

First Edition

published weekly for the members and friends of the church

May 18, 2011 • Volume 26, No. 10



Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

I am reading a book this week by a colleague, John Ortberg, who serves as Pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church near the campus of Stanford University. It is called simply *Faith and Doubt*. Ortberg says the word in the middle, “and,” is the most important word in the title. For him, as for so many honest people, it is not a question of whether we believe or we doubt. We all do some of each, and the struggle to live by faith is often at some point sorely tested by our doubts. “The deepest, the only theme of human history, compared to which all others are of subordinate importance, is the conflict of skepticism with faith,” said Wolfgang von Goethe. This tension between faith and doubt runs like a razor’s edge right through every soul. Paul Tillich used to say that “Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.” Remember the father in Mark’s Gospel who came to Jesus? His son suffered from a terrible condition, and the father in desperation pled with Jesus, “If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” “If you are able!” was Jesus’ reply. “All

things are possible for the one who believes.” The father replied immediately to Jesus, “I believe; help my unbelief.” I have always thought that this honest father was speaking for us all, for we all bring to life a mixture of belief and unbelief.

Miguel de Unamuno, the great Spanish mystic of the Church, said, “Faith which does not include doubt is dead faith.” We should never shy away from or be afraid to express our doubts. I have always found that mine can often live dynamically right alongside my faith. H. L. Mencken, not a man always noted for piety, said once, “It is the dull man who is always sure, and the sure man who is always dull.” I do not believe that Jesus calls any of us to be dull! The Apostle Paul said honestly that “We walk by faith, not by sight.” In saying this, Paul was suggesting that the gift of faith, always the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, is not the same thing as certainty. Paul was capable of great conviction. “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38, 39). This was Paul’s faith, and maybe no one has ever offered a better statement of Christian conviction and faith than he does in Romans. But the same Paul in writing that memorable chapter on love, could also say, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known” (I Corinthians 13:12). Christian faith at its best is confident, but never arrogant. It is humble, and modest by nature. Maybe this is the Spirit of Jesus at work. I have always resonated deeply with the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, who said, “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. And try to love the questions themselves.” I also know that God always offers truth to us in the deeps, and never in the shallows of life. This is a call to trust in the Lord, even when there is much that we do not understand.

Martin Luther, the great Reformer, the champion of justification by grace through faith, was once approached by a woman troubled by her doubts. “Tell me,” he asked, “when you recite the creeds — do you believe them?” “Yes, most certainly,” she said. “Then go in peace,” Luther said, “You believe more and better than I do.” Frederick Buechner once approached the whole subject of faith and doubt humorously. “Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don’t have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.”

We all need a faith on the move, one that keeps growing and deepening through all the changes and chances of life. Blaise Pascal was as thoughtful a Christian as ever lived. “In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don’t.” Faith comes only when the Spirit moves to touch our inner heart and to take possession of our souls. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. So let us all join our voices with the truthful father in the Gospel of Mark. “I believe; help my unbelief.”

With Love and Prayers,

Todd

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

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



Sympathy

The First Presbyterian Church family extends prayers and sympathy to the following people and to other members of their family during their time of loss.



Florence & Buzz Davis on the death of her mother, **Grace Cavert Stumb**, who died on April 25. She was the grandmother of Adelaide & Skip Stevens, Kim & Lip Davis, Gigi Davis & Kathy & Tom Stumb. She was the great-grandmother of Will & Janie Hannon, Ro & Davis Stevens, Haley & Lipscomb Davis, Tee, Mary Denton, Grace Elizabeth, Katy and Jake Stumb.

Jami & Mort Hill on the death of her father, **Dr. Hossein Massoud**, who died on April 26. He was the grandfather of Andrew & Evan Hill.

Kathy & Dan Harrell, Amy Grant & Vince Gill on the death of their mother, **Gloria Dean Napier Grant**, who died on April 30. She was the grandmother of Sally Anne & Michael Harrell, Matt Chapman, Millie Chapman, Sarah Cannon Chapman & Corinna Grant Gill.

