

First Edition

published bi-weekly for the members and friends of the church

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Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

The Bible opens with the simple words, “Then God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” It is a signal to us from the very beginning of the Biblical witness that God is a God who speaks, and that God’s word is dynamic, full of power and wonder. Wise are those who spend their lives learning to listen for God’s voice. In John’s Gospel, Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27) “Listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice,” says the Psalmist in

68:33. “Obey my voice,” says Jeremiah, “and I will be your God.” (Jeremiah 7:23)

I have been pondering how important the voice of God can be to us. God speaks to us in so many different ways! Deuteronomy tells us, “Look, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the fire. Today we have seen that God may speak to someone and the person may still live.” (Deuteronomy 5:24) God’s voice is full of life. We are also told that, “The voice of the Lord is over the waters;” in Psalm 29. God speaks out of a cloud on the Mount of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5) and Jesus hears “a voice from heaven” in his own baptism. (Matthew 3:17) In the Revelation of John, God’s voice comes from the throne.

God is not silent. Maltbie Babcock heard the voice of God in nature: “In the rustling grass, I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.” God speaks to Elijah “in a still small voice.” (I Kings 19:12) “The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.” (Psalm 29:4) In Revelation 1:15 we are told that “his voice was like the sound of many waters.” Job heard the voice of the Lord in the thunder. Job 37:5 says, “God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we can not comprehend.” When God asked Adam, “Where are you?” in Genesis 3, he replies, “I heard your voice in the garden.” Gideon heard the Lord speak a word of peace, and some of the most exquisite words spoken in the Bible are Jesus’ words offered in his farewell discourse in John 14, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Best of all, God calls us by name. When Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener, he cried, “Mary!” I pray that we all will be more attentive to the voice of God when the Lord speaks. When the old priest Eli figured out that it was God who was calling the boy Samuel in the night, he instructed the child, “Go, lie down; and if God calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.’” It is good advice for every last one of us to heed!

With Love and Prayers,

Todd

Lent 2012— The Journey

The journey through Lent is one that has helped Christians through the centuries to deepen their devotion to Christ and bring life more into line with God’s good purposes. This year we will travel through Lent with the Gospel of Mark as your guide and friend. Join with us in the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross, the journey that continues to enrich and deepen our journeys through this life.

Third Sunday in Lent, March 11

“The Ransom” — Todd Jones
Old Testament: Genesis 22:1-14
New Testament: Mark 10:32-45

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 18

“The Cup” — Todd Jones
Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-32
New Testament: Mark 14:32-42

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 25

“The Betrayal” — Todd Jones
Old Testament: II Samuel 12:1-10
New Testament: Mark 14:43-51

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 1

“The Last Day” — Todd Jones
Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 31:9-16
New Testament Lesson: Mark 15:1-39

Easter Sunrise, April 8, 6:30 A.M.

“Firstborn” — Stuart Gordon
Colossians 1:15-20

Easter Day, April 8

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
“The First Day” — Todd Jones
Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9
New Testament: Mark 16:1-8

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.



Nancy & Jeff Cardwell on the death of Nancy's father, **George Arthur Love**, who died on December 31. Sympathy to grandchildren, Ethan & Alex Cardwell.

Nancy & Bryant Tirrill on the death of Nancy's grandmother, **Lanieve King Cartwright**, who died on January 31. Sympathy to great-grandchildren, Elizabeth & Ann Chapman Tirrill.

Bettye & Tom Walker on the death of Bettye's brother, **Dr. Knox Chamblin**, who died on February 7. Sympathy to niece, Rebecca Walker.

Julia & Maury Barnes on the death of Julia's mother, **Zella Yost King**, who died on February 13. Sympathy to granddaughter, Emily Barnes.

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

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.



Nancy & Joey Dickson presented their daughter, **Isabelle Jane Dickson**, for baptism on February 12. Assisting Elder was Jami Hill.

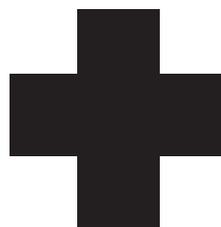
Jessie & Steele Yancey presented their son, **Russell Vaughan Palmore Yancey**, for baptism on February 19. Assisting Elder was Nan Russell.

