



4815 Franklin Pike ■ Nashville, TN 37220

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NASHVILLE, TN  
PERMIT NO. 27

**Dated church material**  
Please deliver by September 1, 2018.



Beginning September 12, each pastor of our church will lead a new community of belonging group for six consecutive Wednesdays. It’s a chance for your pastors to know you better and for you to know them better.

“God graciously offers us salvation with no strings attached. Gratitude is the only appropriate response to the grace of God.” With those words, Charles Wiley introduces his study of grace and gratitude. Each of our groups will walk through one of the ordinary actions we Presbyterians engage in – the Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon – to enter into a deeper appreciation for the gift of life we claim in Christ.

Join our pastors on Wednesday nights!

For more information about registering for this class and dinner, visit our website.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
4815 Franklin Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37220  
615-383-1815  
www.fpcnashville.org  
facebook.com/fpcnashville

**Pastors**  
Todd Jones  
*Pastor*  
Stuart Gordon  
*Executive Pastor*  
Adam DeVries  
*Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families*  
Mark DeVries  
*Associate Pastor for New Ministries*  
Keith Gunter  
*Associate Pastor for New Church Development*  
Sandra Randleman  
*Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*  
Joshua Rodriguez  
*Associate Pastor for Young Adult Ministry*

**Program Staff**  
Raphael Bundage  
*Director of Music*  
Mike Crout  
*Church Administrator*  
Brenda Geise  
*Older Adult Ministry Coordinator*  
Andrew Kelso  
*Sports Program Director*  
Susan Kirby  
*Worship Coordinator*  
Bryan Miller  
*Director of Recreation Ministry*  
Deb O'Brien  
*Director of Children's Ministry*  
Laura Rouse  
*Director of Communications*

**Administration**  
Ginny Barber  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Lynn Elliott  
*Executive Assistant*  
Karen Fitts  
*Nursery Coordinator*  
Kim Rogers  
*Food Service*

**Schools**  
Hart Roper  
*Head of School, Oak Hill School*  
Brenda Lutz  
*Director, Early Preschool*



My Dear Friends,



**Sandra Randleman**  
*Associate Pastor*

I am writing to express my gratitude to you for the many ways you have helped, supported and encouraged me over the past weeks. As many of you know, the summer of 2018 provided me with a far different experience than I anticipated. As I was preparing to officiate at a wedding at First Presbyterian Church on June 8, I visited the Cheek House to pray with the bride. As the photographer began to take pictures, I stepped back into a backless sofa, tripped and fell on my right side, breaking the femur in my right leg. Fortunately, another pastor was also part of the wedding and was able to conduct the wedding while I took a ride in an ambulance to the hospital. The next morning, I underwent surgery to repair the broken bone and was so grateful that my brother and 92-year-old mother were able to travel from Birmingham to be with me for the surgery. Weeks of healing and physical therapy followed.

You have been with me every step of the path that has led toward my healing. You have prayed for me, sent me flowers, notes and cards filled with encouraging words, visited me, prepared meals for me, driven me to work/physical therapy/pastoral care visits and assisted me in more ways than I can possibly recount. I will always be very, very grateful to you. I also appreciate my colleagues who

*Continued on next page...*

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September Events

**YOUNG ADULT KICKOFF**  
September 5

**MOVIE ON THE LAWN**  
September 8

**ADULT KICKOFF**  
September 9

**PW FALL GATHERING**  
September 11

**YOUTH CRUD DAY**  
September 16

**FIRST FRIENDS LUNCHEON**  
September 20

**RWANDAN VISITORS**  
September 30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. <i>The Heart of the Matter</i> Song of Songs 2:8-13 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 <b>Todd Jones</b>	8:30 & 11:00 A.M. <i>The Gospel According to Agatha Christie</i> Mark 7:24-30 Ephesians 3:5-13 <b>Stuart Gordon</b>	8:30 & 11:00 A.M. <i>Taming Our Tongues</i> Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 <b>Todd Jones</b>	8:30 & 11:00 A.M. <i>A Lovely Ambition</i> James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37 <b>Todd Jones</b>	8:30 & 11:00 A.M. <i>Are You a Joy to Be With?</i> Ephesians 4:22-32 Mark 9:38-50 <b>Todd Jones</b>
The Five Thirty <i>Let Us Rejoice &amp; Be Glad in It</i> <b>Jessie Yancey</b>	The Five Thirty <i>Who's Theophilus?</i> <b>Josh Rodriguez</b>	The Five Thirty <i>Thunderstruck</i> <b>Josh Rodriguez</b>	The Five Thirty <i>The One Named Beautiful</i> <b>Josh Rodriguez</b>	The Five Thirty <i>Nothing to Hide</i> <b>Adam DeVries</b>

Each sermon is available under the tab “Media” on our website immediately after the service on Sundays.



