

First Edition

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

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Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

Every day has its own rhythm and offers its own gifts. This is why every day is wisely begun with the words of the Psalmist: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!” My day started very early today, dropping Connie off at the airport so she could be with

Josh and Molly and their kids in Jacksonville as Molly went into the hospital for some unexpected surgery. With my mind on how all of this would go, I arrived at the annual fundraising breakfast that our congregation hosts each year for the YMCA Bridge Program. Courtenay Hall was filled to capacity, and I was honored to sit at the table of this year’s recipient of their leadership award, our own John Eason. The YMCA Bridge Program is a tutoring and mentoring program that works with thirty students each year from East Nashville, who enter into a six-year relationship with The Bridge aimed at college preparation. In receiving the award, John mentioned that the unemployment rate among college graduates in Tennessee is only four percent, so the work they are doing to take at-risk youth and commit resources and program dollars to their academic success is nothing short of God’s work. It is an investment in the future, and as such, an act of hope. The YMCA Bridge Program is not the point of this article, though. It is one of thirty six local ministry and mission efforts that First Presbyterian Church supports out of its local mission budget every year. The work they do is exemplary, but so is the work of The Martha O’Bryan Center, Preston Taylor Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Rooftop Ministries, Siloam Family Health Center, The Next Door, Interfaith Dental Clinic, Faith Family Medical Clinic, Matthew 25, Cumberland Heights, Second Harvest Food Bank, Men of Valor, Nashville Rescue Mission, Campus for Human Development (Room in the Inn) and so many more that I

could mention. No congregation in Nashville gives as much money each year to local mission causes and organizations as does First Presbyterian Church.

But that is not why I am writing this article. What moved me so deeply this morning was a fresh recognition of the quality of leadership offered to the life of Nashville by members of First Presbyterian Church. John Eason was clearly uncomfortable in being singled out for his service and leadership offered through the years to The Bridge. It is the genuine humility that marks John’s life. But I found myself feeling so blessed to serve a church where John Eason is a leader in our midst. Presenting the award to John was the current Board Chair of The Bridge, our own Jerry Breast. Admiral Breast did his usual splendid job in offering recognition and inspiration to us all as he spoke of John’s service and devotion, his character and integrity. As John came up to receive his award, he recalled the day when he was recruited to the Board of The Bridge by another First Presbyterian Church leader, Jimmy Webb. What I realized in that moment was that what is true of The Bridge, is true of countless other organizations and ministries making a difference among the least, the last and the littlest in our city. That is, leaders who emerge from the life of this church family serve and give in order to transform and to heal our community. Whether it is the Boy Scouts of America, or the YMCA, or the many schools and colleges that add so much to our community, First Presbyterian Church members serve as leaders who give to strengthen the life of our city.

This past Sunday morning the front of our chancel was filled with over one hundred teenagers singing of their call to worship and to serve Jesus Christ as Lord. Youth Sunday was a powerful blessing, a reminder to us all of what a precious commitment we make in supporting so generously our youth ministry and children’s ministry programs at First Presbyterian Church. After church we welcomed over fifty young people as new members in this year’s Confirmation Class. As I sat in the breakfast this morning, and thought about the power and joy of Youth

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.



FPC's Annual Kirkin of the Tartan is Sunday, May 27

Blaring bagpipes. Banging drums. Blessing of the tartans. A kilted Beadle. An historic Bible. These are but a few of the sights and sounds of FPC's Kirkin of the Tartan, a celebration of our Scottish heritage.



Todd Jones will preach at the 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Kirkin worship services. A grand procession will fill the sanctuary with the pageantry of Scotland, with bagpipes and drums and with many of our FPC families who are of Scottish ancestry.

