Sometimes words hit us between the eyes and move us in some deep place where we never expected to be touched. Such was the case with Claire Keyes’ poem, “You Should Avoid Young Children”:

Because they fill their diapers with reliable ease, sitting on your lap or spread out on your best mattress. Guilt is as foreign to them as vichyssoise.

Because they spread sticky fingers over the piano keys, looking for you to hoist them onto your lap. They slam the ivories for the racket they can make. Re-think your nap.

Because they are blank slates on which so much waits to be written, their eyes opened wide to take everything in, including the lines around your eyes, the pouches under your chin.

Because they manipulate the controls on the TV, finger the holes in the electric socket, stomp the cat’s switching tail only to smile and gaze at you as if you held the keys to joy.

Because you can embrace them, but you can’t bind them. Because they have nothing to give you — and everything. Because something loosens when they come around. Something opens you didn’t know was shut.

We follow a Savior who said once, “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter therein.” Jesus not only loved children, He thought that the kingdom of God, the world where God truly reigns, belonged to them! He also thought that all of us needed to remain childlike in important ways if we were to live lives pleasing to God. The great gift of a church family like First Presbyterian Church is that we are blessed with so many children, surrounded by all generations who make baptismal promises to support and encourage them as they grow up in our midst.

Recently, at a wedding of a young adult who grew up in the life of our church, we had the chance to talk about what a gift our church has been to him. I watched with great joy as this young man grew up, not only in years, but like our Lord, “in wisdom and in stature.” His best man, also a child of First Presbyterian Church who has grown up into a fine young man, shared with me how much our church had meant to him throughout his childhood and teenage years and how he looks forward to returning upon his graduation from a professional school. I reflected upon the great gift that a congregation like ours has been to so many, because we have always been a church that treasures children and surrounds them with generations of adults who love them and are committed to their growth in grace.

The world that God wants is a world that is safe for all children. The church that God wants is also a place that finds an important place for children in our midst. May something “open in you that you didn’t know was shut” as you open your heart and your eyes to God’s children!

With Love and Prayers,

Todd Jones
Pastor
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 during their time of loss.

- Debbye & Hunt Oliver on the death of Debbye’s brother, Gregory Whitney, who died on October 20.
- Buddy Shaw on the death of his wife, Gloria Davitt Shaw, who died on October 30.

If any member of the church desires the Christian support of a Stephen Minister, contact Sandra Randleman (615-298-9502).

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.

- Emily & Ian Byram presented their son, Samuel Emmerson Byram, for baptism on November 8. Assisting Elder was Sandra Randleman.
- Ashley & Tom Frericks presented their son, Thomas Oliver Frericks, Jr., for baptism on November 8. Assisting Elder was Jody Holland.

Congratulations

The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates the following people during their new birth.

- David & Christian Garvey welcome a daughter, Bowen Alice Garvey, who was born on October 16. Congratulations to grandparents Stephen Wash, Alice Christian & Mitch Israel.
- Whit & Rebecca Smith welcome a daughter, Wilder Jane Smith, who was born on October 16. Congratulations to grandparents Jane & Thomas Smith.

Annual Thanksgiving Service Project...
Help FPC Pack 30,000 Meals

Monday, November 23
3:30 - 5:30 P.M.
FPC Enrichment Center
Suitable for all ages
Register at fpcnashville.org

FIVE THIRTY

Sunday evening worship at fpc
The Gathering Place @ 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
November 15, 2015

Sermon
“When Guests Become Hosts”

Scripture Readings
Isaiah 55:1-10

Todd Jones
Pastor

SUNDAY
November 22, 2015

Sermon
“Generous Life”

Scripture Readings
Genesis 22:1-18
Mark 14:3-9

Todd Jones
Pastor
Thank a Veteran... Pray for Active Duty Military

FPC has a long history of serving others, and this extends to military service as well. We presently have numerous members of our congregation in active duty military service, including some who are deployed from time to time. We thank all who have worn the uniform and those who continue to serve and protect our nation.

