



February 8, 2017 • Volume 32, No. 03

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Donate
peanut butter
from
February 5-26**

First Friends Celebrates May Hosiery Mills

Tuesday, February 16

Lenten Small Groups

February 26-April 7

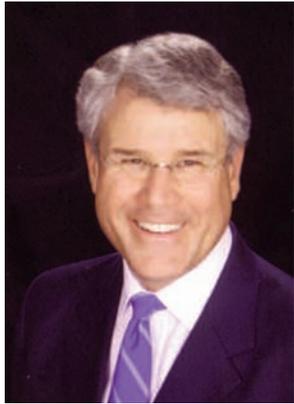
Summer Camps & Programs

Oak Hill Day Camp: May-August

Early Preschool Summer Program: June-July

Vacation Bible School: June 26-29

Mission Camp: July 17-20



Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

As a Classics major in college, I often encounter Latin and Greek words that stir memories, and in a sense, bring me “home” again. One such word came across my desk recently, the Latin word “discernere.” We get the word “discernment” from it. To discern means “to separate,” “to distinguish,” “to sort out” or “to

determine.” The process of discernment is important for all of us, as we are often faced with an uncertain future which demands that we discern what is best, or what is right. High school students wonder which college they should attend. Adults of all ages at all stages can find themselves at a juncture, wondering what job or position is the right one for them. People of faith add to this the desire to discern the will of God for our lives.

We often find ourselves seeking a reliable source of guidance above and beyond ourselves. An important part of prayer for me over my life has been spent in silence, seeking discernment, “testing the spirits,” wondering what God’s will for my life is. These are never easy times, but looking back over them, I realize that these were the precise times in which I learned more of what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, “we walk by faith, and not by sight.” I learned more of what it meant to listen to my life, to seek God’s will, and to draw closer to God, longing to receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Greeks sought God’s will in very different way. Half way up Mt. Parnassus, not terribly far from Athens, was the Oracle of Delphi. It sat above a fissure in the earth which released gases, often appearing like a mist. The Priestess Pythia would sit above the mist, chewing on leaves that created a drug induced high, and many ancient Greeks would listen to her utter what they

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FEBRUARY 12, 2017 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

“Choose Life!”
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 5:21-37

Todd Jones
Pastor

THE FIVE THIRTY
“Jacob”
Josh Rodriguez

FEBRUARY 19, 2017 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

“The Jesus Ethic”
Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18
Matthew 5:38-48

Todd Jones
Pastor

THE FIVE THIRTY
“Rachel”
Mary Sellers Shaw

The 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

believed were divinely inspired words. The Greeks believed that Delphi was the spiritual center of their universe. They believed that you learned of the will of the gods by means of a form of magic that left them with what I cannot help but to regard as a form of wishful thinking.

At its best, Christian faith has taken a different approach to discerning the will of God. We have believed that God's will cannot be discerned apart from the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, which is always a Spirit that "proceeds from the Father and the Son." This sends us back to the Scriptures, and specifically, always back to the accounts we have of the birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, whom we worship as the Christ. We cannot discern God's will apart from encountering Jesus Christ, revealed to us through the pages of Scripture. Discerning God's will is always tied to coming to know God through Jesus, and never separated from Jesus' call to love God and neighbor. Discernment for the Christian can never be done apart from the rule of love, love for God and love for others. The Westminster Catechism teaches that, "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable with His will..." God's will always leads us in the direction of love. This is Jesus' gift to us, to make the matter of discernment challenging, but utterly clear on the summons to find it in choosing love's way.

Peace and Love,



Collision of Race and Sports in the South March 15 at 6:00 p.m.

"Think what Perry did. He was being pushed and shoved and he took an elbow smack in the face, and the crowd cheered as he bled and walked off the court. . . but he came back and wanted to get in the game. Is it not condescending in a way to refer to the dignity in which he carried himself? It was so much more than that."

— *Bill LeFevor, Vanderbilt basketball teammate of Perry Wallace*

Strong Inside is Andrew Maraniss' book about Perry Wallace's experience as the first black basketball player in the SEC. Maraniss, a local Presbyterian, tells a sobering, inspiring account of Wallace, from a family of strong Church of Christ faith. Copies of *Strong Inside* are for sale in Bookmarks bookstore.

Sympathy



Our church family extends prayers and sympathy to the following during their time of loss.

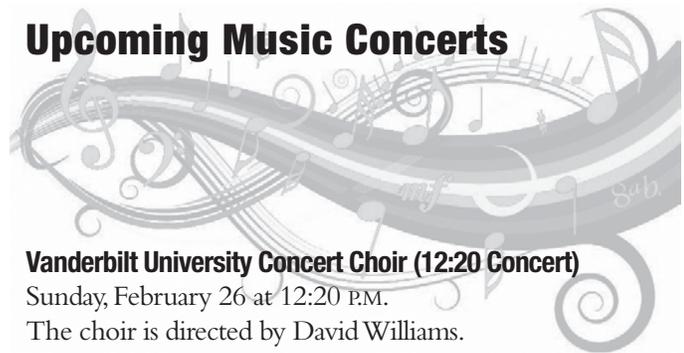
Patricia (Jim) Kennedy on the death of Patricia's mother, **Jean Prince Waggoner** who died on January 14.