Kirkin Terminology and History

- **Kirk** is a Scottish and North English word for church, specifically the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian).
- A **tartan** is a woolen or worsted cloth that is woven with stripes of different colors and widths crossing at right angles and worn chiefly by the Scottish Highlanders.
- A kilted **Beadle** leads the worship procession carrying the Bible to the front of the sanctuary and the pulpit.
- The **Kirkin of the Tartan** is an observation that incorporates tartans in worship. The ancient Celts described the tartan as "mottled," "checkered," "striped" and "sundry colored," words that describe the tartan patterns.
- The **sett** of a tartan is the pattern of the colored thread, and a length of tartan is made up of one sett repeated over and over again until the desired length is made. Scots inhabiting a district were generally members of the same clan, their district tartan became the clan tartan.
- Men wore the short, pleated garment known as the kilt, shoes of untanned leather, a bonnet of knitted wool and a sporran or purse worn in front of the kilt. Women wore a long tartan wrap reaching from the head or shoulders to the ankles.
- As Highland congregations were gathered together upon the Lord's Day, they would arrive at a point in the Order of Worship wherein the presiding clergyman would pronounce a blessing upon the assembled families. At that moment, those in attendance would reach within their Bibles or under their cloaks and take in hand a bit of the forbidden tartan and receive the Lord's blessing upon the clan.
- The **Geneva Bible** is used in FPC's Kirkin of the Tartan. This copy of the Bible was printed in 1583.
- The Scottish national flag, featuring the **Cross of St. Andrew**, is the oldest flag of any country.

Please wear your tartan on May 28. Join the procession and bring a sash of your tartan to be blessed.

Continued from front page

Sunday, I recalled that John Cheek Eason was baptized in First Presbyterian Church, grew up as a child in our Sunday School, confirmed here the faith taken for him by his parents in baptism and now serves our congregation as an Elder. I could say the same about a long list of others like John who grew up in this congregation and now serve as leaders in our city.

It all makes me wonder about the one hundred plus young people standing across the front of our Sanctuary this past Sunday, and about the fifty-two members of this year's Confirmation Class. They have all been called by God in baptism, called by name, and in the life of this congregation they have confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ. Where will Christ lead them, and through them, what will they do to love and serve in God's world? It is why I love the Church, and believe so deeply in its mission!

With Love and Prayers,

Todd

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.



Andrea & Graham Swafford presented their daughter, **Kennedy Marie Swafford**, for baptism on May 6. Assisting Elder was Marie Maxwell.

Courtney & Brad Robers presented their daughter, **Anne Marie Robers**, for baptism on May 6. Assisting Elders were Jim Robers & Tom Weaver.

SUNDAY
MAY 20, 2012

Sermon
"In All Your Ways"

Scripture Readings
Acts 1:12-16, 21-26
Proverbs 3:5-6, 28:26

Stuart Gordon
Pastor

Kirkin'
of the
Tartan

MAY 27, 2012

Sermon
"The Spirit and the Kirk"

Scripture Readings
Romans 8:18-27
John 15:26-27, 16:5-15

Todd Jones
Pastor

FPC Weekend at NaCoMe

In the comfortable and casual atmosphere of NaCoMe with over 644 acres of beautiful forests and streams, campers can enjoy life at a slower pace while cooling off in the spring-fed creek, hunting for gold and silver and tasting the famous homemade NaCoMe sweet rolls. This wonderful weekend is full of relaxation, fellowship, serenity, fun, friends, family, worship, memories, games, songs, Bible study, campfires, s'mores, streams, canoes, tradition, meditation, events, naps, ping pong and good food — just to name a few. Building bridges, creating new memories and forming new relationships are the highlights of the weekend that is being facilitated by our own Mark DeVries.

The weekend kicks off on Friday, August 10 with on-site registration at 5:00 P.M. and will conclude on Sunday, August 12 with lunch following the Sunday worship. We can't wait to see you there!

Building Faith Foundations for Life with our Children

Children's Ministry is actively seeking individuals who desire to help our children know the Lord. We all stand and make that most important promise when a baby is baptized — to raise the child to know, love and trust Jesus and to live a life of faith.

Many Ages. . . To do that, it takes a whole village. We are looking for adults of all ages — young adults who have not yet started a family, parents, singles, empty nesters, grandparents! Surrounding our children with adults from a variety of generations increases the possibility that they will have "sticky faith" — a deep, dynamic faith that lasts long-term.

Many Gifts. . . Our children's Sunday School classes are led by teams of at least 4 adults. Many different gifts are needed to make each teaching team effective; the gift of teaching is only one such gift! The gifts of organization, service, evangelism, hospitality and music are just a few of the many gifts that can create a rich environment for faith to grow. You don't see teaching as your gift? Are there other gifts you have that can be shared?

