

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

Volume 34 Issue 7

July 2023

Second's Marking a Milestone!

On July 22, 1962, a group of Christians gathered to constitute a new congregation in our community. Second Baptist Church was born 61 years ago this month and, on Sunday, July 23, we will celebrate that milestone as part of our worship that morning.

Make plans to be present that day as we gather at the baptismal waters and Lord's Table. There, we remember God's grace for all and what unites us as a Second family. We will also share a special offering to support the benevolence ministries of our deacons as we continue to live into our calling to care for and meet the needs of our neighbors in need.

Join us as we worship and give thanks for more than nearly six decades of worship, work, and witness at Second!

Summer Sabbath is Here

Remember that during the month of July we scale back our activities and enjoy a break from some of the regular routines of congregational life.

Although the past year has seen a multitude of adjustments, the ministries of our church and its leaders have persisted. During this month our committees and leadership teams break from their usual meetings as we prepare for a full and active season ahead when schools resume and we return to some more familiar congregational rhythms.

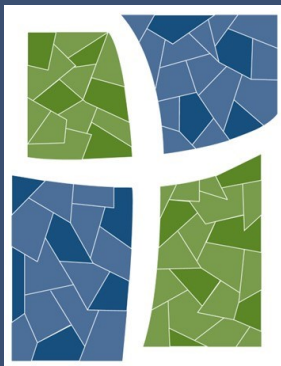


Upcoming Sunday School Schedule Note



Please note that, on the first weekend in July, we will not gather for Sunday school but will have worship together in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy the extra rest on the holiday weekend and then plan to take part in worship together that morning as our own Tim Bearden leads us while our South Africa mission team is away.

On the first Sunday in August, our adult Sunday school classes will gather in one large group session that morning to look ahead at the fall and some of the special spiritual formation offerings we will have available.



4680 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, TN 38117
www.2ndmemphis.org

from the pastor

PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

July 2:

Tim Bearden preaching

July 9:

Neil Boggan preaching

July 16:

Title: Is There a Word from the Lord?

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

OT Lesson: Jeremiah 37:17a

July 23: 2BC Anniversary

Sunday / Celebration of the Lord's Supper / Baptism

Title: Because Jesus Says So

Texts: Matthew 26:26-29;

Matthew 28:16-20

July 30:

Linda Serino preaching

A Persistent Temptation

We are living in an era of congregational decline. Faith communities of almost every denominational tradition are aging rapidly and seeing fewer and fewer actively engaged participants. The pandemic that started this decade served as an accelerator for a trend that was already in motion.

We are not immune to these realities in the little corner of the Kingdom we call home. If you and I have any kind of history with Second, we might sometimes be tempted to look around at the sanctuary or our Sunday school classrooms and see a lot of what – and who – is no longer there.

However, when we do that, we are prone to miss what – and who – *is* here. Sometimes, it takes a different perspective to help us recognize the goodness of what God continues to give us.

This summer, our partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship published a collection of stories from four churches across the country who are creatively engaging their communities and utilizing their facilities for greater good. I am happy to share with you that Second is one of those four featured congregations.

We are fortunate to be living in a time and place where we have opportunities to reimagine, discern, and dream what God is calling us to be and do. But, if we spend our time pining for bygone eras and expecting us to somehow magically get back to a way of being and doing church that is now past, we miss out on the opportunity to experience the life and work of the Church here and now.

I hope you will take time to read not just about our church, but each of the others that are featured in this new resource being shared across the Fellowship. You can access it by visiting cbf.net/sacredspaces. Download *Sacred Spaces and Innovative Places*, volume 2 (the one with the blue cover).

God consistently calls on people to look for new and creative expressions of our calling. You and I are living in one of those moments and, whether we know it or not, others are looking to us as examples of faithfulness.

This is but one of the multitude of reasons I am deeply grateful to get to serve alongside you in this sacred space we call our Second home.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



Deacon Nominations Begin this Month

Beginning Sunday, July 23 and going through Sunday, August 13, members of Second Baptist Church are invited to submit names of qualified persons willing to serve as deacons on a three-year term beginning in January of 2024. The deacon selection committee wishes to receive feedback from as many church members as possible during this time.



