

January 15: Acoustic Communion Service Launch

As many of you know, the session of our church has been discussing and visioning the idea of another worshipping community here at First Presbyterian for over a year and a half. Instead of going the route of a new church, one that meets off campus as a separate congregation, the session decided to plant right here, in our own backyard.

It would be an “acoustic communion” service: liturgical yet casual, simple but deep, evangelical but richly formative. We set out to create a place where the rich history of the church would be embraced, while the connectational nature of a contemporary church was present. The service would follow the movement of praise, to confession, then to the preaching of the word, and ultimately, climaxing in the reception of the Lord’s Supper.

In the fall, a group of leaders began a “pilot” program for this new worship service. We spent seven weeks worshipping together, trying out ideas, and discerning God’s will for this service. The pilot program was an incredible beginning, with numerous positives outcomes. Here are some of the positives that emerged from our pilot program:

- 1) New leadership stepped up, owned their faith, and led our church.
- 2) New people came to church, despite the fact that we did not advertise or have a big marketing plan.
- 3) The overall attendance of the church increased: roughly fifty more people attended First Presbyterian Church during the pilot time than in past years. At the same time, our other services remained steady in their historical attendance.

4) Most importantly, God’s Spirit moved among us.

After reporting back to the church session in November, the elders unanimously agreed to move forward with the Acoustic Communion Service. To this end, it is a great pleasure for me to let you know that we will launch a new worshipping community on January 15th, 2012, at 11:15 a.m. in the church gym.

As a leadership team, we are excited about this opportunity, and we pray you are as well. As you continue to be an active participant in your current worship service, we hope you might support us with your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your evangelistic spirit. Yep, I slipped that last bit in on you, didn’t I? That’s because we would love for you to invite someone to come to the Acoustic Communion. This is not a new practice for most of us. Even though you may go to the contemporary service, many of you have invited a friend to the chapel or traditional service, because you know it will minister well to that person. We hope the same is true for the Acoustic Communion. We have a new space, a new format, and a new opportunity to reach out to people. All it takes is a simple invitation such as this, “We have a new service at our church and I think you might like it. How about coming one Sunday at 11:15?” You would be surprised at how many people are waiting to be invited to come to your church.

Yours in Christ, *Alec Flynt*



Get Threaded Into the Story: Perspectives Class

First Presbyterian is hosting a Perspectives course through which you will experience God’s heart for all people’s and encounter the momentum for the World Christian Movement. Perspectives will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God’s unchanging purposes and why they’re relevant to your life. With striking clarity, Perspectives illuminates God’s promises from Genesis to Revelation. You may never read your Bible in the same way when you experience how Jesus threads believers like yourself into His epic story.

Through Jesus Christ we will eventually see the expressions of the New Testament Church thriving among every nation, tribe, people and

language. Experience how God is threading diverse peoples into His story in culturally relevant ways.

There are endless opportunities to help complete the Great Commission. Getting threaded into the story is about discovering practical and strategic opportunities to leverage your passions, training and expertise for His glory at home and abroad.

Jan. 16 - April 30, 6:30-9:30pm
Sanctuary Lower Level
To audit: \$295.00
For Credit: \$545.00

Contact *Dick Gates* for further details
(dick@fpabr.org).

Love & Respect: Marriage Course

First is offering a Love & Respect Marriage course which will unpack 5 key principles creating “Ah Ha” moments and bring fresh insight into your marriage. Learn how to value your unique differences, resist misleading cultural influences, refocus on what made you friends, and effectively influence relationships. This small group begins January 15 continuing each Sunday until mid-February from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. For further details, contact Alec Flynt (alec@fpabr.org).

