

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

Volume 35 Issue 1

January 2024

## Deacon Installation Service

Sunday, January 7

Our deacons are servants of the church who often 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. Nonetheless, their care makes deep impacts on those who are served.

On the first Sunday of the new year, we will recognize our deacons and offer words of blessing to them in their roles as servant leaders. We will also have the opportunity to hear from them about the ministry teams that serve our Second family and wider community. Make plans to take part in this sacred time of blessing those who bless so many!

Carmen Anderson	24	Duncan Breland	25	Tim Bearden	26
Anne Bryan	24	Catherine Denman	25	Matthew Breazeale	26
Amanda Gowen	24	Bruce Moorman	25	Bart Harris	26
Matthew Meador	24	Aaron Parker	25	Theresa Jennings	26
John Moore	24	Bonnie Smith	25	Sandra Livesay	26
		Steve Waring	25	Ginny Ramey	26

## First Congregational Meeting of the Year Scheduled

Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Each quarter our congregation gathers on a Wednesday evening to share ministry updates, report on the work of our 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 2024 on Wednesday, January 17.

Included among the agenda items will be an update from the finance committee on our 2023 giving and ministry costs, a report from the personnel committee on vacancies in our recreation and youth ministries, and information from our properties committee related to several needs that came about in the last days of the year.

Make plans to take part in this time together in person or via Zoom. Login information for people participating online will be sent ahead of the meeting.



4680 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117  
[www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org)

# from the pastor

## PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

January 7: Epiphany Sunday /  
Deacon Installation  
Title: This Boundless Gospel  
NT Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

January 14:  
Title: On Being Eli  
Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-11  
NT Lesson: John 1:43-51

January 21:  
Daniel Johnson preaching

January 28:  
Title: Beginning with a  
Benediction  
Text: Mark 1:21-28  
OT Lesson: Psalm 111

### Looking Back, Looking Forward

With every new year there always comes new hope.

While we are already hearing and seeing evidence that this year is going to be a challenging one due to deep and destructive political divisions and a host of other difficulties, there is also the opportunity to consider ways we can be agents of grace, goodness, and mercy right now.

As we embark on our journey through these 12 months, you and I might do well to spend a few minutes with a spiritual exercise that Steve Argue and Caleb Roose propose; an exercise where looking back helps us to look forward.

Argue and Roose suggest spending time reflecting on these statements about the past year. Thoughtfully pondering these becomes a means for setting the stage well for the new one.

*God, I'm grateful for...*

*I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_. Please forgive me.*

*I'm afraid of...*

*I'm hopeful for...*

*Be courageous as you look back. You can do it. Acknowledge the joy and pain, and don't rush ahead until you've had some serious talks with God about how your experiences in 2023 have brought you to this present moment.*

By grace, we are where we are just now. And the hope we share is that grace will keep and sustain us as we move ahead toward what's still to come.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen

### Devotionals for Lent Available

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 14 this year. Beginning in late January, everyone is encouraged to pick up a copy of this year's Lenten devotional, *Gathered Into One*. These daily devotions go from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection.

Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from First Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

These are available at no cost in the church foyer and office. Please take one per household.





## Second Sunday Lunch

Join members of the Second family for our first Second Sunday Lunch following worship on January 14. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 901.682.3395 or emailing [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org).



## Save the Date for Second's Chili Cook-Off!

Who from the Second community has the tastiest, hottest, and best overall chili recipe? Come find out during our Second Sunday Lunch in February! Watch for more details about how to take part in this year's special contest that will happen on Sunday, February 11.



## Gratefulness

I continue to be amazed at how the people of Second Baptist share their blessings with the church. As always, you gave generously, and we finished the year strong. We

will publish final figures for 2023 in the February Crossroads, but know that we appreciate your response to our challenges in 2023.

