

## Gather In! by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

The first breath of autumn air has arrived! Midway through the season, it feels like football weather at last. Children have been trick or treating. And Thanksgiving is suddenly near. Songs I've known since childhood arise, "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." "Come ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home." As the year closes, we think about gathering in. Even though winter is not too perilous in the deep south, the homing instinct still rises in us.

Not many of us are farmers these days, but it still feels right that at harvest time we think about stewardship. Gathering in before winter, a family thinks about how to steward their resources through the cold, non-growing months. As Christ's people, we know that "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above."

All we have is from our gracious God, even, no especially, the things we have worked for. It's God who gave us the strength, the mind and the opportunity to see our labor flourish. So deep in our Biblical spirituality, we know that giving back to God is an essential way we thank God. We make a return to acknowledge the source. We steward what we have received in a way that includes the Lord, his work and his people.

For 190 years, our congregation has profoundly understood this spiritual need to gather in and make return. We get it that our primary worshipping community is the key recipient of our gifts of thankful return to God. That's why our church speaks of stewardship only briefly each year. That's why we have only one special offering (at Christmas), knowing that all year long, our regular gifts to the church go to all our church does here, in the community and around the world.

So once a year, I get to remind you, with joy and thanks already in my heart for you, that every gift matters in our church, because we run full out for Christ and his work through FPC. Responsibly, of course, but vigorously.

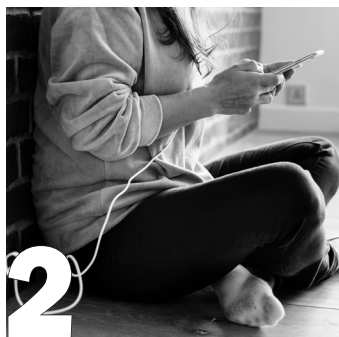
It's a HUGE help to our elders if each of us makes our estimate for next year's giving sooner rather than later. We want to dedicate our estimates of what we plan, and hope, to give to God through our church on November 11 at all three services. Plan now, dear ones, to pray, ponder and act in faith to estimate your 2019 giving this month, so your church can move confidently forward.

I love being your pastor!



## IN THIS ISSUE

- pg. 2 A Difficult Topic
- pg. 3 Advent Opportunities
- pg. 4 Creative Arts Events



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

rEcess	Nov 2
Daylight Savings	Nov 4
Children's Musical	Nov 4
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 11
Caring to Love Banquet	Nov 15
Thanksgiving	Nov 22
Live Nativity	Nov 30 & Dec 2
Foto Sisters Concert	Nov 30

### ONGOING EVENTS

"12 Steps with Christ Jesus"  
Weds., 12.15 pm  
Sunday Evening Prayer, 5 pm each Sunday

### UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

WiM Advent Brunch	Dec 8
Pilgrimage	Dec 9
"Silence and the Sound" Cantata	Dec 16

### BIRTHS:

October 5, 2018 - Jacob Castle  
Parents are Kate and Ryan Castle

### MARRIAGES:

October 6, 2018  
William Gallent Morris married Ashley  
Elizabeth DePrato

### IN MEMORIAM:

September 9, 2018  
Lowell A. Miller - Uncle of Barry Phillips and  
Donna Munson

September 29, 2018  
Readish York - Uncle of Alfred Shelton

October 5, 2018  
John Melancon - Brother-in-law of Sharon  
Moran

October 6, 2018 - Kathy Hoyt

October 16, 2018  
Michael Chattman - Brother of Adraine White

October 17, 2018  
Cynthia Gordon - Mother of Carol Lazar

October 20, 2018  
Evans McIntyre - former FPC member

### 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 . . .

Nov 4 . . . In loving memory with thanksgiving for Jonathan David Pugsley by his parents and sister, David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

Nov 11 . . . In memory of William and Florence Penny, parents of Albert Penny, Army Lieutenant Colonel, Retired.

Nov 18 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of E. David Kendrick and Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Bridges by Bobbie Kendrick and family.

Nov 25 . . . To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.