Easter Memorials

A memorial fund has been established for chancel and sanctuary flowers during Easter. Please send your contribution, along with the name(s) of loved ones to be memorialized, to Cindy Bozman in the church office no later than Friday, March 9.



Please note that names will not be carried forward from previous Advent or Easter Memorial publications. Contact Cindy by March 9 in order for your loved ones' names to be included this Easter.



Blood Donation Opportunity in March

Sunday, March 4

9:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Enrichment Center Auditorium

Appointments may be scheduled online or Sundays in Courtenay Hall.

Lily Cooper and Sheila Odusote, Co-Chairs

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be observed on the First Sunday in Lent, February 26, at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services in the Sanctuary.

Prepare your hearts to celebrate this sign of Christ's love and grace.

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 2012**

Sermon
"The Turn"

Scripture Readings
Genesis 17:1-8
Mark 8:31-38

Todd Jones
Pastor

**SUNDAY
MARCH 4, 2012**

Sermon
"The Trap"

Scripture Readings
Numbers 21:4-9
Mark 10:17-31

Todd Jones
Pastor

Jitro Girls' Choir in Concert on March 11 at 5:00 P.M.

Jitro, meaning "Daybreak" in Czech, is more than just a concert choir from Hradec Kralove, a town in the Czech Republic. It is an organization of 500 children in seven preparatory ensembles, of which only the best 25 or 30 qualify to tour. For 35 years they have been admired all over the world for their tonal brilliance, superb intonation, distinctive rich blend of sound and energetic vitality. Jitro is today seen as one of the best children's choirs anywhere in the world. Many golden awards have been bestowed on the choir by international juries. The list can begin with the prestigious European contests in Llangollen (1988), Nantes (1989), Lecco (1990) and Neerpelt (1996) and finish with the recent World competitions in Olomouc

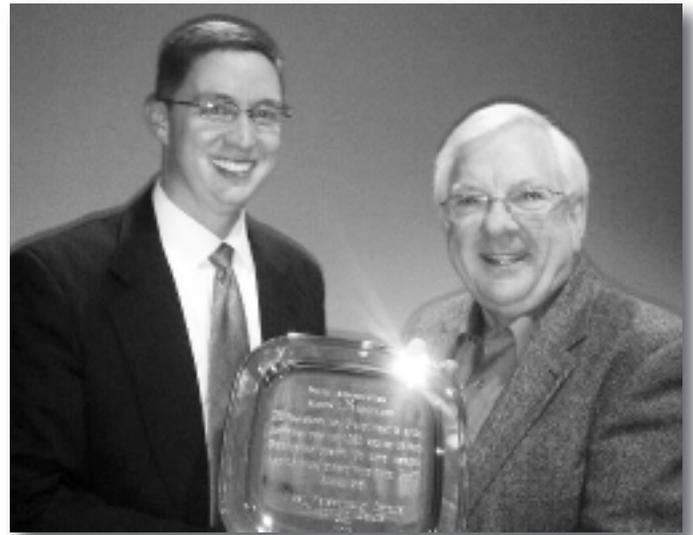
(2003) and Xiamen (2006). America's love of Jitro was re-born when the choir was invited to sing at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in San Antonio, Texas in 1993. Standing ovations were given by thousands of professional American conductors in the auditorium.

An official response from Dr. J. B. Haberlen, ACDA President, "Our ACDA members will long remember your concerts, as they were a major highlight of the 1993 convention." The excitement in this select audience of choral conductors and their sustained applause attest to this fact.

Professor Doreen Rao of Toronto University commented, "Are you aware that you have just changed forever the character and style of all American choral singing?"

Jitro Choir makes over 100 appearances annually and has sung with other renowned choruses, including the American Boys' Choir. Jitro has performed with the Bavarian Symphonic Orchestra, the Milano Symphonic Orchestra and Pardubice Philharmonic. They have performed in prestigious concert halls in Prague, Barcelona, Hale, Strasbourg, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Atlanta, Ithaca, Penn State University, New York, San Antonio, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bern, Basle, Dortmund, Avignon, Toulouse, Xiamen and many more including First Presbyterian, Nashville in 2003.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.