Elizabeth & John Wagster on the death of her father, **Gabriel Felder "Scoop" Thornhill III**, who died on May 8. He was the grandfather of Mary Ann & Jack Wagster.

If any member of the church desires the Christian support of a Stephen Minister, call Sandra Randleman at 298-9502.

The Sacrament of Baptism

In the presence of family, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church and God, the following persons claimed God's covenant promise through the Sacrament of Baptism.



Sara & Adam DeVries presented their daughter, **Nealya Whitson DeVries**, for baptism on May 15. Assisting Elder was Steve Bartlett.

Jennifer & Jasper Richardson presented their son, **Luke William Richardson** for baptism on May 15. Assisting Elder was Nan Russell.

Radio broadcast of Sunday worship airs at 4:00 P.M. each Sunday on WAMB 1200 AM and 99.3 FM.

the 5:30
sunday evening worship at fpc
the enrichment center @ 5:30 p.m.

Congratulations

The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates these members.



Jane & Steve Todd on the birth of their son, **Adam Matthis Todd**, who was born on April 18.

Jennifer & Greg Nelson on the birth of their son, **Alexander Eric Nelson**, who was born on April 21. The proud grandmother is Charmaine Nelson.

Susannah & Wes Wood on the birth of their daughter, **Mary Carson Wood**, who was born on May 4. The proud grandparents are Beth & David Wood.

Sarah Davis & Michael Kruste on the birth of their twins, **Lily & Jackson Kruste**, who were born on May 6. The proud great-grandparents are Larry & Felicia Gates.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY FORUM

Todd and Connie Jones will be hosting a forum to discuss options, ideas and opportunities for ministry to young adults, defined as post college age to early thirties. We will meet in the Session Room on Sundays, May 22 and June 5 between the morning worship services. Try to make one of these gatherings.



CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
MAY 22, 2011

Sermon
"The Way, the Truth,
the Life"

Scripture Readings
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
John 14:1-14

Todd Jones
Pastor

Kirkin'
of the
Tartan

MAY 29, 2011

Sermon
"Liberator"

Scripture Readings
Psalm 23
John 10:1-10

Tom Walker
Pastor

Been to a Good Ice Cream Social Lately?

It won't be much longer 'til the wait is over. Do you have a secret ice cream recipe you are just itching to make? Get those ice cream freezers out of the closet and all cleaned up — we are looking for some creative crankers to create that prize-winning ice cream for the 26th Annual Miss Martha's Ice Cream Crankin'!

Come on out on Sunday, June 12 to our church grounds. The festivities begin with music at 2:00 P.M. followed by ice cream tasting starting promptly at 3:00 P.M. The homemade ice cream goes fast so plan to get there early to enjoy the most popular flavors.



Plan now to participate in this wonderful summer tradition. Sign-ups for crankers and sales of tickets happen every Sunday in Courtenay Hall between services from now through June 12. Advance tickets are \$10/adult and \$8/child. Gate prices are \$13/adult and \$10/child. Each cranker receives one on-site parking pass and one FREE admission. Tickets may be purchased with either cash or checks (payable to Martha O'Bryan Center, please).

Look for Beth & David Vorhaus and Grace & Todd Smith in Courtenay Hall on Sundays and become part of a wonderful FPC tradition. Buy early to save money and avoid the crowds!!

✂ Cut, Complete & Return

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Officer Recommendation for Class of 2014

I wish to endorse _____ as a candidate for: Elder Deacon to the Nominating Committee of the church. Nominees will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 23. The deadline for recommending nominees is May 23, 2011.

Please tell us what you know about this person's involvement in First Presbyterian, Nashville, or another ministry or church, or in the community at large. You may, or you may not, wish to call the candidate. Include below name, address, family members and occupation, if appropriate. You may also nominate yourself or a family member.