## A Difficult Topic by Darin Travis

"For he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

These words of Scripture from 1 John 4: 4 encourage me greatly when I think about the topic which God has prompted me to write about this month. Pornography isn't an issue that we like to dwell on often; instead, we mention it in quick, passing statements because it's such a monster. We know it's out there: a recent survey revealed there are currently 4.2 million pornographic websites. We know that the problem is pervasive: among 13-17 year olds, 8% admit to daily watching pornography, 18% admit to watching weekly and 17% admit to watching once or twice a month – the percentages go even higher for 18-24 year olds. The numbers aren't just about males. 33% of women ages 13-24 admit to seeking out porn at least once a month. We know that it wreaks havoc: pornography treats men and women as sexual commodities thus resulting in pornography playing a significant role in over 50% of all divorces. Therefore, we can sometimes feel like the battle isn't winnable. However, I believe the Bible offers hope in the midst of this darkness. Prior to working at First Presbyterian, I served for 20 years in campus ministry. I have personally watched God deliver young men from the claws of pornography time and time again to a life that restores sexuality to its proper relational context as human beings made in God's image for God's glory, rather than as sexual commodities to be bought, sold and consumed.

Ultimately, it is the gospel, obedience to God's word and quality fellowship that renews one's mind and moves one toward freedom. Steps toward sexual wholeness also include walking in truth with trustworthy brothers and sisters in the Lord. A practical way that I have found to do this is to bring one's internet habits into the light by using an accountability and filtering software called Covenant Eyes. Covenant Eyes is a trusted company whose software I personally installed on my computer over two decades ago and which can be installed on all devices including phones and tablets. As parents, Barat and I wanted to prevent the onslaught of temptation for our kids, so we signed up for a family account. Every device we have now limits access to pornography, thanks to their software. We are not naïve enough to think that the battle is won, or that we no longer need to discuss this issue with our kids, but we are thankful to have a first defense with Covenant Eyes. Seeking to shepherd our church, I have worked a partnership with Covenant Eyes to provide a discount off their monthly fee for anyone who signs up from First Presbyterian. Please contact me at [darin@fpibr.org](mailto:darin@fpibr.org) for more information and additional resources to help in this battle. I pray for freedom from sin and relational wholeness as we walk in the light of God's glory and holiness as a church body!

## 12 Steps with Christ Jesus

Break free from addictions through the *12 Steps for Christians* small group led by Bruce Stone and Jim Solomon. If you or someone you love struggles with addiction, whether alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling or food, this group may be for you. We discuss and pray through the book, *The Twelve Steps for Christians* written by Friends in Recovery. Join us on Wednesdays from 12.15 to 1 pm in EB 301. There is a \$10 fee for the book.

## Multi-Faceted Prayer

Prayer is vital to who we are as Christians. At First Presbyterian Church we take a multi-faceted approach. We pray and then we pray again for the sick, the addicted, our leaders, our country, for guidance, for each other. For information on how we can pray for you, please contact Laura Shaw ([laura@fpibr.org](mailto:laura@fpibr.org)).

## Children Love to Give, Too

by Audra Cato, Director of Childhood and Family Ministry

Children love to give. Children love to give because they love to participate.

We want your children to have the opportunity to participate in the work God is doing in and through our church. This year, your child can pick up a estimate of giving card in one of our children's areas. I hope you will take some time to talk with your children about giving to God. I hope such giving will be a regular part of their lives as young Christians. It's crucial to develop good giving habits at an early age. Please prayerfully consider how you will help your children grow as Christians who participate in what God is doing.



## Advent Opportunities at First

**Angels Arrive November 11** Please stop by the Reception Room to receive the name of a child whose parent is incarcerated. You can bless them with Angel Tree gifts on behalf of their parent this Christmas. Angels are available November 11 and 18. Coordinator is Cheryl Brodnax, 678.2448.

**Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads** Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center: soap, anti-perspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

**Help Fill Courtney's Pantry** We want to help our Habitat for Humanity homeowner, Courtney Richard fill her new home's pantry. Barrels will be around the church all of November and December where you can donate non-perishable items. Some ideas are flour, sugar, cereal (Cheerios or Corn Flakes), laundry detergent, fabric sheets, stain remover, dishwashing supplies, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, cooking oil, salt, pepper, different kinds of seasonings, kitchen towels, mayo, mustard, ketchup, peanut butter, jelly, salad dressing. Items may also be brought to the church office. Thank you for your love for the Richard family.

