

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



Can You Get Along without Giving? by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

I think I tried that one summer in my early 20's. I lived like a tick, consuming goods and services and kindnesses but giving almost nothing back. Like some potentate of old, my attitude was, "I must be amused!" Worst weeks of my life. All take and no give is not a path to abundance but misery.

Just a few seconds of thought would have led me better. You can't keep taking in oxygen and not give back any carbon dioxide. You can't keep eating if your gastro system is not processing. Of course we can't have relationships that are only one-sided. Not with family, friends, coworkers or the Triune God. We are built for exchange. To receive and to give. In fact, the longer I live, the more I realize that satisfaction—happiness—actually depends on giving more of myself than I am naturally inclined. Holding back, hedging bets, staying safe leads to isolation, fear and loneliness. Sacrifice leads to joy.

Now, I am a hedonist. I want pleasure. I want the best life. How wild it's been to learn that such fullness comes from self-emptying. So, because I love you, I have no hesitancy in encouraging generosity in our members. Often, what's missing in our relationship to Christ is not another Bible study, but another tangible step outwards.

Giving back a significant portion of our income to God is an inescapable part of a robust life in Christ. So I love to see your generosity every stewardship season. I think I could make a good case that your church is busy about Christ's work in this world. And that means there are always opportunity to give service to Jesus and his little ones:

***Vine BR.** There's a desperate need for **foster families** in our community. On Sunday, October 9, an orientation for people

considering fostering will be held at Bethany church at 2 pm.

***Building Up.** Already this year, Bethany Centre has begun a second new classroom in Uganda and the ministry in Medellin, Columbia is renovating the home for mothers and young children which we purchased. You're doing that!

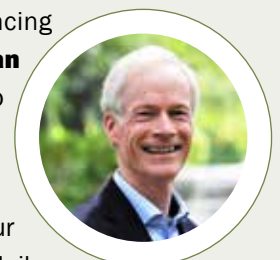
***Gardere and Buchanan.** Elementary children at Gardere long for mentors to spend an hour a week with them through our KidsHope program. Students who got behind during COVID need adults to read to them at Buchanan. Hearing books read is essential to learning to read!

***Nursery and Childhood.** We always welcome loving volunteers to rock babies and chase toddlers during the worship hours.

***Marriages** require the gift of attention, listening and processing. There's no better marriage seminar than **Created for Connection**. FPC members even get a 50% discount for the October 21 & 22 session.

***International Friendship Partners** welcomes LSU students from around the world; **rEcess** gives families with special needs children a Friday night out; **Caring to Love** gives hope to those experiencing a crisis pregnancy, and the **Christian Outreach Center** offers mentors to those learning job and life skills.

We can't get along without giving and I love to see all the ways you give your hearts to Christ as you serve in your daily lives. No wonder I love being your pastor.



Gerrit

2 KILTS,
BAGPIPES,
& BRUNCH!

2 THE MOST
IMPORTANT
INSTRUMENT

3 NIGHT OF
TESTIMONY &
FELLOWSHIP

3 FOOTBALL
WATCH
PARTY

4 YOUTH
STUDIES

EVENTS

rEcess	OCT 7
Testimony & Fellowship	OCT 14
Men's Football Watch	OCT 15
Marriage Workshop	OCT 21 & 22
IFP Social	OCT 28
Kirkin' O' the Tartans	OCT 30

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stewarship Sunday	NOV 13
Scott Graham Installation	NOV 20

BIRTHS

August 27, 2022
 Lucy Clare Rodeheaver
 Parents are Brennan and Mitchell Rodeheaver

September 14, 2022
 Baker Kennedy Moss
 Parents are Charlotte and Matt Moss

IN MEMORIAM

September 17, 2022
 Peggy Anderson

September 19, 2022
 Mary Ogle

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

OCT 2 . . . to the glory of God by Tricia and Donovan Davis.

OCT 9 . . . in loving memory with thanksgiving for Jonathan David Pugsley honoring his birth date of October 17 by his parents and sister, David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

OCT 16 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Will Dixon by Shea and Tim Firnberg and Sharon Dixon.

OCT 23 Open Date.

OCT 30 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. James C. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Carr and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.

Kilts, Bagpipes, Tartans and Brunch!

Wear your plaids, your kilts and your tweeds as we celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith on Reformation Sunday with one 10 am service October 30. After worship, all are invited to enjoy brunch and live music with Jim and James Linden Hogg. Face painting, a balloon artist and games will be offered for the children; gaga ball pit for the youth!



Please register below. A love offering will be taken at the door.

Clan Tartans for the Kirkin'

We want your clan's tartan to be represented in the Sanctuary at the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans. Contact Jaci Gaspard to see about including yours (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

The Most Important Instrument by Chris Phillips, Director of Worship

What do you think the most important musical instrument is for our worship services? Does the answer depend upon which of our three services you attend? Can we say we have worshiped "contemporary-ishly" if we do not use drums? Or the electric bass? Surely the power of the pipe organ is required for the hymns. Perhaps it all hinges on the magnificent voice of your amazing worship director. (Haha! Saints preserve us! If that is the case, we are all in serious trouble.)

What is the most important musical instrument in our worship services?

It is the congregation!