To Act Justly, To Love Mercy, To Walk Humbly

Austin McMullen (left), retiring Chair of the Diaconate, receives a tray from the new Chair, Ron Pasquale (right), honoring his service at First Presbyterian Church. The verse inscribed on the tray is a favorite of Austin's:

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
— Micah 6:8*

The Lenten Downtown Luncheon Study Group

A Lenten study will be offered at the Downtown Presbyterian Church, beginning on Thursday, March 1, from noon until 1:00 P.M. Members and friends of FPC are invited to attend. The group will meet each Thursday through April 5 to discuss what makes a "good spiritual life." We will consider how we discern what God is doing in our lives and in our world and how we can be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The basis of our discussions will be the perspectives expressed in some of the essays collected by Allan Hugh Cole, Jr. in the book entitled, *A Spiritual Life*. Authors of the essays include 24 poets, prophets and preachers, including Michael Lindvall, Donald Capps, Marjorie Thompson, Michael Jenkins and Theodore Wardlaw.

The discussions will be led by Dr. Sandra Randleman, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Missions of First Presbyterian Church. A light lunch will be served. For more information, contact Sandra at srandleman@fpcnashville.org or 298-9502.

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

ADULT & FAMILY



Mission Opportunities

Dominican Republic November 2012

Dates: November 3-9

Cost: \$1,400 (estimated); \$800 deposit due May 1; vaccinations recommended.

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 other activities.

Trip Leaders: Dr. Jim Cato and Dr. Betsy Triggs

Haiti February 2013

Dates: February 16-22 (over Presidents' Day weekend)

Cost: \$1,300 (estimated); \$800 deposit due September 1; requires vaccinations.

Brief Details: Medical personnel to offer pediatric or family practice medicine, dental or eye care in clinics; non-medical participants needed to assist in processing patients and work on re-construction projects with partner agencies affected by earthquake; expect rugged conditions.

Trip Leader: Michael Baron

Kenya & Rwanda July 2013

Dates: July 17-August 2

Cost: Under development; deposit due December 31; requires vaccinations.

Brief Details: Construction on churches in both countries as well as visits to mission projects supported by FPC-Nashville; Kenyan safari included; children must be age 12 to participate.

Trip Leader: Dr. Bob LaGrone

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 FPC online — mission trips abroad, local mission opportunities, stories, pictures and more.

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

Sunday sermons are online in print and audio!
Log on the church website at www.fpcnashville.org and find Sermons on the Worship page.

APSU Chamber Singers Concert

First Presbyterian Church Concert Series presents the Austin Peay Chamber Singers in concert in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 4, at 12:30 P.M. The concert is free and open to the public.

The 32-voice APSU Chamber Singers is the premier choral ensemble of the university. Repertoire ranges from Renaissance motets to classical masterworks and highly challenging contemporary literature. The Chamber Singers regularly represent the music department on concert tours, at university functions and serve as a lab choir for graduate conducting students. The Chamber Singers are recognized as one of the most distinguished choral groups in the southeast and have been selected to perform for regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference.

Junior Choristers Sing in Hendersonville

Junior Choristers (second and third graders), with director Carolyn Naumann and accompanist Hannah Baisley, visit Hendersonville FPC on their Musical Mission Trip. They provided the introit, anthem, offertory and benediction for the church's 10:00 A.M. service on February 5. Afterwards, the church provided a lunch for the children. This was a great experience for the worshipers at Hendersonville First and for the Junior Choristers to be worship leaders.



