

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.

fpc NEWS



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JANUARY CALENDAR

Prayer for the Nations	Each Wed., 5:30 pm
Office Closed	Jan 1-2
Gumbo for the Homeless	Jan 4
Officers' Retreat	Jan 9-10
Polar Thang Youth Retreat	Jan 16-18
Global Mission Conference	Jan 31
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Sharing Blessings

GERRIT DAWSON, SENIOR PASTOR

Overwhelming Support

As the New Year begins, I am filled with gratitude for you: For your enthusiasm to undertake a quest for Christ with me and to bring Christ to the city and world around us. Money, of course, is not the sole or even the primary measure of faith. But it is an important indicator. So I take great heart in reporting to you that we had a wonderful outpouring of financial gifts to the church this past year. We have also had a record number of pledges and of total amount pledged for 2015. I read two key signs from that: 1) This congregation believes in the mission God has given us. You believe the gospel is being taught here. 2) This congregation trusts its leadership to handle our finances with integrity and purpose. Both of these affirmations are an enormous emotional boost to your elders and staff as we begin the New Year. We take your trust seriously and joyfully. We will do all we can to delve deeper and reach farther in 2015.

REVEAL

One of the ways we want to move forward is by taking the spiritual "temperature" of our congregation. Several years ago, the hugely popular Willow Creek Church realized that while they had great numbers of people, they had insufficient spiritual depth. They developed a diagnostic tool, called REVEAL, to gauge the spiritual growth of their members. Then they developed programs to bolster their strengths and shore up their weaknesses. The process proved to be transformational for the Willow Creek congregation.

Since then, the church has made this REVEAL survey available to more than 1000 congregations

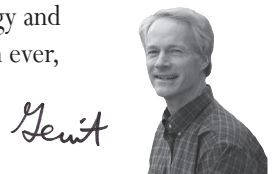


across the country. I learned of it last year from my colleague Dean Weaver in Pittsburgh. After his members used REVEAL, their elders followed the suggested guidance for deepening the congregation. They realized significant spiritual growth in their members as a result.

Our leadership realizes that when things are going well externally—lots of people here, good funding and robust mission—it is easy to get complacent. We don't want to do that. So by the end of January we will be offering you a chance to take the REVEAL survey and help shape the future of our church. I have taken it: this is no flippant survey, no shallow set of questions. Simply taking REVEAL will get you pondering the place of spiritual growth and missional living in your life. It takes about an hour to complete, so it's a serious commitment. But we believe, and all the research confirms, that a congregation which engages in REVEAL will grow in Christ.

I hope you will join your leaders in committing to take the hour to engage REVEAL. It can all be done online, on your phone, tablet or computer. (Yes, there's a paper version for those who eschew electronics!). Watch for details to follow.

As the New Year begins, I am filled with energy and hope, and, more than ever, I love being your pastor.



Baptisms:

December 21, 2014

Henry Tyler McCollister

Parents are Mindy and Bill McCollister

Grandparents are Cheryl and Robin Tyler

In Memoriam:

November 25, 2014

John Rowland

December 11, 2014

Jane Allen

Rachel Williams' mother

December 12, 2014

Nancy Harris

December 14, 2014

Dorothy Anderson Sipes

Janet Schoonmaker's mother

December 2014

Jimmy Hoyt

Tom Hoyt's father

December 16, 2014

Dana Othmer

December 16, 2014

Betty Lloyd Ellis

December 19, 2014

JoAnn Pagan

Monica Peters' mother

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 ...

The Advent poinsettias will remain in the Sanctuary and Chapel until the day of Epiphany, January 6.

January 11...to the glory of God in thanksgiving for his enduring faithfulness in keeping Dana Othmer in his tender, loving care for the past 7 years by Hans, Devan and Jacob Othmer.

January 18...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Norwood, Jr. and Larry Charles Musgrove, Sr. by Chrystal Norwood Musgrove and family.

January 25...to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clifton Frank Fabre by his wife, Margery, and children; Natalie & Kip Fabre, Sandy & John Fabre, Lauren & David Fabre, Joy & Calvin Fabre and Farin Fabre & Marty Ware.

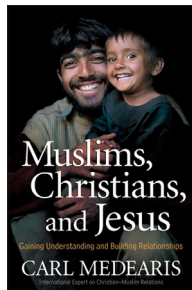
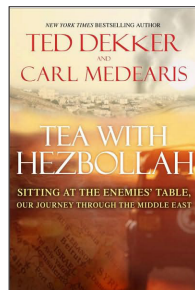
2015 Mission Conference

January 31 - February 1

The Global Missions Committee is excited to welcome Carl Medearis as our guest presenter during our annual Missions Conference 2015. Carl Medearis is an international expert in the field of Arab-American and Muslim-Christian relations. He acts as a catalyst for a number of current movements in the Middle East to promote peace-making, as well as cultural, political and religious dialog leading toward reconciliation. He is the author of the acclaimed book on these issues, *Muslims, Christians and Jesus*.

Carl spends much of his time working with leaders both in the West and in the Arab world with the hope of seeing the Arab Middle East and the West experience full and fruitful relationships through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

We invite you to check out Carl's website prior to his visit at carlmedearis.com. There you will find a list of his other books that we hope will peak your interest to read prior to his visit. And Carl will have



books with him during the conference that you may purchase.

Saturday, January 31, Session One at 10:30, Lunch at church, Session Two at 12:30 pm. RSVP for \$10 lunch and childcare by Monday, January 26. Both classes will be in room 202 of the Education Building.

Then Carl will preach and teach on Sunday, February 1. We will have two worship services that day, 9 am and 11 am, with combined Sunday School at 10:15 am in the sanctuary.