Nominating Committee members are Mickey Martin, John Eason, Gail Chickey, Garold Ferguson, David Wiley, Ron Pasquale and Emily Eberle. Please return this form to any member of the Nominating Committee or to the church office. Consider in your recommendation references to leadership and qualifications from the Presbyterian *Book of Order* (G-6.0300 and G-6.0400).

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Recycle for Monroe Harding

The Monroe Harding Seeds of Hope Garden Tour and Gift Shop, held on the first Saturday in June is around the corner. This year's self-guided garden tour and gift shop is 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., on Saturday, June 4. Donations of antiques, vintage and decorative garden or garden-themed items (in good shape, please) are needed to stock the gift shop. Moving, down-sizing, or just cleaning out your attic, your treasures and those of your friends can help raise funds.

You can leave your donations behind the wall in Courtenay Hall or at Monroe Harding in the Piano Room marked "Gift Shop." Monroe Harding provides residential programs for at-risk youth, ages 16-21, who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or behavioral problems; nonresidential programs (Project Share), and Youth Connections Resource Center, a collection of transitional services for young adults who have aged out of foster care. Betsy Davies (377-3048) can answer your questions.

Books for Hope

The Hope Center, a residential life-recovery ministry of the Nashville Rescue Mission, needs gently-used books, both fiction and non-fiction, for adults and children of all ages. Fiction books should promote healthy, wholesome lifestyles. Donations may be left in Courtenay Hall on the shelf behind the projection screen wall. For information, contact Lily Cooper (lilycooper@yahoo.com), Dawn Wiley (834-9878), or Judy Fincannon (315-0742).

Residents of the Hope Center are homeless women who are chemically dependent or emotionally or physically abused. They spend seven months in an intense residential program acquiring educational, employment and parenting skills to help them break the cycle of homelessness. Their library is used for both educational and recreational reading.



Many Shared Gifts Build Up the Body of Christ

Our Children's Ministry is blessed by the many gifts and talents of people in our congregation who are all working together to build up the Body of Christ and pass the faith onto the next generation of children.



Our 100+ Sunday School teachers guide our children in Bible Study every Sunday morning. They gathered together recently to enjoy a Celebration Breakfast in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the ministry with our children.

Many other people work in the background, and without them our families would not have the strong ministry for nurturing their children in knowing, loving and serving Jesus Christ.

Here is a special thanks to these tireless servants of the Lord. We appreciate you and appreciate the energy, creativity and passion you share within Children's Ministry doing the work of the Kingdom.

Artistry and Skilled Craft...sharing their gift of artistic expression and carpentry:

Ansley Black painted two beautiful murals for the season of Advent and Lent which hung behind the Children's Welcome Center desk.

John Rose crafted a wooden manger for Advent and a rugged 6-foot cross for Lent. Both items joined with the murals, creating a peaceful nativity scene and the empty tomb. Our children are blessed by the way these scenes brought the story alive.

Welcome Center Greeters...sharing the gift of hospitality by welcoming and assisting families each Sunday:

Ashley Arnold, Mike and Yvonne Ayers, Frank and Lauren Blair, Susan Bowling, Lisa Brock, Catherine Davis, Melody and Tom Groomes, Karen Grove, Liz and Ryan Hackett, Laura Hollins, Holly Howell, Tate and Emma McDaniel, David and Elizabeth Newman, Gwen Peters, Kristin Selph, Brian and Carrie Beth Shelton, John and Lorien Sites, Jay and Shannon Smith, Jenny Soares, Beth Throckmorton, Derek and Susan Welch.

Buddies for Children with Special Needs...sharing the gift of unconditional love each Sunday with a friend who needs some extra support each Sunday:

Louise Bairnsfather, Kaela Birge, Jaylon Fincannon, Carolyn & Steve Lovejoy, Lynn Steele and Linda Tarkington.

Children's Worship Bags...

Beth Vorhaus shares the gift of administration as she cleans out and resupplies the worship bags each week, ensuring that our children have this tool for their worship experience.

