

fpcNEWS

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

May 2017 Volume 51-05

Happy 190th!

By Gerrit S. Dawson, Senior Pastor

On Sunday, May 28 we will celebrate our 190th birthday! Nineteen decades ago, the presbytery of Mississippi finally succeeded in planting a Presbyterian church down here on the River. A young pastor named John Dorrance had been preaching up a storm since January, 1827, and by May the church was ready to be officially formed. A more seasoned pastor named Dr. Jeremiah Chamberlain came down to give the founding sermon and conduct the Lord's Supper.

We began with 15 members, the first Protestant church in all of south Louisiana. The church grew steadily as Dorrance delivered his persuasive sermons. (He also persuaded one of his new church members, Penelope Mercer, to accept his marriage proposal!) It would be two more years before we even had a building, opening on what is now 4th and Florida streets. Life was not easy, and carving out a Protestant identity in a Catholic town meant great dedication and stamina were required. But they did it. God did it.

And here we are, nearly two centuries later, grateful to be standing on such strong shoulders. We remain a church at

the heart of the city with a heart for our city. God continues to draw, and raise up, leaders for our community who are formed in the gospel through our church. We're the only church in Louisiana that currently has two active state legislators. Our history is resplendent with governors, business leaders, educators, professors, leaders in medicine, the arts and the practice of law. We're vibrantly connected to the city we love, and deeply grateful that our Lord has kept us thriving through all the ups and downs through the years.

At the center of our life, of course, pulses the gospel of Jesus Christ, the only reason we continue through 190 winters and summers, the only reason we have anything meaningful to offer our fair town. How stunning it is, when you really think about it, to realize that faithful elders and pastors have held up and held forth the Word of God

so ardently all this time. May God be pleased to deploy us in his service for another 190!

I hope you will join us for our celebratory service, Sunday, May 28 at 10.30 am. Know that I feel so privileged to get to run with you one tiny segment of this enduring journey of faithfulness.

The Last Supper

The session has received the gift of a new and wonderful work of art for our campus. A cast of Deborah Luke's sculpture of the Last Supper now hangs in our reception room. Stop by and view this moving rendition of that significant night.

Gerrit

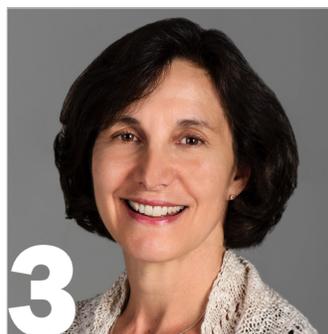


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GOOD GRIEF Seminar

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MAY CALENDAR

Rosaria Butterfield	May 5-6
Gloria Concert	May 7
Joyful Noise Dinner	May 7
rEcess	May 12
Mother's Day	May 14
Good Grief Seminar	May 20
Confirmation Sunday	May 21
FPC 190th Anniversary!	May 28
Memorial Day - Office Closed	May 29

UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

Discover First Dinner	June 11
Father's Day	June 18
VBS	June 25-29

IN MEMORIAM:

- April 1, 2017 - Henry Thomas
Brother-in-law of Tom Sawyer
- April 4, 2017 - Terry Meyers
Father of Nick Meyers
- April 5, 2017 - Paul Rees
- April 12, 2017 - Sue Spaht
- April 13, 2017
W.C. Pearson, brother of Bettye Richard
Rodney Myer, father of Monica Peters
- April 23, 2017 - Guy Cuccio, Sr.
Father of Sam Cuccio

BAPTISMS:

- April 16, 2017 - Brinley Eyreland Anders
Parents are Heather and Ryan Anders
- Charles Richard Cotton
Parents are Lindsey and Neal Cotton

BIRTHS:

- March 16, 2017 - Beau Michael Mizell
Grandson of Kelly and Ken Mizell
- April 11, 2017 - Sally Ann Lapeyrouse
Parents are Amelia and Jeremy Lapeyrouse
- April 12, 2017 - Molly Anne Wood
Parents are Amelia and Jim Wood

WEDDINGS:

- April 29, 2017 - Thomas Zak and Claire Thow

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 . . .

