



FIRST *Connections*

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church

August 2018



Frank and to the Point

Dr. Frank R. Lewis, senior pastor

The Fellowship on Broadway Moves to Fellowship Hall

As we prepare for a new school year and continue to anticipate new neighbors moving into our community, we are excited about the added space our Fellowship on Broadway will enjoy on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Throughout the past year, there have been many Sunday mornings when the Chapel was over-crowded for worship. Now with added space, this service can easily grow, and our prayer is that it will.

Church family, this is so reflective of who you are as a congregation. We want to reach people for Christ. Making room in our Fellowship Hall, and recognizing that we couldn't wait for a new building, well—it's the right thing to do. Pray for a smooth transition and remember: We are one congregation with one mission—reaching people for Christ in Nashville!

Eternal Matters

Living faithfully requires that we have a doctrinal foundation that is formed and even re-formed by our careful study and application of Scripture. As the *Eternal Matters* sermon series moves into August, we will explore some of the Bible's richest teachings on the doctrines that shape our understanding of eternity.



The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

August 5

If God Is Love, Why Is There a Place Called Hell?

August 12

Heaven: Our Forever Home

August 19

Living With Eternity in View

August 26

With Gratitude

Church family, thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your pastor! We've got so much important work to do in our city and world for the cause of Christ, and I can think of no group of people I would rather have praying with me and standing beside me than you. Your partnership in the gospel is a blessing to me. I love you and appreciate each of you, and consider it the greatest joy to be your pastor.

For the Gospel,

Nearly 70 kids went "Back to the Cross" at **Music Arts Camp** where they participated in hands-on instrumental classes, and joined in action-packed Bible study! They also presented the musical, "Back to the Cross."



August Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays

8: Joe Fitzpatrick
11: Jaqueline Garcia

Anniversaries

1: Rosa Estevez (2012) – 6 years
24: Laurie Hall (1992) – 26 years

Welcome to Our New Members!



Reba Adams



Tanner Adams



George Lane



Steven Williams

Not Pictured:

Robin Cooper, Morgan Cooper, Jerry Van Houtin



This month's cover photo shows choreography rehearsal as Music Arts campers prepare a performance of "Back to the Cross!"

An Exercise in Faith

Jim Bryson and his family have learned to welcome, even embrace, faith-stretching opportunities. Through prayer, a willingness to step out in obedience, and support from their Nashville First Baptist family and others, the Brysons have seen God work in unexpected and remarkable ways.

by Sharon Roberts

When Jim finished graduate school, he needed and quickly got a job in research. “Luckily,” Jim reflected, he was fired just a few months later, giving him the opportunity to start 20|20 Research in 1986. This work continues today in Nashville’s historic downtown Frost Building and around the world. Journeys into international adoption and civic and political involvement also reflect this family’s faith and desire to serve. One of the more dramatic and rewarding ventures has been founding The Joseph School (TJS) in Haiti.

After the 2010 earthquake, which dramatically changed this island country, Pastor Frank Lewis asked Jim to join a team to investigate how Nashville First might help with the orphan crisis. “It was on this trip that the concept of a school focused on developing future leaders occurred to me,” Jim says. “I now consider it a calling.”

A stated goal of The Joseph School is “to see our students change Haiti in fundamental ways that empower others to dream and work for a better tomorrow.” That is no small feat since 50 percent of children do not attend school, and 60 percent of adults are not literate. “Haiti has virtually no public education system and is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere,” Jim reports. “So most children can’t afford to go to school. The impact is that Haiti does not produce leaders to envision a different Haiti, nor does it have the skills to lead the country in that direction. The Joseph School addresses that problem.”

While The Joseph School was started in the fall of 2010, after the earthquake earlier in the year, the first class of 30 children did not launch until September 2015 in Cabaret, Haiti. Today, according to Jim, “We have 3 classes totaling 90 children; these 90 students might not otherwise be in school since they can’t afford it. We are adding 1 grade and 30 children a year through high school. In addition, we feed these students during the school year and provide nutritional supplements to those most at risk of malnutrition.”

