

FIRST *Connections*

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church



June 2019



Frank and to the Point

Dr. Frank R. Lewis, senior pastor

Dear Church,

Construction follows demolition. Before we build, we have to tear down. There's something spiritual about that. Don't miss it.

The more I read about *Spiritual Awakening* and the more I think prayerfully about what *Spiritual Awakening* might look like in my life and the life of our church, the more I come face to face with the need for confession. Tearing down strongholds of sin is never easy. Gossip, resentments, cultivated bitterness, and other forms of coldness toward others is as detrimental as the sins of idleness, inactivity, idolatry (giving something else the place of God), or other forms of rebellion.

The Puritans believed that the same moment which brings the consciousness of sin ought to bring also the confession of it and the consciousness of forgiveness. This is captured in the words of John in a passage of Scripture that most of us have committed to memory:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

We need to remember that the forgiveness for sin is possible because of what Christ has done on our behalf. Because Christians continue to sin, we need to pray daily for the forgiveness of sins that only God, our loving Father, can provide.

In the *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* there is a helpful reminder that confession of sin is both personal/individual and corporate.

First, individuals confess that they have sinned and are therefore guilty before God, often confessing a particular sin. In such confession one agrees or acknowledges that he or she has broken God's Law (Psalm 119:126), that its penalty is justly deserved (Romans 6:23), and that in some specific way God's standard of holiness has not been met (Leviticus 19:2; Matthew 5:48).

Second, in OT times the high priest would confess the sins of the whole nation (Leviticus 16:21); the nation of Israel was expected to confess when it had rebelled against the Law of God. Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah confessed their nation's sins, agreeing with God that His punishment of the people (including themselves) was just, yet praying for God's mercy and deliverance.

To confess is to admit that what we have done, or are doing, is wrong. It involves the examination of our motives as well as our actions. Jan Johnson in *Invitation to the Jesus Life* writes,

We don't beat ourselves up but ask God to show us our next step forward. Sometimes that will include confessing our sins to another person (which builds community) and making restitution. Confession is especially helpful in building authenticity.

If real, authentic *Spiritual Awakening* is going to happen, it will be the result of the Spirit of God moving in our church family, individually and collectively. We will hate sin. We will desire to have it purged from our lives and from our church family. We will love each other, but we will hate what sin does to us.

Summer is here and the opportunity it brings for many of us to find a slightly different pace may also provide us the opportunity to spend some time in personal evaluation and confession. I trust that you will do so as the Spirit of God leads.

Blessings,





For project progress and the latest updates, go to:
NashvilleFirst.org/BroadwayAddition



This year's state winners are (pictured L to R) Charlotte Michel, Ava Lauren Meadors, Scotty Schrecker, and Dabbs Matthews.

State Bible Drill Winners

When our young people win State Bible Drill, we all win!

2018 – 2019 Bible Drill Participants

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Coda Adams | Dabbs Matthews*** |
| Tanner Adams | Ava Lauren Meadors*** |
| Lily Bankston | Charlotte Michel**** |
| Braxton Bible | Lance Rodriguez |
| Ben Clay* | Scotty Schrecker**** |
| Lucy Clay* | Mary-Graham Shideler |
| Chandler Galloway | Lauren Taylor Smith |
| Grady Jean* | Adam Watts |

*church winner
 ***state winner
 ****3-year state winner

Welcome to Our New Member!



Kennedy Hunt

Happy Birthday!

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

Happy Anniversary!

- June 1: Pam Stockett (2013) – 6 years
- June 12: Vi Wilks (2004) – 15 years



On the Cover

The Youth Choir ministered in San Diego last year. The group heads to New York City on June 21 for Youth Choir Mission Tour 2019.



Calling All Men, Boys, Fathers, Sons—join our Mountain Movers Men's Chorale on Father's Day, June 16. Males from 7th grade to age 107 (and beyond) are invited to sing for this special event. We'll gather in the Choir Loft at 10:05 a.m. that Sunday morning to rehearse, and we'll lead in morning worship.

