

WERE YOU THERE?

MEETING THE PEOPLE
OF PASSION WEEK



Never Would I Ever! by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

Did you ever play that game in your misspent youth? Someone names an outlandish behavior beginning with the phrase, “Never would I ever . . .” But, if a participant *has* ever done that crazy thing (like swallowing a live goldfish), it must be admitted.

What if we played that game with the Passion story?

Never would I ever . . . get near a crucifixion. Yet, even as Simon of Cyrene raises his hand and describes carrying the cross for Jesus, I hope that I, too, would have had courage to help Jesus along his painful way.

Never would I ever . . . say I didn't know Jesus. Yet, watching Peter ashamedly admit his denial, I recall all the times just this week that I did not take a stand for Christ.

Never would I ever . . . betray Jesus with a kiss. Yet even as Judas stands up to confess, I know that every time I “kiss” the cup as I drink during communion, my lips have also betrayed Jesus many times that week.

Never would I ever . . . give away a family heirloom on a lost cause. Yet, I see Mary anoint Jesus with a perfume worth tens of thousands of dollars. I see Joseph offer the executed Jesus his own burial plot. And I long to show extravagant love to Jesus.

We may well approach the stories of Passion Week thinking “Never would I ever . . .” Surely those people then are nothing like me now. But just a bit of reflection and we realize, “I was there!”

Studying the people Jesus encountered during Passion Week can rock your world, change your life and set your heart aflame with love for the Savior who undertook death and hell for your sake.

So don't miss a day! Get your beautiful Lenten book *Were You There: Meeting the People of Passion Week*, sign up for the daily emails, join a weekly home group and make it a priority to be at church every Sunday from now through Easter. You won't be the same!

Youth Department News

We're blessed to have a great youth staff team. Working to maximize the gifts of our staff, we're reorganizing the ministry.

Youth Ministry Administrator: Jessica Saffell

Director of Youth: Middle School and Girls, Paula Walker

Assistant Director of Youth: High School and Boys, Noah Pourciau

The difference is that Jessica will become the “organizer” of our ministry, deploying our on-the-ground directors, Paula and Noah, in reaching middle school and high school students. Students will notice no change in how their programming works. Parents will notice that questions about trips,

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First Sunday of Lent	Mar 1
VINE BR Training	Mar 1, 8, 15, 22
Manners of the Heart Gala	Mar 6
rEcess	Mar 6
Daylight Saving	Mar 8
H.S. Seniors Class with Gerrit Begins	Mar 8
Women's Focused Fellowship	Mar 12
"Through the Wardrobe" Youth Gala	Mar 13
Women's Spring Picnic	Mar 21
FAS Crowd Lunch	Mar 24
Men's Retreat	Mar 27-28

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

Palm Sunday	April 5
Maundy Thursday	April 9
Easter Sunday	April 12

BAPTISMS:

February 16, 2020
Emily Petty

WEDDINGS:

February 22, 2020
Emily Petty to Russell Viguerie

IN MEMORIAM:

February 7, 2020
Jennifer Kelley

February 22, 2020
Ferrill Ann Coates
Mother of Anna Katherine Bardwell

Sara Downing
Mother of Martha Stinson

February 25, 2020
Casey Salvatoré Cuccio
Son of Sam Cuccio

CHAPEL & SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are placed . . .

MAR 1 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Jeanne and Marlin Drake, Jr. of Shreveport, by Lauren Drake Phillips.

MAR 8 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel Eugene Field III given by Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Eugene Field, Jr.

MAR 15 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane and Louis Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.

MAR 22 . . . to glory of God and in loving memory of Bart Bennett by Ruth Anne, Claire, Adriane and Sarah.

MAR 29 . . . in dedication to the glory of God for his countless blessings and mercies upon us as a church and nation with grateful hearts, Dadie and Princeton Bardwell.

The 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 291.3095.

Calling all Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve!

Join us Friday, March 13 for the annual Youth Gala, "Through the Wardrobe: An Evening in Narnia."



Did you know that in 2019 we gave out 50 scholarships to assist students attending our mission and retreat trips? The Youth Gala provides funding not only for specific scholarships but also underwrites the cost of the trips and activities for all of our kids to enjoy.

We hope you can come and play with us! This year's Gala has games, prizes, dinner and dancing. Catch a glimpse of talking animals, a king or queen. Start training now for the dessert dash. And beware, you might even be thrown in the dungeon by the White Witch! We hope you all can join us, not only to support our wonderful youth ministry, but also for a great night of food, music, dancing and fellowship. Further information and tickets sales available online (fpcbr.org/narnia).

Date: Friday, March 13 at 6.30 pm

Location: De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third Street. Free valet parking provided.

Cost: \$100 per ticket. Deadline to purchase is Sunday, March 8.

Attire: Cocktail . . . or even attire with a touch of Narnia wonder!

A few complimentary tickets are available. See Paula Walker for details (337.370.1760).

The Expression of Truth Through Art by Chris Phillips

As a musician I often think about beauty and the expression of truth through art. If we use the most puritanical lens, beauty could be seen as a distraction-maybe even a temptation. Do we really need form as long as we have function? Aren't frills frivolous?

Since her time hiding in the Roman catacombs, the church has struggled to define her relationship to beauty. Augustine worried about being seduced by the artistry of the singer rather than the sublime truth of the text being sung. At times, the church has adorned her sanctuaries with painting, sculpture and iconography. At other times, she has abandoned this adornment, shattering stained glass and choosing white walls over detailed murals.