Abbie's Soup for the Soul

In 1993, FPCBR sent 27 church members to Vyborg, Russia on a church planting mission trip. Abbie Lazarus at the young age of 75 years was one who was called to go. Following the trip, Abbie together with Pastor Zoya Byleeva of the new plant church established a soup meal for Russian widows who, because of their culture, were without means and in desperate need.

Abbie Lazarus is honored during Global Mission Week with donations raised in her memory being sent to the Vyborg Church in Russia. Abbie's Soup for the Soul Sunday has continued for 22 years. Abbie Lazarus, 6/25/18 - 9/02/01.

On Sunday February 1 at 11 am, we will fellowship over a bowl of soup at the annual Abbie's Soup for the Soul luncheon following worship services. Please bring your favorite soup in a crockpot to the gym that morning before worship. If the soup is to be served hot, please heat prior to bringing to the church. We will keep it hot while you are in worship.



Mother's Day Out Registration 2015-2016

MDO and Preschool Registration for the 2015-2016 school year for First Presbyterian members is Wednesday, January 28 (*church members are able to register their children prior to registration opening to the public*). Contact Whitney Weiner at 620.0245 or mothersdayout@fpibr.org for more information. Please help us spread the word to our church members.

January FAS Crowd

SAVETHE DATE: FAS Crowd is meeting Monday, January 12 at 11:30 am in the reception room. Further details to come.

2015 Ski Trip

SkiTrip 2015 is back February 14-18, 2015. The trip will be to beautiful Winterpark, one

of Colorado's premier ski resorts. We will be skiing/snowboarding for 3 full days. Each night we will come together for a powerful message from Jeremy Brokaw and worshipping the Lord together out



in his beautiful creation. The cost of the trip is \$900 for ski/snowboard and \$600 for non-skiers. Please contact Josh Maddin, josh@fpcbr.org, for more information.

Polar Thang 2015

You won't want to miss this! This is a trip for middle school students (limited openings for upper high school and college students) to Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence, MS.



We will worship and learn together with teaching from Elizabeth Parker, FPC Director of Women in Ministry.

Dates: January 16-18, 2015 (MLK weekend)
Further details and registration available at fpcbr.org.

December New Members

Welcome to Our Newest Members! We have several new members from our recent December *Discover First* New Members class. Please go out of your way to welcome them. To keep your at-home directory up to date, be sure to grab a December New Members insert at church and add to your directory. In the meantime, please give our newest members a warm welcome.

Sarah and Paul Gray, Ed Middleton and Sara and Ross Moock.

Community Gumbo Meal

Gumbo dinner for the homeless on January 4. If you are interested in helping serve the homeless, please meet in the gym at 3:30 pm and we will serve between 4-5:30.

JAN. CIRCLE MEETINGS

1ST MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015

Circle 15 Jess Conciencie's @ 7 pm
22721 Hickey Ct., Zachary (892.3212)

2ND MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015

Circle 13 C-P Apts. @ 2 pm
Circle 14 Kristen Carney's @ 9.30 am
3161 Svendson Dr. (921.0030)

1ST TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015

Circle 1 Trisha Neufeld's @ 9.45 am
7952 Wrenwood Blvd. (927.5911)
Circle 2 Bea Ferriss' @ 9.45 am
10364 Hillard Ave. (293.0695)
Circle 3 FPC EB 301 @ 10 am

2ND TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

Circle 4 Amanda Boggs' @ 6.30 pm
6136 Chandler (338.9455)
Circle 5 and 6 Combined
BRCC Luncheon @ 10 am
Circle 8 Cheryl Brodnax's @ 6.30 pm
36263 Toulouse Street, Prairieville
(677.5929)
Circle 9 Please contact Ann Gregorie for
Circle location. (937.0488)

3RD WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2015

Circle 10 Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm
5412 Government St.
Circle 16 Ingrid Medford's @ 9.30 am
7662 Seven Oaks (329.5662)

2ND THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

Circle 11 Church Library @ Noon

1ST FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015

Circle 7 Peggy Anderson's @ 2 pm
322 Wiltz Dr. (344.0127)

Sermon "Encores" FPC makes Sunday sermons available in video, audio, podcast and transcript formats. All are available at fpcbr.org. You may also visit the Connection Center for transcript and dvd formats.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Come Worship with Us!

7:45 am Chapel Communion Service
9:00 am Contemporary Service
11:00 am Classic Reformed Service
11:00 am Acoustic Communion Service

Jan 4, AD 2015

John 5: 1-19

Jan 11, AD 2015

John 5: 19-29

Jan 18, AD 2015

John 6: 1-21

Jan 25, AD 2015

John 6: 22-51

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



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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool:
225-620-0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center:
225-387-2287

www.brchristiancounseling.com



VALENTINE DANCE

**Friday, February 13
7 pm in the FPC Gym
Music by the
Platinum Sound Orchestra.**

**Further details to come
in the new year.**

Let's Get Ready for the Dance

Get ready for our big band valentine dance party on February 13 at FPCBR by taking free dance lessons. Meet Sherry McKinley each Monday for 6 weeks beginning January 5 at 7:30 pm in Sanctuary Building room 219 (the mirrored room). No partner necessary but definitely invite a friend.

If you just need to brush up on your "moves," you are invited to a "Dance Cram Course" on Sunday afternoon, February 1 from 6-7 pm. Please contact Sherry at the church office if you have any questions (sherry@fpcbr.org or 387-0617).



Children's Choirs Resume in January!

The Joyful Noise Preschool and Elementary Choir will start up again on January 12, 5.30-7 pm. Come join us! We have a full and exciting Spring calendar planned! Contact Angelle High, highmail@cox.net or 225.939.2820.

