Jump in the Fountains!
By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

A phrase became famous during the Protestant Reformation: *ad fontes!* Literally, to the fountains. What?! The phrase meant “Go to the source.” The Reformers realized that for the church to be renewed, we all needed to go back to the deep source of truth, the Scriptures. When faith gets dry, go back to the fountain of truth that is in God’s Word. When life gets confusing, go back to basic practices of prayer: thanksgiving, adoration, confession and intercession. When you feel far from Christ, go play in the fountain of baptism by remembering how you belong to Christ. Go drink from the endless cup of his life-giving blood in the Supper. Ad fontes. Go to the source to renew life and faith. The Reformers changed the world doing just that.

So this Lent, we are going to go *ad fontes.* We’re going to dive deep into the source of all Christian prayer: the prayer that Jesus taught us. *Living from the Lord’s Prayer* is a 42 day guide to sacred reading and prayer for each of us to use during Lent. The books will be given out during worship March 5. You can also sign up to have the daily readings sent to you in an email. Or you may access them on the church app. We will spend a week on each of the six phrases in the Lord’s Prayer. We’ll see how Jesus’ own prayer is sourced in the Hebrew Scriptures, and we will let the psalms he prayed flow through us as we join him in prayer.

Committing to 20 minutes a day for these 42 days will revolutionize your prayer life. How can I be so confident? Because everything comes from the source of God’s Word. And God’s Word is truth. And when we pray from God’s Word, the Spirit flows in us and through us. Ad fontes. Jump in the fountains. The fountains of prayer that flows from the Word. It’s the guaranteed way to refreshment!

**Give Meaning to Your Spring Cleaning**
Spring cleaning? The Purple Cow needs quality furniture and housewares. We’re stacked with clothes right now. But furniture is needed and all proceeds support the amazing ministry of the Christian Outreach Center (COC) transforming our neighborhood for Christ.

Speaking of COC, did you know we raised a record $66,000 at our Christmas Eve Offering. These gifts were shared between a) COC as it launches new job training, financial literacy and Bible study groups and b) Gardere Community Christian School, now with over 80 students and a new principal in place to undergird our teachers and the daily administration of the school.

**Church of the Resurrection**
Our church plant in New Orleans, the Church of the Resurrection, has found a fabulous facility for worshiping. We’re meeting at the newly restored Felicity Church in the Lower Garden District. We’re also organizing to send 8 to 10 people down each week to support Rev. Ben Cunningham and the congregation. Check out our website or visit the Connection Center to learn more.
**MARCH CALENDAR**

- **Mar 1**: Ash Wednesday
- **Mar 3**: Weekly Lent Worship Begins
- **Mar 4**: eRecess
- **Mar 5**: Ken Boa Men’s Gathering
- **Mar 12**: Daylight Savings
- **Mar 12**: Congregational Meeting

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Apr 9**: Palm Sunday
- **Apr 13**: Maundy Thursday
- **Apr 16**: Easter Sunday

**IN MEMORIAM**

- January 27, 2017
  Loran Thomas, friend of the Dunham Family
- January 30, 2017
  Tom Graves
- February 2, 2017
  Laurice Honea
  Grandmother of Lauren Honea
- February 17, 2017
  Bill Edrington

**BIRTHS**

- February 6, 2017
  Theodore Dean White
  Grandparents are Fran and Darrell White
- February 17, 2017
  Margaux Mae Fielding
  Grandparents are Debra and Bob Cooper

**WEDDINGS**

- February 4, 2017
  Molly Ewing married Thomas Stephenson

**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.

- **Mar 5**: to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Warren Munson and Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Pipes by Sarah Munson and family.
- **Mar 12**: to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel Eugene Field III given by Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Eugene Field, Jr.
- **Mar 19**: Open Date.
- **Mar 26**: to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aylce and Sidney Bennett, parents of Barton, by Ruth Anne and Barton Bennett.

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**After the Great Flood of 2016**
by Jay High, Director of Media, Technology and Facilities

Is it 2017? Did we really just live through the (not so) great flood of 2016? How could God have shown us so much favor, and rallied his body of Christ to help us through this natural disaster? Is this painful and difficult chapter of our lives finally ending? Are we really settling into our beautiful home in another neighborhood and approaching the closing date of our flooded/gutted house?

It is difficult to comprehend how good God has been to us, and sometimes as difficult to receive. I guess that is what grace’s unmerited favor is all about. It’s humbling. I cannot fathom going through this without the support system at First and beyond.

You may know me as the media guy in black, holed up in the AV booth. So many of you were at my flood-ravaged house swinging hammers, hauling debris and trudging through filth, demonstrating your love of Christ through works of faith. Words cannot express my thankful appreciation, but thank you.

"Six months later, I am just now getting back into my daily work routine."

As the rising floodwaters flowed through my driveway, I was texting Barry and Gerrit about missing Sunday services, needing somewhere to stay and something to drive since it was clear the flood was taking our house and cars. Within hours, we had lodging, loaner cars, meals, and everything else needed lined up. It was overwhelming.

Six months later, I am just now getting back into my daily work routine overseeing media, technology and facilities at First. My latest projects are overseeing replacement of all windows in the Education Building, and preparing to fix all roofing and waterproofing leaks campus-wide.