Nomination forms will be available online at 2ndmemphis.org or in the church office. Please prayerfully consider those persons qualified to serve and return the form to the church office, by mail, or by emailing info@2ndmemphis.org.

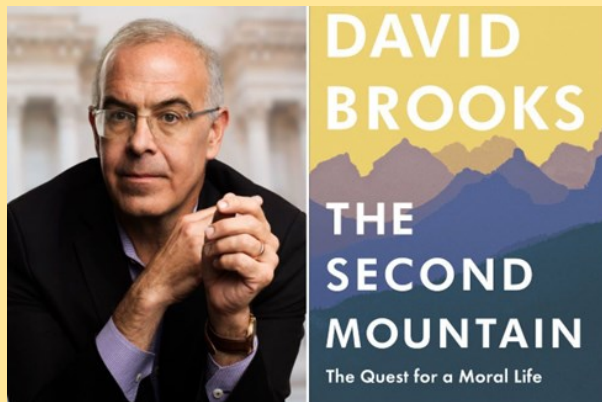


Holiday Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed for the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the minister on call at 901.481.2916.

Our City, Our Story

Looking for a little summer reading? Our ministry partners at MIFA are preparing to welcome David Brooks in September for the annual Our City, Our Story event.



Brooks is a bi-weekly columnist for the *New York Times* and regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has authored several bestselling books, including *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*.

Brooks is also the founder of Weave: The Social Fabric Project at the Aspen Institute. Much like MIFA's vision to unite the community through service, Weave's mission is to invite everyone to start living like a weaver and shift our culture from that values achievement and individual success to one that finds value in deep relationships and community success.

Our City, Our Story will be held on September 21. Watch for more details as the date approaches, but start your summer reading now!

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Update
Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to info@2ndmemphis.org.

gathered to worship

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-Date through 6/23/2023

Receipts	\$ 450,635
Expenses	489,797
Net	(\$ 39,162)

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

- Cash and Checks
- Text-to-Give: 888.704.0507
- 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.

A New



You may be aware that we have changed our church membership software to a platform called One Church. This also means that contributions are posted confidentially in this new software. As a result, your contribution statements have a new look!

The first week or so of July I'll email statements to everyone who has so generously given to Second this year (*Thank you!!!*), and they will look a little different, even though they contain the same information as before.

Please, look at your statement and be sure all your giving has been recorded. The post office is doing a much better job delivering mail recently, but we want to be sure all your gifts have been received and accounted for!

If you have any questions about your statement or anything else to do with Second's finances, please contact me at 901.682.3395 or pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org. I'm praying you have a wonderful summer!

- Patti Calvert, Financial Administrator

Thank you for Giving

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you! Thanks to the generosity of so many in the Second Baptist Community, we surpassed our \$4500

goal and raised over \$8000 to support the needs of our South African ministry partners. These gifts will help keep Sister Didi's clinic open and viable during rolling blackouts, provide sensory toys for toddlers with special needs at Door of Hope, supply teens with basic hygiene needs and Bible study materials through Inspired Hope, fulfill medical equipment needs for Thembaletu, and provide funds for projects during our trip. Because of your generosity, people will give thanks and glory to God.

Prayers for South Africa Mission Experience

From the time Barnabas and Paul were set apart for a special missionary task, the church has laid hands, prayed, and encouraged those sent away from the comfort of home in the name of Christ. As fourteen people from Second Baptist join sixty-eight others, we ask that you pray for our team:

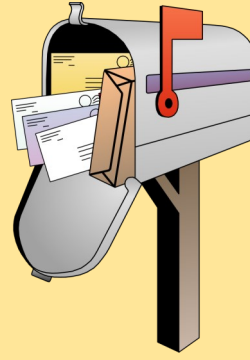
Anne Bryan, Chris Bryan, Kirsten Bryan, Spencer Bryan, Benjamin Cook, Stephen Cook, Audrey Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Alice Moffatt, Amy Moffatt, Catherine Piche, Jason Piche, JoJo Piche, Lyra Piche.



Passport Kids Camp July 15-19, 2023

What a great group of campers we have going to PassportKids Camp, July 15-19, in Eatonton, GA. Our campers love to receive mail while at camp! Please take time to write a note of encouragement and place it in our 'Camper's Mailbox' on the center table in the foyer.

