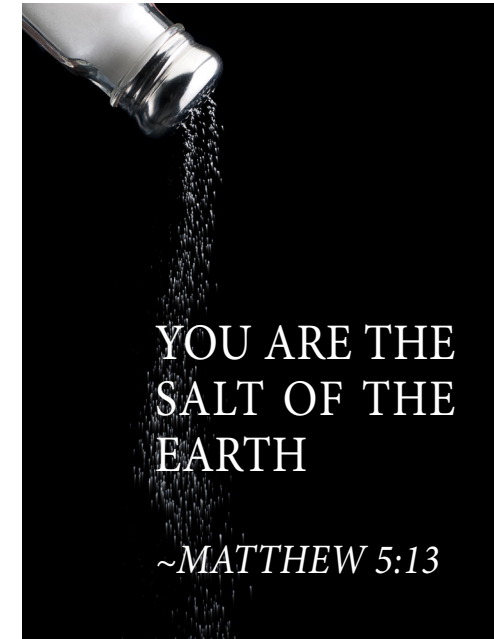


Perspectives on the World Christian Movement



SALT.

It heals, flavors, and causes thirst. But it does nothing on its own. It must interact to have purpose. If it fails to be used, it loses its power and purpose.

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again?" Matthew 5:13

Jesus calls us the salt of the earth, but how can we be used? How can we fulfill the purpose He has for us? Learn how to use your skills and passions to glorify God in all the earth - no matter your location or vocation. The *Perspectives* course will expose you to true stories of how God is using people like you, and it will provide you with a greater perspective to live your life with eternal significance and purpose.

Since 1974, more than 70,000 believers in

North America have experienced the *Perspectives* course. In 15 lessons, you'll engage with a range of dynamic speakers. Weekly readings and study will help you dig even deeper.

A *Perspectives* testimony from Rebecca Lunceford:

I attended Perspectives in the fall of 2008 / spring of 2009 and am so thankful I was able to participate in such an established and thorough course on world missions. At the time, I was a student at LSU and took the class at the certificate level. I can still remember so many details from the class, such as cat / dog theology, but truly more than the specific teaching you will learn and read about the overall impact the collective lessons will have on your world view. Perspectives is a wonderful class because it helps you see the big broad picture of God's heart for all peoples, and the very personal and practical way you can be involved. When I graduated from LSU in December of 2009 I left America to move to Egypt and serve in the sports ministry of a local church full-time, where I have been for the last 2 years. I know Perspectives helped prepare my mind and heart for such a commitment. I encourage you to attend Perspectives at FPC and give this class a chance to impact your life.

First Presbyterian is glad to host a *Perspectives* class in the new year: Monday evenings from January 16 - April 30, 2012. To audit the course is \$295.00. To take the course for "credit" the cost is \$545.00. Please contact Dick Gates for further details (dick@fpcbr.org).

Awaken Us: 40 Days to Fast and Pray

Awakenus.com recently posted an interview with Dr. Sameh Maurice of Kasr El Dohara Church in Cairo, Egypt, the church that birthed the 40 day fast at the end of 2010. This movement spread throughout Egypt, sparking a revival in the churches, a spiritual awakening in their land, and began a cleansing of Egypt's political system that is still in progress. May this video inspire us here in America to unite together for "40 Days to Fast and Pray" at the end of 2011. (<http://awakenus.com/?s=40+days+to+fast+and+pray>)

Congrats to Buchanan

Congratulations to Buchanan Elementary for receiving a B+ rating in the Louisiana Department of Education's School Report Cards! Principal Patrice Hudson and staff were thrilled to receive the good news and extend their thanks to community partners like First Presbyterian Church for helping them achieve this goal. Next year - A+!

Welcome... continued from front page

us finish as winners. **1) New Runners.** We always planned in faith that God would send us new members whose gifts would help us close the gap and finish on target. If you're new to our church, consider how you can jump in this race. We need you. **2) Strong Finishers.** So many folks pledged sacrificially and in faith during a poor economy. By God's provision, you will meet that projected pledge. Run the race to the end! **3) Extra Milers.** Some of us, by the gift of God's bounty, have already completed our pledge and are in a position where we could do more. We need you! For those who can, we need to kick it home with an extra lap, going over and above what we first promised. Which kind of runner is God calling you to be? What a celebration we will have next year when the campaign is complete and everyone has run their race!