BR Area Hunger Relief

We’ve done it! Over the past year, through the Baton Rouge Area Hunger Relief Outreach, FPC members have donated **over 1,000 pounds of food** to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Supporting the GBR Food Bank is one of the local missions projects at First Presbyterian Church. We are asking the congregation to become involved in supporting this valuable ministry by bringing nonperishable food items to church on the **first Sunday of each month** and deposit them in the **Red Food Bank** barrels located in the Narthex and near the east side exit of the Educational Bldg. Items needed include: canned vegetables, canned soups, canned meats, dried beans, flour, rice, pasta, peanut butter, breakfast items, and corn meal. Every filled barrel of food will feed a family of four for a week. This local missions outreach program is an ongoing ministry of our church to the local Baton Rouge area. The need is great. Please consider supporting this vital outreach effort to our local community.



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JANUARY CALENDAR

Combined 10:30 Service	Jan 1
Prayer Meeting, 6:00 pm	Jan 4
Prayer Meeting, 6:00 pm	Jan 11
Polar Thang Youth Trip	Jan 13-15
Acoustic Communion Launch	Jan 15
Marriage Study Begins	Jan 15
FAS Crowd Luncheon	Jan 16
Perspectives Begins	Jan 16
Standing in the Gap	Jan 18
Officers’ Meetings	Jan 23
Prayer Meeting	Jan 25
Annual Congregational Mtg.	Jan 29

Welcome to the New Year!

By Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

- Matthew Sermon Series**
- Love & Respect Marriage Class**
- Acoustic Communion Service**
- January Annual Meeting**

Welcome to the New Year! I richly enjoyed keeping Christmas with you. You swelled the sanctuary with your attendance. The cantata, the Pilgrimage, the Live Nativity, the story of Ruth in a Christmas context, and of course the mystery and joy of Christmas Eve services-- all of those made for a special season of worship amidst the warm fellowship of our church. During that time, as well, you sponsored seventy-five families through angel tree, gave over \$20,000 through the Christmas Offering to support the Christian Outreach Center, and pledged a record amount to our 2012 budget. As ever, you continue to amaze me with your joyful spirit and generous hearts. I love to be your pastor!

We have a wonderful year ahead together. This winter, we will dive deep into the Gospel of Matthew. In particular, we will explore the way that Jesus revealed the heart of his Father through what he taught. We will look intensely at the stunning, provocative series of teachings known as the Sermon on the Mount. I always have to take a deep breath and gather my courage before preaching from the Gospels and especially from Jesus’ own teachings. Because he never leaves me the same!

This winter, we will also offer a great Sunday evening class for married folks. Entitled *Love and Respect*, Kinch and Audra Cato will lead our discussion of this video series. Across the

country, couples of all ages have reported that this class warms, strengthens and grows their marriages. More information is in this issue. Class begins January 15 at 5PM.

After a seven week pilot program, the session has approved offering a fourth worship service on Sunday mornings. We call it Acoustic Communion and there are more details in Alec’s column. The idea is not to divide our church into fourths instead of thirds, but to grow our church through people currently not here. We believe there is a niche in Baton Rouge for this style of worship. Most settled contemporary and traditional worshippers will *not* prefer this style. It’s a hybrid of “ancient/future” or “liturgical/casual” or “laid back traditional.” But we believe there are folks not yet here, particular those in the millennial generation (who came of age around 2000), who will find it attractive. Later in the winter, the leadership team of church planters will be commissioned at our worship services. Let’s all pray and wish well these leaders as our church, together, launches this new venture.

Finally, we plan to conduct our annual meeting in a new way this January. Instead of missing Sunday school and jamming it between worship services, we hope to offer an early evening of fellowship, testimony, dinner and a bit of business on Sunday, January 29th. (There are no NFL playoffs that afternoon, so you won’t have to miss the Saints!) Come at 4:30PM to the gym. Hear what God has been doing in the lives of your fellow members. Enjoy a great meal. See what your leaders have planned for the months ahead. Let’s make this a new tradition!



inRegister
A WOMAN WITH A CAUSE: MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to FPC member Jane Kirkpatrick! Jane currently graces the cover of InRegister magazine as a woman with a cause. Her 15 years of volunteering and fundraising for Louisiana Public Broadcasting is highlighted in the December issue. Pick up a copy at your local newsstand or view it online at www.inregister.com.

