

Encountering God at the

CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 35 Issue 9

September 2024

Front Porch Groundbreaking is Set for September 29

Save the date for the last Sunday of the month! Immediately after worship we will gather for the official groundbreaking of The Front Porch project. Alongside local partners and community leaders, we will celebrate this exciting new beginning that also coincides with opening weekend at the Pumpkin Patch. Make plans to be present for this very special day in Second's life together!



Front Porch Support Opportunity

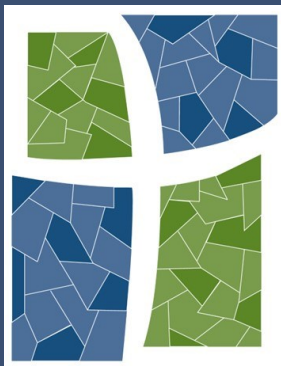
Last month, members of Second Baptist Church were invited to take part in a special giving opportunity to support the development of The Front Porch. Everyone who donates or pledges to share a gift by September 20 – regardless of the gift amount – will be recognized in a special installation honoring Second Baptist's people at the new facility.

Secure online gifts can be submitted via thefrontporchmemphis.org on the "Giving" page, or gifts designated for "The Front Porch" can be shared with the church. A box for returning pledges is also located outside the church office.

Pumpkin Patch Opens September 28

Thanks to our pumpkin patch, every fall God provides a harvest of people to whom we can reflect the love, kindness, and generosity of Christ. We know most of these people may never visit or join our church. However, as the common quote says, we "may be the only Bible some people ever read." Through our patch, we offer a safe place for children to play and families to create memories. Our patch becomes a holy place where

kindness flows and glimpses of the kingdom of God abound. Guests arrive to purchase pumpkins but depart receiving so much more. So, let the excitement begin and be sure to find your happy place in the Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch!



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

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH PUMPKIN PATCH

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

September 28 - October 31

MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00 AM until SUNSET

SUNDAY
12:00 PM - SUNSET

pumpkins - hay - corn stalks - flowers
cookies - carving kits - granola - more

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS & MINISTRY



from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

September 1:

Title: Good Riddance!

Text: James 1:17-27

OT Lesson: Psalm 15

September 8:

Title: Conversion or

Apprenticeship?

Text: Mark 1:16-18

OT Lesson: Psalm 62:5-12

September 15:

Title: Conformation or

Transformation?

Text: Romans 12:1-2

OT Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6

September 22:

Title: Admirers or Disciples?

Text: Luke 6:39-42

OT Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-11

September 29:

Title: Alone or Together?

Text: Mark 3:32-35

OT Lesson: Psalm 130

Building a Lost Room

Twentieth century memoirist Barbara G. Harrison once wrote, "Porches are America's lost rooms." Indeed, rare are the homes that are built today with front porches where families and neighbors gather to share life together.

This month, after years of prayerful, creative, imaginative, and faith-formed imagining, The Front Porch at Second Baptist will take a significant next step toward becoming reality. We are breaking ground on this visionary gathering place for our community. It is only right that, after we unload our first delivery of pumpkins and open the patch for another season of neighborly hospitality, the very next day we will turn the ceremonial spades of dirt to mark the onset of construction.

Between The Front Porch board of directors, our church's leadership team, and staff, there are a whole host of details being attended to in the hope that everyone will be kept apprised of adjustments we will need to make for construction. There will be ongoing updates as, during about a year of work, this new space comes to life.

I am excited to see what's in store. As our church has tried to faithfully open ourselves to who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do, we have walked together along a path that brings us to this moment. I have full confidence we will experience some disruptions, have some surprises, and be stretched in ways we might not even see now. (This is a construction project, after all!)

I also have full faith that we will experience God's presence, encounter opportunities for ministry, and be amazed by the grace that will meet us in the places we least expect it. (This is a step of faith for us, after all!)

What has been lost in so many places is something people will find at The Front Porch. This is the gift we have been given to give to others. Now, as much as ever, we cannot overstate how valuable that is.

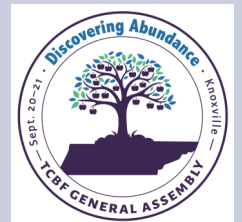
I look forward to what we have in store in the days to come. Watch for more details, updates, and opportunities to connect with this new chapter in our life together!

