

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

Volume 35 Issue 2

February 2024

## **The Season of Lent at Second**

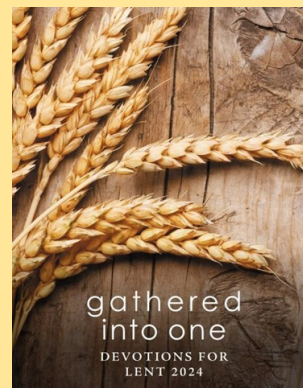
During the 40 days leading to Easter, our weekly worship services will feature specific elements for prayer and reflection. While in Advent we light a candle each week in anticipation of Christ's birth, during the Lenten season we will extinguish a candle each week as we mark the gathering shadows that lead us to the cross. Additionally, we will hear from different members who share faith stories of their own "wilderness" experiences, engage with art and scripture through different prayer practices, and share in singing songs that remind us of the significance of these days.



Everything that we do during these weeks is there to remind us that our celebration of the resurrection is made richer when we recall the depths of God's love and our desperate need for God's saving grace.

## ***Gathered Into One: Devotions for Lent***

As in past years, during the Lenten season we are providing devotionals to everyone who would like to receive one. *Gathered Into One* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The 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.



The devotional books are available for pickup in the church foyer or office. If you are unable to get a book in person, please contact the church office and we will be sure everyone who wants one is able to get one.

## **Ash Wednesday Worship**

Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The 40-day season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Our



congregation marks the start of this sacred time through a service of worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary that includes prayer, reflection, and the opportunity to receive ashes and other symbols that help us prepare the way for our Easter celebration on March 31. Make plans to join us as we begin the journey to Holy Week and Easter by sharing this time of worship together.



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

# from the pastor

## SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

February 4:  
Neil Boggan preaching

February 11: Transfiguration  
Title: A Break from Booth Building  
Text: Mark 9:2-9  
OT Lesson: Psalm 50:1-6

February 14: Ash Wednesday  
Title: Cleansing Smudge  
Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
OT Lesson: Psalm 51:1-17

February 18: First Sunday in Lent / Lord's Supper  
Title: This is Personal  
Text: Mark 1:9-15

February 25: Second Sunday in Lent  
Title: Still Looking  
Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
NT Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

**"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."**

In case you haven't noticed from the front page of this issue of *Crossroads*, Lent is beginning this month. This year we have the rare convergence of Ash Wednesday (the start of the season) falling on Valentine's Day. This only happens about two or three times every century, so make plans to join us before your dinner reservation!

Going back to the 8th century, Christians around the world have marked the beginning of the Lenten season with worship on Ash Wednesday. As with many things in the wider Christian tradition, Baptists have been late adopters in taking up some of the ancient practices that help foster a more robust spirituality among us.

Ash Wednesday affords us the opportunity to remember. We remember the creation story in Genesis 2 where "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7, NRSV). The dust of the ashes serves to remind us both of where and from whom we have come. The ashes stand as a stark reminder of our mortality.

Ash Wednesday invites us into faith practices older than we are and traditions that span across centuries. Going back to the story of Job and his turning away from a too-small-vision of God's way, he repents "in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6, NRSV). In various corners of the canon we find different biblical characters employing ashes to mark their bodies as signs of sorrow and repentance: Tamar in 2 Samuel 13:19; the wayward people of Israel in Jeremiah 6:26 and Ezekiel 27:30. Jesus invokes the practice in Matthew 11:31 when he issued warnings to those living in cities not heeding his invitation to repentance.

Many Christians' resistance to embrace the imposition of ashes is rooted in concern for the outward "showiness" of it (as if soot smeared above our eyebrows is particularly glamorous!). Echoing the sentiment that Jesus warned against in his Sermon on the Mount where he urged fasting to be done in secret (Matthew 6:16-18), some see imposing ashes as little more than spiritual showboating.

Of course, any of us can fall into that temptation, ashes or not. Part of the reason I so strongly value the outward sign is because it is such a stark, powerful reminder of how thoroughly human we are. Our only sure source of hope comes by way of God's gift of grace; grace that assures us there is life beyond this frail, broken life.

I hope you will engage with worship, not only on this special night, but through the duration of this 40-day season. These days promise to stretch us and afford us time to grow together in the faith we share.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen

## 2023 Year End Financial Report

During our congregational meeting in January, our Finance Committee updated the church on our generosity in the year just finished.

On the whole, our receipts from all sources (offerings, community partners, Parents' Day Out, Pumpkin Patch, etc.) came in short of our expenses for the year (approximately \$33,000). While there were some extraordinary expenses we incurred in the last year, we also recognize that there are shifting dynamics in the giving patterns and capacity of our congregation. This is something to which the church's leadership is giving careful, prayerful attention as we move through this year.

We also need to note that the generosity of our Second family is a gift to celebrate, particularly in volatile economic times. Our congregation's leadership works hard to be wise stewards of the resources you share and to manage expenses in a manner that does not compromise our commitments to mission and ministry.

Thank you to everyone who shares in the ministry of giving! Every gift and every giver matters! You make a difference not only in the life of our church, but in the lives of people all over the world!