Other Musical Happenings at FPC

- **March 4:** Austin Peay Choir will participate in the 11:00 A.M. service. Austin Peay Concert is at 12:30.
- **March 11:** Jitro Czech Girls Choir concert at 5:00 P.M.
- **April 1:** Palm Sunday services with all children's choirs singing.
- **April 5:** Maundy Thursday dinner at 5:15 (special reservations required). Worship is at 6:30 P.M. with the Junior Choristers and Sanctuary Chorale singing.
- **April 6:** Good Friday worship service in the Chapel at noon. Tenebrae service concert at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

OAK HILL DAY CAMP

2 0 1 2

~~What is the Highlight Your Summer?~~

Core Values Respect Service
Faith Tradition Friendship



Once the school year is over and all the homework completed, what will there be left to do? How will your children and grandchildren manage to laze their way through that long, hot, boring summer? Here are just a few suggestions —horseback riding, hiking, ropes courses, camping and swimming.

And the best part? It can happen all in one place and all at one time! For the best of what a traditional summer day camp has to offer — fun, recreation, friendship, excellent staff — give one of the many Oak Hill Day Camp options a try. Choose from:

- Little Camp for 3 1/2-year-olds to rising Kindergartners
- Day Camp for rising 1st-5th graders
- Middle School Camp for rising 6th-8th graders

During Little Camp, younger children can begin the camp experience by having the opportunity to try many of the camp activities that older campers participate in, but scaled down to their level.

Oak Hill Day Camp offers swimming, horseback riding, archery, arts and crafts, theatre, slip-n-slide, ropes course, games and so much more. Camp is about building...building skills, friendship, faith and character...building a foundation that will last a lifetime.

Only in its second year, Middle School Camp combines all of the fun, traditional elements of the day camp with exciting off-site trips and a camp-out each session. Every other day, campers will travel off-campus to experience adventures such as caving, canoeing, hiking, rock climbing or a fun day at Nashville Shores!

Do the outdoors make you sneeze? Try Theatre Camp! This summer, campers (rising 2nd-8th graders) will be putting on a production of Willy Wonka. Seeing it through from beginning to end, campers will audition, block, work behind-the-scenes, rehearse and finally perform the full-length production.

Don't know what to do with your kids in between school and camp? Fill in the gaps with Gap Camp!

For more information on all of these great opportunities and to register for sessions, check out our website at fpcnashville.org/oakhilldaycamp1.htm, or grab a brochure from the church literature areas!



Horseback Riding Theater Hiking Crafts Ropes Courses Camping Swimming

Soccer Kicks Off Soon

We are looking forward to another great soccer season here at FPC. The deadline to register without a late fee is February 25; after, the price is \$125. Register online at fpcnashville.org/sports1.htm.



The season will begin with practices starting the week of March 19, and the first game is set for March 31. We will have a coaches' meeting on March 13 at 6:30 P.M. If you have any questions, contact Andrew (298-9526 or akelso@fpcnashville.org).

Recreation Parents' Night Out

Games, playtime in the gym, arts and crafts, more games and a whole lot of FUN! All are welcome! Open to the public. For ages 3 (if potty trained) through 6th grade from 6:00-10:00 P.M. Cost is \$10 per child (\$15 per child on May 19). Dates are: Friday, March 16, Saturday, March 31, Friday, April 13, Saturday, April 28, Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 19.

Call 615-298-9583 or email emunoz@fpcnashville.org for reservations. Reservations are not required but are helpful.



Looking Ahead *in Children's Ministry*

■ **FPC Sunday School Teacher Celebration** — In appreciation of our teachers, on Sunday, March 4, Sunday School teachers and their families are invited to “drop by” for breakfast (8:00-9:30 A.M.) in Courtenay Lounge.

Serving Together: Put your family's faith into action! Check the website to sign up

■ **March 4, 3:30-6:00 P.M.** — Dinner and art with guests at Safe Haven Family Shelter.

■ **Vacation Bible School** — VBS 2012 is June 25-28, 2012. Calling all tweens in current grades 3rd, 4th, 5th — come join VBS Mission Camp, an off-campus experience putting our faith into action serving others. Details on the web! Grownups welcome. Bring a friend and sign up to volunteer one morning (4-day volunteers are especially wonderful). Online registration and volunteer sign-ups are open on the web. Dive deep with us this summer in *Operation Overboard!*

Milestones: A ministry of faith formation and celebration for children and their families.

