

OCTOBER 2025

FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World



BEAUTY DRAWS US TO ACTION

By **SCOTT GRAHAM**

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer

I've been so grateful for the outpouring of congratulations that I've received from you for the recent completion of my Doctor of Ministry program. Gerrit has graciously given me space this month to share with you a little bit about my thesis.

The transcendentals of God declare that God is the ultimate source of three qualities: Truth. Goodness. Beauty. If you had to choose one of those attributes over the other two, which would it be?

While there's not really a wrong answer here, and we're blessed that we don't have to pick, it's likely that you didn't choose beauty as your "first among equals" character quality of the Lord. The evangelical side of church has traditionally been champions of declaring that God is objectively true and objectively good, but beauty? Isn't that simply personal taste?

Actually, no. For most of my pastoral life, I've served on ministerial committees for Presbyteries, preparing seminarians for churches, and working with pastors who are under discipline, at loggerheads with their session, or simply burned out. It is my belief that for most of these clergy, something took the place of Jesus Christ in their hearts as more beautiful, more meaningful; and this is a recipe for tragedy. Beauty draws us to action; what we find most compelling is what gives our life meaning and purpose. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the fount of every other glory that we encounter in life. If we let money, sex, power, even career or family take the throne of

our ultimate affection and attention, trouble and heartache will eventually follow, for all of those things will eventually disappoint us in some way.

My doctoral thesis lifts up the importance of the beauty of God, and uses a short diagnostic survey, a bit like a spiritual Meyers-Briggs test, to identify the way we are most likely to draw closer to God. Called our "spiritual inclination," it has been a part of spiritual direction in the Church for centuries. While similar to the enneagram exercise, spiritual inclinations have a firmer biblical basis, which may make it more palatable for the evangelical part of the Body of Christ. Some meet the Lord more easily through the created world; others encounter him as transcending everything our sensory world can show. Some of us are drawn to God first through our emotions, some through our reason. There are fancy terms for all of these, as you might imagine; I'm happy to pass those along if and when you want more.

Once one's particular spiritual inclination is identified, I move on to four paths to help the participant encounter God's beauty: meditation on particularly appropriate Scriptures, a sermon by the American Puritan pastor Jonathan Edwards, a volume of C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and finally, specific spiritual practices as outlined by Dallas Willard in *The Spirit of the Disciplines*.

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2 IT'S KIRKIN' TIME!
OCTOBER 26

3 PRIME TIME HEADED TO HOUMAS HOUSE

3 A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND THAT

4 OCTOBER CHURCH HISTORY INSTALLMENT

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 3 rEcess
- 23 Women’s 50s/60s Social
- 24 IFP Harvest Festival
- 26 Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans
- 28 Houmas House Trip

BIRTHS

- August 28, 2025
Joshua Hinson Harpe
Parents are Celia & Granger
- August 31, 2025
Collette Marie Maranto
Parents are Kaitlyn & Jacob

BAPTISMS

- September 14, 2025
Lucille Taylor Anderson
Parents are Kalyn & Luke
- Maggie, Sidney & Jack Harrigill
Parents are Devon & Ryan
- Lyla Jean Kisling
Parents are Jessica & Aaron
- Edmund O’Rourke
Parents are Mary Frances & Colin

FLOWERS

- The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .
- OCT 5 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Ogle by Pat Canfield, Brittany and Jamy Comeaux and family.
- OCT 12 . . . in loving memory of Jonathan David Pugsley honoring his birth date of October 17 by his parents and sister, David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.
- OCT 19 . . . 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.

REFORMATION SUNDAY KIRKIN’ CELEBRATION OCTOBER 26



Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans October 26

Every year on Reformation Sunday, we celebrate our Presbyterian heritage. In this service we focus on what mattered most to our Scottish forbears: not ethnicity, but the gospel of Jesus Christ. From Scotland, we have inherited a passion for Jesus Christ as he is known to us in the Scriptures. Whatever our ethnicity, let’s celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith by wearing plaids, kilts and tweeds at our one 10 am Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans service on October 26. A congregational meeting will take place during the service for the purpose of electing next year’s elders and deacons.



Refreshing the Kirkin’!

Our Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans clan list needs refreshing! We’re starting with a blank page. If you’d like your Scottish clan called, please communicate its name by dropping a note in the offering plate, calling the church or emailing Jaci (jaci@fpcbr.org) by October 20. Also, we would like people of every ethnicity to participate. If you don’t have a Scottish clan, you are invited to bring a small token that is emblematic of your heritage: a fabric swatch, a pin, a postcard. We will dedicate these tokens along with the tartans. What a grand day it will be!

Elder and Deacon Election October 26

The session has called for a meeting of the congregation during the 10 am Kirkin’ service Sunday, October 26. The sole purpose of the meeting is the election of elders and deacons for the class of 2028. The congregational nominating committee, after receiving and prayerfully evaluating suggestions from the congregation during the summer, will nominate for elder: **Elders - Class of 2028:** Jennifer Cagley, Jess Concienne, Mike Dorman, Dan Gibson, Laurie Lemoine, Judy McGimsey, Jonathan Schellack, Jake Wood, Eric Zartman, Dan Zito. **Deacons – Class of 2028:** Chuck Booksh, Greg Boyd, Trent Frierson, Nathan McBride, Ed Middleton, Melissa Miley, Oliver Parish, Shannon Scott, Justin Smith, Mary Ann Yeargain.

