



Just Return It! by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

My mother was the queen of returning things. No receipt? No problem! No original packaging? Perfectly fine! My mother loved to shop. The merchants loved my mother. She enjoyed an ongoing relationship with them. Her loyalty and frequency gave her license to make returns as desired. Returning is part of trusted commerce.

We can apply this to our relationship to God! The psalmist asked "What shall I *return* to the LORD for all his goodness to me (Psalm 116: 12)?" He had been in an exchange with God. Life had turned dire. The psalmist had cried out to the God who made him. The Lord answered with deliverance from death and an abundance of mercy. So the writer wanted to make an offering of thanks. He wanted to *return*, to *reply* to God in grateful acknowledgement. So we can say it again, with a spiritual twist: Returning is part of trusted commerce.

As Christ's people, we live in the economy of his love. He continues to do miraculous business with us. He trades forgiveness for our sins. He swaps his peace for our anxiety. He exchanges everlasting life for our

mortality. This commerce is so miraculous, we joyfully want to respond! To return thanks. To give back. To live as he directs so he will be pleased.

In this season of thanksgiving, we lift the festive cup in holy communion. We "cheers" the Lord who has given us nothing less than himself. We set aside a special day for gratitude. In days when we lived closer to the land, such a day was set between harvest time and the arrival of winter. Once "all was safely gathered in," it was time to bless the Giver.

That's why I find spiritual significance in making the dedication of our gifts to God in this season. Grateful for his provision in the year that is finishing, we trust his bounty to come in the New Year. We make a thankful *return*, putting financial gifts to God's work together with our prayers of gratitude. We mirror our God's generous overflowing heart.

Every November we do this as we make commitments to Christ's work through our church for the following year.

This year, we can step further into that deep joy through the Building Up campaign.

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

rEcess	NOV 5
Forgiveness Seminar	NOV 6
Parents' Night Out	NOV 7
Dedication Sunday	NOV 14
Children's Musical	NOV 14
Thanksgiving	NOV 25
Church Office Closed	NOV 25 & 26
First Day of Advent	NOV 28

UPCOMING EVENTS

Live Nativity	DEC 3
Foto Sisters Concert	DEC 3
Pilgrimage	DEC 12
Ero Cras Cantata	DEC 19

BIRTHS

September 26, 2021
Heidi Jane Hancock
Daughter of Amy and Kyle Hancock

MARRIAGES

October 9, 2021
Stephanie McNamara to Stephen Vick

IN MEMORIAM

September 30, 2021
Donna Carney, mother of Lee Carney

October 10, 2021
Beverly Weld

October 15, 2021
Jack Hartley, father of Ray Hartley

October 16, 2021
James McAdams

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are placed . . .

NOV 7 . . . 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 14 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of James C. McAdams by Barbara Anne Eaton.

NOV 21 . . . by Ann K. Gregorie and family 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 28 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.



Parents' Night Out, November 7

Hey Parents, why should kids have all the fun? Join your friends for an evening of fellowship at Red Stick Social! There will be bowling, trivia, food and fun. And to sweeten the deal, we're providing childcare as well. Drop your kids off and enjoy a well-deserved break before the week begins!

The Nitty-Gritty Details:

Sunday, November 7
5-8 pm
Red Stick Social - 1503 Government Street
Cost is \$15 for one person or \$25 for two.



Notes for parents of So Loved nursery-aged children (birth through Pre-K) and Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten through 5th grade):
Childcare will be in the church basement.

Notes for JAM and Joyful Noise choir parents:

Children may be dropped off at the church at the normal time and location. After rehearsal, the children will join childcare activities in the basement where they may be picked up at 8 pm.

Notes for middle and high school parents:

Both the middle school and high school youth groups will end at 8 pm.
Middle school will meet at the church.
High school will meet at the Pourciau's home.

Register online at fpcbr.org. We look forward to seeing you for what we hope will be the first of many Parents' Nights Out!

Forgiveness Seminar



"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6: 12). The holidays will soon be upon us and so may some old feelings we have toward others whom we'll be seeing! Let's take care of our unfinished business! God wants you to be free from the consequences of unforgiveness as you enjoy complete forgiveness from him and grow in extending it to others.

Many of us have an incomplete view of what forgiveness is, what it isn't and how to go about it. Please join Jim Solomon on Saturday, November 6 from 10 am to noon in the Reception room for an in-depth discussion and special forgiveness ceremony. To register please contact Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org or 620.0222) by Tuesday, November 2, so that we can order sufficient materials for this special time of transformation and freedom.

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers

The Chapel and Sanctuary 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 603.4735.

“Table for Five . . . Thousand” Children’s Musical



Join the Joyful Noise Children’s Choir on Sunday, November 14 at 5 pm for a short musical exploring the miracle of the loaves and fishes. With only nine rehearsals, Joyful Noise has been diving deep and savoring how Christ sees us all no matter how big or small. The children will delight you with witty banter, soothe you by singing the Scriptures back to you, and finally feed you as we all re-enact the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000! Everyone has something to bring to the table and, with God, small things done with great love can change the world.

Help Fill Terrence’s Pantry

We want to help our Habitat for Humanity homeowner, Terrence Carter, fill his new home’s pantry. 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 be brought to the Connection Center or the church office. Thank you for your love for the Carter family.

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: Irish Spring soap, anti-perspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

Angels Arrive November 7!



Angels arrive Sunday, November 7! 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. If you have questions, please contact the Angel Tree Coordinator, Cheryl Brodnax at 225.678.2448.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Members are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or sherry@fpibr.org) by Wednesday, December 15 to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Advent Brunch

Save-the-Date

Saturday, December 11
Registration coming soon.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7:45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed
Livestream:
9 and 11 am on YouTube and Facebook

NOVEMBER SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
I Thessalonians 5: 1-11

NOVEMBER 14, 2021
I Thessalonians 5: 12-22

NOVEMBER 21, 2021
I Thessalonians 5: 23-28

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
Isaiah 11: 2-3; Isaiah 59: 15b-20;
I Corinthians 1: 21-25

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
Associate Pastor for Discipleship



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010
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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

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To give, over and above our usual pledges, out toward others, when there is no visible return to our church—that will launch us into the wonder of God’s wondrous commerce. The spiritual return we will receive will be full of love, connection, participation and hope. November 14 is Dedication Sunday. I hope we will swell the House for this joyful celebration. Your elders are passionate about making this return. I know that, having made my pledge already, I am only more thankful to be your pastor,



Y. Lent



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH BUILDING UP
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE & 2022
ESTIMATE OF GIVING

Pledges and estimates of giving
may be made online at
fpcbr.org or emailed to
Carol Pruitt (carol@fpcbr.org).

Prayer Requests

Every week, Christ’s people at First Presbyterian Church join together to praise him and ask for his tender mercies on behalf of others. These prayers are lifted up not only during worship but by our elders and staff throughout the week. If you have a praise or prayer request, please fill out a Prayer Card located in the pews or use the convenient form at fpcbr.org. Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate during worship or in the Prayer Box located across from the Connection Center in our Sanctuary building. Prayer requests may also be emailed to our designated prayer email address (prayer@fpcbr.org). Please indicate whether or not you would like your request added to our weekly email received by dozens of prayer partners.