Not Perfection. . . Living by faith is not having a perfect life or knowing all the answers. Living by faith is trusting God and knowing that God is good. You don't have to quote Scripture by chapter and verse or have the entire Bible memorized. You only need an open heart, and God will work to equip you with all you need to serve through the Sunday School ministry.

Please join us in prayer as God raises up the children's teaching teams for the 2012-13 season. We have a few opportunities still open — we'd love to talk with you about the possibilities — you may contact Deb O'Brien (298-9582) or Mickey Fitts (385-7691).

Urgent Need for Safe Haven Family Shelter Dinner Volunteer(s)

FPC Nashville has pledged to provide dinner on Monday, June 4, for the residents of Safe Haven Family Shelter but is still in need of a volunteer(s) to fill that slot. This is the perfect volunteer opportunity to share with your family, a group of families or a group of friends.



The shelter is located just 10 minutes from First Presbyterian Church on 3rd Avenue South.

Families/individuals are asked to prepare an entree, two vegetable dishes, and a dessert to serve 10-25 residents. They should arrive no later than 5:30 P.M. in order to serve dinner at 6:00 P.M. Volunteers are encouraged to eat with the residents. After cleaning up, they are free to go home.

To offer your time or cooking skills, please contact Mary Earthman at mearthman@bellsouth.net or (615) 665-8845. Mary has additional volunteer needs to fill in future months as well, so please ask her about those if you are available at another time.

Miss Martha's Ice Cream Crankin' & Summer Social

Sunday, June 10

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

FPC Nashville Campus

Cranker sign-up and ticket sales every Sunday in Courtenay Hall.

All proceeds benefit Martha O'Bryan Center, a covenant mission of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

Grace and Todd Smith
Beth and David Vorhaus
FPC Event Co-Chairs





Top 10 Things You Might Not Know About VBS 2012 at FPC



10. We are diving deep for VBS: *Operation Overboard* this summer!

9. All of this year's Bible stories involve water. Noah, baptism, fishermen, a storm — water, water, everywhere...

8. FPC's VBS is usually held in August, but now that Metro's first day of school is August 1, our VBS is June 25-28!

7. Our kids "dive deep" in *Operation Overboard*, exploring stories through the Bible, art, music, science, missions and recreation.

6. All volunteers are treated to delicious homemade snacks every day of VBS in two hospitality rooms. Yum...

5. We'll start every morning with a high-energy opening worship with music and skits!

4. We'll end every morning with a closing worship to wrap up what we've learned throughout our deep-sea explorations.

3. Registration for VBS closes June 11 — just a few weeks from now!

2. VBS could be the most important four days of your summer — for your kids AND for you.

And the number one thing about VBS you might not know...

1. VBS sows seeds of faith, community, and caring. Help them bloom and grow — join us!

Need: Teachers, Volunteers & Prayer

Thank You! The outpouring of support and encouragement from this church to my family in the planting of a new church in Hendersonville, Tennessee has been amazing. We are truly honored to be a part of such a caring community with the passion to make Christ known.

On behalf of the New Church Development Committee, I wanted to give you a brief update on our ministry in Hendersonville and how you can help. The past couple of months have given my family a chance to get to know the community. We've joined the YMCA, hosted numerous playgroups and thanks to the help of members of this church, I am one of the newest members of Hendersonville's Rotary. As well, we've worked to be a familiar face in the community and create relationships that point to Christ.

We are calling this new church New Creation Church, and we have just launched a new website that can point others to know more about who we are and what we are doing. Please take a moment to look at our site: www.newcreationhendersonville.org. You can also follow us on our Facebook page and Twitter (@NewHvilleChurch).

On May 24, we are having an open house vision meeting at the Hendersonville library. This will be our first public invite to the community to hear the vision of the new church and to invite others to journey with us.

Please be praying for this night and that God will lead many to walk with us in furthering the Kingdom.



Finally, we are excited to let you know that we are in the final stages of securing a storefront space in the community. This location will serve as offices, class space and a gathering spot for the community. Obtaining this location will give us a tangible place to point others to as we minister to the community. As well, we hope that it will be used as a ministry center that utilizes the gifts of the community.

