

fpc NEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

November 2016 Volume 50-11

An Extraordinary Meeting

By Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor

At our last session meeting, we spent forty-five minutes praying over six areas in our church life and ministry. First we studied Ephesians 6 together. That's the passage about putting on the whole armor of God to engage in the spiritual struggle that is the mission of the church amidst a lost and reluctant world. We noted that it's not enough just to have the spiritual armor that is the breastplate of Christ's righteousness or the sword of his Spirit. We have to know the choreography of how to move in that armor. That dance is prayer. We deploy faith and salvation and the righteousness of Christ when we move into the world by prayer. So it was beautiful to me to hear the elders you have elected offer up their supplications for our children, our facilities and finances, our youth, our work with the Gardere School, our missionaries in Lebanon and our church plant in New Orleans. Prayer opens our eyes to the will of God that he wants to work through us. Prayer undergirds our mission, for it draws us into the heart of Christ for his world.

After such a refreshing season of prayer, it was no accident that our other business moved easily. (Prayer always makes us more, not less, efficient!) The session has released \$85,000 in additional flood relief to three of our key mission partners that were flooded: Abounding Love Ministries, Caring to Love and Heritage Ranch. We also assigned \$10,000 to global mission projects and a grant to River Community Church South. Your elders realize that God blesses us with extraordinary resources in order that we might bless others.

So at our meeting, we also authorized asking for a special Thanksgiving offering for flood relief among our ministry partners. The gifts we were able to make do not meet the full extent of the need among these ministries that were totally flooded. On November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will all be asked to make a one time gift to Flood Relief in gratitude to God for all his mercies toward us and all the work he has done through our partner organizations.

For this pastor, that's a daring move. My whole philosophy of stewardship is a focus on the yearly pledges we make to the work of the church. I want every person who gives even a dollar to know, "By this gift, I'm part of the mission work in Lebanon and the children's program downstairs; I'm at the Gardere School and in the pastor's study. My annual gifts connect me to the entire work of the church." In the last dozen years, that philosophy, and God's grace, has seen our giving soar. The only special offering we take is at Christmas. We know that our regular gifts power everything we do. So why take a special offering at Thanksgiving? Because I believe that these are extraordinary times. I believe we will feel great joy in giving above and beyond our annual pledges and Christmas offering to undergird ministries we love and support in our city.

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Worship



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

rEcess	Nov 4
Daylight Savings Ends	Nov 6
Caring to Love Banquet	Nov 10
Caring to Love Breakfast Meeting	Nov 11
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 13
"It Is Well" Scholarship Recital	Nov 15
Youth Campout	Nov 18-19
Thanksgiving Worship	Nov 20
Thanksgiving	Nov 24
First Sunday of Advent	Nov 27

UPCOMING DATES

Live Nativity/Festival of Lights	Dec 2
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IN MEMORIAM:

September 25, 2016
Bob Cazayoux
Uncle of MacGregor Magruder

October 2, 2016
Jim Riffel

October 5, 2016
Bill Galbreath
Brother-in-law of Steve Rushing

October 7, 2016
Jewell Chubbuck

October 8, 2016
Buddy Bowers

BIRTHS:

July 17, 2016
Brooklyn Lissette Velazquez
Parents are Elise and Alex Velazquez

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God . . .

Nov 6 . . . and in loving memory of our parents; Rev. James and Mary Lee Logan and Frank E. Holloway, Sr. by Eden and Ronnie Logan.

Nov 13 . . . and in honor of all those who have served and protected us through the years by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac, Jr.

Nov 20 . . . by Ainsley and Jason Lewis in thanksgiving to God for the joyful memory of Rosemary Upshaw Anderson.

Nov 27 . . . and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.

Creative Arts Opportunities and Events



This Christmas season the Worship Team and Chancel Choirs are teaming up to present a worship celebration called **"On This Shining Night."** Rehearsals are each Wednesday evening starting November 2 at 7 pm. You do not need to be able to read music to join us! Each section will have its own take-home practice cd and section leader for extra help. Please, join us!



The fabulous **Foto Sisters** are playing at both the 9 and 11 am Sanctuary services on Sunday, November 6! Over 15 years of training and performing both classical and sacred music, The Foto Sisters continue to develop their unique sound, blending vocals and strings with original orchestrations.



On November 15, the Chancel Choir soloists will present a recital, "It Is Well: Songs of Comfort and Home," to aid victims of the flood. It will be held in the Dunham Chapel at 6.30 pm lasting approximately one hour. You won't want to miss this evening of lovely music!



Live Nativity 2016 Cast Members Needed. Please contact Nancy at 387.0617 or nancy@fpcbr.org if you are interested in being in one of the two performances on December 2 and December 18. Angels, shepherds, wise men and of course Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus!! Rehearsal is one night on November 27 at 4 pm.

