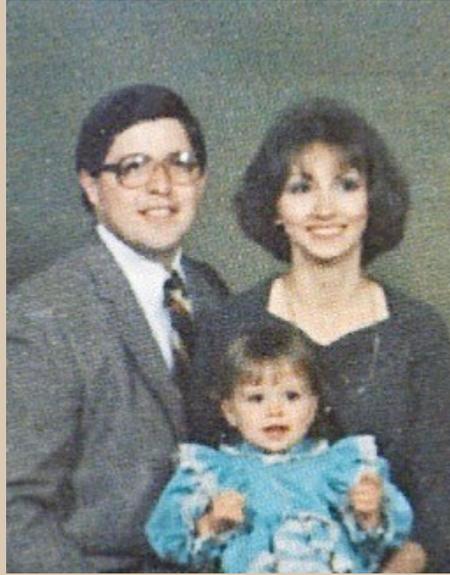


Encountering God at the **CROSSROADS** of community and mission.

Volume 31, Issue 1

January 2020



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

On Sunday, January 12 our church will have the opportunity to mark a major milestone as we celebrate Julia Pilgrim's 40th anniversary of service to Second Baptist. Julia's ministry to our church and community extends far beyond her extraordinary gifts at the piano (and occasionally the organ, too!). She is a consistent, caring presence who comes alongside people of all ages and stages of life to guide, teach, support, and share the love of Christ. All who know Julia can attest to the fact that she is guided by a deep sense of calling and a commitment to express her faith in every way available to her.

In worship on January 12 we will have the opportunity to hear some of our choir's favorite anthems and Julia's beautiful accompaniment. After worship we will gather in the fellowship hall for a very special luncheon where we will honor Julia and express our love for her faithful service to Second, even as we look forward to more years of ministry ahead.

To make a reservation for lunch, please contact Donna Taylor in the church office at 682.3395 or dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org.

DEACON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

We begin the new year in worship with a very special service on Sunday, January 5. That morning we will ordain four new deacons and commission all of our actively serving deacon ministers to carry on the work of this vital ministry in the life of our church.

Deacons are charged with mundane tasks that matter enormously. They are often ones who 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 sacred time of setting apart those from among us who have dedicated themselves to being humble servants of the church.

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SERMON
TOPICS

January 5: Deacon
Ordination

Title: High Scalers and
Unseen Heroes

Text: Acts 6:1-7

January 12:

Title: Before Battling the
Devil, Remember

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

OT Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

January 19:

Title: An Invitation Without
an Address

Text: John 1:29-42

OT Lesson: Psalm 40

January 26:

Title: Can Faith and Fear
Coexist?

Text: Psalm 27

NT Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23

AMONG US IN THE MIDST OF BAD NEWS AND HEAVY HEARTS

As a new decade begins and the year 2020 gets underway, how many of us have set our sights on ways we hope we will adapt some of our habits, take up some new behaviors, or let loose of some things we don't need to carry anymore?

No secrets get spilled when I say that we are facing what promises to be a tough year. Deepening divisions in our culture, persistent challenges in our community, mounting concerns for how people of faith in religious institutions like ours can contend with all that seems to compete against us: sometimes it probably feels like most of the news we hear is bad and that we have grown too accustomed to carrying around a certain heaviness of heart.

Tempting as it is to be overwhelmed by it all, I keep coming back to a bedrock truth that serves as a firm foundation for moving into this new year. Namely, that it was into a world filled full with unsettling, downright frightening affairs that God first put on flesh and came to dwell.

John's Gospel captures the incarnational hope to which we cling in days like these with astonishing beauty: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

I take great comfort in remembering that God came to dwell, not above us or around us, but *among* us. In the first century, as in the twenty-first, the world was an uncomfortable place where there were refugee crises, mass deportations, clashes of values, aspiring leaders interested in laying claim to power that they would use to exploit the lives of others, and so much more. And it is into this kind of context that God comes to dwell.

In an out of the way place in a world that was downright overwhelming; in the midst of chaos, confusion, and fear, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Even in the face of all that, there was still room for joy.

