

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



THE PERFECT RE-GIFTING

By Scott Graham

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer



Re-gifting. To most of us, this is a word that brings to mind bizarre statuettes, frozen smiles and “future white

elephant party” fantasies. We try to pass off things we receive, but don’t want, to others who, we hope, won’t figure out that we took an unwanted gift and gave it away ourselves. But what if re-gift the things that are most precious to us? It’s likely that our Christmas or birthday celebrations would be clothed in an experience of joy we’ve rarely known. Kristina’s Oma presented her with a carnelian pendant set in gold that belonged to her for many years when Kristina went for a visit in Amsterdam as a teenager, and she treasures it to this day.

The Apostle Paul tells us of such a re-gifting. The Corinthian church he planted and pastored was filled with a large group of colorful characters. Some were catching onto the Christ-centered life, but others . . . not so much. There were problems involving sex, money, power and social

relationships that Paul addressed with this young but undisciplined congregation. Finally, he turns to gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed . . . there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12: 1, 4-7)

Do you see that last sentence? EVERY believer in Jesus Christ receives a gift from the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of how God works among us. This includes abilities such as leadership, mercy, words of knowledge, craftsmanship and faith. There is a lively debate within Christian circles, including our wider Presbyterian family, over the continuing presence of all the gifts mentioned in Scripture, but all agree that the Father and the Son send the Spirit to each believer in the church. Yet what is the purpose of receiving these gifts? They are for the COMMON GOOD. In other words, Fred may receive the gifts of faith and help, but they are only activated as he uses them to bless Judy, John, and others in the church and beyond.

Marjorie has gifts of shepherding and healing, but they only work as she acts on them toward others. Re-gifting is the whole point of spiritual gifts, and as we give away what God has given us to bless and serve, our church will see the ministry of Jesus Christ unfold and blossom both inside and outside the walls of our church. Talk about Christmas all year round!

Unfortunately, many of us are simply uninformed about spiritual gifts, in particular the gifts God has given to us to share. This fall I am launching a Sunday school class, beginning August 13, that will spend several weeks looking at what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, his work among us, and in particular, the spiritual gifts we may have to use. By the end of our time together, you should have a good idea of what your spiritual gifts may be, and how you can give them away in service! This is tied into our upcoming stewardship season and I’m so looking forward to what the Lord will show us! Instead of re-gifting that bald headed chia pet in your closet, you’ll have some “precious jewels” to pass on to your friends, neighbors and even the acquaintances in your life. “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9: 15)

2 MEET
CANDACE WALKER

3 PACK A
BACKPACK

3 GOD’S ECONOMY:
SESSION FINANCE
COMMITTEE

4 “NOTES” FROM
MUSIC MINISTRY

JUNE EVENTS

- JUNE 15 Scholarship Apps Due
- JUNE 18 Father's Day
- JUNE 23 IFP Social
- JUNE 19-23 VBS
- JUNE 26-30 RYM Middle School
- JUNE 29 Women's Summer Luncheon

JUNE SERMON TEXTS

- Texts are subject to change.*
- JUNE 4 Genesis 4: 1-16
 - JUNE 11 Genesis 6: 5-8
 - JUNE 18 Genesis 12: 1-9
 - JUNE 25 Genesis 16: 1-14

JUNE FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

JUNE 4 . . . in memory of Sue & Bill Edrington and Mary & Emmett Edrington by Susie & Buzzy Heroman, Leah & Billy Edrington and Lynn & Mark Edwards.

JUNE 11 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of our parents, Hazel & Paul Peters and Jerry & Ned Hickel by Cherie & Bill Peters.

JUNE 18 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson on the occasion of her 46th birthday on June 30, by Susan & Frederic Billings.

JUNE 25 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Dorothy & Joachim Aubert and Emma & Pete Ramos by Fé and Murphy Aubert.

BIRTHS

May 9, 2023
Gabriel Samwise Kollmeyer
Parents are Rachel & Josiah Kollmeyer

BAPTISMS

May 14, 2023:
Scout and John Roberts Sims
(Parents are Ramsey & Brent Sims
Grandparents are Lenore & René Roberts)
Odette and Bobby Hebert
(Parents are Caitlin & T-Bob Hebert)

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SUMMER NEWS**

SUMMER LUNCHEON, JUNE 29

What do I do with recurring feelings of shame and guilt? How can I best parent my teenager struggling with anxiety? What are the do's and don'ts of reaching out to someone who has recently suffered a tough loss? What is my role when there's opposition between my adult children? How do I set (and keep) healthy boundaries in difficult relationships?

