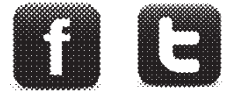


SECOND STORY

A monthly publication of
Second Presbyterian Church
Nashville, Tennessee

January, 2012

Find us online!



2PCNashville

From the Pastor:

Earlier last year Linda Carter introduced me to Sean McConnell – a singer/songwriter. Literally, she introduced me to him. I know, in Nashville singer/songwriters are plentiful, but for this Texas-born boy, living in Music City has been exhilarating. I will forever be thankful for the experiences I have had, especially the joy that comes when listening to live music.

Sean McConnell wrote these words in one of his songs: “Sing me a song from the start.”

I’ve pondered these words for the last 17 months. Sing me a song. Sing me a song from the start.

I love music. I love the words that go with music. Those who know me well also know I am not one to remember words to the songs I love. I rely on others to help me hear all the words, and sing all the words. It’s O.K.; we all have strengths and weaknesses!

So, sing me a song from the start! And that’s what he did – David Bridges that is. He wrote us a series of songs from the start based on the words of the prologue from John’s gospel. David’s original work was presented on the third Sunday of Advent. I don’t think many of us will forget the start of David’s songs. The big bang of God’s creation, of life emerging out of chaos, leading us to the grace and light of God’s incarnation, filled the sanctuary with awe and wonder. Thank you David!

Thank you to the choir and musicians as well.

So with a song, we begin a new year. In this coming year, as with every year, new beginnings will emerge just as some will end. I’ve had the blessing to discover in the past three years both the challenges and the deep joy that come in seasons called “interim”. In the coming weeks I will share some of the lessons and wisdom I have learned and lived in this interim journey. I pray my story will help uncover some insights and discernment in your own story.

Whether we sing, write or speak, we are a “story” people. Sometimes it takes courage to tell our story, but when we do we can be assured that we will bump into God’s grace again and again.

Happy New Year. Blessed New Year. Let us tell a story from the start!

Together.

– *Blake Spencer*

Second Presbyterian Church is a joyful community of faith called

- to proclaim the Christian gospel in worship and education
- to love one another
- to witness to Jesus Christ through prayer, compassion, and justice in our broken and fearful world.

As children of God, we live not on our own, but by God's saving grace.

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Second Story is a monthly publication of Second Presbyterian Church. Deadline for submissions is the **15th** of every month. Please e-mail submissions to the Editor or drop off at the church office.

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Session report

At its December 12 regular meeting, Session:

- Received **Mary Evelyn Henderson** into membership as a transfer of letter from Vine Street Christian Church. Mary Evelyn has two children, a son **Max** and a daughter **Cannon**.
- Approved transfers of letters for **Rick and Lyn Mild** to First Congregational Church (UCC) in Hudson, OH; and for **Mark James** to Brentwood United Methodist Church in Brentwood, TN.
- Approved for Cathy Hoop and Lib Caldwell to serve communion at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
- Approved a guest policy brought forth by the Property and Outreach Committees. Those without appointments are required to check in with the office staff. A notice will be posted on the doors that are adjacent to the two major parking areas to the effect of the following: "Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church. If you are a visitor without a scheduled appointment or not here for a defined activity or purpose, please go to the church office, located in the church house next door, for information and help. The office is open from 9:30-5:30 on weekdays, and our phone number is 615-292-3343."
- Approved the minutes of the November 14 Stated Session Meeting.

UPDATE: PASTOR SEARCH

The interviews begin!

The PNC is now (as of mid-December) in the middle of interviewing some really wonderful candidates. We expect to move on to follow-up interviews and/or visits soon after the holidays. We have had close to 150 applications since we started the process and are pleased to have some outstanding choices that have sifted out of the process.

We appreciate all the prayers and encouragement from the congregation and are prayerfully working to discern who God is calling to lead Second.

