

Encountering God at the

# CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 36 Issue 5

May 2025

## Celebrating Youth Sunday & Honoring Our Seniors Sunday, May 4

Join us for Youth Sunday—a special day where our young people step forward to lead and inspire. They'll be sharing their gifts by leading worship and teaching adult Sunday school classes, offering us all a chance to see how God is moving in their lives. Psalm 144 offers a beautiful vision: "May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace." This reflects our hope for every young person in our church—that they may grow strong in faith and purpose. That



CLASS OF  
2025

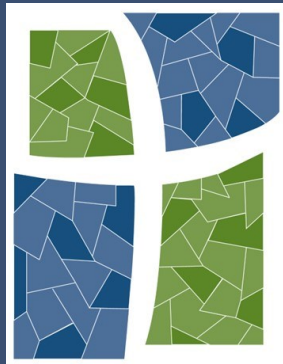
growth is nurtured not only through leadership but also through the support and encouragement of a loving church community. At the close of worship, we'll take time to recognize and celebrate the Class of 2025 high school graduates.

## Front Porch Project Construction Updates

In our April congregational meeting, we heard exciting details about the progress being made in the development of The Front Porch. In addition to the operational updates (more information about that is included inside on p. 3), we are excited to see construction continue to progress. In recent days we have seen and will be seeing:

- Framing of most walls and roughing in of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.
- Following inspections, drywall will begin to be installed which will lead to significant interior progress.
- Weatherproofing is scheduled to be applied this month with siding to follow in June.
- As of now, most sitework is complete, though there are still a few sidewalks to pour, followed by landscaping that will happen towards the end of the project in late summer.

Continue to watch for additional updates in church publications and see the progress as it happens onsite!



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



## Holiday Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need during that time, please contact the minister on-call at 901.604.6686.

# from the pastor

## SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

May 4: The Third Sunday of Easter  
Youth Sunday

May 11: The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Title: The Seat at the Center  
Text: Revelation 5:11-14  
OT Lesson: Psalm 30

May 18: Children's Sunday / The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Title: All Access  
Text: Revelation 7:9-17  
OT Lesson: Psalm 23

May 25: The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Title: Two Promises, One Hope  
Text: Revelation 21:1-6  
OT Lesson: Psalm 148

### Creating Space, Finding Our Way

In the Quaker tradition there is a phrase that frequently shows up in the face of uncertainty: *Way will open*.



*way will open*

Admittedly, the phrase sounds a bit awkward at first. It seems like it ought to have "A" or "The" in front of the word "Way."

Regardless of any grammatical quibbling, though, there is something rich and resonant about the phrase when we consider there are more than a few occasions in our lives when the path forward is unclear, when there are hard decisions to make, and when things feel impossible.

Katie Spencer, a Quaker woman whom I have gotten to know, talks about the phrase *Way will open* and points out that, "It's not passive. It's not about waiting. It's not about yielding responsibility. Way opens **when we create space for it**. When we seek it. When we're open to it. When we're quiet enough to listen."

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14). The psalmist prayed, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46).

A lot of us probably so seldom practice stillness well enough and long enough that we rarely leave much room for the "still, small voice" to speak. Who has time or patience to wait for such as that?

And yet, when we *do* practice being present with and for God to speak, there is a peace and clarity and confidence that comes as a way forward opens.

In the comings and goings of our lives, we not only owe it to ourselves – we owe it to our loving, calling, guiding God – to daily practice being still, listening, and trusting the truth: *Way will open*.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen

### BHUA Marks Another Milestone

In 2017, the Brinkley Heights Urban Academy (BHUA) celebrated its first graduating class of high school seniors. Since its inception and continuing now, members of Second Baptist Church have been deeply invested in this private Christian school for children in our community.



On Friday, May 9 our church is privileged to play host again to the commencement exercises for BHUA as another class graduates. The celebration begins at 6:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, followed by a reception afterwards. This is a wonderful night to share encouragement and support to the students, teachers, and administrators of one of our long-time ministry partners making a deep impact in our community.

## Front Porch Progress Report

Over the last several weeks you have likely noticed the remarkable progress being made on The Front Porch. Construction is well underway, and we are thrilled to share that we are on track for completion by September 25, 2025. As we look ahead, we plan to celebrate this milestone with a Grand Opening celebration in November. During Pumpkin Patch season in October, we will hold a series of open houses to welcome both church members and our wider Memphis community—giving everyone the opportunity to explore this new space of connection and belonging.



