

FIRST *Connections*

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church



June 2018



Frank and to the Point

Dr. Frank R. Lewis, senior pastor

The generosity of God is evident in the way in which He deals with His creation, and supremely with sinners. The Scriptures tell us that He is rich in love and mercy. When Paul wrote the Letter to the Ephesians, he reminded them “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5

I personally extend this invitation for you to join us in worship during the month of June as we explore the wonders of God’s generosity. Together in this short but powerful series of messages entitled *His Love and Mercy*, you will be encouraged in your individual walk with Christ as you discover and recall the purpose of His love and mercy ultimately demonstrated in the life and teaching of Jesus.

Who We Are

Most of our members have appreciated the “Who We Are” statement that has been shared in our worship services recently. It is a concise statement that reminds us of our mission and purpose as Nashville’s First Baptist Church. I’m sharing it with you here in the hopes that you will prayerfully meditate on it during your quiet moments and even use it as a prayer guide. Our city needs a church like this, and by God’s grace, we can extend this type of transparent faith to those around us.

We are a caring community of faith with a heart for the people who live, work, and enjoy downtown Nashville. We have discovered life in Christ. We connect people to Christ and His church and to one another for the sake of the gospel. With the Spirit’s help, we grow more Christ-like every day. We serve in Christ’s name and to His glory.

We gather in the heart of the city we love to continue the life and work of Jesus Christ. From our corner, we proclaim and share the gospel, pray for those in need, and give ourselves to the work of missions across the street and around the world.

Our ministry is to the entire city, for we live and reach in every direction. We touch many neighborhoods, influence offices and boardrooms, impact school campuses, make a

difference to those in need, and offer to everyone the hope found in Christ.

Our church continues to be a strong testimony to the grace of God. He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ. We exist for others. We gather because of conviction not convenience. We love God. We love people. We live to serve. We are Nashville First Baptist Church.

Finally, pray. There are so many opportunities for sharing Christ before us as the summer begins, not to mention world events that seem almost unprecedented in our lifetime. Pray for a fresh wind of the Spirit, pray for discernment as we seek God’s direction, pray for our church’s witness, pray for a spiritual reawakening in our nation!

For the Gospel,

June 3 | Communion Sunday

His Love and Mercy Never End
Lamentations 3:21-24

June 10

His Love and Mercy Healed Us
Mark 5:21-43

June 17

His Love and Mercy Rescue Us
Psalm 130

June 24

His Love and Mercy Find Us
Luke 15:1-7

Youth Choir Mission Tour

San Diego, California | June 22 – 30, 2018

Our Youth Choir Mission Tour 2018 takes us to San Diego, California, where enriching opportunities for evangelism, ministry, exuberant worship, spiritual growth, fun, and fellowship await an eager group of Musicians on Mission. We are praying for those supernatural, life-changing experiences which can only be explained by the powerful movement of God in our midst as we lead Vacation Bible School with four different congregations: Set Free Ministries in El Cajon, California; two Myanmar Community Churches, Burmese congregations; and First Baptist, Clairemont, of San Diego. We will also minister to the homeless, present a worship concert at a ministry similar to The Next Door, lead worship, work in the San Diego Food Bank, work in a Downtown Soup Kitchen, share in ministry together with the New Vision Urban Mission Ministries organization, and present a concert on the USS Midway, as we seek to shine the Light of Christ wherever we go.

Please be in prayer for our Mission Team of 66 students and sponsors as we embark upon what we anticipate will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone involved—sharing the love of Jesus on this year's exciting evangelistic, mission-minded adventure.

Visit our website: www.fbcnashvilleyc.com for daily updates on our Youth Choir Mission Tour, along with specific prayer requests. The site will also afford you the opportunity to send a word of encouragement to our team. You can also follow us via Twitter @FBCNashvilleYC, Instagram @FBCNashvilleYC, and Facebook @YouthChoirMissionTour.