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New Births:

October 12, 2011
Camilla Barrow Behmes
Daughter of Rebecca and Jacob Behmes
Grandparents are Bunny and Ron Ferris

Baptisms:

December 11, 2011
Kate Emory Adams
Parents are Bonnie and Will Adams

December 11, 2011
Davis Watkins Kucharchuk
Parents are Jessica & Andrew Kucharchuk

Weddings:

December 10, 2011
Melissa Sexton married Wade Gomez

December 17, 2011
Sarah McKee married Christopher Pipsair

In Memoriam:

November 13, 2011
Thomas Paulsen Hall
Son of Anna Marie Hall (former member)

December 1, 2011
Billie B. Barton

December 3, 2011
Ludwika Waldron Yoes

December 11, 2011
David Butler, Sr.; Uncle of Joy Butler

December 20, 2011
Dawn Baker; Mother of Carl Baker

Sanctuary Flowers serve to honor a departed loved one or celebrate with thanksgiving cherished people or events. The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary ...

Jan 8: To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Pollard Sr. by Deborah Pollard van Hecke, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. O. Miles Pollard and their families.

Jan 15: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Larry Charles Musgrove, Sr. and Frank L. Norwood, Jr. by Chrystal Norwood Musgrove, Chuck and Alison Musgrove and Jeff and Christy King.

Jan 22: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pauline and Robert Thurston, and Ann and Philip Miller grandparents of Scott Thurston and to John Waldie, father of Joann Thurston given by Joann and Scott Thurston.

Jan 29: To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Cabbage and Mr. and Mrs. Frances G. Frazier parents of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson.

A Report and “Thank you” from Rebecca

“Kolo sana wa entu tybeen!” That’s the traditional Egyptian holiday greeting. I want to thank everyone for your love and support over the last year as I have continued to serve with the local church in Cairo. They have had a difficult year -- politically, economically, and emotionally. The revolution of the “Arab Spring” has continued on, through Summer, Fall, and Winter. It has been amazing to serve there amidst the clashes and to see how God has continued to prepare people’s hearts and stir the Church to witness His truth and love.

I thought the church in Cairo had lots of meetings each week, but since the revolution started, it seems like there’s always a prayer meeting going on. One of the ways our church here in Baton Rouge is supporting our brothers and sisters in Egypt is by funding new, updated broadcasting equipment. This allows filming and live broadcast on satellite television of their church services to seeking hearts throughout the Middle East. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had conversations with someone in Egypt over the last year where they mentioned a prayer meeting, a discipleship program the senior pastor was

teaching, or a worship service they watched -- all because the Cairo church now has an expanded ability to record and broadcast. This is in large part because of you and your contribution to our Egyptian partners.

As I think back on those eventful days of 25 January to 11 February, 2011, and all that has followed, I’m pretty sure I’ll never experience another year quite like 2011! My life has been filled with God’s abundant blessing, and His unfailing protection.

Looking to the future, things are still stirring -- in the nation, in the church, and in individuals’ hearts. I look forward to returning soon to Egypt for a third year. I am so blessed to have your support, encouragement, and prayers as I try to be the hands and feet of Christ. As we sang in church here in Baton Rouge recently, “Let my soul magnify the Lord.” Thank you again for being a church that is committed to God’s glory being revealed here and abroad.

With Love,
Rebecca Lunceford

On the New Stained Glass Windows

In 1987, just after the completion of our chapel, Catherine Dunham asked me to create windows in the connecting hallway which would emulate the sanctuary stained glass yet remain opaque enough to block the views into what was then our children’s playground. She chose an amber “opak” as the dominant glass which was mouth-blown and hand-rolled in Germany. It served its purpose well. Things change.

