

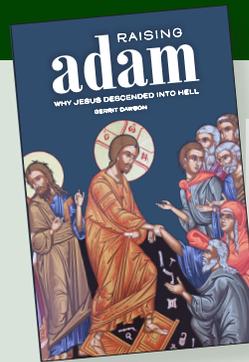
## Better Like This? by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

An eye doctor asks this question a million times as we peek through different lenses: better like this? Or like *this*? The process continues until you find the lenses by which you can see the clearest. The letters on the screen don't change. Just the lenses by which we view them.

There's just one Jesus. He has made himself known. We don't get to make him up. But we do get to look at him through different lenses. And in that way see new wonders about him. We get to be surprised and refreshed as Jesus comes into glorious focus when we gaze at him through a biblical lens we may have overlooked.

My passion is to bring Jesus into clear focus for you every week as we study Scripture. In my personal studies over the last half decade, I have been gazing at Jesus through a particular lens and making note of what I see. I have been meditating, researching, pondering and writing about the event in Jesus' life known as the *descent into hell*. I have seen some wondrous sights when viewing the story of Jesus this way. His whole story of redemption "pops" with meaning when you see what his final descent meant.

At last, I can share them with you! We're launching my book: *Raising Adam: Why Jesus Descended into Hell*. On Sunday, October 14 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary I'll be doing a presentation on the subject, then we'll have a book launch party at 6 in the



RAISING  
**adam**  
WHY JESUS DESCENDED INTO HELL

Reception Room. I'm so excited to share these insights into Christ with you, and I hope you will help me in spreading the word.

Meanwhile, there's lots of other great stuff going on at your church. We're finishing our Habitat build. The women are gathering October 6 for a "Day Treat" out at the Boydston's farm. The October 23 Gala to support Gardere School will be in the super-cool venue of the new Estuary @ the Water Campus. And on the 28th we'll have our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans celebration. By then, the weather will have cooled and we'll be ready for a festive worship service as one congregation. All the news is in this issue.

I love to be your pastor!

*Gerrit*



## IN THIS ISSUE

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Habitat Build	Oct 4-Oct 6
rEcess	Oct 5
WiM Day Treat	Oct 6
Discover First Dinner	Oct 7
<i>Raising Adam</i> Book Launch Reception	Oct 14
IFP Training	Oct 21
Living the Vision Gardere Dinner	Oct 23
Good Grief Seminar	Oct 27
Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service	Oct 28
Congregational Lunch	Oct 28

**ONGOING EVENTS**

“12 Steps with Christ Jesus” Weds., 12.15 pm  
 Sunday Evening Prayer, 5 pm each Sunday

**UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS**

Daylight Savings	Nov 4
Children's Musical	Nov 4
Stewardship Sunday	Nov 11

**BIRTHS:**

Georgia Ann Klingman  
 Parents are Caitlyn and Derrick Klingman  
 Grandmother is Sherry McKinley

**BAPTISMS:**

September 9, 2018  
 James Talbert Barr  
 Parents are Adelaide and Andrew Barr

Eleanor and Luke Guidry  
 Parents are Hattie and Jonathan Guidry

Lilley Catherine McVea  
 Parents are Claire and Stephens McVea

Anna Katherine Ruff  
 Parents are Michelle and Tim Ruff

**IN MEMORIAM:**

September 1, 2018  
 Doris Meek - Mother of Terri Douglas

September 12, 2018  
 Barbara Goebel

**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 7 . . . In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydston and Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr., parents of Nan and Herb Boydston.

OCT 14 . . . In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean Glisson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wesley McLean by Linda and Mike Glisson and family.

OCT 21 . . . In loving memory of Kay Curry, beloved mother and grandmother, given by Mary, Ryan, David, Luke and Mary Claire Dickerson.

OCT 28 . . . In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don R. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. James S. Carr and Miss Inez McDougald by the McAdams family.

**I'm Retiring After 27 Years of Ministry** by Nancy Spiller

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to let you know that I am retiring from leading Sunday worship at the end of January. This is very hard for me to say, as you are my family, and will always be my family. I have prayed about this for some time and feel that God is telling me it is time for the next chapter in my life, one now filled with a growing extended family, as well as it is time to pass the baton here at church. It is my desire to continue in Creative Arts Ministry and to assist our new worship director, as needed, to become familiar with our wonderful church family and worship ministry.

