Jesus our brother, our king, our priest and our access. It's the ticket you've just got to have!

It's great to be back after four weeks in the mountains. Well, the heat's not actually great, but seeing you is wonderful. And I could hear you all the way in North Carolina - singing out in worship and rejoicing in fellowship during our July combined services. Kudos to Derek, the music leaders, the fellowship organizers and all the participants in a great summer series.

You'll see elsewhere in this issue that Nashville composer and musician Buddy Greene is joining us for worship and a concert Sunday night, August 23. You're going to love him. Trust me on this one and bring lots of friends.

I'm so sad to let you know that our beloved organist Melvin Hale has accepted a job as organist/choir master at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. A cradle Episcopalian, Mel wanted to finish his sterling career serving this beautiful historic church. He loves us and wants to remain close to us. Mel's last Sunday will be August 30. He'll choose the hymns for Classic Reformed worship and finish with a triumphant postlude. We'll follow church with a reception of thanksgiving for his decade of ministry among us. Melvin, we love you and wish you every blessing.

Looking forward to a great Fall season with you,
In Memoriam:
June 19, 2015
Edith Frazier
Grandmother of Ashley Sides

June 28, 2015
Greg Glueck
Brother of Randy Glueck

July 14, 2015
Wylie Mae Greene
Grandmother of Boyd Greene

July 24, 2015
Billy Dever
Brother of Mary Blumentritt

July 29, 2015
Allen Harris

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

Aug 2 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall Shaw given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Gill, Mr. William Marshall Shaw, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Gustave Spaht II and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Holden Spaht.

Aug 9 ... to the glory of God and with grateful appreciation for our pastors and the church staff by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac, Jr.

Aug 16 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy, and Catherine Pugsley.

Aug 23 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annseele Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

Aug 30 ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydstun and Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr., parents of Nan and Herb Boydstun.

Buddy Greene
Singer/Songwriter, Buddy Greene
at Worship and in Concert

Sunday, August 23, Nashville recording artist and songwriter Buddy Greene will join us for worship at the 9 & 11 sanctuary services. Sunday night Buddy and his keyboardist, Jeff Taylor, will perform a concert in the sanctuary at 6 pm. Buddy delights audiences of all ages with great musicianship, crossover style and a passionate faith. He is most famously known for writing the Christmas hymn, “Mary Did You Know?”

On Saturday, August 22, Buddy will teach a workshop called “How to Worship Well and LeadWorshipWell.” Those interested in learning more about leading worship can join us in the sanctuary from 3 pm to 4.30 pm. Cost is free, but it is essential to sign up online (fpcbr.org) for the workshop and childcare (4 years and younger). You may also register at the Connection Center.

**On Sunday, August 23, both 11 am worship services will combine in the sanctuary.

Belonging to God Is the Truest Thing About You
by Whitney Alexander

God has been working deep in my heart and soul over the past 100 days during a sabbatical, a Romania Mission Trip, Fuller graduation, General Assembly and the Transforming Community Retreat.

This quote from Wilderness Time by Emilie Griffin describes part of my journey: “Times come when we yearn for more of God than our schedules will allow. We are tired, we are crushed, we are crowded by friends and acquaintances, commitments and obligations. The life of grace is abound but we are too busy for it. Even good obligations begin to hem us in.” The past few months have been healing for my soul as I reflected on Jesus’ words to Bartimaeus in Mark 10: 51: “What do you want me to do for you?” My desire is to be in God’s presence but this has been difficult over the past year. The German theologian Meister Eckhart puts it this way: “The reason we do not see God is the faintness of our desire.”

Normally shying from emotion, I have learned that it is important to let yourself feel how deep your desire goes. Desire is the fuel that drives the spiritual journey. Bartimaeus was able to cry out and throw off his cloak, get up and follow Jesus. Similarly, Jesus has invited me in during the sabbatical to help heal my heart and soul. When was the last time I felt a longing for God and a desire to awaken my soul?

Men’s Kick Off

Save the date for the annual Men’s Fall Kick Off (formerly called “Faith and Football”) at 6 pm on Thursday, September 10. This evening will “kick off” our Fall study on the book of Ephesians. Following Monday’s event, we’ll meet weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 am. All men are invited - bring your friends!

Habitat for Humanity
FPC 2015 Build
Everyone benefits!
September 24-October 17
Let's see. An average day in the life of a mother of young children: Make coffee, make beds (if time), change diapers, brush teeth and hair (don't forget self), sign homework papers, wipe up spill, grab breakfast to go, spend 20 minutes loading up car, wipe up another spill, drop off 5-year-old at school, go to grocery, realize 2-year-old doesn't have shoes on... And it's only 8 am. So when Thursday morning rolls around, there is nothing I'd rather do than to refuel in fellowship with my Mothers of Little Ones group (MoLo), to be rescued from life's many distractions and focus on Scripture.

It has been such a blessing for me to lead such a strong group of women each week who are hungry for the gospel. I honestly don't know how I would survive this season of life without this beautiful community of women to lean on, study with, pray with, laugh with and even cry with. I'm in awe of their insight, the comments shared and questions raised, all of which push us deeper into our understanding of our Father. Madeline Ellis told me, "I always leave grounded in the Word, renewed in spirit and tethered more tightly to women I love and trust more every day." And Lindsey Cotton has said, "MoLo is an answered prayer in my life. This group has provided lifelong friendships and a deep study of God's Word. To be able to pray for your fellow sister in Christ and encourage one another is truly a gift." I echo both of these women's sentiments. I love being connected to each of these women through prayer and study, and I leave every week feeling so re-energized and inspired by each of them.

The majority of the women in MoLo are in their 20s and 30s with younger children. Our fall semester starts on Thursday, September 10 from 9.30-11 am, and we will be studying Ephesians. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at jlcarnaggio@yahoo.com.

Caring for Others

If you are interested in serving those in your church who are experiencing personal difficulty and need a meal or an encouraging visit, please pray about meeting Tuesday, August 18 at 1 pm in the library. We will discuss ways to minister and bless others. Contact Dr. Gates at dick@fpcbr.org or call 620.0228.
Please join the Joyful Noise Children’s Choir at an Ice Cream Party! All families with children are invited to come meet the new directors, play games and have ice cream! The party will be held in the gym on Sunday, August 30 from 4 to 6 pm. For more information, please contact Lauren Honea, lauren@fpcbr.org.

Making a Difference In Our Schools

School is just around the corner and we will soon be recruiting volunteers to join our ministry at Buchanan Elementary. Consider donating a small amount of your time this year by serving as a Reading Friend, Teacher Encourager, Storytime Reader or Event Volunteer. We have an urgent need this year for someone to coordinate the Teacher Encourager program. This role involves matching church members with teachers that would like an Encourager and sending reminders throughout the year to the Encouragers to keep them on track. If you would like more information on the Coordinator role or any other volunteer opportunities, please email Laura Shaw at laurashaw2@yahoo.com or call 225.278.1929.

Fall Promotion Sunday

On Sunday, August 16, Children’s Ministry will promote our kids to the next grade/class level. On this Sunday, we will also kick off the new semester of children’s Sunday School. During each new lesson we will focus on the magnificent character of our great God and point our kids to the good news of Jesus in each story. Our new curriculum will present a great God who is worthy to be admired and imitated! This is an excellent time to have your children join us in Sunday School!

Parenting Conference in October

The Children’s and Youth Ministries are planning a parenting conference for the night of Friday, October 9 and the day of Saturday, October 10. Mark your calendar!