

First Edition

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

April 18, 2012 • Volume 27, No. 08



Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

What a glorious celebration of Easter for the First Presbyterian Church family! It began in the Sullivan Biblical Garden with a standing room only crowd for the Sunrise Service, a perfect way to begin what was a simply splendid day. Seeing Courtenay Hall filled for the Stratton Foster Easter

morning breakfast was a wonderful sight to behold. There were even people standing up at the window sills eating their breakfast, because every seat in Courtenay Hall was filled. Three Easter morning services filled the pews in our magnificently decorated Sanctuary, at eight, nine-thirty and eleven. At the nine-thirty service, Courtenay Hall, which had been converted from the breakfast by our staff to a place filled with seats, was filled with worshipers who joined in the service by video feed from the Sanctuary. Most importantly, at all these services the Gospel was proclaimed, and the power of Easter faith was witnessed to by all who came to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me offer again the words of the late Don Juel from his marvelous book on the Gospel of Mark, *The Master of Surprise*: "Jesus cannot be confined by the tomb any more than by the hopes of his followers or the designs of his enemies. The grave clothes have been shed; Jesus is out of the tomb, on the loose." Jesus is on the loose! I love that image of Easter faith, and it was wonderful to give witness to this powerful Resurrection reality. What a joy it is to be a part of such a vibrant and loving church family! Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Pastor.

As I mention the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, let me take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for another celebration. On Palm Sunday, April 1, our Session planned a surprise celebration of the tenth anniversary of my coming to First Presbyterian Church. In some ways it is a little embarrassing to celebrate ten years of service to First

Presbyterian Church, as many have served this wonderful church much longer than I have. But then, on the other hand, celebration is good for a congregation, and nothing gives life to a Christian church like giving thanks. It meant the world to have my whole family present to join the festivities on Sunday's celebration, and how thoughtful of our church leaders to think of this! Lynn May chaired the celebration, and as is always the case, she did an outstanding job. When Mike Baron, our Clerk of Session, announced that The Session Room was being named in honor of this occasion, you could have knocked me over with a feather! What an incredibly gracious gesture, and one more blessed tie that binds us together as Pastor and people. I am so thankful for all that these last ten years have held, and to say thank you seems so inadequate to the task of expressing all that is in my heart.

At a dinner held for our Elders, Deacons and their spouses, I spoke of four characteristics of a healthy church, and would love to use this space to share them with you as we embrace God's future for First Presbyterian Church. First, healthy congregations are communities of gratitude. Thanksgiving is the central note that Christians are called to sound. Paul says, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." More and more God is calling us to be a community marked by gratitude for God's grace, which is always at work to make us more gracious. Let's grow more fluent in the language of appreciation!

Secondly, healthy congregations are communities that keep their promises. Every Sunday when we baptize a child, we make promises to that family to support and nurture that child in the faith. When we ordain and install ministers, Elders and Deacons, we promise to support them as they serve to lead us. When we confirm a group of young people into our congregation's membership, we promise to welcome them and to encourage them in their walk with Jesus. When we commission mission teams in worship almost every month, we always promise to pray for them and

Continued on next page

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 front page

support them in their service. And of course, when we pledge to support the church with our time, talent and treasure, we are making life-giving promises. Vital congregations live by the promises they make and keep, both to God and to our common life. God is calling us to great promises.

Third, healthy congregations are communities of truthfulness. We follow one who proclaimed, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Jesus said in John's Gospel, "You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." One of the Six Great Ends of the Church in our Book of Order is "The preservation of the truth." We are called by Christ to be a people who learn to speak the truth in love. This means that our words matter. Nothing undermines a church more than empty promises. May we grow in grace and truth, and may our life together be marked by integrity and openness. We are far from a perfect church, and we must be honest about our shortcomings if ever we are to grow up in every way into Christ.

Fourth, healthy congregations are communities of hospitality. They are open and inviting places! They are places that welcome the stranger, and keep an eye open always for the outsider and the newcomer. They also treasure people of all generations. The great strength and gift of First Presbyterian Church is that we are a church where all generations worship and live together, treasuring the gifts that each bring to our life and work. This is an asset in every way, and one that we need to celebrate more than we do. Let's always "Welcome the stranger when he sojourns in your midst, and remember that you too were once strangers in the land." Let's be open and inviting to everyone who graces our church with their presence. This is surely the call of Jesus Christ!