Beyond the construction, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity that has propelled this project forward. Thanks to the unwavering support of the Memphis community and the Second family, we have raised \$3,800,000 toward our \$5,000,000 goal. This generosity speaks volumes: it proves how deeply people desire a welcoming place to gather, connect, and find community. We could not have made it this far without the faith, dedication, and financial support of our church members and those who believe in our mission.

In addition to providing a space for gathering, The Front Porch campus will include 14 office spaces that will be utilized by valued partners in the City of Memphis. Nine offices will be home to Milla's House, part of the Baptist Center for Good Grief, offering free grief counseling to those who have lost a loved one. One office will be occupied by a therapist from the Christian Psychological Center, providing additional counseling resources. That leaves us with three open offices, available to those who want to establish their work in this prime location. We hope to fill these spaces with tenants whose mission is to better the lives of others and enrich our community. If you know someone searching for office space that aligns with this vision, please encourage them to contact me at [melissa@tfpmemphis.org](mailto:melissa@tfpmemphis.org).

As we move toward our opening, we are thrilled to offer future volunteer opportunities to our church members. We are incredibly grateful to Carmen Anderson and Sandra Livesay for spearheading this effort. We will offer Hospitality Host positions with two-hour shifts, during which volunteers will welcome guests, assist with events, and connect people to activities happening in the area. If you're interested in joining this meaningful effort, please contact Carmen or Sandra to be added to our Volunteer Interest List.

Along with providing a place to gather and grow, The Front Porch will be a vibrant hub for community events. We are excited to announce that we will host a minimum of 12 free public events each year, centered around the theme of Rest, Renew, and Restore. From live outdoor music and porch plays to meditation practices, book conferences, game nights, and fun-filled family days, our programming will be intentional in bringing people together for meaningful connection. Building on the variety of programs already thriving on the church campus we are expanding opportunities to collaborate with nonprofit organizations, including the Memphis Zoo, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Iris Collective, Baptist Center for Good Grief, Playback Memphis, and more. If you have ideas for programs or events that you would love to see at The Front Porch, we welcome your suggestions and look forward to creating experiences that serve our congregation and community.

Together, we will ensure that The Front Porch will be a space where everyone feels welcome and people come together to Rest, Renew and Restore. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Melissa Todd  
Executive Director

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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

Year-to-date through 4/25/25

Receipts \$ 310,674  
 Expenses 314,747  
 Net (\$ 4,073)

#### STEWARDSHIP

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

- Cash and Checks
- 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).

# Class of 2025



## Kirsten Bryan

**High School:** Houston High School  
**Plans to attend:** University of Memphis  
**Major:** Illustration



## Benjamin Cook

**High School:** Houston High School  
**Plans to attend:** Belmont University in  
 the Global Honors Program  
**Major:** Political Science and Public Policy



## Wilkes Gowen

**High School:** Memphis University School  
**Plans to attend:** University of Georgia  
**Major:** Economics in the Morehead  
 Honors College



# O.J. Johnson

**High School:** White Station High School  
**Plans to attend:** Southwest Community College  
**Major:** Graphic Design



# Nicholas Keith

**High School:** Christian Brothers High School  
**Plans to attend:** University of Memphis  
**Major:** Film



# Henry Mallory

**High School:** Crosstown High School  
**Plans to attend:** Cornell University  
**Major:** Business in the Dyson School of Applied Economics



# Wilson Young

**High School:** St. George's Independent School  
**Plans to attend:** Texas Christian University  
**Double Major:** Psychology & Strategic Communications

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- May 1 Jon Densford
- May 2 Luke Mallory
- May 5 Anita Langston
- May 6 Elliot Boggan
- May 7 Garry Breland
- May 7 Abbi Carlson
- May 7 Noah Mullenix
- May 14 Charlie Ann Carlson
- May 17 Matt Weems
- May 19 Amy Keith
- May 19 Debbie McDuffie
- May 20 SaBrenna Boggan
- May 20 Ginny Ramey
- May 25 Stephen Cook
- May 25 Martha McCleskey
- May 25 Matt Meador
- May 25 Mary Smith
- May 27 Alice Moffatt
- May 29 Keith Langston

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

# gathered to worship

"All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast."  
Proverbs 15:15

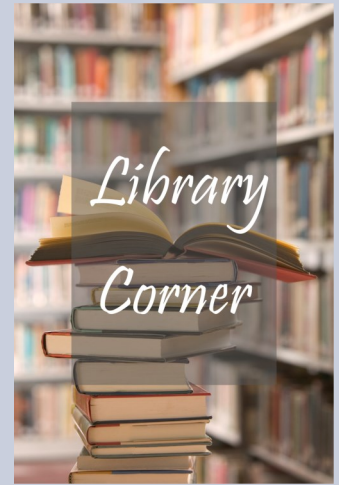
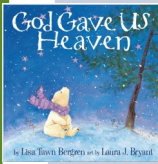
As we celebrate the season of Eastertide, the 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, we are so grateful for all God has given to us. Thank you for your generosity to Second Baptist through your prayers, service, and gifts. We are all individual parts of one body; the beautiful body of Christ!

