Buddy Greene Concert

Nashville recording artist Buddy Greene will perform a concert for us Sunday, August 23 at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Best known for writing and recording the song “Mary Did You Know?” Buddy performs all over the world, bringing the gospel in a style that appeals to all ages. Buddy will be leading the music at our 9 and 11 am worship services that morning, then performing in the evening. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring a friend.

Hello and Goodbye

Summer means travel and transitions. We’re saying goodbye to some new friends (Kate Mills on Children’s Ministry staff) and some old friends (Lindy Weiner after three decades). We’re saying hello to some old friends in new positions. Seminary student Josh Woltmann joins us for a summer of pastoral internship. Jaime Carnaggio joins our children’s ministry team. And Whitney Alexander returns from sabbatical. Celebrate the great talent God brings into and sends from our church. I hope each and all of you will get a time of refreshment this season.

As I enjoy the rhythm of summer with you, please know that, as ever, I love being your pastor!
**In Memoriam:**

April 25, 2015
Patty Ory: Aunt of Carol Cleveland

May 8, 2015
Marilyn Merriman: Grandmother of Janny Comeaux

May 13, 2015
Roy Johannessen: Brother of Bill Johannessen

May 19, 2015
Estelle Wall: Grandmother of Chad Lott

**Births:**

April 15, 2015
Robert Dale Barham
Parents are Amy and Robert Erle Barham
Grandparents are Lindy and Dale Weiner

April 17, 2015
Emerson Brantley Kees
Parents are Lauren and Ben Kees

April 23, 2015
Thomas Rowan McKinley
Parents are Amy and Jim Wood

April 24, 2015
Evangeline Sophia Behrnes
Parents are Amy and Jim Wood

May 19, 2015
Robert Dale Barham
Parents are Amy and Robert Erle Barham
Grandparents are Lindy and Dale Weiner

**Weddings:**

May 16, 2015
Kristen Novak married Mark Morgan

May 23, 2015
Lydia Gikas married Patrick Cook

May 30, 2015
Valerie Ayres married Corey Burge

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**Blessed to Serve** by Lindy Weiner

When I joined the staff of First Presbyterian in 1987 as the director of children’s ministry, my own three children were in elementary school and my hair was a lot darker! For fourteen years, I had the honor of teaching your children the love of Christ and working alongside many of you in Sunday school, VBS, confirmation class, children’s church and lock-ins. To all those who gave their time and hearts to children’s ministry, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Proverbs 22: 6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Those of us who have been here as long as I have can see this to be true, as these children, including my own, have grown to know Christ and have begun to teach their own families to live for him.

For the last fourteen years serving you as director of congregational life and director of events, I have experienced the joy of seeing these families begin to take shape as I’ve coordinated the weddings at the church. I have also been privileged to hold the hands of those of you who have lost loved ones as I assisted with the funerals. What an honor to serve all of you in such important moments of your lives!

I have truly been blessed to serve the many ministries of First Presbyterian Church. I’d like to thank the pastoral staff (two senior pastors and thirteen associate pastors during my tenure!) and our wonderful support staff. Together they represent a true church family! With much love and joy I pass the crown of most veteran staff member to Nancy Spiller. May she wear it well! And may God continue to pour out his grace over FPC!

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**Join us for a reception honoring Lindy’s 29 years at First Presbyterian.**

**Sunday, June 21**

**10:10 am in the FPC gym. Brunch will be served.**

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**Buchanan Ministry Celebrates Another Wonderful Year** by Laura Shaw

School is out for summer and we pray that the faculty and students at our adopted school, Buchanan Elementary, enjoy the rest and relaxation they need and deserve!

Our church was busy at the school this year with our members serving as Reading Friends, Storytime Readers, Teacher Encouragers, Library Helpers and Special Event Coordinators. First Presbyterian Church’s impact could be felt at the school with someone from the church serving the children and staff nearly every day. It was great to see a child’s eyes light up when their Reading Friend walked through the classroom door or a group of children listening intently as a Storytime Reader read a favorite story. What a great way we shared the love of Christ by encouraging a teacher with prayer, treats and hugs and always when they seemed to need it most!

