

NASHVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST ADULTS

F.A.I.T.H. WATCH

Faithful-Active-Involved-Trusting-Hoping
Volume 1, Number 1 *January 2018*

AUTHORS IN OUR HOUSE

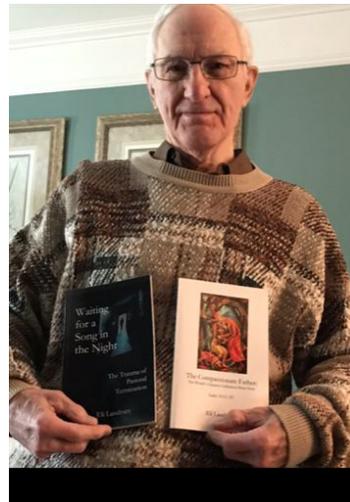
Our church is blessed with talented members, many of whom are writers and authors. It is a pleasure to spotlight two authors who have recently released new books.

Joy Jordan-Lake has been a member of NFBC for over 7 years. She is the daughter of Diane Jordan, wife of Todd Lake, and mother of Julia, Jasmine, and Justin. Recently, Joy spoke at the Shake It Up gathering and shared the fascinating story of how she came to write *A Tangled Mercy* as well as the long journey to publication.



Twenty years ago, while Joy was doing research for her doctoral dissertation on American fiction's treatment of race relations in the 19th century, she became fascinated by the story of the 1822 Denmark Vesey slave revolt in Charleston, South Carolina. Even with the pressing need to work on her dissertation, she felt compelled to write a novel about Charleston and the people who were involved in or affected by the uprising. Much to her dismay, when the book was complete, she struggled to find an agent who would represent the book, and later, a publisher. The time was not right.

Though disappointed with the apathy toward her first novel, Joy continued to write. She published her dissertation, *Whitewashing Uncle Tom's Cabin*, four non-fiction books, and a novel. She also pursued her career and motherhood. She is currently an adjunct

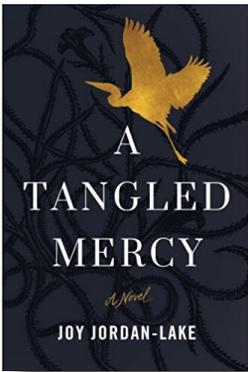


Eli Landrum is a name you should be familiar with. Even if you don't know him personally, you have probably seen his name listed as a writer of LifeWay Bible study materials. Eli and his wife Barbara have been members of NFBS for 7 years and are members of the Heritage department. A Mississippi native, he earned a bach-

elors degree from University of Southern Mississippi and later earned Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a staff member and pastor for 14 years and was an editor for 23 years at LifeWay Christian Resources. He has previously written Bible Book Study Commentary and two other books.

Two thousand seventeen has been a busy year for Eli with not one, but two books being published. *Waiting for a Song in the Night* was released in January. The book's subtitle—*The Trauma of Pastoral Termination*—says it all. The book is not intended to be a manual to guide churches and pastors through conflicts that lead to pastoral termination, nor does it offer a remedy to the tragic outcomes of such conflicts. Instead, he offers suggestions for consideration by those who are em-

"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NIV



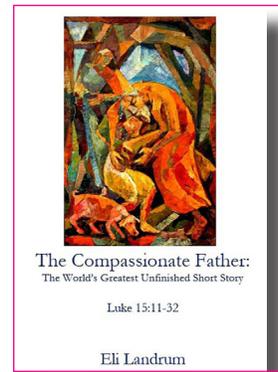
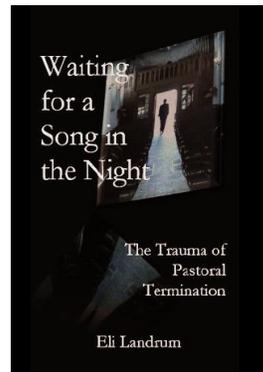
professor of English at Belmont University.

In 2015, a tragic, horrific event in Charleston SC shocked the nation. During a prayer meeting, a young man gunned down nine church members, including the pastor. The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church was the same church where the slave uprising was born. Joy

rewrote her novel, weaving together two stories, separated by two hundred years but bound by the history of racism and brutality. Following her mother's death, Kate Drayton goes to Charleston, determined to clear up some family mysteries. She becomes obsessed with the historical slave revolt, which her mother had also researched. The alternate story tells of Tom Russell, an enslaved blacksmith in 1822, who is reluctantly drawn into the revolt conspiracy. Ultimately, *A Tangled Mercy* offers a message of hope and forgiveness.

A Tangled Mercy was published in 2017 and has received many positive reviews: "A must-read novel for today" and "a quintessentially American epic rooted in heartbreaking true events."

Other books authored by Joy are *Grit & Grace: Portraits of a Woman's Life*; *Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous: The Challenging Words of Faith*; *Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting, and Career*; and a novel, *Blue Hole, Back Home*.



broiled in conflict. "My hope is that these pages have offered some help and encouragement to pastors who courageously struggle on through a long night of pain and wait for the music of renewed joyful ministry to begin again"

