

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

fpcNEWS

October 2016 Volume 50-10

A Season of Change

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

For so many reasons, I'm thankful it's autumn. The summer of 2016 pressed and flushed over our city. Tragic shootings. Historic flooding. Relentless heat. We long for a change. Maybe, just maybe, as you read this a breath of cooler air has revived your spirits. But more, people of all races, classes and accents have joined hands across the ruined homes to work together in rebuilding our city. We have declined the definition of our city that outside groups want to give us. We are determined to be more. And it's very clear that God is at work among us.

Some fifty members of Abounding Love Ministries joined us for worship for five weeks. The energy and the love were palpable. For the first time in 190 years a black woman preached the Word strongly from our pulpit. For the first

time I know of, an African American pastor broke the bread and poured the wine before we partook together in communion. The tears we shed as this season came to an end were heartfelt. I believe these relationships are a Spirit "foothold" for the churches of Baton Rouge to cling together when racial tensions threaten the shalom of our city. We have so much yet to do, but there is a real basis now for moving forward.

The connectational nature of being Presbyterian has also been stunning. Dozens of fellow EPC churches and members have sent relief funds, teams and supplies to us. The trust built up through our connections in shared worship, meeting, prayer and mission have meant that we are not alone in this work. The national leadership of the EPC remembered us abundantly.

Meanwhile, the work of the church has continued to surge forward. Mission teams have visited Romania, Lebanon and Russia this summer. More than 30 small groups have begun meeting this fall. A significant parenting conference was held. The children's Sunday school overflows. The fellowship and joy of our worship has never been sweeter.

Yet a reality in a vibrant ministry is that we not only attract great members and

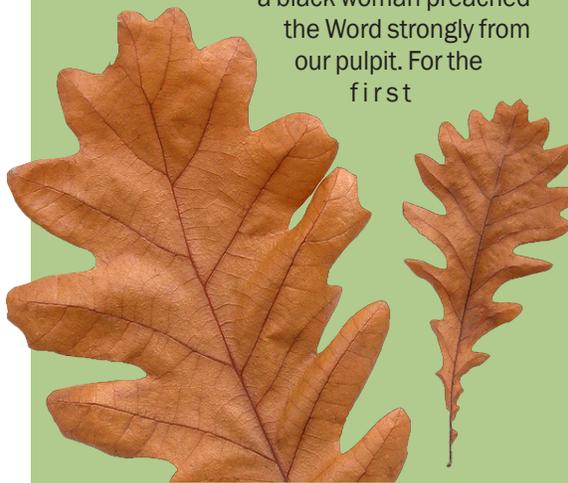
staff: we send them off to new ventures with our love. In the history of our church, we have nurtured two kinds of associate pastors: 1) those who stay with us for many years and become foundational to our mission, such as Whitney Alexander and Dick Gates, and 2) those who launch out to lead elsewhere, such as Case, Alec and now Derek. We will miss our dashing, musical, Longhorn-loving colleague, but we know his church planting work will be fruitful for the kingdom.

The seasons change and ministry is always dynamic, but a what a joy that we get to do this together!

Caring to Love Banquet

Kristan Hawkins will be this year's featured speaker November 10 at the CTL banquet and November 11 at a leadership breakfast at our church. Kristan is founder and president of Students for Life, now on over 1,000 campuses. The millennial generation is pressing the sacredness of life and the stark reality of the abortion industry with a boldness not seen before. These students are willing to tell the truth frankly and winsomely to their peers. Kristan is a loving, daring pioneer in leading the next generation to change our culture. Watch the bulletin for more info.

Gerrit



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OCTOBER CALENDAR

Open Air Ministry	Oct 2
Discover First Class	Oct 2
rEcess	Oct 7
Global Missions Potluck	Oct 18
BR Symphony Concert	Oct 27
One Worship & Congregational Meeting (Kirkin' O' the Tartans)	Oct 30

IN MEMORIAM:

August 27, 2016
Joseph Landry, son of church sexton, Joseph Landry

September 2, 2016
Alyce Jo Messer, mother of Sherry McKinley

September 24, 2016
Norman Peterson, father of Audra Cato

September 27, 2016
Jean Black

BAPTISMS:

September 11, 2016
Haven John and Elon Khoury Magnuson
Parents are Susannah and Matthew Magnuson

September 18, 2016
Maeve Virginia Mills
Parents are Kate and Zach Mills

BIRTHS:

August 21, 2016
Eduardo Neal Gowdy
Parents are Lauren and Andrew Gowdy
Grandparents are Samantha and Neal Gowdy

September 14, 2016
Katherine "Kate" Grace Guidry
Parents are Lauren and Collin Guidry

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God . . .