Perhaps that ought to be both our prayer and our priority these days: to make room for joy. Those who found it that first Christmas had to go looking, of course. And I suspect we will too. But lest we let ourselves be overwhelmed with all that we cannot control, why not set out in search of joy. Then, whenever and however and wherever we find it, we can become bearers of it ourselves.

And through the likes of ordinary folks like you and me, miracle of all miracles, the Word becomes flesh once more and there is joy...Joy to the world!

Grace and peace,

Stephen

WINTER BOOK DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED

Tuesdays, January 28 and February 4 at 6:00 p.m.

In December many of our Second family gathered to watch "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." Now we have the opportunity to take part in a discussion of Maxwell King's new book, *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*.

Start off the new year with a good book to read and then join us for two nights of conversation. We will discuss King's book, as well as share some video clips and reflect on the kindness, compassion, and care of a remarkable minister whose life's work has impacted untold numbers of people around the world.

Don't forget that if you order the book through Amazon Smile you can designate Second Baptist Church as a beneficiary to receive a contribution for all the items you purchase.

COMMITMENTS TO SHARE, GIFTS THAT CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to all our members who, through the last quarter of 2019, gave generously to invest in the mission and ministries of Second Baptist Church. 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 2020, we know we have some things to celebrate from the beginning. ***Based on pledges made this past fall, many of our givers have promised to increase giving***, representing more than \$17,000 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 \$33,560 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!

CBF DISASTER RESPONSE

David Wells, the CBF Disaster Response Coordinator for Tennessee, is compiling a contact list of people willing to be on a rapid response team for 2020. Rapid response members would have the opportunity to join a team of volunteers from around the state to serve and make a difference in the lives of people recovering from natural disasters. However, being on the list does not commit people to go. All skill levels are welcome. If you have questions or would like to be on the rapid response list, you can contact David at dwells@tncbf.org or (865) 228-7555.

CHRISTMAS BASKET MINISTRY HOLY MOMENTS

"I just came from delivering a basket to a young woman in the Nutbush area. She was beaming from ear to ear. She insisted that I come in her home to give me costume jewelry that she probably sells to make ends meet. Since she was speaking in broken English, I didn't know if I was supposed to take all of it or just one piece. I offered to pay for it, but she kept smiling, saying Merry Christmas and closed my hands around the jewelry. She then kissed me on the cheek. I sobbed all the way back to work. I couldn't help thinking about the lady in the Bible who gave all she had.....what a lesson for all of us."

- Donna Taylor

"Basket delivered to our new friend. She was soooo appreciative! She's a phlebotomist at Germantown Methodist. Her transmission just died in her car last week. Her neighbor was giving her a ride to work and back home. She said we didn't know what a blessing this was! What a blessing for us."

- Pat & Tanya Mabry

OVERNIGHT MISSION TEAM THANKS

When we make God's house available and accommodate those who are traveling to serve or traveling through, God's kingdom grows. "Dear Second Baptist Church. We can't thank you enough for opening up your home for us to stay in. You guys made our trip and service possible! We ended up serving with Shelby Farms Park, Mid-South Food Bank, and Youth Villages. Thanks again for welcoming us for our first stay in Memphis! We wish you the best and hope to see you again!" Mizzou Alternative Breaks (Vivienne, Josh, Ronell, Vanesa and Victoria)

scattered to serve

Thank you!

We would like to thank
Second Baptist Church
for all that you do for
the Douglas High
School Family!
Love,
Principal Steward

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH AND CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY



Our monthly second Sunday lunch will take place on January 12 immediately after worship in the fellowship hall. This will be a very special gathering as we take time to celebrate Julia Pilgrim's 40 years of ministry at Second Baptist Church. Please make your reservation no later than Wednesday, January 8 by emailing Donna Taylor at dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org or calling the church office at 682.3395.

LAUGH IN PEACE COMEDY TOUR

Wednesday, January 8 at the Crosstown Concourse Theater

On the heels of our fall study on Christianity and World Religions and our interfaith Thanksgiving service focus on "How to be a Perfect Stranger," this month a very special evening of comedy and community building will take place at the Crosstown Theater.

The Memphis Friendship Foundation and the Laugh In Peace Comedy Tour are two groups that share an inspiring philosophy – that conversation and laughter between people of different backgrounds can build a lasting legacy of friendship and peace.