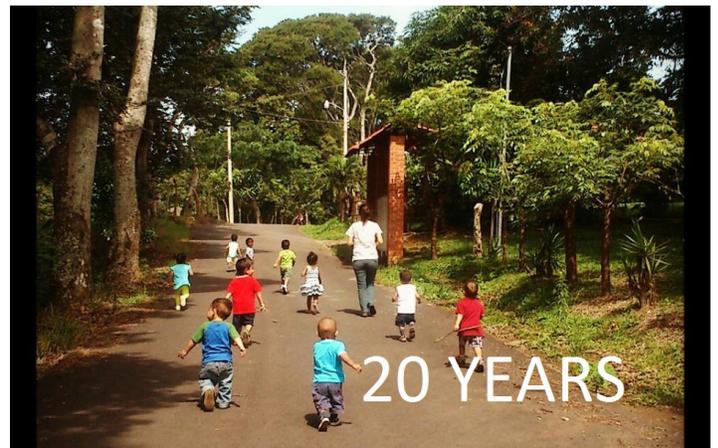
In July of this year, *The Compassionate Father: The World's Greatest Unfinished Short Story* was introduced. The author notes that Jesus' story about the rebellious son has many names and highlights three stories within the one, he prefers the title "Parable of the Compassionate Father" because it emphasizes the father's unfailing love and compassion for both of his sons. Eli reminds the reader that all people—those who are sure that God does not love them because of their sinfulness and those who try to earn God's love by keeping religious rules—are equally valued and loved by our compassionate Father. Eli hopes that this book will be a "clear, challenging, and encouraging insight into God's character, an open invitation for all people to accept His love and forgiveness, and a warning about people's relationships with Him and with one another."

Congratulations to both authors—Dr. Joy Jordan-Lake for her patience, persistence, and now, her success and Dr. Eli Landrum for his faithfulness in sharing God's word through his gift of writing.

Our confidence for 2018

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ. Philippians 1:6

SOUTH OF THE BORDER, DOWN COSTA RICA WAY



APRIL 5-12, 2018

by Fred Linkenhoker

Is This a Trip? Yes, but it's not a vacation. Your First Adults Council is planning a missions trip to serve at Hogar de Vida (Homes of Life) Children's Home in Atenas, Costa Rica, and YOU are invited to go.

Where Is Costa Rica? It is in Central America near Panama. This country has been dubbed "the best climate in the world." (That's good to know!)

Who Can Go? Anyone with a servant's heart and flexible attitude.

What Is the Purpose of the Trip? Our purpose is to love the children. To see more about Hogar de Vida, go to their web site: www.homesoflife.org.

What Will We Do? We will spend part of the day working. Yes, there is a lot of work that needs to be done to keep the grounds clear, the homes clean, and the children well dressed and well fed. We will also spend time with the children, interacting, playing games, visiting, and worshipping. We will bring blessings to the children, and in return, they will bless us.

Who Takes Care of Us? Matt, the director of the home,

will meet us the airport in San Jose. Our housing and meals are provided. One day during our stay, we will have the opportunity to go to the beach, shopping, visit the zoo, or go zip-lining.

In addition, Charlie Doggett, former member of NFBC and editor of the SAALT Shaker, will be with us. He has lived in Costa Rica for ??? years and will have a wealth of information to share.

What Is the Cost? The ground fee is \$750, which provides our meals and lodging. Air fare has not yet been determined and will depend on whether we travel as a group or singly.

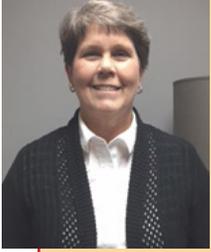
What Else Do I Need? You must have a current passport. You do not need any shots. We currently have at least 8 people committed to the trip. We can take as many as 20.

Am I Too Old for This? There is no age limit. If you think you're too old, think of some of the patriarchs of the Old Testament. You can do it!

Who Do I Contact? Tom Clark, Pam Stockett, or Fred Linkenhoker by January 30.

A Final Thought. Dieter Hessel said, "There is no age limit on God's expectation that persons contribute to the coming of the kingdom."

PAM'S Corner



Thank you for helping to make our Advent Season one of the best for me. I was most excited to be asked to participate in the Hanging of the Green, something I have wanted to do since I arrived at FBC 11 years ago. Did you notice many of the

other participants were First Adult members as well, and the number of First Adult members in our sanctuary choir is impressive.

What does the New Year mean to you? For me, it resembles the beginning of a new school year, round two! A time to clear off my desk, pack away the decorations, and start fresh, with new ideas and a blank calendar. I will be meeting with the First Adult Council members on January 11 for our monthly meeting and on February 8, we will plan activities for the new year. Some of you have shared ideas with me already. I invite others to share your thoughts with me as well.

Please consider joining us as we travel to Costa Rica in April. We need to know of your interest by Tuesday, January 30, 2018

I hope you will spend the next few days gearing up for how you will practice Pastor Frank's thoughts for 2018: Immerse yourself in God's word, daily; Keep a prayer list; Encourage often; Be above average; Drop what is not helping; and Make each day count for the glory of God.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Pam



YOUR FIRST ADULT COUNCIL

Chair: Tom Clark; Staff: Tom Crow and Pam Stockett; Newsletter: Rene Holt, Editor and Lynne Wells, Graphic Designer; Members: James Berthelot, Linda Burch, Carol Chambers, Bill Chaney, Curtis Freed, Dan Haskins, Fred Linkenhoker, Joe Nave, Peggy Newport, Sharon Roberts, and Katherine Stewart, Sam Talley, Coordinator of Martha's Friends: Pat Haskins **Tom Crow** Tom Crow@firstbaptistnashville.org
108 Seventh Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

Anniversaries 50+

Ross and Pat Evans
1-20-59

Did you celebrate your 50th anniversary in 2017? Or, will you reach that milestone in 2018?

Please let us know so we can add your names to our anniversary list.

In Memoriam

Bettie Jean Merritt
Warner "Pete" Grubb
Sarah Bickerstaff
Candy Cheri Poole Phillips
Charlotte Turner

Calendar of Events

1/11 Shake It Up

**2/18 WOW:
Widows of Worth Lunch**

**2/23-24 Winter Gala/
Dinner Theater**