Austin and Jeanne, Faith Warriors in East Asia

by Lauryn Moody

Austin's first experience with missions was as a Nashville First youth. His senior class went to New Delhi, India, for two weeks. He found himself standing in a government park, having a conversation about faith with a guy named Gagandeep. For the first time in his life, he declared the goodness of God through His Son Jesus to a stranger. Gagandeep was a pantheist who was comfortable telling Austin that the half-consumed Coke bottle in his hand was god, just as much as the tree next to them, to which Austin had no response. But God began to stir in Austin's heart a desire to bring the gospel within arm's reach of all. After that trip to India, he went to college knowing that he wanted to go abroad again, although he didn't know where.

While on separate college campuses, Austin and his wife Jeanne both became involved in Campus Crusade for Christ International, currently known as Cru. After participating in short-term international missions in different areas of East Asia, they both decided to return as long-term missionaries. They met each other while at Cru training camp for new staff members and soon decided they would go back to East Asia together—married!



“...But God began to stir in Austin's heart a desire to bring the gospel within arm's reach of all. After that trip to India, he went to college knowing that he wanted to go abroad again...”



They currently live in a city in East Asia that lies at the crossroads of several major worldviews—where the predominant atheist culture from the east, meets the influx of Islam from Central Asia, meets the birthplace of Lama Buddhism—that's home for Austin and Jeanne, and their two children, Molly and Luke. It's not uncommon for them to ride a bus with head-shaved monks in crimson robes, with Muslim women wearing hijabs, and with men in Western-style suits heading to the office. The campuses on which they serve often reflect this same kind of diversity. In the past few years, they

have met students from more than 30 ethnic groups, all of whom are considered “unreached” —with very little, if any, access to the gospel.

They actually work in two different cities, both the city in which they live and one in a neighboring province, accessible by a one-hour bullet train. Throughout the two cities, there are 75 campuses and more than 300,000 students. Most of them are not Christians—or even know a Christian. Some come from entire villages where no one has ever met a Christian or heard the name of Jesus.

Austin and Jeanne’s vision is to see students connect to the gospel and start growing in their faith, then to equip them to share the gospel with their classmates. Next, they move out from their own campuses to neighboring campuses. Cru’s mission is to “help everyone know someone who truly follows Jesus.” “The students who speak the language, live in the dorms, and are insiders to each school’s culture are far better equipped than outsiders to see the spiritual landscape of East Asia changed for generations to come,” he says.



Though Austin and Jeanne love their work and their relationships with Asian students, the political climate in East Asia has changed dramatically in the last five years. Open Doors, an organization which supports the persecuted church around the world, says “The severe suppression of Christian churches and other religious organizations is being carried out with unprecedented determination.” Though there are official “approved churches,” they are tolerated only if they conform closely to the teachings of the Communist Party. Sophisticated technology, combined with iron fist policing, are now being used to suppress religious activity throughout the country. Living in this culture requires a deep commitment to trust God in hard and uncomfortable circumstances.

Austin and Jeanne will live in our Bellevue missionary residence for several months as they take some much-needed time to rest, rejuvenate, and reconnect with family. Another state-side benefit they’ll enjoy is the food. When asked what they were most hungry for, their answers were Tex-Mex, Chick-fil-A, and a cold turkey sandwich! (No cold foods are served in their country.) Look for Austin and Jeanne in the NFBC hallways and introduce yourself. Invite them to visit your department or class and to share about their lives and ministry. Give them a warm NFBC welcome while they are with us for this short time.

