

# fpc NEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

March 2016 Volume 50-03

## Early Easter: March 27!

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

Why is Easter so early this year? For that matter, why does the date of Easter change every year? It's all about the moon! Centuries ago, the western church determined to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. This year, there's a full moon on March 23, right after the first day of spring (March 20), so we get Easter on March 27. Really early. If the moon had peaked just before the first day of spring, we would have had to wait all the way through another moon cycle before we could have Easter in late April. Interestingly, the Archbishop of Canterbury is hoping to have a chat with the Pope and the Orthodox patriarch about decreeing Easter to be the second Sunday in April every year. That would sure make planning easier. But truthfully, I sort of like having to reorient my life and calendar around Easter every year. It makes me plan for Easter, as if it's the most important day of the year (which, by the way, it truly is!).

### Palm Sunday Celebration

Our annual Palm Sunday festival is March 20, beginning at 10 am with our procession around North Boulevard. A jam-packed combined worship service occurs after the procession. This year, we will introduce our new members at that

service, so you'll have about 25 new faces to greet. Egg hunts, a picnic and street party follow worship.

### Service of Shadows

We observe the Thursday before Easter as a sacred day, remembering that Jesus initiated the sacrament of communion on that night, and washed his disciples' feet, giving them the commandment to treat each other the same way. (That's why it's called Maundy Thursday from the Latin word for mandate, or command). Our service on March 24 at 7 pm includes a very quiet communion, the dramatic retelling of the passion narrative and a visit in silence to the garden where the entombment of the body of Jesus will be reenacted. As the stone is rolled across the tomb, we sing "Were You There?" It's a very moving moment. That also sets up the particular joy of meeting in the same place at sunrise on Easter.

### Easter Services: 6.30, 9 and 11

We gather around the stone rolled away in the garden at 6.30 am for a brief service followed by breakfast. Then we have two festival worship services in the Sanctuary at 9 and 11. Acoustic Communion worshipers will join in with these services.

I look forward eagerly to the sweet joy of keeping Holy Week and Easter with you, beloved congregation!

### The Power of Narnia!

Millions have read C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Millions more have seen the movie. Christians know that Lewis' classic fantasy story conveys the depth of the cross more powerfully than a zillion theology books. When the great Lion Aslan gives his life to save the traitorous child Edmund, we see Jesus in a fresh, deep way.

Your church will present a stirring musical version of *Narnia* on April 15-17. You know the quality of productions we've done from *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Roots and Promises* to the *Sound of Music*. This is a great opportunity to bring people to see excellent theater and hear the gospel.

So here's the word of encouragement from the old pastor: let's not make our church spend all her energy wooing our own members to come. Let's plan now to be there as a matter of course so we can spend our energy getting people from outside the church to see the gospel in this attractive format.

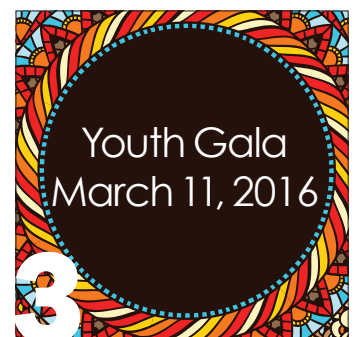
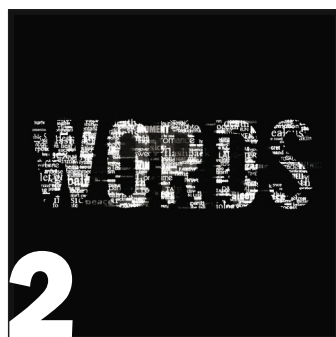
Gerrit

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MARCH CALENDAR

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| rEcess                       | Mar 4     |
| Volunteer Training           | Mar 5     |
| Heritage Ranch Work Day      | Mar 5     |
| Youth Gala                   | Mar 11    |
| Last Mid-Week Lenten Worship | Mar 16    |
| Women's Retreat              | Mar 18-19 |
| Palm Sunday                  | Mar 20    |
| Service of Shadows           | Mar 24    |
| Easter Sunday                | Mar 27    |
| BRSO Concert                 | Mar 31    |

UPCOMING DATES

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Narnia Musical | Apr 15-17 |
|----------------|-----------|

IN MEMORIAM:

January 28, 2016  
Helen Young, aunt of Virginia Simeral

February 2, 2016  
Roger Head, father of Lisa Head

February 11, 2016  
Grandmother of Barat Travis

BIRTHS:

January 28, 2016  
Theodore "Teddy" James Price  
Parents are Stacie and Jesse Price  
Grandparents are Terri and Ed Douglas

February 11, 2016  
Carter Roy Hart  
Parents are Kathryn and Ryan Hart  
Grandparents are Pam and Bob Downing

BAPTISMS:

February 14, 2016  
Grayson Scott Kurtz  
Parents are Leah and Tyler Kurtz  
Grandparents are Rhonda and Gerrit Dawson

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 ...