Oct 2 . . . and to honor with thankfulness our grandchildren: Wilson Russ, John Russ, Corinne Boydston, James Ryan Whittington and John Boydston III. We are so blessed. Nan and Herb Boydston.

Oct 9 . . . and in loving memory of Kathryn Leake Graving, James Wesley Leake, Lloyd W. Graving and Dr. and Mrs. Julius H. Mullins by Kathy and Julius Mullins.

Oct 16 . . . and in loving memory with thanksgiving for Jonathan David Pugsley, honoring his birth date of October 17 by his parents and sister, David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

Oct 23 . . . and in loving memory of Kay Curry, beloved mother and grandmother, given by Mary, Ryan, David, Luke and Mary Claire Dickerson.

Oct 30 . . . and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Carr, and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.



Why I Love (And Will Miss) First Presbyterian Church

By Derek McCollum

A few weeks ago, Joy and I announced that we will be moving. The Lord has called me to plant a church in

New Braunfels, TX, and we are excited to follow his lead. If you'd like to hear more about it, I'd love to talk with you.

But here's what I really want to talk about—you! Over the last 3 and a half years, you have encouraged my family and me with your love, hospitality and faith. There are so many things we are going to miss about you, but I'd like to name just a few:

• **You hunger for God's Word.** Psalm 119: 33-35 says, "Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it." I have found this to be true of the FPC community. You are a congregation that truly loves God's Word and desires to be led in the path of his commandments.

• **You love one another well.** Not only do the folks at First Presbyterian love the Bible, but you love each other too. You want to get together, eat together, visit together and serve one another. What a wonderful quality this is! Jesus

says in John 15, "love one another as I have loved you." It is evident that the people of FPC have taken this command to heart.

• **You are joyful.** This is a church full of smiles. The greetings are warm and the interactions heartfelt. And it is a joy that is contagious! The Apostle Paul begins his list of the Spirit's fruit with... "Joy!" What a joyful, fruitful congregation this is!

• **You are generous.** I have been both witness to and recipient of your great generosity. Hands are open with time, money and resources. And it is a generosity that comes from the heart rather than out of compulsion. The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver—I love this about you too!

• **Jesus is the foundation of all you do.** More than anything, I love the fact that your study, love, joy and generosity all flow from a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ—it is his love for you that is the foundation for your actions in return.

We will miss you when we are gone. But I hope we will take some of what we love with us. I know we'll leave here better than we came, and for that I am very thankful.

With love,
Derek

Kirkin' O' the Tartans and Congregational Meeting

Reformation Sunday, October 30, will be a single 10.30 service with brunch following (\$5/person). The bagpipes and drums will muster us on the front steps beginning at 10 am.

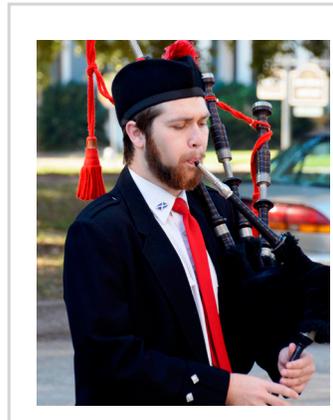
As Presbyterians, we know that our expression of faith was born in Scotland. So we celebrate Scottish heritage on this Sunday. But we also know that the gospel is universal, and the Scots once led the way in bringing Christ to the rest of the world. We will call upon our Scots again to lead each of us in standing for Christ before the world, even at cost of life and fortune, that all might know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Our October congregational meeting will be a part of our service as we elect our new elders and deacons.

2018 Nominated Class of Elders and Deacons

The congregation has nominated the following members for the 2018 class of officers. Please pray for our leaders.

Elders: David Bryant, Jane Cooper, Ryan Dickerson, Brett Furr, Linda Glisson, Pat Kerr, Sue Miley, Hank Mills, Hans Othmer, Tom Sawyer. **Deacons:** Laurie Adams, Kinch Cato, Anna Magee Gandy, Ray Gaspard, Boyd Greene, Sara Lemon, Alice Martty, Hardy Swyers, Alex Velazquez, Joe Willis.



Medical Mission Trip to Lebanon By Whitney Alexander

Don Elliot (FPC Corinth, MS) and I have been to Lebanon three times in the past 18 months. Each trip builds on the previous with the 2016 medical mission trip being no exception. It was most encouraging to see the Lord working through the efforts and prayers of this year's team of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, organizers and prayer warriors. The Lord is doing amazing things in the Middle East right now and we were privileged to be a small part of it.

