

fpc NEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

November 2015 Volume 49.11

If You Could, Would You...?

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

Go back in time that is. Would you go back to some great day in your life to live it all over again? To savor the time with someone now gone? To see the beauty all around you that you missed? To say what you really meant to say in that moment? Would you go back if you could?

In the movie *About Time*, the characters of both Tim and his father have that ability. They can go back to relive days in their past. By the end of the movie, though, Tim has all but given up this gift because he has trained himself to live each day as if it were a day he had chosen to relive. He begins to savor in the moment the extraordinariness in every ordinary day. What if we imagined, throughout the hours, "This is a moment to which I have returned in order to see the beauty, the poignancy, the wonder, the struggle, the life it offers?"

That would be grateful living. Mindful living. That would be what Paul, long before people were making movies, meant when he said, "Give thanks in all things." There is incredible power in giving thanks in the moment. In noting what is happening, whom you are seeing, what is being said, colors, sights, sounds, temperature. We live in a world of wonders overflowing with the grace of God all the time.

You can't go back. But you can savor now. You can see every moment, even the hard

ones, in a spirit of gratitude. You can realize the presence of God every hour. It all begins with thanks. Before another second passes. Thanks. Thank you God.

Please know that as we sit down to feast on Thanksgiving, Rhonda and I will give thanks for you, beloved congregation, and for all the joy of seeking to know and serve Christ Jesus together.

When a House Becomes a Home

I felt a holy awe during the dedication of the Habitat home; the church built with and for Marah Bowie and her family. In less than a month, a concrete slab became a real home. Through the laying on of hands, that structure became a residence. Hands were laid upon that house with every swing of a hammer or swish of a brush. And hands were laid upon it in prayer, that this home will be a light which shines like a beacon showing the love of Jesus. That this home will be a place of peace and protection and nurture from which love can be launched into the world. More than 140 volunteers worked on the First Presbyterian Habitat house. Kudos to Whitney Alexander and Charles Courtney, who coordinated our efforts, and to Joe Willis and Hans Othmer, along with many others who led and served to make this a reality. I'm so proud of you!

See a Real, Live Methodist!

Right in our church! Yes, we have a treat in store. The community Thanksgiving service will be held at our church this year. 6 pm, Sunday night, November 22. The guest preacher is Brady Whitton, pastor of First Methodist. He's a dynamic speaker and a fine leader, and I look forward to welcoming him, and you, to worship that night. A grateful community will give thanks together.

Mission Grants

The session continues to put the gifts of our people into play through carefully researched partnerships in our city and around the world. In September, the session made the final grants from the mission funds accumulated through our previous capital campaign. More than \$100,000 was distributed to vital, gospel-driven ministries at Angola prison, Buchanan Elementary, Young Life, Campus Crusade, Smiles Foundation in Romania, the Magruders in Kenya, Kasr El Dohara Church in Cairo, the Veritas Forum at LSU, Manners of the Heart, Open Air Ministries to the homeless and more. We have a heart for our city and so we share the heart of Christ in every way we can!

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Prayer for the Persecuted Church	Nov 1
Daylight Savings Ends	Nov 1
Family Fall Bash	Nov 1
rEcess	Nov 6
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 8
FAS Crowd	Nov 9
Caring to Love Banquet	Nov 12
BRSO Chamber Concert	Nov 19
Community Outreach Meal	Nov 22
Thanksgiving Worship	Nov 22
Officer Meetings	Nov 23
Thanksgiving	Nov 26
Church Office Closed	Nov 26-27

UPCOMING DATES

Advent Luncheon	Dec 2
Live Nativity	Dec 4 and 20
"The Silence and the Sound"	Dec 6
Pilgrimage	Dec 13

IN MEMORIAM:

October 15, 2015
Jack McKey, father of Bobby McKey

October 20, 2015
Helen Sieberth, mother of Jim Sieberth

October 22, 2015
Kay Curry, mother of Mary Dickerson

October 24, 2015
Robert Stubbs, brother of Nell McMullan

BIRTHS:

October 22, 2015
Maggie Mae Taylor
Grandparents are Lynn and Charles Courtney

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 1 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Rev. James and Mary Lee Logan, and Frank E. Holloway Sr. by Eden and Ronnie Logan.