Just after the completion of our new courtyard/amphitheater space this year, Claire (my wife) suggested that we replace those windows with more transparent, view-enhancing glass. Not wanting to deny Claire her every whim, three criteria were employed in the design of the six new windows: first, each has in some bordering fashion re-used the original amber opak chosen by Mrs. Dunham; second, each has a mostly clear center; third, each employs the use of traditional liturgical shapes (trefoil, quatrefoil, arches) which are adorned with ‘found objects’. These found objects from my career-long collection of broken tail-lights and wine glasses, shards from the Mississippi River, repair fragments from ours and other sanctuary windows, agate slices, antique jewels, bevels, and bits and pieces of glass made over the last 150 years, probably never to be duplicated.

Symbolically, they speak of our church being formed of our brokenness, our beauty, our young and old, our wise and weird (Rick S.). For example, the lightly etched excerpts from Scripture and older hymns are some of my favorites. The “Ebenezer” verse from “Come

Thou Fount...” should always be sung with this hymn because it prompts people (as it did me years ago) to research why we “raise our Ebenezer”! Each drawing in my sketch book, every collage and painting, and every stained glass window is for me an Ebenezer! The verses of “This Is My Father’s World” have long been my ‘artist’s statement’.

The final window has a title: “Marionette, With No Strings Attached”. It’s a theme revisited from a window made years ago that hangs in Fred Grace’s studio. This one intentionally blocks the view. As a stained glass designer, it has been an opportunity to use the spectrum of color, the widest range of opacity to transparency, the use of old and new glass, and a favorite device of mine which makes a symbolic statement out of lead “came”, the line work which is the necessary structural element in a stained glass window. The three inch wide bar of lead suggests the horizontal beam of the cross as well as Christ’s agonizing separation from the Father.

Although my design, the windows were crafted by Warren Simmons, a master craftsman who works in my studio. Be on the lookout for an announcement of an upcoming opening in the old Kress building of a show of Warren’s unique paintings sponsored by the Art Council.

I want to thank the church for allowing me the freedom to create these windows. Deo Gloria!

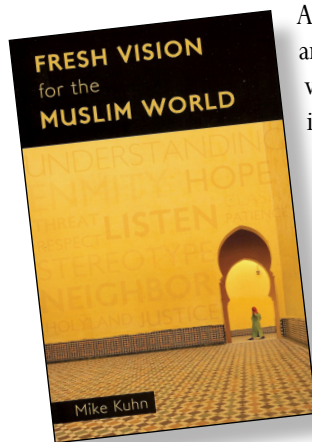
In the spirit of Aholiab and Bezalel,
Steve Wilson

High School Ski Treat: February 18-22, 2012

Our high school students are invited to go skiing in Colorado!!! This trip includes 3 days of skiing and 4 nights of worship. It is relaxing, fun, and will encourage you in your faith. For details contact Whitney Alexander (whitney@fpcbr.org) or go to <http://fpcbr.org/fpc/ministries/youthministries/tripsandretreats/SkiTreat.aspx>.

Middle School Polar Thang

Registration deadlines and price breaks are quickly approaching for the January 13-15th 2012 Polar Thang Middle School retreat. Dec. 31st is the deadline for the \$139 price for campers. It is also the deadline for all work crew registrations! Go to www.fpcbr.org to register online.



After living for more than two decades in the Middle East, pastor, author and college Arabic instructor Mike Kuhn wonders if there can be a fresh vision for the Muslim world—one not rooted in media hype or fear but in the values of Christ’s kingdom. Kuhn joins First Presbyterian for its annual Global Missions Conference as our guest speaker. Save the date for February 25-26, 2012 for this year’s conference centering on Kuhn’s “Fresh Vision.” On Saturday morning, Feb. 25, we will have two seminars. Sunday morning, Feb. 26, Kuhn will speak at a combined Adult Sunday School class following our single 10:30 am service. Finally, Kuhn will speak again Sunday evening after a 6:00 pm dinner. Further details will follow but in the meantime, please be sure to mark your calendar: *February 25 and 26, 2012.*

Spring 2012 Women In Ministry Key Dates

Women in Ministry desires to serve the women of First Presbyterian by crafting venues for us to press deeper into Christ and further into the world. Over the next few months we will offer weekly and monthly Bible Studies, a day of reflection and spiritual nurture in March, and our fun-filled spring picnic so that you may invite your friends and enjoy connecting with one another and the Lord in April. More information about our special times of fellowship will follow.

