

Encountering God at the  
**CROSSROADS**  
of community and mission.

Volume 32 Issue 1

January 2021

### DEACON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

On January 10, we will be adapting our annual deacon ordination and installation service to accommodate our online worship format. While we will not be gathering in person to lay hands on Greg Cotton and Sharon Ludwig as our two to ordain (we hope to do a modified service in the spring), you can help with sharing blessings, prayers, and words of encouragement with them!

Here's how it works:

Write a note to each deacon that offers your affirmation of their commitment to serve.

Mail or drop the notes off at the church office no later than Tuesday, January 5.

If you mail them, please send to:

Second Baptist Church  
c/o Deacon Ordination  
4680 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117

One thing that our pandemic experience has affirmed is that our deacon ministries matter enormously. Our deacons do their work quietly, out of the spotlight, and in the relational ministries of tending to people in ways that do not draw vast amounts of attention, but that nonetheless make deep impacts on those who are served.

Make plans to take part in this modified, but no less sacred, time of setting apart those from among us who have dedicated themselves to being humble servants of the church.

### 2021 Active Deacons

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Judy Brundige        | Julia Pilgrim |
| Ken Elliott          | Rob Robertson |
| Mark Luttrell        | Andrew Smith  |
| Bob Serino           | Greg Cotton   |
| Dorothy Westmoreland | Ernie Harris  |
| Neil Boggan          | Sharon Ludwig |
| Shan Criswell        | Mary Smith    |
| Catherine Lewis      | Becky Wilson  |

We owe a deep dept of gratitude to all of our deacons who served during the past year. Their commitment to caring for all of our members through this extraordinary season is greatly appreciated. Cindy Childress, Sandra Livesay, Pat Mabry, Mark Moffatt and Cathy Moore concluded their three year commitment at the end of 2020. Thank you again for your service!

### CHURCH OPERATIONS UPDATE

In light of the Shelby County Health Department's most recent directive, our church operations are being adapted to comply with those guidelines. Each day, Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., we will have limited personnel onsite while other staff members work remotely. The CFLC will be open Monday thru Friday during the same hours with only the track and fitness room available. All of our church staff are available via phone or email should you need to be in contact with any of them. In accordance with the health department directive, we will keep this schedule at least through January 22.

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Memphis, TN

[www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org)

# from the pastor

## SERMON TOPICS

### January 3:

Title: "In the Beginning"  
Daniel Johnson preaching

### January 10:

Deacon Ordination &  
Installation  
Title: Not the Message, Only  
Messengers

Text: Mark 1:4-11  
NT Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

### January 17:

Title: Hard of Hearing  
Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-10  
NT Lesson: John 1:43-51

### January 24:

Title: Jesus' Day One  
Agenda  
Text: Mark 1:14-20  
OT Lesson: Psalm 62:5-12

### January 31:

Title: Back Off, Preacher!  
Text: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
OT Lesson: Psalm 111

## WHO KNEW?

Turning the calendar page to a new year beginning, a year ago this time did any of us expect that 2020 would unfold the way it did? Who knew that so much would happen so fast that would have such deep, lasting, and profound impacts on our lives?

While the first year of this decade is one that many of us say we would like to forget, let's remember some of the goodness that came from what was an unmistakably hard and harrowing season:

- Who knew that Second Baptist could – in less than a week's time – shift from being an in-person-only worshiping congregation to one that has an online presence that engages people not only here, but in several different states across the country?
- Who knew that we would be able to not only weather the economic impacts of the pandemic, but also see such extraordinary gestures of generosity that allowed us to keep every financial commitment we made and still finish the year with a surplus of funds for mission and ministry in 2021?
- Who knew that we would not only shatter all previous records of pumpkin patch sales, but more importantly, engage more than 100 new youth volunteers from our community with whom we could build meaningful relationships...and make a \$10,000 gift to support the incredible work of the Collegiate School of Memphis?
- Who knew that, in a year that saw us suffer so many losses in our congregation through death, we would be able to show up and show care to families in creative ways that had us doing drive through visitations and other pandemic-appropriate adaptations?
- Who knew that we would be able to have meaningful spiritual formation experiences through Zoom screen boxes with Sunday school teachers going above and beyond to make certain that everyone of every age has access to relationships and connections that have helped keep us together?
- Who knew that we could give and share so much with our neighbors at the Brinkley Heights Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, Together for Hope Arkansas, and the Mid-South Food Bank because of Amazon wish lists and online donation options and community food drives that have made our giving that much more impactful?
- Who knew that, in the year the Brinkley Heights Urban Academy would graduate their largest class to date, our church could make such deep impressions on the lives of young people with the generosity shown to them?
- Who knew that we could have Hanging of the Green online and Christmas Eve outdoors and that those services could be so rich and wonderful, even if they weren't how we would have wished or hoped for them to be?