Serving Together Coordinators...sharing the gift of organization, mercy and service:

Melissa Ann Barton, Cara Crews, Catherine Davis, Sheryl Hayes, Adrienne Knestrick, Mary Catherine McClellan, Shannon McGuffin, Leslie O'Donnell and Shannon Smith.



Prayer Vigil for Youth Summer Mission Trips

All members of FPC are invited to stop by the Cheek House Chapel on Tuesday, May 31, to pray for the many youth participating in our summer mission trips. The chapel will be open for prayer from 6:00-7:00 A.M. and again from 5:00-6:00 P.M. Please join us in supporting our youth. These trips would not be possible without the incredible support of the FPC community, and your prayer is an important component of that support. We would love for all to stop in to join efforts in praying for our youth.

Summer Sunday School Brings Adventures for Children of all Ages

Beginning May 29, Sunday School will take on a new format for the summer. We will experience the Adventure of Biblical Faith as we study and fellowship together. Children, infant through age five, will continue to use their 2010-2011 Sunday School class names. Children entering Grades 1-6 in Fall 2011 are "promoted" beginning May 29.

Children in Rainbow, Sun, Moon, Stars, Faith and Hope classes will meet in Children's Wing rooms. We are joining Peter and Paul on their missionary adventures this summer. Children will create earthquakes, do all kinds of dramatic play, make their own snack on occasion, and create many works of art during Sunday School this summer as we learn about how Peter and Paul spread the Good News.

Children entering Kindergarten in Fall 2011 will meet in CW 113 to explore the adventures of Peter and Paul using dramatic play, cooking, science experiments and art exploration.

Children entering Grades 1-3 will meet in Grundy Hall as we enter Masterpiece Theater. Children will explore the stories of Daniel, Jesus healing Bartimaeus, Pentecost and others while exploring gifts God has given them to use. Gathering time will include a chance to create a class "masterpiece" of art and we will use lots of art mediums to explore our Bible stories including drama, photography, sculpting, puppeteering and much more. Special Sundays (May 29, July 3 and August 7) will feature video clips from *Ratatouille*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Toy Story III*.

Tweens entering grades 4-6 will meet in FPC's Computer Lab-GP150. Your child will learn about his/her spiritual gifts and have opportunities to use those gifts in leading the Sunday School class. Opportunities for weekday serving opportunities will be made available too.



First Friends Older Adult Ministry

First Friends

Tuesday-Wednesday, June 21-22 —
Overnight Trip to Chattanooga

The Older Adult Ministry at FPC has planned a trip to Chattanooga to stay at The Chattanooga. We will eat in Monteagle on the way, at the venerable Jim Oliver's Smoke House; eating in Chattanooga will be at the Broad Street Grille and the Mt. Vernon Restaurant. Attractions on tap are the Tennessee Aquarium, the IMAX theatre, the Ava Gallery and the Hunter Museum, with a possible drive-through of a Civil War battlefield.

Cost for the trip (double occupancy room) is \$250.00 per person; \$90 more for a single room. That fee will cover everything you need on the trip, except for lunch while at the Aquarium/IMAX, and your own shopping. Deadlines are short at this time, so decide quickly and get yourself and a spouse or buddy signed up. A \$100 deposit is due May 6, with full payment by May 20 (roommate list is due to the hotel by midnight May 20).

For all First Friends event registrations, contact Ginny Barber, 298-9509 or gbarber@fpcnashville.org.

Planning for our NaCoMe 2011 weekend is in full swing!

Weekend camp this year will be August 5-7, and will be led by former FPC youth staffer extraordinaire Erika Shapiro and her wonderful husband Jeremy. The theme for the weekend will be "Reflections" — how our lives can be a reflection of

Jesus' love for us!
Mark your calendar now to join your church

family at NaCoMe in August, and be on the lookout for the registration brochure coming in May.

Reflections



Sunday, June 26 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Come to FPC's annual poolside party at the Maryland Farms YMCA's waterpark! Bring the family to swim — bring yourself to talk and visit. Music and games by DJ Luis Lee for the kids, and music for the grownups, too!

