

FEBRUARY

Vol. 5, No. 2, 2006

© 2006 Out &amp; About Nashville, Inc.

OUT &amp; ABOUT

NEWSPAPER

nashville  
prideSelects 'O&AN' to  
publish 2006 Pride Guide

## 'The Preacher's Son' author Marc Adams to speak in Nashville

### Staff Reports

Marc Adams, author of the Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver Pen Award recipient autobiography "The Preacher's Son," will speak at Vanderbilt's Divinity School on Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m. The event is hosted by PFLAG Nashville and co-sponsored by the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (GABLE) at the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

"The Preacher's Son" chronicles Adams' life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania where he endured a childhood of physical, emotional and spiritual abuse. He went on to attend (by choice) Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he also was employed for three-and-a-half years in the student recruiting/university relations department. His book articulately reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform to its standards. He shares his experiences as an ex-gay, and the story culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and his coming out to his fundamentalist Christian family.

In his talk to the community, Adams will share some of his life's story, share from his books and also talk about HeartStrong, Inc., the non-profit organization he co-founded.

HeartStrong, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisex-



Photo provided

**Marc Adams, author of "The Preacher's Son," will speak at Vanderbilt's Divinity School on Sunday, March 19.**

chose to be a co-sponsor of this event because we feel Marc Adam's work is particularly relevant for groups like GABLE, who are concerned about how to make the church and society more affirming of the GLBT community," she said. "From his story we hope to learn more about both the impact of fundamentalist Christianity on gay and lesbian Christians and the journey of reconciliation they go through with regard to their faith and sexuality."

Since its release at the end of 1996, "The Preacher's Son" has garnered praise from bookstores, reviewers, the mainstream press and the gay and lesbian media. Not to be discounted, Adams says, are the thousands of letters and emails that he has received from men and women, gay and straight, who have read his books and found themselves changed.

"Every time I open my mailbox and find another letter, I am incredibly humbled. I knew I had a responsibility to share my story. I just didn't expect to get such emotional and heart breaking letters," Adams said. "I feel such an awesome responsibility when I read about how what I've shared has touched people."

Marc Adams will also share from his brand new book (the much-anticipated follow up to The Preacher's Son) (lost)Found, as well as his journey out of fundamentalist Christianity.

All of Adams' books and resources will be available at the event.

For information on the event please visit [www.pflagnashville.org](http://www.pflagnashville.org), e-mail [info@pflagnashville.org](mailto:info@pflagnashville.org) or call (615) 366.0888. ■



ual and transgendered students of religious schools, colleges and universities. It is the only such outreach of its kind known in the world.

According to Stephanie Brooks Barger, student coordinator in the GABLE office, the Divinity School at Vanderbilt has historically provided support to the GLBT community and co-sponsoring Adams appearance is in keeping with that tradition. "GABLE is just one aspect of the school's commitment to 'confront' homophobia in both the church and society. We