



# First Edition

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

January 25, 2017 • Volume 32, No. 02



**Todd Jones**  
Pastor

## My Dear Friends,

In my role as a Trustee at Belmont University, I serve on the Academic Affairs Committee. One of Belmont's signature programs, of course, is its commitment to music and the fine arts. As a part of our regular business, we meet and receive reports from various academic Deans. In meeting with the new Dean of the School of

Visual and Performing Arts, I was struck by a study he shared with us. It was a poll conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a major source of funding and support for arts and culture of all types in our nation. The question asked was this: "What is the number one reason why people attend arts programs of any kind?" I expected to hear that it is because someone loves a particular form of art, be it opera, theater, symphonic or choral music, painting or sculpture. That is not what the NEA study found. The number one reason people choose to attend an arts program is "socialization." People go to a museum or a concert, to an opera or a play to share in life with other people. The desire for experiences of community is the chief motivator for why Americans participate in any arts events. I should not have been surprised.

This struck me because I had just read a study on what young people are looking for in a church. In research done in 250 congregations among people ages 15-29, respondents repeatedly said they were looking for congregations that were "welcoming, accepting, belonging, authentic, hospitable, caring." The researchers began to call this set of concerns the "warmth cluster." Apparently, worship bands, a charismatic leader, and ministry programs are not a priority, nor is busyness. Even "niceness" doesn't cut it with young people. What they apparently seek at

*Continued on next page*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Broadway Dinner Show & Silent Auction

February 10 at 6:00 P.M.



### Gustavus Adolphus Choir

Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

The choir is directed by Gregory Anne.

### Lenten Small Groups

(new six-week series!)

February 26-March 7



#### JANUARY 29, 2017 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

"What God Requires"  
Micah 6:1-8  
Matthew 5:1-12

**Todd Jones**  
Pastor

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



#### FEBRUARY 5, 2017 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

"Salt and Light"  
Isaiah 58:1-9  
Matthew 5:13-20

**Todd Jones**  
Pastor

**THE FIVE THIRTY**  
"Isaac"  
Mary Sellers Shaw

The sermon is available under the tab "Media" on our website immediately after the service on Sundays.

---

## 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 cover*


church is a sense of family which requires intergenerational relationships. (Washington Post, September 6, 2016)

All of this has me thinking about how important community is to people, and how vital it is that our church be a place where people experience welcome, a sense of belonging, hospitality and an invitation to genuine connection with others. We have been working on the notion of creating “Communities of Belonging” within our church family as a way to welcome more and more people into the lifeblood of a growing Christian faith. Our Long Range Planning Committee has actually identified somewhere close to 140 existing “Communities of Belonging” that already exist in the life of our church. We have arrived at a working definition of what a Community of Belonging is: 1. A group of at least three people who agree to meet regularly. 2. When they meet, they always include some form of prayer. 3. They also include some faith dimension to their gathering, whether it is Bible study, or a discussion around a book or some topic, or even some service activity. 4. And when these groups gather, they also engage in a sharing of life with each other.

We believe that when these elements are included in the life of any group, community is formed, friendships are forged, and faith has a way of growing. Better yet, people begin to feel that they have a place where they belong. During Lent, which begins in the first week of March this year, we are creating a number of Lenten Small Groups to experience what it is like for six weeks to be part of a Community of Belonging. We have already recruited leaders for these groups, and you may well be hearing from them an invitation to join. But even if you do not, everyone is invited to become more a part of our church family by joining in this Lenten season in a Community of Belonging. We hope to create an easy way for anyone who wants to try to join in this opportunity to draw closer to God by drawing closer to other people who are on the same journey of faith with you.

Be on the alert to hear more about our Communities of Belonging initiative! After all, it is Jesus who said, “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Peace and Love,



---

## Sympathy



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

Ellen (Hugh) Tanner & Claire (Mike) Robbins on the death of Ellen & Claire’s father, **Richard Morgan Miller, Sr.** who died on January 4. Sympathy to Caroline, William & Caldwell Tanner and Elizabeth & Hayes Ragan, Taylor (Jennings) Ragan, Tyler Robbins and Katie Traines.

Betsy (Nick) Davies on the death of Betsy’s brother, **Curtis William Swartzbaugh** who died on January 6. Sympathy to Linda Davies & Kat (Andrew) Bair.

James Hunter on the death of his father, **James Ronald Hunter** who died on January 6.

Alan Odom, Jr. & Marilyn Odom on the death of their father, **Charles Alan Odom** who died on January 8.

Tom (Mary) Crozier on the death of Tom’s father, **Col. (Ret.) Ted Crozier, Sr.** who died on January 9. Sympathy to Clair (Chris) Lawson, Mary Tom Crozier & Blake Crozier.