■ **Exploring the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** — Second graders continue their Milestone study of the Lord's Supper in Sunday School, with lessons on the Last Supper, the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 and Jesus' lesson on the bread of life from John 6. Sunday, March 4, parents and their second grader gather in the Chapel (9:45-10:45) for worship and communion together.

■ **Reaching Out Together** — Love, Grace and Mercy classes will receive visits from special guests on February 12 in conjunction with their continued learning about inclusion and diversity.

■ **5th grade Retreat** — Saturday, February 25, 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M., come and join in for a wonderful day of service, learning and fun. Parents will join us for dinner and worship at 6:00 P.M.

■ **6th grade Retreat** — The Confirmation Class travels to Camp NaCoMe for an overnight, weekend retreat February 24-25 to write their statements of faith. RSVP online through the 6th grade webpage.

■ **Lenten Family Devotions** — Every family with children ages 3-6th grade will receive a packet with family devotions for the upcoming season of Lent. These will be sent home with the youngest child in the family on February 26. They will also be available on the website for printing at home if you did not receive one.

■ **Family 45** — Wednesdays: February 29, March 7, 14 and 28. Got 45 minutes for fellowship and service? From 4:45-5:30 P.M., gather with other FPC parents and children for Family 45 — fun with a purpose! Service and mission, Scripture, symbols of Lent + fellowship = connection and community. Stay on for Wednesday night dinner at 5:30 (call 383-1815 for dinner reservations), or just drop in for Family 45 to spend a great 45 minutes sharing time, learning, and faith with your kids.

For sign-ups and more information on events occurring in Children's Ministry, visit our web page.

Children Mark Family Facelift Sunday with a Musical Gift to the Congregation

On Sunday, January 29, over 100 of our Sunday School children ages 5 through grade 5 gathered in the Sanctuary and joined in song to praise God for the wonderful gift of family. They combined their voices to praise and thank God as they sang, *Thank You, God, for My Family*. The children shared their musical offering in thanks to a God who has provided moms, dads, aunts, uncles and the myriad of other people who care for them and love them.



The sweet voices swept over the congregation and at least one parent was heard to say, “I cried.”

“Thank you, God for my family, I know they love me so. They teach me all about your word, and they guide me as I grow. We go to church together, we worship and we pray. One of your greatest gifts to me, is my special family.”



Faith Journey Celebration

On Saturday, February 4, families of newly baptized babies gathered for a special Faith Journey Celebration morning! We celebrated the milestone of baptism with each family, learning the origin of their baby's name and presenting each family with a special baptism candle made by our 1st graders as part of their Exploring the Sacrament of Baptism milestone. Every family received a wooden "Faith Chest" to customize and begin filling with personal keepsakes to mark the milestones along their child's faith journey.

As these children grow, there will be more to add to their "Faith Chests" as we travel this journey of faith together. We celebrate with these families as they nurture their little ones within the "village" of believers here at FPC!

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6: 5-8)



First Friends Upcoming Events

■ **Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort** — Monday, May 28 – Friday, June 1. Join First Friends for a fabulous trip by Motorcoach on a tour of amazing Jekyll and St. Simon's Island, gorgeous Beaufort, South Carolina, including a visit to Parris Island and charming Savannah. The cost for the 5-day, 4-night trip is \$399 per person, double occupancy and includes 8 meals (4 breakfasts and 4 dinners). *A \$75.00 deposit, due by February 24*, will reserve your spot on this exciting trip. Final payment is due March 26 (reimbursements will be made up to two weeks prior to departure). For more information, a detailed brochure is available at the church and on our website (go to www.fpcnashville.org, and scroll down to "Quick Links," and click on "First Friends"), or you may call Brenda Geise at 298-9515.

For more information or reservations, contact Ginny Barber (298-9509 or gbarber@fpcnashville.org).

First Friends

FPC Educators Recognized for Achievements

Children's Ministry Director Deb O'Brien and former Adult Education Director Bill Caruso recently were honored in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the annual meeting of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. Deb was recognized by the Educator Certification Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for having completed the requirements for the Certified Associate Christian Educator designation.

Deb's achievement is the culmination of years of coursework and practical experience. She had to demonstrate proficiency in seven fields: Biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, faith and human development, Christian education theory and practice, worship, Presbyterian polity and mission and program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as well as a final examination graded by the Educator Certification Council.

