

# NASHVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FIRST ADULTS F.A.I.T.H. WATCH

**Faithful-Active-Involved-Trusting-Hoping**

*Volume 1, Number 2*

*February 2018*

## Cradle Roll Graduates

by Dick Waggener

At the end of December, Allen Adcox officially retired after sixteen years as the Business Administrator of Nashville First Baptist Church. Over those sixteen years, the “business” of our church has become more and more complex, with the expansion of properties, the multiplication of code laws, our aging buildings that require constant repairs and back-to-back renovations, as well as equipment replacements. Allen came to the staff of our church in 2001 after thirty-three years with the Baptist Sunday School Board, now Lifeway. It turned out to be a job that fits the man.

### **A Balancing Act**

Allen’s recollections of the job remind us of the frantic performance of a plate-balancer on stage who keeps us enthralled at his ability to keep all seven plates spinning on their axes at once. Allen does all this mostly in the unseen background of the life of our church.

As Business Administrator of our church, Allen Adcox sees his job in terms of the “Four Fs:” Financial, Facilities, Folks, and Food. He managed the financial systems of our church, including receiving and banking our offerings (Allen is quick to say he is oblivious of who gives what), operated the general ledger, and prepared for the auditors. He managed our church facilities, provided liaison with contractors for all maintenance, improvement, and renovation. He paid the bills and prepared the financial statements to the congregation. He worked closely with the Personnel Committee in its decisions, preparing and main-



taining its Employee Handbook (defining employee policies) and seeing to its implementation. (Allen stresses that he made no decisions for the committee or the church.) He prepared the personnel budget for the committee and managed the custodial staff on a day-to-day basis. Allen also provided the “umbrella” management for our food service, so capably operated by Angie Poore.

Though Allen says he had “tried to take Fridays off” he became accustomed to frantic calls, 24/7, requiring his immediate attention and delegation. One of the most memorable early morning calls said, “The Rec Center is on fire.” His wife, Katie, says that over the years he was on the job way more than forty hours per week, and it certainly appears that Allen has done the work of two people. He has agreed to stay on as needed until his replacement is found. Only his advancing Parkinson’s Disease could make Allen step down from a job he dearly loves.

**“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**

### Early Mischief

Allen grew up in this church. As a teenager, he loved to explore its facilities with his friend David Sullivan, son of James L. Sullivan. People have often remarked, "How do you know so much about where everything is in this church?" He answers, "Because I found every nook and cranny as a teenager." One of their favorite places was the old church tower. He and David loved to climb the tower to the dark, uppermost, copper-clad steeple. One day, David decided to make a torch, so they could explore this part. Rolling sheets of newsprint, he lit its tip, and they climbed the final ladder into the upper steeple. When it scorched his hand, David dropped it. They kicked to stamp it out, but it fell two floors. The two scrambled down to finally stamp it out. Now Allen jokingly ruminates: "What if the news headlines read, 'Dr. Sullivan's Son burns down church?'"

### From the Beginning

The title of this article points to the fact that both Allen and Katie began their lives in this church as "Cradle Roll" babies. They are part of a small group of Cradle Roll graduates in our church, i.e., current adult members who started out as bed babies in our nursery. Both sets of parents were active in our church at that time. Allen and Katie first met when he came to her fifth birthday party. Katie's family moved to Texas when she was nine for her father to become Dean of Instruction at Baylor University. However, they returned to Nashville each summer to see friends. Allan and Katie started dating during their college years. They married in 1969, and have two children, Chris, in Dallas, and Sally, in Nashville. They have five grandchildren in Dallas: Carter (16), Cameron (14), Collin (12), and two in Nashville: Grace (13) and Grant (10).

### She Who Hesitates

Allen likes to tell the story of Katie's "decision" that was made by Dr. Paschall. The first Sunday she attended First Baptist as Allen's new wife, Dr. Paschall told her before the worship service, "If you don't join, I'm coming to get you." When the invitation was extended and Katie did not join, Dr. Paschall came down the aisle, took her by the arm, ushered her to the front and had her sign the record that she was joining the church. Katie's mother had been on the Pulpit Committee that brought Dr. Paschall from Bowling Green to Nashville, so he had known her family through the years. He was going to make sure that Katie joined First Baptist as soon as she came back to Nashville.



Katie was a teacher for 34 years, 26 of those in kindergarten. She is very actively involved in our church. For 5 years, Katie cooked for the college group. For 15 years, she cooked for the youth choir, the youth choir trips, the youth camps, the Sunday night youth suppers. She does wedding coordination since 1988 and has served as church librarian for five years. Through the years, she has remained very supportive of Allen's ministry, even when he got called away at all hours.

