

# faith & values

## MORE FAITH & VALUES

Head to [Tennessean.com/faith](http://Tennessean.com/faith) for more. Subscribers, see [Tennessean.com/activate](http://Tennessean.com/activate) for additional digital content.

## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS TO HOST RACIAL RECONCILIATION SUMMIT

The Southern Baptist Convention announced it will host a spring summit on racial reconciliation, moving it back from a planned 2016 date in light of the Ferguson riots and the Eric Garner grand jury ruling.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

**T** Listings provided by [NowPlayingNashville.com](http://NowPlayingNashville.com) in partnership with The Tennessean. To submit your event listing, visit [Tennessean.com/submittevent](http://Tennessean.com/submittevent).

### SATURDAY

**Christmas in the 'Ville:** Through Dec. 14. Free, 6 p.m., First Baptist Hendersonville, Worship Center, 106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd., Hendersonville. 615-824-6154.

**Drive-Thru Bethlehem:** Please bring non-perishable food donations to benefit The Ark Community Resource Center. Free, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Pegram, 4548 Sunnyfield Drive, Pegram. (615) 646-6400.

**Nativity Festival and Concert:** This Christmas event will feature over 200 activities from around the world, nightly musical performances, a live nativity, many themed decorated Christmas trees and a children's area with nativity dress-up costumes and crafts. Drop by for a few minutes or spend the evening enjoying the spirit of Christmas. Free admission, 6:30-9 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1100 Gray Fox Lane, Franklin (next door to BGA). More info: [www.christmasnativity.org](http://www.christmasnativity.org).

### SUNDAY

**Dinner at Bethlehem:** Join us for dinner, crafts and a live Nativity scene. Drama and choir presentation by Children's Choir. Dinner is \$5, 4:30 p.m., Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, 1949 Old Hickory Blvd., near Brentwood, Nashville. (615) 373-0601, [www.harpethhills.org](http://www.harpethhills.org).



**2014 Festival of Carols:** Free admission, 7 p.m., Brentwood United Methodist Church, 309 Franklin Road, Brentwood. (615) 373-3663, [www.bumc.net](http://www.bumc.net).

**Vespers & All That Jazz:** Encounter the sacred in a new and unique way through this music-shaped, experiential worship service. Through Dec. 28. Free admission, 6:30 p.m. Sundays, Scarritt-Bennett Center's Wightman Chapel, 1008 19th Ave. S., Nashville. (615) 340-7500, [www.scarrittbennett.org](http://www.scarrittbennett.org).

### WEDNESDAY

**Advent Worship Services:** Special worship services in expectation of the celebration of Christmas and the mystery of Jesus' incarnation. This year's theme: A long time coming. Through Dec. 17. Free admission, 7 p.m., Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 741 East Campbell Road, Madison. (615) 865-2228, [www.rockofagesnashville.org](http://www.rockofagesnashville.org).

### DEC. 20

**Mike Farris & the Roseland Rhythm Revue Are :** \$29.50,

8 p.m., 3rd and Lindsley Bar and Grill, 818 Third Ave. S., Nashville. (866) 468-7630, [www.3rdandlindsley.com](http://www.3rdandlindsley.com).

### DEC. 21

**Christmas Service and Community Brunch:** We will have two Christmas services (8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.) in the auditorium. There will be a free Community Brunch served in the gym from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Free admission, Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, 1949 Old Hickory Blvd., near Brentwood, Nashville. (615) 390-3251, [www.harpethhills.org/christmas](http://www.harpethhills.org/christmas).

**Schola Pacis' Lessons and Carols at Christ the King:** Free admission, 3 p.m., Christ the King Church, 3105 Belmont Blvd, Nashville. (615) 828-3168, [www.scholapacis.com](http://www.scholapacis.com).

### DEC. 24

**Christmas Eve Meal for the Homeless at McKendree Church:** Volunteer opportunity, 8 a.m., McKendree United Methodist Church, 523 Church St., Nashville. (615) 271-2620, [www.mckendreetoday.com](http://www.mckendreetoday.com).

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:** We will hold two identical Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.. Carols, communion and praise by candlelight celebrating the Birth of Jesus. Free admission, 5 p.m., Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, 1949 Old Hickory Blvd., near Brentwood, Nashville. (615) 373-0601, [harpethhills.org/Christmas](http://harpethhills.org/Christmas).

# Faith and science: Friends or foes?

By Ming Wang  
For the Tennessean

The recent remarkably successful Christian movie "God's Not Dead" includes a character inspired by my life story, specifically being born as an atheist in China, coming to America with only \$50 seeking freedom and the opportunity to study, finding God and then becoming a Christian.

Today, as science and technology rapidly develop and transform almost every aspect of our lives, faith and science often appear to clash with each other. How to resolve this conflict between faith and science is, in my opinion, one of the most important questions of our time.

For example, should we conduct fetal tissue and stem cell research to treat human trauma and diseases related to aging, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetes? If so, how can we justify harming an unborn child for the sake of helping an adult? If not, what if such research represents the only hope for treating these illnesses? What if the elderly patient who is suffering from one of these illnesses was your own mother or grandmother? Are you still going to say no to fetal and stem cell tissue research?

