

First Edition

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

May 30, 2012 • Volume 27, No. 11



Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

“Worrying is praying to the wrong God.” I have no idea who first said this, but I have no doubt that it is true. So much of life is robbed from us by our worries and our anxieties, and the Bible everywhere and often offers counsel against it. Some of Jesus’ most powerful teachings

concern our proneness to worry and anxiety. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about your clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 7:25-34)

Billy Graham once said, “Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes are centered in anything short of God and his will for us.” Perhaps this is why the Bible reminds us that God is the supreme reality in the world. On every page of scripture God is treated as the central actor in all of life. This is dramatically different from so many other readings of our world situation that we encounter in this age of information overload. In a world where God is

absent, or hardly ever entertained, it is easy to let anxiety have its way with us. “Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.” Dean William R. Inge added, “Anxiety is the interest paid on trouble before it is due.”

I know someone who has learned the hard way that worry is mostly a waste of time. “All of the things I worried about never happened, and things I never thought to worry about did.” Ralph Waldo Emerson believed the same:

Some of your hurts you have cured,
And the sharpest you still have survived,
But what torments of grief you endured
From evils that never arrived!

Jesus said in John’s Gospel, “In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.” Jesus was calling us to trust in him, even as he was promising us that life is not going to be easy. But mostly, Jesus was reminding us that God is larger than our worries, more powerful than our most vexing troubles. He was calling us to faith, to active trust in the power and grace of God. Francois Fenelon was a great believer in the sovereignty of God. “Don’t worry about the future — worry quenches the work of grace within you. The future belongs to God. God is in charge of all things. Never second-guess God.”

“I know not what the future holds,” said P.T. Forsyth, “but I know who holds the future.” It is none other than the one who said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid.”

With Love and Prayers,

Todd

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

To know Christ, to make Him known, and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.



What Kind of Woman Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

• **A woman like Sarah** who faced a major change in life at an advanced age and needed someone to listen to both her joy and apprehension.

• **A woman like Hagar** who was abandoned along with her child and needed someone to offer her hope and remind her of God's presence.

• **A woman like Hannah** who struggled with her inability to bear a child and needed someone with whom to share her sadness and pain.

• **A woman like Naomi** who had lost her loved ones and needed someone to hear her sorrow and pain.

• **A woman like Ruth** who left everything that was familiar to her and needed someone to journey with her in her new life.

• **A woman like Esther** who was faced with a major decision and needed someone who could listen to her concerns and offer encouragement.

• **A woman like Mary of Nazareth** who lived with both the joys and struggles of having an exceptional child and needed someone to help her sort out the ponderings of her heart.

• **A woman like Martha** who was burdened by the demands of daily life and needed someone to help her regain sight of what was most important.

• **A woman like Mary Magdalene** who received healing from inner turmoil and needed someone to walk with her as she built a new life.

• **A woman like you.**

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call Sandra Randleman (298-9502).



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.

Mike & Cathy Sowers on the death of Mike's mother, **Barbara Sowers**, who died May 6. Sympathy also to Meredith Long, Drew Sower and Lauren & Michael Vick.

Bill & Bonnie Heim on the death of Bill's brother, **Bruce Heim** who died May 6. Sympathy also to Maddie Lawry & Nicholas Heim.

William Penly on the death of his wife, **Suzy Penly** who died May 10.

Mary McClure Taylor on the death of her aunt, **Marguerite McClure Averett** who died May 12.

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.



Introducing Two New Thursday Night Summer Bible Studies for College Students!

~ Dinner and discussion ~

• Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors meet at 7:00 P.M. at the Wagster's home (1900 Edenbridge Way), beginning May 31.

• Rising college freshmen meet at 7:00 P.M. at the Colton's home (1119 Crater Hill Drive) beginning June 14.

TRINITY SUNDAY
JUNE 3, 2012

Sermon
"God in Three Persons..."