Who knew that such a hard year could be filled with so much good? More good, in fact, than these modest few examples above come close to naming!

God knows, we never would have wished the last year to go as it did. But, God also knows that we will carry on in the ways of loving faithfulness, grace, and mercy no matter what. This is our calling. This is who we are and what we do. And I am eternally grateful for what YOU, our Second family, have done to move through the last year together.

Who knows what 2021 will hold for us? I dare not make any kind of predictions! But as Paul wrote to the Philippians, so I say to you:

*"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."*

Grace and peace,  
Stephen

## FEEDING THE HOMELESS CONTINUES IN 2021

Opportunities to serve the homeless by making sack lunches or by preparing hot meals will continue in January. Volunteers can choose to make 10 sack lunches or pick up food and supplies at the church to make a hot meal. All lunches and meals are dropped off at the church on Thursday mornings and delivered to Constance Abbey downtown (those making hot meals are welcome to drop their pans of food off earlier in the week if it is more convenient). If you would like to be involved, contact Daniel or the church office to receive the sign up links.

## BRINKLEY HEIGHTS CHRISTMAS STORE

"THANK YOU for your prayers and partnership in the Toy Store and other Brinkley Heights efforts! You know that God is using your efforts to reach people and build His Kingdom!" These are the words of Ministry Center director Sam Wilson after an amazing week in the Christmas Toy Store. "One of the very best I can remember," Sam added. Twelve local churches collected gifts and churches from across Tennessee donated Christmas backpacks (containing toys, clothes, personal hygiene and school supplies) allowing Brinkley Heights Baptist Church members to reach out to families, neighbors, friends and coworkers. Most importantly, all visitors to the store were prayed with and had the opportunity to discuss their faith and hear the good news of God's love for them in Christ. As a result, four parents made a commitment to follow Jesus. Thank you to everyone who prayed for and supported this year's Christmas Toy Store.

## TOGETHER FOR HOPE ARKANSAS IN 2020

Each year, Together for Hope Arkansas (TFHAR) focuses on literacy, leadership and opportunity in Helena and Phillips County, Arkansas. This includes year-round reading and literacy-based activities in preschools as well as distributing books to children. While COVID prevented some of their normal youth leadership activities, TFHAR was still able to work with the Phillips County Youth Court to train volunteers. Local youth also served with Helena Clean Up Days, a Chalk Art event and wrapped Christmas books. In addition, TFHAR was able to support three former youth volunteers through the TFHAR college scholarship. Although their largest outreach ministry, swim camp, was cancelled this year, TFHAR was able to pivot and still find a creative way to share hope and encouragement to children through Camp in a Box. Looking forward, TFHAR is hoping to install a Little Free Pantry and a Little Free Library as another way to combat rural poverty and serve the community. Thank you for all the ways you pray for and help support this important Second Baptist ministry partner.

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Despite the challenges of 2020, Thistle & Bee was recently able to purchase a multi-family house that will allow them to double their residential capacity in 2021. This house will become a home for women whose lives are being transformed through love, care, education, counseling and hope in tomorrow. We celebrate with Thistle & Bee on this important step in their growing story of ministry to women surviving prostitution and human trafficking. If you would like to learn more for find ways to get involved with this ministry, visit [thistleandbee.org](http://thistleandbee.org) or contact Daniel.



# gathered to worship

## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs through December 24, 2020:

Year-to-Date Receipts \$1,098,648  
 Year-to-Date Expenses \$1,115,649  
 Net (\$17,001)

Remember that when it comes to giving, we have several options for sharing gifts with our church:

- Cash and Checks
- Text-to-Give: 901.401.9621
- Online at [2ndmemphis.org](http://2ndmemphis.org)
- Click "Giving" and follow the prompts
- Stock and Mutual Fund Transfers

To learn more about any of these, please contact our Financial Administrator, Patti Calvert, at [pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org).

## MIDWEEK ZOOM PRAYER GATHERINGS RESUME ON JANUARY 6

Our weekly Wednesday time together for prayers of the people and reflection on scripture will resume on Wednesday, January 6. If you have not taken part in one of these gatherings, plan to start the new year by joining members of your Second family at noon on Wednesdays. Contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office at [abarnes@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:abarnes@2ndmemphis.org) for Zoom login information.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE YEAR SCHEDULED

**Wednesday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Throughout the year our congregation gathers to share ministry updates, report on the work of its various leadership teams, and decide together about different matters related to the operations of our church. Make plans to take part in the first congregational meeting of 2021 on Wednesday, January 20. Watch for the link to the meeting in the week prior or contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office to receive the login information for this important time together.

## STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT BIND

Our next time for conversation and community-building with our neighbors from the Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church will take place on **Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Watch for the link to the meeting in the week prior or contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office to receive the login information.