A community of Gratitude, one of Truthfulness, people who keep their Promises, and those who extend Hospitality. This is God's call, always. And I am so grateful to share in this journey with you. Know how deeply I love First Presbyterian Church, and how grateful I am to have been called to serve as your Pastor.

With Love and Prayers,

Greeter Volunteers Needed

To greet people between services in the Courtenay Hall area from 9:30-10:00 A.M. Contact Martha Davis (297-7365 or marthadavis@bellsouth.net) for more information.

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.



Nikki & Carter Baker on the death of Nikki's father, **Donald Wesley Keller**, who died March 27.

Sympathy also to Ella & Mary Kate Baker.

Dick & Sarah Fleming on the death of Dick's mother, **Virginia Lang Fleming**, who died March 31. Sympathy also to Keith Simpkins, Julia & Richard Fleming, Jr., Jack Lily & Ben Fleming.

Farrar & Bo Hunter on the death of their son, **Miles Stuart Hunter**, who died April 4.

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.

Congratulations

The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates these members.



Kristine West & Jeffrey Hamm on the birth of their son, **Samuel West Hamm**, who was born on February 29. Congratulations to grandparents, Bob & Gudrun West.

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.



Lindsey & Ryan Jacobs presented their son, **Jack Philip Jacobs**, for baptism on April 15. Assisting Elder was Lattie Brown.

SUNDAY
APRIL 22, 2012

Sermon
"Open Minds, Loving Hearts"

Scripture Readings
Psalm 4
Luke 24:36-48

Todd Jones
Pastor

SUNDAY
APRIL 29, 2012

Sermon
"The Shepherd God"

Scripture Readings
Psalm 23
John 10:11-18

Todd Jones
Pastor

ADULT & FAMILY



Mission Opportunities

Haiti Young Adult July 2012

Dates: July 14-21

Cost: \$1,175 (estimated); \$330 deposit due NOW; vaccinations recommended.

Brief Details: Young adults from FPC and PSF alumni serving together at Wings of Hope school for special needs children; both relational and construction work opportunities as well as visits to mission projects supported by FPC-Nashville; price determined based on airfare at time of booking.

Trip Leaders: Decker Chaney and Katy Miller

Dominican Republic November 2012

Dates: November 3-9

Cost: \$1,400 (estimated); \$800 deposit due June 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 (Presidents' Day weekend)

Cost: \$1,300 (estimated); \$800 deposit due September 1, 2012; 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

Jamaica February 2013

Dates: February 16-23 (Presidents' Day weekend)

Cost: \$1,800 (estimated); \$800 deposit due September, 2012.

Brief Details: Construction work and development of new church partner relationship; dentists to see local patients.

Trip Leaders: Craig Buffkin & Nathan Brandon

Kenya & Rwanda July 2013

Dates: July 17-August 2

Cost: Under development; deposit due December 31, 2012; 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. Online registration for trips is available on the church homepage at www.fpcnashville.org.

Scholarship Assistance is available to FPC members for all FPC-sponsored trips by contacting Sandra (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>.

National Day of Prayer

Join us on Thursday, May 3, in the Stanford Chapel from 7:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. for a private time of prayer.

Free Concert

Join us on Sunday, April 29, in the Sanctuary at 4:00 P.M. for a concert featuring the Nashville Chamber Singers directed by Angela Tipps, now in their 16th season, and the David Lipscomb High School Concert Choir.

Join the Army of Singing Men

Attention men (9th grade and up), we want you! Please join us in singing at the Mother's Day Offertory, May 13, at the 11:00 A.M. service. Rehearsals are Sundays, April 22 and 27 and May 6 and 13, from 9:40 to 10:00 A.M. in the FPC choir room with Raphael Bundage.



VBS 2012

Explore the depths of God's word at VBS with *Operation Overboard!* Dare to Go Deep with God, June 25-28. Online registration and volunteer sign-ups are open on the web — dive deep with us this summer!



I Scream...You Scream... We All Scream For Ice Cream!!