The Foundation has joined with the likeminded group, the Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour, to entertain and enlighten Mid-South residents. Laugh in Peace is a cross-cultural show featuring stand-up comedians Gibran Saleem, Rabbi Bob Alper and Reverend Susan Sparks. Saleem is Muslim, Alper is Jewish and Sparks is Baptist.

Mid-South residents can experience their unique blend of comedy and empowerment, all while supporting the Memphis Friendship Foundation to raise money to help the Foundation expand its service to the community.

Tickets for the event cost \$27. Contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office at abarnes@2ndmemphis.org or 682.3395 to learn more about this unique opportunity.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE YEAR

Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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 2020 on Wednesday, January 15. We will gather in the fellowship hall and everyone is welcome to bring a bite to eat as we meet. Come add your voice and take part in this important element of our life together!

YOUTH WINTER SUMMIT



January 17-19 youth will travel to Huntsville, Alabama for Youth Winter Summit at First Baptist

Church of Huntsville sponsored by CBF of Alabama. The 2020 theme is CONNECTED. Our speaker will be Dr. Shaun King, worship will be led by Sharon Irving, and there will be a special concert featuring Walker Burroughs (finalist from American Idol). Students will be encouraged by worship, music, Bible study and group discussion around the theme and key scripture from Ephesians 4:4-6.

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs through December 19:

YTD Receipts	\$1,031,903
YTD Expenses	<u>\$1,025,244</u>
Net	\$ 6,659

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
- 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.

WELCOME OUR NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR, MARCUS PATTERSON

On Monday, December 9 we welcomed to our Second Family a new church recreation director, Marcus Patterson. With primary oversight of the congregation's recreation ministry in the community, as well as the operations of our Christian Family Life Center, Marcus comes to us with a strong commitment to Christian ministry and an enthusiastic vision for reaching our community.



Included in his background is 10 years of experience as a recreation director at another church in our city through a partnership with Memphis Athletic Ministries. Marcus also worked for 10 years at FedEx as a team leader there, including work as part of the FedEx Cares initiative.

Make sure to come by the CFLC to introduce yourself to Marcus and welcome him to Second. You may reach him by phone at 682.3308 or email mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org.

NEW JANITORIAL SERVICES

Beginning this month, Second Baptist will be outsourcing our primary custodial tasks to Fayette Janitorial. Fayette will be cleaning the entire building two days a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. In addition to Fayette's work, we will retain one of our current custodians, Billy Williams in a part-time capacity to help with room set-ups and supplemental custodial tasks. As with all building maintenance practices, we welcome your input as we evaluate the quality and completeness of work performed.

If you notice any items or areas that need attention, please contact our Maintenance Supervisor Isaac Maldonado at imaldonado@2ndmemphis.org or Daniel Johnson at djohnson@2ndmemphis.org.

THANK YOU ALBERT!

At the end of December, after 23 years, Albert Marshall concluded his tenure as a custodian at Second Baptist Church. Over the years, Albert has been a dedicated and dependable member of our church staff, daily preparing spaces where God can work in the lives of the young and old alike. Albert's work enhanced and enabled the sacred work of Second Baptist Church and for that we will always be grateful. We are thankful and pray Godspeed for Albert.

HOLIDAY CLOSING REMINDERS

Please make note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

New Year Holiday – Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 and January 1

Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 20

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.

THE BOOK CORNER

Due to the generosity of members and church friends, the library has more than 35 new books! We have adult books like *Before and After*, youth books (ex. The *Dork Series*) and award-winning books for children such as the *Wonky Donkey*. Come check us (and a book) out.

FAMILY ministry

YOUTH EPIPHANY PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Sunday, January 5 at 4:30 p.m. the youth will enjoy an Epiphany Progressive Dinner and will visit the homes of the Day family for appetizers, the Bryan family for a pasta bar, and the Cook family for desserts. Come ready to follow the star and find the good gifts from God that come at Epiphany as we eat and play games together. Please drop off youth at 4:30 p.m. at the Day home (2041 Brierbrook Rd. 38138) and pick up at the Cook home (8184 Kimbrook Dr. 38138) at 7:30 p.m. Transportation between homes will be provided.