## HOLIDAY CLOSING REMINDERS

Please make note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 18. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need when the church office is closed, you may reach the minister on-call at 901.604.6686.

## COMMITMENTS TO SHARE, GIFTS THAT CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are so grateful for everyone who, through the last quarter of 2020, gave generously to invest in the mission and ministries of Second Baptist Church in what has been our most unique year in our congregation's history. While we do not have final figures for our last year's financials at the time of this printing (those will be shared in the February issue of Crossroads), we do know that our people have responded well to the challenges before us.

On the financial front for 2021, we go into the year with some things to celebrate from the outset. Based on pledges made this past fall, many of our givers have promised to increase giving, representing more than \$15,000 in additional offerings by current givers. We also have new giving commitments from people who had not submitted giving plans in the past. These gifts total more than \$50,000 pledged to our ministries.

Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to sharing the resources required for us to carry on this congregation's mission and ministry ventures in this year and beyond! And, if you have not made a plan for giving in 2021, it's not too late. Contact Patti Calvert, our church financial administrator, at 682.3395 or [pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org) to learn more.

## CFLC HOURS UPDATE

In light of the Shelby County Health Department's most recent directive, beginning January 4 only the walking track and fitness room will be open in the CFLC. Hours of operation will be from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Marcus Patterson at [mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org).



## WHEN WILL SANCTUARY WORSHIP RESUME?

This question has been on many of our minds since we shifted back to online worship at the end of November. With COVID case numbers higher than ever, our leadership team is watching closely the trends in our community and relying on the guidance of our local health officials. Throughout the pandemic, our congregation has worked to minimize risks and trust our people to act responsibly in our commitment to loving God and loving our neighbors.

While at the time of this printing we do not have a precise date circled on the calendar for when we will resume in-person worship services, we do know that our online worship offerings will continue, even when we resume meeting onsite. Moving through the early months of the new year, we will be adapting our online format to accommodate our new livestreaming capacity.

Continue to watch your inbox and our church website for regular updates on when, how, and under what circumstances we will be resuming our activities.



In the meantime, continue to take part in the work of Christ's church at Second. Regardless of the circumstances, we are continuing to move forward in our service to God and our neighbors together!

## PUMPKIN PATCH GENEROSITY AND MINISTRY

October 2020 was an amazing and record breaking month in our pumpkin patch. We had a 56% increase in net sales from 2019 which equates to \$36,124.94 raised for student missions and ministries. After making a generous \$10,000 donation to the Collegiate School of Memphis for their 100 volunteers serving almost 500 hours in the patch, \$26,124.94 still remained. However, combined with an unprecedented year of sales was an unprecedented year of ministry where most of the activities that patch funds typically support did not occur. So, to help, we gathered a committee of youth and adults to determine the most faithful way to allocate the funds in a manner that is consistent with the spirit of the fundraiser. The committee consisted of the three youth who served the most hours in the patch this year, the parent who served the most hours in the patch and a caring adult with a passion for the pumpkin patch. The distribution plan is listed below:

10% Donation (youth choice)	\$3,613.00
Hunger / Feeding Ministries	\$5,000.00
Brinkley Heights Ministries	\$5,000.00
Youth Room Updates	\$3,500.00
South Africa 2022 Support	\$9,011.94

It was important to this committee that the youth get to "participate" as much as possible in the giving of these funds like last year's shopping spree to purchase gifts for the Brinkley Heights Toy Store. We will continue to look for ways for our youth to learn from and participate with various ministry partners in addition to offering financial support in the coming months.

# FAMILY ministry

## ANNUAL YOUTH TOILET BOWL

Are you ready for some football? Are you just ready for a reason to come to church and see one another? Then, the annual youth flag football game on Sunday, February 7 - the Toilet Bowl - may be just what you need. Right now, we are still planning to host this exciting event as teams compete for the right to sign their names on the legendary Lompotty trophy as the 2021 Toilet Bowl Champions! Youth are asked to arrive at 3:00 p.m. with kickoff set at 3:30 p.m. on the upper soccer field. Family members, children and caring adults are all invited to bring a lawn chair, masks and safely distance themselves to watch the action. The traditional postgame Superbowl watch party is still to be determined, but we hope you'll come out to encourage and cheer on the youth in this historic event!

## NEW YEAR MEETING FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS

On Sunday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m. there will be an important meeting for youth and parents to share ministry plans and opportunities for 2021. In addition to youth parents, we are also inviting parents of camp age children (current grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>) to attend the first part of the meeting where we will discuss Passport camp details. Ministry to youth is a partnership between the church, families and youth. The investment of this time together is a way to ensure everyone is aware, has input and can be actively involved in our ministry to youth. If you have questions or are unable to attend, please contact Daniel or Tanya.