## The Mission of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

*Continued from cover*

so wonderfully and willingly assumed my pastoral responsibilities whenever I was unable to perform them. I have been the recipient of God's love and comfort through your many acts of thoughtfulness and extreme kindness. Through you, God has allowed amazing blessings to flow into my life.

During my time of recovery, God has taught me so much, as I have prayed and reflected upon my experience. The experience has given me the opportunity to view pastoral care from the perspective of the patient in the hospital bed, at the rehabilitation center or at home, struggling with discomfort and the challenge of performing seemingly simple movements and tasks for oneself. My prayer is that God will use this experience to deepen and broaden the pastoral care ministry I offer to you and the congregational care ministries offered by our church community.

A friend sent me a note that read, "During our times of illness, injury or loss, God shows us how much we need each other." We do need each other! We need to see God's love, grace and presence in the words and deeds of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and not just when we are sick or injured.

My prayer is that we will continue to be firmly rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ's love, grow in our knowledge of the breadth and length and height and depth of His love for us, and with gratitude, share this love with one another. Thank you again for the love of Jesus Christ that you have been showing to me.

With love and gratitude,  
Sandra Randleman

## Sympathy

*Our church family extends prayers & sympathy to the following during their time of loss:*

Lisa Neely on the death of her husband, Sean Michael Neely, who died on July 14.

Linda (Hal) Sauer on the death of her mother, Margaret Virginia Gady, who died on July 17.

Nikki Johnson on the death of her husband, Charlie Johnson, who died on July 18.

Dolores Dennard on the death of her husband, Huch Dennard, who died on July 18.

Overton (Robin) Thompson on the death of his mother, Mary Palmer Daniel Thompson, who died on July 23.

Mike (Anne) Hinton on the death of his brother-in-law, Carroll McAlhaney, who died July 29.

Kevin (Janie) Hughart on the death of his mother, Anna Louise Howard Hughart, who died July 30.

Joyce Voorhees on the death of her brother, Robert T. Garrett Jr., who died August 9.

## The Sacrament of Baptism

*In the presence of family, the congregation & God, the following family claimed God's covenant promise through the sacrament of baptism.*

Nicole and Rob Bateman presented their daughter, **Ford Monroe Bateman**, for baptism on August 19. Assisting Elder: Cathy Altenbern.



## Local Mission Fair

October 14    October 21  
October 28    November 4

Each week in Courtenay Hall between the services, we are partnering with our partner local agencies to talk about who they serve and how you can generously volunteer your time.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN fall gathering

tuesday

SEPTEMBER 11

program: 10:30 A.M.

lunch: 11:30 A.M.

register online.

## Inquirers Class

Learn more about becoming a member and about the history and mission of our church.

