper, volunteer and childcare registration at [fpchr.org](http://fpchr.org).

## Meet a Volunteer



### Rachel Ricks

*Prior to starting her career working for the City of Baton Rouge, Rachel had a talk with God. She promised him that if he would give her 30 years with the parish, after retiring, she would make herself available to do whatever he called her to do.*

#### How long has Rachel been a member of First?

Since 1999

#### How long has Rachel been a volunteer at First?

5 years

#### Volunteer responsibilities:

Answering phones

Helping with mail outs (including this newsletter)

Straightening the pew racks

Counting offerings and tithes

#### What does Rachel do in her "off" time?

Helps raise a young boy who has attended both the Communion and Confirmation classes.

#### Hobbies?

Bowling, reading, baking and crocheting.

#### Favorite Color?

Purple: for LSU and it's the color of royalty

#### How has Rachel been blessed by volunteering?

It gives her joy to follow God's call with a servant's heart. Her desire is to stay in step with the Spirit and be attentive to service opportunities. She knows that God sees what she does and pleasing him, not man, is her priority.

## Summer Story Time

Are you eager to enjoy fellowship with other young mothers in our church for a play date? You and your children are invited to join us on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11.30 am during the months of June and July (with the exception of July 2 and July 9). Parents are welcome to bring bag lunches for further fellowship. Contact Audra Cato if you have any questions, [audra@fpchr.org](mailto:audra@fpchr.org).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

### Come Worship with Us!

7.45 am Chapel Communion Service  
9 am Contemporary Service  
11 am Classic Reformed Service  
11 am Acoustic Communion Service

June 7, AD 2015

Genesis 27

June 14, AD 2015

Genesis 28

June 21, AD 2015

Genesis 32

June 28, AD 2015

Genesis 37

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Gerrit S. Dawson**

Senior Pastor

**Richard "Dick" Gates**

Associate Pastor for Global Missions and Pastoral Care

**M. Whitney Alexander**

Associate Pastor of City Ministry

**Derek McCollum**

Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Young Adults

**Barry Phillips**

Ministry Executive

**Josh Maddin**

Associate Pastor of Student Ministry



PH: 225.387.0617  
FAX: 225.338.1010

[www.fpchr.org](http://www.fpchr.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](http://www.brchristiancounseling.com)

## Staying Connected by Jay High

Did you know that First has many ways for you to stay connected beyond this newsletter, the Sunday bulletin and the mass emails? We have a Facebook page where we post pictures of recent events and list upcoming events as well. You can download pictures and/or forward them to friends and family. Just go to [www.facebook.com/FPCBR](http://www.facebook.com/FPCBR).

On our website ([www.fpcbr.org](http://www.fpcbr.org)), you can get podcasts (downloadable audio files) of all the weekly sermons to play on smart phones, mobile devices and computers. You can also download transcripts of the sermons or even watch them on our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/fpcbatonrouge](http://www.youtube.com/fpcbatonrouge)).

## Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline, June 15

Students entering college or continuing their college path have the deadline of June 15 to apply for a scholarship available through the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Scholar-

We are working on a complete website overhaul, which will make all of the above features even easier to use, and add new features as well, like livestreaming of sanctuary services and online giving! We hope to be finished in late summer.

Does new technology feel over your head and/or overwhelming? We are considering some 'how to' classes for our less technical congregation members. We will go over basics like emails, web-surfing and checking our new website...those types of things. Interested? Let us know! If there's enough demand, we will schedule some classes.

ship Fund. The scholarship form can be completed online at [www.fpcbr.org](http://www.fpcbr.org) or by contacting Sherry McKinley at 387.0617. Grants will be awarded in July.

## Hospital Visitation Workshop

Dick Gates is offering a class on what is expected when you become a hospital or shut-in visitation volunteer.

June 1 from 6-6.40 pm

EB 201B (Education Building)  
Sign-up by calling 387.0617.

Please contact Dick if you have any questions (573.9149 or [dick@fpcbr.org](mailto:dick@fpcbr.org)).

**sunday, june 14**

**8.15 am to 1 pm**

**register for your  
donation time by  
visiting [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)**

**blood drive**