For me, many answers to questions about beauty can be found in the existence of a tiny little critter called the peacock spider. The peacock spider will fit on the tip of your finger with room to spare. You could easily miss him. You may have squashed him. If you get really close, however, you will see a work of art. These tiny arachnids carry on their backs paintings worthy of wall space in a fine gallery. Do an image search in your web browser and discover the delights of the peacock spider's plumage.

The existence of the peacock spider tells us something about the nature of our God. He made a cosmos that is extravagantly, unnecessarily beautiful. Creation is as much a canvas as it is a construction. God designed a sturdy creation that functions well. He also made something gorgeous. As creatures, we must praise such a Creator. We can delight in his stunning artistry. We can celebrate our individuality.

Fostering Children in Need

Have you ever considered opening your home to children in need? Here is your opportunity! VineBR/Empower 225 is facilitating foster/adoption classes. **Dates:** March 1, 8, 15, 22 at 1 pm. **Location:** Education Building, RM 202. Contact Paula Begnaud for more info (337.344.5767).

Men's Retreat, March 27-28

Mark your calendar for our upcoming FPC Men's Ministry Retreat on March 27-28, 2020 at the Solomon Center in Robert, LA! You will not want to miss the opportunity to be together at this beautiful retreat center and be given the gift of space to hear from the Lord. We'll enjoy great meals together, chatting around a campfire at night and hearing God's Word opened for us. Dr. Mark Futato is the premier professor of Old Testament at RTS, has written multiple books (with an emphasis on the Psalms), pastored a local church and spoken for multiple conferences. You will love his passionate emphasis on God's desire to bless all nations, his engaging communication style and his practical ap-



plication of Biblical texts, especially to those who struggle, suffer and doubt.

We'll start with dinner together on Friday, March 27 and wrap up in the afternoon on Saturday. Along with quality teaching from the Scriptures, we're organizing a croquet tournament to have fun and build relationships – so dust off your mallets and wickets to get some practice in! Early-bird special if you register by the end of March 6: \$110 double occupancy; \$150 single occupancy. After March 6: \$130 double occupancy; \$170 single occupancy. Each room has two queen size beds and a bathroom – hotel style).

Manners of the Heart Going Further Into the World by Jill Garner

What a school year the Lord is bringing Manners of the Heart! We are now in schools in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma, Florida and most recently, New Jersey, in addition to our EBRP schools. To date, 844 parents and grandparents have attended our workshops on topics such as, *Coach Don't Cheerlead*, *Tackling Technology*, *Effective Discipline* and *Fearful to Fearless*. In August one of our local schools, Cedarcrest-Southmoor, offered an amazing opportunity to bring MOH to Bbel Academy, their partner school in Mityana, Uganda. When I shared the exciting news, Bill Peters, one of our board members, offered an invitation to meet with Wilfred Rugumba from Mercy



Christian in Kampala, Uganda, who was visiting Baton Rouge at the time. Soon to follow, Peter Kiwanuka from Bethany Centre came to town. In a matter of a few weeks, three schools across the ocean were asking for MOH!

Please consider attending our Heart in Hand Gala, Friday, March 6 at The Renaissance, as we honor our School of the Year, Educator of the Year, Champion of Respect and our 4th and 5th grade essay contest winners. (Our 4th grade essay contest winner is from our own Gardere Community Christian School!). Tickets are available at mannersoftheheart.org.

Women's Annual Spring Picnic

The Women's Ministry Spring Picnic will be held in the FPC Reception Room on Saturday, March 21 from 11-1 pm. We will gather together for fellowship, food and devotion as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Come feast on the goodness of the Lenten season, where we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. Come and experi-

ence with greater abundance the reality of God's redeeming grace. Come and let us "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross." Hebrews 12: 2. Childcare provided. Cost is \$10. Register online at fpcbr.org.



Mid-Week Lenten Communion Worship

Break from your work week and come worship with us at noon each Wednesday in the Dunham Chapel during Lent. An optional light lunch follows for \$5.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

MARCH SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

MARCH 1, 2020
Matthew 21: 28-32

MARCH 8, 2020
Matthew 26: 6-13

MARCH 15, 2020
Matthew 26: 14-16

MARCH 22, 2020
Luke 22: 31-34

MARCH 29, 2020
John 18: 33-19: 16

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
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225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

Romania and Colombia Mission Trips

Do you love adventure and love others unconditionally? We have two summer mission opportunities for you.

Since 2003, more than 150 FPC church members have participated in Romania mission trips. This year's mission team is gathering for a meeting Sunday, March 29 (6.30-8 pm) to meet the founder of

the Smiles Foundation, Kevin Hoy, at the home of Carol and Peter Lazar, 5875 Forsythia Ave. This opportunity will give you the privilege to love the least of these. The approximate cost is \$2,500. Romania trip dates are June 5-15, 2020.

A new mission trip is developing to Colombia with Katherine and Brian Miller

of Global Transformation Ministries from July 3-11, 2020. The purpose of the trip is to install a small playground for the children as well as finish the children's nursery at the girls' home. The approximate cost is \$1,500 per person. Contact Whitney Alexander (810.2607) if you are interested in participating in either of our summer mission opportunities.

FAS Crowd Lunch at Beausoleil

Our next FAS Crowd (Fun After Sixty) lunch is Tuesday, March 24 at 11.30 am at Beausoleil. The focus is social but we love a good meal! Couples and singles are invited to attend. Contact Laura Shaw to RSVP (laura@fpcbr.org or 620.0222).



SIAC Seminary Grants

The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications through March 16 for financial grants for individuals interested in pursuing full time Christian ministry. Please contact Jaci if you have questions (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

Never Would I Ever! *cont.*

logistics, dates and details will go to Jessica first, rather than Paula, thus freeing Paula to spend more time with our students.

Jaci