Christmas Offering

Beginning December 18, envelopes will be available for our annual Christmas offering to support the ministry of the Christian Outreach Center. The COC works throughout the year on two fronts: 1) to provide immediate assistance for legitimate, urgent needs of the poor in our city, 2) to offer long term guidance for people in need who are willing to work. The COC sees more than 300 clients each month. For more than twenty years, First has been a founding, major sponsor of this joint venture of the downtown churches. As the new board president, I have been very impressed with the work of COC.



fpc NEWS

Deeper in Christ... further into the world.



Volume 45 - 12

December 2011

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I hope you have a time of great gathering with friends and family. Here at the church, we look forward to keeping Christmas with you all month long. This Advent, the sermons will be based on the Old Testament book of Ruth. Does that seem like an odd choice for Christmas? Actually, as I worked through this powerful little book during the summer, the Christmas connections leaped out at me. Come see Christmas in a new way each Sunday!

The Live Nativity

The Live Nativity returns after construction prevented us last year. Friday night, December 2, we will host two shows out on North Blvd. as part of the Downtown Festival of Lights. If you haven't seen our expanded Nativity before, don't miss it. This year, we even have a real camel coming! Sunday night, Dec. 4, we will have two encore performances, beginning at 5:30 and 6:30.

Annual Pilgrimage

The Annual Pilgrimage of Carols begins Sunday evening, December 18 at 6PM at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and includes a stop in our lovely sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Worship

As usual, Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 and 6:00 PM in our sanctuary. Both services feature the three vital "c's" of carols,

communion, and candlelight. My message is entitled "Working on the Rewrite." The latest album from Paul Simon provides the jumping off point for this consideration of the transforming power of the Christmas news. I think it will be a good message for the many visiting neighbors and family members you'll be bringing with you. The first service is the most family friendly, with acoustic contemporary instruments; the second is the more traditional, including the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. By God's grace, both will be filled with the Spirit of the God who came to us in the manger so long ago.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Christmas and New Year's Day will be single services, each beginning at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Both will be offered in a relaxed atmosphere of blended worship. On Christmas morning, we'll have an old fashioned carol sing with a brief message. (Yes, bring your favorite present with you!)

Capital Campaign Update

We will soon be entering the third and final year of our campaign. So much great work has been done. We've renovated the sanctuary and provided vital camera equipment to our partner church in Cairo. We've created beautiful garden terrace space and begun new ministries in our renovated children's area. So much more is ahead in terms of new ministry and mission through our facilities and this campaign.

Soon, you will be receiving a letter and a link to a video discussing the vision for this final push. Following the image of the race that we studied this fall, I see three kinds of "runners" who help

Continued on back page.



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DECEMBER CALENDAR

Live Nativity	Dec 2
Live Nativity	Dec 4
Discover First Class	Dec 4
Prayer Meeting	Dec 7
FAS Crowd Luncheon	Dec 12
Circle Advent Brunch	Dec 13
Prayer Meeting	Dec 14
Downtown Pilgrimage	Dec 18
Prayer Meeting	Dec 21
4 & 9 pm Worship	Dec 24
Combined Worship	Dec 25
Combined Worship	Jan 1



New Births:

November 4, 2011
Mary Claire Dickerson
Parents are Mary and Ryan Dickerson

November 12, 2011
Mathieu Scott Brackeen
Parents are Marietta and Brandon Brackeen

Baptisms:

November 13, 2011
Nathan Bradford Beall
Parents are Rosemary and Kyle Beall

November 13, 2011
Jacklyn Elise and Hollis Anne Dees
Parents are Rebecca and Brandon Dees

Weddings:

November 19, 2011
Scott Highsmith married Erin Richey

In Memoriam:

November 13, 2011
Noblet Beryl Barry
Mother of Wilfred Barry

2011 ADVENT CALENDAR

December 2 & 4:
Live Nativity, 5:30 and 6:30 pm

December 18: Downtown Pilgrimage
Begins at 6:00 pm, Mt. Zion Baptist Church

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship,
4:00 pm Acoustic Communion Candlelight
Service
6:00 pm Brass, Organ & Choir Candlelight
Service

December 25: One combined 10:30 worship
January 1: One combined 10:30 worship

The church office will close at noon
December 23 and all day on December 26.
For New Year's we will be closed at noon on
December 30 and all day on January 2.

The church staff wishes you a
Merry Christmas and new year filled with our
Savior's peace, mercy and love!

Love & Respect: Building Blocks Marriage Course

Have you been looking for a marriage study that is so entertaining and enlightening that your marriage improves almost immediately? Dr. Emerson Eggerichs has done it!