Join us for our Youth Choir Mission Tour Reflections Service on Sunday, June 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. Matthew 5:16

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Ephesians 6:10

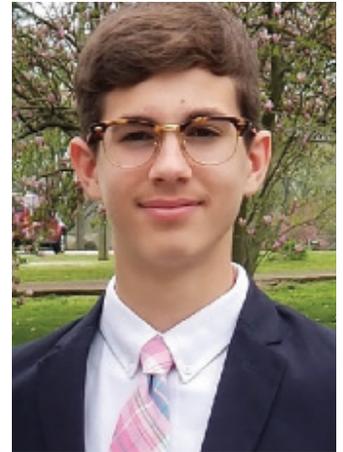
Students and sponsors on the 2017 Youth Choir Mission Tour to New Orleans, Louisiana



Welcome To Our New Members!



Jason, Chelsea, and Colby Cook



William Bailey

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 11: Sarah Galloway
- 15: Jason Cox
- 15: Israel Garcia
- 21: Vi Wilks
- 21: Marilu White

Anniversaries

- 1: Brandon Owen (2011) – 7 years
- 1: Pam Stockett (2013) – 5 years
- 15: Vi Wilks (2004) – 14 years

Who Teaches Our Kids?

Installment 2: Elementary

by Hallie Caddy

When posed with the question: “What is one thing you want the students in your Sunday School class to know or take away about Jesus and Christianity?” first grade teacher Cindy Owen offered perhaps the simplest, yet most profound, response. For her, the answer boils down to the main reason why she does what she does every Sunday: “God loves you ALL the time, as you are, no matter what!” she proclaimed.



With such sage advice, there is no doubt that Cindy, and other Sunday School teachers like her, are significantly impacting the lives of the children at Nashville First Baptist. Her goal is to instill the love of Jesus into the mindsets of these children, helping them to become followers of Jesus Christ.

Our children’s minister at Nashville First Baptist, Shannon Meadors, offers her own insight on what she feels is the correct directive needed for a successful upbringing in the church. “My goal for our children’s ministry is to be intentional in growing kids

as Christ-followers,” she points out. “It’s important that kids are able to make wise choices according to Scripture, are equipped to share their faith, engaged in worship, and empowered to love and serve their world. This all begins with knowing Jesus as Savior. Our kids need to know they are loved—loved so very much that God sent His Son, Jesus. I want them to know that He has a purpose and a plan for their lives. Even during the hard times, I want them to know that life with Jesus is the best life ever.”

This ideology, combined with the care and attention of a loving teacher, provides each child with those exact opportunities to come to know the Lord. “The part or role I have,” Cindy notes as a Sunday School teacher, “is creating a Sunday School atmosphere where they know they are loved and cannot wait to be back next Sunday.” As relational creatures, humans tend to gravitate toward community-based institutions. Thriving in the Christian life is no exception. There is need for fellowship to produce accountability, progressive knowledge in the truth, and a demonstration of what the love of Christ looks like. As it is evident in so many aspects of Nashville First Baptist, these communal concepts are being passionately enriched at an early age. What greater hope could there be than knowing that the coupling of biblical truth and loving compassion for all God’s people is the basis of every action, lesson, and spoken word provided every week by a Sunday School teacher?

“The part or role I have,” Cindy notes as a Sunday School teacher, “is creating a Sunday School atmosphere where they know they are loved and cannot wait to be back next Sunday.”

Cindy Owen also agrees that elementary school children can be one of the most rewarding ages for witnessing growth and understanding, as there is always direct truth and undeniable honesty. She referenced the passage in Matthew 21:16, where “out of the mouths of babes” (or in this case, first graders!), “you have created praise.” A specific example of this came to mind as

she recalled a time in class when a student solidified this verse: "As we were discussing Jonah and thinking he could run from God, one first grader raised his hand and said, 'that is crazy, God is everywhere and knows everything!'" Yes, He does, and He also plans His disciples accordingly. Cindy Owen, along with every other teacher at Nashville First Baptist, is the mouthpiece for God's Kingdom and is leading the younger generations to a life of Christ-centered praise.



One of Cindy Owen's goals is to create a Sunday School atmosphere where children know they are loved and cannot wait to be back the next Sunday.



