

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



Start with Your Income by Barry Phillips, Ministry Executive

In an article by Dave Ramsey (Financial Peace University) on family budgeting for Christians, the first step he notes is this: “Start with your income. Write down what you will get paid.” The second step is that “it’s our responsibility to prioritize tithing.” He goes on to talk about zero-based budgeting, saving, listing all expenses, etc. I’ve gotta tell you, it sounds a lot like our church budgeting process. Although we’ve begun the process of identifying all our expenses by department and line item, writing down what our income will be begins on Dedication Sunday when we receive your pledges or estimates of giving.

Ultimately, writing down “what we will get paid” determines our mission and ministry budget for the coming year.

Until the pandemic, our income forecasting model worked well for us. That, coupled with your faithfulness, helped us build predictive, useful budgets. For the past three years however, our giving patterns have changed. Some of you no longer pledge but continue to give generously. Some of you have opted to give automatically on a monthly basis using

credit cards and ACH’s. Still others wait until year-end to make your gift to the church.

Just as Christian families build their budgets each year, our commitment to an accurate, responsible budget is resolute. Your participation in Dedication Sunday by giving us an estimate of giving, or even pledging, helps us build a more accurate budget because we are able to “write down what we will get paid.” Thank you in advance for your financial investment in God’s economy at First Presbyterian Church.

One last thing. We already know of several fixed operating expenses that are increasing quite a bit. I’d also tell you that our church staff, part- and full-time, have not had an increase in their base pay since the pandemic began. If you can increase your investment, the return will be great. God bless all of you.




2 : KEEPING THE SABBATH

2 : JOYFUL NOISE FAMILY NIGHT OF WORSHIP

3 : PARENTS' NIGHT

3 : A VERY FOND FAREWELL

4 : MEN'S SKEET SHOOT

EVENTS

Caring to Love Banquet	NOV 3
rEcess	NOV 4
Parents' Night	NOV 10
Dedication Sunday	NOV 13
Family Worship Night	NOV 13
Daughters of the King Mtg.	NOV 13
IFP Social	NOV 18
Scott Graham Reception	NOV 20
Night of Worship at ALM	NOV 20
Thanksgiving	NOV 24
Church Offices Closed	NOV 24 & 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Live Nativity	DEC 2
Men's Skeet Shoot	DEC 3
Women's Ministry Brunch	DEC 10
Cantata	DEC 11
Pilgrimage	DEC 11

BAPTISMS

October 9, 2022
 Frances Camille Lapeyrouse
 Parents are Amelia and Jeremy Lapeyrouse

MARRIAGES

October 21, 2022
 Amy Russ and Gabe Agosta

IN MEMORIAM

October 2, 2022
 Franklin Kyle

October 14, 2022
 Bryan Genda

October 21, 2022
 Allen Walsh

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

NOV 6 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean Glisson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wesley McLean by Linda & Mike Glisson and family.

NOV 13 Open Date

NOV 20 . . . by Ann K. Gregorie to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Florence and Mack Gregorie and in honor of her dear Aunt, Nita K. Harris.

NOV 27 Open Date

What Does It Mean to Keep the Sabbath Holy? by Whitney Alexander

There is a kind of hurry that is a form of violence exercised upon time that is detrimental to our health, to our families, to our communities and to our relationship with God. Living under pressure is part of life and we must be careful not to rationalize. God didn't make mistakes in creating time and he made enough of it. When we cannot find enough time and, as the psalmist says, find ourselves getting up earlier and going to bed later because we have too much to do, we can see this as a sign to make some changes in our lives.

One of the ten commandments is "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day." Today, there is a lot of confusion about what it means to keep the Sabbath day holy. For the most part, this commandment is simply ignored. As Wayne Muller points out, "we have turned a commandment into a lifestyle suggestion. More and more, it's business as usual on Sundays; many of us are obliged to work on that day, church attendance is declining steadily, and we are living increasingly pressured lives."

What does it mean to keep holy the Sabbath day? It means more things than we imagine. It is one of the key practices of our Christian faith, and yet, it is ignored. On my Sabbath day five years ago, I had scheduled three pre-marital appointments with couples in New Orleans, but I never made it. Due to fatigue and exhaustion, I closed my eyes momentarily and awakened to the biggest lesson I learned in my whole life.

For the next seven months, I had many opportunities to cry out to God and learn that the Sabbath day is an important part of my life. Unless we pull back from our normal lives regularly to rest, we will lose perspective on what is ultimately important and become compulsive and driven people. It's no accident that as Sabbath observance is slipping today, we find ourselves feeling ever more trapped and more pressured, always behind, never able to rest deeply and less able to delight in the deep joys of life.

Last summer, this loving congregation gave me a precious gift: a sabbatical. A sabbatical is not a vacation nor is it time away as much as it is an opportunity to become all that God has called me to be. I ceased to work and intentionally chose

to give good energy and focus to my family. This was carefully planned so that Phyllis, Andrew and Patrick received this investment. I am forever grateful to this congregation for investing in our family during my sabbatical.