A number of you are taking advantage of tax benefits from directing your IRA distributions directly to the church. The number of on-line givers has increased, as well as recurring gifts. Through our payment processor, Vanco, you may set up a gift to be sent to the church at the frequency you desire. It's a great way to support the Lord's work and also not have to remember to write a check or schedule a gift each time. We also accept gifts of stock.

Thank you for the pledges you made to support Second in 2024. A good number of you have increased your expected gifts which helps with the inflation the church feels just as you do. It's not too late to make a pledge if you'd like! Pick up a card in the Welcome Center or pledge online at [2ndmemphis.org/giving](http://2ndmemphis.org/giving). All pledges are confidential and are seen only by the Financial Administrator, Patti Calvert. For any assistance, you may call or email her at 682.3395 or [pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org). Thank you all for being a part of this congregation's mission and ministry, being a center of Christian Community and Hospitality.

-Patti Calvert

## Holiday Closing Reminders



Please make note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the new year holiday and on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. 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.

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Update  
Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org).



# gathered to worship

## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs  
Year-to-Date through 12/22/2023

Receipts	\$ 936,798
Expenses	<u>1,015,204</u>
Net	(\$ 78,406)*

\*Figures do not include Pumpkin Patch proceeds.

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.



## Second Baptist Women's Retreat February 23-24, 2024

Save the date and watch for updates in the weeks ahead! Women of all ages are invited to take part in this retreat that will happen in the last weekend in February. We will spend the weekend at the Wilsons' lake house where we will enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, and meaningful conversation. If you'd like to get involved with planning the magic, contact Miko Montgomery at m.montgomery8517@gmail.com.

### An Update on the Front Porch Project Sunday, January 28 at 11:45 a.m.

Everyone in our Second family is encouraged to take part in the next congregational conversation with our Front Porch Team. In the time since the church voted to approve the first members of the newly created board of directors, that group and the existing team of church members has been busy with a variety of tasks. Join us on the last Sunday of the month immediately after worship to discuss updates on zoning, fundraising, and other initiatives.



Watch for details and meeting information as we draw nearer to this important time!



Wow! What an incredible Advent/Christmas season of worship at Second Baptist Church. Thank you to all the singers, instrumentalists, youth, adults, children, readers, prayers, planners, streamers, and all who played a role in this special season of the Church's life together.



# Children's Poinsettia Mission Project



A BIG thank you for each of you who purchased poinsettias in memory of and in honor of your loved ones. Your generosity allowed the children to raise \$740.00 to be used for some of our ministry partners. We were able to share presents and gift cards for food and clothing with our Afghan Church. We also shared toys with the Room at the Inn organization. Our children and parents were able to go shopping after church to select toys for others and deliver to Room at the Inn. As one child said: "This is GREAT! I'm so glad we did this!" What a blessing for these children to learn how to be the hands and feet of Christ!

## Christmas Baskets

Once again, our Second Baptist family came together to share God's love with our community neighbors! We served well over 100 families with food baskets just in time for the holiday. There are many smiling faces in these photos of those who came to unload, sort, box up, deliver and receive baskets.





# gathered to worship

## Winter Youth Summit

January 12-14, 2024

Please pray for our youth and leaders as they travel to Huntsville, Alabama for a three-day regional retreat with youth from churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. The event will be hosted by First Baptist Church Huntsville and features Ruth Perkins Lee as the retreat preacher and Davey Flowers as the retreat worship leader. The retreat includes worship services, breakout sessions where the youth can play, learn, discover their own creativity, and the chance to fellowship with hundreds of other youth navigating life and faith.



## Toilet Bowl 2024

Sunday, February 11, 2024



If you thought family flag football games were reserved only for Thanksgiving, think again. We are calling all players and fans to come out for the Toilet Bowl, our annual youth-led flag football game. The last few years have been some of the most exciting matchups in the history of this amazing event that showcases the skills of our youth (and even an adult or two as well). There is always something fun (or funny) to experience during this annual event and you definitely don't want to miss what could happen this year! So, invite a friend! Come out to play! Come out to watch! But just come! Youth arrive at 2:30 p.m. to warm up and select teams. Kickoff is at 3:00 p.m.

