

Deeper in Christ, further into the world.

# fpcNEWS

October 2015 Volume 49.10

## Q4X: The Passion that Ignites Ministry by Gerrit Dawson



What a thrill to receive 33 new members last Sunday! The enthusiasm that new members bring refreshes our whole congregation. They energize our ministries and remind us of the joy of our fellowship. We always give attenders at our Discover First class an opportunity to ask questions. I got one I really liked: "What is the direction of this church? Where do you see us in 5, 10 or 20 years?"

To answer, I wrote on the white board: Q4X. That is a formula for my personal passion for ministry and a succinct summary of my vision for our church. Q4X. Quest for Christ. My goal is to encourage a culture where pursuing Jesus is our common passion. We press into knowing him as he has made himself known in Scripture and the sacraments. We entreat the Holy Spirit to reveal the Son to us as we gather around the Word. Then we go forth in his name to the mission fields of our lives. Our ever deepening relationship with Jesus leads us into a multitude of ways to love him by loving our community and our families. Q4X will be expressed through many forms of activities. Some of those will always be with us: children's ministry, care for one another in times of need, adult Bible study and weekly worship. Others will rise and fall with the seasons and shifting needs of the community around us.

Our direction will always be Jesus-ward as we seek to know him in worship and love him by loving the world he died for. That's our joyful direction first, last and always!

Particular forms of ministry have risen before us. Last month, in the special edition of the News, you saw the summary report of our Sowing the Seeds of Abundance Taskforce. Our leadership believes that church planting and community transformation are priorities for us in the foreseeable future. In partnership with

other EPC churches, we have our sights set on a church plant in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans. Perhaps you know of people looking for a great Reformed church in that area: I'd love to have their names and get in touch about this project. Also, with Gardere Community Christian School leading the way, we want to extend our reach into the community through all thirty ministry partnerships we have. The other "top-tier" partnerships include Caring to Love (a crisis pregnancy ministry), Manners of the Heart, Buchanan Elementary School, the Christian Outreach Center and Abounding Love Church with its Project Stars ministry.

I told the new members, one of our goals is for every member to be identified with at least one of these city ministries. In that way, each of us will feel part of the total effort. And, we want every member to be connected to the church through giving so that whenever a particular work is mentioned, we can each say, "I'm in that!" Together, we are creating a culture of Q4X, each of us in the hunt to know Christ and make him known.

### Legacy Giving: Fueling the Future

The session has authorized our Foundation to conduct a \$5 million campaign to grow our endowment. As we know, endowments are separate from the regular operations of the church. They support special projects and ministry opportunities. They get funded through bequests and special one-time contributions. Such funds are invested and the earnings are used to further the mission of the church. Through such legacy giving, we have supported dozens of seminary students, furthered existing ministries and begun new ones. Watch for news of the great things God has done through the blessing of our Foundation.

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## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Prayer for Our Nation	Sundays, 5 pm
Habitat Build	Oct 1-3, 15-17
rEcess	Oct 2
FAS Crowd	Oct 12
Kirkin' O' the Tartan	Oct 25
Officer Meetings	Oct 26
Global Missions Dinner	Oct 27

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Daylight Savings Ends	Nov 1
Columbarium Dedication	Nov 1
Fall Bash	Nov 1
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 8
BRSO Chamber Music	Nov 19

### IN MEMORIAM:

August 15, 2015  
Janice Munyon  
Mother of Jeannette Livingston

August 20, 2015  
Kathryn Ellison

September 23, 2015  
Lucy Schwab, mother of John Schwab

September 26, 2015  
Barbara Molstedt

### BAPTISMS:

September 13, 2015  
Emerson Brantley Kees  
Parents are Lauren and Ben Kees

### BIRTHS:

September 27, 2015  
Avery Grace Vincent  
Grandparents are Libby and Bobby Adams

### 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 ...

**Oct 4** ...to the glory of God and in loving memory of his parents, Sue and Chester Coles, and his brother, Robert Ligon Coles, by Dr. and Mrs. Chet Coles.

**Oct 11** ... to the glory of God and in celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of Shirley and Louis Stirling who were married by Dr. John Melton in the sanctuary on September 20, 1955.