Beth Sargent on the death of her uncle, **Keith Sargent** who died on January 18.

Mark (Mechel) Frost and Lewis Frost on the death of Mark & Lewis' mother, **Ellielyn Lewis Lechleiter Frost** who died on January 17. Sympathy to Bailey & Riley Frost.

Sissy McAlister the death of her husband, **Sidney Stinson McAlister** who died on January 20. Sympathy to Cayce McAlister, Hill (Emily) McAlister, Mamie Joyce, Hilary Cumbest, Harry, Daniel & Matthew McAllister.

Upcoming Music Concerts



Vanderbilt University Concert Choir (12:20 Concert)

Sunday, February 26 at 12:20 P.M.

The choir is directed by David Williams.

J.S. Bach Mass in B Minor

Sunday, April 9 at 7:30 P.M.

Our Sanctuary Choir and Nashville Symphony Orchestra present Bach's Brilliant B Minor Mass.

Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows

Friday, April 14 at 7:00 P.M.

The First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir, with conductor Raphael Bundage and narrator Bob Loflin, presents the passion through scripture and song.

The Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band

Sunday, April 23 at 7:00 P.M.

Complimentary tickets are required. Contact the music department at 615-298-9517 or music@fpcnashville.org for more information about tickets.

Nashville Chamber Singers: Spring Concert

Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 P.M.

The concert is directed by Angela Tipps.



Carney Farris Remembers...

FIRST stories

During the early 1970's, a group of elders and leaders were asked by Dr. Walter Courtenay to meet with Bob Fenn, a leader in the lay renewal movement, sponsored by the Covenant Fellowship of Presbyterians.



They were asked to consider starting small groups in their homes to read the Bible and pray for God to bring renewal to our church. Our family became a part of one of the weekly groups. We read the Gospel of John and prayed for renewal of our lives, and seeds were planted within the church.

In early January 1971, Covenant Fellowship sent a team of about forty lay men and women to live for a week in a number of our homes. Each evening, we held a Bible study in the sanctuary, followed by small prayer gatherings in the homes. I have a memory of the final night when Elder Bill Eason was asked by Dr. Courtenay to address the large congregation. He said something like this, "Although I have been an elder for many years, only last night in a home meeting did I come to know Jesus in a personal relationship. Has a desire within any of you also been aroused? Would some of you want to respond to a public call to do the same thing?" Many, many people, including me, responded at the front of the church. We knew Jesus had come into our hearts, and we and our desires were being changed.

The next year, Dr. Cortez Cooper was called to serve the church. He fanned the flames of the lay renewal. Numerous heartening and life-changing milestones happened among us in the ensuing years. One example is one time while Dr. Cooper welcomed visitors from the pulpit, just as we do now each Sunday, a young man stood from the pew, commending our members for the beautifully decorated church, adding "Because God loves beauty, I know God is pleased." Then he left a challenge that spoke deeply to our hearts, "What are you doing for the poor?" He quietly sat down. I was deeply moved. The Spirit was moving.

Sometime later Dr. Cooper asked my husband Alfred to share about the needs of the "boat people" who had arrived in Nashville, destitute after fleeing the war in Vietnam. Then Dr. Cooper simply said, "If there are those who would like to contribute to the needs of these dear people, we will pass the offering plates again." The plates could not contain the overwhelming generosity of our church pouring out for those who came to be known as "the boat people." Money was falling out of the plates onto the floor. This wonderful spirit of generosity held full sway among us. It was like Jesus jumping out of people into the suffering world.

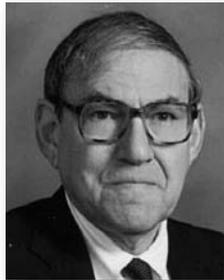
A few of us have the privilege of age to look back over more than 45 years following that lay renewal. There are hundreds of individuals who have deeply impacted our community and the world, especially on behalf of the poor. We are forever grateful.

First Friends' Activities

Make reservations for all events at 615-383-1815 or hospitalitycenter@fpcnashville.org.

Celebrating May Hosiery Mills Thursday, February 16 12:00 P.M. in Courtenay Hall

Jack May's family founded May Hosiery Mills, and he will be a guest speaker/entertainer at the First Friends' Luncheon/Program. His wife Lynn is also heavily involved in our church. The May Hosiery Mills story is one of Nashville's most poignant stories of struggle and success, and Jack May is one of Nashville's most respected storytellers. First Friends is thrilled to have Jack as guest. RSVP by Monday, February 13.