Scripture Readings
Isaiah 6:1-8
John 3:1-17

Todd Jones
Pastor

SUNDAY
JUNE 10, 2012

Sermon
"The Danger of Popular Opinion"

Scripture Readings
I Samuel 8:4-11
Mark 3:20-35

Todd Jones
Pastor

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

A Signature Space for Youth Ministry

Over the next few months, many of you may notice some construction happening around what is currently The Gathering Place. This space is being turned into a signature space for the youth ministry with the primary purpose of providing them with a location that suits their needs while also enabling them to be integrated into the main church facility.

Brandon Van Pernis, Director of Youth Ministry, exclaims, "We're thrilled to be moving the youth department into a unified space where we will have even greater opportunities to worship together and grow deeper in faith alongside the adults and pillars of this church. It further defines FPC as a unique place that is truly inviting to many different ages."

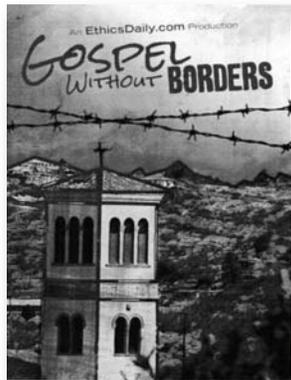
The computer lab currently in this area will be relocated and that space will house offices for the youth department staff. The Gathering Place will become a more modern, open area for youth to gather on Sunday mornings — it will also be available for other programming and functions.

Alongside these spaces, there will be a prayer room intended as a unique area for meditation, providing a quiet place for FPC members and visitors as well as Oak Hill staff and students.

"This new space will hopefully not only serve as a place for the Youth Department and the FPC community to hold it's weekly programming, but a place where students can call home and feel free to drop in whenever they'd like."

June Ramsey Class to Study Immigration

Due to its complexity, its vastness and its difficulty, dealing with immigration is a challenge for our nation and certainly for the church. The June Ramsey Sunday School class will address that challenge during the four Sundays in June, using a newly released video, *Gospel without Borders*. This documentary, a project of the Baptist Center for Ethics here in Nashville, features the hands-on work of Presbyterians, Baptists, United Methodists, Lutherans and Catholics.



Topics to be discussed:

- June 3: Good Samaritans in the Desert
- June 10: Immigration Experts on Misperceptions
- June 17: Faithful Families under Stress
- June 24: Immigrant Christians with the Golden Rule

Each Sunday we will view a 15-minute segment, followed by class discussion. Everyone is invited to join us in the Cheek House living room at 9:45 A.M.



NEW CREATION CHURCH
A Community Walking with Christ, Each Other & Our Neighbors

Need: Your Gifts, Talents & Passions

The New Creation Church in Hendersonville needs your help! Having recently secured a storefront space, the church will be ministering to the community in tangible ways by providing hands-on classes. You can help by providing the gift of teaching your particular talents and passions in a 4-week course. 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!

Other areas in which you can help include serving time as a receptionist, watching children while a group of single moms attend a Bible Study or 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.

Information will be coming soon on how you can sign up, or you can sign up now by emailing me at kgunter@fpcnashville.org.

A Mob of Youth

On May 6, more than one hundred middle school and high school students led our congregation in the annual Youth Sunday worship service. The morning was inspiring, reflective and energetic as our students shared music and creativity in preaching the sermon, "The Gospel in a Flash Mob." Fellowship and celebration continued between the services with the Youth Sunday Breakfast in Courtenay Hall.



If anyone has a need or disability requiring assistance or accommodation for any church activity, contact the church office (383-1815).

Connections at FPC — A New Sunday Bible Study

Connections is a new Sunday School class co-led by younger adults Angela Perkey and Justin Near. A Bible study that for the summer will bring together a humorous but highly relevant Christian blog — *Stuff Christians Like* — with an in-depth study of scripture, the class will discuss all aspects of a Christian life — work, relationships, family and the community. Technology and fellowship will both be regular features of the class, as well as the possibility of biscuits and homemade jam on Sunday mornings!

All members and non-members are welcome to join the discussion or just observe and absorb on any Sunday morning beginning June 3rd and going throughout the summer. We will meet in the Bryant Conference Room, across from the Welcome Desk and next to the Jones Session Room. Feel free to connect with Justin (419-787-1755, justinnnear@gmail.com) or Angela (615-915-1999, acperkey@hotmail.com) via e-mail, phone, text or Facebook if you would like to learn more.

