

Member News

We extend a warm welcome to Brianna Daugherty. Brianna will be singing as a soprano section leader in the Sanctuary Choir and directing the Hosanna Choir this fall. Originally from Chattanooga, she now lives in Nashville and is engaged to tenor Derek Meler, who sings in the Sanctuary Chorale.



Brianna Daugherty

MacKenzie Garey spent six weeks this summer at Interlochen Arts Camp in Northern Michigan. Highlights included singing in a masterclass for Nathan Gunn and participating in the honors recital.



MacKenzie Garey

2017 marks Rhonda Swanson's 20th anniversary as Assistant Organist at First Presbyterian Church. Congratulations, Rhonda, and thank you for your faithful service!



Rhonda Swanson

Dr. Rubye Torrey was honored in a two-page article in a brochure for Tennessee State University's University-Wide Research Symposium. This major annual event has its roots in "Research Day," which Dr. Torrey was instrumental in organizing in 1979.



Rubye Torrey

Sing aloud to God
our strength; shout for joy
to the God of Jacob.

2017-18 Concert Season

Psalmody and Friends: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs
Sunday, August 20 • 2:30 P.M.
Stanford Chapel

Nick Bergin, Organ
Sunday, September 3 • 12:20 P.M.

Vocal Arts Nashville
Sunday, October 1 • 4:00 P.M.

Nashville Chamber Singers
Saturday, December 2 • 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Concert with the Nashville Symphony
Sunday, December 10 • 4:00 P.M.

Great Mass in C minor
W.A. Mozart
Sunday, January 28 • 4:00 P.M.

Broadway Dinner Show: A Salute to Broadway
Friday, February 9 • 6:00 P.M.

Handbells and Children's Choirs
Sunday, February 25 • 12:20 P.M.

Nate Strasser, Jazz Piano
Sunday, March 18 • 12:20 P.M.

Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows
Friday, March 30 • 7:00 P.M.

American Folk Hymns: Spirituals, Southern Gospel, and More
Sunday, April 15 • 12:20 P.M.

Nashville Chamber Singers
Sunday, April 29 • 3:00 P.M.

Psalmody and Friends: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs
Sunday, May 6 • 2:30 P.M.
Stanford Chapel

Soli Deo Gloria

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Music Department Commemorates 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

This fall marks the 500th anniversary of the date in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany—an event widely acknowledged as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. First

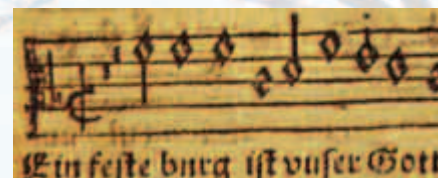


Martin Luther

Presbyterian Church will be reflecting on the Reformation throughout the year, and in keeping with that focus, the Music Department will offer a variety of ways to dig more deeply into this rich history.

Music of the Protestant Reformation

Nick Bergin will teach a five-class series on the music of the Reformation on Wednesday nights at 6:00 P.M., beginning October 18. We will listen to and discuss a wide variety of music, examine the ways that various reformers influenced the music, and consider how this music has shaped and continues to shape the Christian faith. Registration for the class will be open on our website later this fall.



Festal Music for Reformation Sunday

On Reformation Sunday, October 29, trumpeters Jeff Bailey, Preston Bailey, and Alec Blazek, along with timpanist Matthew Curley, will perform festive music at both morning worship services. In addition to voluntaries and hymns, they will accompany the choir on the opening movement of *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*, J.S. Bach's cantata based on Luther's iconic hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."



J.S. Bach

2018 Reformation Tour

Next July, the Sanctuary Choir will embark on a "Reformation Tour" of Berlin, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Dresden, and Prague. We will leave Nashville on July 2 and return on July 12. The trip will feature walking tours of each city, highlighting key sites associated with the Reformation along the way, including the Castle Church in Wittenberg, as well as Martin Luther's home and the university at which he taught. Other destinations include the Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Museum in Berlin, St. Thomas Church and St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, and St. Vitus Cathedral and the Old Royal Castle in Prague. In addition to all of this, the choir will sing in several churches. Registration is not restricted to choir members and is open to anyone who would like to go. More details, including the cost of the trip, are forthcoming, but mark your calendars now for what promises to be an unforgettable journey!

Children's Choir and Handbells: Musical Outlets for the Whole Family!

Children's Choirs

Children's Choirs are getting ready for the fall season. Choir rehearsals will take place every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00 (unless noted). Children will be preparing to sing for several worship services including the Christmas Eve service. This year, the Children's Choirs will be split into two main groups. The Hosanna Choir will be for children ages 4 through 2nd grade. The Doxology Choir will be for children in 3rd through 6th grade.

An exciting new addition to the Children's Music program will occur on Wednesday nights. For children interested in instruments, there will be the Rockin' Rhythm Time from 6:00 to 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday nights. Children will work primarily on Orff instruments with the intention to play in a couple of worship services this fall.

It is an exciting time in the Children's Music ministry. We hope you will enjoy the joy that the children bring in their music.

by Jerry Monds

Chancel Bells

The Chancel Bells, our intermediate-level handbell ensemble, are gearing up for a new year. This group features members from both Bellissima and Ringtones, two previous church bell choirs. They rehearse in the chancel at 6:00 P.M. most Thursday evenings and are seeking new ringers to join the fun. Members must be able to read music; however, prior experience ringing handbells is not required. If interested, please contact Nick Bergin at 615-298-9537 or nbergin@fpcnashville.org.