**Mar 6** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Warren Munson and Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Pipes, by Sarah Munson and family.

**Mar 13** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel Eugene Field III, by his father, Dr. Samuel Eugene Field Jr.

**Mar 20** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Hamilton, Dunham and Witty families, by Kathryn Witty.

**Mar 27** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Norman Saurage III, Maude and Norman Saurage Sr., Alma Lee and Norman Saurage Jr., and Flora and Gustave Spaht, by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Words By Nancy Spiller, Creative Arts Director

I don't know about you, but the older I get, the more I seem to cry. I feel things deeper than I used to. You would think I would be getting my "act" together at my age! As a singer and a musician, I have always been moved to tears by moving melodies and beautiful harmonies. That is why I still love what I am doing at FPC. It's part of my job to listen to beautiful music that lifts up the name of Jesus, and to find songs that can help us do that. We want to articulate our love back to him.

I know you've noticed that Gerrit is a "word" guy. He has us thinking about God's Word all the time, and he stretches us to think so hard my brain aches. I think it has caused me to think more of the lyrics we sing, as well as the words that come out of my mouth. Perhaps that is why you see tears on my face many Sundays, too. I see very deeply how much God loves us and cares for us and I just can't help it. But I am not alone. There are plenty of grown men out there shedding a tear or two. And you always

want to let me know for some reason. I love that! The Holy Spirit is moving us!

And another thing, the same thing happens to me when I hear a testimony of what God is doing in people's lives, whether in joy or pain. It is amazing to me. So let's not ever stop singing and speaking "words" of what God has done, words of what he is doing in our lives presently through the Holy Spirit, and words of the glorious future we will have in heaven because of the resurrection of Jesus!

*"Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5: 15-16, 19-20).*

Aslan Is On the Move!

The First Presbyterian Creative Arts Department presents its spring production of *Narnia, The Musical*, written by Thomas Tierney and Ted Drachman, based on C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Performances are Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 at 7 pm. Then on Sunday, April 17th at 2 pm we will have a matinee. Admission is free! We have an amazing cast.



It is not too late to join in the fun! If you are interested in helping behind the scenes in any capacity-make-up, stage hands, technical, costumes, set building, snack foods and promotion, just email me at [nancy@fpcbr.org](mailto:nancy@fpcbr.org). Our director, Terry Byars, is not only a long time friend of FPC, but an accomplished writer, composer, college theater teacher, pianist, organist, director and well loved in our community. The cast of *Narnia* is already loving his direction and sense of humor. Please help us get the word out and remember to invite personally your friends and co-workers. "Aslan is on the move!!"

Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows

On Thursday, March 24 at 7 pm, we enter into the passion of Christ, recounting his arrest, trial and death through the service of shadows. We will end the service in silence on the terrace garden where the stone is rolled over the tomb.

Weekly Lent Continues

Wednesday Lenten Noon Communion services continue until March 16. All are welcome to join us in the Dunham Chapel then stay for a \$5 light lunch.

SIAC Scholarship Applications.

The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications until March 21 for financial grants for individuals interested in seminary. Please contact Jaci if you have questions (387.0617).

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

MARCH SERMON TEXTS

**March 6, 2016**

"He Went Up"

Luke 24: 50-53; Philippians 3: 20-21

**March 13, 2016**

"What is Jesus Doing Now?"

Ephesians 1: 15-23

**March 20, 2016**

"The Kingdom to Come"

Isaiah 2: 1-5; 25: 6-9

**March 27, 2016**

To be determined

PASTORAL STAFF

**Gerrit S. Dawson**

Senior Pastor

**M. Whitney Alexander**

Associate Pastor of City Ministry

**Derek McCollum**

Associate Pastor for Discipleship

and Young Adults

**Barry Phillips**

Ministry Executive

**Josh Maddin**

Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry



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FAX: 225.338.1010

[fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)

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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)

**EASTER**  
march 27

6.30 am Sunrise  
9 am Contemporary  
11 am Combined Classic Reformed  
and Acoustic Communion

**Youth Gala**  
March 11, 2016 at 7pm

Join us at  
The Gallery at Marship  
at the Shaw Center  
for Tastings, Silent Auction,  
365 envelopes, & more!