- May 7** . . . to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Crosby McDuff and Jane Ellison Quinn by Ann and Michael McDuff.
- May 14** . . . Open Date
- May 21** . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Peggy Smith (Mimi) by Ashley, Laurence, Trey, Foster and John Rodgers Lambert.
- May 28** . . . in memory of Emogene and Howard Elliott and in thankfulness for our servicemen and women by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Cenac, Jr.



Good Grief

by Jim Solomon, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer

Recently I found myself crying over the loss of a dear friend who lived a very long and very full life. Yet, the thought occurred to me that it's always too soon to lose someone you love no matter how old they are. Perhaps this is so because grief is part of love, as Jesus so powerfully demonstrated (John 11: 35).

I have some questions for each of us to ask ourselves regarding how well we are currently living our lives in the grace and truth of the Author of Life who not only conquered death to give us eternal life (John 3: 16-17) but also empowers us to live a "good" temporal life. After all, Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10: 10). Here are those questions:

Are you losing sleep? Are you sleeping too much? Are you overeating or under-eating? Are you drinking more than you know is healthy? Are you working too much or not enough? Do you sometimes fantasize about escaping your reality or even this world? Do you sometimes think you're forgetting more than usual? Are you feeling sad? Are you feeling angry?

If you are experiencing any of the above, you may be NORMAL if you have experienced loss in your life. This includes not only loss of someone but anything you value (i.e. job, marriage, home, etc.).

On Saturday, May 20 at 10 am, we will have our second Good Grief Seminar. In this special two-hour seminar, insight will be shared regarding not only the psychological but also the emotional, mental, physical, relational and spiritual effects of grief in our lives. We will focus on steps that can be taken to rise above what would hold us below in how we deal with loss in our lives, becoming victors rather than victims as we navigate change in our lives and the lives of those we love.

Although we don't all grieve in the same way, we do all grieve. Yet, the grief process is something we can reluctantly go through or intentionally grow through, transforming our lives further into the image of God in whose image we have been created. After all, it is in becoming more like him that we find true contentment, fulfillment, meaning and purpose in this life as we prepare for the next.

One of the "Dadisms" or "Jimisms" that my daughters like to quote is as follows: "Those most prepared to die are best prepared to live." When we take care of the eternal, we are free to truly enjoy the temporal. Yet, sometimes what keeps us from such joy is the grief we experience.

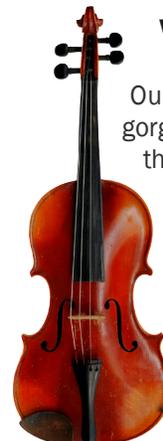
Won't you join us? To register for this free seminar, email laura@fpcbr.org indicating "grief seminar" on the subject line of your email, or call 225.620.0222 and leave a voice mail with your name and anyone else attending with you. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Mother's Day Men's Choir

This year the men will lead us in worship to our Lord and serenade the ladies for mother's day at the 9 am service. Only one rehearsal on Wednesday, May 10, at 6.15 in the Sanctuary. Fathers, sons, grandpas, singles . . . we need you to lead us.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Harold Mims and Gustavo Miranda for receiving their Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from LSU on May 12. We are blessed by your music at the 9 am service.



Vivaldi's Gloria

Our chancel choir will present the gorgeous, textured, offering of praise that is Antonio Vivaldi's famous *Gloria*.

This inspiring work is a beautiful setting of sacred text dating from the 4th century. Joining us will be members of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. Bring a friend to worship, Sunday, May 7 at 11 am.

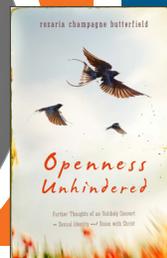
Rosaria Butterfield, May 5 and 6

Issues of sexual identity and expression are at the forefront of cultural discussions today. This is the contested point, the spear point, between the gospel and the culture today. Every generation has its challenge to what Paul called the scandal of the gospel, the unique and total claims of Christ upon us. Sexual identity is the one given to us to engage. Thankfully, we have a great resource in Dr. Rosaria Butterfield. Formerly a tenured professor at Syracuse University, Rosaria was an articulate spokesperson for the progressive philosophy so hostile to the church. Now she has come to know the love of Christ in a transformative way. Come hear her story and her words to the church Friday, May 5 at 7 pm and Saturday, May 6 at 9 am. This event is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, MAY 5:
7 - 9 pm Session One
FPC Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MAY 6:
8.15 am Continental Breakfast
9 - 10.45 am Session Two

Registration required for childcare only.
Visit fpcbr.org/childcare-reservations.