Emerson's study will unpack 5 key principles that will create "Ah Ha" moments and bring fresh insight into your marriage. In this six session Building Blocks Small Group Study you will learn how to: value your unique differences, resist misleading cultural influences, refocus on what made you friends, understand your spouse's mother tongue, and effectively influence the relationship.

We are excited to offer this small group beginning January 8 continuing each Sunday until mid-February from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. For further details contact Alec Flynt (alec@fpcbr.org).

Thinking About Joining First?

Senior Pastor, Gerrit Dawson, is leading a Discovery Class for potential new members Sunday, December 4, 4-7 PM. Sign up at the Connection Center for an exciting afternoon exploring the Christian faith and the mission of First or call Sherry McKinley, 620.0224.

Let Me Introduce Myself

My name is Josh Maddin. My wife Rachael and 15-month-old daughter, Peyton, and I are so thrilled to be moving to Baton Rouge in January. We are excited about creating a fun place for students at FPC and a place to share the love of Christ with them and their friends. I love students and am so blessed with the opportunity to serve here alongside so many great people.

My wife and I have been married for 6 years. I grew up in Lubbock and attended Texas Tech University and received my Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from Belhaven College. I have been in youth ministry for the past 13 years. In 2009 I received my Master's degree from Westminster Seminary and just recently started a Doctorate program at Fuller Seminary.

While in Lubbock I met Rachael. She is originally from Plano and graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Early Childhood Development and Special Education. She quickly returned to earn her Master's degree in Special Education. She is currently a Behavior Specialist for the Plano ISD school district.

We also have four amazing nieces and now a little nephew. We love the outdoors and traveling all over God's amazing world and seeing how He is reaching the hearts of his people around the globe. We are very excited to come on staff here at First Presbyterian with a passion and joy for serving the next generation. We look forward to meeting you and serving in ministry alongside this congregation.

In Him, *Josh, Rachael & Peyton*

High School Advent Progressive Dinner

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

Appetizers: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

The home of Sharon Field, 6207 Clover Dr.

Entree: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

The home of Bo Bankston,
6707 Burden Ln.

Desserts: 8:00 - 9:00 pm

The home of Sara Alice Witcher,
6595 Pikes Ln.



Isn't Kenya Already Evangelized?

An excerpt from Mac Magruder's blogspot

One of the questions Ashley and I get from time to time is, "Why does Kenya need missionaries, isn't it already a Christian nation?" Of course many millions of people in Kenya have been exposed to the Word of God.

The Message has been distorted or misunderstood in very fundamental ways here. I am not talking about theological differences that separate Roman Catholics/Presbyterians/Pentecostals but real loss of meaning and purpose of the Word of God. Here is a very real example from my time in the field recently.

The following is taken from a poster hung in a church we recently visited.

Eve saw how beautiful the tree was and how good it's fruit would be to eat: and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise, she ate some and gave her husband to eat, making Adam wise not foolish.

This church believes that when Eve and Adam ate of the fruit they experienced blessing that live on to today. From the time of early childhood most everyone within the Christian world has an understanding that when Adam and Eve turned their backs on God in the Garden of Eden the consequences of their sin were devastating and far-reaching; they affected the very order of the universe. This church leader is in desperate need of understanding that at least four relationships were broken through the Fall. First, Adam and Eve's intimate relationship with God was broken. This was the primary relationship for which they had been created, the most important aspect of their lives. When their relationship with God was broken, their other relationships were also damaged: their relationship with themselves as individuals, with each other as fellow human beings, and with the rest of creation. The universe is intricately designed and interwoven. It is holistic, composed of multiple parts, each of which depends on the proper functioning of the others. All parts are governed by laws established by God. When the primary relationship between God and humanity was severed, every part of the original harmony of God's creation was affected. War, hatred, violence, environmental degradation, injustice, corruption, idolatry, poverty and famine all spring from sin. There is major work to be done here.

Advent Mission Opportunities

ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, seeks to reconcile prisoners and their family to God, each other, and their community through the transforming love and grace of Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian has 100 "angels" this year. We need volunteers to purchase, wrap, and deliver gifts along with the Gospel to children in the name of their prisoner parent. Through your generosity, an "angel" can feel a connection with a beloved parent and the love of God even in difficult times.