This is a significant accomplishment for any educator, and we congratulate Deb! After a brief respite, Deb plans to begin work on Certified Christian Educator, the highest level of certification.

Bill was presented the Life Achievement Award by the Governing Cabinet of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), the professional organization for educators in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Reformed Church in America, the Christian Reformed Church and the Moravian Church. The Life Achievement Award recognizes work over a significant career, including significant participation in the work of APCE.



Disaster Response Team Sign-Up

Return this form to the church by:

- placing in the collection plate,
- faxing to the attention of the Missions Office at 615-298-9565, or
- mailing to the Missions Office (FPC, 4815 Franklin Road, Nashville, TN 37220).

Sign up below if you would like to be contacted in the event of a natural disaster for which you might offer use of tools/equipment, provide physical labor to help with clean-up or serve as a resource providing guidance relating to professional services such as legal, financial, insurance, construction, engineering, etc.

The goal is to gather information to help church members and others in the community in their time of need.

First Name

Last Name

Preferred E-Mail Address

Home Phone, if any

Cell Phone # w/ Area Code

Company Name

Please mark all that apply:

I have the following tools/equipment that could be used for debris clean-up/removal:

- € pick-up truck
- € chain saw
- € lopper
- € wheelbarrow

- € wet vac
- € generator
- € other _____

I am willing to serve as a resource for the following professional services:

- € insurance
- € legal
- € structural engineering
- € architectural
- € building contractor
- € storage facility

- € plumbing
- € electrical
- € HVAC
- € medical
- € other _____

I am interested in being contacted to provide the following:

- € Stephen Minister to those in need
- € food for affected families or volunteers
- € communication efforts
- € on-site volunteer if FPC opened as Red Cross Emergency Shelter Site
- € other _____

Deep & wide Living a Faith that Matters

Sharing the Faith We Are Living Now

Sunday mornings are a powerful time for children at First Presbyterian Church. As they gather together in community with peers for Bible Study, caring adults surround them. On a recent Sunday morning, several groups were studying the story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4: 1-30-39-42). The connection to the Living Waters of the World sustainable solutions to the water crisis of our time was undeniable!

A Clean-Water Team has organized here at First Presbyterian Church — members include Bill Arrants, Mike and Anita Crout, John Gillespie, Hank Miles, and Mike, Deb and Kevin O'Brien. This past July the team participated in a 5-day training regimen and did a pre-install visit to San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic. The team is prepared and waiting to install a community-based

clean water system in the elementary school which is supported by Solid Rock Missions. A building to house the system needs to be constructed on the school grounds.

It only seemed natural that some members of the Clean-Water Team shared about the gift of "living water" during the Bible Study. They spoke of the positive impact on the lives of people, especially children, who only have contaminated water to drink. Our FPC children explored germ theory in a fun way, discovering that you can't trust your sight, smell, or even taste to figure out if water is clean (chocolate water looks yucky but sure tastes good). They were surprised to learn that it is possible to drink water that is as old as a dinosaur (there's no more or less water today than when dinosaurs roamed the earth; water gets used over and over). And to think that it takes over 1,000

gallons of water to make a hamburger was hard to believe, until we talked about all the water it required to feed the cattle and grow the food for the cattle to eat.

The seriousness of the water crisis became evident as we talked about what happens when children experience chronic intestinal disease; they die or they fail to thrive (bodies do not grow properly and brains do not develop properly). When our children learned that 4 out of every 10 children in the world do not have access to clean water, they said in unison, "that's not fair!" Water-borne illnesses are easily preventable and providing clean water is very do-able. A basic clean water system costs around \$3,000 and is made of materials generally available in the countries where it is to be installed. The Clean-Water team members are trainers who work side-by-side with in-country people teaching them to build and operate the clean water system. It is a sustainable solution!

Watch for more exciting details about the Clean-Water system install in the DR! Interested in joining the team? Contact Patricia Heim at pheim@fpcnashville.org.