Sunday School Teachers Through Sixth Grade

Tina Adams
4th Grade

Jerry Brown
5th Grade

Joe Cobb
3rd Grade

Ken Curtis
6th Grade

Emily Dean
5th Grade

Melanie Dunn
3rd Grade

Bill Emeott
3rd Grade

Dale Harned
6th Grade

Kathie Harned
6th Grade

James Hargrave
2nd Grade

Sharon Hargrave
2nd Grade

Sherry Hunter
5th Grade

Judy Latham (Director)
4th - 6th Grade

Shirley Leebern
Kindergarten

Shelley Matthews
6th Grade

Amy McNeilly
Kindergarten

Shannon Meadors
(Minister to Children)

Cindy Owen
1st Grade

Melita Thomas
Kindergarten

Sherry Vick
1st Grade

Wendy Wedekind
1st Grade

Kim Williams
4th Grade

Correction from March issue:

Nancy Ross(Director)
Preschool 4

Congratulations to Our College Grads!

Sean Dixon

Bachelor of Science in Music Business
Middle Tennessee State University | May 2018

Melodie Marie Fitzpatrick

Master of Social Work
Union University | May 2018

Robert Sean Fitzpatrick

Master of Environmental Science
Duke University | May 2018

Jacob Mathis

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Concentration in Economics
Minor in Philosophy
Union University | May 2018

Rachel O'Rear

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
University of Tennessee Knoxville | May 2018

Charlotte Payne

Bachelor of Administration in
Communication Studies
Minor in Social Justice
Belmont University | May 2018

Annie Roberson

Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
University of Alabama | May 2018

Amy Rushing

Bachelor of Engineering in
Biomedical Engineering
Vanderbilt University | May 2018

Katherine Scudder

Bachelor of Accounting
Bachelor of General Business Administration
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa | May 2018

Matthew Smith

Master of Accounting
Auburn University | May 2018

Emily Stewart

Bachelor of Humanities and Arts in
Global Studies and Musicology
Carnegie Mellon University | May 2018

Lorinne Tomas

Bachelor of Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Social Work
Middle Tennessee State University | May 2018

Cody Walsh

Bachelor of Administration in Spanish
Pre-med Concentration
University of Tennessee Knoxville | December 2017

Kili Walsh

Bachelor of Science in Zoology
Minor in Music Performance
Union University | May 2018

Valerie Williams

Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
Minor in Psychology
Florida State University, Tallahassee | May 2018



July 4th Outreach

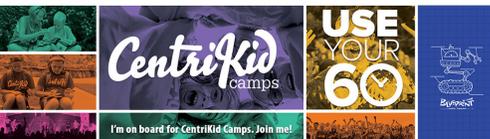
- 7th & Demonbreun Parking Lot
- Giveaways: Balloons, Photos, Frisbees, Temporary Tattoos, Cold Water, and Popsicles
- Free Parking and Open Restrooms
- Help our church welcome thousands of Nashvillians & guests to downtown Nashville to celebrate our nation's birthday!
- A variety of shifts and "jobs" are available.
- Sign up to volunteer in the church Foyer the last three Sundays of June or contact Becky Clay at rebeccaclay5@gmail.com.

We Make It Easy to Give

For your ease, whether in town or out of town, you can contribute to the Lord's Work through Nashville First Baptist Church:

- Give online with your smart phone NashvilleFirst.org.
- Schedule an electronic contribution as frequently as you like using bank draft.
- Mail a check, or place it in your Bible study or worship offering.
- Contribute cash in your own sealed envelope.

Help Send A Child to CentriKid Camp!



June 24 – 28, our preteens in Grades 3 – 6 will experience kid-style worship, Bible study, chosen tracks, and mega rec at CentriKid Camp in Campbellsville, KY. Please pray for our children as they

discover that God's blueprint says they are loved, forgiven, and prepared for a purpose. If you would like to help send a child to camp, two \$250 scholarships are needed at this time. Please contact our office if you would like to help.

We invite you to hear our preteens share about their camp experience at Camp Share on Sunday, July 15, in Fellowship Hall following morning worship.

Contact: Shannon Meadors,
Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org



Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

June 3 – June 10

Our students are heading to Monte Plata in the Dominican Republic. They will reside and serve at an orphanage/school there, through Kids Alive International: KidsAlive.org. Pray for their safety and the impact they can have on those they serve.