Giles Evans (Air Force): Son of Kaye and Winston Evans
Michael Heim (Army): Son of Patricia and Don Heim
Greg Holyfield (Army Reserves)/Mark Holyfield (Marine Reserves): Sons of Nancy and Wayland Holyfield
Noah Josephs (Air Force): Son of Sandy and Sean Josephs
Steven Todd (Army Nat’l Guard): Husband of Jane Todd
Clayton Trammell (Navy): Husband of Kristin Trammell and son of Chris and Rip Trammell
Jay Tully (Army): Son of Becky and Jim Tully
Abby Vorhaus (Army, US Military Academy): Daughter of Beth and David Vorhaus
Tripp Waller (Army, US Military Academy): Son of Cindy and Bogue Waller

Additionally, these relatives of congregation members listed below are also currently on active duty.

Jim Hite (Army): Nephew of Betsy and Nick Davies
Drew Lovell (Army Nat’l Guard): Son of Mary Ellen Lovell
Brent Turner (Marines): Nephew of Kaye and Ron Knox
Brian Williams (Air Force): Grandson of Marjorie Hales
Harold Williams (Army): Son of Helen and Milton Henderson

Financial Assistance is available to FPC members for all FPC-sponsored trips by contacting Sandra (615-298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org).

Jamaica February 2016
Dates: February 13 - 20
Cost: $1,400 (est); $800 deposit due NOW.
Brief Details: Construction work; dentists to see local patients; food sustainability project development; educational assistance.
Trip Leaders: Craig Buffkin & Nathan Brandon

East Africa July 2016
Dates: To be confirmed.
Brief Details: Visit mission partners, project dedications and construction possible.
Trip Leader: Bob LaGrone

Contact Patricia Heim (615-298-9593 or pheim@fpcnashville.org) if interested in any trip.

May God bless each and every one.
Our Room In The Inn Friends are Waiting to See You This Winter

Add your name to the bulletin board in Courtenay Hall and bring your smile to the Cannon Center any Wednesday night.
Got Cedar Trees?

Your FPC Boy Scout Troop 217 needs cedar poles for lashing practice, pioneering projects and for the Christmas Tree Sale sign that appears near the church’s Franklin Road entrance. If you have on your out-of-town property or farm or in your yard, some cedars that are 6-8 inches in diameter, we are interested. They need to hold that diameter for 6-10 feet. Please contact Bill Caruso (615-832-6406 or bcaruso@bellsouth.net). A crack team of adult scouters will make a visit to evaluate and cut, if appropriate.

First Friends’ Activities

Sunday, November 15, 12:00 P.M. — Sunday Lunch at J. Christopher’s. Meet in foyer after worship service. RSVP by November 13.

Thursday, November 19, 12:00 P.M. — Thursday Luncheon/Program, Courtenay Hall, Soup/Salad/Dessert $6. RSVP by November 16.

Tuesday, December 1, 3:30-8:30 P.M. — Take motorcoach to Opryland Hotel, $10.00 per person.

First Friends Celebrates our own Andrea Cooper

Andrea Cooper is the Senior Director for Human Resources Compliance at Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), where she has led the Affirmative Action Program since October 2014. Prior to joining CCA, Andrea was Assistant General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Services, where she litigated in administrative and state courts. Andrea previously served in the Department as Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Rehabilitation Services for six years under Governor Bredesen’s administration, where she helped Tennesseans with disabilities. Prior to joining state government, Andrea practiced law for Permobil, Inc., a global power wheelchair manufacturer. Andrea also was In-House Counsel for American General, where her primary practice was employment law.

Outside of her job, Andrea’s community work includes serving as a Deacon at FPC, where she is concluding her sixth year as an officer and celebrating her twelfth year as a church member. Andrea also chairs the Community Advisory Board for the Vanderbilt BioVu Project, which houses the largest DNA databank in the country.

Manna Freezer Helps Out During “Crunch” Times; Items Need Replenishing

Giving Food Items
• Has one of your church friends had surgery?
• Has another had a death in the family?
• Do you know of someone with more days than money at the end of the month?
• Are you scheduled to visit one of our home-bound members?

If so, stop by the Manna Freezer in the back stairwell off Courtenay Hall to pick up a package or two of the frozen foods that are available for the taking and giving. Bags for carrying and printed notes to include with the food are kept in the cabinet to the left of the freezer. There’s also a box of colorful cards made by our elementary children for recipients. The freezer is stocked in varying degrees with the following items: soup/chili, meat, meat casseroles, vegetables, breads, desserts/cookies and low salt foods.

Preparing Food Items

Some foods are packaged up by volunteers after Wednesday night dinners. Others are cooked by individuals and special groups in the congregation.