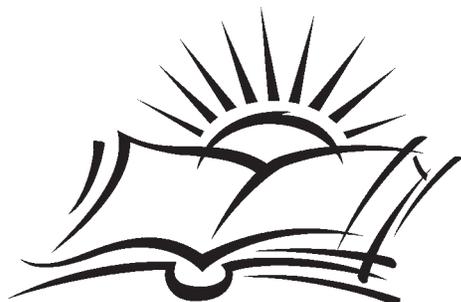
It is here where we need your help. First Presbyterian Church is filled with members who have a wonderful variety of gifts, talents and passions that we want to share with those in Hendersonville. Maybe you can offer the talents of your professional career in leading a class in real estate, tax help or financial planning. You might have a passion for cooking or the arts, or you may love scrapbooking. These gifts and more are ways that you can serve the start-up of this new church. Also, you can simply give your time as a receptionist, by watching children while a group of single moms attend a Bible Study or by passing out flyers and information at an event. The opportunities and possibilities are endless. Please prayerfully consider where God can use you in serving others in Hendersonville.

Over the next several weeks we will be gathering a list of volunteers within these areas in which they feel they could serve the community. We would love to have many of you committed to teaching a 4-week course of your choosing or simply be placed on a list of those ready to serve when our next outreach event comes up. Information will be coming soon on how you can sign up or you can sign up now by emailing me at kgunter@fpcnashville.org.

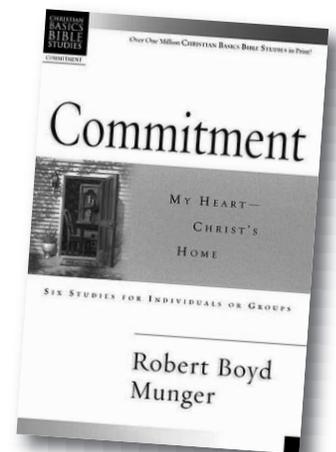
Grace and Peace — Rev. Keith Gunter

Presbyterian Women New Summer Study

“What would it be like if Christ came to visit you in the home of your heart? Are we prepared to meet Him daily in our living room? In the study? What about the dark closet that needs cleaning out? These studies will take you through six of the rooms of your heart, helping you to see aspects of your Christian life as Jesus sees them. You will be stretched and enriched by your personal meeting with Jesus.”



From June 12 through July 24, all women are welcome to join Presbyterian Women on Tuesday mornings in the Cheek House from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. for a study based on Robert Boyd Munger's *Commitment: My Heart — Christ's Home*. Teachers include Mary Loch Smith, Laura Coyle, Betsy Davies, Regina Sentell, Shelia Odusote, Kim Greene, Dorothy Pace and Clokie Dixon. The book and study guide set will be available for sale at the reception desk for \$9.



CUBA con gusto!

by Etta Wilson

FPC's seven-person mission trip to Cuba was indeed one con gusto (with pleasure). After Patricia Heim's good trip preparation, we had the able guidance of Pastor Joel Ortega Dopico and Mike Shampain, the strong prayers of Stuart Gordon and the rich voice of Bill Kirby during the week from April 20-27. We met with pastors, churches, women's Bible study groups and seminary leaders in various parts of the country to the east of Havana. Things are changing quite a bit now in Cuba as the government loosens control, and numerous groups travel to this island that has been virtually quarantined for 50 years.

Our headquarters, lodging and most meals for 5 days were at the Dora E. Valentin Presbyterian Church in Varadero on the northern coast. The church and several other missions in the area are served by Dopico, a dynamo of a devoted churchman who visited us here at FPC in November. Varadero is a major tourist attraction, and art shops and eating places are opening. This city and church also



hold a special place in the hearts of many in Nashville because of the efforts of our own David Cole, the resulting mission trips for nine years and the ongoing support of the Outreach Foundation.

My memories include:

- Serving communion to a Spanish-speaking congregation with Pam Shampain and two elders in the Dora E. Valentin Church on Sunday.
- Visiting the Presbyterian Reformed Museum in the John G. Hall Church and realizing



how important Presbyterians have been for Cuban Christians since 1890.

• Riding the "Pastors for Peace" school bus for three days while visiting churches, missions and the Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas. (The bus driver's astounding collection of taped music tended to take our minds off the poor roads and seats with little or no springs).