## PASSPORT CAMP (KIDS AND YOUTH) SUMMER 2021

After a year like 2020, wouldn't we all rather be at Passport Camp? Well, as we turn the calendar, we can now begin looking excitedly toward these awesome summer experiences for kids and youth. Passport camps provide kids and youth with a creative and fun week to encounter and explore who they are in Christ. Children completing grades 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> will attend Passport Kids, July 16-20 in Eatonton, GA. Passport for youth will be July 18-25 in Greenville, SC.



Costs for each camp is \$350. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due Friday, February 12 and a second deposit of \$50 is due Sunday, March 21. All payments after March 21 are non-refundable unless the church decides we cannot attend or Passport is unable to host in-person camps. Final payment of \$250 is due on or before Sunday, April 25. Chaperones are needed for both camps. If you can help serve by spending a fun week encouraging a great group of kids or youth, please contact Daniel or Tanya.

## 2021 PERMISSION FORMS

2021 Youth and Children Medical and Permission forms will be available online, linked in Family Ministry News emails. Please complete a digital form for each child and youth in your family in a timely fashion so that we may have correct information in our system for the safety and security of each child. Paper forms are available by request.

## CROSSROADS

**Submissions:** Material for inclusion in the monthly *CrossRoads* publication must be submitted by the 15th day of the month.

**Digital Option:** To receive an electronic version only, please contact Annabeth Barnes at [abarnes@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:abarnes@2ndmemphis.org).

**Next publication date:**  
February 1, 2021

**Center Your Week:** Those signed up to receive our communications via email will also receive our midweek update *Center Your Week*.

## 2020 Poinsettia Acknowledgements

### To the glory of God and in memory of...

Frank Huffman Jr. by Katharine Huffman  
 Joel P. Smith by Mary Smith  
 Don P. Smith by Mary Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Moorhead by Mary Smith  
 George & Katharine Phillips by Katharine Huffman  
 Joel Smith by Joe & Sandra Livesay  
 Tom Williams by Joe & Sandra Livesay  
 Seth Rowan by Joe & Sandra Livesay  
 James & Pauline Potts by Pam & Bill Summons  
 Lewis & Marie Carlton by Bill & Pam Summons  
 Dave & Julie Summons by Pam & Bill Summons  
 Joel Smith by Ken Elliot  
 Seth Rowan by Rogers & Bonnie Smith  
 Van D. Cotton by Greg & Debbie Cotton  
 Jeff & Betty Farmer by Greg & Debbie Cotton  
 Becky Webb by Ron & Carmen Anderson  
 Imogene Anderson by Ron & Carmen Anderson  
 Albert Anderson by Ron & Carmen Anderson  
 Charlie Hromada by Frankie Hromada  
 Dorothy & Wayne Robertson by Rob & Mary Robertson  
 Martha & Herschel Martin by Rob & Mary Robertson  
 Lem & Blondell Pearson by George & Lynette Pearson  
 Connie & Margaret Pearson by George & Lynette Pearson  
 La & Mary Mabry by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Bill & Mary Lou Watkins by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Doug Mabry by Pat & Tanya Mabry

### To the glory of God and in honor of...

Adult 8 Class by Joe & Sandra Livesay  
 Men's Bible Study Group by Joe & Sandra Livesay  
 Joan Smith by Mary Smith  
 Martha Barnett by Mary Smith  
 John Avis by Rogers & Bonnie Smith  
 Kelly, Victoria, Elizabeth & Edward George by George & Lynette Pearson  
 William & Claudia Mabry by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Jason & Katie Walker by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Liz & Wade Yost by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Mary Francis, Wills, Henry, James, Levi & Bean by Pat & Tanya Mabry  
 Second Baptist ministers & staff by Steve & Dianna Waring  
 Katharine Huffman by Leigh & Zoey Adams  
 Pat & Tanya Mabry by Leigh & Zoey Adams  
 Huffman Children: Katharine & John, Dora & Jason, Jackson by Katharine Huffman  
 Huffman Grandchildren: Joshua, Katie & Noah, Dominic & Mary Katharine by  
 Katharine Huffman



scattered to serve



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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Midweek Zoom Prayer Gatherings resume**  
Wednesday, January 6

**Deacon Ordination & Installation Service**  
**Youth & Parents Meeting**  
Sunday, January 10

**Ties that Bind Conversation**  
**Via Zoom**  
Tuesday, January 12

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
Wednesday, January 20

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

4680 Walnut Grove Rd.  
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Office: 901.682.3395

### STAFF

**Dr. Stephen Cook**  
Senior Pastor

**Mr. Larry Denman**  
Associate Minister:  
Music and Worship

**Rev. Daniel Johnson**  
Associate Minister:  
Congregational  
Formation and Missions

**Mrs. Tanya Mabry**  
Interim Children's  
Ministry Coordinator

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Phone: 901-682-3308 mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org

CFLC hours are subject to change,  
please check our website, [www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org), for updates.