Sunday Lunch February 19 Following the 11:00 A.M. worship service

We will go to Outback on Charlotte for lunch. RSVP by Friday, February 17.

Day Trip Friday, February 24 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

We will tour Dickson, having lunch at its popular Lugo's Restaurant. RSVP by Monday, February 20.

Conversations Group Thursday, February 23, 2:00 P.M. in Vance Hall

Davidson County Property Assessor Vivian M. Wilhoite will share information on property values for the re-appraisal of 2017. Charlie Cardwell, Metropolitan Trustee and church member, will also share information on Tax Relief/Tax Freeze for older adults. This is open to everyone.

New Creation Church's 5th Year

This September will mark five years of when the first group gathered in the living room of our home to start New Creation Church, our church in Hendersonville. Twelve people on couches has been transformed to a vibrant growing community averaging 55 adults and 30 kids on Sunday. New House Groups start every fall and spring, and we continue to offer the equivalent to “new member” classes and have grown our stewardship campaign that now has an average giving unit of \$3,000 a year. While, the winter is filled with numerous “super” small groups of 3-4 people gathering weekly throughout Nashville to study, pray and grow!

What continues to drive the mission and DNA of New Creation is an authentic incarnational ministry. In Alan Hirsch's book, *The Forgotten Ways*, he offers an understanding of how God in Jesus might guide the church in mission. He suggests that there are four dimensions that frame how Christ enters into our lives:

- Presence
- Powerlessness
- Proximity
- Proclamation

New Creation has sought to live into these dimensions in our community. This requires us to live the gospel as authentically as we can. We do everything we can to level the playing field and point all our energy to the love of Christ. While some at first are enamored by the incredible kindness of the community, they quickly learn it is the gospel being lived out is drawing us to a new kind of faith. The result is witnessing our community practicing incarnational ministry with their neighbors.

It is amazing to see the fruit of these practices throughout the week. It is through helping a new mom in our community pick out her first Bible. Simply, she wants to know the stories and to know more about who Christ is in her life. It is a celebration of a dad who was baptized in front of his elementary age daughters. It is a mom being baptized along side her newborn baby. It is a little girl who found her way to our community after a kids' Christmas party and then went home to convince her parents to visit our church the next Sunday.

There are many ways in which God has been at work at New Creation Church. We point to God's timing. We point back to when the church met in a broken down storefront next to a pawnshop. We point to all our efforts to be a part of our community with festivals and service days. Then, we point back to the faithfulness of our planting church with the desire for Christ to be known. This is what we point to when we point to First Presbyterian Church of Nashville.

Thank you for your faithfulness,
Keith Gunter



Donate peanut butter in boxes around our church!

February 5th-26th

In honor of Valentine's Day, we are collecting peanut butter for Second Harvest Food Bank. Peanut butter is packed with nutritional value, popular with children and has a long shelf life. Help us spread the love to our community!

8th & 9th Grade Ski Trips



“FOR ME, I EXPERIENCED GOD THROUGH WORSHIP.

Not only the words of those songs brought one close to God, but it was the thought that all these ‘cool’kids from different backgrounds coming together as complete equals and stopping the ‘tough’ or ‘cool’ act to worship God.” — 9th Grader



I saw God when we got to share our stories with our accountability groups. At first, I was really nervous to share, because I knew my story is way different than most. I was

afraid that my group would judge me. **WHEN IT WAS FINALLY MY TURN, I REALIZED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS TELLING ME THAT I SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED OF THE STORY HE HAS GIVEN ME.**

Now, I really want to share my testimony with others because I know it will impact people for the Lord! — 9th Grader



“This weekend the 7th and 8th graders went to Perfect North in Indiana. We had some of the best college kids come to encourage us in our faith and have fun with. The message for this week was ‘not too young.’ We had conversations about stories in the Bible where kids our age believed in God and knew that He was always there for them no matter what situations they went through. The college kids that volunteered to spend their weekend with us helped us deeply understand the stories that they spoke about. One of the best memories I will never forget is how the 8th grade girls loved each other, and we had the best conversations. I love going on trips with such a good group of people who are always there for me and make me a better person! Even though we have tons of fun, they help me to not forget the reason we are there. I can't wait to go on more trips and encourage kids younger than me that they are not too young to start growing in their faith and helping others know the wonders and miracles that God can perform!” — Riley Jorgenson

Summer Camps and Programs

First Presbyterian Church has four different summer opportunities for your child(ren) this summer that meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the whole family.