Grace and peace,
Stephen

Discovering Abundance

Tennessee CBF General Assembly

Friday and Saturday, September 20-21



"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness..." (2 Peter 1:3)

Join with Cooperative Baptists from across Tennessee at Central Baptist Bearden in Knoxville for fellowship, worship, and a time to explore the diverse callings God has placed on our lives and the abundant ways – through one another and our Tennessee network – that we have been equipped for each one. Registration is available at www.tn.cbf.net.

Sock Sabbath

Sock sabbath is our annual collection of *NEW* socks that support the Brinkley Heights Ministry Center. The collection starts September 1 and continues the entire month. Socks can be dropped off in the church foyer or ordered through our Amazon wish list. For the Amazon wish list link, contact the church office or look for it in the Center Your Week email. Like water to the thirsty, clean socks not only supply a need but also offer dignity and signify God's grace to the recipient.

The need for a clean pair of socks is not only a clothing issue, but a health and dignity issue. Socks help keep feet warm, dry, reduce perspiration and bacteria, and help prevent foot problems.

Sock sabbath

Bring *NEW* socks to help Brinkley Heights offer clothes & DIGNITY to our neighbors.

A collection cart will be in the main foyer for donated socks.

Sundays in September

BRINKLEY HEIGHTS

South Africa Mission Interest Meeting

Wednesday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m.



Our church's next journey to South Africa to serve alongside our ministry partners there will take place in July of 2025. Are you interested in hearing more about the plans that are taking shape? Do you sense God might be calling you to explore what serving on mission there might entail? After hearing about past teams' experiences, have you wondered what it might be like to go and experience it yourself?

If so, join us for an interest meeting on the last Wednesday of this month. We will cover everything from the values that guide our approach to mission partnerships to the details of travel, dates, and anticipated costs.

To get more information or to sign up for the interest meeting, contact Daniel Johnson at djohnson@2ndmemphis.org.

2nd

\$12 per adult

\$ 8 per child

\$32 family max

SUNDAY

luncheon

September 8, 2024

Caesar Salad

Lasagna

Garlic Bread

RSVP by calling or emailing the church office at info@2ndmemphis.org or click [HERE](#)

scattered to serve

Update Contact Info



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

gathered to worship

STEWARDSHIP

Take a peek at our generosity
and ministry costs
Year-to-date through 8/23/24

Receipts	\$552,195
Expenses	633,828
Net	(\$ 81,633)

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.

2025 Ministry Budget Preparations and Dates to Remember

Our church's committee leaders and staff are in the process of preparing a plan to fund our 2025 ministry budget. There has been much discussion this year about what we want our ministries to look like, so many voices are involved in our planning.

Once the Finance Committee finalizes the proposed 2025 ministry budget, we will mail a letter in mid-October to every household that will include a one-page summary of the financial plan. This also includes a comparative summary of the 2024 and 2025 ministry budgets so that everyone can see where adjustments are proposed.

Please mark these dates for important Congregational Meetings:

Sunday, October 20, immediately after worship: Presentation and discussion of the 2025 ministry budget

Sunday, October 27 at the beginning of worship: In person voting on the 2025 ministry budget. Online voting will take place via a digital survey available between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. that day.

Please pray that everyone involved in this process will be open to listening to the Holy Spirit's direction, and also prayerfully consider your commitment to support Second Baptist in 2025!



The Ministry of Giving

"I am an imperfect person loved by a perfect God." - Unknown
God doesn't want us to be perfect before we give our hearts to Him. God wants us, dirt and all. Surrender. Let God lead you. Allow God to love you to the fullest. God gives us everything we need and oftentimes much of what we want. God will work through you to be a blessing. Thank you as you share your financial blessings with Second to reach our community and the world. Help us share God's love with others!

- Patti Calvert





PDO is off to a great start for our 2024-2025 school year! We want to introduce you to our PDO Administrative Team (Abbi Carlson, Alexa Begonia, Becca Childress, Tanya Mabry, and Julia Cunningham). We have a lot of fun things in store for this year and we cannot wait to share them all with you in the coming months.



Join the Honey Harvest

Join our ministry partner Thistle & Bee for their annual fall fundraising event at Lanier Park on Sunday, September 29. Indulge in farm-to-table delights, sip on special blends, and enjoy live music—all while supporting survivors of trafficking and addiction. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit thistleandbee.org.

A note from Larry Denman

As the summer days wane and we approach the beautiful season of fall (and pumpkins!), it's hard to believe that Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. For us in the music ministry, this time of year brings the excitement of preparing for one of the most meaningful and joyous seasons in the church calendar.

