

# FIRST Connections

The Monthly Magazine of Nashville First Baptist Church



September 2019



# Frank and to the Point

*Dr. Frank R. Lewis, senior pastor*

Dear Church,

## Who's Your One?

Who is the one person that the Lord keeps laying on your heart? He or she may be a person who has not heard the gospel. It may be a person who has heard, but you have not seen them in a long time. To be honest, you don't know if they are attending a church or a Bible study, or if they simply have disappeared due to a hurt, a change in health, an overbooked schedule, or some other reason. Every one of us needs to have a "One" who we are praying for, encouraging, influencing for the gospel, or inviting to church.

So, Who's Your One?  
Can you write a name down right now?

As we come to the end of our Acts Sermon Series: *The Movement Begins*, it's time for us to make the obvious application of the messages we've shared all summer and begin a movement right here, right now. I would like to see 200 more people every Sunday in worship. I don't know anyone in our church who wouldn't. If 200 identified one person, prayed for that person, looked for ways to engage that person, shared the gospel with that person, and invited that person, our attendance might not jump by 200 next Sunday, but the slow and steady growth of 200 people committed to reaching one person each would make an incredible impact! I challenge you to begin praying about this right now. Will you ask God to give you the joy of reaching one person with the gospel?

The *Who's Your One* sermon series begins in just a few weeks. (See the titles in the sidebar.) We will close it the first Sunday in November with a commitment day giving everyone a chance to commit to reach one person for Christ. Following, you'll have the opportunity to begin a concerted prayer effort

for the one God lays on your heart. I'll share practical steps for each of us to take in this journey and in just a short time, there will be additional teaching and training as a part of our 200th Anniversary Preparation so that everyone who commits to reach one, will be trained how to reach one using the gospel and your story to present the love of Christ in a compelling way.

Just imagine if each one of us reached one.

Our sermon series in October is *Who's Your One*.

### **One Job**

Matthew 4:18-22

October 6

### **One Mission**

Luke 5:17-26

October 13

### **One Priority**

Matthew 13:45-46

October 20

### **One Decision**

Luke 16:19-31

October 27

### **One Legacy**

John 1:40-42

November 3

Blessings,





## We Need Your Help!

September 7 | 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Each fall, First Baptist joins with other local congregations to construct a Habitat for Humanity home. This fall, we will build a home in the Park Preserve Community near Ewing Lane in North Nashville. First Baptist is committing to provide 16 volunteers to work 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 7. We will erect the main house frame. All work is outside (rain or shine) and moderately strenuous, but volunteers do NOT need to have previous construction experience. No one under 16 years old is permitted, and only a limited number of 16 – 17-year-olds may participate. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Vic Hatridge at [vhatridge@comcast.net](mailto:vhatridge@comcast.net).

## MISSION encounters

Sundays, September 8 and 15  
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Foyer

Plan on visiting exhibits representing some of our church's ministries and community partners working in connection with us for our 200th anniversary.

### At Mission Encounters you can

- ask questions
- encourage exhibitors in their important work
- discover new opportunities to serve
- gain understanding about several ministries our church helps fund
- meet the people behind the ministries.

**September 8 Exhibitors:** Campers on Mission, Canadian Baptist Seminary Mission Trip, Christ Closet, First Mission Trip, Pray First Prayer Service Group, WMU, Habitat Unity Build, Nashville Baptist Association, Room in the Inn, The Joseph School, The Next Door

**September 15 Exhibitors:** Baptist Global Response, Begin Anew, Hope Clinic for Women, Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville Rescue Mission, Project Connect Nashville, Rooftop Nashville, Second Harvest Food Bank, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

## Welcome to Our New Members!



Bill and Donna Gandy

Maria Maples  
Not Pictured

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday!

**September 21:**  
Anne Peyton Baker

**September 29:**  
Laurie Hall  
Amanda Poff

### Happy Anniversary!

**September 1:**  
Gwenn Fitzpatrick (2013) – 6 years

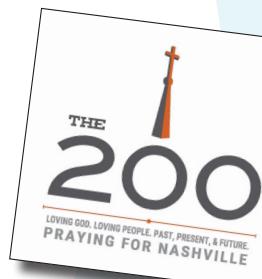
**September 8:**  
Jaqueline Garcia (2008) – 11 years

**September 9:**  
Myra Mathis (2002) – 17 years

## On the Cover



*Our high school seniors were on-mission in Thailand this summer. Among other things, they led English workshops and VBS-style events. They also worked with a group of Pakistani refugees.*



## Save-the-Dates for Our Anniversary!

July 22, 2020, is Nashville First Baptist Church's 200th anniversary! Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, July 19 – Wednesday, July 22. Stay tuned for some significant events announced for July 19 and July 22!