Specific Items that are Needed Right Now are soups, meat casseroles, and cookies. If you frequently make a pot of soup during the cold weather months, consider setting aside a container or two to take to the freezer.
1. Donations should be packaged in servings for two.
2. Be sure to mark each package with its contents and the date prepared.
3. List the same details on the simple chart on the freezer door.

Be alert to those around us who could benefit from the gift of food from the Manna Freezer. Deliver something to brighten someone’s day. Make something to add to the freezer. Questions? Contact Bekah Caruso (bcaruso@bellsouth.net or 615-832-6406).
Confessions of a Veteran Prayer Partner

Most longstanding adult prayer partners have one thing in common. Mark DeVries approached them with “Hey, I have an interesting idea.” Trish Andrews is one of those veterans. “Mark assured me all he was asking was for me to commit to pray regularly for a youth in our church,” Trish said. “Since I believe wholeheartedly in the power of prayer and had young children at the time that would someday go through the youth program, I said, ‘Yes.’” Trish is now on her fourth prayer partner, which could translate to 24 years of prayer partnership. During that time, she has seen her children reap the benefits of having an adult prayer partner.

One thing that surprised Trish was that it didn’t matter how involved or not involved in church the youth is. If they are on the roster for FPC’s youth program, they get assigned a prayer partner. “My first prayer partner was Candace Clippard,” Trish recalled. “The first time I reached out to her to invite her to the Prayer Partner Breakfast, she informed me she doesn’t even go to our church.” Candace’s uncle, Trish recalled, was the pastor at her church, but she had friends in the FPC youth group and liked to attend. “I didn’t think Candace would come to the breakfast, but she did.” Candace is now an adult, active and involved with our church, and a key participant in Barefoot Republic. Trish admitted, “I didn’t do a lot outside of praying for her, which I still do, and attending the Prayer Partner Banquets, yet I have a special place in my heart for Candace, along with my other partners, due solely to the Prayer Partner Program.” It’s impossible not to care deeply for someone you have prayed for. Lives intersect within this program. For Trish, youth ministry comes full circle as Candace has been involved in the FPC Youth ministry and with her teenage daughter.

“I would say the most challenging thing about the Prayer Partner Program is knowing how to pray for a person you don’t know well,” admitted Trish. “Most teens, mine included, are not that good at opening up to adults, especially ones they don’t know, to share prayer requests.” However, in the absence of specific prayer requests, Trish says she always prays for their faith, the ability to discern God’s will about their God-given purpose in life, spouse, Godly friends, strength to resist peer pressure, and such. There are certain prayers that are universal, and praying them with a certain child in mind benefits both the prayed for and the pray-er. “My daughter was partnered with Drusie Bishop,” she said. “Drusie was wonderful and always greeted Joslyn by name at church, asked about her and let her know she was faithful in praying for her.” Drusie chose Easter as her special time to connect with Joslyn and always called around that time and dropped off an Easter basket for her. Nothing big, just a little something to signify the importance of Easter and an excuse to personally touch base on a yearly basis.

Trish says there is no right or wrong way to be a good prayer partner. The relationship is unique to each pair depending on your stage in life, if you are family friends or have never met, and your individual personality. The bottom line is just add that child/adult to your prayer life. You will be blessed, and they will too. “Anything else you do is just icing on the cake,” said Trish.

Be an Angel... Support our Christmas Giving Projects

Toys for Salvation Army Forgotten Angels
Need: Unwrapped toys and clothing ($15 value/item) for children ages 12 and younger.
Deadline: Return by December 1 to wrapped collection box at Hospitality Center.
Questions: Contact Vicki Sells (615-260-5146 or vvjuals@yahoo.com).

Gifts for Children in Foster Care
Need: Provide gifts for children in foster care.
 Begins: Wish lists available November 29 and December 3 in Courtenay Hall.
 Deadline: Return all gifts and cards to Courtenay Hall by December 13.
Questions: Contact Sue Fort White (615-218-8977 or suefortwhite@ourkidscenter.com).
Nate Strasser: Jazz Artist

Nate began his music career early in life, discovering his passion for music at the age of four when he began to study piano. At eight years of age, he was selected to perform at the International Music Workshop in Scotland and again in Austria at the age of ten. He has done extensive work as a studio musician, orchestrator, arranger and composer. He has done music prep work for Dave Matthews and Seth MacFarlane and has worked with faculty from Belmont University and played piano on a number of film scores. Nate has recorded at the renowned Oceanway Studios and Warner Brothers Studios. Nate also has performed with Grammy-winning artists Riders in the Sky and Brent Mason.

