

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



WHO DAT?

By Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

If you're part of "Saints Nation," you know the chant. "Who dat? Who dat? Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints?" For years, it's been a rallying cry for games. The essence is straight from the playground: "Our guys are better than your guys! If you think your guys will win, you're going to be sorely disappointed."

I've recently been reading about a "Who dat?" moment in Psalm 24. The psalm was written for a worship parade. The people remembered the glorious day when young King David had recovered the sacred Ark of the Covenant from the dreaded Philistines. The Ark contained the Ten Commandments. It's top was the mercy seat, where atoning blood was offered. In short, the Ark meant the saving presence of the LORD. Through a great victory, the Ark was going back to its holy place in the sanctuary. Symbolically, God was coming home.

This historical moment was so sacred that it got re-enacted year after year. Psalm 24 describes a dialogue between the throng of people and the gatekeepers of the temple. The crowd cries out, "Open up, you gates, that the King of glory may come in!" The gatekeepers reply, "Who is the King of glory?" In other words, "Who dat?" What God is mightier than all gods? Who do you worship? Why should we let that God be in the heart of our sanctuary? Who dat God you got?

The people reply "The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. He is the King of glory. So let us in to worship the one true God who redeems and saves. Open up!"

I can imagine this exchange going back and forth for a while until the people's voice thunders. The trumpets blow and cymbals clash who dat? "The LORD, the LORD, the LORD, dat's who!" So the gates open and the people dance to the house of the LORD and enthrone him as King all over again.

I hope you feel that when you come to worship. We proclaim the King of glory clearly and joyfully. I hope people all over will ask, "Who dat? Who dat God dey worship at First?" For we have a glad answer. The Lord Jesus Christ, the King of love, the suffering savior, the reigning Lord, the Lamb who was slain, the Messiah who is coming again to set all things right, the man who is God, he is the King of glory!

One 11 am Service September 3

Members of Abounding Love Ministries will join us for a special combined worship service Sunday, September 3 at 11 am. Pastor Adraine White will deliver the message, their worship team will join ours and we'll have communion together. Don't miss it! There will be no Sunday school.



Gerrit

2 : NEW SCHOOL FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

2 : LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

3 : NEW PARENTING SMALL GROUP

4 : CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- One 11 am Worship Service SEPT 3
- Discover First Dinner SEPT 10
- Fall Small Groups Begin SEPT 10
- Faith Driven Conference SEPT 13
- Women's Night of Testimony & Fellowship SEPT 14
- Children's Ministry
- Meet & Greet SEPT 16
- Communion Training SEPT 17
- Parenting Sm. Group Starts SEPT 17
- International Friendship Partners SEPT 22

IN MEMORIAM

July 12, 2023
 Brenda McCarty
 Mother of Ashley Bateman

August 2, 2023
 Betty Greer

August 5, 2023
 Frank Jackson
 Husband of Doretha Jackson

August 11, 2023
 Hal Filgo

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

SEPT 3 . . . in loving memory, with thanksgiving, for Van Andrew Wilson on his birthday, by his parents Claire & Steve Wilson.

SEPT 10 . . . in loving memory of Jerry Johnson by his wife, LaNelle Johnson, and their daughters, Debra Matthews, Joy Pennington and Jeri J. Cochran.

SEPT 17. . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gay & Dick Barnett, Alice & Nye Barnett, Frances & J.B. Meadors and Irene Bearden Meadors, parents and grandparents of Leah Edrington, by Leah & Billy Edrington.

SEPT 24 . . . in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. McKowen II, Mr. and Mrs. Alex C. McKowen Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodford, Jolie Thuneman Peel and Jolie Berry by Jeanie McKowen Thuneman, Wayne McKowen, Ann McKowen Gerald and Allie McKowen.

A NEW SCHOOL FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR! by Laura Shaw

Our beloved adopted school Buchanan Elementary has been given a new home and a new name. We are excited to now partner with the new McKinley Elementary located at 575 West Roosevelt St. right off Highland Road near the Tiger Band practice facility. The new school is beautiful. With an enrollment of up to 600 students, and 75 teacher and staff, there are even more opportunities for us to serve. We would love to have you join this ministry as a Reading Friend, Teacher Encourager or Classroom Storytime Reader. No previous experience is necessary—all you need is a love for children and a willing heart. The commitment is small but the rewards are great!



READING FRIENDS

By mentoring and showing God's love to kindergarten 1st or 2nd graders, we hope to enhance their reading levels, test scores and increase their confidence. (Commitment: 30 minutes twice a month)

STORYTIME READERS

Read age-appropriate stories to an assigned PreK-2nd grade class. (Commitment: 30 minutes once a month)



ENCOURAGERS

Support a teacher or staff member through notes, small gifts, acts of appreciation and prayer. Perfect for people who can't visit the school or for Sunday school classes, Circles or small groups.

Help us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors just over two miles from our church! For more information, stop by the Connection Center, email Laura Shaw at laura@fpcbr.org or call 387.0617.

Look What You Did!