• Marvelous music from a 3-man band at Gustavo and Rosa's house one evening. Bill's singing and Stuart's guitar-playing weren't bad either. Music and art have kept these people alive in spirit.

• Seeing the new Living Waters for the World filtration system at the La Playa church and being grateful that clean water is available twice a day to people in the area. There is a similar filtration system at the Seminary in Matanzas.

• Meeting people from the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago while having lunch at the First Presbyterian Church in Havana. Such a wide-spread family we are!

• Seeing buildings restored and spruced up in Havana, much of it probably the result of the Pope's visit.

The church in Cuba is growing — thanks to the efforts of dedicated people both there and here, but it has missed a generation or two while being under restriction. Now is definitely a time of special opportunity for all of us.



Older Adult Caregivers Support Group

If you are currently caring for an aging spouse, parent or other loved one and feel stressed, overwhelmed or isolated due to your caregiving situation, or if you would just like to learn more about community resources, our Older Adult Caregivers Support Group is designed to be a safe place where you can share your experiences and learn from others in similar situations. The group is open to FPC member and non-member caregivers, so feel free to bring a friend. We will meet on Wednesday, May 23, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the Witherspoon Room (CC-130) on the first floor of the Ministry Wing. Open to FPC members and the community. Questions? Call Sandra Randleman at 298-9502.

ADULT & FAMILY



Short-Term Mission Travel

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 or work on clean water system construction/other projects with partner agency.

Trip Leaders: Dr. Jim Cato, Dr. Betsy Triggs and Rev. Keith Gunter

Haiti February 2013

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

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

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 or 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 1; requires Tetanus vaccination.

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: \$5,000; \$1,500 deposit due Dec 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; limit of 14 FPC members; spaces reserved when full deposit paid.

Trip Leader: Dr. Bob LaGrone

Home Partner Ministry

Home Partner Ministry is a rewarding ministry that offers an opportunity for the joy of new friendships. A Home Partner is a volunteer who makes visits to a church member who lives in a retirement home or at home and is unable to regularly attend church services because of health concerns. A Home Partner is asked to visit one church member once a month and to extend the care and concern of our church. Home Partners have the joy of delivering an Easter flower and a Christmas poinsettia on behalf of the church. If you would like to serve as a Home Partner or if you know someone who would like to receive a visit from a Home Partner, contact Sandra Randleman (298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org).

Five Cents Per Meal Dedication May 20

First Presbyterian Church is proud to support the Five Cents Per Meal program of the Middle Tennessee Presbytery. We collect money in Courtenay Hall on Wednesday nights as well as in the collection plates on designated Sunday mornings during the year. Contributions are calculated by the amount of money it takes to feed one person three times a day for a set period of time.

Members are encouraged to collect money so that families and individuals have an opportunity to fight against hunger in the 37 counties of Middle Tennessee and around the world. Our contributions finance grants to agencies such as Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, Eastminster Hispanic Ministry, Project J.O.Y., The Living Room, Nashville's Table and MANNA in Nashville, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Dickson County and Wilson County Help Centers, Good Samaritan of Bedford County and God's Storehouse in Lawrenceburg, among others.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile program, please put \$11.55 in the collection plate or mail a check to the church. Mark your check "Five Cents Per Meal contribution."

Questions? Questions? Contact Patricia Heim in the Missions Office (298-9593 or adultmissions@fpcnashville.org) if you are interested in learning more or would like an application form for a mission trip. Online registration for trips is available from the Activity Registration link on the web (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>.

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Dated church material
Please deliver by May 19, 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 May 20 & 27:

- **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.

Youth Prayer Vigil: Tuesday, May 29 in the Chapel; 7:00-8:00 A.M.; 12:00-1:00 P.M.; 5:00-6:00 P.M. All youth, parents and FPC members are invited to join us to pray for

our youth as they head out on summer mission trips.

2012 Mission Trip Registrations are open! To sign up for 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 May 19

For ages 3 (if potty trained) through 6th grade, from 6:00-10:00 P.M. Cost is \$15 per child. Call 615-298-9583 or email emuno@fpcnashville.org for reservations. Reservations are not required, but helpful.

the
5:30

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