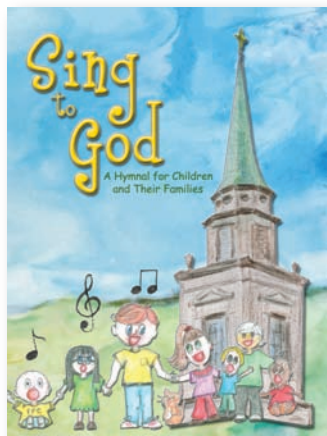


12:20 Concert on February 25

On Sunday, February 25, various handbell and children's ensembles will perform a short concert at 12:20, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. This promises to be a colorful and charming assortment of music, and attending would be a great way to support the many volunteers who lend their talents to our church's music ministry.

Children's Hymnal

Over the past year, a number of church members and staff have worked very hard to publish a children's hymnal. *Sing to God: A Hymnal for Children and Their Families*. The hymnal features over 70 hymns in a variety of styles—tunes familiar to our congregation, Sunday School hymns, and even two original "books of the Bible" songs by Jerry Monds. The hymnal also features beautiful illustrations by three artists from our congregation: Leslee Bechtel, Ansley Black, and Carey Haynes. The hymnals were gifted to four-year-olds during their annual Milestone Celebration. They are also available for purchase in our church Bookstore.



In the Loft with Judy & Jaylon Fincannon

by Nick Bergin

NB: How long have you been singing?

Judy: I actually never sang in a school or church choir until I was 24 years old! I began playing the piano for the Jr. Choir, in my hometown Baptist church, when I was 12 years old and later became the accompanist for the Youth Choir throughout all my high school years. I have been accompanying or singing in the church choirs since that time. In 50 years of marriage, we have moved 23 times and been members of 13 church choirs!

Jaylon: Growing up in a small town in Texas, I only sang in the shower. Our hometown did not have a school choir, so theoretically I was an athlete. Turns out that was not one of my gifts, so after college I joined the choir at our church in Abilene, Texas. Judy was the church pianist, so I really had no choice. I've sung in church choirs since that time in 1968 and have loved every minute.

NB: What brought you to singing and who has influenced you?

Judy: My dad was a professional drummer up until the time he married my mom. Because he was a trained musician and loved music, there were always records being played on the phonograph in our home. Learning to play the piano added to my love of music. I loved to sing and play "the old hymns," the "new rock and roll" songs and anything in between. Our hometown church choral director was also a big musical influence on me as a child. S.L. Tate (We weren't sure what S.L. stood for, so Jaylon nick-named him "Song Leader Tate") worked at our church during my childhood and my teen years. He was a very talented musician and a wonderful human being.

Jaylon: Without question, my wife Judy brought me to singing and by far has been the most influential person in my life regarding music. She brought me "kicking and screaming" to the choir loft almost fifty years ago and now I can't imagine not being a part of a choir. Three of our closest friends were church choir directors, and we sang in their choirs. Judy and I are Godparents to all of their children. They all had a profound and lasting musical influence on me, and I am eternally grateful.

NB: What is your favorite anthem? Your favorite hymn?

Judy: Like millions of other people, my favorite major anthem is Handel's *Messiah*. Although I have sung it many times, it is still so beautiful that I cry by the time we get to the end. My favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace." My favorite soloist to sing it is my daughter, J'Nae. She sings a fabulous *a cappella* version.

Jaylon: One of my favorites is "My Eternal King" by Jane Marshall. I especially like the dynamics and the message, and it has many of my favorite bass notes! "To God Be the Glory" is one of

my favorite hymns. It's majestic and uplifting, and the text provides words to live by. It makes me smile, and I feel joyful when I sing it.

NB: What is your most memorable experience of singing in the church choir?

Judy: Our choir has sung so many wonderful major works and beautiful songs during my time. Maybe my favorite times have been going on our choir trips to Scotland, France and Ireland. The trips have given me great musical satisfaction and opportunities to make new friends and deepen my love for old friends.

Jaylon: In the spring of 2009, I had a heart attack that required immediate hospitalization, placement of a stent and a period of recuperation at home. My first "outing" weeks later came on Good Friday of that year when Judy and I came to the Tenebrae service. As you know, at that service, the sanctuary is dimly lit, and the choir sits quietly in the lighted balcony. A few minutes before the service began, we entered the sanctuary and took our seats midway down on the bottom floor. I turned to look up at the choir and because of the lighting, all I could see were silhouettes of all my fellow choir members. Almost all of them were waving ever so slightly. That moment brought tears to my eyes as I realized how much those choir members meant to me. It is a moment and a feeling I will never forget.

NB: How does singing relate to your spiritual life?

Judy: Attending church, Bible study, singing and sharing my gifts are critical to my spiritual life. To be honest, Jaylon and I visited five Presbyterian churches when we moved to Nashville and chose First Presbyterian Church because of the choir! Music is such an important part of all aspects of my life. I am so very grateful to be a part of this loving, giving, talented and fun-loving group!

Jaylon: I believe music is the universal language that communicates something to all who hear and certainly to all who sing or play. A few years ago, Judy and I were fortunate to go to Cuba with some members of the First Presbyterian Church Choir. Multiple times during that trip, we sang with the Cuban people who did not speak English, but it was clear we all were singing about the same God and shared the same love and joy that comes through music. That connection and that spirit is just one of the reasons I love to sing, especially in this choir!