# Keeping Up with the Cottens

by Megan Wilson

The first time I met Neely Cotten was at one of Nashville First's dinner theatre rehearsals in 2017. I knew she was newer to our congregation, but I had never really met her or her family. I shouldn't have been surprised to learn that she had the voice of a Disney princess, considering she had been asked to sing in that exact role. For those in attendance, you will remember Neely as Charity Barnum (P.T. Barnum's wife) from *The Greatest Showman*. What pleasantly surprised me was how friendly and approachable she was. Unfortunately, I did not get to know her as well as I would have liked. But, through creating this article, I learned all sorts of things about the Cotten family.

Firstly, Andrew and Neely Cotten are my version of "the Joneses"; this handsome couple is such a kind, down-to-earth, truly genuine, and godly pair. Secondly, they love Jesus, and are intentional in how they speak about Him; decisions in their family's lives are made to further His Kingdom. Thirdly, I learned that they have the absolute cutest and most polite children. (Although, lunching with a stranger may have contributed to their quiet demeanor.) I was curious to know more about this local power couple, so I delved into their history.

Andrew and Neely first met as Vanderbilt Hospital nurses in 2010. They became engaged four months later and were married within a year. Their first date was (depending on who you ask) at the very Mexican restaurant in which we were dining. (Neely insists that it was not; Andrew humorously insisted it was.) For most of his career, they had moved south to Chattanooga to train in anesthesiology. Though they were not attending NFBC at the time, they did eventually join our congregation in 2016 after moving back north. When asked about their reason for choosing our church over many

possibilities, both Andrew and Neely conveyed their deeper hopes and outlooks in a church congregation. When asked what specifically drew them to our church, there were no pauses—"Pastor Frank's preaching, downtown Nashville's diversity, the wide age range, and the children's program," they agreed. "We wanted a more involved children's church."



I agree that you'd be hard-pressed to find such a robust church elsewhere in our burgeoning city.

With two beautiful children: Mac, 5, Natalie, 2, and Anna James, due any day, it's not hard to see why the Cottens were insistent on an established children's ministry. With so many of our church's children and youth growing up to enter into ministry, it is no wonder that God led them to join our congregation.

If you ask Mac and Natalie whether they're excited to meet their new sister, you will get a few different answers. Mac would like to have two brothers, but he is excited about Anna James—as a good big brother should be. Natalie proclaimed with a smile that she will definitely be happy to have a new friend.

**"With two beautiful children: Mac, 5, Natalie, 2, and Anna James, due any day, it's not hard to see why the Cottens were insistent on an established children's ministry. With so many of our church's children and youth growing up to enter into ministry, it is no wonder that God led them to join our congregation."**

Naturally, with two kids and one more on the way, and both Andrew and Neely being nurses, one would assume they love their downtime. Let me give you even more reason to consider the phrase "keeping up with the Cottens." In addition to renovating their 40-year-old house, they are avid vegetable gardeners. Andrew wistfully admits that, if he did have spare time, he would love to golf or go fishing for a week. Neely



insists that she is content at home, though she did her fair share of traveling in her pre-Cotten life (ask her about her scuba-instructor mother).

Now that you have a better knowledge of the current Cottens, what do you imagine their All-American dream future to be? True to their respective Southern roots, Andrew from Lebanon and Neely from North Carolina, their ideal and eventual home is perched on a large piece of land with enough room for a bee farm and a greenhouse. With their penchant for activity, maybe we can persuade this family to take up bees' wax candle-making after they sell us their organic, jarred honey. Our congregation can only hope!

As if this family isn't already endeared to you, here is one final anecdote: As we left our table, Andrew spoke almost suspiciously, "Aren't you going to ask my favorite color?" I laughed and asked. Without hesitation, he answered, "It's burnt orange, but not UT orange." Noted, Mister Cotten.

*Follow the Cottens' journey on Neely's blog, "Refining Cotten."*



We have recently converted our church database system to an exciting new tool—REALM. Watch in the days ahead for updates to stay connected with your church, for online giving, and much more.

## Fred Turner: 42 Years Teaching Twos



In 1969, Fred and Glenda Turner moved to Nashville to work at the Sunday School Board (Lifeway) in Church Architecture. “It was the culmination of a holy calling that began in 1947. We had been members of a neighborhood church in Dallas. After moving, we had trouble finding what we considered suitable for our three sons of Royal Ambassador-age—then we found First,” says Fred. They joined in March. Fred was soon singing in the choir and working with RAs. “Many of the friendships we developed in our Sunday School class in those early years are alive and well.”

In 1971, there was an appeal for male preschool workers, which Fred answered. From 1972 – 1975, he worked in the Four and Five-Year-Old Department, where Louise Crow was the director and Robbie Hooberry was the co-teacher. The Four and Five-Year-Old Departments were located where the Church offices are now. (Rita Hedquist was the Four-Year-Old director. Her husband Tim was the minister of education.) He also taught Fives for one year in a newly remodeled space, under Joyce Lowry’s direction. Since 1977, Fred has taught Twos. “That’s a long time. My preference is to ‘fade away’ and not have any recognition,” he says.