Engage 2025 is a small part of what God is doing in the Middle East right now. Engage 2025 is a commitment of the EPC

- the Gulf South Presby-

tery and Central South Presbytery in particular - to reach the Muslim refugees in Lebanon and beyond: maybe into Syria one day as well. Reflecting on how the Lord worked before, during and after the trip fills me with thanksgiving.

Before the Trip

The commitment of Rebecca and Nour (FPC mission partners living in Lebanon) is remarkable (last name purposely omitted). Humanly speaking, the trip could not have happened without their preparation, faithfulness and oversight. They are gracefully responding to their call as leaders of the first ever Engage 2025 Field Team.



Putting together the team was a major prayer focus. We saw the Lord do new things as many team members were called from beyond the Central South and Gulf South Presbyteries.

The fundraising again was remarkable. Approximately \$22,000 was donated by churches and individuals in CSP and GSP. God provided for us through his people.

During the Trip

The evening team meetings were great times of worship, sharing, prayer and preparation for

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Let's Get Back to School!

Buchanan Elementary is open and ready to receive volunteers from First Presbyterian Church. We're getting a late start due to the flooding, but that won't stop our willingness to serve at our adopted school. For the next several Sundays, we are recruiting volunteers to serve at the school in the following capacities:

Reading Friend - a volunteer works one on one with a below-level reader to tutor, mentor and show the love of Christ. Training is provided by Volunteers in Public Schools.

Storytime Reader - volunteers read stories to classrooms and engage the students at least once a month.

Teacher Encourager - "adopt" a teacher or staff member and encourage them throughout the year through small gifts, prayer, notes, e-mails, etc. Going to the school is not required.

Special Events Helpers - help with a variety of special events held throughout the year including Staff Christmas Party, Prayer Breakfast, Fifth Grade Lunch and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

Committee Members/Coordinators - we would love to have new faces join this ministry—you need a heart for children and our city and a willingness to serve with a group that coordinates the activities at the school.

Sign-up sheets and more information will be at the Connection Center October 2, 9 and 16. You may also contact Laura Shaw at 225.278.1929 or laura@fpibr.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Communion
11 am Acoustic Communion

OCTOBER SERMON PASSAGES

Texts and titles are subject to change.

October 2, 2016
"Swimming Upstream"
John 15: 18-16:4

October 9, 2016
"The Spotlight Spirit"
John 16: 5-15

October 16, 2016
"Joy That Lasts"
John 16: 16-24

October 23, 2016
"In Me You Have Peace"
John 16: 25-33

October 30, 2016
"This Is Eternal Life"
John 17: 1-5

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor
M. Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions
Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry
Derek McCollum
Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Young Adults
Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive
Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer



PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010

fpibr.org

763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
www.brchristiancounseling.com

Flood Relief Book Drive. Several public schools lost all or part of their libraries due to the recent flood. Please join in the community-wide book drive by donating elementary level books. Sunday, October 30 through Thursday, November 10, books can be placed in the book drive box in the Connection Center or can be taken directly to the First United Methodist Church gym. Many thanks!!! For more information, contact Phil Espinoza, Missionary to Public Schools at FUMC, 383.4777 or Lynn Mitchell, 281.3710.

Offering Hope: Flood Relief Donations Continue

The clean up continues for many of our members and our community friends who have flooded. Please consider blessing others who need financial assistance. To donate, please visit the church home page (fpcbr.org) and click on the Flood Relief button.

Medical Mission Trip *continued from page 3*

the next day of clinicals. It was obvious the team members made the effort to come together.

It was obvious that God was at work. The doctors were all remarkable and humble in their practice.

The Resurrection Church outreach on Thursday became the Lord's surprise of the week for the team. The Egyptian translators, the staff and the neighborhood were all encouraging gifts to us. We learned that the Resurrection Church is a vibrant church that the Lord is using to reach many refugees with the gospel.

The Philemon Project was the most distinctive clinic of the week. The project is a Christian day care ministry to children of refugees, migrants and poor Lebanese. Its 75 preschool students gave the team a change of pace, sitting on the floor and loving on the children.

After the Trip

Amanda and Nick (last name purposely omitted) with their children, will be joining Rebecca and Nour to be the initial field team in the Engage 2025 vision. Their mission will be working with Syrian refugees in discipleship and church planting.

Will there be another trip in 2017? Pray about this. We are committed to work closely with these families.