Cru has no central funds for paying salaries and ministry expenses. Like many other mission organizations, Cru depends upon the consistent prayer and financial support of concerned individuals and churches to fund the ministries of their staff members. Austin and Jeanne have a team of partners who give to the Lord on a monthly basis to support their ministry. Gifts are tax-deductible, and can be given online at give.cru.org. Simply type their staff account number (0611010) in the “Give” box. Due to the security in their location, their names do not appear on the website, but gifts attached to that number are designated for them. You can also give by check. Please make checks payable to “Cru,” and send to First Baptist Church, ATTN: Finance Office, 108 7th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37203.

“Throughout the two cities, there are 75 campuses and more than 300,000 students. Most of them are not Christians—or even know a Christian. Some come from entire villages where no one has ever met a Christian or heard the name of Jesus.”



Congratulations to Our College Grads!

Will Boling

Bachelor of Science in Communications
University of Tennessee, Knoxville | May 2019

Caleb Bunn

Bachelor of Arts in Cinema and Photography
Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Classics
Southern Illinois University | May 2019

Mitchell Dunn

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Auburn University | May 2019

Noel Jacob Kennon

Bachelor of Music
Cornish College of the Arts | May 2019

Julia Jordan-Lake

Master of Clinical Psychology
Wheaton University | May 2019

Hank Lehning

Bachelor of Music in
Music Production and Engineering
Berklee College of Music | May 2019

Kristen Marsh

Associate of Science in Criminal Justice
Motlow State Community College | May 2019

Kathryn Pickrell

Bachelor of Arts in History
Rice University | May 2019

Allie Robertson

Bachelor of Science in Animal Science
Berry College | May 2019

Chuck Satterwhite

Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling
Belmont University | August 2019

Katherine Scudder

Master of Tax Accounting
The University of Alabama | August 2019

Mary Grace Smith

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Auburn University | May 2019

Benjamin Stewart

Bachelor of Integrated Studies in
Geology and Anthropology
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
May 2019

Grace Ellen Waggener

Bachelor of Science Education
Baylor University | May 2019

Malone Joins NFBC Staff



Nashville First leadership is happy to announce that Matt Malone is our new receptionist and pastoral care assistant. With a degree in oral communications and a minor in public relations (Lipscomb University, 2009), Matt says customer service has always been his strength, having worked for many companies throughout his career, including the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

Matt and his wife Carrie have been members here since 2008. “This is the first church since Carrie and I have been married that we’ve felt right at home,” he says. “People here took us in and have always supported Carrie, me, and our children.”

He met Carrie in the summer of 1989 at Cordova Baptist Camp (Shelby Baptist Association), outside of Memphis. “She was the assistant cook and was the lonely dishwasher.” Carrie works for Health Trust Supply Chain (HCA).

Matt has served on the Deacon Nomination Committee and Communications Committee, and he served as the Royal Ambassadors director for four years.

When he’s not working, Matt loves to not only go to the movies, but to do “extra” work in the movies and TV. He also likes to hike trails and take road trips with his family. Some of their favorite places to visit are Gatlinburg and Gulf Shores.

Matt and Carrie have two children. Sadie, 13, is starting high school in the fall, and Sam, 12, is entering 8th grade. Carrie’s family are Nashville First members also: Carrie’s parents are Bill and Rose Carver, and her sisters are Deidre and Nancy Carver.

Join Us for IN THE WILD: VBS 2019!



**Registration never closes! NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer
June 17 – 21 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | all ages**

At VBS 2019, rising kindergartners to preteens who have completed 6th grade will get up close and personal with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles! Along the journey, kids will grab their cameras, zoom in, and focus on Jesus!

CMT Awards
No Evening Activities
June 5

Father's Day
June 16

Mountain Movers Mens Chorale
June 16 | 10:05 a.m. | Gather in Choir Loft

Calling all Men, Boys, Fathers, Sons — join our Mountain Movers Men's Chorale on Father's Day, June 16. Males from 7th grade to age 107 (and beyond) are invited to sing for this special event. We'll gather in the Choir Loft at 10:05 a.m. that Sunday morning to rehearse, and we'll lead in morning worship.