Sincerely,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Burkley Allen, Moderator, **Sara Skillen**, Clerk
Vanessa Beasley, Bob Goodrich,
Jim Hardaway, Adam Hill, Ron McNutt
and Ann Roberts

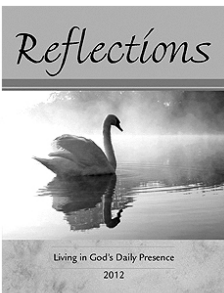
Women's retreat at NaCoMe

Please join us at NaCoMe on Feb 3rd and 4th for a weekend of fellowship, food, and fun. Jeannie will lead us in a discussion about Holding on to Faith During Transition - in the church and in our lives. The retreat will begin with dinner Friday evening and conclude Saturday afternoon. The cost will be around \$65. Contact Susan Brantley for details.
sebrantley@comcast.net
or 944-5963

Outreach

2PC men's group to work with RITI

The 2PC Men's Group will begin meeting again in Jan, 2012. In the past, this group has gathered for fellowship at 2PC one Saturday morning a month. This time, we're going to be taking our fellowship to Room In The Inn (at 8th and Drexel St.), where we have been given the opportunity to gather with their participants once a month to cook and serve breakfast and share our time with others. Dates will be announced soon, but please be ready to gather and serve in this unique outreach opportunity! For more information contact Robb Nash (robertson.nash@vanderbilt.edu).



Start the new year with devotions

Looking for a devotional guide for 2012? Here are three options to consider:

Reflections: Living in God's Daily Presence

Inspiring moments of meditation and celebration of the human spirit, "Reflections" is a spiritual "breather" for those longing for a deepened connection with God. Devotions guide readers through the day, ensuring God's daily presence in both promising times and in bad ones.

"Reflections" is \$18.95 and available on line through the general assembly mission council of the PC (USA) <http://store.pcusa.org>

Janet Tuck & Cathy Hoop were contributing writers for this collection of devotionals.

The Daily Feast

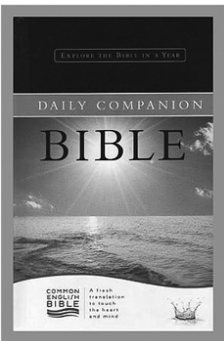
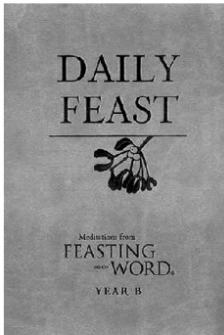
Feasting on the Word, a wonderful lectionary commentary series, has produced "The Daily Feast". Each day of the week contains Scripture passages for the coming Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary, excerpts from the commentaries for reflection, a response, and a prayer. "The Daily Feast" is available through Cokesbury for \$16.25.

Lib Caldwell co-authored this devotional.

The Common English Daily Companion Bible

If you have enjoyed the new Common English Bible translation, you might want to purchase "The Common English Daily Companion Bible" provides a one-year spiritual growth plan to help people discover how the Bible applies to daily life. This fresh, topical approach to daily Bible reading focuses on 52 common themes within the core areas of Faith Foundation, Character Development, and Spiritual Discipline. "The Daily Companion" is also available through Cokesbury.

**Note: the descriptions of these guides have been taken from the publishers.*



Eastminster Christmas Store

Our Christmas Store at Eastminster was a big success, thanks to over 50 volunteers who contributed. On Dec. 11, we gathered at Eastminster Presbyterian Church and after sharing a delicious meal, parents of 16 families went shopping at the "store" we had prepared the previous evening. There were gifts for over 40 children, tables full of donated Christmas decorations, art supplies and more. While the parents shopped, the children were in another space making ornaments and advent decorations to take home. They also selected gifts for their parents.

It was a wonderful inter-generational day of sharing and experiencing the Christmas spirit. The families who brought their children from Second mentioned how meaningful it was for them. Thanks again to all who contributed financially, for shopping, baking, helping to set up, and those that assisted the day of the event.

We plan to repeat this event next year, so as you pack up your Christmas decorations, set aside a box of gently used items you are ready to pass along and place them in the collection box for the Christmas Store next year.

Companions groups opening up

Would you like to be part of a small group of people with whom you can share questions of faith? Two of Second's Companions in Christ groups are open for new members. Companions in Christ is a small spiritual-formation group designed to deepen your spiritual growth.

The groups seeking new members both meet on Mondays. One group meets weekly during the day from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The other group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday

COMPANIONS *in Christ*

evenings at 6:30 p.m. (alternate weeks of session and committee meetings).

Please contact Terri Totty (615-202-4685 or territotty@yahoo.com) with your interest or questions. If you are interested in Companions, but these times do not fit your schedule, let us know your availability; additional groups can be formed if there is interest.

Under our roof...

FiftyForward Meals on Wheels volunteers prepared 500 meals in the Second Presbyterian kitchen on Dec.23!

These meals were delivered to homes over much of Davidson County. The people

who received these meals and visits on Christmas Day have been identified as being most in need and alone on the holiday.

