

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



Our Heritage in Hymns by Colton Underwood, Director of Children, Youth and Families

At one point in the not-so-distant past, I (like many my age) looked at the old hymnal that I grew up with and considered it a relic of a bygone era, something that desperately needed to be moved past in order to remain “current.” It was something I only faintly remembered reading as a child before my home church, like so many, decided the same. Yet, as the Lord would have it, my days of cracking hymnal spines were far from finished as I was confronted with this tradition once more when the Lord led Rachel and me to worship and serve in several small PCA churches in Mississippi while I was in seminary. I remember distinctly kicking against the goads at first, refusing to appreciate the rich history preserved in these contexts. Through the quiet leadership of previous mentors and the Lord’s softening of a proud heart, slowly the joy and beauty to be found crept in, at first in trickles, and later in a flood. While I respect and appreciate the variety of traditions of praise within the Christian heritage and in numerous cultures and contexts, I’ve become more and more convinced, as time goes by, that the songs of ages past are songs to which we should return.

The beauty of a hymn is more than just in its sound; admittedly, the simple tune played on a piano with a few voices to sing out its lyrics is often an underwhelming experience. Many things in life are perfectly simple, even mundane at first glance. Waking up and taking a warm shower, cooking and eating a meal, that first sip of coffee, small talk with strangers, driving home through the Baton Rouge traffic. The list endlessly goes on. These are plain things, everyday tasks and experiences, but the depth to be found in each of these

is so much more than what we might first acknowledge. We take so many profound things in life for granted and the simplicity and modesty of a hymn is no different. For this reason, in addition to what many perceive as archaic language, many of us turn our noses up at songs from “grandma’s church,” yet, in doing so, we rob ourselves of honest beauty, profound faith, and substantial theology. But why?

What person who knows the transcendence of God is not stirred to sing to the Holy One of Israel: “Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee perfect in pow’r, in love and purity”? What soul convicted of sin finds no comfort in singing, “Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone, thou must save, and thou alone”? Or what troubled heart is not strengthened in crying with brothers and sisters: “Whate’er my God ordains is right: here shall my stand be taken; though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet I am not forsaken. My Father’s care is ‘round me there; he holds me that I shall not fall: and so to him I leave it all”?

I believe it’s high time that we reclaim our heritage in hymnody, an inheritance in song that has stood the test of time. If we were to take the time to sing, study and devote ourselves to these songs, we would find true treasures of our people from ages past, hymns that teach us the great truths of the gospel, hymns that we can sing on our death-

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2 MALACHI
DADS
MINISTRY

2 LFR
CAMP

3 BUILDING UP
CAMPAIGN
INSPIRES

3 BUEN CAMINO
WHITNEY!

MAY EVENTS

Confirmation Celebration MAY 1
 rEcess MAY 6
 Mother's Day MAY 8
 Senior Sunday MAY 8
 Recital MAY 8
 Colton Underwood Ordination MAY 29
 Combined 10.30 Worship MAY 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

Night of Praise JUNE 5
 Combined Worship SUNDAYS IN JULY

BIRTHS

March 11, 2022
 Frances Camille Lapeyrouse
 Parents are Amelia and Jeremy

IN MEMORIAM

March 27, 2022
 John Evans Dutton

March 31, 2022
 Don Cunningham, Sr.

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

MAY 1 . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane and Louis Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.

MAY 8 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of three mothers, all very special to our family: our mother, Jackie Lee Airhart, her mother, Claudia Lee Tisdale and Kristen's mother, Becky Richardson, by the children of Jackie Lee Airhart.

MAY 15 . . . Open date.

MAY 22 . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Gallaher Frey Eaton by her daughter, Barbara Anne Eaton.

MAY 29 . . . to the glory of God and beloved memory of Dr. and Mrs. H.W.A. Lee by Albert Penny, retired U.S. Army veteran.



Malachi Dads by Whitney Alexander, Charles Goebel and Hans Othmer

God is transforming men's lives in our prison population. The Malachi Dads program (started at Angola) is a faith-based program helping men develop skills to reconnect with their children using Christian principles.

Malachi Dads is a structured program designed to take men through the basics of Christianity. Groups of 12 men (called families) meet weekly to discuss the lesson. In these sessions, men learn the Christian skills necessary to meet the challenges of life and reconnect with their kids.

The joy of participating in Malachi Dad's Bible Study is establishing relationships with the men. Many friendships have deepened and we have seen the release of both George Gillam and Keith Morse within the last three years. Both men are employed at FPC part-time and work with fathers and sons in north Baton Rouge (70805 and 70802)! It is a joy for us to continue pouring into their lives in Bible Study outside of Angola prison.

We have an opportunity to provide assistance to inmate facilitators for a growing number of inmate participants. No formal training or preparation is required. Please consider getting involved. You will be blessed seeing God's work in our prison population. Get in touch with Whitney, Hans Othmer, Jerry Stovall, Bill Barkas, Brian Kinchen, Charles Goebel or Gee Gee Hargon. Thank you for your support of missions at FPCBR!