These questions were asked last year 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 Kaci Treadaway, Dr. John Otzenberger, Joel Gilbert and Stacy House. All in attendance are free to ask the panel an anonymous question about emotional, relational or spiritual wellness.

Thursday, June 29 from 11 am to 1 pm
FPC Reception Room
Soups, Salads, Sips & Sweets
\$10 per person. Please register online.
Childcare provided.

"HALLOWED BE THY NAME" JULY STUDY

Our Father God is all-powerful, all-knowing, indescribable and incomprehensible. And yet, throughout the Old Testament, he reveals himself through his names, which exemplify human characteristics that we can understand. How do we experience these names in our own lives today through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Join Women's Ministry this summer as we explore God's lesser known, but powerful names found in Scripture and contemplate the ways in which each name draws us into a unique, personal relationship with him. We have a wonderful lineup of teachers including Jaime Carnaggio, Katie Schellack, Mitzi Barber, Sarah Rath, Katie Forsthoff and our beloved friend (and the wife of our former Associate Pastor Alec Flynt), Arden Flynt.

Four Wednesdays in July: 5, 12, 19 and 26
6.30-8 pm (Come at 6.15 for fellowship!)
At Amber McConnell's (4352 Woodside Drive)



OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

CANDACE WALKER
Director, Childhood Ministry

Candace Walker grew up in East Tennessee climbing trees and doing cartwheels. She still does! She cites being raised in a Christian home as one of the greatest blessings of her life, and the knowledge of God's unfailing love as what grounds her during tough seasons of life. After graduating from Middle Tennessee State University with a BS degree in mass communications, Candace managed family businesses in construction, property management and health care. Her favorite career was becoming a mom. Candace was passionate for her children to experience the love of Christ and worship with believers, enjoying Sunday school, vacation bible school and singing/musical opportunities. Candace is married to Stephen, a native of Louisiana, and they, along with children Emma Kate and Hayes, have enjoyed living in Baton Rouge since 2010. One thing led to another, just the way God orchestrated, and Candace gained experience in the Christian preschool realm. She has agreed to be the Director of Childhood Ministry at First Presbyterian. Candace enjoys adventuring to new places with her family, snow skiing, 1950's music, baking, and skipping instead of walking. Most days, you will find her with a sweet iced tea in hand because days just go better that way . . .

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2: 10

SUMMER IFP SOCIALS

International Friendship Partners invites you to help them welcome internationals to Baton Rouge this summer. The IFP June social is Friday, June 23 from 6 to 8 pm at the Kozans' (3565 Cole Drive). The July social is Friday, July 28 from 6 to 8 pm (location to be announced).



“Pack a Backpack” for McKinley Kindergartners



Your generosity and love for the school children of Baton Rouge continues to inspire. Did you know that an anonymous First Presbyterian member has donated backpacks for the 110 kindergartners of the newly forming McKinley Elementary? That is who you are as a church with a heart for your city and its children. But that is just step one. Now we need help from you to fill them!

The “Pack a Backpack” project kicks off this summer. Before and after our 10.30 am services on July 9, July 16 and July 23, Deacons will be in the Reception Room to help you “adopt” an empty backpack to take home and fill. Each backpack will have a list of all items requested by the kindergarten teachers. The approximate cost of filling a backpack is \$65.00. No worries if you prefer to leave the shopping to someone else. We also offer the option of making a monetary donation by writing a check made out to First Presbyterian Church (“backpack” in the memo line) or by using the backpack donation form on the church website. What a joy it will be to bless the filled backpacks at worship on Sunday, July 30. Please contact Barbara Anne Eaton if you have questions (peppereaton2855@gmail.com or 225.733.6874).

GOD’S ECONOMY by Laurie Lemoine, Chair of the Session Finance Committee

Many times we look at our church financials as if we were a business with income, expenses and net profit. What we are really looking at are our offerings to God given out of love and obedience and the investments we hope to make advancing God’s kingdom. In advance of each budget year, we try to balance anticipated offerings with our investments in God’s work. It is much easier to plan for those investments than it is to anticipate the amount of offerings. Please know your Finance Committee is praying that God will enable all of you to give generously.