There were 70 individuals and families who gave their time on Christmas to serve in our

community. Their visits meant as much as the food and small gifts that volunteers brought on that special day.

News from the toolshed

NEP volunteers have affectionately christened their living space behind our church "The Toolshed." This section of the newsletter is devoted to our NEP volunteers and what is going on with the NEP program. This year we are fortunate to have so many NEP volunteers that the toolshed cannot hold them all, and some are housed in "The Cabana" in East Nashville!

*Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) **Megan Bell** writes for "Second Story" this month:*

I work at Preston Taylor Ministries as the Children's Program Associate Director. We provide after school programming for over sixty K-5th graders who live in the Preston Taylor homes near West Nashville. Each day the kids have snack, play outside, work on homework, and participate in reading and math classes taught by our wonderful volunteers! We also have professional reading teachers on staff who work with our children to progress the kids to read at their grade level. In 2001, before our reading teachers began working with these students, only three percent of the children were reading

at grade level. Now over 45% of the kids are at level!

I also work with the Servant and Leadership Training Program (SaLT), which meets twice a week. This program is made up of nine high school students who focus on pursuing future goals through mentoring, tutoring, and life skills training. The past few months I have been teaching the life skills portion of the program, even though I feel I have a lot to learn myself! We have focused on finances, specifically the relationship between money and power, what resources our kids possess that make them powerful, a community's view of



money, and how that influences our own opinion. I am continually amazed and inspired by the strength and drive I see in the young adults at SaLT.

Spending time with the children at PTM each week is such a blessing for me. Even on days after endless complaints of "he hit me," "she's picking on me," teary faces, or tantrums, I still find this job to be rewarding in countless ways. It is when I hear laughter, see a smiling face, receive a loving hug or simply observe children and volunteers interacting that outshine every other dismaying moment. Thank you for your support to allow me this experience!

A combined adult Sunday School class

During the month of January, our adult Sunday School groups join one another for a combined class. This year **John McClure** will lead us in an exploration of the topic "**Hospitality to the Stranger.**" Second Presbyterian Church strives to be welcoming and inclusive - in short, "hospitable." The idea of hospitality is an important biblical theological concept. In this four week class, we will begin by reviewing the biblical roots for this idea. Then, we will discuss three aspects of biblical hospitality that are important for us today:

1. discovering the many "strangers" in our midst,
2. the guest/host reversal as a way of living together as the body of Christ, and
3. creating safe spaces of welcome and worship in communities of faith.

This class will meet **January 8-29 at 9:30** in the Activity Center.

January birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Don Pollard | 16 Tabita Green |
| 2 Priscilla Coe | David Hobson |
| Tim Blackwell | Bruce Carter |
| 3 Anna Lee Crenshaw | 17 Estella Mosley |
| Lizzie Conner | 19 Beth Harrington |
| Mark Hostettler | 20 Bobby Goodrich |
| Myles Moseng | 21 Allison Key |
| 7 Brad Slayden | John Early |
| 8 Steven Siler | 23 Ben Owen |
| Curtis Inman | Solon Carter |
| Alan Fey | 24 Kim Bailey |
| Olivia Connor | 25 Jenn Hill |
| 10 Stewart Phillips | Marshall Crenshaw |
| Brendan Jones | Annette Rogers-Vaughn |
| Ryan Bailey | 27 Elizabeth Frein |
| 11 Julie Stone | 28 Cris Arnold |
| John Millard | Ragan Todd |
| 13 Lacy Findley | Web Arnold |
| Ian Scholer | Sam Roth |
| 14 Deb Finch | 29 Beth Roth |
| Teresa Wilson | Scott Blackwell |
| Martha Tanner | 30 Ben Blue |
| Joe Wolfe-Mazeris | Adam Hill |
| 15 Bill Ritter | 31 Anne Henderson |
| Polly Scoville | Janet Tuck |
| Linda Crossan | |



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN **Coffee House**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Get ready for a night of music, food, and fellowship in Second Presbyterian's Cafe! Featured performers include Second's own **Lee Catoe**, **Jay Hankins**, **Jeff Moles** and friend of Second, local singer/songwriter **Jeff Miller**.

A suggested donation of \$5 gets you a great evening of music, plus all the baked goods you can eat and coffee you can drink (well, at least until we run out...).

Proceeds will go towards the youth summer mission trips.

