Save the Date, Men’s Retreat.
All men are invited to gather at the Solomon Center in Robert, LA March 6-7. Join guest speaker Dr. Dan Doriani of Covenant Theological Seminary for a time of fellowship and renewal. Further details and registration opportunities to come soon.

Some Go, Some Send: All Can Pray
The Global Mission Committee is considering the following mission trips this year. If you are interested, please speak with the contact person listed below. You will be expected to raise your own support but by deciding early you will have time to recruit both financial and prayer support. The number of team members is limited so start seeking the Lord’s guidance soon. Church members will be given first consideration and will be interviewed by the GMC.

Remember some can go, some can send, all can pray. Which would you like to be?

Uganda Bethany Center:  
Egypt Conference:
Dates to be determined  
April 2015

Contact Claire Wilson, 225.767.6690
Contact Dick Gates, 225.571.9149

Romania Smiles:
Egypt Sport Trip:
May 29-June 7, 2015  
August 1-10, 2015

Contact John or Donna Schwab, 225.379.3518
Contact Whitney Alexander, 225.810.2607

Information meeting, February 12, 7-8 pm, at the home of the Schwab’s, 2446 June Street

Only One Week Left! The REVEAL survey helps congregations gauge the spiritual growth of its members. Take the survey at fpcbr.org or at one of the computer stations set up in the reception room Sunday mornings from 7 am to 1 pm. A station is also available throughout the week in EB 201B. The survey ends February 8 so get it done!

Lake Forest Ranch Summer Camp 2015 camp dates are May 28 - June 1. Children in 2nd-5th grade by this summer can now register for summer camp online at lakeforstromach.com. For more information, contact Audra Cato (audra@fpcbr.org).

FEBRUARY CALENDAR
Prayer for the Nations Each Wed., 5:30 pm
Global Missions Conference Jan 31-Feb 1
9 and 11 am Worship Only Feb 1
Combined Adult Sunday School Feb 1
Abbe’s Soup for the Soul Feb 1
iEccles Feb 6
Congregational Meeting & Dinner Feb 8
Valentine’s Dance Feb 13
Youth Ski Trip Feb 14-16
Ash Wednesday Feb 18
Lenten Mid-Week Worship Begins Feb 18
Youth Gala Feb 27

FPC Youth Gala 2015
Begins Jan 31-Feb 1
Feb 14-18
Feb 27

2015 camp dates are May 28 - June 1. Children in 2nd-5th grade by this summer can now register for summer camp online at lakeforstromach.com. For more information, contact Audra Cato (audra@fpcbr.org).

IN THIS ISSUE
Following the Farthest Journey
First Presbyterian Helps Water An Oasis
City Ministry 2015
All Loves Excelling: Lent 2015

How’s this for odd: I’ve never been more excited for Lent to come! This year’s theme has taken me to depths I never knew existed. I never knew how close we could come to hearing the very heart-beat of Jesus’ prayers to his Father. I never knew just how far he journeyed to save us. Over the last nine months I have been preparing this year’s Lenten guide, sermons and small group studies. There is more potential here for soul transformation than any material I’ve ever worked with. I’ve never been so challenged personally, nor have I ever, in 30 years of ministry, challenged a congregation as I will challenge you.

The reason is that soon you will be able to join me in following Jesus on the epic journey he undertook to save us. We’re going to read the stories of his ever-deepening descent into the realms of sin and death to gather home his lost sheep. We’re going to sync up our hearts with Jesus’ heart as we pray the very prayers he prayed.

All Loves Excelling: How Far Jesus Came to Save Us is the theme for our Lenten explorations. For 42 days, we will be invited to walk with Jesus as we meet him in Scripture. We will be able to pray with Jesus as we go with him along his journey. We will drink deeply of the words of some of the greatest theologians and hymn writers of history. If it works, we will be able to sing out on Easter like never before the words of the hymn, “Love divine all loves excelling, joy of heavens to earth come down.”

These 192 page guides will be distributed during worship on Sunday, February 22. Small groups will begin that same week. Some copies will be available at the Connection Center beginning February 15 for those traveling over that weekend. The sermon series begins that same Sunday and continues through Easter.

Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will indeed lead us truly and deeply into the ocean of our savior’s love. Pray that we will have the strength and courage to swim in those waters for six weeks. Pray that we will emerge transformed and full of worship.

Blessing of the Beasts
Following the 11 am services on February 8, Derek and Gerrit and other FPC members will be on our lawn, offering prayer to participants in the Mystic Krewe of Mutts parade. We offer to bless people’s beasts and in the process we get to pray for them as well. Come help us greet owners and pets, pass out some biscuits and bless our city.
First Presbyterian Helps Water An Oasis

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.
Isaiah 58:11

Dear Pastors, Elders and our FPC family,

We Louisianaans certainly love our gardens. Even in winter their beauty and abundance are unparalleled. Everything about them affirms life and growth. Our favorite garden is First Presbyterian Church. The Christmas offering was amazing! Thank you!

As you continue to give so generously, the blessings of our garden on North Boulevard are being replicated and multiplied in the oasis that is the Gardere Community Christian School. You are providing for very real needs, starting with a first class education and previously unimagined opportunities. And, by our church and many other Christians partnering with us, God is receiving the glory. Our students, their families and the Gardere community see God’s love, faith and hope in action.

On behalf of GCCS, we bless you and thank you for undergirding this mission.

With much love and appreciation,
Dan and Nancy Zito
Ken and Elizabeth Novak

For further information about Gardere Community Christian School, please visit gardereschool.com.

