



Todd Jones
Pastor

My Dear Friends,

“What do you want?” So begins James K. A. Smith’s powerful little book, *You Are As You Love*. Smith teaches philosophy at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and he is one of America’s most thoughtful young intellectuals. He states rightly that his little opening question is “the first, last and most foundational question”

that human beings can ask. Smith also says that this question, the question of what we desire, is the most important one posed by anyone truly interested in following Jesus. He writes, “It is the question buried under almost every other question Jesus asks each of us. ‘Will you come and follow me?’ is another version of ‘What do you want?’, as is the fundamental question Jesus asks of his errant disciple, Peter, ‘Do you love me?’” Jesus never asked, “What do you know?” or “What do you believe?” Jesus asked, instead, “What do you want?”

Jesus understood that we are shaped by our desires, by the things we really want. Our wants, desires and longings are at the core of who we become. The lives we live are ultimately the wellspring that flows from our desires. Our actions are the overflow of what drives us, our longings and our wants. This is why it is so important to ask the question that Smith poses: “What do you want?” Smith writes, “Our wants reverberate from our heart, the epicenter of the human person. Scripture counsels, ‘Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it’ (Proverbs 4:23). Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love.”

St. Augustine, one of the world’s most seminal thinkers, once said, “Love God, and do as you please.” Augustine was not telling his readers to do whatever they wanted. We want all kinds of things that can destroy us. He was

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Dinner and Programs

January 11-March 15, 2017

Adults

- Parenting: The Gritty Work of Raising Gutsy Kids* with Jeremy Shapiro
- Chapters in Our Church History* with Stuart Gordon
- Grief Support* with Dr. Sandra Randleman
- People at Rest* with Anne Dobbs

Children

Recreational Activities (new!) and Choir

Youth

Wednesday Night Jam

Look on the inside of the Newsletter or on our website for more information.



JANUARY 15, 2017
SUNDAY MORNING

“What are You Looking For”
Isaiah 49:1-7
John 1:29-42

Todd Jones
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THE FIVE THIRTY
“Hagar”
Genesis 16:1-16
Josh Rodriguez



JANUARY 22, 2017
SUNDAY MORNING

“Turn Around”
Psalm 27:1-9a
Matthew 4:12-17

Stuart Gordon
Associate Pastor

THE FIVE THIRTY
“Faith and Technology”
Rev. Jaco Hamman
Author, *Virtual People*

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville

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

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challenging us to love God, and then to allow the One we love to shape and form our desires. Augustine was suggesting that only the love of God rightly forms and informs our minds and hearts, so that we love the right things. In turn, we find that our actions bring glory to God, and bring health and life to this world. We become what we want most dearly. Augustine believed that the love of God would lead us to align our hearts with the heart of God, so that we would come to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God, and the kind of world Jesus came to give.

During World War II, in Great Britain's darkest hours, Archbishop William Temple said, "The world will be saved by one thing only, and that is worship. To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." In worship as in no other experience do we manage "to open the heart to the love of God." Be honest about the things you desire, and seek out those places where you can allow the love of God to guide and shape your desires, lest you end up wanting all the wrong things.

Peace and Love,



ME Mornings Begins January 19th

ME Mornings are for moms to gather for a morning of tending, nourishing and sharing your soul. Join us on the dates below from 9:30-11:00 A.M. in The Gathering Place. Nursery care is available for children 3 and under.

- January 19: Bible Study with Ashley Higgins
- January 26: TBD
- February 2: "Healing Touch" with Julie Nyhuis
- February 9: "Valentine Fun in the Kitchen" with Kim Rogers
- February 16: "Taking Care of Mom" Barre3 class with Holly Coltea
- February 23: Bible Study with Ashley Higgins

Sympathy



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

Jane Tacker on the death of her husband, **James Franklin Tacker, Jr.** who died on December 21. Beth (Matt) Hamilton, Mattison III and Wells Hamilton.

Scott (Lisa) Greer on the death of Scott's aunt, **Leona Fly** who died on December 28. Sympathy to Haylee, Raygan & Waggoner Greer.

David Wood on the death of his wife, **Elizabeth Hagen Wood** who died on December 29. Sympathy to Tyler Wood and Wes (Susannah) Wood.