### Living History

Allen's love for his work can be seen in his hobby. Having had access to old files and deeds, he has compiled a special history of construction costs in our church's past. For example, the 2001 restoration of the old tower (which had been declared unstable) cost \$758,000, which was five times the cost of \$150,000 for building the whole church in 1886. In 2016, we spent \$80,000 renovating the Chapel. In 1937, the whole middle building which houses the Chapel, cost \$10,000 to build. Allen is a veritable walking encyclopedia of Nashville First Baptist Church architecture!

### Thanks to a Wonderful Couple

Allen and Katie Adcox are two Cradle Roll graduates who have our love and ongoing appreciation.

# The Second Harvest Food Bank Ministry

by Sharon Roberts

"I like it when we serve the community as a group." This insight made an impact on me for several reasons.

At the lunch table after a recent January Bible study session, several folk were asking when we would work next at Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. This ministry is important to our church, involving kids and adults of all ages. First Adults provides two opportunities a year to do food sorting or backpacks for kids - whatever the need (however, no heavy lifting or refrigerated room work). This is a vital way to serve the greater Nashville community.

Statistics indicate that 1 in 7 Middle Tennesseans, including 1 in 5 children, struggle with hunger every day. We are meeting a very real need when we sign up to work. Last time we worked (Oct. 13), 16 Nashville First Adults filled 10 pallets of backpacks - which is 2,450 individual backpacks for children!

Serving the community as a group is rewarding and fun. At the lunch table that day, we acknowledged that most of us wouldn't know each other without such



shared experiences. On these days we work hard and leave happy knowing we've helped kids and families. We trust we have shared a witness for Christ in the process.

When we serve the community we take our witness outside the walls of the church. When we go as a group we maximize impact and exercise our spiritual gifts.

Watch this newsletter for upcoming dates for First Adults to minister through Second Harvest in 2018. Hope you can join us!



## Broadway Dinner Theater 2018

Benefitting the 2018 Youth Choir Mission

Tour to San Diego, CA

Tickets will go on sale January 28, following worship.

\$25 per person;

\$15 children through 6th grade

### Performances:

Friday, February 23, 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, noon

Saturday, February 24, 6 p.m.

Sunday, February 25, noon

Contact Laurie Hall, 615.664.6030 or

Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org

nashvillefirst.org/winter\_gala



## Health Fair

### First Baptist Church Nashville

Hosted by First Adults

March 1, 2018

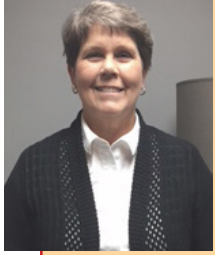
\*Blood Drive by Red Cross

\*Blood Pressure Screening

\*MobileMammogram

And much more!

# PAM'S Corner



As we continue to transition our name from SAALT Council to First Adults Council, I would like to share our revised mission statement to reflect our ministry.

First Adults: Mission Statement – The Council supports the minister of First Adults to plan, conduct, evaluate, coordinate and communicate an expanding ministry which supports the total church ministries of Nashville First Baptist.

While First Adults is geared to folks fifty years and above, it is important to know our events are open to all adults. If we sponsor an event you are interested in, please feel free to join us. We are not about labels, but rather about ministering intergenerational as opposed to folks in silos.

Thursday, March 1 would be a great opportunity for everyone to join us. We will be hosting a Health Fair, to include a Blood Drive by the Red Cross. We will share other opportunities as we confirm vendors and resources. We are planning on the mobile unit for mammograms by the Breast Cancer, Virtual Tour mobile unit from Senior Helpers to see life as experienced by individuals with Alzheimer's, and blood pressure test.

April 5-12 we have the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Costa Rica to work at an orphanage with children of all ages and enjoy sightseeing with former member Charlie Doggett.

We will enjoy volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank, meeting their greatest need at the time. Ranging from packing food for students's backpack or preparing food boxes for senior adults.

Let's continue to thank God for what He has done,

*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, 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+

**Bob and Deloris Foust**  
2-3-56

**James and Mary Lou Ramsey**  
2-3-57

**Harry and Carrie Hargrove**  
2-5-60

**Bill and Rose Carver**  
2-20-66

## In Memoriam

**Sarah Bickerstaff**  
**Candy Phillips**  
**Charlotte Turner**

## Calendar of Events

- 2/18 **WOW: Widows of Worth Lunch**
- 2/23-24 **Winter Gala/Dinner Theater**
- 3/1 **First Adults Smart and Savvy: Health Fair and Red Cross Blood Drive**
- 3/8 **Shake it up Day!**