That's right. The most important musical instrument in the weekly gathered worship of our God is your voice in combination with other voices. No one can replace you. None can sing for you. Singing is one way that every individual actively fulfills the call to be a member of the holy priesthood. Our singing is one way we offer spiritual sacrifices to God and encourage one another (1 Peter 2: 4-5).

Now we at First Presbyterian are blessed with the incredible, talented, and beautiful support of instrumentalists and vocalists. Their enrichment of our musical worship takes my

breath away. So often being on the platform during the beautiful music-making offers me the best seat in the house.

**1 PETER 2:
4-5**

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But let me it put boldly. We could worship musically without the help of a single instrument and without any vocal leadership on the platform. However, we could not say that we had biblically worshiped if the gathered Elect had not sung.

Now I know, beloved, that you may feel awkward when you sing. You may not be ready to audition for the next season of "The Voice." That is just fine. Whether or not you think you can sing well matters not at all. Truly. The quality and affection that God is looking for in worship comes from the heart (Ephesians 5: 19 & Colossians 3: 16).

So, would you have courage and take the risk of singing out loud in gathered worship? Start softly if you must but do not be silent. We will not have the option to be silent on the

Great Day. There is much we do not know about our future glory. One thing for certain, however, is that when we are gathered around the throne with every tribe, nation, people, and tongue we will be singing to God and to the Lamb (Revelation 5).

May as well get in lots of practice now!

Men's Ministry LSU vs. Florida Football Watch Party

Men, the fall is upon us. Cooler weather, hunting season, LSU football, tailgates with family and friends—the things we love are finally here. It's time we have some men's events for the church!



For our first event, we're going to have game watching party.

Maybe you've be wondering, "What could be better than watching LSU claim victory over Florida on October 15?" The answer would be watching LSU achieve victory while enjoying great food, conversation and fellowship with your First Presbyterian brothers in the Lord. Come join us at Jake Wood's house (3626 Primrose St.) on October 15. Even if you don't love football, come join us anyway. You'll be glad you did!

Night of Testimony & Fellowship

A personal testimony is one of the most influential tools the Holy Spirit uses to point people toward Christ. It brings alive the goodness and faithfulness of God, not because WE are so great, but because HE is so great. And what's even more amazing . . . your testimony is authentically and uniquely YOURS.



Join Women's Ministry for our Night of Testimony & Fellowship, as we hear what the Lord has done in the lives of our beloved sisters-in-Christ: Jess Conciencie, Sharon Field, Chelsea

there'll be a good number of us in attendance. Some are saying the game will start at 11 am but we'll communicate more information once we know for sure. Though the cost of the event is free, we ask that you please register at fpcbr.org so we can have an accurate head count for food. Even if you don't love football, come join us. We'd love to have you!

The church will provide drinks and meat for the grill, but bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share with others.

The church will have some tailgate games to play (cornhole tournament anyone?), but bring a lawn chair to enjoy the afternoon because we're assuming

Haskew, Lauren Honea, Tracy Martinez and Claire Zak.

Our Night of Testimony & Fellowship will be Friday, October 14 from 6 to 9 pm at the home of Amber McConnell (4352 Woodside Drive). The first hour of the evening will be fellowship and food prepared by Zea's. The next hour will be packed with testimonies by our ladies. Then we'll round out the

night enjoying sweets and champagne. The cost is \$10 per person. Please register online at fpcbr.org.

Couples' Workshop: October 21 & 22

All couples have arguments but they don't have to go on and on. Learn how to resolve things faster for more peace and closeness. The "Created for Connection" workshop will help you recognize the causes of disconnection and help you learn to repair, heal and reconnect with your spouse.



Dee and Pete Adams lead this two-day workshop Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22 based on the therapy model developed by Dr. Sue Johnson. Visit createdforconnectionbr.com to learn more or to register. Use the code FPC and your fee will be reduced to \$150.

SERMON TEXTS

October 2
1 Peter 2: 9-17

October 9
1 Peter 2: 18-3: 7

October 16
1 Peter 3: 8-17

October 23
1 Peter 3: 18-32

October 30
Kirkin' O' the Tartans
One 10 am Service
1 Peter 4: 1-11

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,
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New Season of Youth Studies by Colton Underwood

Autumn brings a new season of youth studies and activities, and this year is no exception! In addition to the weekly Bible studies going through 1 Peter on Sunday evenings and a fresh confirmation class, we're already a few weeks into a Biblical Sexuality Sunday school series and a new weeknight study in apologetics for both middle and high school students.

The world in which we live is one that is often divided over issues of sex and our teens are on the frontlines of the battle against the truth of biblical sexuality. From the issues assailing them in pornography, LGBT+ issues and much more, it's as important now as ever that they be prepared, not only to know the truth of God's design, but also how to fight temptation and graciously bring the truth to bear in the lives of those who have been



hurt by sexual brokenness. The middle and high school boys and girls (four groups in total) have been and will continue to consider these issues openly and truthfully with an eye to grace, forgiveness and healing. Your prayers for us in this capacity are appreciated!

Additionally, we continue a study in apologetics. The "Reinforced" series covers 12 common problems or objections to the Christian faith ranging from logical questions about the Bible's supposed "errors" and "contradictions" to moral questions addressing how Christians are often labeled as unloving and hypocritical. Both high school (Paradigm) and middle school (Pursuit) will spend the year considering these and other apologetic challenges as we continue to encourage students to speak the truth in love.

Come on FPC! We still have 15 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!