

SUMMER 2025

FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World



SAVORING THE SEASON

By Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

One of our members was in New Zealand for Easter. Down under, the season was fall. Instead of spring flowers, autumn leaves decorated the Easter cross. While we start to swelter, it's winter in the southern hemisphere. Why do I mention this? Because attending to the differences in the world's latitude and longitude can create fresh awareness of how special this moment in this time truly is. Right now at a latitude of 30.45 degrees above the equator, summer is here. The sun rides high and stays long. We wake up not in winter dark but summer light. A million birds are singing. Ah, can you feel the ease in traffic now that school is out? Do you enjoy the long lit evenings after dinner? Have you found a place to dip into some cool water? There is much to savor.

We may often be thinking that appreciating nature is at odds with having so much technology. But that doesn't have to be so. I love having an app that tells me sunrise and sunset times. I can see how the light is always changing, and compare here to other places. I have an app that lets me identify the stars and planets I can see on a summer night. There's Arcturus ruling the summer sky! There's an app to identify bird sounds. And, if you're traveling, an app can tell you the altitude of wherever you are. Paying attention to light, stars, birds, trees, even the passing of the hours, can tune us into the wonder of the world God has made. Remarkably we live closer to our Lord when we intentionally enter the rhythms of his seasons.

I hope you get some refreshing changes of pace this season. Savor time with loved ones. Notice where you are. Kindle hope in Jesus' promise, "Behold I make all things

new." Wherever you are, know that I love being your pastor.



FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The data tells us that the "normal" duration of a search for a senior pastor in a church like ours is 18 to 24 months. We're just 9 months since election! So it is to be expected that we don't have a candidate for you yet, nor will we in the short term.

But we are working hard. Here are a few stats. Between us, we've listened to over 15,000 minutes of sermons! We've researched and explored more than 75 church situations and their pastors. We've had phone calls with more than a dozen, and longer interviews with several others. We've had exchanges from as far west as California and as far east as Scotland! We pray constantly. Express opinions openly. Share robustly.

We investigate any and every name submitted by the congregation prayerfully and thoroughly. But of course, it would not be appropriate for us to make any comment on any name. One day, in God's time, we will bring forth the pastor God has appointed for us! Meanwhile, Gerrit, the other pastors and the staff assure us there is no coasting. They are dedicated to the mission of our beloved church. We so appreciate your patience, your prayers, your trust, your encouragement and your suggestions.

2 | 5 WEEKS.
5 PSALMS.
1 FAITHFUL GOD.

2 | OFFICER
NOMINATIONS

3 | A MOST
INTRIGUING
STAY-TREAT

3 | SUMMER
WORSHIP
TIMES

4 | CHILDREN'S
AND YOUTH
NEWS

JUNE CALENDAR

2-6 Middle School EPiC Retreat
8 Lake Forest Ranch Meeting
8 Discover First Dinner
9-12 Vacation Bible School
21 Couples' Workshop
26 Women's Summer Luncheon
29 RYM Parents' Meeting
29 Youth Fireside Testimony Night

BIRTHS

May 18, 2025
Mae Lewis Shirley
Parents are Morgan & William

BAPTISMS

May 18, 2025
Ezra Ray Hinson
Parents are Hannah & Andrew

Eli Foster Zak
Parents are Claire & Thomas

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary
flowers are . . .

June 1 . . . given in memory of
Sue & Bill Edrington and Mary
& Emmett Edrington by Susie
& Buzzy Heroman, Leah & Billy
Edrington and Lynn & Mark
Edwards.

June 8 . . . given to the glory
of God and in memory of our
parents, Hazel & Paul Peters and
Jerry & Ned Hickel,
by Cherie & Bill Peters.

June 15 Open date.

June 22 . . . given to the glory
of God and in loving memory of
our parents, Dorothy & Joachim
Aubert and Emma & Pete Ramos,
by Fe' and Murphy Aubert.

June 29 . . . given to the glory
of God and in loving memory of
Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson on the
occasion of her birthday, June 30,
by Susan & Frederic Billings.

A JOURNEY THROUGH PSALMS: 5 WEEKS. 5 PSALMS. 1 FAITHFUL GOD.

The Book of Psalms captures the beauty and range of human emotion more emphatically than any other book of the Bible. It offers a rich tapestry of our devotion to God and mirrors the highs and lows of our walk with him.

Women's Ministry invites all women to join us each Tuesday evening in July as we journey through Psalms exploring different types of psalms and different facets of God's character and his relationship with us. Each week we will look at one key psalm from each of the five books (thanksgiving, penitential, pilgrimage, wisdom and royal). Teachers are Cheryl Brodnax, Arden Flynt, Lindsay Stratman, Stella Watkins and Jaime Carnaggio.

We'll meet on Tuesday, July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6 to 7.30 pm at the home of Martha Juban (1005 Carrollton Avenue). Light refreshments will be available.

SO, I'VE GOT A QUESTION . . . COUNSELING EDITION

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

How do I forgive someone who isn't sorry? What does healing from a past church hurt look like? How can I encourage my husband to go to counseling when he is unwilling? How do I handle toxic relationships in a Christ-like way? How do I navigate the pressures of social media with my teenage children? These questions have been asked in previous years at our Women's Ministry Summer Luncheon, "So I've Got a Question . . . Counseling Edition."

Do you have similar questions? Join us this year! We'll have a panel of counselors led by Sherry Kadair, Director of Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center, and also featuring Cheryl Brodnax, Melissa Hall Fabré, Joel Gilbert, and Lisa Head. All in attendance are free to ask the panel an anonymous question about emotional, relational, or spiritual wellness.