## Pickleball

Every Wednesday 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Did you play badminton or ping pong as a kid?

Get ready for a blast from the past with

pickleball. Simply put, pickleball is a sport that

is played on a court like badminton, over a net like tennis, and using paddles like ping pong. The ball itself is a wiffle-style ball made of plastic. The best part? It's easy to learn, making it a great sport for all ages. Grab your paddle, tie up your shoes, and get ready to 'dink' your way into a new favorite pastime!



## PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP

July 13-19, 2024

Converse University

Spartanburg, SC

Completed 6th– 12th grades

## PASSPORT KIDS CAMP

July 13-17, 2024

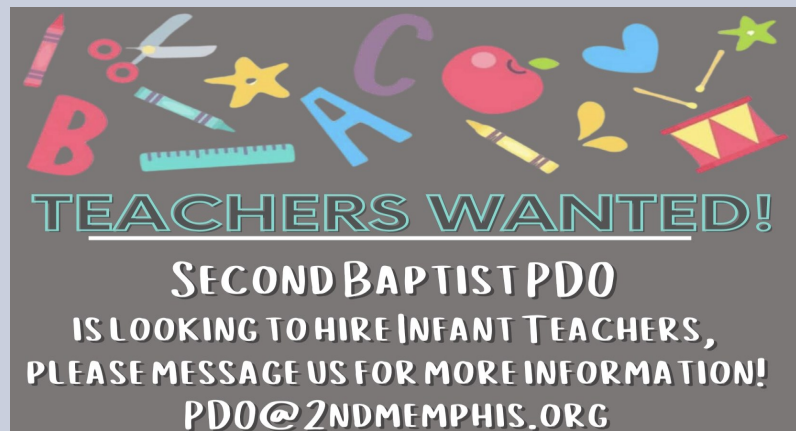
Rock Eagle 4H Center

Eatonton, GA

Completed 3rd-5th grades

Before Camp Adventure

included



# FAMILY ministry

## Adult Christmas Lunch

The group who gathered for a delicious lunch and some fun reindeer games were happy to be together no matter what their age! Our "Adult Christmas Lunch group" - which may be renamed *FAFF: Fabulous After Fifty-Five* - enjoyed catching up with some friends we haven't seen in a while who may have eaten just a few of the BINGO Christmas kisses! The foyer setting provided just the right spot for our beautifully decorated luncheon which concluded with a Christmas devotion.



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## South Africa Ministry Network

February 2-10, 2024



While our next church-wide South Africa Mission Experience is not scheduled until 2025, a small group will be heading back to South Africa in February. The goal of this group is two-fold. Anne Bryan from Second Baptist and Betsy Kammerdiener from First Baptist Chattanooga will lead a careworker retreat for the staff of our ministry partner Thembaletu. After discovering the value of these retreats for their staff and volunteers, Executive Director Xoli Msimanga asked if our network could offer another retreat much sooner than two years. Anne and Betsy both served in South Africa in July and will return to encourage those who spend their time caring for others. The other participants are pastors and lay leaders from First Baptist Knoxville, Tellico Community Church (near Knoxville), and Northside Drive Baptist (Atlanta) going to South Africa to meet ministry partners and explore whether their churches would like to be a part of the South Africa Ministry Network. Please pray for this experience and all those participating. It is exciting to see God leading others into this network and inviting us to serve in new ways.



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.



## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### STAFF

**Dr. Stephen Cook**  
Senior Pastor

**Mr. Larry Denman**  
Minister of  
Music & Worship

**Rev. Daniel Johnson**  
Associate Pastor

**Mrs. Tanya Mabry**  
Minister of  
Children & Families

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Phone: 901-682-3308 [recreation@2ndmemphis.org](mailto: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