Youth Choir Mission Tour

June 22 – 30

The Youth Choir heads to San Diego, California. Pray for their safety and the blessing they can be to others. See page 6 for more information.



VBS 2018: GAME ON!

June 11 – 15 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | 5 – 12 years old

At VBS, coaches will help players on the sideline, defensive line, and drumline realize God has given them His ultimate playbook. Invite your friends! VBS is always free and registration never closes!

VBS PLUS

**June 11 – 15 | 12:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | 5 – 12 years old
Registration Deadline: June 3**

Bring a sack lunch and stay all day with VBS Plus! Our trained summer staff will continue the adventure with chartered field trips to Grand Old Golf for mini-golf and arcade games; Donelson Lanes for bowling with bumpers; Nashville Gymnastics Training Center to jump, swing, and play; Brentwood Skate Center for skating and games, and AMC Bellevue 12 to watch *The Incredibles 2*.

VBS Early Care

Early care begins at 7:45 a.m. The cost is \$5/day and includes a light breakfast. Registration is required by June 3.

Thrilling Thursday (TT)

**Thursdays in July | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
\$30/day (registration deadline June 3)**

Thrilling Thursdays are outrageous day trips for kids in Grades 1 – 6. Day trips include Memorial Park and The Family Fun Center in Hendersonville; Cedar Creek Sports and Cedars of Lebanon; Above All and Krispy Kreme in Cool Springs, and Game Galaxy and The Malco Theater in Smyrna.

Parents Day Out (PDO)

**Thursdays in July | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
\$30/day | Registration Deadline: June 3**

Theme days, Bible stories, art, rest, and play make for a great day for babies, preschoolers, and kindergarteners!

Music Arts Camp (MAC)

**July 16 – 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
\$30/week if registered by July 1 (\$50 after July 1)**

Music Arts Camp is a fun-filled week of hands-on music and arts activities for children who have completed grades 1 – 6. See back cover for more information.

MAC PLUS

**July 16-20 | 12:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
Registration Deadline: July 4**

Stay and play all day with MAC PLUS! Kids will enjoy experiences designed to spark interest in the arts and creatively investigate their talents and abilities. Experiences include painting pottery at Fired Up and outdoor play at Charlie Daniels Park; a puppet theater and a mega scavenger hunt with the Nashville Public Library; Madame Tussauds and Rainforest Café; mega trampolines at Above All and sweet things at Krispy Kreme; movies, munchies, and a magical guest at Nashville First. Sign up for MAC and MAC Plus at NashvilleFirst.org/MAC.

B2S BLAST! The Back-To-School Event

Wednesday, August 8 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

First Kids entering Kindergarten – Sixth Grade will have a back-to-school blast playing Math, Science, Spelling, Geography, Art, and PE games!

Summer age groups are divided by the grade level completed during the 2017-2018 school year.

*Full or partial scholarships are available.
Contact the Children's Ministry Office with requests.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, DEADLINES, AND REGISTRATION:
NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer



NASHVILLE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

108 SEVENTH AVE SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37203



Music Arts Camp (MAC)

WHEN:

July 16 – 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WHO CAN ATTEND:

Children who have completed grades 1 – 6

COST:

\$30/week if registered by July 1 (\$50 after July 1)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact the Music Office: Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org

TO SIGN UP FOR MAC OR MAC PLUS:

Visit NashvilleFirst.org/MAC

Music Arts Camp is a fun-filled week of hands-on music and arts activities for children who have completed grades 1 – 6. Students will have the opportunity to choose a music focus and an arts focus. All campers will learn and present a musical, explore five different instrumental groups, experience Bible Study designed especially for the musical, and fellowship in action-packed recreation and snack. Music Focus options include Guitar, Drumming, Mighty Mallets, Handbells, Piano, and Recorder. Arts focus groups will feature Drama, Puppets, Dance, Martial Arts, Pottery, and Visual Art.

Visitors are welcomed! Make plans to be involved in Music Arts Camp 2018! Mark your calendars to also attend our MAC Presentation on Sunday evening, July 22, at 5 p.m.