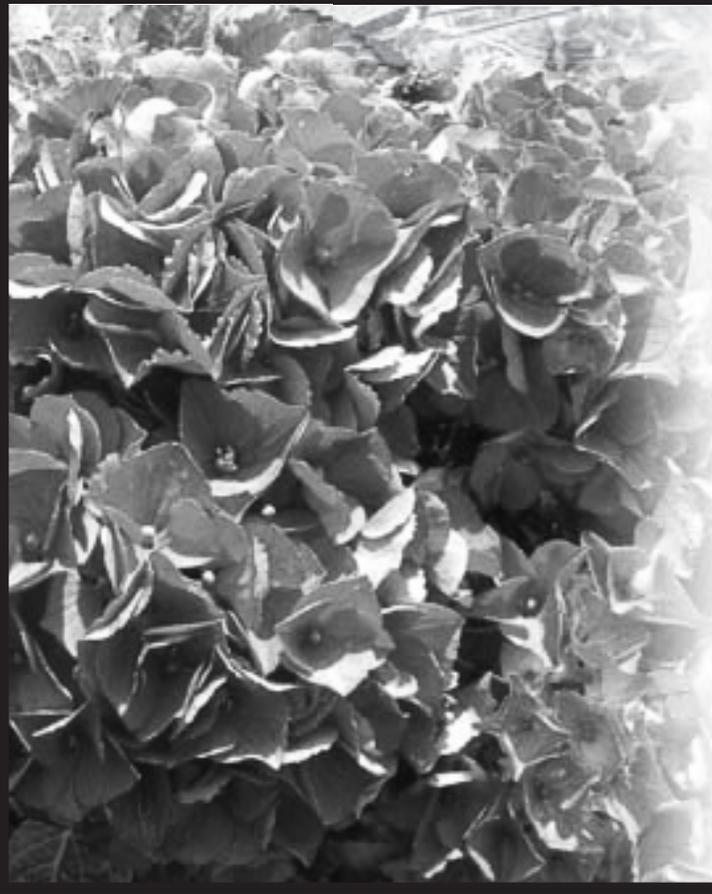
Sunday, June 10, 3:00-5:00 P.M. at the FPC Nashville Campus

2011 Best of Show Ice Cream Winner (Peanutbuttery) on grocery store shelves now. Pick some up soon and start planning your tasty prize-winning entry for the 2012 event. Cranker sign-up and ticket sales begin on Sunday, May 13 in Courtenay Hall.

Grace and Todd Smith and Beth and David Vorhaus are FPC Event Co-Chairs. All proceeds benefit Martha O'Bryan Center, a covenant mission of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN PRESENTS**

A Heart to Bloom



We invite all women of the church to join Presbyterian Women for a buffet-style dinner at the home of Kathy Wright on Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. (A shuttle service will be available between the church and her house on Tyne Blvd).

The weather should be beautiful — flowers and hearts alike should all be in bloom as we fellowship and enjoy the food catered by FPC-member Emily Frith and Corner Market Catering.

Tickets will be on sale for \$12.00 beginning April 15 in Courtenay Hall on Sunday mornings and from Ginny Tindle at the front desk through Thursday, May 3.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer Opportunities at Safe Haven Family Shelter

Did you know that homeless families often must be separated by gender if they need overnight lodging in Nashville? Did you know there is only ONE shelter in Nashville where homeless families can stay together?



That place, Safe Haven Family Shelter, is located just 10 minutes from First Presbyterian Church and offers a wonderful volunteer opportunity to share with your family, a group of families, or a group of friends. Our church has pledged to provide volunteers to the Shelter six Mondays a year in the following ways:

Overnight Volunteers Needed: October 1 and December 3. One to two people to spend the night. They arrive at 5:45 P.M. to receive orientation and a briefing. They eat dinner with the residents. They have their own room (with two twin beds) and bathroom. They lock the shelter door at 10:00 P.M. and set the alarm. They may leave at 6:00 A.M. the next morning.

Meal Volunteers Needed: June 4, August 6 and October 1. Families/ individuals are asked to prepare an entree, two vegetable dishes and a dessert for between 10-25 residents. They should arrive no later than 5:30 P.M. in order to serve dinner at 6:00 P.M. They, too, get the opportunity to eat with the residents. After cleaning up, they are free to go.

To offer your time or cooking skills, please contact Mary Earthman at mearthman@bellsouth.net or (615) 665-8845. Once you've volunteered, you'll be glad you answered God with the response, "Send me."

Danger vs. Opportunity

Did you realize...that the average crisis lasts for about six weeks? By the end of a month and a half, people usually come to some solution. Sometimes the solutions are good. But sometimes they just cause more painful problems.

Stephen Ministry can help people find a positive resolution to crisis. For more information, contact Sandra Randleman (298-9502).