Families Giving for Lent

FPC families prepared for the quiet Lenten season in community with others, gathering on Sunday, February 12, to share gifts and fellowship.

Presbyterian Women offered sweet treats and everyone prepared kids' health kits for Siloam Health Center and created cards for the Martha O'Bryan college students and the Men of Valor. Parents and children studied Isaiah 43: 18-19 and pondered what "new things" God was doing in their lives, drawing or writing their ideas on bookmarks to use in their Bible or a favorite book. Also, each family put together a set of Lenten devotions to use at home throughout the season of Lent. Far from "giving up things" for Lent, our families can spend this season looking inward — to our hearts, to our families, to our homes; and responding outward — to our families, to the church and to others in need. When we return to God with all our hearts, God gives us all that we need to examine the inner workings of our lives — and to share what we have with others.

Confessions From a Newbie

by John Hollins, Jr.

From January 7-13, 2012, I participated in my first mission trip to Mandeville, Jamaica. Today I feel blessed to have been included on this trip. It was a “game changer” for me.

Craig Buffkin, Nathan Brandon, and Darryl Thompson have been harassing me for about two years to go on the Jamaica mission trip. Like most of us, I had a list of readymade excuses, including work, family, pro-football and most importantly, duck hunting. I finally capitulated in 2010. I agreed to go on the mission until my Auburn Tigers made it to the National Championship in January 2010. I bailed on the Jamaica trip and watched Auburn win their first National Championship in 50 years. At that time I thought I made the right decision. Later I realized how skewed my priorities actually are.

On January 7, 2012, my alarm went off very early at 3:00 A.M. At that moment, I thought I had lost my mind. I was sick with a sinus infection and was wondering if it was too late to bail on the trip. At 4:00 A.M. I picked up my “new best friend” J.T. Martin. He got in the car and said, “Man you’re going to love it!” He told me that he was an avid duck



hunter and was also missing a week of hunting. I knew there was a reason I liked him.

We took off at 6:00 A.M. for Charlotte, NC and left Charlotte at approximately 12:00 P.M. headed for Montego Bay, Jamaica. We arrived in Jamaica at approximately 2:30 P.M. We cleared customs, met Craig, Nathan and Darryl, loaded the vans and embarked on our two and a half hour trip through the mountains

to the Moorlands Camp in Mandeville.

After a long, hot ride over largely unpaved and potholed riddled roads, we arrived at the camp. Everyone appeared to be excited to be there but me. I was tired and exhausted and began to seriously question my decision to go on the trip. I began to revisit all the reasons why I was reluctant to go. Craig Bufkin sensed my frustration and asked if I was sorry that I had made the trip. I told him I was just tired. We both knew that I was not being honest.

The next morning we attended the services at the Andrews Memorial United Church. The entire congregation welcomed us with open arms. Immediately my tensions began to ease. The service began with an hour of energized

singing which was just what the doctor ordered. Pastor Edmund Reid delivered a one-hour spiritual, evangelical sermon on redemption. Unfortunately, the language barrier prevented me from understanding most of the sermon.

Although English is the native language, Jamaicans speak a dialect called Patwa, a mixture of African, English and slang. The faster he spoke, the less I understood. However, his energetic delivery was impressive. After church, the real purpose of the trip began to sink in.

The food in Jamaica was good, for the most part. Melba, our camp cook, served up Jamaican pork and chicken, as well as ackee and salt fish, the national food. If I never eat ackee again, it will be too soon. It was simply awful. On Sunday evening we travelled to a beachfront resort called Little Ochie, the Jamaican version of a mountain seaside resort. Mr. Blackie, the owner of the restaurant, served an amazing concoction of grilled lobster, grouper and snapper with jerk sauces. The meal was delicious, and more than made up for the ackee.

On Monday morning we left the camp and walked approximately a quarter of a mile to the Ebenezer Elementary School. Our job was to paint the exterior and interior of the school, as well as build a room to house a computer lab. Jamaican volunteers Cliff Mitchell and his son, Richard, partnered with Jim Wall and J.T. Martin to complete the construction projects. The other newbie, Matt Simpson, joined Nathan Brandon, Darryl Thompson and me for the painting project.