Join us on Thursday, June 26 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm in the Reception Room. Soups, Salads, Sips & Sweets will be available. The cost is \$15 per person and childcare will be provided. Anonymous questions may be submitted by emailing Jaime (jaime@fpcbr.org), as part of your registration, or at the luncheon. Visit fpcbr.org to register.



OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2028 CLASS

The Officer Nominating Committee nominates elders and deacons by receiving suggested names of members from the congregation, prayerfully preparing a slate and presenting the slate at the annual October congregational meeting for election. Please be in prayer about who you might suggest. Suggestion cards will be available in the pew racks and online beginning Sunday, June 29 and are due July 31.



Church History Fun Facts, Cont. by Zora Olsson

During the Revolutionary War, Louisiana was divided between the British and the Spanish. In 1777, Bernardo de Galvez arrived from Spain to serve as the Spanish Governor. His military experience made him well-suited for the role as it was commonly known that Louisiana would soon be dragged into the conflict. Those living in the village of Baton Rouge thought they would be ruled by Spain instead of England, which would mean Catholic control.

THE MOST INTRIGUING STAY-TREAT EVER

If you enjoyed *Golden Threads*, you're going to love our Stay-Treat this August 22–23.

We will host artist, theologian and pastor Christopher Powers for three dynamic presentations. We enjoyed Christopher's art on our bulletin covers all during the Revelation series. He calls his work "visual exegesis." His goal is to create pictures which touch us deeply with the truth in a Bible passage. During his time with us, we'll view many of his paintings and animations as he leads us to see the deep interconnections in Scripture. He'll take us into the grand overarching narrative of God's salvation in Christ. You can check out his work at fullofeyes.com.

**CHRISTOPHER
POWERS**
fullofeyes.com



DISCOVER FIRST DINNER

JUNE 8

Interested in becoming a member of our church? Join us for a Discover First Dinner on Sunday, June 8, a welcoming and informative evening designed to help you learn more about our mission, beliefs, and ministries. Enjoy a meal while meeting pastors, staff, and others exploring membership. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and discover how you can get connected and grow in your faith journey. We'd love to walk alongside you as you take your next step! Contact Emily Viguerie for more information (emily@fpcbr.org).

"SECURE CONNECTION" COUPLES' WORKSHOP

JUNE 21 AT THE CHAPEL ON SIEGEN

"Secure Connection" is an intensive couples' workshop facilitated by Dee and Pete Adams of Created for Connection of Baton Rouge. On Saturday, June 21, The Chapel on Siegen will host this one-day event designed to help couples work together on recognizing causes of disconnection and learn to repair, heal, and reconnect. Visit createdforconnectionbr.com for further information.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Would you like an opportunity to sing with our choir without a long-term commitment? Beginning Wednesday, July 2, you can join Chris Phillips in the Choir Room at 6 pm for 1 hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. Each rehearsal features a fun theme, some light refreshments, and fellowship. There is no audition. No previous experience is required. You don't even have to read music! We'll sing all kinds of music. From elementary school age to nonagenarians, all are welcome. You can sing for just one Sunday or you can sing for the entire month of July.



SUMMER WORSHIP

10.30 AM EACH SUNDAY IN JULY AND AGAIN ON AUGUST 3

First Presbyterian Church will have combined 10.30 am services each Sunday in July and on August 3. These single services replace our typical worship schedule blending the styles of Classic Reformed, Contemporary and Chapel Communion worship. All Sunday school classes (children, youth and adults) are taking a summer break and will not meet in July.

SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

JUNE 1
Acts 5:1–11

JUNE 8
Acts 8:26–39

JUNE 15
2 Timothy 1:1–2;
2 Timothy 2:1–2

JUNE 22
ACTS 9:1–19

JUNE 29
Acts 16

UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

June 30–July 2 STARS Camp
July 1 Confirmation Swim Party
July 1 W.M. Summer Study
July 6–Aug 3 10.30 am Worship

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

PRIME TIME CLUB JULY LUNCH

The Prime Time Club will meet at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant on Wednesday, July 2 from 11.30-1.30. The restaurant will provide sensation salad, seafood pasta, stuffed chicken breasts, potato casserole, green beans, and rolls along with iced tea and water. Dessert will also be served.



We are excited to announce that FPC member, Judge Robert Downing, will be our speaker. The Judge is President of the Board of Directors for Prison Seminaries Foundation. In addition to his legal career and judgeship, he participates in Prison Fellowship and is a frequent speaker about crime prevention and rehabilitation. Wear your red, white and blue and tune up your voices to sing some patriotic favorites.

The cost is \$30 per person. Registration is coming soon.

4

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Sunday, June 8: Lake Forest Ranch Parents' Meeting

10.10 am
Dunham Chapel

June 9–June 12: Vacation Bible School

Registration Closes Thursday, June 5, 2025 at midnight.
Visit fpcbr.org.

Friday, June 13, 20, 27 and July 4: High School Bible Study

9.30–10.45 am
Girls will study 1 John.
Boys will study Proverbs.
Contact Colton for study locations (colton@fpcbr.org).



Wednesday, June 25 & July 23: Middle School Bible Study

6–8 pm
First Presbyterian
Contact Daniel for information (daniel@fpcbr.org).

Sunday, June 29: RYM Parents' Meeting

10.10 am
Dunham Chapel

Sunday, June 29: Youth Fireside Testimony Night

6 pm
At the Tuckers'
15610 Philemon Thomas Court

June 30–July 2: STARS Soccer Camp

8.30 am to noon
Contact Colton to volunteer (colton@fpcbr.org).