Shelly (Bill) Alexander on the death of Shelly’s mother, **Ruth Gould** who died on January 10. Sympathy to Bill (Laura) Alexander, IV & Victoria Alexander.

---

## Congratulations



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

Amy & Scott Montgomery welcome a daughter, **Meyer Francis Montgomery**, who was born on January 9. Congratulations to grandparents Michael & Nancy Baron, great-grandparent Almagene H. Graves and big sister Madeleine Montgomery.

---

## The Sacrament of Baptism



In the presence of family, the congregation and God, the following person claimed God’s covenant promise through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Mary Kate & Brad Boston presented their son, **Walker Watters Boston**, for baptism on January 8. Assisting Elder was Jimmy Webb.

---

## Lenten Small Groups

This Lenten season, our church is offering a six-week Lenten Small Group series. The groups will be discussing William Barclay's *We Have Seen the Lord!: The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, along with a discussion guide by our own Mark DeVries! These will be led by and hosted at the homes of some of our church members. The groups will meet once a week from February 26 - March 7. We will have groups available on different days of the week, times of day and neighborhoods. We hope this will be a time of reflection on the season as well as for connection with other members of our church community. For more information, visit the Events section of our website. Registration is available online or in Courtenay Hall on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, January 27.

## Communities of Belonging

Our church is committed to building an even better community within our church family through a new initiative called Communities of Belonging. A Community of Belonging can come in all shapes and sizes. We already have over 160 Communities of Belonging at our church, ranging from Bible Studies to committees. Each one meets at least quarterly, has some faith component in each meeting, and offers opportunities for people in the group to share the details of their lives. Finding community is an integral part of growing in faith, and the Communities of Belonging initiative hopes to provide opportunities for new relationships to be built.

Life has a way of pulling us in many directions, not just on Sunday mornings. We are excited about this new season in our church as we explore together how every person in our church can be the connected body of Christ.

## Chorister Housing

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, January 29 to house pairs of guest choristers from the Gustavus Adolphus College Choir following their concert on Sunday evening. You would be responsible for meeting them after the concert, taking them home for the evening, feeding them a light breakfast and returning them to the church by 7:30 A.M. on Monday morning. Contact Daphne Garey at 615-298-9517 to volunteer.

## Manna Freezer Can Help Out During Hard Times

Stop by the Manna Freezer in the back stairwell off Courtenay Hall to pick up a package or two of the frozen foods that are available for the taking and giving. There are bags to carry the food and printed notes to include in the cabinet to the left of the freezer. There's also a box of colorful cards made by little ones from our Children's Ministry.

The freezer is stocked with the following items: soup/chili, meat, meat casseroles, vegetables, breads, desserts/cookies and low salt foods.

If you would like to add food to the freezer, please add meats, meat casseroles and desserts. Also, if you regularly make a pot of soup during the cold weather months, consider setting aside a container or two to take to the freezer.

### Donations should be...

1. Packaged in servings for two.
2. Marked with its contents and the date prepared.
3. Listed on the chart on the freezer door.

Be alert to those around us who could benefit from the gift of food from the Manna Freezer. Deliver something to brighten someone's day. Make something to add to the freezer. Questions? Contact Bekah Caruso at [bcaruso@bellsouth.net](mailto:bcaruso@bellsouth.net) or 615-832-6406.

## Broadway Dinner Show & Silent Auction

The Music Department's annual Broadway Dinner Show and Silent Auction will take place Friday, February 10 in Courtenay Hall at 6:00 P.M. Kim Rogers is planning a fabulous meal, Bob Loflin and George Armistead will emcee, and the Sanctuary Choir, directed by Raphael Bundage and accompanied by Amy Tate Williams, will treat the audience to a feast of music from the Great American Songbook. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased by contacting Daphne Garey at 615-298-9517 or [dgarey@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dgarey@fpcnashville.org). All proceeds will benefit the Sanctuary Choir's 2018 "Reformation Tour" of central Europe.



**Dated church material**  
 Please deliver by January 28, 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*

**Passion Conference**

Seniors from our Youth Ministry traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for three days in January to attend the Passion Conference. The conference brings together thousands of high schools seniors and college students in the Georgia Dome to experience speakers, worship and above all the love of Jesus.

“Passion was unlike any worship service I’ve ever experienced.

It was incredible to see that  
**OUR GENERATION HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM,**

but rather 50,000 of us traveled from all over the world to  
**RAISE OUR VOICES IN PRAISE**

together. I will never forget the sound of our voices singing to Him or how it filled my heart with a peace I’ve never felt before.”— Senior, Hannah Hayes



“Passion gave me a glimpse of  
**WHAT TRUE FAITH IS**

like. It showed me through kids my own age a way to  
**LIVE MY LIFE WITH JESUS AT THE FOREFRONT**

during high school, college and beyond.”— Frist Allen