About the Leaders:

Prior to becoming a new member in May, Justin Near has been involved with PW and FPC's music program, even teaching a music discussion class in 2011-12. Although her educational background includes degrees in Latin and Music Performance and Theory, Justin is currently working for the church as the Communications Assistant and in her free time, enjoys exploring the world of science and technology. Justin lives in Antioch with her husband, Eric, and young daughters, Lili and Rowan.

Angela Perkey is a native Nashvillian who moved back and joined FPC last year after living in Washington D.C. for three years. Single and in her mid-twenties, she works as a management consultant and is actively looking to buy a house. At FPC, Angela serves as an usher and is a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. She previously founded a nonprofit organization that provided funding for college students to engage in service initiatives. She has also written a book, which was published in March 2010.



FPC Weekend at NaCoMe — Building Bridges

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!



A vertical poster for the event. At the top, it says "FPC WEEKEND AT NaCoMe" in a small font. Below that, the word "BRIDGES" is written in large, bold, stylized letters, with "Building" written in a cursive script underneath. The background of the poster is a watercolor-style illustration of a landscape with a bridge. At the bottom, it says "August 10-12, 2012" and "Sunday Worship: 10:30 A.M." in a serif font. Below that, it says "First Presbyterian Church" and "NASHVILLE" in a smaller font. There is a small credit line: "Artwork courtesy of Sabrina Hawkins & Ruby Mae Russell".

On a Lovely Spring Evening in May...

Hearts were indeed in bloom at the beautiful home of Kathy Wright. Co-chaired by Bonnie Heim and ML Davis aided by Helping Hands co-chairs Laura Coyle and Yvonne Ayers, the 2012 Presbyterian Women Spring Outing began with wonderful weather, beautiful decorations and an inviting atmosphere. History was made that night as it was the first spring outing held in the evening (with cooler temperatures!) rather than during the day.

After a delightful meal catered by member Emily Frith and Corner Market Catering, Vicki Sells graciously thanked the co-chairs of the event. The PW Lifetime Achievement Award was then granted to Carolyn Gustafson in honor of her service to PW and to the life of the church.

Then the keys were passed (quite literally) from Vicki to Emily Eberle, the 2012-2013 Moderator for PW. Emily graciously thanked all of those involved in the event and wholeheartedly expressed hers and all of PW's gratitude for Vicki's service over the past year. Reflecting on the verse Vicki had chosen for this past year — John 15:5 "I am the Vine; you are the branches. He who abides remains in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing" (King James) — Emily presented her with an exquisite Sherri Parrish painting of a vine bearing fruit.



The event concluded with Emily laying out next year's plans. She presented a two-fold emphasis — scripture and involvement. She is challenging all Presbyterian Women to memorize Colossians 3:12-14 "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (NIV). Using that scripture as a guiding foundation, PW is looking to expand its ministry in many ways and increase opportunities for involvement in the coming year.

PW members can certainly look forward to a profound year ahead. So mark your calendars for next year's Spring Outing as well as the numerous upcoming PW events announced in the First Edition and weekly church bulletins and help spread the word!



Deep & wide Living a Faith that Matters

Sunday School — Immersing Our Children in God's Story

What a big year this has been for our first-graders in Sunday School. They began the year thinking about what it means to be a child of God. In the middle of the year, they celebrated their Milestone on "Exploring the Sacrament of Baptism." They spent several weeks hearing the stories from the Bible related to this sacrament and learning about the symbols and importance of baptism for the faith community.

Our first-grade leaders also shared the stories of the faith with the children, concentrating on the fathers and mothers of our faith — Abraham and Sarah, Hannah and Samuel, David and Abigail, Miriam and Moses. The children also learned the "I am" sayings of Jesus. When they studied John 4 and heard about Jesus and the woman at the well, they invited a member of FPC's Water Team to come share information about clean water and what it means to communities.

Through the summer, our first-graders will be learning about amazing kids from the Bible, like Josiah, Jeremiah and Timothy.

Many thanks to our first-grade teachers for their leadership: Anne and Will Clark, Ben Elrod, Tom and Melody Groomes, Betsy and Mitchell Hilt, Greg Ratliff and Julie Roberts.