**Wednesday, September 4  
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
COST-FREE!**

*Explore, Taste, and Vote for Your Favorite New Menu Items! Dining is open to all members—even if you don’t typically join us for Fellowship Meal.*

## A Retreat for Grandparents



**October 11 – 12  
Camp Linden Baptist Conference Center  
Linden, Tennessee**

**Registration:** \$115 per person  
**Included:** One-night lodging, three meals, all sessions  
**Keynote Speaker:** Kevin Hamilton  
**Circle of Trust:** Bill Owen  
**Space is limited and filling up quickly! Register now!**

## SESSIONS

Challenges of Grandparenting in the 21st Century

Financial Matters MATTER

How to Plan a “Camp” for Your Grands

Pass It Forward: Sharing Your Skills with the Next Generation

Sharing Your Faith with Your Grands

For more information/registration:  
[NashvilleFirst.org/FirstGrands](http://NashvilleFirst.org/FirstGrands)

## Deacon Election

**Have You Voted Yet?** You have until September 7 at 9 p.m. (September 8 with paper ballot) to cast your deacon ballot. Deacon Election Committee members encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully participate in the election process. Vote online at [NashvilleFirst.org/DeaconElection](http://NashvilleFirst.org/DeaconElection) or via paper ballot located in several places around the church. The scriptural foundation for these servant leaders’ qualifications is found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13:

*Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

**Questions?** Contact a Deacon Election Committee member: Jason Shull, Alyssa Goins, Dale Harned, Rene Holt, Shane Hitchcock, Don King, Bill Carver, Joann Heifner, or Karen McArthur.





## FIRST EVENTS



**September 2**

**Labor Day**

Church Offices closed

## MISSION encounters

**September 8 and 15**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Foyer**

**Mission Encounters**

Plan on visiting exhibits representing some of our church's ministries and community partners working in connection with us for our 200th anniversary. See page 3 for more information.



**September 8 | 4:30 p.m.**

**Mark and Susan Smith Residence**

**1088 Wilmington Way, Brentwood, TN 37027**

**Youth Choir Fall Kickoff Rally**

This dynamic Youth Music Ministry is open to ALL 7th – 12th grade students whether they are members of Nashville First Baptist or not! See back cover for more information.



**September 8 – 15**

**Week of Prayer for Tennessee State Missions /**

**Golden Offering**

**GO HARVEST**

*"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields!  
They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35b*

We, First Baptist people, are surrounded by many fields from our neighborhoods to the high-rise buildings on Broadway and everywhere in-between. Many, many of the residents in those places don't know Jesus Christ. We have been chosen to be part of the harvest. The Harvest preparations will happen the week of **September 8-15** as we celebrate the Week of Prayer for the Golden State.

How do we prepare?

1. **GET** the Prayer Guide in September and then begin praying daily on the 8th.
2. **GIVE** to the offering...every penny makes a difference.
3. **ATTEND** the WMU luncheon on the 10th from 10:30-12.
4. **COME** to Wednesday night to the midweek prayer service on the 11th.

**BONUS:** The upcoming Mission Encounters Event the morning of September 8th will have a WMU table with lots of information to help you learn more about this and all of our missions.

Romans 10:14 – 15 is for all of us: *14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? [a] And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

The **Week of Prayer for the Golden State** will help us carry out the mission. Be part of the **HARVEST!**



**September 25**  
**Business Meeting**

**PreK Pancakes with Pastor Frank**

**September 8 | 9:00 a.m.**

Our Preschool 4 class will graduate from Worship Care. This exciting morning for our preschoolers begins in their Sunday School classroom at 9:00 a.m. with a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and fruit with their parents, teachers, and pastors. We will practice our first children's feature in the sanctuary, and each preschooler will receive their very own "big church" bag!

Contact: Shannon Meadors, 615.664.6019,  
[Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org](mailto:Shannon.Meadors@NashvilleFirst.org)

## Stay Connected to Your Church!

[Facebook.com/FirstBaptistNashville](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistNashville)

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Food! Fun! Fellowship! Fabulous Prizes!

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
the author and perfecter of our faith.  
— Hebrews 12:12

## Fall Kickoff Rally

September 8 | 4:30 p.m.

Due to construction and patio/drive-through closures, YC Kickoff will be offsite this year.

Mark and Susan Smith Residence  
1088 Wilmington Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

[www.fbcnashvilleyc.com](http://www.fbcnashvilleyc.com)

The Nashville First Baptist Youth Music Ministry is preparing for another great year of music, missions, and ministry!

We can't wait to see YOU on September 8 as we look forward to the 2019-2020 Youth Choir Season! A new year of awesome diverse and life-changing opportunities is on the horizon. Come discover where our mission endeavors will take us in 2020.

This dynamic Youth Music Ministry is open to ALL 7th – 12th grade students whether they are members of Nashville First Baptist or not! Join us for our BEST year ever!