Congregational Care Support & Services

Minister for Pastoral Care

For pastoral care, please call The Rev. Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502. For after office hour emergencies, call the church at 383-1815 for information on how to reach the on-call pastor.

Career Transition Network

Career Transition Network meets weekly on Tuesday mornings in Bryant Conference Room at 8:00 A.M. Members of the congregation and the community explore career options and network with others in a Christian environment.

Church Membership

For information on how to join First Presbyterian Church, call Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502.

DFW (Devotion, Fellowship and Work)

The DFW group undertakes minor house repairs for members who are over 55, widows, widowers or single parents. Call Hugh Welch at 297-2896 or the church at 298-9509.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare offers help for those recovering from the hurt of separation or divorce. For information, call Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502.

Grief Support

Grief Support Group is for those grieving the losses of life, call Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502.

Home Partners

Church members make a monthly visit to an elderly church member in his or her place of residence. To volunteer to serve as a Home Partner or to be assigned a Home Partner, please call Sandra Randleman at 298-9502.

Manna Ministry

Food from the Manna Food Freezer is available for pickup and/or delivery to persons suffering with illness. Call Kelly McMullen (298-1492), Judy Fincannon (315-0742) or Helayne Brittle (377-3323).

Officer Prayer Time

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church officers by filling out a prayer request card and depositing it in the Prayer Request Box located in the narthex. Officers meet for prayer each Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. in the church library.

Older Adult Caregiver Support

The Older Adult Caregiver Support group is for those caring for the elderly, call Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502.

E-Mail Prayer Ministry

To place a prayer request on the e-mail system, send your requests to Emily (emilyeberle@comcast.net or 292-2120).

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are trained lay ministers of the church and give confidential support. Call Sandra Randleman* at 298-9502.

Weddings and Baptisms

To schedule weddings or baptisms, call the church, 383-1815.

*** To contact Sandra in confidence any time of day, e-mail her at srandleman@fpcnashville.org.**

Looking Ahead *in Children's Ministry*



Confirmation Class: Sixth graders will have their session exam and lunch with their families on Sunday, May 6. Confirmation Sunday is May 20.

Serving Together: Families serving others in Christ's name together. Check the website to register.

■ Saturday, April 28, 3:00 P.M. at The Next Door.

Fifth Grade Field Trip: Sunday, April 29, 9:45-1:30 P.M., the 5th grade Sunday School class will visit the Downtown Presbyterian Church to gain an understanding of their heritage and the beginnings of the Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Lunch will follow. Parents are welcome to join the field trip. Check the website to register.

Multi-Generational Sunday School: On May 27, we will gather as families to celebrate the end of our second Serving Together year. This is a time to come together to hear the impact of our service in this faith-deepening ministry.

Vacation Bible School: June 25-28, 2012

■ **Traditional VBS** is for children age 4 (by September 1, 2011) through rising grade 3, and runs from 8:45-Noon each day. There are many ways for adults and youth to be involved — come join the fun!

■ **VBS Mission Camp** is a uniquely designed opportunity for rising 4th-6th graders during our church's VBS week, June 25-28. The Mission Camp runs from 8:45-2:00 P.M. The campers will participate in daily Bible Study and then head off-site to various local agencies to serve others in the name of Christ. Campers will come alongside people who are living with issues related to aging, homelessness, living in poverty, etc, and offer food to the hungry, a smile to the lonely, and have the opportunity to share their unique God-given gifts with others. Adults are needed to serve as drivers and chaperones each day and will have the opportunity to joyfully serve alongside campers at each agency.

■ **The Recreation Department** is offering an After Care program for a nominal cost. Contact the Recreation Department at 298-8583 for details and to sign up your children.

■ **Online Registration and Volunteer Signups** are on the Children's Ministry website.

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

June Bells — a Chance for You to Learn to Ring Handbells!

Have you enjoyed hearing the bells in worship this year? Maybe you've 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's your opportunity!

By this time next year, you'll 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.

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

Call the Music Office at 298-9517, or e-mail Bekah at bcaruso@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot!

Older Adult Caregivers Support Group

If you are caring for an aging spouse, parent or other loved one and feel stressed, overwhelmed or isolated due to your situation, or if you would like to learn more about community resources, our group is a safe place where you can share your experiences and learn from others. The group is open to everyone, so bring a friend. We meet Wednesday, April 25, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. in the Witherspoon Room (CC-130) on the first floor of the Ministry Wing.