Adults and teens — \$13
Kids under 13 — \$6
Max per family — \$40

Buy your tickets on the FPC website www.fpcnashville.org Look for the "First Connections" tab on the home page!

after hours at the Maryland Farms YMCA!



5101 Maryland Way
Drive around back and enter by the pool.

Great food catered by Moe's!



June Bells — a Chance for You to Learn (Remember How) to Ring Handbells!

Have you enjoyed hearing the bells in worship this year? Have you found yourself thinking, "I'd really like to learn how to play someday." Or . . . "I used to ring years ago. It'd be fun to do it again, but I'd need a refresher course." Well, here is your opportunity! By this time next year, you will be so much smarter, will have made some new friends, and may have developed a new passion in life as well as a new niche in the worship life of God's people at FPC.

- Four Mondays in June
- 9:30-10:30 A.M. in the chancel
- For adults, youth and children (entering 4th grade and above)
- No performance expectation
- Bekah Caruso, leader



Come with a buddy or on your own. Call the music office at 298-9517, or email Bekah at bcaruso@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot. Last summer's June Bells had 18 participants, with 10 continuing in the fall to form the bell choir known as Bellissima. Alums are welcome to assist as coaches.

Is the time not good for you? Make the contact anyway to add your name to the list of future possible ringers.



Joyful Singers (Kindergartners & 1st grade) choir members were able to visit with organist Rhonda

Swanson and the Beckarath organ, the Wednesday following Easter. We learned why an organist uses special shoes to play the organ; where the mouth, the toe and the ears are on each pipe. Rhonda showed us some individual wooden and metal pipes up close, and showed us how and what makes them different; we also learned how the size of the pipe affects the sound that the pipes make. The children all were given time to for each of them to slid on the bench and play the organ. One child was delighted to be able to play his whole recital piece on the organ.

How Can We Help Prepare Children for Success in School and Instill a Love of Learning in our Children?

Enrolling your child in a quality early childhood program can be a key component to preparing him/her for success in school and a lifetime of learning! Children practice social skills



and make friends in preschool. They are given many opportunities to explore the properties of sand and water, manipulate unit blocks, and read, read, read! They spend time at the easel with paint, use tape, glue, crayons and markers, and work with play dough, clay and Model Magic



to create interesting works of art. They create and write stories and games that are original and repeated. They sing, jump, swing, slide and dance, inside and outside...sometimes in the snow or rain!

At the First Presbyterian Church Early Preschool, children have an opportunity to explore a wonderful early learning world Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M. The Children's Ministry Staff enhance this experience once a week by teaching a Bible story during chapel time. We use the Children's Worship Room and the *Children in Worship* curriculum so there is a natural connection to our church for the Early Preschool children.

It's not too late to register for the 2011/2012 school year. You can find more information about the Early Preschool at www.fpcnashville.org — click on Early Preschool. You can also call or email EP Director Brenda Lutz at 298-9580 or blutz@fpcnashville.org.



We need some Recyclables for Camp Art Projects!

For more information, call 298-9583 or visit www.fpcnashville.org/recreation

ADULT & FAMILY



Mission Opportunities

Haiti October

Dates: October 8-14

Cost: \$1,200 (est); \$750 deposit due June 5; requires vaccines
Brief Details: Re-construction work with partner agencies affected by earthquake; expect rugged conditions.

Trip Leader: Mike Baron

Dominican Republic November

Dates: November 5-11

Cost: \$1,400 (est); \$800 deposit due NOW

Brief Details: Medical personnel offer family practice medicine, surgery, dental care or eye care in clinics or in the field depending on team member expertise; non-medical participants needed to assist in processing patients and/or assisting with vision screening — training provided.