**Oct 18** ...in loving memory with thanksgiving for Jonathan David Pugsley honoring his birthdate of October 17 by his parents and sister, David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

**Oct 25** ... to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Carr and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.

## FPC and Ebenezer Church in Belize

By Josh Maddin,  
Associate Pastor of Student Ministry

Year two of our Family Mission trip to Belize was incredible. This was our second year working alongside the Ebenezer church outside Belize City. The area is called the Burial Grounds because of its close proximity to the city cemetery. Ebenezer is a vibrant and exciting congregation ministering alongside the poorest of Belize.

This year Ebenezer Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church from Austin and FPC joined together to establish a more permanent structure for Ebenezer. The church was built on a former swamp which required frequent stabilizing due to the wooden structure becoming unbalanced. Through the partnership with the US churches concrete pilings were built and the construction of a concrete slab was started.

What a great God we serve. Years ago wise men and women of FPC managed funds and bequests to this church and prayed God would use it to further the kingdom of God. Now in 2015 some of those funds have become available and with our partner churches have helped the literal foundation of a new congregation to be built. The best part was seeing the Belizean congregation get involved as well. They sacrificed a ton and were able to raise the funds for many of the cement blocks. It was incredible to see their faces as they looked at the property and the church building. They were blessed to be fully part of this project and not have the American church come and take over. We were doing it together. The congregation also hosted dinner for our team members in their homes and were around the worksite each day. A true partnership and connection with another part of the body of Christ was forming.

We look forward to continuing this newly formed partnership. If you or your family are interested in joining the team on the next trip, please contact me at any time.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Josh Maddin



### Thomas Zak

Meet Thomas Zak, our new FPC Middle school director. Thomas hails from the great state of Texas and has a huge passion for Jesus Christ and making him known in students' lives. He is super tall (but he only got 3rd place in a limbo contest in the 3rd grade), plays the trumpet, loves Whataburger, baseball, movies and just graduated from LSU with a Creative Writing degree. Thomas is jumping into a great heritage of adults who have poured their lives into our young people. Please join us in welcoming Thomas into the FPC family.

### Family Ministry Fall Bash

Children and Youth Ministries would like to invite you to our Fall Bash on Sunday, November 1, 4-6 pm. Activities include our annual Maze (\$5/person) and a CARnival for our kids! Kids can journey from car to car for fun games and surprises! No costumes - treat bags will be provided. Dinner will be available for \$5 per person from Smashburger Food Truck (cheeseburger, chicken sandwich or chicken tenders).



## Kirkin' O' the Tartans and Congregational Meeting

Reformation Sunday, October 25, will be a single 10.30 service with lunch on the grounds. The bagpipes and drums will muster us on the front steps beginning at 10 am.

As Presbyterians, we know that our expression of faith was born in Scotland. So we celebrate Scottish heritage on this Sunday. But we also know that the gospel is universal, and the Scots once led the way in bringing Christ to the rest of the world. We will call upon our Scots again to lead each of us in standing for Christ before the world, even at cost of life and fortune, that all might know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Our October congregational meeting will be a part of our service as we elect our new elders and deacons.

## Meeting Needs at FPC

Many of you have mentioned an interest in helping those in need within our congregation. This might be sitting for an hour or so while a caregiver runs to the store or out for a break. It might be climbing a ladder to change a lightbulb for someone who shouldn't be on a ladder anymore. It might be a short visit to a shut-in who is lonesome to visit with a fellow church member. It might involve a small job that a handyman/woman can do and thereby avoid paying a large service call to one on a limited income. Could this be *you*? Please call (573.9149) or email Dick Gates ([dick@fpcbr.org](mailto:dick@fpcbr.org)) if you are interested. He needs to know who you are and how you can contribute.



## Habitat for Humanity FPC 2015 Build

### Habitat for Humanity Build 2015

Come build homes and hope with us!  
Fifth First Presbyterian Build  
2806 Madison Ave. Lot #1

OCTOBER 1-3 then again OCTOBER 15-17

Register online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).



