

FIRST *Connections*

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church



July 2019



Frank and to the Point

Dr. Frank R. Lewis, senior pastor

Dear Church,

I was in a coffee shop not long ago looking for a quiet place to study. I thought that no one there would recognize me. I was wrong. The leader of a local non-profit ministry that our church partners with was there having a meeting. It's always good to see friends like this. After we shared a few words of greeting, he told me that he had recently received a strange email from me. He said that it sounded like something a pastor might say, but that there was something about it that caused him to question if it came from me.

I had been pirated. Someone using a Gmail account has somehow accessed many email addresses and sent a fictitious email to them using my name. Maybe you've received one of these. I apologized to him even though I realize I had done nothing wrong. We have a pretty high-tech security wall around our church email accounts, and there's no sense that anything here is compromised. Someone is "phishing" for a non-suspecting individual to respond to the email, lower any suspicions they may have, ask them to purchase gift cards and email the account numbers so that an emergency need can be met.

I'm telling you this because it is happening with increasing regularity. I will not email any of you asking for this kind of help. Ever. Not for me, and not for a church family I'm trying to help. It's not going to happen. I trust that you are wise enough to recognize this kind of fraudulent activity. If your church staff needs to email you, the return email address will have the Nashvillefirst.org extension in the address.

But even with the right email address, should we ever be genuinely hacked, you might one day receive an email with a request for financial help asking you to follow the steps of the latest scheme involving gift cards or requesting bank account information. It's important to know how to recognize a scoundrel. If anyone using a church email address or an email

address that has my name or "pastor" in the address sends you an email asking for financial help, you can be assured that it did not originate from other ministers or me. We do not do that.

Jesus said there would be false prophets in the last days. I can't imagine that He had email pirates in mind, but this experience reminds me of the importance of personal integrity. My friend in the coffee shop recognized the request as something uncharacteristic of me, then saw the return address and was suspicious enough to put two and two together. I hope you will do the same.

We are taking a break in July from most of our committee meetings and Wednesday activities, as mission trips and vacations crowd into a shortened summer break. I hope you enjoy a little time to catch your breath. Be safe if you are traveling, connect with us on Sunday mornings, and we'll gear back up in August.

Blessings,





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



Moscow Seminary

Spreading the Gospel in Russia!

Vladimir Scherbuk was born to a family of atheists. He is a new Moscow Seminary scholarship student who lives in Pinsk, Belarus, and is married with five kids.

“When I was a child I accidentally went to Vacation Bible School. I enjoyed it, but when the summer was over, I forgot it all and went astray. When I grew up, my friends invited me to a church home cell group, and it clicked! I wanted to help, but there are so many Muslims, atheists, and all kinds of seekers. Everyone wants biblical answers, so I decided to go to seminary. Thanks to the seminary, my *Evangelism Through Bible Study* group grew from 10 to 35 last year. I, of course, intend to grow the group into a church. Thank you very much for supporting the Moscow Seminary!”

Seminary director Sasha Tsutserov says it costs \$1,200 per year to train student-ministers like Vladimir, 20 times less than in the U.S. and 40 times less than sending a missionary to Russia.

Welcome to Our New Members!



Eric, Jessica, and Mary Charles Bader



Jasper Smith

Happy Birthday!

July 28: Matt Malone

Happy Anniversary!

July 1: Amanda Poff (2008) – 11 years

July 7: Matt Malone (2016) – 3 years



On the Cover

First Adults recently traveled to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Northern Kentucky!



In mid-July, our church staff is converting to a new church records system. Please be aware that your online giving may look a little different in the coming weeks. Watch for new web links and bookmark them for your personal use. We look forward to sharing with you the exciting tools that our new system will provide.

A Faith Legacy Made— a Faith Legacy in the Making

Classes from the late '90s reunite.

by Lauryn Moody, mother of Jacob (1999 alum)

On May 16, 1999, 29 seniors from at least ten different high schools participated in Senior Recognition Sunday at First Baptist Nashville. Some of this group had played and heard Bible stories together since nursery days, and others found their way into the youth group during high school. Under the leadership of Jeff Simmons, FBC youth minister (1997 – 2002), this group became a very close-knit band of believers. Subsequently, they have had a significant impact on their world. Thirteen of the alumni gathered again at FBC over Memorial Day weekend—plus 10 spouses, 16 children, 5 of their adult leaders, and 10 parents. They celebrated years of friendship, reconnected with one another, reminisced about good times shared, and met the many new family members who have joined this uniquely-bonded group.