Nov 8 ... to the glory of God and in honor of those who have served and protected us through the years by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac Jr.

Nov 15 ...to the glory of God and in tribute to Nancy and Dan Zito and the Gardere Community Christian School by Winnie and Jane Gill.

Nov 22 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William J. Miller by the Robert Miller family.

Nov 29 ... in thanksgiving to God for the joyful memory of Rosemary Upshaw Anderson by Ainsley and Jason Lewis.

Lebanon Medical Mission Trip

By Whitney Alexander,
Associate Pastor of Local Missions

Thank you for all your prayers, love and support for my recent trip to Lebanon. I am still thinking through and processing all I saw, felt and learned from this first ever medical mission trip to displaced Syrian refugees.

The main thing that pops to mind, as memories fill my day, is the people. The people inspired me to work hard and be generous for the benefit of others which in turn benefited me, making me laugh and cry.

In general, the people of Lebanon and Syria are passionate and they love their country. We were complete strangers to them, yet they welcomed us. The primary focus of our trip was medical missions. Of the more than two million displaced refugees in Lebanon, we saw approximately 800 people in four days (two days in Beirut and two days in Tyre) in Christian churches where the two medical clinics were set up by missionaries and their pastors. While at the first clinic in Beirut, we saw the faces of about 450 children and mothers. In the second clinic, we saw about 350 children and mothers; almost all were displaced Muslim refugees from Syria and Palestine.

Our missionaries, Nour and Rebecca Botros, set up the arrangements for food, housing, transportation and activities. They were incredible and poured their lives into the entire team while we were there.

I could not have imagined a better team: thirteen individuals from two presbyteries and seven churches. All hands were on deck from the moment we arrived in Beirut. After only a short nap, the pharmacy had to be prepared with our six doctors. This preparation took twelve hours with each member of the team

Toy Drive for Open Air Ministry

This Christmas, Children's Ministry is hosting a Toy Drive for Open Air Ministries, run by Pastor Joseph Moore. During the month of November, there will be large bins in the So Loved and Kingdom Kids halls where we will be collecting small, unwrapped toys for children in need ages birth-10. Examples of items needed are: coloring/activity books, small action figures, baby dolls, Barbie dolls, puzzles, crayons/markers, cars/trucks, play jewelry/make-up sets, small baby toys, books, board games. No oversized toys or those that need major assembly. Please include batteries if your toy requires them. On Sunday, December 6 from 5-7 pm, there will be a "It's a Wrap" Party in the gym. Bring your families and together we will wrap all the gifts to present to Pastor Moore. There will be food, dessert, Christmas music and games! If you would like to donate wrapping supplies (paper, tape, scissors, gift tags), please email Jaime Carnaggio, jaime@fpnbr.org.



giving selflessly. We had moments of sickness and extreme fatigue, yet each team member picked up the other. I grew to love each person.

Coming home is always a challenge. It's hard to slip back into the busy life that seems so mundane. How do I keep what I have experienced and pass it on to you? How do I maintain the feeling of making a real difference in beautiful lives around our planet? How do we make this world a smaller more intimate place where we touch and affect others in places like Lebanon and Syria? It is easy to be paralyzed by so much trouble in the world and not enough time or resources....but we can do something. Dream BIG!

Again, thank you for your contributions of prayer, love and finances. With those, you have made the world a better place and I challenge each of you to do it again. Sponsor someone on the next trip to Lebanon, support our missionaries, be purposeful in prayer, or go on a trip with me to the Middle East next year. And don't stop there! Tutor a child at our partner schools, Buchanan Elementary and Gardere Community Christian School; develop a relationship with LSU international students and invite them into your home for a meal; mentor a struggling teen; or come with me to the local mosque and have lunch with the Imam, Emad (my treat). You know what stirs your heart. Chase it. Get out there, the world needs you. The CROSS of Jesus Christ has made you flawless!