Ellen Murphree on the death of her sister, **Jane Barton Street Gibbons** who died on December 31. Sympathy to Leland (Courtney) Murphree.

Ed Pirtle on the death of his brother, **Thomas Alexander Pirtle, III** who died on January 1. Sympathy to John (Josephine) Darwin, Liza Darwin and John Darwin, IV.

Sympathy to the friends and family of **Thomas Pollard Stephens, Jr.** who died on January 2.

Congratulations



The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates the following people during their new birth.

Mary Kate & Brad Boston welcome a son, **Walker Watters Boston**, who was born on September 14. Congratulations to grandparents Dixie & Bob Boston.

David & Kaylee Wilson welcome a son, **Ryer Danner Wilson**, who was born on November 19. Congratulations to grandparents Gail Greil, Bill Wilson and Sissy Wilson.

Are you interested in what's happening at FPC? Follow us on Facebook to find out!



Todd Jones to Speak at First Friends Luncheon

First Friends is honored that Senior Pastor Todd Jones will share his stories and pictures from his recent sabbatical at the January 19 Luncheon and Program in Courtenay Hall. Todd's travelogue is always a favorite in our year's programming. The lunch buffet, which opens at 12:00 P.M., is \$6. The program will start around 12:45 P.M. RSVP by Monday, January 16. To make reservations, contact 615-383-1815 or hospitalitycenter@fpcnashville.org.

Book-of-the-Month

The Book-of-the-Month selection for January is Janet Soskice's *Sisters of Sinai*. Group discussion will be Thursday, January 26 at 2:00 P.M. in the Memorial Library. Reservations are not necessary.

CONVERSATIONS

The Beautiful Way: Artistry, Holiness and Justice

Beginning January 8 at 9:45 A.M. in the Cheek House, the June Ramsey class meets. Dr. Steve Guthrie, Professor in the Arts and Religion program at Belmont University, will lead this 4-week series.

Lending Closet

First Presbyterian Church maintains a lending closet with certain medical equipment and supplies that may be needed by members or family and friends of members during times of illness, injury, and convalescence periods. If you or someone you know is in need of a piece of equipment, please check out the lending closet located adjacent to the book store and across from Courtney Hall. If you find an item you need, please sign it out, keep as long as necessary and return it cleaned when you no longer need it. Please sign it returned in the book located outside door of the closet. If you have such items you may wish to donate and no longer need, please contact our church office at 615-383-1815 or Carol Thomas at 615-377-2481.



Upcoming Music Concerts

Parker Ramsay will perform an organ and harp recital at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 22. His program will feature works by Bach, Praetorius, Fauré and Messiaen. One of FPC's own, Parker is known in the United States, Europe and Asia both as an accomplished soloist and accompanist, having been the first American selected to serve as Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. He went on to complete a Master's degree in historical performance at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied organ with James David Christie and harpsichord with Webb Wiggins. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in harp performance at the Juilliard School, where he studies with Nancy Allen. He also serves as Organist and Choirmaster at Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on New York's Upper West Side.



Parker Ramsay



The Gustavus Adolphus College Choir

The Gustavus Adolphus College Choir, one of the nation's finest Lutheran college choirs, will present a concert at 7:30 P.M. on Sunday, January 29. As the flagship choral ensemble at Gustavus Adolphus College, the choir has toured extensively throughout the United States for the past 84 years. The Gustavus Choir is recognized for its musical approach to singing and its enthusiastic and polished performances of a broad array of choral masterworks. This year's program will feature the music of Haitian composer Sydney Guillaume, Norwegian composer Odd Overøye, Frank Ticheli, and British composer Will Todd. The choir will also premier a newly-commissioned work by Minnesota composer Craig Carnahan, "A Great Multitude," and a recently-written work by Walter Pelz, "If You Continue in My Word." All concerts at our church are free and open to the public.



Dean Reeves Remembers...

FIRST stories

First Presbyterian Church has been a big part and an important part of my life for many, many years. I was born and raised at the Downtown Church over 80 years ago. My parents were very active in the church. My father taught Sunday School to teenage boys, and my mother was involved in many ways. I loved Sunday School and still have a birthday card from the nursery department when I turned 3-years-old and a graduation card from that department when I moved up to kindergarten. Both were signed by Dr. Tom Barr.