So what can I say in a few paragraphs to sum up 27 years of ministry? I want to simply say thank you for the opportunity God gave me. What amazing things I have seen God do over the years in the church's life, in your personal lives and in my own life. And I would like to say thank you to some very special people.

I am grateful for Gerrit and his friendship over the past 14 years, as well as our former pastor, Russ Stevenson, who let me spread my wings and fly. Both pastors have stood beside me and trusted me. That is a gift not taken for granted.

To our church staff—my friends with whom I work day and night, sometimes 24/7 when in crisis mode. What a joy to serve alongside you. Thank you for always going along for “the ride” with all of my ideas. You have prayed for me, and have given me great free advice and counsel through the years. I can't ever repay you, but I love you!

To the worship team—you truly love the Lord and are some of the most humble people I know. You are each my dear friend. So many memories we have made together. It will be

nice to not have to boss you around! Some of you have been here as long as I have. We have been through life together and there is nothing greater.



I do want to especially thank my husband Rick, who calls himself “Mr. Nancy.” He has made me “breakfast to go” on Sunday mornings and has driven me to church each week like I was a rock star for 24 years. And a quick note to say that my children lived at the church while they were growing up. They have so many great memories and I believe they count that as a blessing now that they are young adults with families of their own.

To my church family—it has been my honor and blessing to serve you, serve others with you and be served by you. I am not planning to go anywhere and will continue on with “joy to the Lord.” I have learned that “the joy of the Lord is our strength,” in battling this aching and wonderful world we temporarily live in.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!! Amen.” (Ephesians 3: 20-21)

God bless First Presbyterian Church always and forever. How can we keep from singing?

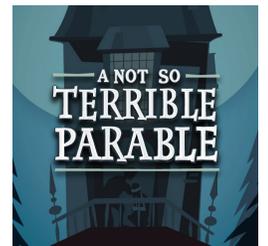
Sincerely written with all my love and thanks,

*Nancy Spiller*

**A Not So Terrible Parable: Loving Others as Christ Loved Us**

by Lauren Honea

“It was a dark and stormy night . . .” So begins the Master's Peace Theatre presentation by the Joyful Noise Children's choir. This mysterious whodunit is a free musical about the Good Samaritan. Guy Random has been robbed, beaten and left on the side of the road until someone “outstanding” helps him out. Could it be the lawyer, the Bible seller or the pizza delivery girl? In this musical we will discover whodunit and that it is Jesus who ultimately has come to our rescue. Join us on November 4 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary wearing your best Bible costume. In addition to the musical there will be candy stations and a costume contest for the best Bible or non-scary costume. We hope to see every Matthew, Mark, Luke and John there!



## “Conversations” Women’s Day Treat, October 6



God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit conversed with one another. God lovingly brought humanity in on that conversation when he created Adam and Eve. The conversation was warped when sin entered the world. But even in the midst of sin, we are invited to be a part of the conversation God has established. We do this by conversing with God, conversing with ourselves and conversing with others. Conversations. They’re happening all the time. With ourselves. With others. For some of us, only sometimes

with God. Join us for the “Conversations” women’s day treat on Saturday, October 6 where we’ll focus on how to improve our conversation with the Lord. We’ll meet at the church at 9 am then carpool to Redwood Creek Farms in Ethel. Or if you prefer, just meet us up there at 10 am. We’d love for you to invite a guest. Registration is online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) and is \$20/person. Let us know when you register if you’d like to carpool with others or if you can offer transportation.

## Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans and Congregational Meeting, October 28



As Presbyterians, we know that our expression of faith was born in Scotland. So we celebrate our Scottish heritage on Reformation Sunday, October 28. Wear your plaids, your kilts and your tweeds as we celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith. We will muster

on the Sanctuary steps at 10 am. After enjoying the bagpipers, we’ll follow the procession of the Bible, the tartans, the pastors and choir as we enter God’s house. During the service, we will hear of the daring, sacrificial faith of the first Presbyterians. We will call the clans and invite those of Scottish descent to lead each and every one of us in affirming our faith in Christ our Lord. We’ll all thrill as the organ and the bagpipes are unleashed for the stirring “Highland Cathedral.” Bring your friends and don’t miss it!