Joey Hunter, son of Sherry (who handled logistics, along with Cathy Self, mother of Matt, and Linda Magill, mother of Brad), began planning this reunion about a year ago; thanks to Facebook, he was able to get in touch with nearly everyone. They came from as far away as Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, and Chicago. They included full-time moms, published authors, engineers, entrepreneurs, accountants, and financial advisors. There were also counselors, doctors, lawyers, a software developer, a corporate manager, graphic designers, a healthcare executive, a pharmacist, a professor, a principal, and a minister, “...all who learned to lead by loving one another,” says Kelly Moody, director of children’s and family ministries at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle, Washington.

During the gathering, Harry Butler entertained with songs from the '90s and video footage of their years together, including camps, retreats, and an international mission trip to Israel. Paper Plate Awards were given, in honor of the old camp tradition started by Carolyn Jenkins in the '80s. Some of these included “Most Likely to Give a Motivational Speech,” “Most Likely to Look the Same as 20 Years Ago,” “Most Likely to Never Leave Nashville,” “Most Likely to Raise UT Fans,” “Most Likely to Hold Political Office,” and last but certainly not least, there was an award called the “Rosenbaum Special” (for parenting four or more children)!

Jeff Simmons was present for the afternoon and had this to say, “I’m so thankful for a church that invests in the next generation. These little children running around the fellowship hall today make us think about the impact of Student Ministry, not only on their parents’ lives as past teenagers but on generations to come. I’m thankful for all the parents who prioritized a spiritual foundation for their teenagers. I’m also thankful for everyone at FBC who prayed, and gave, and served during those years so that these students



The steps of Hume-Fogg High School on Sunday morning, May 16, 1999

Row 1: Amanda Butler, Aynsley Munsell, Becca Turner, Danielle Cushing

Row 2: Jodi Cunningham, Erik Milam, Caitlin Palm, Bethany Lanford, Courtney Hagenau, Kelly Ramer, Laura Smithson, Amy Nicholson

Row 3: Brooke Quiggins, David McIntosh, Eric Dew, Heather Bowman, Graham Holt, Audra Rollins

Row 4: Ann Finley, Sam Davidson

Row 5: Stephen Holmes, Todd Prevost, Jacob Moody, Rich Crim, Brad Magill

Row 6: John Walker, Joey Hunter, Matt Self, Blake Bergeron

could become the spiritual leaders they are today—this is the church being the church. I love these students and their families, and I am forever grateful for my time serving alongside so many at FBC. All the glory goes to our great God!”

After a year of planning and organizing, these young adults returned home with new memories and renewed commitments to stay in touch. Joey Hunter reflected on the reunion this way: “Youth group was such a special time because of the strong bonds we made during our time here, not only with each other but also with Christ. I think one thing that was so important that I didn’t fully appreciate as a teenager was how much the First Baptist Church “village” rallied around us and helped define our community. We had so many parents and adults invest so much in such immature people, and I think each one is eternally grateful.”

As Bill and I navigated the teenage years with our children, we learned soon enough that parents take a backseat. Peers become the strongest influence, and fortunately, for our kids and us, that mostly meant the church youth group. Our kids spent more time at church and with those friends than they did at home or with us. FBC provided a place with loving, caring people, and leaders who nurtured our kids in the community of faith. Their lives are now bearing the fruit of those years of nurture. Thank you, FBC, for growing the Kingdom of God in the past, the present, and the future.

“Our kids spent more time at church and with those friends than they did at home or with us. FBC provided a place with loving, caring people, and leaders who nurtured our kids in the community of faith.”



Top: Graham Holt Yelton, Lori Hemmer, Caleb Hemmer;
Bottom: Mary Helen Solomon (Davidson,) Sam Davidson, Rob Hazard, Becca Turner Hazard, Larissa Huebner Westerfield



Top: Jeff Simmons, David White;
Middle: Amanda Butler Carver, Scott Van Dusen, Caitlin Palm Van Dusen, Ann Finley Howell, Chris Howell; **Bottom:** Jodi Cunningham Swanson, Kelly Ramer Moody

Current-day group picture

Back Row: Becca Turner Hazard, Kelly Ramer Moody, Jacob Moody, Joey Hunter, Caleb Hemmer

Middle Row: Lisa Simmons, Graham Holt Yelton, Sam Davidson, David White, Jeff Simmons, Amanda Butler Carver

Front Row: Jodi Cunningham Swanson, Larissa Huebner Westerfield, Aynsley Munsell Gregor, Caitlin Palm Van Dusen, Angie Paulk Atema



Above: Jacob Moody, Kelly Ramer Moody, Joey Hunter, Colleen Hunter, Aynsley Munsell Gregor

Music Arts Camp

For children who have completed grades 1– 6
July 15 – 19 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | \$50



Music Arts Camp is 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!