Sixteen years ago, we were faced with this dilemma. We were conducting corneal wound-healing research to identify ways to reduce corneal scarring after injury in order to preserve sight. We found that it is often not the injury itself that renders an eye blind, but rather the scarring process afterward.

The fetal wound-healing process presented a fascinating solution. A fetus can actually heal without any scarring. Understanding this phenomenon presented a fascinating possibility of helping an adult eye heal without scarring, as well, thus protecting its sight.

But this is where faith and science seemed to conflict. Faith said that we should not put an unborn child at risk by conducting fetal tissue research, but science said that we should. If we follow our faith and avoid such research, how can we then face the patients whose only hope of seeing again is through such research? On the contrary, if we do conduct this research, how can we have peace inside knowing we



Artist Marjorie Mullen created a signature painting for EyeBall 2014, the annual charity event of Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, that shows a fetus within an eye, which alludes to the amniotic membrane contact lens invented by the foundation doctors.

may be harming an unborn child?

My internal struggle was so great that I almost gave up on the fetal wound-healing research entirely. There seemed to be no solution to this conflict.

Fortunately we did not give up; we persisted with the research, inspired by the Bible verse James 1:4, which says that perseverance will complete us. I realized that it was going to be a long and arduous journey, but the right solution is often the most difficult one to find.

We moved forward tenaciously, looking at the problem from different perspectives, and finally we stumbled upon a special and unique piece of tissue, the amniotic sac. The amniotic sac holds a fetus before birth but is discarded after a baby is born. We asked ourselves the question: Is it possible that the membrane that lines the amniotic sac might contain the biological ingredient that carries the magical wound-healing ability of a fetus, and if so, by transplanting the amniotic membrane onto injured adult eyes, can we encourage the eye to heal without scarring, just as it does for a fetus?

We conducted laboratory investigations on this process, and published the first paper in the world in scientific literature that demonstrated corneal scar reduction with amniotic membrane transplantations. We then invented the amniotic membrane contact lens,

obtained U.S. patients and began product development.

After 16 years, our efforts were finally successful. Amniotic membrane contact lenses are being manufactured and have been successfully used by more than 1,000 eye doctors throughout the world. Countless patients have benefited from these lenses, and many have had their sight restored.

Through the study of the amniotic membrane contact lens, not only did we gain a new understanding of the wound-healing process in a fetus and use this knowledge to help injured adult eyes to heal and have sight, more remarkable than all of that is that we achieved these accomplishments without touching any part of an unborn child.

The amniotic membrane contact lens is a powerful example that confirms that faith and science can, indeed, work together cohesively. I believe that with perseverance, we can find solutions that will advance science while still preserving our principles of morality, ethics and faith. Through uniting faith and science — rather than splitting them — we can find new, unexpected and powerful solutions to life's problems.

Ming Wang, M.D., Ph.D., is a cataract and LASIK eye surgeon at Wang Vision 3D Cataract & LASIK Center. He can be reached at [drwang@wangvisioninstitute.com](mailto:drwang@wangvisioninstitute.com).

## Your Community Worship Directory

CATHOLIC	CHURCH OF CHRIST	
<b>CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPEL</b> Society of Saint Pius X TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 130 Old Liberty Pike, Franklin <b>615-791-8776</b>	<i>Crieve Hall</i> <b>Church of Christ</b> <b>Bill Watkins</b> Minister <b>Sunday Worship</b> 8:15am, 10:30am, 6pm <b>Bible Study</b> 9:30am & Wed. 7pm 4806 Trousdale Drive (near I-65 & Harding Pl.) 832.9658, Office <b>www.crievhall.org</b> Home of the Nashville School of Preaching & Biblical Studies 833-9976 Bienvenidos a nuestro Servicio de adoración Domingos 10:30am 781-0086 Evangelizing... Edifying... Ministering...	<b>BELLEVUE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 7401 Highway 70 South (near I-40 and Bellevue Center Mall) <b>646-9828</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>9 AM &amp; 6 PM</b> <b>Bible Study 10:15 AM</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>&amp; 6:45 PM Wednesday</b>
<b>BAPTIST</b> <b>discover meaning downtown</b> <b>SUNDAY MORNING</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 108 Seventh Avenue South <b>FIRST BAPTIST NASHVILLE</b> <b>FIRSTBAPTISTNASHVILLE.ORG</b>		

Looking to Grow Your Church Membership? • Contact Kathy Hatcher • 615-881-7903 or [khatcher@tennessean.com](mailto:khatcher@tennessean.com)

**NASHVILLE**  
**Then and Now**  
**TOUR**  
 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Nashville

## JOIN US FOR A CIVIL WAR BUS TOUR

Tennessean photographer, Larry McCormack, blends photos of modern Nashville with what life was like 150 years ago. Much has changed, but Nashville's history remains embedded into the fabric of Music City.

Join Larry and Jim Hoobler, a senior curator at the Tennessee State Museum, for a unique bus tour of downtown Nashville. We'll take you to key locations and show you how those areas have transformed in the 150 years since the Battle of Nashville.

## BUS TOUR DETAILS:

**Sunday, December 21**

Registration: 1:00 / Tour: 1:30-3:30

**Pick up Location:**

The Tennessean, 1100 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203

\$25 Registration

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

[www.tnmedia.com/bustour](http://www.tnmedia.com/bustour)

**THE TENNESSEAN**