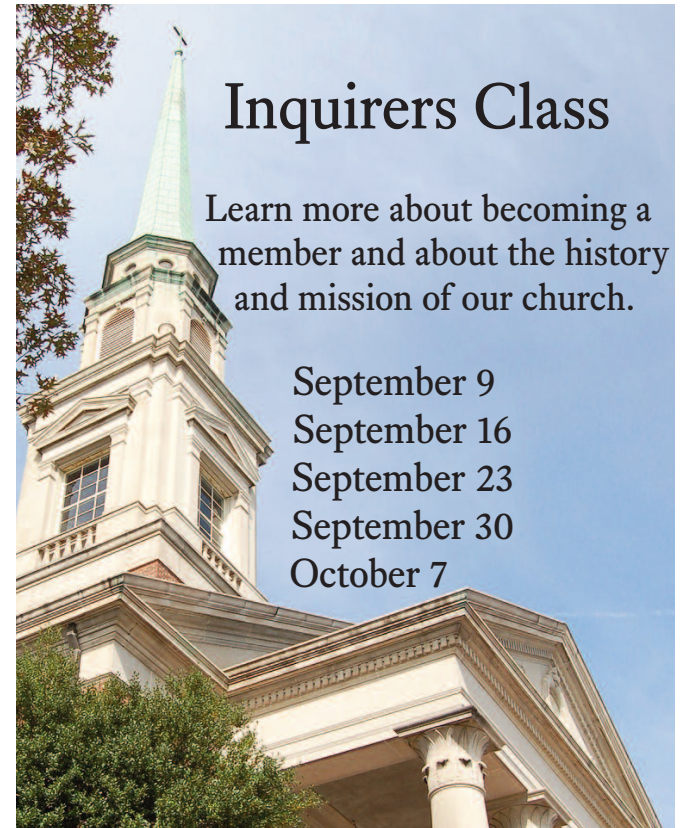
September 9

September 16

September 23

September 30

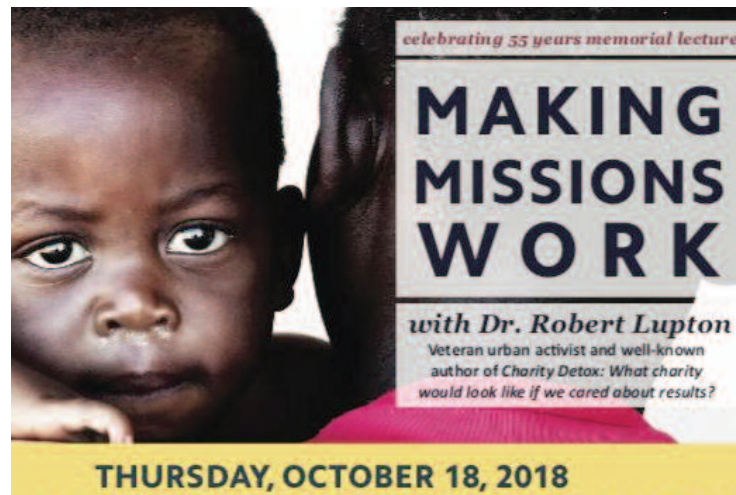
October 7



# Crud Day 2018

## Sunday, September 23 2-4 P.M.

## All 7th-12th graders!







**September 22 through October 14**  
**7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Saturday, September 22 – Raise walls, install windows  
Sunday, September 23 – Install roof trusses, exterior doors  
Saturday, September 29 – Begin siding and insulation, caulking  
Sunday, September 30 – Finish siding and insulation  
Saturday, October 6 – Begin interior painting, installing trim and interior doors  
Sunday, October 7 – Finish interior painting, installing trim and hanging cabinets  
Saturday, October 13 – Begin landscaping, install mirrors and hardware  
Sunday, October 14 – Finish landscaping and clean up followed by lunch and the home dedication

You can volunteer by signing up on our website or in Courtenay Hall.

## Meet This Year's Habitat Family!

When her 7-year-old daughter told school administrators she didn't feel safe in her neighborhood, Quinesha Thomas knew she had to do something about their living arrangements. Quinesha has worked as a document scanner since 2014. She says there are shootings in her current neighborhood, and the security gate at her apartment complex has been broken for years. In addition to security concerns, her apartment unit has water damage and mold, and her repeated maintenance requests have gone unanswered. Quinesha is willing to work to make her life better, but she needs help.

Quinesha is a native Nashvillian and grew up with a big family and lots of love. She hopes to follow her dreams and become an actress one day, and she wants her daughter to get a good education and dream too. Quinesha feels the only way to get ahead financially is to own her own home. She needs a stable housing payment and a safer environment as a foundation, so their dreams have a space to grow.



## WOW Bible Study

Join the WOW Women's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings in Vance Hall at 9:30 A.M. beginning September 12, as they read and discuss *A Praying Life*, by Paul E. Miller. Prayer is all about relationship. Based on the popular seminar by the same name, this book has disciplined thousands of Christians to a vibrant prayer life full of joy and power. When Jesus describes the intimacy He seeks with us, He talks about joining us for dinner (Revelation 3:20). This book lays out a pattern for living in relationship with God and includes helpful habits and approaches to prayer that enable us to return to a childlike faith. Contact Leslee Bechtel (llbdesigns@aol.com) if you are interested. Books will be ordered.

## Thursday Women's Bible Study

This Thursday morning Bible study, led by Sandra Randleman, begins on Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 A.M. in Vance Hall. We are studying the Holy Spirit.

## Thursday Bible Study with Todd

Todd Jones will be starting up his Thursday Bible Study at 11:00 AM in the Session Room, beginning September 13. All are welcome! This year we will be studying Galatians. We will explore why Galatians is one of the most important letters (written by the Apostle Paul circa 55 AD) ever written in human history, as it helped establish Christianity as a world religion, and not, another Jewish sect.

# First Friends

Newly retired?  
Are you an empty nester?  
Or just in your 50s or 60s?

You may have been assuming that First Friends is only for those aged 65 and older. Not true! We are planning activities for members 50+.

Join us for our kickoff luncheon on September 20 to hear Taylor Stokes, Vanderbilt's first African-American football player, speak.

