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Downtown Walk Brings History to Life for FPC Children

The places where it happened – not just a room, but many sites in Nashville helped bring history to life for FPC children recently. Children and their parents were offered the opportunity to follow the footsteps of participants in the efforts to achieve voting rights for women with a History Walk through downtown Nashville. Led by Deb O'Brien, Jessie Yancey, and Tina Rose, the group visited places important to the debates and eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution by the Tennessee legislature 100 years ago.

“We learned about the role of yellow and red roses (yellow for proponents of the vote for women, red for those opposed), and we learned a lot about persevering for truth,” said one tour member. Deb and her co-leaders had asked parents to talk about the events and significance of each stop along the way. “Each parent speaker did their own research and shared lots of interesting information that broadened our collective understanding,” said Deb.

Among the stops on the tour were the Ryman Auditorium, Satsuma Tea Room, and the Hermitage Hotel where they saw a display of clothing worn by the women leading the fight for voting rights. Besides soaking up the atmosphere in the hotel's historic lobby, the other thing they learned was how hot it must have been in August 1920, especially if you were dressed in long, multi-layered white outfits! Visiting the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station, and other sites gave the group a greater sense of the actual events and how Tennessee played a significant part in winning the long-sought right to vote for America's women.



The Rev. Dr. Ryan Moore
Pastor

It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."
ACTS 11:26

Growing up all of my friends had nicknames: Bubba, Squirrel, Ray, Junior, and so on. The thing about nicknames is that they are assigned, not chosen. There is something central to a person's personality, the way they live and act, that gives birth to a nickname. Nicknames express something essential to who they/we are.

"Christian" was first used as a nickname. Those first followers of Jesus didn't assign themselves this name. The Gentiles living in Antioch gave them the name "Christian." It simply means follower of Christ. Jesus was so fundamental to who those earliest disciples were that the nonbelievers labeled them "Christians." These Jesus-followers were saturated with the Spirit of Christ. To look at them, was to think about and be pointed towards Christ. Another way to put this: People see Jesus through us, the church.

Itzhak Perlman, the great violinist, was once asked about stage fright. "You are the center of attention of four thousand people," said the interviewer. "Some are violinists themselves. In front of all those people you have to do terribly intricate work and do it all from memory. How do you keep from freezing up with fright?" Perlman answered, "You can't think about being the center of attention. You can't think about all those people. You can't think about how secure your memory is. You have to lose yourself in the music, or else you'll never play well in public."

The Christian life is a kind of self-abandonment. Those first Christians were gladly willing, to use Perlman's language, "to lose [themselves] in the music" so to speak. They lost themselves in the life of Jesus. The result: The Gentiles of Antioch caught a glimpse of God's only begotten Son. This is the heart of the church's mission—in our life together to reveal to the world Jesus, our only hope in life and in death.

In 2020, amidst all the whitewater of these present days, may it be that here in Nashville the disciples were once again nicknamed "Christians."

events

Sept 13

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday | 8:30 a.m. & 11 | Sanctuary

Communion packets will be picked up at in person service. The week prior at home worshippers can pick up communion packets at church office during office hours or drive by the church on Saturday (time TBD).

Sept 13

WORSHIP ON THE PORCH

Sunday | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary Porch

Celebrate the beginning of fall with this outdoor evening event that will include hymns with Raquel, and time for reflection and prayer with Ryan Moore. Bring chairs or blankets, and remember to social distance. Masks are not required but encouraged.

Sept 16

FPC BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday | 3-7 p.m. | Courtenay Hall

All COVID safety precautions will be in place. To sign up, visit redcrossblood.org or email missions@fpcnashville.org.

Sept 19 – Oct 4

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

Saturdays and Sundays | Sept 19, 20, 26, 27, Oct 3 & 4.

Sept 21

OFFICERS-ELECT EMAIL

Members of the congregation will receive the slate of officers-elect via email and mailed brochure.

Sept 24

OFFICER ELECTION EMAIL

Members of the congregation will receive an electronic ballot to cast their vote by 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 25.

Sept 27

OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Sept 29

FPC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuesday | 12 noon | Nashville Golf & Athletic Club

Register by Sept. 24 at fpcnashville.org.

For more event information and registrations, visit fpcnashville.org.