Business Casual attire  
RSVP at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)

**PALM SUNDAY**  
march 20

One 10 am Palm Procession  
& Worship Service

Congregational Lunch,  
Pony Rides, Egg Hunt,  
Balloon Twisters and  
Face Painters.

March Circles



1ST MONDAY, MAR 7

WoW Circle 15 Lagniappe  
Restaurant @ 7 pm  
Zachary

1ST TUESDAY, MAR 1

WoW Circle 1 Mary Ellen Juban's @ 9.45 am  
#23 Jamestowne Ct. (766.6260)  
WoW Circle 2 Church Parlor @ 9.45 am  
WoW Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 am

1ST THURSDAY, MAR 3

WoW Circle 11 Church Library @ noon

1ST FRIDAY, MAR 4

WoW Circle 7 Sara Blankenstein's @ 2 pm  
2030 Terrace Ave (344.7911)

2ND MONDAY, MAR 14

WoW Circle 13 CP Apts. @ 2 pm  
WoW Circle 14 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 am  
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

2ND TUESDAY, MAR 8

WoW Circle 4 Michelle DeSimone's @ 6.30 pm  
2055 Old Carriage Ln (349.8598)  
WoW Circle 5 Rachel Williams' @ 11.30 am  
2142 Oleander (907.7015)  
WoW Circle 6 Ainsley Lewis' @ 10 am  
428 Highland Trace (773.9313)  
WoW Circle 8 Sheri McKey's @ 6.30 pm  
21627 Turkey Creek Dr. (752.9548)  
WoW Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 pm  
Contact Ann Gregorie (937.0488)

3RD WEDNESDAY, MAR 16

WoW Circle 10 Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm  
5412 Government St.

Are You Anchored in Truth?

First Presbyterian Church Women in Ministry is excited to welcome Sarah Ivill as our teacher for a two-day retreat. Sarah lives in Matthews, NC right outside of Charlotte and is a dear friend of Elizabeth Parker, FPC Women in Ministry Director.



We'll gather for a time of fellowship, relaxation and excellent teaching, unpacking what it means to be anchored in truth and anchored in community.

Register online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).  
Registration ends March 11

**Anchored in Truth, Anchored in Community Women's Retreat**

Friday, March 18-Saturday, March 19  
Wesley Center, Woodworth, Louisiana



**Playing with and Loving on Special Needs Children.**

Volunteers are needed to play and love on our community's children with special needs and their siblings at rEcess on Friday, March 4. Contact Jess at [jess.concienne@gmail.com](mailto:jess.concienne@gmail.com) for more information on how to get involved.

**Ranch Hands Needed Saturday, March 5.**

Heritage Ranch is having a work day March 5. Bring your work boots and meet us at the church at 7.30 am. Contact Katy Cosby at [katy@fpabr.org](mailto:katy@fpabr.org) for more information.

**Prayer for Our Nation**

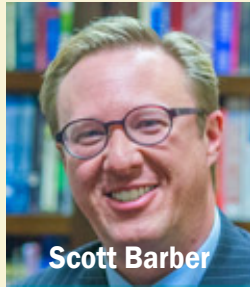


**Sundays at 5 pm  
Dunham Chapel**

**Children's Ministry Volunteer Training**

Saturday, March 5 10 am-2 pm  
Lunch served in between two sessions.

Pastor and Speaker Scott Barber will equip us with the necessary tools to minister to our children from a gospel perspective.



Current and prospective volunteers are welcome.

Childcare provided by registering online at [fpabr.org](http://fpabr.org).

Register to attend by emailing Audra Cato, [audra@fpabr.org](mailto:audra@fpabr.org).

**He Is Risen Signs**

Let's share the joy of our Lord's resurrection with our neighbors. "He Is Risen" yard signs are available for purchase at the Connection Center. Before Easter, turn the blank side toward your street. After Easter, turn it around to reveal "He Is Risen." The \$5 per sign covers the cost of this Children's Ministry project.

**VBS 2016**

What's in the Bible?  
Monday, June 27 -  
Thursday, June 30  
9 am-12 pm

Register online at [fpabr.org](http://fpabr.org).  
Invite your friends and neighbors!

**VBS Family Night**

Sunday June, 26 at 5 pm