*All Loves Excelling: How Far Jesus Went to Save Us*

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, Lent will focus intently on Christ’s descent to the wasteland and then shift from the downward journey toward resurrection. Everyone will receive a new daily prayer guide, All Loves Excelling: How Far Jesus Went to Save Us. (You can also sign up to receive the readings by daily email - fpcbs.org). Small groups will be offered. And the morning messages will focus on the themes in the study guide. Then we continue with our Lenten Wednesday Communion service at noon each week of the season with a light lunch following. Sign up for groups by visiting the Connection Center. The books will be given out at worship February 22. Plan to bring your friends for this transformative season at First!

**City Ministry**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our next COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 in our gym from 1:30-5:30 pm. Please join us and consider bringing a chicken spaghetti casserole, bread and/or a dessert. Please RSVP to Mike Salassi (225.241.4917) if you are interested in participating or preparing a casserole or dessert.

Our next OPEN AIR MINISTRY service opportunities are Sundays, February 1 and March 1. Please bring soft fruit (bananas and oranges) to the church kitchen by 11 am each of these Sundays. Thank you for your help!

**Manners of the Heart Volunteers Needed for Buchanan Classes**

Manners of the Heart classes will begin this semester for grades K-2 at Buchanan Elementary. We are looking for volunteers to help the instructors in the classroom to provide general support during the lesson. All training is provided. Classes will be held on Wednedays mornings. Lots of fun! Sign up at the City Ministry Center or email laurashaw2@yahoo.com for more information.

**City Ministry Committee Meetings**

The City Ministry Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month with the next meeting taking place on February 11. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to the church office if you have questions, you may contact Whitney Alexander, 225. 810. 2607.

**FEB. CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**1ST MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015**
Circle 15 Josse Concienne’s @ 7 pm
22721 Hickey Cr., Zachary (982.3212)
Circle 11 C-P. Apts. @ 7 pm
Circle 14 Kristen Carney’s @ 9.30 am
3161 Sewardson Dr. (921.0030)
**2ND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015**
Circle 1 FPC EB 101 @ 7 am
Circle 6 Becky Gifford’s @ 9.30 am
3161 Sewardson Dr. (921.0030)
**1ST TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015**
Circle 1 Helen Bowman’s @ 9.45 am
3131 Dutch Highland Rd. (768.7634)
Circle 2 Barbara Groebel’s @ 9.45 am
413 Shadow Oak Dr. (753.8038)
**3RD WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 2015**
Circle 10 Bistro Byronia @ 5 pm
1412 Government St.
Circle 16 Ingrid Medford’s @ 9.30 am
7662 Seven Oaks (329.5662)
**1ST THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015**
Circle 11 Church Library @ Noon
**1ST FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015**
Circle 7 Peggy Anderson’s @ 2 pm
1232 Wiltz Dr. (344.0127)
**SIAC Scholarship Applications**

The Session Income Allocation Committee is receiving applications between Feb. 23 and March 20 for financial aid to students attending a faith-based college. Applications for students should be turned into the church office. For information, please contact FPC’s business office at 225.387-0617.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Gerrit S. Dawson Senior Pastor
Richard “Dick” Gates Associate Pastor for Global Missions and Pastoral Care
M. Whitney Alexander Associate Pastor of City Ministry
Derek McCollum Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Young Adults
Barry Phillips Ministry Executive
Josh Maddin Director of Student Ministry

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

First Presbyterian Church supports.

The Christmas Message is First Presbyterian Church. The Christmas offering was amazing! Thank you!

As you continue to give so generously, the blessings of our garden on North Boulevard are being replicated and multiplied in the oasis that is the Gardere Community Christian School. You are providing for very real needs, starting with a first class education and previously unimagined opportunities. And, by our church and many other Christians partnering with us, God is receiving the glory. Our students, their families and the Gardere community see God’s love, faith and hope in action.

On behalf of GCCS, we bless you and thank you for undergirding this mission.

With much love and appreciation,
Dan and Nancy Zito
Ken and Elizabeth Novak

For further information about Gardere Community Christian School, please visit gardereschool.com.

**City Ministry**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our next COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 in the reception room after the 9 am and 11 am worship services to highlight our local ministries and offer ways you can get involved in 2015. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the directors of each of the ministries that First Presbyterian Church supports.

Our next OPEN AIR MINISTRY service opportunities are Sundays, February 1 and March 1. Please bring soft fruit (bananas and oranges) to the church kitchen by 11 am each of these Sundays. Thank you for your help!

**Manners of the Heart Volunteers Needed for Buchanan Classes**

Manners of the Heart classes will begin this semester for grades K-2 at Buchanan Elementary. We are looking for volunteers to help the instructors in the classroom to provide general support during the lesson. All training is provided. Classes will be held on Wednedays mornings. Lots of fun! Sign up at the City Ministry Center or email laurashaw2@yahoo.com for more information.

**City Ministry Committee Meetings**

The City Ministry Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month with the next meeting taking place on February 11. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to the church office if you have questions, you may contact Whitney Alexander, 225. 810. 2607.

**ALL LOVES EXCELING: How Far Jesus Went to Save Us**

Small Groups: Sermons: Daily Devotions

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, Lent will focus intently on Christ’s descent to the wasteland and then shift from the downward journey toward resurrection. Everyone will receive a new daily prayer guide, All Loves Excelling: How Far Jesus Went to Save Us. (You can also sign up to receive the readings by daily email - fpcbs.org). Small groups will be offered. And the morning messages will focus on the themes in the study guide. Then we continue with our Lenten Wednesday Communion service at noon each week of the season with a light lunch following. Sign up for groups by visiting the Connection Center. The books will be given out at worship February 22. Plan to bring your friends for this transformative season at First!