

## Called to Serve

by Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions

In our country I see many churches are filled with godly, loving people. I give thanks and rejoice that the Lord has blessed his people here. But we have to come to grips with something. If we continue only to drink in blessings and neglect to give them out, we will face what happened to the church in Jerusalem. After the blessing of Pentecost, the believers there grew comfortable in their fellowship.

The book of Acts says the believers went from house to house eating together and sharing their experiences. What happened to the early church? The Lord sent persecution and that Spirit-filled church was suddenly scattered. The people ended up going to the nations preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, making disciples and establishing new churches.

I thank God for all the mission activity that takes place in First Presbyterian Church. The Lord's goal is that every member of this great church becomes a missionary and that includes you. We are all called to participate in local missions (i.e., Buchanan and Gardere schools), regional missions (i.e., Hurricane Laura recovery in Lake Charles) and global missions (i.e., short-term missions in Lebanon, Romania and Colombia).

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Christ's command here is spoken to every one of us with no exceptions. Everyone is not called to go physically. Please be assured God is looking for volunteers. We are to be about the work of praying for the harvest and God is touching people everywhere because of our faithfulness to pray. One

example of this is the family of Jena and Kevin Smith who are being called to serve in Lebanon with World Outreach of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

When you know God's heart, you won't be able to restrain yourself from the gospel mission. You'll find yourself concerned for the needy in your neighborhood (i.e., Open Air Ministry with Pastor Moore). The nearer you are to Jesus, the more you'll reflect his compassion for all creation. Our missions conference was a month ago and we were blessed to hear how God called Katherine and Brian Miller to Colombia and Ashley and MacGregor Magruder to Africa a decade ago to serve Jesus Christ.

Are you resisting a call? It's never too late to sign up to go to the nations or to the hurricane ravaged city of Lake Charles. Every Wednesday and Saturday, a group of believers meets at 6.30 am to serve Lake Charles. If you're open to being sent out and you're diligent in prayer about it, God will open every door. He will place you exactly where he wants you to serve. Then you will find your life being fulfilled as never before.

### Kirkin' in the Time of COVID

Wear your plaids, your kilts and your tweeds as we celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith on Reformation Sunday, October 25. The nasty COVID isn't going to stop us from having our traditional one 10 am service. We're going to celebrate

*continues on pg. 4*

## IN THIS ISSUE

pg. 2 Distan-SING

pg. 3 Prayer for Our Nation

pg. 4 Blood Drive



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Prayer for Our Nation	OCT 4-NOV 1
Blood Drive	OCT 4
Distan-SING	OCT 8
Children's Choir Resumes	OCT 11
Couples' Workshop	OCT 16 & 17
Kirkin' O' the Tartans	OCT 25

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Daylight Savings	NOV 1
Discover First	NOV 1
Stewardship Sunday	NOV 8
Thanksgiving	NOV 26

**IN MEMORIAM:**

September 8, 2020  
Bert Robinson  
Father of Johanna Landreneau

September 9, 2020  
Irma Henry  
Mother of Ross Henry

September 17, 2020  
Sarah Pipes Munson

September 27, 2020  
Quida Corbett  
Mother of Robert Arnold

September 28, 2020  
Paul Reese  
Father of Rachel Reese Kollmeyer

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The flowers are placed . . .

OCT 4 . . . to the glory of God by Tricia and Donovan Davis.

OCT 11 . . . 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 18 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kay Curry, beloved mother and grandmother, given by Mary, Ryan, David, Luke and Mary Claire Dickerson.

OCT 25 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. & Mrs. James S. Carr and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.

If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 291.3095.

**Our Columbarium's Five Year Anniversary** By Barry Phillips, Ministry Executive

Eight years ago your session voted unanimously to create a space on our church campus for securing cremated remains of members of our church and their immediate families, as well as for past members. Almost to the month five years ago, we held our first memorial service in the Dunham Chapel with an inurnment service following in the beautiful garden courtyard between the Dunham Chapel and the Education Building. Since that first inurnment we have had an additional 23 memorial services. Each of them were intimate celebrations of life and life eternal through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Consideration of a columbarium niche may be on your 'to do' list. They are an increasingly popular option for final arrangements for several reasons. First, the financial investment is substantially less than traditional cemetery funerals. Second, many are expressing an increased preference for a memorial service rather than a traditional funeral. This allows for an intimate family gathering for mourning the loss and a celebration of life following. Finally, the garden courtyard is a wonderful place to visit. And it is close and available for times of reflection and meditation throughout the day.

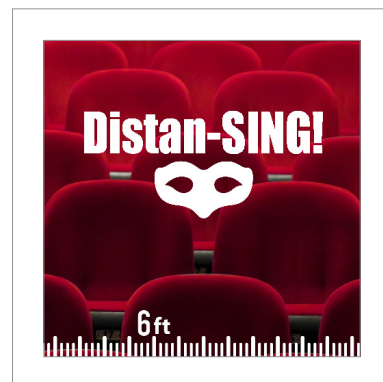


Phase 1 of our columbarium includes eighty niches. Each niche can accommodate two urns. Sixty of the eighty niches have been purchased. With only twenty niches remaining, plans are now underway for Phase 2.

We do not publicize our columbarium and it sometimes goes unnoticed. Newer members of our fellowship may not even know about it. As Phase 2 begins, some of you may want to make this step for the first time or to complete this item that has been on your 'to do' list for a long time. For information about our columbarium please contact Sherry McKinley ([sherry@fpabr.org](mailto:sherry@fpabr.org) or 225.620.0224).

Funerals and memorial services continue as part of the life of our church even during this pandemic. Certainly, they are unique experiences and different from what we are used to doing.