In 2013, Nate was one of twenty students worldwide accepted into the Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television Program at the University of Southern California. Since graduation, he has scored a number of films, has worked in the music department for a film accepted into the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase in Cannes, and has provided orchestrations for the musical “Open Mike” which made its world premiere at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

Claire Boling: Soprano Vocalist

Claire Boling, Soprano, has been praised for her performance as Manon (Manon), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Alida Slade (Roman Fever) and First Lady (Die Zauberflöte). Among other performances are Turandot, Street Scene, La Traviata, Così Fan Tutte, A Little Night Music, Oklahoma and Othello. Ms. Boling has been heard on the concert stage in works by JS Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Faure, Vaughan Williams, Strauss, Liszt, Britten, Monteverdi, Rutter and Handel. She has been awarded the Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and is a two-time semifinalist in the national Orpheus Vocal Competition. Ms. Boling has her Masters in Vocal Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music. She currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and is a soloist and section leader at FPC.

Kick-off your Christmas with Rejoice! A Soulful Christmas. Nate Strasser, Jazz artist and Claire Boling, Soprano vocalist will entertain us. Afterwards, follow the sounds of Nate, the scents of pine, fir and Wassail to Courtenay Hall at 11:30 A.M., where the medley continues. A festive Christmas luncheon awaits you with warmth and sustenance for the soul. Bring yourself, your friends and families for this not-to-be-missed morning celebrating Advent! Details? Call PW Rejoice! A Soulful Christmas Chairmen, Becky Campbell (615-414-7735) or Kay Francis (615-512-9372). Childcare available by reservations with Karen Fitts (615-298-9519).

December 8, 2015
10:30 A.M.
FPC Sanctuary
In an effort to be faithful stewards with what God has entrusted us with, we want to tell you about a new service we are using to help with our calling of being generous believers.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

– James 1:17

We now offer online giving to our congregation. The hope and prayer of our church staff is that offering online giving will allow us to accomplish a couple of things.

First, it will provide the flexibility for our members to give how they want to, regardless of day or time. You’ll be able to give your tithes and offerings in several different ways. We have a link on our website where you can give via your desktop or mobile device. The flexibility we are giving you is the payment method you use to give. Of course, you’ll still be able to give via a check, even through our online giving platform. You can also give with a credit or debit card with any of the giving mediums we mentioned above.

Second, it will help all of us better develop a habit of giving regularly. Online giving is going to help us be better stewards by affording you the opportunity to give on a regular basis. You will be able to set up recurring tithes and offerings. How many of you pay bills online? This is much the same, but it’s not just paying a bill. It’s being obedient to God and fulfilling what He calls us to do. You’ll see some more details on ways to give and how to sign up to give online. We encourage you to visit our website later today or sometime this week. Pray about how God is calling you to give and be a faithful and obedient steward in our mission of making disciples.

Stewardship Committee
Youth Happenings

Sunday School, November 15 & 22: Grades 7-12 will meet in The Gathering Place at 9:40 A.M. and then meet for Sunday School as grade level groups. Eleventh graders and their parents will meet in The Gathering Place, and Scott Hearon and Ashley Higgins will direct you to the SS rooms for the Passages Class.

Tenth Grade Retreat: November 14-15, the tenth graders will hike Fiery Gizzard and camp overnight. There is still time to sign up for this gorgeous trip at youth.fpcnashville.org.

Family Worship at The Five Thirty will be Sunday, November 15. Youth and their families are invited to attend worship in The Gathering Place at 5:30 P.M., and to stay for potluck chili supper following the service. We hope that you will take this opportunity to try the evening worship service together with other youth families.

November 22: A Toast To Brandon! Everyone is invited to attend The Five Thirty service and to stay afterwards to share dinner and to send Brandon off to his next adventure! Come ready to share a Brandon memory! Please bring $5 for pizza dinner.

The Prayer Partner Breakfast will take place on Sunday, December 6, during the SS hour in The Enrichment Center.

10:24 Groups are meeting weekly. Sign up at youth.fpcnashville.org.

Sign up for youth grade level retreats, basketball, 10:24 groups, class retreats, and more at youth.fpcnashville.org.

Questions or changes to your contact information, contact Ginger, Erika or Miller at 615-298-9570 or youth@fpcnashville.org.