TOILET BOWL

Youth will gather to prepare for our annual youth Toilet Bowl football competition at 3:00 p.m. on Hope Field (upper soccer field) on Sunday, February 2. Teams will be competing for the legendary award of Toilet Bowl 2020 Champions! Intergenerational half time entertainment will include fun for all ages. Youth and families are asked to bring finger food or dessert and a drink to share for the meal after the game. We will tailgate in the CFLC Lobby and watch the Super Bowl after our friendly competition. Youth are encouraged to bring friends and our church family is encouraged to be the spectators cheering us on for this historic event!

Toilet Bowl Game Day Events

3:00 p.m. Pre-Game (Hope Field)

3:30 p.m. Kick Off (Hope Field)

4:45 p.m. Awards Ceremony

5:00 p.m. Tailgate and Super Bowl Party (CFLC)

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 Donna Taylor at dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org.

Next publication date:
February 1, 2020

Second Look: Those signed up to receive our communications via email will also receive our weekly *Second Look*.



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SecondBaptistMemphis

PASSPORT

Passport Choices youth camp for grades 6-12 is July 4-10, 2020 in Greensboro, NC. A refundable (until May 3) \$75 deposit is due Sunday, January 12 with 2020 Child and Youth Medical Permission Form. Final payment of \$225 is due Sunday, May 22. Need-based scholarship applications are available by request. Passport Choices is a creative discipleship youth camp that allows students the freedom to customize their camp experience, explore their passions, and live out their calling. At this camp students choose from multiple afternoon activities designed to help them cultivate their unique identity as a follower of Jesus Christ. With choice tracks ranging from environmentalism, to health and fitness, to music and ministry, students will have the opportunity to explore their interests and discover how to live out the calling of God in their lives. If you are interested in helping youth explore their faith at camp as a caring adult, please let Julia know if you can serve as a chaperone. Chaperones attend at no cost.

2020 PERMISSION FORMS

We are going digital! 2020 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. Also, coming soon to our nursery program- a digital app sign in! More information available soon.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			New Year's Day 1 Church Office + CFLC Closed			
5 Deacon Ordination & Installation Deacons' Meeting 8:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Youth Epiphany Progressive Dinner 4:30 pm	6 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	7 Weight Watchers 11:30 am	8 Jerry Michel's Texas 42 1:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	9	10 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	11 Weight Watchers 9:00 am Second Basketball League Games 9:00 am-2:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 9:00 am
12 Worship Service 10:15 am Second Sunday Lunch & Celebration of 40 Years of Ministry 11:30 am	13 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	14 Weight Watchers 11:30 am	15 Jerry Michel's Texas 42 1:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting 7 pm	16	17 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	18 Weight Watchers 9:00 am Second Basketball League Games 9:00 am-2:00 pm
19 Worship Service 10:15 am Winter Youth Summit	20 MLK Day Church Offices + CFLC Closed	21 Weight Watchers 11:30 am	22 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	23		Winter Youth Summit
26 Worship Service 10:15 am	27 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	28 Weight Watchers 11:30 am Mr. Rogers Book Discussion 6:00 pm	29 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	30	31 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	25 Weight Watchers 9:00 am Second Basketball League Games 9:00 am-2:00 pm



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 5

10:15 a.m. Deacon Ordination & Installation
 4:30 p.m. Youth Epiphany Progressive Dinner

Sunday, January 12

11:30 a.m. Second Sunday Lunch
 & Celebration of Ministry

Friday, January 17 – Sunday, January 19

Winter Youth Summit

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Day
 Church Office + CFLC Closed

Tuesday, January 28

6 p.m. Mr. Rogers Book Discussion

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

4680 Walnut Grove Rd.
 Memphis, TN 38117
 Office: 901.682.3395

STAFF

Dr. Stephen Cook
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Julia Goldie Day
 Associate Minister:
 Families and
 Congregational Care

Mr. Larry Denman
 Associate Minister:
 Music and Worship

Rev. Daniel Johnson
 Associate Minister:
 Congregational
 Formation and Missions

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Phone: 901-682-3308

CLOSED SUNDAY

mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.