

FIRST *Connections*

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church



July 2018



Crow's Corner

Tom Crow, executive pastor

Over decades of ministry, I have found the Scriptures to be true time and time again. One such truth is found in the words of Christ Himself, *"In everything I did..." Lord Jesus Himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
— Acts 20:35

So, the application to our lives?

I've seen it lived out in our Nashville First Baptist Church members (during their earthly days), and through their legacy giving that ensued from good planning habits.

Two such examples...

Juanita Holt was an active church member for 65 years until she passed into eternity in July 2017. Her planned giving included naming the church as recipient of property she had lived in and utilized for substance. Now, going forward, her life continues making an eternal impact for Christ because she consciously planned the distribution of her remaining assets—it's often called estate planning. We cannot physically thank Mrs. Holt now. However, her life legacy remains for generations to come because of her faithfulness and generosity of giving which helps others through Nashville First Baptist Church.

Also, just recently, my phone rang with a request to meet one of our members, Bill Byrge. He had developed his will and wanted me, as representative of the church, to explain the actions he can take to name First Baptist Church as one of the recipients of his assets when he passes. We discussed his desire to use those assets for the Lord through NFBC, and then we thanked the Lord for the opportunity of Christian stewardship during and following our earthly life.

Bill has been a member of FBC since 1970; you may know he has been active in Sanctuary Choir and faithful in attendance. Professionally, he contributed to making people happy, portraying the starring role of Bobby in *Ernest* movies. Bill hails from Shea County, Tennessee, and he is a man of faith, following Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Both of these individuals exemplify the kind of stewardship God calls his children to practice. We are grateful for their commitment, planning, and desire to share life's blessings while serving the Lordship of Christ. These two are among many, many members of NFBC who name the church in their will because they desire to be found faithful. They have a desire for their influence to continue, through legacy giving, as a way to extend the love of God and a love for people.

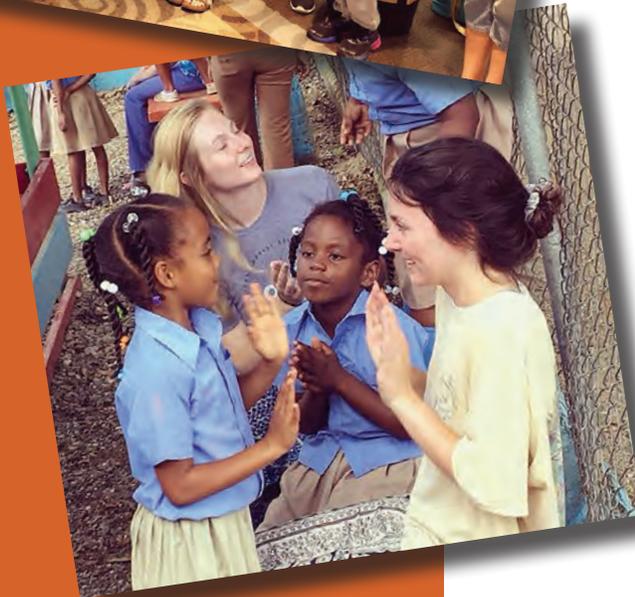
Perhaps you are making similar plans, and considering how your blessings can extend past your physical life and into eternity. If so, I am glad to visit with you at your convenience to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me about special giving opportunities at 615.664.6020 or Tom.Crow@NashvilleFirst.org.

Sincerely,

First Students Serve in Dominican Republic



First high school graduates went on mission in Monte Plata, Dominican Republic. They lived and served at an orphanage/school there, through Kids Alive International: KidsAlive.org.



July Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1: Amanda Poff (2008) – 10 years
- 7: Matt Malone (2016) – 2 years

Birthdays

- 28: Matt Malone

Welcome to Our Music Summer Intern!



We are so very fortunate to have Ms. Kendall Walling serving as an intern in our Church Music Ministry this summer. Our Intern Program is a ministry which invests in the lives of future career servant-ministers. It provides them hands-on experience with daily church ministry operations and interaction with other professional leaders while they serve in meaningful, beneficial ways which positively impact Nashville First Baptist ministries.

Ms. Walling is a senior church music/voice major at Baylor University. Her Baylor professors highly commend her and have indicated she is one of their finest students. Kendall is from Fort Worth, Texas, and currently serves as music assistant and choral scholar at First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas.

— Joe Fitzpatrick, worship and music pastor

First in History

R.B.C. Howell's successor as pastor, Thomas Skinner, resigned around 1870 following unspecified and probably untrue allegations against his Christian character.



Gary Gober

Teacher Extraordinaire!

*Gary taught the men's class in Abundant Life for many years.
He taught his final lesson on May 27.*

by Tommy Dixon

Gary Gober loves Scripture!

He studies it, examines it, expounds on it, and applies it to life. To him, it is not a devotional book but a treasure whose depths can never be reached. It has been my privilege to benefit from his teaching for many years. The men in his class have grown in Bible knowledge and in how to apply that knowledge to daily life.



Teaching has always been a part of his life, teaching in lawyer symposiums all across the country. Gary is still in demand for that today. He has taught the Bible for years—once to a class of several hundred at a former church, and lately to a group of men at First Baptist. I have studied Bible in seminary under some of Southern Baptist's noted professors. I can honestly say that he matches them all in preparation, interpretation, and delivery.

It seems the time has come for Gary to embrace a new phase of life. He will be moving to a nearby town soon, a new community, and a new lifestyle. As usual, he is embracing all of it. Leaving a home and neighborhood that has been his and Diane's for many years could be hard, except for his embracing nature. I do not see him sitting on the porch in this senior community idly. I see him embracing opportunities that arise. There will be new friends, new adventures, new activities to be embraced.