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

Music Arts Camp Presentation

WHO: The Children of Music Arts Camp

WHAT: Music Arts Camp Presentation

WHEN: Sunday, July 21 | 5:00 p.m.
 Followed by Summer Sundae Night Fellowship

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHY: To share the love of Jesus through God-given talents



The Children of Music Arts Camp will present the musical “Who, What, When, Where, Why” on Sunday, July 21. Investigators Sheryl Locke, Maggie P. I., Nancy, Drew, and David are looking for evidence of what it looks like to have a relationship with Jesus. Through

their investigation of Scripture, they learn that any time is a great time to pray, that God is with them wherever they go, and that love is the reason God sent His only Son for us.

Summer Sundae Night Fellowship



Sunday, July 21 | 5:30 p.m.

Let's enjoy hot dogs and ice cream sundaes following the Music Arts Camp presentation!

TO SIGN UP FOR MAC OR MAC PLUS: Visit NashvilleFirst.org/MAC.

MAC Plus field trips/extended care is available until 5:15 p.m. for \$32/day. MAC Plus activities:

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

Registration by July 7 and a notarized Medical Release Form are required for MAC Plus field trips.

Make plans to be involved in Music Arts Camp 2019!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact the Music Office:
Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org

Wednesday

There are no Wednesday Midday or Evening Activities in July this year.

Happy 4th of July!



July Wednesdays

No Midday or Evening Activities

Independence Day

July 4

Church Offices closed

CentriKid/Student Camp Share & BBQ Lunch

July 14 | 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$6/adult and \$4/child

We invite you to lunch as our Children's and Student Ministries share their CentriKid and Generate Camp experiences. Barbecue and all the fixings will be served. It's time to celebrate what God has done in our Student and Children's Ministries this summer! Contact: Sarah Galloway, Sarah.Galloway@NashvilleFirst.org, 615.664.6050

Music Arts Camp Presentation –

Who, What, When, Where, Why

July 21 | 5:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Summer Sundae Night Fellowship

July 21 | following Music Arts Camp presentation



CentriKid Camp

July 8 – 12

Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY

Our preteens in Grades 3 – 6 will experience kid-style worship, Bible study, chosen tracks, and mega rec. Please pray for them as they discover that God's blueprint says they are loved, forgiven, and prepared for a purpose.

Music Arts Camp (MAC)

Register at NashvilleFirst.org/MAC

July 15 – 19 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Grades 1 – 6

Cost: \$50

Contact: Laurie Hall, Laurie.Hall@NashvilleFirst.org, 615.664.6030

MAC Plus

Register by July 7 with MAC registration!

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: Above All 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

Parents Day Out

July 25 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Nursery Suite

Cost: \$35

For Birth – Kindergarten

Wonderfully Made

Thrilling Thursday

July 25 | 8:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Room 150

Cost: \$35

All 1st – 6th Graders are invited to join our amazing summer staff for an outrageous day trip to Beech Bend Amusement Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky! Pre-registration and a notarized First Kids 2019 Release Form is required. Contact: Shannon Meadors, Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org, 615.664.6019



High School Senior Thailand Mission Trip

July 17 – 31

A Student Ministry team of 17 is taking a mission trip to Thailand. They will work with refugees, children, college students, and local churches in Bangkok and the Maha Sarakham Province. Pray for these team members: Tim Wildsmith, Anne Peyton Baker, Scott and Valerie Payne, Katie Cullen, Natalie Shull, Gigi Ruark, Skiles Waggener, Caleb Wilkinson, Jacob Fisher, Elliot Payne, Melinda Cullen, Jason Shull, Rob Waggener, Grace Wilkinson, David Fisher, and Charlotte Payne.



Canada Mission Trip

July 21 – August 6

First Adults will volunteer at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College. They will do electrical, painting, landscaping, carpentry, cleaning, and general maintenance.

Widows of Worth Luncheon

July 28 | 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Room 150 | Cost: \$6



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

108 SEVENTH AVE SOUTH
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Kids Focus on *JESUS* at VBS!

At VBS 2019, kids got up close and personal with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles! Along the journey, they grabbed their cameras, zoomed in, and focused on Jesus!

