



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

200 E. Parkway N.
Memphis, TN 38112-5414
901-454-1131
www.fbcmemphis.org

REMINDERS

2020 Graduates
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Giving Options
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Together

Vol 36 No 5

May 2020



Giving Wholly

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

I've kept the offering envelope all these years as a symbol of faithful stewardship. It is #89 and is dated January 23, 2000. Obviously, there is a back story to this memento, so allow me to introduce to you the late Mary Babb.

We had been in our church in Little Rock not quite four years when Mary died, one day after the date marked on that offering

envelope . . . which just happened to be Janet's and my 30th wedding anniversary. Mary had struggled with crippling arthritis for several years prior to her death, but she did not let that keep her from giving witness to her quiet and humble faith, and revealing a strength that went beyond her physical condition.

We held Mary's service on a weather-threatened Thursday morning. I had heard the forecast of snow, and during the reception held prior to the service I looked out through the church's expansive parlor windows at the gray clouds, wondering if and when the skies might open up. So far, we had managed to bite the bullet, and I silently hoped (if not prayed) for a delay in what the prognosticators had promised. So far, so good.

At the conclusion of the service, we opened up the front doors of the church and there it was . . . a heavy snow had commenced during the service and had already produced at least two, possibly three, inches of the white stuff. And it was still coming down.

Little Rock, as is Memphis, is not good with weather events such as this. While the procession was still parked at the curb

in front of the church, preparing to depart for the cemetery, the driver of a pickup truck attempted to turn left off an adjacent, downhill street. It would require a sharp left turn, a fairly tricky maneuver in good weather, due to the height and angle of the intersection. As I sat with a guest officiating minister in my car, I said to no one in particular, except for the driver of the truck, "Don't do it! Don't do it!" He did it, and sure enough he plowed into the side of the family car.

It got worse. Traffic was completely stopped on a major, usually busy, thoroughfare on the way to the cemetery. Realizing we weren't going anywhere anytime soon, I finally got out of my car and walked up to the funeral director seated behind the wheel of the funeral home family car. I suggested we all try to get home as best we could and schedule Mary's burial for another day when the weather would be a bit more favorable. Her sons, who were sitting in the back seat of the vehicle, agreed and we buried Mary the following Monday . . . with snow still on the ground.

It was then that Martin, her elder son,

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BEING CHURCH

Flower Cross

HOLY SATURDAY TRADITION



“Hope is in bloom in Memphis” reads the sign that we had printed to place alongside the Flower Cross this year. We know that this year, more than ever, our cross will be a symbol of hope for our community.

In keeping with social distancing,

we decided to keep the flower cross under wraps and a small group effort.

Rachel Greer from Rachel’s Flowers and Gifts, the Malone family, and the Richardson family, along with manual labor from the Wrights, Vogels, and Hankins, were able to take shifts on Holy Saturday working on our cross.

Ms. Rachel pre-arranged the flowers in “cages,” making for easy attachment and a lighter work load for our volunteers, and they were beautifully done.

We are so lucky to have good neighbors like Rachel to partner with, and we hope that this cross was a blessing to our city!

BEING CHURCH

Easter Worship

FAMILY WORSHIP VIA ZOOM

Y’all, I cannot tell you how distressed I was at having to cancel our Easter Egg Hunt this year. I just kept thinking, “It won’t feel like Easter without it!”

Next came the pressure of feeling like I had to make that up to our families in some way, and I wrestled with how best to provide Easter fun without 1) overwhelming families already loaded with work/school work and stress, and 2) setting a good example regarding our Shelter in Place rules.



Conversations were had with a couple of my families about what they would like to see and one response kept popping up over and over; The Duck and The Bunny. These two old, worn, somewhat creepy characters from our annual egg hunt (they are lovingly referred to as “the scary duck and

rabbit”) were what people most wanted to see.

So, I asked the Wright boys to

“suit up” and we took pictures and videos to post for our church family. I got tickled when Susan Weaver saw the pictures and asked “Did we get a new bunny costume?!” I said “Nope. We’re just so happy to see that old rabbit that it looks better than ever!”