Sabbath is a gift we are to share with others. God gave us the Sabbath. Jesus taught us that we weren't made for the Sabbath but that the Sabbath was made for us. In the coming months, I plan to share with you what the Lord is teaching me on how to keep the Sabbath holy. I am still learning every day what it means to keep holy the Sabbath day. This is a lifelong journey for me and I am deeply grateful to be one of your pastors who is being led by the Holy Spirit to learn what it means to rest and take the Sabbath seriously.

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Family Worship Night with Children's Choir

Join Joyful Noise Children's Ensemble for an evening of worship led by the children. This semester the children have been diving into themes from 1 Peter discovering that we are loved, chosen and that moves us into God-glorifying attitudes of giving. We will sing songs, play boomwhackers, enjoy a short skit and end the evening with a time of fellowship. Family Worship Night is in the Reception Room at 5 pm November 13.



Parents' Night November 10

Have you ever felt like you're swimming against the tide, all on your own? Like you're the only one whose kid is drowning in college applications, zoning out on video games or just plain won't take a nap at MDO? Are you exhausted just thinking about ALL. THE. THINGS?

The Parents' Ministry team would like to invite you to a new FPC social event. Parents' Night is a laid-back evening for gathering together with other parents in the same stage of life. No agenda, just fellowship (and food, of course)! We aren't made to face these challenges alone. Refresh yourself in the company of friends, new and old, who are fighting the same battles as you.

We're starting this fall with parents of middle and high school students. Join us Thursday, November 10 at the Yeargains' home (13412 Woodmont Court) from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

*Please RSVP to Jessica Saffell (jessica@fpcbr.org). Please bring a dessert or bottle of wine to share. We will provide appetizers!

Parents of elementary and nursery aged kids, don't worry . . . your evening is coming early next year!



A Very Fond Farewell by Colton Underwood

After several years of faithful service, God has laid it upon Paula Walker's heart to follow his leading into a new phase of life in Colorado. While no goodbye is an easy goodbye, we want to send Paula out with a night of food and fun before she makes her full transition at the end of December. As such, all middle and high school students are invited to join us in the FPC gym from 5 to 7 pm December 11 dressed as Colorado snow skiers to enjoy dinner and to celebrate how much Paula has meant to us all during her time in Baton Rouge!



Art, Music and Refreshments: November 18 by Claire Wilson

VanGuard Gallery, within Stephen Wilson Stain Glass Studio, invites you to an evening of art, music and refreshments Friday, November 18, 5-8 pm. Members of First Presbyterian Church and other local and regional artists are participating in "Winging It." Profits from art sold at the exhibit will help meet the rising costs of operating the Bethany Centre Alliance in Uganda. Bethany Centre Alliance provides financial support in the operation of Bethany Centre Primary School. It helps pay salaries and housing for teachers, helps feed the children, provide housing for the older students, school uniforms for all, as well as personal hygiene items. There are currently upwards of 700 children attending the primary school, and with the help of First Presbyterian Church, plans for a high school to open in 2023 are underway! Studio address is 1469 Laurel Street in Mid City. Email swsglass@gmail.com if you have questions.



Romania Mission Trip, December 1-10

Our second annual Christmas mission trip to Romania is fast approaching. If you are interested in joining Carol and Peter Lazar, Gee Gee Hargon and Whitney Alexander, please call Whitney (225.810.2607) or Peter Lazar (225.247.6935) as soon as possible. FPC has had the pleasure of partnering with the Smiles Foundation of Oradea for over twenty years! After almost 15 mission trips, we look forward to providing Christmas cheer to the least of these.

SERMON TEXTS

November 6
I Peter 4: 8-11

November 13
I Peter 5: 1-5

November 20
I Peter 5: 6-13

November 27
Ruth 1

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Assistant Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



PH: 225.387.0617
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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

Men's Skeet Shoot

Mark your calendars now! On December 3, we're having another First Presbyterian Men's Ministry Skeet Shoot! This event will be held at Bridgeview Gun Club. Located just 20 minutes away from the church, this event will be one you won't want to miss. Great fellowship, prizes and we'll have the place to ourselves. The shooting will be plentiful and fun as we'll have opportunity to shoot 100 clays per participant. We'll have use of 13 stations, including the high and low houses! There will be lots of food and we'll be able to eat indoors in case of bad weather. So mark your calendars for December 3. We'll start in the morning and wrap up after lunch time.

Live Nativity

Downtown Baton Rouge will be alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas Friday, December 2. Plan to join us in the beautiful Terraced Garden at 5.30 or 6.30 pm to see the story of Jesus' birth as recorded in the gospels come to life. Shepherds, Magi and Angels!

Night of Worship with ALM

What better way to begin the holiday season than a special night of worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at Abounding Love Ministries? On Sunday, November 20 at 5 pm, we will gather at Abounding Love Ministries for a service of praise and thanksgiving.

Nine More Needed!

We still have 9 (!) Buchanan Elementary teachers who would like an Encourager and 2 classes that need a Storytime Reader. Stop by the Connection Center or contact Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org) to get involved!

Need a Pastor after Hours?

Would you like a pastor after hours? Please call the church office (387.0617) and press 5 to be connected.