## Global Missions Dinner

The Global Missions Committee is pleased to have Albert Ratkin from Kaluga, Russia, with us for a potluck supper on Tuesday, October 27 at 5.30 pm in Education Building, room 202.

That same evening we will hear Claire Wilson's report on her recent trip to Uganda with Bethany Centre Alliance and Whitney Alexander's trip to Lebanon.

Please join us to hear firsthand of God's Word being carried throughout the world. Admission: please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert for our potluck supper.

RSVP to the church office, 387.0617.

## October Circles

### 1ST MONDAY, OCT 5

Circle 15 Café Phonecia @ 7pm  
Zachary

### 1ST TUESDAY, OCT 6

Circle 1 Home of Hallie Garrison @ 9.45  
11634 Villa Avenue (755.1461)  
Circle 2 Church Parlor @ 9.45 am  
Circle 3 FPC Room 201 @ 10 am

### 1ST THURSDAY, OCT 8

Circle 11 (Downtown WoW)  
Church Library @ noon

### 1ST FRIDAY, OCT 2

Circle 7 (Garden District WoW)  
Home of Sara Blankenstein @ 2 pm  
2030 Terrace Ave (344.7911)

### 2ND MONDAY, OCT 12

Circle 13 Catholic Presbyterian Apartments @ 2 pm  
Circle 14 Home of Ingrid Medford @ 9.30  
7662 Sevenoaks Ave. (329.5662)

### 2ND TUESDAY, OCT 13

Circle 4 Home of Amanda Boggs @ 6.30 pm  
6136 Chandler (907.6578)  
Circle 5 (Garden District WoW)  
Home of Rachel Williams @ 11 am  
2142 Oleander (907.7015)  
Circle 6 Home of Katie Forsthoff @ 10 am  
1135 Westmoreland Drive  
(404.518.9765)  
Circle 8 Home of Elizabeth Rennhoff  
@ 6.30 pm  
5942 Shakespeare Dr. (938.7743)  
Circle 9 Meet @ 6.30 pm  
Contact Ann Gregorie  
(937.0488)

### 3RD WEDNESDAY, OCT 21

Circle 10 (Mid City WoW)  
Bistro Byronz @ 5 pm  
5412 Government St.



## 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

### OCTOBER SERMON TEXTS

#### Oct 4, AD 2015

Hebrews 10: 1-18

#### Oct 11, AD 2015

Hebrews 10: 19-25

#### Oct 18, AD 2015

Hebrews 11

#### Oct 25, AD 2015

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Combined 10.30 am Worship

Hebrews 12: 1-17

## 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



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[www.fpcbr.org](http://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](http://www.brchristiancounseling.com)

### Are You a Friend, Encourager or Reader?

The Buchanan Elementary ministry is off to great start and we are looking for members who would like to get involved with our work at the school. The school is located off Highland Road near McKinley High School. We are recruiting for:

**Reading Friends** – Read with below level students a minimum of 30 minutes twice a month. Training is provided.

**Teacher Encourager** - Teachers/staff members are “adopted” by a FPC member who remembers them once a month with a note, call or small gift and prayer.

**Storytime Reader** – Church members read age-appropriate stories to a class (PreK-3rd) at least once a month.

**Special Events** – FPC hosts and participates in a variety of events during the school year. We are always looking for willing volunteers to help make these events a success!

In addition, we will be collecting school supplies for the students and teachers. Ms. Britten requested the following items:

*Electric pencil sharpeners (heavy duty), 3-pronged pocket folders, pencils, belts (blue or black - all sizes), underwear for boys/girls – sizes 4T, 6-7, 8-10, socks for pre-K through 12 years old. **Donations can be dropped off at the Connection Center.***

Volunteer sign ups continue at the Connection Center. Please contact Laura Shaw at [laurashaw2@yahoo.com](mailto:laurashaw2@yahoo.com) or 225.278.1929 for more information.

### Prayer for Our Nation



Each Sunday  
at 5 pm in the  
Sanctuary\*

\*Note time change



### OCTOBER FAS CROWD

Monday, October 12  
11:30 am

FPC Reception Room

RSVP by October 9  
by calling 387.0617

\$15 per person