Oak Hill Day Camp Beneath the Clouds: May – August 2017

Oak Hill Day Camp provides programs that encourage growth in a fun atmosphere that maintains our core values: faith,



friendship, tradition, service and respect. This summer brings changes to our overall camp structure and includes camp hours that are helpful for

working parents. We will continue to provide programs that encourage growth in a fun atmosphere that maintains our core values. If your child(ren) are age 4 (by May 1, 2017) through rising 8th grade (fall 2017), then come join us Beneath the Clouds this year!

For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. — Psalm 108:4



Early Preschool Summer Program Passport to Adventure June – July 2017

Our summer program offers six individual sessions centered around creative curriculum, outdoor play, water days and other special activities. The hours are 9:00–2:30 P.M. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can sign up your child(ren) for which weeks work best with your schedule. This program is offered for children age 2 (by June 1, 2017) through age 5 (not yet in Kindergarten).



Vacation Bible School

June 26 – 29, 2017

This year will be all about hero's in the Bible, and how we can discover our strength in God! We will learn that God's heroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power to share with others in need. Our days will be filled with

Bible stories, singing scripture, mission opportunities, art activities, and fellowship with friends. Vacation

Bible School is offered for children age 4 (by March 1, 2017) through 3rd graders (fall 2017).



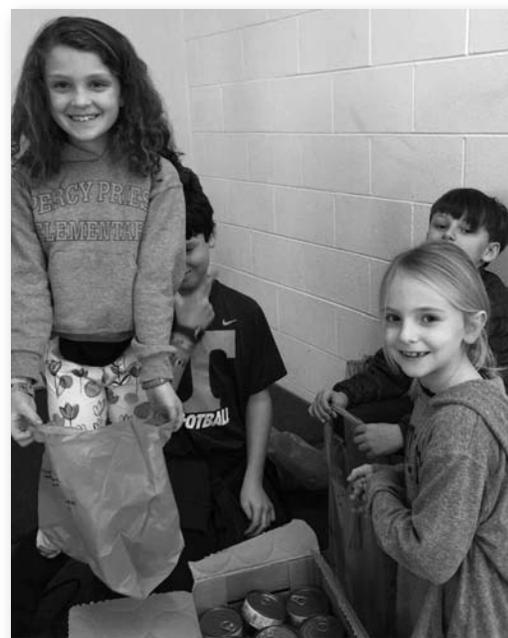
Mission Camp

July 17 – 20, 2017

Spend the week serving and making a difference in the lives of people in our Nashville community. In the past, we have partnered with Preston Taylor Ministries, Martha O'Bryan Meals on Wheels, Second Harvest Food Bank,

Baptist Children's Home, Stop Hunger Now and Loaves and Fishes.

Mission Camp is offered for rising 4th through 6th graders (fall 2017).



Visit our website to register for all of these summer opportunities!

Dated church material

Please deliver by February 11, 2017

Pastors

Todd Jones
Pastor
 Sam Cooper
Executive Pastor
 Adam DeVries
Associate Pastor to Youth & Their Families
 Mark DeVries
Associate Pastor for New Ministries
 Stuart Gordon
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
 Keith Gunter
Associate Pastor for New Church Development
 Sandra Randleman
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions

Program Staff

Raphael Bundage
Director of Music
 Mike Crout
Missions Coordinator
 Brenda Geise
Older Adult Ministry Coordinator
 Letitia Green
Director of Recreation
 Ashley Higgins
Director of Young Adult & High School Ministries
 Susan Kirby
Worship Coordinator
 Deb O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministry
 Joshua Rodriguez
Director of Young Adults & High School Outreach
 Laura Rouse
Director of Communications

Administration

Ginny Barber
Administrative Assistant
 Cindy Bozman
Finance Manager
 Lynn Elliott
Executive Assistant
 Karen Fitts
Nursery Coordinator
 Kim Rogers
Food Service

Schools

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



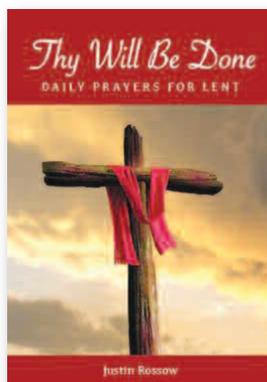
LENTEN *Small Groups*

Lenten Small Groups

Our church is offering a six-week Lenten Small Group series. The groups will be discussing William Barclay's *We Have Seen The Lord!* The groups will meet once a week from February 26 – April 7. We will have groups available on different days of the week, times of day and in neighborhoods. Visit our website for more information and to sign up.

Lenten Devotional Guides

In the Garden of Gethsemane, our Savior prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." God's will was done in his Son's life, death and resurrection, and it is still being done in various ways in our lives today. *Thy Will Be Done* by Justin Rossow offers thoughtful parers for each day of Lent to guide you toward the will of God in whatever circumstances you are facing today. Copies will be available around our church beginning February 26.



Our goal in 2017 is to communicate more to our members on facebook. Like First Presbyterian Church, Nashville today!