"I have studied Bible in seminary under some of Southern Baptist's noted professors. I can honestly say that [Gary] matches them all in preparation, interpretation, and delivery."

Gary embraces life!

Growing up in a large Chattanooga church, under a fiery evangelistic preacher, he embraced the gospel, committing his life to Christ. He embraced the opportunity to attend and graduate from Harvard Law School. He embraced the choice to be a trial lawyer in Nashville when that opportunity came. He delights in exploring what life has to offer. This includes family, church life, and travel. Gary can also be seen playing a lawyer in the movie *At Close Range* with Sean Penn!

Gary loves his God, his church, and his family.

He will expand on his life experiences of career, mission service in Kenya, meaningful worship, and loving family. If he is sitting on the porch in a rocker on an early morning with coffee in hand, I see him looking heavenward with a grateful heart—humming one of his favorite hymns:

When morning gilds the skies,

My heart awaking cries,

May Jesus Christ be praised!



“It seems the time has come for Gary to embrace a new phase of life... I do not see him sitting on the porch in this senior community idly. I see him embracing opportunities that arise. There will be new friends, new adventures, new activities to be embraced.”





Music Arts Camp

For children who have completed grades 1– 6
July 16–20 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | \$50

Music Arts Camp is headed “Back to the Cross” with a fun-filled week of hands-on music and arts activities. Each student has the opportunity to choose a music focus and an arts focus, participate in hands-on instrumental classes, learn a scripturally-based musical, and join in action-packed Bible study!

MAC Plus field trips/extended care is available until 5:15 p.m. for \$30/day. MAC Plus activities:

- Monday — Fired Up pottery and Charlie Daniels Park
- Tuesday — Puppet Theater and Nashville Public Library
- Wednesday — Madame Tussauds and Rainforest Café
- Thursday — Mega trampolines at Above All
- Friday — Movies, Munchies, and Magic

Registration by July 4 and a notarized Medical Release Form are required for MAC Plus field trips.

Make plans to be involved in Music Arts Camp 2018! Registration for camp never closes. Sign up at NashvilleFirst.org/MAC.



Music Arts Camp Presentation

Sunday, July 22 | 5:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Followed by Summer Sundae Night Fellowship

The Children of Music Arts Camp will present the musical “Back to the Cross” on Sunday, July 22, 2018. Abandoned long ago and nearly forgotten, the H/O-2000 is discovered by the kids in our story while attending the annual program at Midway Community Church. A series of time-traveling escapades ensue, taking our intrepid gang of time-jumpers on a wild ride, immersing them in strange times and cultures (including the totally tubular 1980s, the roaring ’20s, the Wild, Wild West, and even the Garden of Gethsemane!), all leading to a point of discovery about the importance of the Cross and the message of the Gospel. Join the children of Music Arts Camp on their time-traveling adventure. All roads lead “Back to the Cross”!

Auditions for solos and speaking parts in the Music Arts Camp musical, “Back to the Cross,” will be held in the Choir Room immediately following morning worship on Sunday, July 8.



Independence Day

July 4th Fun and 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. Contact Becky Clay to volunteer at rebeccaclay5@gmail.com.



Summer Sundae Fellowships

July 1 and 22: Patio/Drive-Thru following 5 p.m. evening programs

July 15: following 11:45 a.m. Mission/Camp Report Luncheon

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.



Midday Midweek

Wednesdays, July 11, 18, 25
11:00 a.m. | Chapel

- Bible Study followed by Fellowship Lunch
- No Evening Activities

YCMT Reflections Service
Summer Sundae Night Fellowship
July 1 | 5:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Independence Day
July 4th Fun and Outreach
7th and Demonbreun Parking Lot

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Bible study followed by fellowship lunch
No evening activities

**H.S. Senior Mission Trip, CentriKid,
and Student Camp Report Luncheon**
Summer Sundae Fellowship
July 15 | 11:45 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

First Kids and First Students share about their summer experiences — then we eat ice cream!

MAC PLUS
July 16 – 20 | 12:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Completed Grades 1 – 6 | Cost: \$30/day

Extend your day with fun activities each afternoon. Register at NashvilleFirst.org/MAC. Registration by July 4 and a notarized Medical Release Form are required for MAC Plus field trips.

Music Arts Camp Presentation: *Back to the Cross*
Summer Sundae Night Fellowship
July 22 | 5:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Canadian Seminary Mission Trip
July 21–28



Youth Choir Mission Tour
June 22 – 30

Visit our website, FBCNashvilleYC.com, for updates and testimonies from our Youth Choir Mission Tour. You can also review more info via Twitter @FBCNashvilleYC, Instagram @FBCNashvilleYC, or Facebook @YouthChoirMissionTour.

(Cover Photo: Youth Choir Mission Tour 2017 to New Orleans, LA.)



First Students Summer Camp
July 7 – 11



Music Arts Camp (MAC)
July 16 – 20 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Completed Grades 1 – 6 | Cost: \$40

Go to NashvilleFirst.org/MAC to register. Please contact the Music Office for more information: Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org

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to Your Church!**

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NASHVILLE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

108 SEVENTH AVE SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

Kids Get Their *Game On* at VBS!

With a team spirit, 343 kids got their **GAME ON**, as they learned that God has given them His ultimate playbook. Three kids made professions of faith, and \$1,047 was collected for Missions (10:12 Sports). Thanks for praying for these teammates!