Then, from the safety of our homes, at the end of our Zoom Family Worship Saturday night, the bunny and the duck joined us for silly songs and a dance party. And, you know what? It was just as fun and joyful as a big elaborate egg hunt. Easter joy was just a matter of all of us being together, giggling and wiggling with these two old furry friends. I hope these pictures bring you a little of that Easter joy!

—Holly



GIVING

FBC's Giving Options

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

During these uncertain times, First Baptist plans to be there for each of its families by providing ministerial guidance, spiritual comfort and leadership, connecting our members to each other, and more.

As well, First Baptist needs your help. The church needs all those who are able to continue your financial support so to continue its ministries. Though we are not physically worshipping together during the week and on Sundays, allowing you the opportunity to place your gifts in an offering plate, your support can be easily sent to FBC via several convenient options.

Mail

You may continue to mail your check to the church, FBC, Attn: Financial Administrator, 200 E Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112.

Online via our website

You may give via our website, fbcmemphis.org/giving, using a credit card.

Online via your bank's bill pay or ACH Payments

If you already pay your household bills through online banking, you can simply add First Baptist Church as a new additional payee. The address you would use for

payment is 200 E. Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112. Phone # 901-454-1131. You will need to put your FBC member envelope number in as your payee account number. If you do not know your member envelope number, email Lisa Butts at lbutts@fbcmemphis.org and she will send it to you. You can put in an amount to send automatically each time period (you decide the time period), or you can simply go in each week/month/etc., and have the amount sent to us just as you would other bills.

For those who would prefer to have an automatic payment set-up from your bank account or credit card, you can request ACH Form from the finance office, complete it, sign, and return to the finance office at FBC, 200 E. Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112. The form will lead you through completion. You have the option of specifying what account you want to the amount to be deducted from, how much, how often, and whether or not you want an ending date or until otherwise notified. Once Lisa receives your form, she will read it over and call you if there are any questions.

If anyone has questions concerning these giving methods, please email Lisa Butts (lbutts@fbcmemphis.org).

God Bless and stay healthy!

WORSHIP

Worship Options Available

11 AM, SUNDAYS

We want to thank everyone for their patience as we continue to work on worship options for our members.

We will have a worship service broadcast on radio stations 680 FM or 92.9 FM at 11 am. A worship time is available each Sunday on our Facebook page and our (new) YouTube account also at 11 am.

Several SS classes are using the church's zoom account to have weekly meetings. If your Sunday School class would like to schedule a class, a representative should contact Bridget Ellis (bellis@fbcmemphis.org).

GIVING

Note from Finance Committee

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

During this pandemic there are many financial challenges for personal, business, and churches. Many of you have been sending in your financial support already, and we thank you.

The government is now providing stimulus funds to individuals. Please keep the support of the church in mind as you make your personal financial decisions.

If you are able to use a portion of your stimulus money to support First Baptist Church, it would have a significant impact on our being able to keep our commitments and missions.

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a different way to be Baptist

Giving Wholly Continued from page 1

handed me the envelope. It included a check for \$136, made out by Mary just prior to her death. It was her final financial gift to her church. Of course, Martin could have disposed of the check and I would never have been any wiser. But he told me that his mother would have wanted this gift given to her church.

The title of my homily/meditation at Mary's funeral was, "The Ingredients of a Godly Life." Offerings to one's church are a part of those ingredients. It is not first on the list, and never would I tell you that it is the most important aspect of one's devotion to God. But it is indicative of where our hearts are (Jesus said something about that, didn't he?), and there is no doubt in my mind that Mary's heart was given wholly to her Master and her church. And that is why I still have that envelope.

CHURCH

Congratulations, Graduates!

2020 GRADUATES

Matthew Newberry

Stratford Academy

Honor's Program, Elon College

Grandparents: Randy & Janet Hyde

Ben Rush

University of Alabama

Grandparents: Jim & Mary Ann Rogers