Jim says the community has also benefited. “We have built concrete houses for people in houses generally made of sticks, mud, and tin. These structures will likely serve their families for generations. We drilled a well and now distribute water to a community that formerly got its water from a nearby river. Mission teams have held community Vacation Bible Schools, Bible studies, and other services.”

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The school now has a Haitian operation and some staff in the United States. Jim currently serves as Executive Director, functioning in a CEO role. “I like to think that The Joseph School’s mission is to raise a generation of leaders in Haiti who reflect Jesus’ love wherever they go.”

Nashville First Baptist Church has benefited and grown by lending support and learning about this special place. Many people, including more than 100 from Nashville First, have been to Haiti and The Joseph School through the years. The Senior Mission Trip has been to Haiti six of the past eight years. Brandon Owen and Tim Wildsmith have both led teams. The Joseph School participates in the Missions Fair annually and has presented in Wednesday night prayer service. Several Nashville First members serve alongside Jim on TJS board of directors: Blake Bratcher, Brad Dunn, James Kennon, and Barry Roberson. Terrell Smith is leading a group to help evaluate possible ways to deliver health care to TJS students.

“Nashville First made a donation from the land sale proceeds that allowed us to prepare our land and build the first six classrooms,” Jim says. “Because of this gift, we were able to move to our permanent campus in January 2018.”

Tim Wildsmith has seen both growth in the school and in our students: “Haiti is a beautiful place with incredible people, and God is doing something very special there through the work of The Joseph School. It has been a real joy to serve alongside them with our student ministry.”

Jim concurs: the impact on youth has been tremendous. “For most, it is the first time they have been exposed to extreme, pervasive poverty. They have no concept that this is how more than 50 percent of the world actually lives. It changes their perspective on their lives as Americans, making them profoundly grateful for what they have, and that they were fortunate enough to be born in the United States,” Jim says. “Some have changed their planned major in college. Several have changed the way they think about serving others with their lives.”

Jim is grateful for support from his church, as well as from the Nashville and Haitian communities. “From outside our church, we have utilized well-diggers, masons to build structures, labor to dig foundations and septic tanks, electricians to wire the school. Plus, The Joseph School has about 22 Haitian employees, including teachers, administrators, cooks, cleaners, security guards, and others.”

The Brysons have learned much about God and ministry in this process. “Carol and our four children have all been to Haiti. It has changed the way we view the world and our place in it. Carol fell in love with the kids, and has gone several times to visit the school. She is also very involved in the U.S. support activities.”

“Most of all, God is faithful,” Jim affirms. “Faith requires us to step out in obedience and trust Him. He calls us to faith-stretching acts of obedience so we can continually grow closer to Him. Because of this, following God’s calling is an adventure and brings fullness to life that is difficult to describe to people who have not followed such a call. I’m grateful His invitation to abundant life and lifelong adventure extends to all.”





What About Your Legacy?

Have you planned for the future?

As believers, we are called to steward well what God has given us and pass the torch on to the next generation—to continue in the Great Commission.

Did you know:

- 50% of households with children don't have a will.
- 69% of Americans have considered drafting a will, but didn't follow through.
- you can leave a portion of your estate to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation?

Go to:

TBFoundation.org/faith-based-estate-planning to learn more about how estate planning can benefit our church.



Get To Know First: Summer Session

**Wednesday, August 29 (rescheduled from August 8)
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Room 340**

If you are a recent new member of the Nashville First family, or if you are considering joining us, you will benefit from attending the Get to Know First summer session. In an informal atmosphere, church staff and members share helpful information and answer your questions.

Get to Know First is presented quarterly. For more information, contact Betsy Wedekind at betsywedekind@gmail.com or 615.824.8696.



Go Canoeing With First Women

Saturday, August 25 | 9:00 a.m. | \$15 per person

Canoe on Saturday, August 25, on the Harpeth River—it's only half an hour from downtown! The trip is open to women of all ages and skill levels. The cost is \$15 per person and launch time is 9:00 a.m. RSVP to Sonia Brady, 210.410.1120.



SOJOURN Season Launch

Wednesday, August 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Chapel

Join us on August 22 for this season's SOJOURN launch. SOJOURN is a worship gathering where you can find authentic community and grow in your faith. We gather on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel with teaching from Brandon Owen and Tim Wildsmith.