CONNECT
Sunday, January 22 Women 2011 New Members Gathering (at Sharon Field’s from 2pm until 4 pm—invitations to follow for all who joined our church family this past year)
GROW
Monday, January 16 Young Women’s Deuteronomy begins (at Paige Davis’ home at 7 pm)
Thursday, January 19 Deuteronomy Bible Study begins (at First Presbyterian at 9.15 am)
Thursday, TBD Young Mom’s Bible Study (at First Presbyterian at 9.30 am)
REFLECT
Saturday, March 24 Reflective Day in the Country (at Nan Boydston’s farm)
FELLOWSHIP
Tuesday, April 24 Spring Picnic (at First Presbyterian)

Additionally, we are always pleased when women join our Circle Ministry which meets once a month for Bible study, fellowship, and service in our city and in our world. This is a wonderful place to make friends for life! If you are interested in joining a First Presbyterian Circle, please contact Ruby Ann Walsh for more information (rubyawalsh@yahoo.com).

JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 Circle 1 Sue Spaht, Chair (343.5486) Location: Helen Bowman, 9:45 AM 231 Dutch Highland Lane (768-7634) Circle 2 Ellen Fox, Chair (769.0936) Location: Bea Ferriss, 9:45 AM 10364 Hillyard Dr. (293-0695) Circle 3 Eugenie Bургlass, Chair (767.6407) Location: CP Apts., 9:45 AM 655 North St. Circle 4 Memory Green, Chair (246-8197) Location: Jeannie Price, 9:45 AM 8465 Scarlet Dr. (924-4782) Circle 7 Peggy Anderson, Chair (344.0127) Location: Peggy Anderson, 6:30 PM 322 Wiltz Dr. (344.0127)
Thursday, January 5, 2012 Circle 11 Vicki Lindrew, Chair (387-0617) Location: FPC EB 201, 12 noon
Tuesday, January 10, 2012 Circle 5 Betty Baker-Baldrige, Chair (928.5725) Location: Linda Grace, 10:30 AM 7954 A Wrenwood Blvd. (927-2170) Circle 6 Hallie Garrison, Chair (755-1461) Location: BR Country Club, 10:30 AM Hostesses: Sara Bateman (924-1329) & Marilyn Gladden (928-1117) Circle 8 Elizabeth Rennhoff, Chair (752-7215) Location: Cheryl Brodnax, 6:30 PM 36263 Toulouse St, Prairieville (677-5929)
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 Circle 9 Sugar McAdams, Chair (383-4642) Location: Laura Shaw, 7:00 PM 5741 Menlo (767-0715)
Wednesday, January 19, 2012 Circle 10 Sandy Zwez (753.1188) and Pat Canfield (295.0084) Location: Drusilla Seafood, 5 PM

Circle Chair/Co-Chair Meeting

January 17th at 11:30 in Rm. 202 of the Education Bldg. Lunch will be served.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Come worship with us!
7:45 a.m. Chapel Communion Service
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Classic Reformed Service
11:15 am Acoustic Communion Service

Sunday, January 1, ad 2012
Hebrews 5: 11-14, “By This Time”
Barry Phillips

Sunday, January 8, ad 2012
Matthew 3: 1-12, “Get Ready for the Fire”
Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, January 15, ad 2012
Matthew 3: 13-17, “This is My Son!”
Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, January 22, ad 2012
Matthew 4: 1-11, “The Temptations of Christ”
Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, January 29, ad 2012
Matthew 5: 1-19, “The Beatitudes”
Gerrit Dawson

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor
Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive
M. Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of City Ministry
Richard “Dick” Gates
Associate Pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care
J. Alec Flynt
Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Discipleship
Josh Maddin
Director of Youth Ministry



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Joyful Noise Resumes Jan. 16

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir is starting up again January 15 from 5:00-6:30 pm. All children from K/4 year old through 5th grade are invited.