No Evening Activities (with exception of Sanctuary Choir)
June 19

Youth Choir Mission Tour
New York, New York
June 21 – June 30

Pray for our 69 students and sponsors as they minister in New York City this summer. Follow their experiences at FBCNashvilleYC.com.

YCMT Reflections Service/Summer Sundae Night Fellowship
June 30 | 6:30 p.m.



First Kids Block Party with Project Connect
June 5 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Lexington Gardens Apartments
335 Forest Park Road, Madison

Project Connect works to connect families in poverty with resources, relationships, and Jesus. Our staff will bring the Bible story, inflatables, face painting, games, and food. Please bring YOU and your crew to join the fun and help show Jesus love! Contact: Shannon Meadors, Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org, 615.594.6775

VBS | Registration never closes!
June 17 – 21 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | all ages

VBS PLUS
Register by June 3 at NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer!
June 17 – 21 | 12:15 – 5:15 p.m. | Ages: 5 – 12 | \$32/day

Bring a sack lunch and stay all day with VBS Plus! Monday to Friday until 5:15 p.m., our trained summer staff will continue the adventure with chartered field trips:

- Monday – The Nashville Zoo
- Tuesday – Bowling at Tusculum Strike and Spare
- Wednesday – Brentwood Skate Center
- Thursday – Lost River Cave
- Friday – “The Secret Life of Pets 2”

VBS Early Care
Register by June 3 at NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer!
June 17 – 21 | 7:45 a.m. | Ages: 5 – 12 | \$8/day

Early care includes a light breakfast.

CentriKid Camp
July 8 – 12
Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY

Music Arts Camp (MAC)
Register at NashvilleFirst.org/MAC
July 15 – 19 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
Cost: \$30/week if registered by July 1 (\$50 after July 1)

Children experience a fun-filled week exploring music and the fine arts. All the fun culminates into a musical performance on Sunday night, July 21. Contact: Laurie Hall, Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org, 615.664.6030

MAC Plus
Register by July 7 at NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer!
July 15 – 19 | 12:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6
Cost: \$32/day

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.

- Monday: Altitude Trampoline Park
- Tuesday: Country Music Hall of Fame
- Wednesday: Nashville Gymnastics Training Center
- Thursday: The Frist Art Museum and ArtQuest
- Friday: “The Lion King,” a Disney live-action movie

Thrilling Thursday
June 27 and July 25 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Grades 1 – 6 | Cost: \$40/day

Thrilling Thursdays are outrageous day trips for kids in Grades 1 – 6. Registration by June 20 and a notarized First Kids 2019 Release Form is required for Thrilling Thursdays. Cost: \$40/day.

- June 27: Venture Rive Waterpark in Eddyville, KY
- July 25: Beech Bend Amusement Park in Bowling Green, KY

Parents Day Out
June 27 and July 25 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
For babies, preschoolers, and kinders | Cost: \$40/day

Theme days, Bible stories, art, rest and play make for a great day for babies, preschoolers, and kinders. Registration by June 20 and a notarized First Kids 2019 Release Form is required for Parents Day Out. Cost: \$40/day.

- June 27: Wonderfully Made!
- July 25: Wiggle and Praise!

Summer age groups are determined by the grade level completed during the 2018-2019 school year. Full or partial scholarships are available. Contact the Children's Ministry Office with requests.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
NashvilleFirst.org/FirstKidsSummer



NASHVILLE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

108 SEVENTH AVE SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37203



Music Arts Camp

WHEN:

July 15 – 19 | 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

Drumming
Guitar
Handbells
Instrumental Ensemble
Keyboard Lab
Mighty Mallets
Recorder
Songwriting

ARTS FOCUS OPTIONS:

Acting • Dance
Drama Performance Group*
Drum Workout
Martial Arts • Marzipan
Pottery • Puppets
Storytelling • Visual Art

**audition required*