It’s also my pleasure to supervise First’s incredible media and facilities team. If you enjoy our beautiful campus, it is because of our awesome sextons. Everything you hear in the services, or see on the screens, are due to our highly trained and dedicated media team. They are amazing!

Have you had a chance to watch our livestream of the Sunday Sanctuary services? It’s the next best thing to being there! If you are traveling, home sick or want to recommend First to a friend, then the livestream is ideal. You can livestream from our website, or from the First Presbyterian app, and even watch archived entire services!

It is a joy to serve First Presbyterian Church. I love you all!

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**Ken Boa to Speak at Men’s Gathering**

Please join us for a men’s gathering with guest speaker Ken Boa. Ken Boa is engaged in a ministry of relational evangelism and discipleship, teaching, writing and speaking. Dr. Boa is the President of Reflections Ministries, an organization that seeks to encourage, teach and equip people to know Christ. He is also President of Trinity House Publishers, a publishing company dedicated to the creation of tools that help people live with an eternal perspective in the temporal culture by drawing them to intimacy with God and a better understanding of the culture in which we live.

**Space is limited so register soon at fpbr.org.**

- **Date**: Saturday, March 4, 2017
- **Time**: 11:30-1:30, lunch served
- **Place**: Renaissance Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Blvd., Bienvenue Room
- **Cost**: $20
- **Title**: Eternal Perspective-Temporal Living: A Conversation with Ken Boa
The most familiar prayer in the world is known as the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus taught it to his disciples when they asked him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” The prayer is bold, direct, simple and confident. It begins with startling intimacy as Jesus instructs his disciples to pray to the Most High, only God as “Our Father.” They are to pray as those who have a claim of family ties upon the Creator of the universe. It then moves to a series of petitions. One might even call them demands, because each request is written as an imperative. It’s as if they are to say, “Father, do this!” There is no begging or bargaining, just the straightforward plea of those who dare to appear before God with the rights of children.

This year’s Lenten study can energize your relationship to the Lord Jesus. Yet, when we study and share in community, we grow even more through our spiritual fellowship.

Lenten Choral Concert

The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble (BREVE) will present a concert of all-sacred music, Sunday afternoon, March 12, from 3 to 4 pm in the Dunham Chapel. The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble is one of the few early music ensembles in the state of Louisiana. BREVE is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation and is dedicated to the study and performance of Renaissance and Baroque music. The concert will focus on music for Lent. The group is directed by Dr. William Plummer, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The presentation is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken.

Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi

On Sunday May 7, during the 11 am Classic Reformed Service, the Chancel Choir will present Antonio Vivaldi’s Gloria with soloists and orchestra. This inspiring work is a beautiful setting of sacred text dating from the 4th century. The Chancel Choir is rehearsing on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8 pm. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact Steven Rushing (steve@fpcbr.org).

Supernatural, Factual Tales from God’s Word!

This March Joyful Noise children’s choirs will learn fun, memorable songs and basic music education while hearing God’s word! This will ultimately result in a dinner theatre production of a mini-musical called Fish Tales. There are multiple speaking roles and solo opportunities available. Join us each Sunday evening from 5 to 6.30 pm for rehearsal. Casting decisions will be announced in mid-April. Fish Tales will be presented this coming October. For more information, contact Lauren Honea at lauren@fpcbr.org.
Mid-Week Lenten Communion Worship
Ash Wednesday, March 1, starts our weekly Lent services. Break from your work week and come worship with us at noon each Wednesday. Then stay for a light lunch in the Reception Room for $5.

March 12, Congregational Meeting
The session has called for the annual meeting of the congregation to hear reports on the amazing work of God in our midst in 2016, to hear a report on the 2017 budget, to elect at-large members of the officer nominating committee and attend to any other business pertinent to our life together. Join us Sunday, March 12 at 10.15 in the Sanctuary. There will be no adult Sunday school.

SIAC Grant Applications
The Session Income Allocation Committee is accepting applications between February 13-March 24 for financial grants for individuals interested in seminary. Please contact Jaci if you have questions (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

Romania Mission Trip Meeting
Trip dates are June 24 - July 8, 2017. If you are interested in learning more about this mission trip to help the Smiles Foundation, please come to an informational meeting on Sunday, March 12 at noon in the Reception Room.

Relief Crews Need Helpers & Chiefs
Two very large groups of out-of-state workers are coming to Baton Rouge to help local flood victims. Additional workers and crew chiefs are needed. If you are interested in helping the March 4-5 group, please contact Pat Canfield (pjcanfield@cox.net or 573.3480). Contact Whitney Alexander if the March 13-17 group works better for you (whitney@fpcbr.org or 810-2607).

What Is Pickleball?
Come be part of the new PPP (Presbyterian Pickleball Players). Mike Glisson and Rick Spiller have organized a church Pickleball club. Not familiar with Pickleball? Come check it out Thursday mornings at 8 in the church gym. Experienced players and novices are all welcome. For more information call Mike at 936.8994 or Rick at 278.5760.

2017-2018 College Scholarships
College scholarships are available for entering or continuing students through the Women in Ministry Memorial Scholarship Fund of First Presbyterian Church. Applications can be emailed to interested students or are available online at fpcbr.org. Considered criterion: need, academics and family membership at First Presbyterian Church. The deadline to apply is June 1. Contact Jaci Gaspard for more information (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).