Christmas Is In the Air!! Something Old, Something New....

Something Old... Live Nativity is back again with two evenings of performances: Friday, December 4 at 6.30 and 7.30 pm and Sunday, December 20 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm. Each show lasts 25-30 minutes. Come see the re-enactment of the birth of Jesus and experience a live performance. You never know what is going to happen when the animals perform and this night will definitely be uplifting with beautiful music, dancing angels, children's choirs and narrated drama. Appropriate for all ages.



Something New... The worship team will join the chancel choir this year for a Sunday morning worship concert with narration called, "The Silence and the Sound." Mark your calendar for December 6 at both the 9 am and 11 am sanctuary services. Invite your friends and neighbors for this spectacular worship focusing on the anticipation of Christ's birth and the celebration of his arrival. Beautiful music, with special appearance by the Joyful Noise choir accompanied by a full orchestra! You don't want to miss this very special morning worshipping our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The 7.45 Chapel Communion and the 11 am Acoustic Communion services will not be held on this day. Please join one of the two Sanctuary services at 9 or 11 am. Also, in light of this special performance, Communion will be offered November 29 instead of the normal first Sunday.

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, deodorant/anti-perspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

Angels Arrive November 15

Please stop by the Connection Center to receive the name of a child whose parent is incarcerated. You can bless them with gifts on behalf of their parent this Christmas. Angels available November 15, 22 and 29.

Christmas Luncheon

Women in Ministry invites you to its annual Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 2
11.30 am to 1 pm

First Presbyterian Church

Unwrapped toys for the needy
will be collected

Please RSVP by November 28
Call 387.0617

\$10 per person

Childcare is available by registering
online at fpcbr.org

November Circles

1ST MONDAY, NOV 2

WoW Circle 15 Cactus Café @ 7pm
Zachary

1ST TUESDAY, NOV 3

WoW Circle 1 Home of Margery Fabré @ 9.45
5754 College Drive (928.3600)

WoW Circle 2 Church Parlor @ 9.45 am

WoW Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 am

1ST THURSDAY, NOV 5

WoW Circle 11 Church Library @ noon

1ST FRIDAY, NOV 6

WoW Circle 7 Home of Sara Blankenstein
@ 2 pm
2030 Terrace Ave (344.7911)

2ND MONDAY, NOV 9

WoW Circle 13 Catholic Presbyterian Apts.
@ 2 pm

WoW Circle 14 Home of Ingrid Medford @ 9.30
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

2ND TUESDAY, NOV 10

WoW Circle 4 Home of Michelle DeSimone
@ 6.30 pm
2055 Old Carriage Ln (349.8598)

WoW Circle 5 Home of Rachel Williams @ 11 am
2142 Oleander (907.7015)

WoW Circle 6 Home of Judy McGimsey @ 10 am
1538 Louray Dr (769.0648)

WoW Circle 8 Home of Shannon Scott @ 6.30 pm
1122 Melanie (922.7974)

WoW Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 pm
Contact Ann Gregorie (937.0488)

3RD WEDNESDAY, NOV 11

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



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 Service

NOVEMBER SERMON TEXTS

Nov 1, AD 2015
Hebrews 13: 1-6
Nov 8, AD 2015
Hebrews 12: 18-29
Nov 15, AD 2015
Hebrews 13: 7-19
Nov 22, AD 2015
Hebrews 13: 20-21
Nov 29, AD 2015
Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor
Richard "Dick" Gates
Associate Pastor for Global Missions
and Pastoral Care
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



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010

www.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

www.brchristiancounseling.com

First Presbyterian Church is proud to host the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra Lamar Chamber Series featuring Grammy Award winning guitarist,

Sharon Isbin
November 19

Visit brso.org to purchase tickets.



FAS CROWD

Monday, November 9
Bus ride to St. Francisville
for lunch

Call the church office for more
information and to RSVP.

Lunch - \$15 per person
Bus charge to be announced.

Advent Readers Advent readers are needed. Please contact Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpchr.org) with the Sunday you are available.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Members are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387-0617 or sherry@fpchr.org) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.