A dedicated group of volunteers worked with Principal Jones to give a staff prayer breakfast at the opening of school and a wonderful end of the year Teacher’s Luncheon to encourage and celebrate the staff. The fifth graders were invited to a lovely graduation luncheon at First Presbyterian Church where they were treated to music, stories and an organ concert! The younger students were able to enjoy an afternoon of music and fun when FPC sponsored a concert by Johnette Downing in the school gym. Hands were clapping and faces were smiling and the children were still singing as they left to go back to their classrooms!

These are just highlights from our school year at Buchanan - so much more goes on behind the scenes and is greatly appreciated by the school. We want to thank all of our wonderful volunteers, our Buchanan ministry committee members and the many circles, Sunday school classes and church members that donate their time and resources to help all of this become a reality. We look forward to continuing our work next school year and invite you to come on board! For more information, contact Laura Shaw, laurashaw2@yahoo.com or 225.278.1929.
C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" Study

Women in Ministry is offering a series of discussions on The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. Please join us at the home of Annette Lamond (1020 Pastureview Drive) each Tuesday in June at 6 pm. This highly engaging and intuitive book promises rich conversation. Please purchase your copy individually in advance and be prepared to discuss the first 7 chapters on June 2. It is a quick read.

Meet a Volunteer

Rachel Ricks

Prior to starting her career working for the City of Baton Rouge, Rachel had a talk with God. She promised him that if he would give her 30 years with the parish, after retiring, she would make herself available to do whatever he called her to do.

How long has Rachel been a member of First?
Since 1999

How long has Rachel been a volunteer at First?
5 years

Volunteer responsibilities:
- Answering phones
- Helping with mail outs (including this newsletter)
- Straightening the pew racks
- Counting offerings and tithes

What does Rachel do in her "off" time?
Helps raise a young boy who has attended both the Communion and Confirmation classes.

Hobbies?
- Bowling, reading, baking and crocheting.

Favorite Color?
- Purple: for LSU and it's the color of royalty

How has Rachel been blessed by volunteering?
It gives her joy to follow God's call with a servant's heart. Her desire is to stay in step with the Spirit and be attentive to service opportunities. She knows that God sees what she does and pleasing him, not man, is her priority.

Summer Story Time

Are you eager to enjoy fellowship with other young mothers in our church for a play date? You and your children are invited to join us on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11.30 am during the months of June and July (with the exception of July 2 and July 9). Parents are welcome to bring bag lunches for further fellowship. Contact Audra Cato if you have any questions, audra@fpcbr.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Come Worship with Us!
7.45 am Chapel Communion Service
9 am Contemporary Service
11 am Classic Reformed Service
11 am Acoustic Communion Service

June 7, AD 2015
- Genesis 27

June 14, AD 2015
- Genesis 28

June 21, AD 2015
- Genesis 32

June 28, AD 2015
- Genesis 37

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
- Associate Pastor of Student Ministry

PH: 225.387.0617
FAX: 225.338.1010
www.fpcbr.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
**Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline, June 15**

Students entering college or continuing their college path have the deadline of June 15 to apply for a scholarship available through the First Presbyterian Church Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship form can be completed online at www.fpcbr.org or by contacting Sherry McKinley at 387.0617. Grants will be awarded in July.

**Staying Connected by Jay High**

We are working on a complete website overhaul, which will make all of the above features even easier to use, and add new features as well, like livestreaming of sanctuary services and online giving! We hope to be finished in late summer.

Does new technology feel over your head and/or overwhelming? We are considering some ‘how to’ classes for our less technical congregation members. We will go over basics like emails, web-surfing and checking our new website…those types of things. Interested? Let us know! If there’s enough demand, we will schedule some classes.

**Hospital Visitation Workshop**

Dick Gates is offering a class on what is expected when you become a hospital or shut-in visitation volunteer.

June 1 from 6-6.40 pm

EB 201B (Education Building)

Sign-up by calling 387.0617.

Please contact Dick if you have any questions (573.9149 or dick@fpcbr.org).

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**Hospital Visitation Workshop**

Did you know that First has many ways for you to stay connected beyond this newsletter, the Sunday bulletin and the mass emails? We have a Facebook page where we post pictures of recent events and list upcoming events as well. You can download pictures and/or forward them to friends and family. Just go to www.facebook.com/FPCBR.

On our website (www.fpcbr.org), you can get podcasts (downloadable audio files) of all the weekly sermons to play on smart phones, mobile devices and computers. You can also download transcripts of the sermons or even watch them on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/fpcbatonrouge).