SOCK TREE

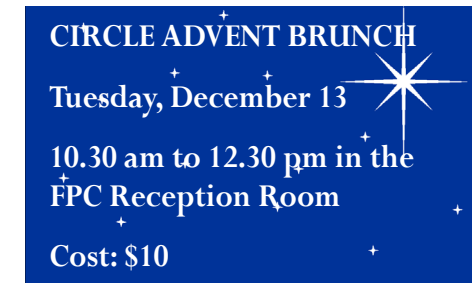
Last year the First Presbyterian Church Sock Tree provided 636 pairs of new socks to the Open Air Ministry, the Battered Women's Shelter, the Christian Outreach Center and the Louisiana Veterans Facility at Jackson. Plan to bring socks (men's, women's and children's) on December 11th and 18th. Baskets will be at the 8th street entrance and outside the Reception Room. Checks may also be sent to the church office designated for the Sock Tree. Please help us to continue to bring comfort to so many in our community.

OPEN AIR MINISTRIES

Let's bless the homeless of Baton Rouge with always needed warm clothing during our cold winter months. Please drop off socks, hats, gloves, coats, blankets, shoes, Bibles and toiletry items to the collection locations at the 8th Street entrance as well as the Connection Center. In addition, each first Sunday birthdays are celebrated at Open Air Ministry. If you or your Sunday school class would be interested in purchasing and writing birthday greetings to the homeless, please contact Jane Cooper.

Circle Advent Brunch

All Circle members are invited to attend this Advent brunch, and you are encouraged to invite your friends for fellowship and to hear the gospel. Mary Willson will teach the lesson from Surprised by Grace: God's Relentless Pursuit of Rebels, "A New Beginning: Again, God Calls." You must RSVP (for you and your friends you invite) to your Circle chairman by December 6. Your Circle chairman has all the information you will need about this brunch, so if you have questions please contact her. Additionally, several extra copies of Surprised by Grace will be available for purchase (\$10—a reduced rate for our women). These make great Christmas gifts!



Uns Ist Ein Kind Geboren (Unto Us a Child is Born)

A Christmas musical offering will take place on Sunday December 11 at the 11:00 service by the Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra. I would like to write that this piece was composed by the well-known Baroque composer Johann Sebastian Bach; however it appears as though new findings suggest that Johann Kuhnau, Bach's predecessor as Kantor at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany, was probably the composer. This musical offering will be sung in both German and English and expresses the wonder and joy of the birth of our Lord. Come and bring your neighbors, family and friends to share in the experience, praising God through strings, winds, organ and song.

*Stephen Rushing,
Chancel Choir Director*

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS



Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Circle 1 Sue Spaht, Chair (343.5486)
Location: Mary Douglas, 9:45 AM
1224 Ross Ave (343-2797)

Circle 2 Ellen Fox, Chair (769.0936)
Location: Mary Lilly Boutwell, 9:45 AM
3113 E. Lakeshore Dr. (338-1806)

Circle 3 Eugenie Burglass, Chair (767.6407)
Location: FPC EB 301, 10 AM, Quilting only

Circle 7 Peggy Anderson, Chair (344.0127)
Location: Peggy Anderson, 6:30 PM
322 Wiltz Dr. (344.0127)

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Circle 4 Memory Green, Chair (246.8197)
Location: FPC Reception Rm , 10:30 AM
Advent Brunch

Circle 5 Betty Baker-Baldrige, Chair (928.5725)
Location: FPC Reception Rm, 10:30 AM
Advent Brunch

Circle 6 Hallie Garrison, Chair (755.1461)
Location: FPC Reception Rm. 10:30 AM
Advent Brunch

Circle 8 Elizabeth Rennhoff, Chair (752.7215)
Location: Marianne Theriot, 6:30 PM
387 Kenwood (924-0503)

Circle 9 Sugar McAdams, Chair (383.4642)
Location: Vera Lazarre, 6:30 PM
621 W. Woodruff (767-0510)

Circle 11 Vicki Lindrew, Chair (387.0617)
Location: FPC Reception Rm , 10:30 AM
Advent Brunch

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

Circle 10 Sandy Zvez (753.1188) and
Pat Canfield (295.0084)
Location: Drusilla Seafood, 5 PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Come worship with us!

WORSHIP TIMES:

7:45 a.m. Chapel Communion Service
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Classic Reformed Service

Sunday, December 4, ad 2011

"Sheltering Wings"

Ruth 2

Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, December 11, ad 2011

"A Kinsman Redeemer"

Ruth 3

Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, December 18, ad 2011

"Unintended Consequences"

Ruth 4

Gerrit Dawson

Sunday, December 24, ad 2011

Christmas Eve

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit S. Dawson
Senior Pastor

Barry Phillips
Ministry Executive

M. Whitney Alexander
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry

Richard "Dick" Gates
Associate Pastor for Mission
and Pastoral Care

J. Alec Flynt
Associate Pastor for Young Adults
and Discipleship



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