I remember as a real young child going with mother to the Settlement House, which is now Martha O'Bryan Home. Miss Bigelow was in charge of running it. She was big in size and low in warmth. She scared me so bad that I will never forget her.

Margaret Oliver Rolfe and Binnie Barr Irwin also grew up in the church. We lived close to one another, so we would ride the city bus to church where Barbara "Chilton" would teach our Sunday School class. Our parents would attend the regular worship service, so Barbara would take us to Walgreen's which was located in the Arcade. We would get back to the church in time to go home with our parents.

My family moved from downtown when the church relocated to Franklin Road. Bobby and I married in 1956 when all the building was going on, so we had to marry at Second Presbyterian. Dr. Courtenay married us and gave us our "talk," sitting in a car on our church grounds.

I remember going to an 11:00 Christmas Eve service when Bill Bryant was the minister. It was a beautiful, clear, cold night, and when the service ended and we walked out, the ground was covered in snow. We had no idea that was going to happen.

As everyone knows, we all tend to sit in the same seats at church. Bobby and I go to the 8:30 A.M. service and sit with the same people on the same two rows in the back. One Sunday, our two seats were taken, and we had to sit elsewhere. At 12:30 P.M., we had a call from Sandra Randleman wanting to know if we were ok, knowing we weren't out of town. It was the day the clocks changed, and whoever took our seats had forgotten to change their clocks. Obviously, I could go on and on with wonderful memories as First Presbyterian Church is a major part of my life.

Dean continues to be very active in the church, having served as Elder and Deacon, head of a multitude of committees and presently Head Usher for funerals for Bereavement Committee.

Please send any stories you have to share to Brenda Geise, Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries, at bgeise@fpcnashville.org.



Dean Reeves, Member

Early Preschool Christmas Program

December 14 & 15, 2016



Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering

December 13, 2016



Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2016



Laughter is Heard at ME Mornings!

RELATIONSHIPS *matter*

If you walk past the Gathering Place on Thursday mornings, you will hear laughter that signals love and fellowship which is happening during ME Mornings.

ME Morning Ministry is a place where moms with children six years and younger can enjoy soul-nourishing fellowship with other moms. Some moms might be in their stage of life, and some might be ahead on the journey of motherhood. New friendships have formed from this group as have new skills. Laughter and fellowship along with sharing wisdom and talents are all part of ME mornings!

The “ME” in ME Mornings is short for Mary & Elizabeth. When the angel announced Mary’s pregnancy, Mary heard about her cousin Elizabeth who in her old age was pregnant too. The name of our ministry celebrates the comradery of Mary and Elizabeth, who each recognized God’s hand in their pregnancies and knew their child would change the world. Moms are encouraged to attend whenever they can! We understand that life with a little one is filled with surprises that often interrupt the best laid plans. Each ME Morning is unique — if you miss one, there is nothing to “catch up on.”

While moms enjoy time with one another, the children will receive loving care in our Nursery. Toddlers and preschool ages will have their own Bible study. A new session of ME mornings begins on January 19 and runs through February 23. For more information and to register, visit our website.



WINTER Wednesdays



Take a night off from cooking and join your church family for food and fellowship!

Winter Wednesdays are from January 11-March 15 with dinner starting at 5:00 P.M. and classes from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Adult Programs

Parenting: The Gritty Work of Raising Gutsy Kids

Led by Jeremy Shapiro

Location: Vance Hall/MW-222

Jeremy Shapiro is a licensed professional counselor with From Within Counseling, a ministry of our church. Jeremy, along with several other guests, will be speaking to parents about the following topics:

Week 1: *Being a Safe Parent: The Difficulties of Gathering our Chicks under our Wings*

Week 2: *Inventing the Wheel, Part 1: Raising Kids with Technology, Pitfalls & Possibilities*

Week 3: *Inventing the Wheel, Part 2: Raising Kids with Technology, Practical Strategies*

Week 4: *Raising Siblings: The Challenges of Parenting Different Kids Under the Same Roof*

Week 5: *Helping Boys and Girls Develop a Healthy Sense of Self*

Week 6: *Parenting & Discipline, Part 1: Becoming a Good Detective*

Weeks 7 & 8: *Parenting and Discipline, Parts 2 and 3: The Two Questions Every Kid is Asking & How to Answer Them*

Chapters in Our Church History: Volume 3

Led by Dr. Stuart Gordon

Location: Jones Session Room/MW-203

Damaris Steele left to First Presbyterian a rich gift: a three-volume history of our congregation. Volume three covers the years 1955 – 2000. Dr. Stuart Gordon will lead eight discussions of each chapter in volume three, beginning with the church's move from downtown to Oak Hill. Copies of the book are available for sale in Bookmarks, but you can still benefit from the class if you don't read the material.