Back by popular demand, Nancy Pertl, Caregiver Education Specialist for the Nashville office of Mental Health America, will share tips for dealing with the challenges of caring for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Nancy is a wonderful resource who has years of experience providing in-home caregiver consultations, facilitating support groups and conducting educational programs. For more information about the support group call Sandra Randleman, 298-9502.

Reflections on our Glorious Past

Palm Sunday was a celebration of Jesus' glorious entry into Jerusalem but also a celebration of Todd Jones's 10-year anniversary of his ministry with FPC Nashville. Our children's choirs, handbells and beautifully decorated Sanctuary set the stage for an exciting worship experience, and Todd's sermon on Jesus' last days was both powerful and inspirational.

Immediately after the 8:30 service, we gathered as a church family in Courtenay Hall as the Presbyterian Women provided food and refreshments. The children's Sunday School classes sang a folk hymn, "This Little Light of Mine," reflecting the light that continues to shine in Todd's ministry at First Presbyterian. Mike Baron, Clerk of the Session, and Lynn May recognized Todd and his ministry, presenting him with the plaque for the newly-named Jones Session Room.

Todd's leadership over the past 10 years needs to be celebrated, his and FPC's accomplishments being numerous. The Long-Range Planning Committee continues to reflect on the strategic plan that began upon Todd's arrival. Todd stated his mission was for "FPC Nashville to be the most generous church in Tennessee" — this made a dramatic impact on our church! So far, we have:

- Increased the church budget \$1.0 million (30%).
- Doubled the missions budget to \$600K, have 16 mission trips annually with over 400 participants and have added Room In The Inn.
- Expanded adult small groups, including Bible studies (50 groups), and congregational care groups (18 groups) and established the parish ministry (53 groups).
- Expanded our concert series (7 annually) and special services, including the addition of the 5:30 worship service.
- Expanded children's educational opportunities and recreational ministry.
- Added Center for Youth Ministry Training for young adults going into Youth Ministry.
- Expanded musical & choir opportunities, including classes for babies & toddlers.
- Hired a new minister for a new church in Sumner County.
- Begun searching for a Young Adult Pastor.

Our growth has also been dramatic during Todd's tenure — membership has grown 30% with 1,000 new members, worship attendance has grown 70% with 500 additional attendees and Sunday School rolls have increased 25%. We have been attracting a younger generation with almost half our membership under 45 years old, and there are 719 baptized members. But while we have grown to over 4,200 members, the Presbyterian denomination as a whole has experienced a 20% decline in membership (over half-a-million), a development not exclusive to Presbyterians.

During this time of FPC's growth in numbers and ministry, we additionally took on a major renovation of new facilities with a major capital campaign of \$20 million. Our endowments and reserves have been increased to support buildings,

grounds, missions, biblical gardens and depreciation. We have purchased two additional properties adjacent to FPC which give us over 60 sprawling acres to continue to expand our ministry in all areas of our church, Oak Hill School and recreation.

These trends are exciting trends for our church and we owe a lot to our visionaries — Todd, his staff and our officers, but they won't stop there. Our recent focus groups and survey have identified additional opportunities, and our Long-Range Planning Committee, church officers and staff are dedicated to making the next 10 years as successful as the past 10 years. God has been good to FPC, and we thank Him.

— *Bill Kirby, Co-chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee*



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Dated church material
Please deliver by April 21, 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
Shannon Parsons
Communications Coordinator

Youth Happenings

Sunday School April 22 & 29:

- **7th grade** meets in the Gathering Place.
- **8th grade** meets in the Youth Room.
- **9th grade** meets in room #102, downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **10th grade** meets in room #101, downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **11th grade** meets in room #100, downstairs in the Enrichment Center.
- **12th grade** meets in the Tyne House (Exodus Class).

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.

PTM Capture the Flag: Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. on FPC's front lawn. Bring \$5 for water balloons and lunch!

Senior Banquet: Monday, April 30, at 6:30 P.M. in Courtenay Hall. Please RSVP to Katy Miller (kmiller@fpcnashville.org or 298-9570).

2012 Mission Trip Registrations are open! To sign up for Great Escape New Orleans, visit us at 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.

Parents' Night Out

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: April 28, May 11 and 19. Call 615-298-9583 or email emunoz@fpcnashville.org for reservations.

the
5:30

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