Campers: Charli Meador, Larry Breland, Joseph Bryan, and Iva Kate Parker. Adult leaders: Aaron Parker and Tanya Mabry. We look forward to sharing about our "Upside Down!" experiences when we return!



Worship Here (or Anywhere!) in July

Summer travel and vacations and mission trips mean worship gets a little more creative in July! For the whole month we will hear voices and see faces we don't see on typical Sundays through the rest of the year.

With four different preachers on the five Sundays this month, solos and small ensembles from some of our favorite voices young and old, you don't want to miss a Sunday in July!

And don't forget: if you are out of town, we still offer livestream every Sunday morning. If you don't catch it live, each service is available to watch on our website later in the week. If we learned anything from Covid, it is that we can be together and we can be community, even when we are separated physically!

Exterior Lighting Conversions



One of the major projects for the Properties Committee this year was the conversion of our exterior lighting to LED fixtures. Not only will this project provide better lighting throughout the property, but it will also cut our energy consumption by 75% and reduce our overall utility costs. The work was completed during the first week of June by Underwood Electric.

Good Neighbor Services

Good Neighbor Services was created to offer home services provided by refugees. Call or text Mark Morris (901.921.6118) if you need help with yard work, appliance repair, car detailing, small repair jobs, professional cabinet building, fence mending or building.



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gathered to worship

PASSPORTSM

Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

At Passport Camp, our youth were challenged by the words of Jesus to "change their hearts and lives" and to live UPSIDE DOWN. To not imitate the values of the world, but to let God change the way they think, how they view and value others, and to open their hearts to everyone they meet. We are praying that they will live out the message they heard.



PASSPORTSM
Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

PASSPORT KIDS

July 15-19, 2023 Cost \$400

Rock Eagle 4H Center

Eatonton, GA

Completed 3rd-5th grades

Before Camp Adventure included

FAMILY ministry

VBS 2023 proved to be a wonderful journey through Babylon as the children experienced the culture and world similar to how Daniel lived. They learned about Daniel and his obedience to God: how he stayed true and prayed even though it meant he was thrown in the lions' den! The Babylonian Marketplace was alive with vendors "selling food and craft items"—children were able to create clay pots, plant greenery for the "city wall," weave baskets, make prayer books, make their own flavored olive oil, and taste foods from the area for their snack! In our celebration time, we sang with our friends praising God! Our Bible story of Daniel was acted out-complete with a lion's roar and special prayer time! We know our children came away learning so much about Daniel's Courage in Captivity because of their hands on experiences this week! A HUGE thanks for Abbi Carlson, our VBS Director for her creativity and leadership! We truly appreciate Abbi and all of the volunteers whose time and energy made this week possible!

Director: Abbi Carlson, *Registration:* Pam Harris & Sharon Ludwig, *Celebration Time:* Amy Cook, Catherine Denman, Katie Mullenix; *Palace Playground:* Julia Cunningham; *Daniel's Adventures:* Stephen Cook, Neil Boggan & Daniel Johnson; *Marketplace Volunteers:* Becky Lindsey, Miko Montgomery, Rob Montgomery, Emily Keith, Janet Avis, Janice Bryant, Cindy McIntyre, Pat Mabry, Carol Bearden, Tim Bearden, Charlotte Myers, Cathy Moore, Sandra Livesay, Lynette Pearson, Edward George, Elizabeth George, Kaylee Hargett; *Tribe Group Leaders:* Benjamin Cook, Nicholas Keith, Audrey Johnson, Emma Little, Mary Frances Mabry; *Decorations/take down helpers:* Becky Wilson, Faith Barcroft, Judd Lindsey, Emerson Geabhart, Foster Avis and Adam Carlson. A special thank you to our entire 2BC support staff who did so much work behind the scenes and to our 2BC family for all their prayers during VBS! We appreciate you all!



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CROSS ROADS (USPS 0005-206) is published monthly by Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117-2599. Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis, TN.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CROSS ROADS, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117.



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Rev. Daniel Johnson

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Mrs. Tanya Mabry

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Children & Families

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

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

Monday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

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

CLOSED SUNDAY