Grief Support

Led by Dr. Sandra Randleman

Location: Memorial Library/MW-224

The Grief Support Group, meeting for five consecutive weeks starting on January 11, is for adults experiencing grief following the death of a significant person in their lives. The

group will explore the emotional impact of grief and spiritual resources for the journey through grief combined with a study of the psalms of lament. Under Reverend Dr. Sandra Randleman's care, the group provides support in a safe and caring environment for those who grieve.

People at Rest

Led by Anne Dobbs

Location: Cheek House Chapel

On January 18 and February 15, you will have an opportunity to enter in to a scene from the Gospels. This is a prayer practice from the 1500's that Ignatius of Loyola developed. The whole purpose is to encounter Jesus.

Children's Activities and Choir

There will be programming for all children each Wednesday from January 11-March 15. Nursery care will be available for children age three and younger. For children over the age of three, we will offer different children's recreational activities that will allow your child to express their creativity, imagination, musical skills, and social skills. To help us gauge our attendance, please register for Childcare and Nursery care on the website.

Please note: Children's Choirs rehearse Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 P.M. and on a select number of Wednesday nights. For more information and to register for choir, visit our website.

Youth Wednesday Night Jam

Join the youth group in the Gathering Place for games, worship, and fellowship designed to speak uniquely to middle school hearts and minds. Visit the Youth section of the website for more information.

Dinner: Food service begins at 5:00 P.M. and classes run from 6:00-7:00 P.M. The cost of meals is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children age 3-12, free for children age 2 and under; family maximum of \$22. Meal reservations are required. Please visit our website to register.

Dated church material

Please deliver by January 14, 2017

Pastors

Todd Jones
Pastor

Sam Cooper
Executive Pastor

Adam DeVries
Associate Pastor to Youth & Their Families

Mark DeVries
Associate Pastor for New Ministries

Stuart Gordon
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Keith Gunter
Associate Pastor for New Church Development

Sandra Randleman
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions

Program Staff

Raphael Bundage
Director of Music

Mike Crout
Missions Coordinator

Brenda Geise
Older Adult Ministry Coordinator

Letitia Green
Director of Recreation

Ashley Higgins
Director of Young Adult & High School Ministries

Susan Kirby
Worship Coordinator

Deb O'Brien
Director of Children's Ministry

Joshua Rodriguez
Director of Young Adults & High School Outreach

Laura Rouse
Director of Communications

Administration

Ginny Barber
Administrative Assistant

Cindy Bozman
Finance Manager

Lynn Elliott
Executive Assistant

Karen Fitts
Nursery Coordinator

Kim Rogers
Food Service

Schools

Jennifer Hinote
Head of School, Oak Hill School

Brenda Lutz
Director, FPC Early Preschool

Youth Mission Trips – Register Now!

Youth mission trips are a huge part of our youth program and an incredible way to grow your faith, give back, and dive into our youth group! Here are the trips we have coming up this year. Visit our website now to sign-up and reserve your spot!

Spring Break Trip: Waco, Texas

March 18-24, 2017

Current 9th-12th graders

We will spend the week camping and serving in the surrounding communities while also getting to explore and experience The Lone Star State.

Sr. High Mission Trip: Panther, West Virginia

June 2/4-9, 2017

Current 8th-11th graders

We will be partnering with Son Servants, and we will get to participate in roofing, painting, ramp building, repairing floors and helping with other home-maintenance needs.

Barefoot Republic Camp: Fountain Run, Kentucky

June 11-17, 2017

Current 7th and 8th graders



Students are encouraged to develop Christ-centered relationships between individuals who represent diverse racial, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, through an equally diverse platform of artistic, athletic and team building programs.

Mystery Trip

June 19-25, 2017

Current 12th graders

Join us on the “infamous” senior mystery trip! Come with your bags packed as we make our way to an unknown destination to help a community in need and enjoy their scenery.