Trip Leaders: Dr. Jim Cato, Dr. Matt Speyer and Dr. Betsy Triggs

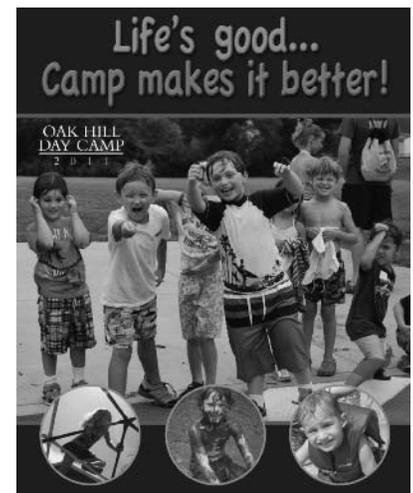
Questions? Contact Patricia Heim (298-9593 or adultmissions@fpcnashville.org) if you are interested in learning more or would like an application form. Online registration for trips is available from the church homepage on the web (www.fpcnashville.org).

Scholarship Assistance is available to FPC members for all FPC-sponsored trips by contacting Sandra Randleman (298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org).

Read about Missions at First Presbyterian Church online — mission trips abroad, local mission opportunities, stories, pictures and more.

Visit <http://missions.fpcnashville.org>.

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Magazines (kid friendly)
- Fabric Scraps
- Wire Hangers
- Milk Cartons



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Nashville, Tennessee 37220

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Dated church material
Please deliver by May 21, 2011

Pastors

Todd Jones
Pastor
Sam Cooper
Executive Pastor
Mark DeVries
Pastor to Youth & Their Families
Stuart Gordon
Pastor for Discipleship
Sandra Randleman
Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission
Tom Walker
Parish Associate
Bill Bryant
Pastor Emeritus
Arch MacNair
Associate Pastor Emeritus

Program Staff

Bill Caruso
Director of Adult Education & Older Adult Ministry
Deb O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministry
Letitia Green
Director of Recreation
Katy Miller
Youth Ministries Coordinator
Karen Fitts
Nursery Coordinator
Raphael Bundage
Conductor, Sanctuary Choir
Keith Moore
Conductor, Sanctuary Chorale
Susan Kirby
Administrator of Worship & Music Ministries
Rhonda Swanson
Assistant Organist
Amelia Watson
Coordinator of Parish Ministry

Schools

Brenda Lutz
Director, FPC Early Preschool
Jennifer Hinote
Head of School, Oak Hill School

Administration

Cindy Bozman
Finance Manager
Zonia Nunley
Property Manager
Carl Womack
Food Service Director
Lynn Elliott
Pastor's Assistant
Eric Skinner
Communications Coordinator

Youth Happenings

Sunday School on May 22 & 29:

- **7th grade** meets in The Gathering Place.
- **8th grade** meets in the Youth Room.
- **9th grade** meets in room #101 in the EC.
- **10th grade** meets in room #100 in the EC.
- **11th grade** meets in room #102 in the EC.
- **12th grade** meets in the Tyne House for Exodus Class.

Sunday Worship: 8:30 and 11:00 services in the sanctuary every Sunday, and "the 5:30" in the Enrichment Center in the evening. Families, please join us at one of these worship services each Sunday.

Great Escape Parent Meeting: Sunday, May 22, during the Sunday School hour in Courtenay Lounge.

Prayer Vigil: Tuesday, May 31, in the Chapel. Join us from 6:00-7:00 A.M. or 5:00-6:00 P.M. to pray for our youth participating in missions trips this summer.

Sounds Game: Thursday, June 2. Join us for our first Go Big event of the summer! Meet at the Tyne House at 6:00 P.M. Bring \$15 for ticket and food, we'll return by 10:00 P.M.

Summer 2011: We have an exciting summer planned for youth! Check out our website, firstpresbyterianyouth.com for schedules and to sign up for events.

Youth Newsletter: If your family isn't receiving the monthly Youth Newsletter in your email, please let Katy Miller know (kmiller@fpcnashville.org or 298-9570).

Join us in Honoring Bill Caruso

Presbyterian Women cordially invite you to a retirement reception honoring staff member Bill Caruso and his 22 years of service to FPC Nashville. Please join us Sunday, June 5, in the Cheek House immediately following the 11:00 AM service.