Our congregational meeting will be a part of our service as we elect new elders and deacons as well as vote on proposed changes to the church Articles of Incorporation.

**2020 NOMINATED CLASS OF ELDERS AND DEACONS** The congregation has nominated the following members for the 2020 class of officers: **Elders:** Katie Forsthoff, Joe Juban, Laurie Lemoine, Bill McDonald, Mike Salassi, Richard Setliff, Jerry Stovall, Suzie Thompson, Dale Weiner and Jim Wood. **Deacons:** Libby Adams, Gene Booth, Cheryl Brodnax, Jamy Comeaux, Sharon Dixon, Sherry Kadair, Annie Kelly, Kevin McCarter, Bob Olsson, Melissa Thibodeaux, Milt Westmoreland and Harold Yi.

**CLAN TARTANS FOR THE KIRKIN’** We want your clan’s tartan to be represented at the annual Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans. Call Jaci to see about including yours, 620.0221.

**CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH** After worship stay for a congregational lunch in the gym for \$5 (\$20 per family). Special music will be provided by James Linden and Jim Hogg.

## Good Grief Seminar, October 27

Loss is a part of life. Some have lost jobs, some have lost relationships to breakup, divorce or death, some have lost their good health, while others grieve the loss of how things used to be.

Regardless of the type of loss you have experienced, it is significant to your Savior who loves you like none other. Someone you love may be in a better place but are YOU? You see, grief cannot be avoided and is something we can go through or grow through.

On Saturday, October 27 from 10 am-12 pm, we are hosting a Good Grief Seminar. During this time, insight will be shared regarding the psychological, as well as the emotional, 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. There will be time for Q & A.

The seminar is free of charge and open to anyone. To register, please contact Laura Shaw ([laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org) or 620.0222). Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Childcare will be available.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion  
9 am Contemporary  
11 am Classic Reformed  
October 28: One single 10.30 am service

## OCTOBER SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

OCTOBER 7, 2018  
Colossians 2: 16-23

OCTOBER 14, 2018  
Colossians 3: 1-4

OCTOBER 21, 2018  
Colossians 3: 5-11

OCTOBER 28, 2018  
To be determined

## PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON  
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS  
Director for Discipleship,  
Men’s Ministry & Young Adults



PH: 225.387.0617  
FAX: 225.338.1010

[fpcbr.org](http://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

[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)



## Our Habitat Homeowner: Courtney Richard

Courtney came to Habitat for Humanity to make a better life for her daughters, Kyrielle (4) and Laila (6 months). She was living in a run-down old house with many other family members and wanted to have a place she and the girls could call their own. The first thing Courtney plans to do in her new home is cook a big meal and spend quality time with her children. "I can't wait for us to have our own peaceful space to be just the three of us together." Courtney says she loves to cook and Kyrielle loves to eat so she's excited about having a brand new kitchen of her own. When she found out that she was approved for Habitat's homeownership program, she was excited to get started working for their future! Swing a hammer. Create a home. Volunteer for our Habitat for Humanity build. The final weekend is October 4-6. Visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) to register to volunteer or to provide food. The house site is 1005 North 31st Street, 70802.

## Celebration of Vision and Hope

Celebrate God's work through Gardere Community Christian School. The annual fundraising gala is a joyful evening of fellowship and witness to the transformation in the lives of our students. Admission is free; October 23, 6.30 pm at the Estuary @ the Water Campus. Please visit [gardereschool.org](http://gardereschool.org) to RSVP.



## Discover First Dinner

The next Discover First Dinner is Sunday, October 7 from 4-7. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. For more information or to sign up, please contact Meagan Greene (454.2504 or [meagan@fpcbr.org](mailto:meagan@fpcbr.org)).



## Still Needed

8 Teacher Encouragers, 3 Storytime Readers and Reading Friends for our Buchanan Elementary ministry. Sign up at the Connection Center or contact Laura Shaw at [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org) or 225.387.0617.

**FPC Podcast.** Visit the church website ([fpcbr.org.podcast](http://fpcbr.org.podcast)) or the iTunes Store to download or update the First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge app.