Children's Ministry Testimonial

by Brittany Comeaux

Parenting young ones is such a hectic season in life that can often leave little opportunity to dive into the church body. But, our family has been blessed beyond measure by the So Loved Nursery these past four years. My husband, Jamy and I have been able to engage with the church in ways that would not be possible without Audra and her staff. As we attend services, conferences and Bible studies our hearts and minds can fully focus on seeking God because we know our children, Hudson and Holland, are in the best hands.

I've joyfully watched them over the years as they were rocked and cuddled in the Caterpillars class or ran and played with friends in the toddler classes. And now I anxiously await to see what Bible lesson Hudson has learned in

his preschool class each Sunday. Not only are my children being loved on and making real friendships, they are being introduced to the Lord and shown his perfect love.

I'm certain if it weren't for this hallway filled with amazing volunteers and employees, that our family would be missing out on so many of the things the Lord has offered us at First Presbyterian. And for that I could not be more grateful!



Brittany and Jamy Comeaux with Holland (left) and Hudson (right).

Are You an Artist?

The Congregational Life Committee is collecting art to display for one year in our FPC Art Gallery on the 2nd floor of the Education Building. Artwork will swap out in July of each year. Contact meagan@fpcbr.org with any questions.

2017-2018 College Scholarships

College scholarships are available for entering or continuing students through the Women in Ministry Memorial Scholarship Fund. Applications can be emailed to interested students or are available online at fpcbr.org. The deadline to apply is June 1. Contact Jaci Gaspard for more information (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

7.45 am Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

MAY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

May 7
1 Kings 3: 16-28

May 14
Proverbs 3: 1-12

May 21
Proverbs TBD

May 28
1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30, 41-43

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Missions

Josh Maddin
Assistant Pastor of Student Ministry

Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive

Jim Solomon
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

Darin Travis
Director for Discipleship,
Men's Ministry & Young Adults



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Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
www.brchristiancounseling.com



A Thank You from KΓT

March 6, 2017

First Presbyterian,

"Thank you" is not enough for all you've given us this week; a place to stay, supplies, meals, memories and more. Working alongside the leaders and members of your church was truly an honor. Your heart and model for local missions should be modeled everywhere. For that reason, and as a gesture of thanks, we want to give you this donation of \$750. Thank you for all you've done for us and continue to do for your city. Working with you was truly a blessing we will cherish forever.

*Kappa Gamma Tau Fraternity
Baylor University
Waco, Texas*

Logo Reveal Party!

God has blessed us with multiple creative opportunities and we would like to share them with you! Therefore, Joyful Noise Children's Choir is proud to announce our new logo and music video starring our very own choir members. Even better, this is just the beginning. We truly strive to develop a heart for worship in each child while having fun. This fall our choirs will come together in our first children's musical in three years. Join us as we celebrate God's blessings at our logo reveal party on May 7. A family friendly dinner will be served at 5.45 with the big reveal at 6 pm!



Women's Summer Socials

You know that feeling when you want to ask a question but you feel like it's the dumbest question ever? Last year's "Now That's a Good Question" summer socials were such a hit, we're doing them again. We're going to give you an opportunity to ask that "dumb" question anonymously.

Join us on Tuesday, June 13 and again on Tuesday, July 11. Come enjoy fellowship and this fun format where a panel of pastor(s) and trained women will answer some commonly asked questions on theology, the church and Christian life.

Luncheons will begin at 11.30 am in the reception room. It'll be fun so bring a friend and don't forget to bring your questions.

\$10 per person. Register online or at the Connection Center. Childcare provided.