If you would like to review a detailed financial report from 2023, please contact Patti Calvert in the church office.

## Together for Hope Arkansas

Due to water system failures in the small community of Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, - complicated by last month's severe winter weather - these residents have been without water since late January. This means many residents do not have



access to adequate or safe water for drinking or cooking, bathing or flushing, or for washing clothes. A very difficult challenge for anyone but especially for a community that has experienced generations of persistent rural poverty. For over a decade, Second Baptist Church has partnered with an organization in

Helena called Together for Hope Arkansas. Daniel Johnson is on the board of that organization and leading the effort respond and help meet one of the primary emergency needs, bottled water.

Would you consider a donation so Together for Hope Arkansas can purchase water and other emergency items that can be delivered directly to Helena? For those who want to give financially, they can click [HERE](#) to donate or contact Daniel.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

For Fiscal Year 2023

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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

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](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).



### Second's Second Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 11 at 11:45 a.m.

Who from the Second Baptist community has the tastiest, hottest, and best overall chili recipe? Come find out during our Second Sunday Lunch in February! Sign up to enter your chili or dessert as we gather for this friendly – and tasty – competition!



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

Ladies, we have less than a month before our Women's Retreat! To be as prepared as possible, we ask everyone to sign up by Sunday, February 11. Spots are filling up fast!

Check-in begins at 4:00 on Friday, February 23 at the Wilsons' lake cabins. No worries about arriving late, as dinner will not be served until 6:00, followed by our first session at Sanctuary. After the session we'll be playing a group game and getting to know each other through fun ice-breakers, which will lead us into winding down for the evening with conversation, puzzles, snacks, and hot drinks.

Saturday morning starting at 8:00, each cabin will have their own time to rise and fellowship over a continental breakfast. We will all then head to our next session at Sanctuary, followed by a time of meditation or prayerful journaling, while we soak in the beauty of the lake and the surrounding forest. We'll then meet back up at the Pavilion for crafts, which will lead into lunch. After lunch will be a scheduled time to relax and connect with other women as we bring our time together to a close. Our send-off activity will be a tea party with snacks at 3:00 in the Pavilion before we head back into our daily lives and wrap up at 4:00.

We ask that, in being kind to our lovely and generous hosts, every woman is responsible for stripping her bed and making sure it is remade and used bedding ends up in the washing machines on site. If anyone needs help accomplishing that, please do not hesitate to ask!

Please feel free to reach out to Miko Montgomery at [m.montgomery8517@gmail.com](mailto:m.montgomery8517@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns. Please sign up no later than February 12 using the QR code or [CLICK HERE!](#)



SCAN ME

# Crafts Fair

Benefitting Second Baptist PDO

**MARCH 2, 2024**

**9AM - 4PM**

**Second Baptist Church - Christian Family Life Center**

**4680 Walnut Grove Rd - Memphis, TN 38117**

*Your support is greatly appreciated*



In just a few short weeks, we will enter into the season of Lent, a period of 40 days in which we acknowledge Jesus' wilderness journey that kicked off his ministry, and partake in some sort of wilderness journey ourselves. Your Lenten journey is your own, and each person will experience Lent differently through fasting, prayer, devotion, or some combination of these.

Throughout the season of Lent, you will hear these questions in worship: "What is your wilderness moment?" and "What are the blessings that came of that time?" As we move through Lent as a congregation, and you experience your own Lenten journey, I invite you to consider these questions for yourself.

## Mary Rose Hardin Concert

March 8 5:30 p.m.

*Second Baptist Church*

*Presented by  
Daniel Gilbert and Andre Duvall*



Congratulations to Jane Smothers who is celebrating her fifth anniversary as our church organist. We are grateful for her gifts and the spirit with which she shares those as she serves our Second family's music ministry. Thank you, Jane!

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February 1	Frank Vick
February 3	Frankie Hromada
February 5	Joyce Hawkins
February 5	Martha Huffman
February 5	Steve Pilgrim
February 7	Charles Biggers
February 9	Theresa Jennings
February 11	Adam Carlson
February 12	Hart Gowen
February 12	Dora Mullenix
February 13	Katie Parker
February 13	George Pearson
February 17	Rogers Smith
February 18	Shan Criswell
February 24	Andrew Smith
February 25	Debbie Cockrell
February 26	Liam Hochstein
February 29	Parker Young

Please send any family birthday updates to: [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org)

# gathered to worship

## South Africa Ministry Network

February 1-10, 2024

Please pray as Anne Bryan, Stephen Cook, and Daniel Johnson return to South Africa as representatives of Second Baptist Church. Anne Bryan will join Betsy Kammerdiener from First Baptist Chattanooga to lead a care worker retreat for staff and volunteers of our ministry partner Themba lethu. Stephen and Daniel will lead a group of pastors and lay leaders from three different churches, introducing them to our ministry partners and helping them consider if and how their churches could get involved in the South Africa Ministry Network. It is exciting to see God leading others into this network and inviting us to serve in new ways.