Up-and-Coming in Presbyterian Women

Even though Presbyterian Women just had their Spring Outing culminating the 2011-2012 year, a great deal of activity is on the horizon. A new summer Bible study is already in the works, but PW is also moving to involve more young women and working women in PW meetings, Bible studies and activities beginning in the fall. A young moms' small group has been formed with Anna Kristen Yarbrough as the leader. This group will meet mornings on the second Tuesday of the month with childcare provided. Similarly, a young professional women's group is in the process of being formed — they will meet in the evening. There are currently several circles, or small groups, that already meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the mornings, and there are two other evening groups. Circles meet from August through April.

An August potluck for each circle has been suggested, and Bible study and mission opportunities will commence in September. If you'd like more information about any of the circles or small groups of Presbyterian Women that meet and to find the one that best suits your needs, contact Kerry Price (kerrympri@comcast.net) or Kathy Jones (1gary.jones@comcast.net).

Next year will continue with a fall kickoff planned for September 11, 2012, the theme being "Spiritual Friendships/Spiritual Mentoring." Chaired by Anne Dobbs and Dana Adkins, this exciting gathering will be offered both in the morning as well as in the evening. A ladies' retreat is planned for September 21-22, and with Col 3:12-14 as the foundation of the retreat, it is guaranteed to be a time of relaxation as well as a time to grow in God's word.

The Presbyterian Women's Baby Ministry is also taking a new direction. Four women are going to visit new moms over the next year. Ginger Sheppard, Sheryl Hayes, Justin Near and Mary Loch Smith are looking forward to contacting new moms and arranging a visit with them to provide support and encouragement.



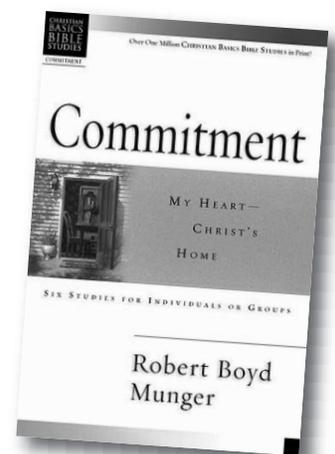
Many women have been elected or appointed to specific positions within PW for the upcoming year, and their service is greatly appreciated, but many exciting opportunities for women of all ages to become involved in Presbyterian Women remain. The mission of PW is "to encourage women in their walk with Christ throughout study of the Word, prayer, fellowship with one another, service to the church and the community, and support of the mission of the church worldwide." Please contact Emily Eberle if you have questions or suggestions at emilyeberle@comcast.net or (615) 414-5444.

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 31, 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.



Miss Martha's Ice Cream Crankin' & Summer Social

Sunday, June 10

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

FPC Nashville Front Lawn

Cranker sign-up and ticket sales every Sunday in Courtenay Hall. Tickets also sold weekdays at the Church Welcome Desk.

Pre-Event Sale Prices

\$8/child (ages 3-12)
and \$10/adult

Gate Prices on June 10

\$10/child (ages 3-12)
and \$13/adult

Make ice cream and get one FREE adult ticket and on-campus parking pass. Consider buying in bulk and give away as employee reward!

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



ADULT & FAMILY



Short-Term Mission Travel

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 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 October 1; 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 9-16

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

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>.

First Presbyterian Church
4815 Franklin Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37220

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org
U S Postage
P A I D
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 27.

First Presbyterian Church
4815 Franklin Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37220
www.fpcnashville.org

Dated church material
Please deliver by June 2, 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 June 3:

- **All youth 7th-12th** meet upstairs in the Enrichment Center.

Sunday School June 10:

- **7th grade** meets in room L-203.
- **8th grade** meets in room L-204.
- **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 room #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.

Please continue to pray for our youth mission trip this month!

Alaska: Graduated Seniors — June 6-13.

Great Escape: 7th & 8th grades —
June 11-16.

New Orleans: 9th-12th grade —
June 15-23.

Summer information: Visit our website, firstpresbyterianyouth.com, for summer schedules and to sign-up for Go Big Thursday events!

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.