Mission Encounters

**Sundays, August 19 and 26 | Sundays, September 9 and 16
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Foyer**

Join Us!

Before Bible Study
Between Bible Study and Worship
After Worship

We have invited many of our community missions partners, missions organizations, and church ministries (up to ten unique ministries each Sunday) to provide exhibits and information. For more information, contact Betsy Wedekind, betsywedekind@gmail.com or 615.824.8696.

You will:

- discover a new opportunity to serve.
- gain understanding about ministries our church helps support.
- meet the people behind the ministries.
- * learn where your family can serve together and create memories.

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.

FIRST EVENTS



Sixth Grade Graduation Celebration Sunday, August 5 | Noon – 1:00 p.m. | Room 150

Our pastors and teachers will recognize and celebrate the graduating sixth grade class on this milestone Sunday. Graduates and their families are invited to stay for lunch following morning worship. Parents, please rsvp by August 1, and include your child's life verse. Contact: Mary.Bunn@NashvilleFirst.org

Back-to-School Blast Wednesday, August 8 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Room 460 Kindergarten – Grade 6

First Kids entering kindergarten through sixth grade will have a blast playing math, science, spelling, geography, art, and PE games! Students will pack a sack lunch, create a back-to-school craft, and receive a back-to-school gift. This night of laughs and learning concludes with a time of prayer for the new school year.

First Kids Advancement Day Sunday, August 12 | 8:45 a.m. | Library

First Kids and their families will celebrate the start of the new Sunday School year with a pop-in breakfast before going to their new classrooms. Contact: Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org

Christmas in August Wednesday, August 15 | 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. | Room 150 Preschool 4 – Grade 6

Christmas in August? Of course! We'll bake cookies, decorate ornaments, watch *The Star* and collect gifts for our chosen missionary in Maryland, Stephen Poole. Come dressed in your favorite Christmas clothes or pjs, and bring a small gift from the list below.

- Walmart/Target gift cards
- CSB Bibles
- School supplies (pencils, pens, scissors, glue, crayons, etc.)

Stephen Poole is a missionary who works with Elevate Church and a small community in Annapolis, Maryland. The area is very diverse both racially and socio-economically. People who live in extreme wealth or in extreme poverty live side-by-side. Elevate Church's ministries focus on the needs of lower-income, under-served families—many of which are single-parent homes. In this area of high crime and extreme poverty, Elevate Church hosts after-school programs for children, camps, fall festivals, and other community events to help share the love of Jesus.

Visit WMU.com/ChristmasInAugust and ElevateAnnapolis.com for more information. Contact: Shannon Meadors, Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org

First Grade Bibles Sunday, August 19 | 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

August 19 is a milestone Sunday for First Graders—Pastor Frank presents all First Grade children a Bible during Sanctuary worship. Parents, please rsvp by Monday, August 13, and include your child's life verse. Contact: Mary.Bunn@NashvilleFirst.org

First Kids Fall Launch Wednesday, August 22 | 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. | Room 460 Preschool 3 – Grade 6

First Kids and their parents kick off Wednesday nights this fall with a GIANT Bash with dinner, GIANT games, and our music and mission teachers! Come experience Wednesday nights at First Kids! Contact: Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org



On the Road Again | August 7 – 8

First Adults take an overnight road trip to Bardstown, Kentucky, and Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. (Registration is full.)



Seventh Grade Welcome | August 8

Seventh graders are welcomed as First Students in a special Wednesday night MidWeek.



Midweek Fall Launch | August 15

Students in Grades 7 – 12



SOJOURN Launch | August 22 7:30 p.m. | Chapel

Business Meeting | August 15

Mission Encounters August 19 & 26, September 9 & 16 | Foyer

First Women Go Canoeing Saturday, August 25 | Harpeth River | 9:00 a.m.



NASHVILLE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

108 SEVENTH AVE SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37203



Youth Choir Fall Kickoff Rally

WHEN:

Sunday, September 16

WHO CAN ATTEND:

Students in grades 7 – 12 and parents

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the music office, 615.664.6030

Food! Fun!

Fellowship!

Fabulous Prizes!

