

FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World

SEASON OF MEMORIES AND HOPES

By Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

At the close of the year, we welcome the loosening of heat's grip (at last) and the pleasantness of our town in these months. We also start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas. Anticipation builds for seeing loved ones. Sorrow rises over who won't be there this year. It's a poignant time. Even though winter does not close in on us like it does in the north, we feel the impulse of home gathering, with all the memories and hopes it brings.

Some November Notes:

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 10 at 4 pm, we will host a worship service for those who have lost children. We will give space for grief and gently recall the hope of the gospel. We will be able to light candles to affirm that the light of life continues in Christ, and we will see our little ones again. You are most welcome to bring friends from outside our church.

Earlier that day, we will have dedicated our 2025 estimates of giving during worship. I can never stress enough how helpful it is to our planning when our members make an intentional estimate of how they expect to support financially our church in the coming year. In case you're traveling, remember how easy it

is to turn in your estimate! Just visit fpabr.org or email courtney@fpabr.org.

November 1 saw the official ground breaking for Gardere Community Christian School's new multi-purpose building. That meant we were able to complete our half million dollar pledge from the Building Up campaign. Well done!

Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. As we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus at Christmas, we will also celebrate and await his second coming. The beautiful vision of the wedding supper of the Lamb to his bride, the church, will flow through all our services. One highlight will be the choir cantata December 8, "Dancing Days," featuring all new music from Chris Phillips, combined choirs and an orchestra. That's a big weekend as our perennially popular Live Nativity returns Friday, December 6. It's always a joy to keep this season with you, in both the memories and the hopes it brings. Especially now, I love being your pastor,

Gerrit



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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 rEcess
- 7 GriefShare® Group Begins
- 10 Dedication Sunday
- 10 Service of Healing and Hope
- 14 Women’s 30s/40s Social
- 22 Bethany Centre Fall Art Show
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 28 & 29 Church Office Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 6 Live Nativity
- Dec. 8 “Dancing Day!” Cantata
- Dec. 8 Annual Downtown Pilgrimage
- Dec. 14 Women’s Advent Brunch

IN MEMORIAM

October 22, 2024
 Toliver Bozeman III
 Father of Toliver Bozeman IV

October 23, 2024
 Ruthie Kean
 Mother of Mark Shoptaugh

BAPTISMS

October 13, 2024
 Marguerite Jane McBride
 Parents are Sally and Nathan

Piper Celeste Phillips
 Parents are Virginia and Chris

MARRIAGES

October 12 2024
 Elizabeth Landreneau to Eric Davis

BIRTHS

October 10, 2024
 Isla Florence Scogin
 Parents are Mary-Emeline & Clayton Scogin
 Grandparents are Rhonda & Gerrit Dawson

October 24, 2024
 Warren McVea
 Parents are Claire and Stephens

2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT



In preparation for our 200th anniversary, we are looking back, looking around, and looking forward. Our strategic plan is the result of nine months of prayer and participation by the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. Over 600 members provided input and feedback through surveys and focus groups. The strategic plan committee used these results and comments as well as best practices and known challenges to create this path forward. To quote one member, “What a joy it is to carry on the good work that began so long ago!” Please visit the church website for the complete report. Printed copies of the report are also available at the Connection Center.

NEW GRIEFSHARE® GROUP STARTING SOON



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. FPCBR’s new group will meet on Thursdays, 6.30–8.15 pm starting November 7. Pat Canfield and Jim Carver will be our facilitators and for the first time we will meet at the First Presbyterian (security is being provided).

Over the 13 sessions, 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. Space is limited. Please let Scott Graham or Laura Shaw in the Pastoral Care office know promptly if you are interested in participating (225.240.0222).

GOBBLE. GOBBLE. FRIENDSGIVING SOCIAL



Join us for fun, fellowship and finger foods at our 30s/40s Ladies’ Friendsgiving Social! We’ll meet on Thursday, November 14 from 6–8 pm at the home of Elizabeth Fourrier (1525 Cameron Avenue). Thanksgiving inspired appetizers and spiced apple cider will be provided. Feel free to bring any other beverage of your choice.

This social is intended for women in the 30s/40s age range, but truly anyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend or someone you know who may be interested in connecting with others, even if they aren’t in this specific age range!

CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

Nov. 3 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean Glisson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wesley McLean by Linda & Mike Glisson and family.

Nov. 10 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jolie Berry who faithfully served the church as Deacon, Elder and Presbytery Moderator, by her husband Gene and their children, Katherine Hearn and David Berry.

Nov. 17 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eugenie “Mimi” Wilson Alsobrook and Joe Gibson by Eugenie and Harry Burglass.

Nov. 24 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Florence & Mack Gregorie and to honor of her dear Aunt, Nita K. Harris by Ann K. Gregorie and Nancy Sue Burton.

GET READY FOR ADVENT

ANGELS ARE HERE!

now Help us to bless the children of incarcerated parents this Christmas. Volunteers are needed to provide a Christmas present for children or to help with gift delivery. Visit Ryan Castle at the Connection Center or contact him at ryanecastle@gmail.com or 225.773.4769 for details.



“CHRISTMAS THAT CARES” OPEN HOUSE

nov 14 The Purple Cow “Christmas That Cares” open house is Thursday, November 14. Stop by the location at Perkins and Acadian between 4 and 6 pm to greet Gerrit and the Board. Donate new or gently-used Christmas decorations, household items or clothing, find some great deals and get the season started. The Purple Cow proceeds power the great ministry of the Christian Outreach Center.



CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS, ANGELS, AND WISE GUYS!

dec. 5&6 Would your family like to be a part of sharing the gospel in this year’s Live Nativity? One rehearsal. No speaking parts. All ages. To serve as a member of this year’s cast, contact Lauren (lauren@fpcbr.org) or Chris (chris@fpcbr.org). Rehearsal is Thursday, December 5. Performances are at 5.30 and 6.30 pm on Friday, December 6.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

dec. 10 All are invited to help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Please place your order by Sunday, December 15 by using the order form outside the Chapel or at the Connection Center. Those who purchase a poinsettia are welcome to take it home after the 6 pm Christmas Eve service.



SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN’S ADVENT BRUNCH

dec. 14 Further details to come but please circle your calendar for Saturday, December 14. The annual Women’s Ministry Advent Brunch will be at 11 am at Tricia Davis’ home.



ONE STORYTIME READER AND FIFTEEN ENCOURAGERS NEEDED!

Hey First Pres! Our adopted McKinley Elementary needs a little more love! We still need volunteers for the following: One Storytime Reader for Tamera Wilson’s pre-k class and 15 teachers and staff would love an Encourager: Farylece Brooks, Maria Herrera, Curtsi Savage, Regina Rizzutto, Charon Davenport, Stephen Maxie, Sybil Thomas, Dwight Anderson, Shanterri Bradley, Azure Bridgewater-Toney, Roger Carter, Albertha Hills, Helen Tate, Uzoma Wilson, Nicole Holmes. To volunteer, stop by the Connection Center to sign up, email Laura Shaw at laura@fpcbr.org or call the church office at 225.387.0617.

SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

NOVEMBER 3
Revelation 13:1–10

NOVEMBER 10
Revelation 15:1–8

NOVEMBER 17
Selections from Revelation 16 & 17

NOVEMBER 24
Revelation 18

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM
Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Associate Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



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

FALL ART SHOW AT CITY FARM

Touch, and be touched, by the art from students attending Bethany Centre Primary & High School in Uganda.

Join us for the Bethany Centre 2024 Art Show on Friday, November 22 from 6 to 9 pm at City Farm (1800 City Farm Drive). Over 100 batiks created by the students in Uganda and art by local artists here in the U.S. will be offered for sale. Proceeds from the art show will be used to equip the new high school science lab and computer lab with Starlink internet and other day-to-day operating expenses.



PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR JEFFREY MARX COMING TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Men of all ages, circle the evening of Tuesday, February 4 on your calendar! Pulitzer Prize-winning Jeffrey Marx (author of the LSU sports book *Walking with Tigers*) will be with us to talk about his classic *Season of Life: A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood*. Marx's account of Baltimore Colt turned pastor Joe Ehrmann and his ministry Men for Others is one you won't want to miss. Marx an in-demand speaker and we are fortunate to have him here in Baton Rouge! This is a great event to bring your son, your father, or your friend from work. Dinner and door prizes will be involved. Stay tuned for more details!