**Distan-SING Has Been Rescheduled to October 8**



Let's try this again! We have a new date and can't wait to sing for you. Please join us for "A Night of Social Distan-SING!" on Thursday, October 8 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

You'll tap your toes to familiar songs. You'll hear a new stunning setting of the "Serenity Prayer" by local composer Jerrell R. Gray. With the music of Sondheim, Bernstein, Verdi and others we'll comment on these challenging times. We'll ask some important questions. We'll laugh a bit and reassure you with the hopefulness that beautiful music can rouse. Join us in person or via livestream on Thursday, October 8 at 7 pm.

Opening Our Hearts as the Doors Open by Laura Shaw

There have been challenges in so many areas of our lives due to COVID-19 and those experienced by our educators are at the top of the list! School has finally begun at our adopted school Buchanan Elementary and, as you can imagine, teaching this year is a moving target. Virtual learning, two days a week for one group of students and two for another, masks, lunch in the classrooms, limited recess, no water fountains—how are they feeling? One word—stressed.

After meeting with Principal Charlotte Britten, FPC has been asked to please step in and do what we do best—show them our love. She wants every staff member at the school to have an Encourager to help lift them up when they are discouraged. We have about ten folks who have already adopted a teacher at this point leaving 46 teachers/staff who need someone to come alongside and encourage them this year! It's a super-easy ministry in which to participate. All that's required is remembering your person at least once a month by sending them a small gift, note of encouragement, email, text, phone call and, of course, praying regularly for them. Gifts can be left at the Connection Center for delivery to the school so you don't even have to make an extra trip. If you would like to be-

come an Encourager, please contact Laura Shaw (225.387.0617 or [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)) and she will get you set up.

On October 9, we are providing lunch for the teachers as they participate in a work day at the school. We would also like to distribute notes of encouragement along with the box lunches. We will hand out notecards at the services on October 4 and we would love our members to write notes of encouragement that would let our friends at Buchanan know that we love them!

We are also recruiting volunteers for the after school program at school. If you are interested in sharing your talents as a storytime reader, music leader, craft maker, etc. on Tuesdays or Thursdays please contact Nell Patrick (225.907.8811 or [nellpatrick@cox.net](mailto:nellpatrick@cox.net)).

Finally, FPC is collecting several items that will be a big help to the school. Items can be left at the Connection Center: masks, disinfecting wipes, gently used belts – all sizes (preferably black, brown or blue), gently used coats and sweaters – all sizes.

Thank you for blessing our friends at Buchanan Elementary!

Prayer for Our Nation

At a time in our nation when anxiety is high, let us together pray for his peace in our hearts and minds, as we continue to seek his will in our lives. Jim Solomon, Associated Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer, invites you to join him for a series of prayer meetings in the Sanctuary the 5 Sundays leading up to the November 3 elections. Meetings will be October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1.

Joyful Noise Choir Returns!

Join us Sunday evenings for a super-great time. This fall our theme is based on I John 4: 4b. "For he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." That makes us kinda like superheroes-especially with everyone wearing masks now!

From October 11 until November 15 at 5 pm, children grades 1-5 will meet, distanced and outside, under our new Terrace Tent! We will explore what it means that Jesus has overcome the world, build rhythm instruments, sing praise songs and enjoy being together. At the end of these short few weeks, we will have two recorded songs to present during worship! Of course, due to COVID 19 our JNC staff are taking extra precautions for everyone's safety. For questions and more details, email Lauren Honea at [lauren@fpcbr.org](mailto:lauren@fpcbr.org).



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 am and 11 am Sanctuary worship. Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.

OCTOBER SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

OCTOBER 4, 2020  
Psalm 25: 1-7

OCTOBER 11, 2020  
Psalm 25: 8-22

OCTOBER 18, 2020  
Psalm 27: 1-6

OCTOBER 25, 2020  
Psalm 27: 7-14

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  
Director of Discipleship,  
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



PH: 225.387.0617  
FAX: 225.338.1010

[fpcbr.org](http://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  
[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)

## Discover First - November 1

Our next Discover First Meeting is Sunday, November 1, 2020 from 3.30 - 5.15 pm. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Meagan Greene ([meagan@fpcbr.org](mailto:meagan@fpcbr.org) or 225.454.2504).

## Couples' Workshop by BRCCC



Lost some of that loving feeling? Looking to get more connected? Closer? Want to stop the bickering and the same-old-arguments? Trouble communicating? Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center is offering a couples' workshop Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17 based on Dr. Sue Johnson's book, "Hold Me Tight" and Emotionally Focused Therapy. Emotionally Focused Therapy is a research-proven therapy which shows significant improvements to relationships in 90% of couples who participate. Details and registration are online at [brchristiancounseling.com/c4c](http://brchristiancounseling.com/c4c).

## Blood Drive - October 4

The LifeShare blood mobile will be in the church parking lot Sunday, October 4 from 8 am to 1 pm. We ask that you please sign up in advance on the church website ([fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)). Please be patient the day of the drive. You will wait in your car until you receive a text telling you it's your turn.

## Called to Serve *cont. from pg. 1*

outside in the Convention St. parking lot so we can seat more people. Grab a bottled beverage before in the Terraced Garden then find a socially distanced seat for worship. James and Jim Hogg will entertain us with special music following worship. Those interested in staying in the air conditioning are welcome to watch the livestream in the Sanctuary. In the case of bad weather, we'll have worship in the Sanctuary with overflow in the gym. Our Congregational Meeting will be November 8 during the worship services at 9 and 11. The purpose is to vote on the slate of new elders and deacons to be presented by the Nominating Committee.

**CLAN TARTANS FOR THE KIRKIN'** We want your clan's tartan to be represented in the Sanctuary at the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans. Call Jaci to see about including yours, 620.0221.