Wow! Who could have ever imagined the extraordinary success of this year's "Pack a Backpack" program. The numbers tell the story. 144 of you made it possible for the following items to be donated: 120 each of backpacks, pairs of scissors, pencil boxes, notebooks, roles of paper towels, packs of antibacterial hand wipes and bottles of hand sanitizer. 240 each of boxes of Ziplock bags and packs of face wipes. 260 erasers, 360 Kleenex boxes and 480 plastic folders. 960 each of Expo markers, Crayola markers and cans of Play-Doh. 1,400 glue sticks, 11,520 Crayons, 12,000 sheets of notebook paper, 14,400 pieces of construction paper and over \$7,000.00 that will be used to support the kindergarten class for the rest of the year. As a church, First Presbyterian has made a significant difference in these 120 children's lives. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Become a KidsHope USA Mentor

First Presbyterian's abundant desire to share God's love and belief that all children matter to Jesus is evident in it's partnership with Kids Hope USA at Gardere Community Christian School. This faith-based mentoring partnership is making a difference! Visit kidshopeusa.org/volunteer to learn more. Or contact our Kids Hope USA director Annette Lamond (annette@fpcbr.org).



Discover First Dinner September 10

Come learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. Our next Discover First Dinner is Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Emily Viguerie (emily@fpcbr.org or 225.333.9084).

PARENTING SMALL GROUP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17

Raising children can bring incredible joy and incredible challenges. Knowing how to navigate the journey and doing so in fellowship with like-minded parents is what provides a rudder in the sea of chaos. Starting September 17, Darin and Barat Travis will host a small group that is centered on parenting. During the 8-week sessions, we'll study material from "The Art of Parenting" by Family Life, the family ministry of Cru. This material is wonderful for all parents but especially those who are raising younger children. Join the journey by RSVPing to Barat (barat.travis@cru.org). We will meet Sunday nights from 5 to 6.30 pm in the Reception Room. Childcare will be provided!

Small Groups Begin in September. Other small groups will follow along with Gerrit's sermon series on Ephesians this fall. Group discussion questions will be available starting Sunday, September 10. If you are interested in joining a group or leading a new one, connect with Kelly Wood (kelly@fpcbr.org).

Women's Ministry Night of Testimony & Fellowship

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

It's easy to deny things you simply *hear* about. It's much harder to deny things you *experience*, which is why your personal testimony of faith is one of the most influential tools the Holy Spirit uses to point others toward Christ. Whether you realize it or not, you have a powerful story that gives evidence of God's love, grace, goodness and faithfulness. And what's more, your walk with the Lord is authentically and uniquely yours. He sees you. He knows you. He shapes you. He loves you . . . distinctly.

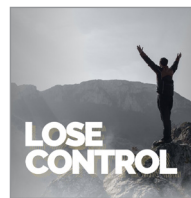
Join Women's Ministry for a Night of Testimony & Fellowship as some of our beloved sisters-in-Christ (Caroline Breard, Melissa Fabr , Paula Begnaud, Jennie Wilbourn and Lori Wells) testify to the ways the Lord has worked personally and powerfully in their lives.

Thursday, September 14, 6-8.30 pm at the home of Kate Freeman (5050 E. Bluebell Dr.) \$10/person. Register online at fpcbr.org. Dinner and a special treat included!



Faith Driven Entrepreneur Conference September 13

All business owners, entrepreneurs, and c-level executives are invited to the Faith Driven Entrepreneurs Baton Rouge Conference! This year's conference aims to foster spiritual growth while equipping us to extend our influence beyond spreadsheets and into our local communities, workplaces and other spheres of influence. Expect inspiring talks, practical workshops and opportunities to connect with those who share a vision of combining business acumen with a strong spiritual foundation. The Conference is Wednesday, September 13 from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm. There is no charge to attend but we ask that you please register online at fpcbr.org.



September International Friendship Partners Social

International Friendship Partners invites you to join them in asking the Lord to raise up 25 First Presbyterian families to become friendship partners with internationals in Baton Rouge. Attend the September IFP social Friday the 22nd at 6 pm to learn more. We'll meet at the LeeAnn and David Kozan's (3565 Cole Drive).



SERMON TEXTS

September 3, 2023
One 11 am Worship Service
Passage to be determined.

September 10, 2023
Ephesians 1:7-10

September 17, 2023
Ephesians 1:11-14

September 24, 2023
Ephesians 1:15-23

BAPTISMS

August 13, 2023
James Thompson Bryant IV
Parents: Abbey & Tripp Bryant

August 20, 2023
James Henry Murray
Parents: Bethany & Jeffrey Murray

BIRTHS

June 28, 2023
Dylan James McClure
Parents: Brandy & Chris McClure
Grandparents: Kelly & Ken Mizell

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
fpcbr.org

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

Children's Ministry News

September 16 Popsicles & Splash Pads Meet and Greet! Join Children's Ministry Saturday, September 16 at the Highland Road Park. Our staff will be there and ready to play from 10–11.30 am with parents and children ages newborn through 8th grade.

September 17 Communion Training Class with Gerrit. Kindergartners through 5th graders, and their parents, are invited Sunday, September 17 at 10.10 am in the Kingdom Kids classroom.

Joyful Noise and JAM Celebrate God's Promises. Joyful Noise and JAM (Jesus And Me) are musical ensembles for children ages 4 through 5th grade. Our mission is to develop a love for Jesus through music education! Children sing, dance and play every Sunday night from 5 to 6.30 pm in the Kingdom Kids classrooms located in our Sanctuary basement.

This fall we will learn about God's great family through the text of Ephesians and the story of Noah's ark. Children will discover that the Father unites us together in Christ Jesus just as he drew Noah and the animals together into the ark. God honors his promises to us and we can rejoice in his faithfulness! Join us beginning September 10. For more information, please email Lauren Honea (lauren@fpabr.org).

Volunteers for Childhood Ministry. Volunteers are needed for the So Loved nursery, Children's Church and Kingdom Kids Sunday school. Please contact Candace Walker for more information (candace@fpabr.org).