Visit our website to view all activities or contact Brenda Geise at (615) 298-9515 for more information.

## THE POWER OF WE: THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

**SALVATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • TRUTH • JUSTICE • WITNESS**

What do you say when you are asked, "Why do you go to church?" Do you, or we as Christians, have more to say than "Well, it's what we've always done as a family?" Our Presbyterian faith offers six specific purposes, the Great Ends of the Church, that ground us in our life and work together. In this fall's communities of belonging groups, we will dive into why "We" is crucial to our faith and lives. God calls us to do life together, and there are some things that we can only do together.

Over the past two years, over 300 members and friends of our church have been a part of one of these short-term, increasingly popular community of belonging groups. Our church seeks to be a place that intentionally cultivates communities of belonging, so come join us for the fourth series – The Power of We: The Great Ends of the Church. Todd Jones' sermons will also mirror the study themes each week.

### Our Fall Community of Belonging Groups

Six Weeks (Mid October – Thanksgiving Week)

Register online now!



# The Creation of Our Presbyterian Women

Spurred on by brand-new Pastor Dr. Walter R. Courtenay, six separate women's organizations of First Presbyterian Church combined themselves into one organization, "The Women of the Church." In so doing, our church caught up with the other Presbyterian churches in the United States (PCUS), as our denomination was then known, in having such a unified women's organization.

Mrs. E. Gray Smith (Marguerite) was the first

President of the Women of the Church. She is shown here speaking at the very first general meeting on September 12, 1944. The setting is the current Fellowship Hall of the Downtown Presbyterian Church. In June of 1955, First Presbyterian Church moved to its current Franklin Road location.

Archived photo and information courtesy of Bill Caruso.



# Rwandan Delegation Visit

"For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

The Apostle Paul wrote those words to the church at Rome, and they provide for Christians a model for understanding missions.

First Presbyterian Church of Nashville will be hosting representatives of the church in Rwanda for an exchange visit to our congregation here in Nashville. Pastor Julius Ngendahayo, who hosted many of our teams in Rwanda and is the Deputy of Kigali Presbytery, has been mandated by the President of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda to lead this delegation. The team will reach Nashville on September 26 and depart on October 10, 2018. It has been their earnest desire to express our partnership in ministry by travelling to Nashville, and here to sample our community by sharing in Bible studies, mission projects, and worship services.

The Presbyterian Church of Rwanda (EPR), which numbers over 400,000 members, was formed in 1907 by German missionaries. As the credibility of the church's message depends on its response to misery, poverty, hunger, illness and ignorance, the EPR tries to maintain a balance between the teaching of the biblical message and social engagement through its hospitals, schools and development projects. In the area of evangelism, the church stresses the teaching of a transforming gospel by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like many African nations, Rwanda has endured extreme difficulties politically, socially and economically. Rwanda unfortunately stands out from other countries due to the unthinkable genocide of 1994.

Surely our connection to Rwanda is strong because of the "dual citizenship" of the Mwizerwa family, who escaped the genocide of 1994, immigrated to the United States in phases, and here built a life and ministry among the people of First Presbyterian Church.

FPC Nashville and the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda (EPR) have enjoyed a long relationship since 2007 when the history between our two churches began from a visit of a few members from FPC Nashville to Rwanda to participate in the EPR centenary celebration. Later in the following years, Rev. Sandra Randleman, Rev. Stuart Gordon, Rev. Mark DeVries and many other members, including Bob LaGrone and John Wagster, visited the church in Rwanda, leading several mission teams. Since 2007, FPC has come alongside the church in Rwanda to rebuild the destroyed sanctuaries and train pastors for the growing church. We are told over and over that our efforts have helped to strengthen EPR's hand and encouraged their hearts for Kingdom work.

We are looking forward to hosting our Rwandan friends in the weeks to come! Not everyone can travel abroad for the various international mission opportunities our congregation offers. You're welcome, however, to enjoy the mutual encouragement of faith that is ours in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Rwanda. If you're interested in getting to know them during their visit, you may contact a member of the hospitality committee for the trip: Mary Marracini, Tom Van Pernis, Bob LaGrone, Ebralie Mwizerwa, and Tinsley Sheppard.



**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**Movie (Moana) at 7:00 P.M.**  
Whitt's BBQ and Heavenly Snoballs!  
Must register for dinner by Sept 4.

**FPC Golf Tournament**

October 2 at 12:00 P.M.  
Nashville Golf & Athletic  
Cart, Prizes, Boxed Lunch & Post-Golf Dinner  
Cost: \$110. Register Online.