We all worked at a frenzied pace to complete our projects before noon on Thursday. The school was extremely grateful for our work.

They gave us all gift bags, presented by the student who each made an individual presentation to us. This was a special moment for all of us.

To read the rest of the story, log onto the Adult Missions page of the FPC website.



Come on Back...

First Presbyterian Church has long been generous in supporting mission projects, missionaries, church and home builds both here in Nashville and across the globe, and meeting the needs of God's people in a multitude of ways: healthcare, counseling, justice, Christian education, disaster relief, care for the homebound, providing for orphans and the disabled, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, etc. In fact, nearly one quarter of the church's total annual operating budget is spent in support of mission efforts with 95 separate budget lines for these many varied projects and organizations. It is true indeed that members of this congregation exhibit God's love through service and support of missions with abundant time, talent and treasure.

To help our members learn more about the places impacted by the members of First Presbyterian Church, several mission display areas have



been established along the back wall just outside of Courtenay Lounge. If you have ever wondered "where in the world" First Presbyterian Church, Nashville sends its mission support funds, take a few moments to peruse these displays. If you have children, they will certainly enjoy seeing examples of some of the handiwork shared with our church by those whose lives have been touched by your generosity. You might even see your own face joyously sharing with others along the way. Come on back...

Disaster Response Committee Offers Help in Time of Need

Tornado season is approaching. The church recently formed a Disaster Response Committee to offer help with cleanup and make available the extensive resources within the church in the areas of insurance specialists, construction experts, lawyers, accountants and possibly others. In the event a tornado or other large-scale natural disaster comes through our area this year and your home is damaged, one option you have — after you secure your family's safety and the initial threat to life and limb has passed — is to contact the church and let the Disaster Response Team know of your need. You may have trees down or portions of your home damaged and you need help with cleanup of what's left of your property. You may need to talk with someone with expertise about insurance, legal, tax or home repair.



You can get a message to the members of the Disaster Response Team by calling the church's main number, 615-383-1815, and providing information about your need and a means to contact you to schedule assistance.

To make this happen, the church needs to marshal volunteer resources who can make themselves available to help during a time of natural disaster. You may have a chain saw (and know what to do with it), or a truck, or wheelbarrow, or wet vac or other similar equipment useful in clearing debris. You may be an insurance representative, or attorney, or be familiar with tax law, or know something about

rebuilding a home and would be willing to give some of your time at the most critical time for someone else. If you would like to volunteer for possible service during a natural disaster, please complete and return the form on the next page or sign up online from the Missions portion of the church's website.



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Dated church material
Please deliver by February 25, 2012

Pastors

Todd Jones
Pastor
Sam Cooper
Executive Pastor
Mark DeVries
*Associate Pastor to Youth
& Their Families*
Stuart Gordon
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Sandra Randleman
*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care & Mission*
Tom Walker
Parish Associate
Bill Bryant
Pastor Emeritus
Keith Gunter
*Associate Pastor for New
Church Development*

Program Staff

Brenda Geise
*Older Adult Ministry
Coordinator*
Deb O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministry
Letitia Green
Director of Recreation
Katy Miller
Youth Program 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 February 26 & March 4:

- **7th grade** meets upstairs in the Gathering Place.
- **8th grade** meets in the Youth Room.
- **9th grade** meets in #102 downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **10th grade** meets in #101 downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **11th grade** meets in #100 downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **11th grade** father/son Passages class meets in the Cannon Center.
- **11th grade** mother/daughter Passages class meets upstairs in the Cheek House.
- **12th grade** meets in #105 downstairs in the Enrichment Center.

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

7th Grade Pump It Up: Sunday, March 4, 4:00–5:30 P.M. Meet at Pump It Up; \$15 for event and pizza!

2012 Mission Trip Registrations are open! To sign up for Spring Break, Alaska, Great Escape or New Orleans, visit firstpresbyterianyouth.com/register. Questions or need scholarship information? Contact Katy Miller (kmiller@fpcnashville.org or 298-9570).

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

To register for these events, visit us at firstpresbyterianyouth.com/register.

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