Register for the Kirkin’ Lunch



Join us for a BBQ lunch in the Gym immediately following the Kirkin’ service. Options are either a smoked chicken or pulled pork meal with assorted sides. Just let us know your preference when you register online at fpcbr.org. Cost per plate is \$15 for all ages.

CHURCH APP UPDATES ON THE WAY!

After years of faithful service, our current **church app** is heading into a well-earned retirement! It’s been a blessing, but now it’s time to pass the baton to new ways of connecting. Thanks for tapping, swiping, and praying with us. Stay tuned for a different, fresh new tool in the works.

PRIME TIME CLUB IS HEADED TO HOUMAS HOUSE!

Are you ready for fall? We are looking forward to visiting Houmas House Estate and Gardens this month, having a buffet lunch in the Dixie Café and walking through the exquisite grounds. The visit will be on Tuesday, October 28 with lunch beginning at 11.30 am. The cost is \$25 per person and seating is limited to 60 people. Please pay online (fpcbr.org) or by calling Maureen Rucci or Brenda Salassi (contact the church office for their telephone numbers). If you are interested in touring the Mansion or the Museum, you may purchase tickets inside the gift shop. Transportation is on your own.



October
28

SAVE THE DATE: The Prime Time Club Christmas luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at Boudreaux's Catering from 11.30 am-1.30 pm. Mark your calendars for this wonderful celebration of the Christmas season with your PTC friends.

WOMEN'S 50s AND 60s SOCIAL OCTOBER 23

There is no agenda! This is just an opportunity to get together in fellowship and just hang out. Join us on Thursday, October 23 (location TBD) from 6 to 8 pm. Please RSVP to Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@fpcbr.org). Feel free to bring an app or beverage.



HARVEST FESTIVAL OCTOBER 24

International Friendship Partners (IFP) invites you to a Harvest Festival on Friday, October 24 from 6 to 8 pm at the Bealls' (Kyle, Rosemary, Nathan, Asher and Abigail - 1452 Glenmore Avenue). This has become an annual IFP favorite! We'll play games, fellowship, introduce internationals to some local culture, learn about theirs, and have a costume contest. The event will be catered but if you love to bake, our Cake Walk is the perfect place for your contribution. Please email LeeAnn Kozan if you have questions or would like more information (leeannkozan@gmail.com).

CARING TO LOVE BANQUET WITH ELISABETH HASSELBECK

Join Caring to Love Ministries at its 40th annual Celebration Banquet and Gala on Thursday, November 6 at the Renaissance Hotel. Keynote speaker is Elisabeth Hasselbeck, a former national talk show host, author and faithful advocate for life and family values. Contact jaci@fpcbr.org if you'd like a complementary seat at the FPC table. Additional seating available via ctlm.org.

PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORAL SEARCH

We invite you to continue praying our Pastoral Search. Intercessory prayer cards are available at the Connection Center and online at fpcbr.org.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS ARRIVING SOON

Keep an eye on your inbox—quarterly giving statements arrive soon. It's a great time to reflect on the impact you've made this year. If you've made a pledge, now's the perfect time to fulfill it. Every gift fuels our ministry and mission. Thank you for being a part of God's economy!

DEDICATION SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 16

Stewarding God's Grace

On November 16, we want to rededicate ourselves as a reply to Christ's beautiful grace. We'll make our financial commitments, and we'll also offer places where we might like to serve. Estimate of Giving cards will be in the pew racks and online at fpcbr.org.

SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

OCT 5: Philippians 3:1–8

OCT 12: Philippians 3:8–11

OCT 19: Philippians 3:12–16

OCT 26: Philippians 3:17–4:1

DEATHS

August 29, 2025

Don Morgan

September 2, 2025

Jean Gladys Lamond

Mother of Mark Lamond

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON

Senior Pastor

DARIN TRAVIS

Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM

Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD

Associate Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



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BEAUTY DRAWS US TO ACTION, *continued from page 1*

What I have discovered so far is that either Edwards or Lewis, along with the Scriptures, will fire the individual's imagination in such a way that they long to spend more time with Jesus Christ, and there is a recognition of the value and joy of doing so. The opportunity for personal revival is sparked.



Perhaps David has it right after all: *One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple (Psalm 27:4).* I look forward to pursuing the glory of God with you in this great adventure of faith we are on together!

PARKINSON'S DANCE & MOVEMENT CLASS

Join us each Friday, 9–11.30 am, in Sanctuary Building room 219 (mirrored classroom). It is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the church office 225.387.0617.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN 1812: CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

By Zora Olsson

With the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812 winding down, on April 30, 1812, Louisiana gained statehood. Presbyterians were planting churches in Mississippi and looking into possibilities in Louisiana. When the United States assumed possession of this portion of Louisiana, troops were stationed in Baton Rouge. William McCalla, a Presbyterian minister, was assigned as chaplain to the Army around 1815. Reverend McCalla found that no sermon had been preached in this area in the English language and invited citizens to worship with the soldiers on Sundays. Many came to hear his message. After he was reassigned, missionaries from Mississippi continued to preach.

