

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

GIVE GLORY! STEWARDING GOD'S GRACE

By Gerrit Dawson

Senior Pastor

Suppose you were down on Bayou Black and saw the sun setting all washed with pinks and reds. What would you do? Maybe speak. "That's gorgeous!" Maybe take a picture. "I have to show this to everybody!" Or maybe you want a picture so you can paint it. You just want to soak in and give back some of that beauty. Maybe you just take it all in quietly, praying in your heart, "Thank you God." We encounter beauty and we want to respond.

Here's news. God himself wants us to reply to the beauty he reveals! He wants us to make a return. To thank him with full hearts in worship. And to share with others the treasure he has revealed to us.

There is nothing more beautiful in all the universe than Jesus. He is the face of God shining on us. He is the heart of God opened to us. When we catch sight of the risen Savior holding out his nail-pierced hands in welcome, our breath catches. This is how you love me? "Come to me," he beckons. And our hearts leap toward his open arms in full devotion. When we perceive Christ's beauty, we want to tell him, "You're beautiful!" We want to declare that beauty. Sing it. Draw it. Guard it. Share it. Serve it. Drink it in and give it out joyfully.

Our triune God eagerly desires us to reply to the beauty of the love he shares. There are a myriad of ways to do that. Peter wrote, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." God shares his beautiful grace through his people. His glory gets made known through all the ways we offer back from what we have received. This can be service or teaching. Hospitality or administering. Preaching or cleaning. Changing babies or singing. Giving money or spending time. Studying or painting. We give glory to our glorious God as we adorn him through the ways we offer back ourselves.

That's our focus this fall. We want to celebrate the ways we are stewarding God's grace through our church. You'll be amazed to realize all the ways you are already doing this! On November 12, we want to rededicate ourselves as a reply to Christ's beautiful grace. We'll make our financial commitments, of course. They're crucial! We'll also offer back the places where we are serving and where we might like to serve more in the future.



STEWARDING GOD'S GRACE

2 WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL?

2 KILTS, BAGPIPES & TARTANS!

3 GRIEFSHARE® COMING TO FIRST

3 MEN'S & WOMEN'S GATHERINGS

OCTOBER EVENTS

rEcess	OCT 6
Men's Football Watch Party	OCT 7
Youth Movie Night	OCT 10
Ladies' 50s/60s Social	OCT 19
International Friendship Partners Social	OCT 27
Kirkin' O' the Tartans	OCT 29
Congregational Meeting	OCT 29
Elder Confirmation Breakfast	OCT 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stewardship Sunday	NOV 12
Thanksgiving	NOV 24

BIRTHS

June 28, 2023
 Mila Renee Shafto
 Parents are Nicolette and Robbie Shafto

IN MEMORIAM

September 15, 2023
 Fred Gowdy

August 26, 2023
 Susan Harrison
 Mother of Laura LeBlanc

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

OCT 1 . . . by Tricia and Donovan Davis.

OCT 8 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Will Dixon by Shea and Tim Firnberg and Sharon Dixon.

OCT 15 . . . in loving memory of Jonathan David Pugsley in honor of his birthday month by his parents and sister, Cathy & David and Catherine Pugsley.

OCT 22 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary and Arthur Ogle, Connie Ogle Burden, and Christiana and Truman Crawford by Pat, Liz and Blake Canfield, and Brittany & Jamy Comeaux.

OCT 29 . . . 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.

WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL TO SOW? TO REAP? by Valerie Gastinel

Who would have thought in Baton Rouge that we would have people from the least reached parts of the world? We are witnessing a paradigm shift in global missions. The Lord is bringing to Baton Rouge people groups that are incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for Westerners to reach in their countries.



Our mission conference speaker, Gabriel de Guia, shared some insightful thoughts on what postmodern seekers teach us about how they found their path to Jesus from the book, *I Was Once Lost*. They teach us that those from the least reached areas of the world have a much greater chance to find the path to Jesus when they have a trusted friendship with a believer. Developing trust and genuine friendships with internationals is what International Friendship Partners is all about. What an incredible privilege and opportunity we have as believers to carry the presence and peace of Christ to the internationals the Lord brings us.

As of now, we have 32 internationals eagerly waiting to be matched with an American family or single person. The exciting news is that we have Muslims, Hindus and non-religious students from the least reached people groups interested in an American friend/family partnership. They come from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Vietnam, China, Iran, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil and the Cayman Islands.

Our monthly International Friendship Partners socials are full of fun, interesting conversations and lots of good food! It is a unique opportunity to welcome, visit and build friendships with those from drastically different cultures. Our next social is Friday, October 27 at Rosemary and Kyle Beall's (1452 Glenmore Avenue) from 6 to 8 pm.

Will you prayerfully consider building a trusted friendship with one of our internationals waiting to be matched? They are brilliant, interesting and most are PhD students who will return to their home countries to eventual leadership positions.

Please use the online registration form on the church website to become a friendship, prayer and/or hospitality partner.