Mark Lamond, Charles Goebel and George Gillam



Keith Morse

Calling All Campers to Lake Forest Ranch

Kingdom Kids children ages 7-12 are invited to join us as we head to Macon, Mississippi for camp at Lake Forest Ranch. LFR's mission is building relationships for eternal impact. Your camper will experience life-changing messages, uplifting worship, arts and crafts and high-energy recreation such as rope courses, archery, swimming and gaga ball—all while forming lasting friendships with their fellow campers. Camp dates are July 17-21 and is \$399 per camper. Please register by June 30. For more information, please contact Karah Guillory (karah@fpcbr.org).

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 603.4735.

Building Up Campaign Inspires Ministry



One of the best joys of our Building Up campaign is how it energizes the work of our mission partners. We offer support for much needed building projects. That commitment inspires the daily ministry of our partners. As we help them realize their vision for the future, mission pulses with a stronger heartbeat. Already we have purchased a house for the women in Colombia beginning a new life. And five new classrooms will be constructed at Bethany Centre in Uganda this summer. Our gifts engender confidence in the ministry leaders to press forward. Watch for a full newsletter updating us on all the wonderful effects of Building Up.

Buen Camino Whitney!

Our beloved pastor of missions, Whitney Alexander, will receive a well-deserved sabbatical this summer. He starts his time later this month with a week hiking along the famous Camino de Santiago in Spain. A group of six will join him on this spiritual pilgrimage. Then, he'll have time to travel, rest, reflect and prepare for a new stage of ministry when he returns to us in August. Pray for his refreshment and safety and spiritual deepening during these weeks.

Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer and Roger W. Lowther in Concert

Treat your mother to an afternoon of beautiful music by own our Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violinist, and special guest Roger W. Lowther, organist. Rachel will be presenting selections from her final doctoral recital. Roger will play selections from the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes of Bach and speak about Bach's faith. Rachel formerly worked with Roger in Japan collaborating with pastors and local churches to play concerts and share the gospel. Sunday, May 8, at 3 pm in Dunham Chapel.

Colton Underwood Ordination, May 29

We'll come together for one 10.30 am service of worship Memorial Day weekend. A highlight will be the ordination of Colton Underwood to Presbyterian ministry. Colton will no longer be Director of Youth Ministry. He will be the Assistant Pastor for Children, Youth and Families. A festive reception follows. Come celebrate this important milestone in the Underwoods' lives.

A Night Full of Praise, June 5

Do you ever feel like we don't get to sing enough? Do you ever wish worship could go on longer? We're planning a night full of praise with our sister church Abounding Love. On Sunday evening, June 5, the worship team and choirs of both churches will come together in our Sanctuary to lift our voices in joy to the triune God of grace. No offering, no sermon, no promotions. Just singing and prayers of praise. Details to follow.

Jerusalem Marketplace VBS

Jerusalem Marketplace VBS is a unique Bible immersion, living history experience for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. Come hear Bible stories from a seasoned storyteller, learn to make amazing crafts as apprentices of master craftsmen, interact with the kinds of people Jesus did when he walked the streets of Jerusalem. There is incentive to register sooner rather than later as space is limited and registration closes June 16. There is no charge for VBS. Bring a friend! Visit fpcbr.org/vbs for details and to register. VBS dates: June 20-24.



MAY SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

MAY 1, 2022
2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

MAY 8, 2022
Hebrews 12: 3-17

MAY 15, 2022
Joshua 1: 1-9

MAY 22, 2022
Joshua 2: 1-9

MAY 29, 2022
Joshua 3: 1-13

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship



PH: 225.387.0617
fpcbr.org

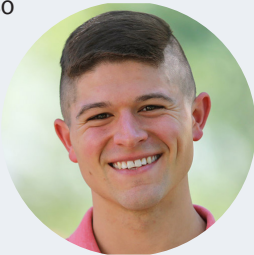
763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

Hymns *continued from pg. 1*

beds. My desire is not to convince you to abandon all other “worship styles,” nor do I ask that you prefer hymns and psalms over more contemporary worship music whether in corporate gatherings or at home. I merely hope to shine a light on the beauty of what these lines really are. They are the heart-poetry of Christians from age to age, prayers poured out from both joy and anguish, anthems of the people of God to strengthen us in the darkest of nights. For that reason, they ought to have a place not only in our pews, but also in our hearts.



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College Scholarships

The FPC Women’s Ministry College Scholarship Fund is a unique fund established in 1955 for all students who wish to further their education. Its purpose is to offer financial assistance to church members who anticipate having difficulty meeting the obligations of continued education. The administration of the fund is the responsibility of the Memorial Scholarship Committee and honors particular need-based guidelines. Rather than academic achievements, aid is intended to be a helpful supplement in the student’s pursuit of higher education. The annual value of an individual grant varies between \$400 and \$600. The application deadline is June 1, 2022. Applications are available by contacting Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpcbr.org) or online at fpcbr.org.

Single Memorial Day Service

We will have one combined service on May 29 at 10.30 am in celebration of Memorial Day.

FPC App

Sermon video, sermon audio, sermon transcripts, lectures, ESV Bible, news, announcements . . . if it’s on the website, it’s on the app. Download from your favorite app store by searching *FPCBR*.

Prayer Time

Join us at 10.15 am for prayer in the Prayer Room (just to the left of the elevator in the Sanctuary building) each Sunday. One or more pastors/elders, along with others willing to intercede on your behalf, will welcome you.