In September, we will begin rehearsals for our Advent and Christmas services. These rehearsals are not only a time of preparation but also a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. The music we sing will help lead our congregation in worship, reflection, and celebration as we anticipate the birth of our Savior. Whether you have years of experience or are simply curious to try something new, we welcome you with open arms, even if only for the season. Singing in the choir is a wonderful way to connect with others, lift your spirit, and share your gift with our church family.

Rehearsals are every Wednesday in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm and there is a seat waiting just for you in the loft!

Holiday Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.



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September

- 2 Dennis McDuffie
- 4 Becky Lindsey
- 5 Wilkes Gowen
- 5 Wayne Robertson Jr
- 6 Bart Harris
- 11 Max Odell
- 12 Pat Luttrell
- 15 Dan Lattimore
- 18 Nicholas Keith
- 18 Miko Montgomery
- 20 Carolyn Davis
- 20 Mark Moffatt
- 22 Tommy Sexton
- 22 Bill Summons
- 23 Judy Brundige
- 25 Frank Childress
- 25 Elijah McBride
- 25 Becky Wilson
- 26 Belinda Hawkins
- 26 Carol Morse
- 29 Annie Gowen
- 29 Dani Meador
- 29 Jason Mullenix
- 30 Daniel Johnson
- 30 Sandy Long

Please send any family birthday updates to: info@2ndmemphis.org

gathered to worship



New Weekly Youth Group Meetings

For several years, our youth have not a regularly scheduled time for just them beyond the Sunday School hour. Well, that is going to change on Sunday, September 8 as we begin weekly meetings for the youth group right after church. Meetings will begin with lunch followed by a time for games and then discussion. We hope these weekly sessions will give our youth a needed time for fellowship while also helping them grow in their faith and grow closer together as a youth group. We know our youth can benefit from this

extra time to have fun and wrestle with what it means to follow Jesus in today's world. Please pray for our youth and leaders as these meetings begin. And contact Daniel if you would like to provide lunch for the youth one Sunday.

Sign up NOW to help Unload Pumpkins September 28 and October 12

Find your Pumpkin Patch shirt, invite a friend, and be a part of the fun when we unload a tractor trailer full of pumpkins and transform our front lawn into a pumpkin paradise.

Whether you can lift the biggest pumpkins, only the tiniest pumpkins – even if you can't lift any pumpkins anymore - EVERYONE is invited to participate.

Pumpkin unloading days aren't just for work, they are a day to celebrate the power of the church working together. Visit www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch for sign up links.

VOLUNTEER TO UNLOAD PUMPKINS

Join us for a time of fun and hard work as we unload a truck full of pumpkins and decorate our front yard for the community. Be one of our amazing community volunteers on one or both unload days.

Unload Pumpkins | Meet New People | Sign up to Volunteer

Have Fun | Get Volunteer Hours

Saturday, September 28 | www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch | Saturday, October 12

Second Baptist Church Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Patch Shifts

October 1 - October 31

VOLUNTEER FOR Daily Shifts

September 28 - October 31

- 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM
- 1:00 pm until 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM until SUNSET

LEARN MORE
2NDMEMPHIS.ORG/PUMPKIN-PATCH

Activities listed: PUMPKINS!, CORN & STALKS, Pumpkin Bread, Carving Kits, HOODIES

We NEED volunteers to serve daily three-hour shifts in the Pumpkin Patch! During the shift, you'll welcome people to the patch, hand out PUMPKIN BREAD, water flowers, take payments, help people to their cars, share about our church, and so much more. Be sure to invite a friend to serve with you and wear your Pumpkin Patch shirt. Don't have a shirt? We'll provide one for you. Want to serve but you can't serve the whole shift or want to serve more than three hours? No problem. Just let Daniel know and we can work around your schedule. Visit www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch to sign up.

FAMILY ministry



It is our tradition that each year on Promotion Sunday, our first graders are presented with a new Bible. So, during worship on August 11, Stephen Cook presented Ellie Ramey with her own Celebrate Wonder Deep Blue Kids Bible. As a church family, we pray that God will guide her and her family and all the children as we use this Holy Bible in Sunday School, worship and at home.



Back-to-School Kiddie Pool Kickball Party

What a fun day to celebrate going back to school for kids from babies to high school at



our Back-to-School Kiddie Pool Kickball Party. After families and friends enjoyed a delicious picnic style lunch, we gathered outside for a wet, soapy, slippery, water hose drenching, homerun kicks amazing kickball game. We all know with a fun start to our school year that it will be a fabulous one. Thanks to all who helped plan, set up and make this day happen!

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