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 Kirkin' O' the Tartans service October 29. 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.

Please register online for brunch. \$10 for those 10 and older. \$5 for children 9 and younger.

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).

GRIEFSHARE® COMING TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN by Scott Graham

The death of a loved one is one of the greatest challenges we face in life. GriefShare® is a Christian program that has been used in thousands of churches over the past 25 years to bring expert counsel alongside the love and gifts of God's people to provide healing and help in the midst of loss. First Presbyterian is starting a GriefShare® group this fall. Judy and Rick McGimsey will be facilitating the 13-session group, with Sharon and Dan Gibson serving as hosts (3152 Veranda Green Avenue). The group will meet Thursday evenings from 6–8 pm starting October 26. A well presented 30-minute video touching on topics such as difficult emotions, loneliness, questions for God, and moving forward while remembering loved ones, coupled with discussion, prayer, and support from others are important parts of the time together. Since this is our first GriefShare® group, we are limiting the size, so please let Scott Graham or Laura Shaw know promptly if you interested in participating (scott@fpcbr.org or laura@fpcbr.org).

**Men's Football Watch Party, October 7** by Darin Travis

Scripture tell us that it is good when brothers dwell together in unity. While I don't think the psalmist had LSU football in mind when he wrote that verse in Psalm 133, the application of dwelling together on October 7 at Jake Wood's (3626 Primrose Steet) to cheer on the Tigers probably isn't too far of a stretch. Come join the men of the church for a game watching party! We will gather at 10.30 am in time to settle in before the 11 am kickoff. Because it is an early morning game, we'll have hearty brunch-type foods with plenty of meat to enjoy. For those who want to hangout after the LSU game in anticipation of the rest of day's SEC lineup, we'll also have nachos and lunch-type foods as well. RSVP to Darin (darin@fpcbr.org) so we can have an estimate of how much food to buy. We look forward to seeing you on October 7 to enjoy watching the game, but even more importantly, to enjoy the goodness of brotherhood!

**Ladies' 50s/60s Social, October 19**

Each month, FPC Women's Ministry organizes social fellowship gatherings targeting women in specific decades. There is no agenda! These are simply extra opportunities to gather together outside of the church walls for food, fellowship and fun. Save the date for our next social for 50s and 60s on Thursday, October 19. We'll gather from 6 to 8 pm at Tricia Davis' (1487 Steele Blvd.). Appetizers will be provided. Bring a beverage or dessert if you wish. Please RSVP to Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@fpcbr.org).

**Congregational Meeting
October 29**

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 29 at 10 am for the purpose of electing elders and deacons and calling Colton Underwood from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families.

**22 Teacher Encouragers
Are Needed!**

There are 22 teachers at our adopted McKinley Elementary who would love a Teacher Encourager. A kind note or a "happy" gift goes a long way in lifting the spirits of these dedicated teachers. Email Laura Shaw to volunteer (laura@fpcbr.org).

SERMON TEXTS

October 1, 2023
Ephesians 2:1-7

October 8, 2023
Ephesians 2:8-13

October 15, 2023
Ephesians 2:14-22

October 22, 2023
Ephesians 3:1-13

October 29, 2023
Ephesians 3:14-4:6

BAPTISMS

September 10, 2023:

Lily Renee Hart
Parents are Kathyne and Ryan Hart

John Harman O'Rourke
Parents are Mary Frances and
Colin O'Rourke

Charlotte Francis and
Elisabeth Fay Dunham
Parents are Caroline and Cody Dunham

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM
Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Assistant Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



PH: 225.387.0617
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763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

A Little Something Extra

Purple Cow Needs Donations!

The three Purple Cow thrift stores exist to fund the Christian Outreach Center. The COC shares the love of Christ even as they offer people a hand up towards self-sufficiency. This includes teaching on faith and finances, job training, assistance with essential needs and a groundbreaking prison re-entry program.



The Purple Cow stores thrive when folks give them great stuff. Nice clothes. Good furniture and housewares. Things you like to have but don't need anymore. This fall, considering sharing some of your bounty (and cleaning

out some clutter) by giving quality merchandise to a Purple Cow near you.

Ryan Bromberg at Caring to Love

This year's speaker at the November 9 Caring to Love banquet will be a man who was conceived via the violence of rape. A very likely candidate for abortion, Ryan lived because his mother made an unusual and daring choice for life. Ryan now shares the love of Jesus Christ and nurtures his own family of four children, knowing all along this might never have been. We have a table reserved if you'd like to be Gerrit's



guest. When those seats are filled, you can find tickets at the CTL website.

Youth Movie Night, October 10

Join us for dinner and a movie in the Terraced Garden from 5 to 8 pm. Bring a picnic blanket or folding chair.

FPC and Social Media

Sanctuary services are livestreamed on the web and we frequently post photos on social media of members engaged in fellowship at our small groups, worship services and events. If you have any questions, contact Katie Robinson (katie@fpabr.org) or Jay High (jay@fpabr.org).