**Advent Readers** Readers are needed for special Advent worship readings. Please contact Jaci Gaspard ([jaci@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaci@fpcbr.org)) with the Sunday you are available.

**Christmas Poinsettia Orders** Members are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or [sherry@fpcbr.org](mailto:sherry@fpcbr.org)) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.

Join the Joyful Noise Choir for a free mysterious whodunit about the Good Samaritan. Guy Random has been robbed, beaten and left on the side of the road until someone "outstanding" helps him out. Could it be the lawyer, the Bible seller or the pizza delivery girl?

## Celebrate Life - November 15

Caring to Love Ministries invites you to the 33rd Annual Celebrate Life Banquet and Gala with special guest, Jonathan Cahn, on Thursday, November 15 at the Baton Rouge River Center. Jonathan Cahn is a Messianic rabbi and biblical scholar best known for his bestselling novel *The Harbinger*, in which he compares the United States and the September 11 attacks to ancient Israel and the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel. In particular, he sees Isaiah 9: 10 as a prophetic warning to the United States. Cahn is the head of the Beth Israel worship center (a messianic congregation) whose "liturgy focuses on Jesus as savior."



The Care Pregnancy Clinic of Caring to Love operates a statewide initiative offering compassionate, life-affirming choices to women, particularly low-income women. The program offers pregnant women clear, accurate and timely information about their choice in ensuring a healthy full-term pregnancy rather than terminating their pregnancy.

The reception begins at 6.20 pm and dinner is served at 7 pm. Visit [ctlm.org](http://ctlm.org) for reservations.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion  
9 am Contemporary  
11 am Classic Reformed

## NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

NOVEMBER 4, 2018  
Colossians 4: 16-17

NOVEMBER 11, 2018  
Colossians 3: 18-4: 1

NOVEMBER 18, 2018  
Colossians 4: 2-6

NOVEMBER 25, 2018  
Colossians 4: 7-18

## 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



PH: 225.387.0617  
FAX: 225.338.1010

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





## Music and Creative Arts Events

### Live Nativity, Nov. 30 and Dec. 2

Live Nativity will have three shows in one weekend this year! On Friday, November 30 (Festival of Lights), there will be one show at 7pm, followed by a special Christmas concert at 8 pm in the Sanctuary. Then on Sunday, December 2 there will be shows at 5 pm and 6 pm. Each show is 30 minutes long. Bring the whole family and join us in the terraced garden. We'll have a children's petting zoo, also.

Live Nativity cast members are needed!! Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds, along with donkeys, goats and sheep will re-enact Jesus' birth. Please contact Nancy at 387.0617 or [nancy@fpcbr.org](mailto:nancy@fpcbr.org) if you would like to join the cast. Just one rehearsal on November 25 at 5 pm.

### Foto Sisters Concert, Nov. 30

Invite your friends and family to a very special evening of carols with these three beautiful sisters, inside and out, right here in our Sanctuary. This free concert is Friday, November 30 at 8 pm after the Live Nativity performance.

### Join the Downtown Pilgrimage, Dec. 9

Come join our choirs along with the Abounding Love Praise Team for this annual event that is sure to get you in the Christmas Spirit! Rehearsals begin November 7 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary.

### "The Silence and the Sound," Dec. 16

This December experience the awe of silence, the humility of redemption, and a shout of Christmas joy with the Creative Arts Ministry in a special presentation of

"The Silence and the Sound" to be performed at the 9 am and 11 am services on Sunday, December 16. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 7.15 in the choir room. Contact Steve ([steve@fpcbr.org](mailto:steve@fpcbr.org)), Nancy ([nancy@fpcbr.org](mailto:nancy@fpcbr.org)) or Lauren ([lauren@fpcbr.org](mailto:lauren@fpcbr.org)) if you would like to join the choirs for this inspiring and worshipful music experience.

### Godspell, April 4-6, 2019

Creative Arts Ministry is bringing back the original 1974 Broadway production directed by our own Ray Gaspard! Get those bell bottoms out and come be a part of this amazing story of the Gospel of Matthew put to great 70s folk/rock music! Tryouts are January 12 and 13, 2019. Cast of 25 needed. Ages 8th grade through 40s with some exceptions. Contact Nancy Spiller for more information.