## Toilet Bowl 2024

Sunday, February 11, 2024

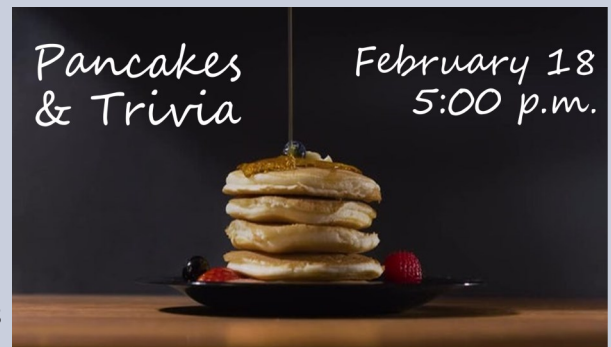


We are calling all players and fans to come out for the Toilet Bowl, our annual youth-led flag football game. Recent years have produced some amazing games and showcased the "unique" skills of our youth (and even an adult or two). Something fun or funny always happens at this annual event and you won't want to miss what could happen this year! Invite a friend and come out to play or bring a lawn chair to watch. But just come be a part of the BIG GAME. Youth arrive at 2:30 p.m. to warm up and select teams. Kickoff is at 3:00 p.m.

## Pancakes and Trivia

Sunday, February 18 at 5:00 p.m.

It's that time again. Time to enjoy a delicious pancake supper followed by a friendly trivia competition. Whether you love trivia, pancakes, or just love gathering with the Second community, this event is a wonderful time for all generations to connect, consume, celebrate, and compete. Don't miss this fun evening full of door prizes, laughs, and trivia questions coming from various categories (and generations). Sign up as an individual or reserve table either [online](#) or by contacting the church office at [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org). Feel free dress up and decorate your table or just show up and we'll decorate you 😊. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with pancakes followed by trivia.



## Mission Trip to Appalachia

Dates: June 8-15, 2024

Projects: Home Repair

Needs: Adult volunteers

\* all costs for the mission trip are covered by Pumpkin Patch funds

## Passport Camp at Converse College

Dates: July 13-19, 2024

Cost: \$500

Registration now open

Needs: Male chaperone and scholarship funds



## 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

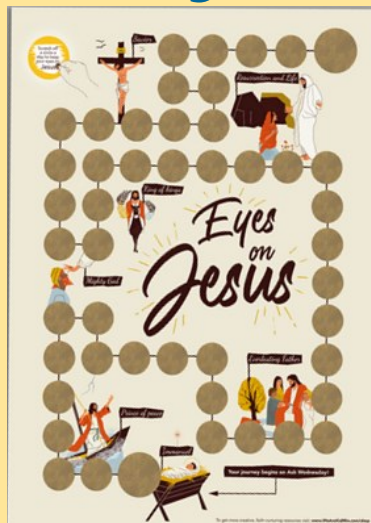
Before Camp Adventure included



# FAMILY ministry

## *Eyes on Jesus*: Family Lenten devotion

It's easy to put together an Easter basket with bunnies, candy, and eggs and have it ready for our kids when they get up on Easter morning. However, it's a little more difficult to engage them in activities that can help bring the truths of Easter to life. That is exactly the purpose of this colorful calendar—*Eyes on Jesus*—to provide parents with an easy way to create meaningful connections with their children and memorable encounters with Jesus—in the 47 days leading up to Easter. This Lenten resource that starts your day off with Scripture-focused reflection and prayer helping parents make sacred pauses in the beginning of each day starting February 14 and leading up to Easter to help them keep their eyes on Jesus—together with their children. The *Eyes on Jesus* family devotion will be available for each family beginning February 4.



## Passport Kids Camp July 13-17 ·

Eatonton, Georgia

# PASSPORTkids<sup>sm</sup>

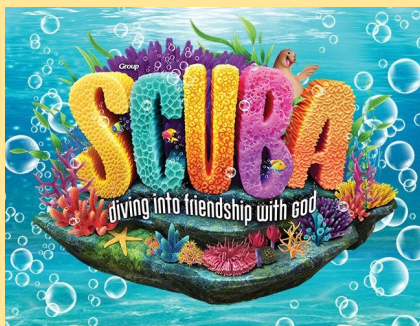
Join us for summer #4 at PassportKids camp hosted again at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Georgia. All students who have completed grades 3-5 can attend and enjoy Bible studies, mission education, recreation, and worship. Just ask anyone who went last year, and they will be able to share their fun times with outdoor games, a huge slide at the pool and meeting other campers and Passport counselors! The cost of camp is \$410 and includes a before camp adventure. A \$200 deposit is due by Sunday, March 3. Final payment is due by Sunday, June 2. Contact Tanya with questions, [to sign up](#), or if you are interested in chaperoning.

## Vacation Bible School

June 17-20, 2024

9:30 a.m.-12:00p.m.

**SCUBA!** God is a real friend who loves you forever! Grab your dive buddies for a whale of a good time! At SCUBA, kids plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever! SCUBA VBS is a Bible-rich experience grounded in real hands-on, multi-sensory learning that kids will be talking about for years to come. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!



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## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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### 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