FAITH DRIVEN ENTREPRENEURS

Faith Driven Entrepreneurs of Baton Rouge is a group of faith driven business owners and entrepreneurs seeking to establish a supportive community with other business leaders. As current and retired entrepreneurs, business owners and C-level executives, we strive to grow spiritually while expanding our influence beyond spreadsheets. Our next meeting is Friday, June 9 at 7.30 am at the City Club. Parking available in the public lot at Convention and 4th Streets. Join us for our next gathering! Please contact Mike Morris if you have questions (mike@southcoastagency.com).

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

Lake Forest Ranch

PARENTS’ INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Children’s Ministry is hosting a Lake Forest Ranch camp informational meeting next Sunday, June 4. All parents who have either already signed up their child, or are interested in hearing more, are welcome to attend. Join us at 10.10 am in the Kingdom Kids 3rd grade classroom. Kids age 7-12 are eligible to go to camp. LFR’s mission is building relationships for eternal impact.

Jerusalem Marketplace VBS

REGISTER TODAY!

Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate in Jerusalem Marketplace VBS. Adults and youth are

invited to volunteer as leaders and helpers. Please visit fpcbr.org/vbs for details and registration. VBS dates are June 19-23.

Mother’s Day Out

TEACHER NEEDED

Are you, or someone you know, interested in loving and teaching our 2-year-olds at Mother’s Day Out? If so, please contact Whitney Weiner (mdo@fpcbr.org or 225.205.5053).

Calling All 6th Grade Parents!

REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION

Please contact Jessica Saffell (jessica@fpcbr.org) to register your 6th grader for Confirmation.

JULY EVENTS

One 10.30 am Service Each Sunday
 JULY WORSHIP TIME 10.30 am
 JULY 5-26 Women’s Summer Study
 JULY 5-7 S.T.A.R.S. Soccer Camp
 JULY 10-15 RYM High School
 JULY 17-21 Lake Forest Ranch Camp
 JULY 28 IFP Social
 JULY 30 Congregational Picnic

JULY SERMON TEXTS

One 10.30 am Service Each Sunday
 JULY 2 2 Kings 6: 1-17
 JULY 9 Genesis 18: 20-33
 JULY 16 To be determined.
 JULY 23 To be determined.
 JULY 30 Hebrews 1: 1-3

JULY FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

JULY 2 . . . in loving memory of Patricia Nickell, Harry’s mother, and Henry B. Alsobrook Jr., Eugenie’s father, by Eugenie and Harry Burglass.

JULY 9 . . . by Ann K. Gregorie to the glory of God in honor of Ellie Kate Guillory, and in memory of her great grandparents, Florence & Mack Gregorie, Sr., as well as her great aunt, Nita K. Harris.

JULY 16 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Melissa & Mike Thibodeaux.

JULY 23 Open date.

JULY 30 Open date.



PH: 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

“NOTES” FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

Join the Choir in July **YOUR CHANCE TO SING!**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a part of the music ministry at First Presbyterian? Would you like an opportunity to try it out without any obligation or long-term commitment? Perhaps you've sung in the past and would like to return for a limited time. Maybe you've never sung in a group before and want to see what it's like. Well, the month of July is your chance! Beginning Wednesday, June 28, you can join us in the choir room at 6.30 pm for one hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. No audition. No previous experience required. You don't even have to read music! We'll sing all kinds of music. From middle school to nonagenarians, all are welcome. You can sing for just one Sunday or you can sing for the entire month of July.

Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Still have it tucked away in the attic? Maybe you are wondering if you still have the chops or remember the fingerings. If you're curious to try it out, contact Chris Phillips at chris@fpcbr.org and we'll have a chat!

Joyful Noise **“NOT MY OWN” A WORK-SHIP ABOUT BELONGING**

Introducing, “Not My Own: A Work-ship About Belonging” for our kids during June. A work-ship is a combination of a workshop and a worship session. During the work-ship, truths that are revealed about our loving Creator lead to worship!

So, what are we working on? Inspiration struck from a song entitled, “I Am

Not My Own.” The desire to belong is intrinsically human and, no matter our age, we often need to be reminded to whom we belong. In today's world, there are a lot of false teachings about to whom we belong. What better way to remember the truth than to sing it? This all happens during Sunday School hour. Children in the Kingdom Kids hallway will be given a lesson based on, “I Am Not My Own.” Following the lesson, they will briefly learn the song. Finally, on July 9, all are invited to join the combined adult choir to sing the song during worship. Don't worry! This is very low commitment. You do not have to be at every rehearsal to sing on July 9. And there's no pressure, but it is important to learn and be reminded that we are “the Maker's masterpiece and all that he designs will be done.”