Children's Ministry Volunteers; Ministers of the Gospel

We are actively recruiting volunteers for Sunday mornings. We generally ask volunteers to serve once a month for one hour. That's only 12 hours a year!

We love and treasure our time with both the volunteers and children on Sunday mornings.

Remember, we recruit 'ministers of the gospel, not babysitters.

This is an opportunity to point our kids to Jesus and show them the love of Christ. Volunteers are needed during the 9 or 11 am services.



Contact Audra Cato, audra@fpcbr.org. Audra will train you and equip you for your role.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command

you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6: 5-7

Just 20 More!

We've gotten a wonderful response from our congregation in support of our ministry at Buchanan Elementary and we are so close to filling all of our slots. We need:

- 5 more Reading Friends to work one-on-one with a below level reader for 30 minutes twice a month.
- 14 more Teacher Encouragers to support a teacher/staff member once a month with

prayer, notes, gifts, etc. Does not require going to the school.

- 1 more Storytime Reader to read to pre-k through 2nd grades once a month for 30 minutes.

Please consider joining us by signing up at the Connection Center or contacting Laura Shaw at laura@fpcbr.org or 225.387.0617!

Perspectives Is Coming!

Have you ever asked yourself the question: "What is God's will for my life?" Perspectives is a class being offered that will answer that question and more. It will shake your world view, change your perception on being a world Christian and GROW your relationship with the Lord.

Perspectives is a course that helps believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue and nation to himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It is NOT a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using his people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. This class will ruin you for the ordinary.

Classes begin January 2017. Contact Katy Cosby (katy@fpabr.org) to ensure a spot.

Advent Readers

Readers are needed for special Advent worship readings. Please contact Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpabr.org) with the Sunday you are available.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

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

Angels Arrive November 13

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 13, 20 and 27. 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, deodorant/anti-perspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
SIX PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. FERNIE RIVERA OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
WILL DELIVER THE MESSAGE



Please Join Us

WOMEN IN MINISTRY INVITES
YOU TO THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
10 AM

Join us for our annual WiM Christmas celebration! This year we will be celebrating with a brunch at the home of Jane Kirkpatrick (262 S. Lakeshore Dr.) On Saturday, December 10 at 10 am we will enjoy good food, fellowship and a brief program. Because the brunch is off campus we are not able to provide childcare but we hope you will leave the kids with dad and sneak away for an hour and a half or so! Feel free to bring a friend or two. Register online at fpabr.org. \$10 per person.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
11 am Acoustic Communion

NOVEMBER SERMON PASSAGES

Texts and titles are subject to change.

November 6, 2016
"Mine Are Yours and Yours Are Mine"
John 17: 6-12

November 13, 2016
"Keep Them"
John 17: 13-19

November 20, 2016
"Not For These Only"
John 17: 20-26

November 27, 2016
"In Those Days"
Luke 2: 1-7

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor
M. Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions
Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry
Derek McCollum
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
and Young Adults
Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive
Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
and Prayer



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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

Flood Relief Book Drive

Several public schools lost all or part of their libraries due to the recent flood. Please join in the community-wide book drive by donating elementary level books. Sunday, October 30 through Thursday, November 10, books can be placed in the book drive box in the Connection Center or can be taken directly to the First United Methodist Church gym. Many thanks!!! For more information, contact Phil Espinoza, Missionary to Public Schools at FUMC, 383.4777 or Lynn Mitchell, 281.3710.



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An Extraordinary Meeting

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Creating a Pro-Life Culture

That's a daunting task in today's world. The historic Christian valuing of life from the moment of conception to natural death is contested in our wider culture. Our prizing of life exceeds that of any philosophy or religion in the world. Yet the hegemony of individual choice in the western world has caused a devaluing of life at every level. How can we lovingly, passionately bring others into the Christian valuing of life? That's the topic Kristan Hawkins will address at a breakfast meeting at our church, Friday, November 11 at 7.30 am. Kristan is the founder and director of Students for Life, an organization now on more than 1,000 college campuses. There

is no charge for the event (it is sponsored by our Ed Grant educational fund), but you must register to have a place. Call or email Laura at the church office to sign up.

Chorister Concert

We've all grown fond of our music students (choristers) who augment our choir program. From Lauren Honea's radiant renditions to Joshua's rousing baritone to Kevin's Irish tenor to Alexandra's limitless vocal resources, we thrill to have such talent work with our members. Now these choristers will offer a joyful vocal concert in our chapel, Tuesday night, November 15 at 6.30 in our Chapel. Admission is free, though an offering for flood relief may be given.

Gent