Patti Calvert  
Financial Administrator  
Second Baptist Church

For adults: We have recently added a book entitled The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy. The author offers inspiring conversations on hope, love and personal growth in these difficult times. It is a #1 New York Times Bestseller which has been adapted into an animated film.



For children: The library has two new Llama Llama books: Llama Llama loves to read and Llama Llama nighty-night and we have added God gave us Heaven by Lisa Bergren. This gentle story provides satisfying answers for a young child's most difficult questions about what happens after this life.



## Thank You for Donating Undies

During March, Second Baptist hosted its annual Undie Sundays collection of underwear for the Brinkley Heights Clothes Closet. Thanks to our generous donors, we collected 533 pairs of underwear. Since we started counting in 2022, Second Baptist has provided 2,554 pairs of underwear to those who would otherwise have less dignified options. Thank you to all those over the years who have shared God's love by sharing generously with God's children.



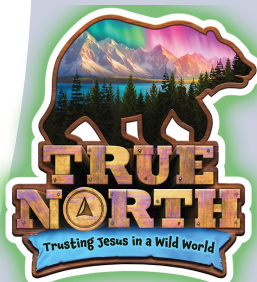
## Ms. Roz Learning Playdate

In the Gospels, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." In addition, those around Jesus called him Rabbi which means teacher. At the beginning of 2024, another teacher and Second Baptist church member, Roz Plummer, moved her educational program and ministry for children (Ms. Roz's Playdate) into a room in the Christian Family Life Center. It can actually be difficult to describe Roz's program because it breaks many molds. Among other things, Ms. Roz provides 1) afterschool programming each Monday through Thursday 2) monthly Friday parent fellowships and development 3) monthly Friday date nights for parents 4) monthly Saturday all-day playdates and 5) full day programming during fall break, spring break, and summer. Ms. Roz also attends school and sports activities for the children. She also, at the request of parents, meets with school administrators to help parents navigate IEP meetings and also learn the educational needs of students. Ms. Roz's Playdate is more than a program, it is a family and we are fortunate to have their family a part of our Second family.

## VBS: Sunday mornings in June!

Something new and DIFFERENT this summer?

*TRUE NORTH! Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!! We have Jesus—our true north! Give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus—their unmovable, unshakeable friend forever!*



Children ages 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade, join us each Sunday morning from 9:00-10:15 a.m. for VBS fun on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor! We will take you on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, raging rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

# FAMILY ministry

Celebrating the Lenten Season...  
"He is not here, He is risen," Matthew 28:6

What a beautiful Lenten season we have had celebrating our risen Lord this year! Our entire church family has been involved in many ways. Each year our children have participated as Lenten worship leaders extinguishing the candles weekly. A big thank you to Adelaide, River, Iva Kate, Amos, Gibby, Charlie Ann, Carter, Harry, Davis, Joseph, and Ellie. Our children of all ages marked the beginning of Holy Week on Palm Sunday, leading the triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palm branches which they placed at the foot of the cross.

Each child made a mini resurrection garden to take home. The mini garden is a gentle but meaningful way for families to guide our children through this amazing Easter story.

We celebrated our annual Easter egg hunt with over 125 participants from our church and partnerships and the community. The Easter Bunny was on hand to make a photo memory for each family. While the children enjoyed making crafts and decorating cookies, everyone enjoyed gathering eggs which were filled with candy and reminders of the season such as bracelets with Bible verses on them. A HUGE thanks to our 2BC family for staying after lunch to help stuff eggs with treats and providing so many filled eggs for our egg hunt!



Easter Sunday found many of us rejoicing in our risen Lord and celebrating by placing a flower in our sanctuary cross. Thank you, Demi, for returning the Christ candle to our worship service Easter morning. It was a blessing to have so many of our church family involved in each activity!



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PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP  
June 14-20, 2025  
Converse University  
Spartanburg, SC  
Completed 6th- 12th grades



PASSPORT KIDS CAMP  
July 12-16, 2025  
Rock Eagle 4H Center  
Eatonton, GA  
Completed 3rd-5th grades



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**Julia Cunningham**  
Youth Ministry Intern