



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

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

REMINDERS

Small Group Live Worship resumes September 13. Learn more on page 2.

Summer Recap Learn more on page 3.

Giving Options
Learn more on page 2.

September activities for Youth & Families is on page 2.

Together

Vol 36 No 6

September 2020



Bapterian

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

Following my retirement, the six months I served on staff at Second Presbyterian in Little Rock provided me a new and different challenge, one I enjoyed thoroughly. For one thing, I already knew a number of people in the church, including the pastor, largely through my community work in Rotary. Second Presbyterian is a large church and consists of almost

half of the PCA-related Presbyterians in the entire state of Arkansas. I also quickly discovered that the church was chock-full of former Baptists, and they seemed to connect rather quickly with my approach to ministry. One of the most satisfying things I did while there was to lead a month-long Sunday school study on David, to a class of about a hundred people who eagerly participated in our discussions. It was during this time that I happily referred to myself as a Bapterian!

It goes both ways, evidently. John Buchanan retired about five years ago as editor of *Christian Century*. In a column entitled, "Born again and again," he tells of his boyhood experiences. If you are of the same era, his remembrances should strike a familiar chord.

"I was exposed to revivalism," he says, "including the tent variety, by next-door neighbors. We Buchanans were steady Presbyterians but didn't get overheated about it; our neighbors were red-hot Baptists who went to church twice on Sunday and also on Wednesday evenings... When evangelists came through town,

they helped arrange revival meetings in their church or a large circus tent.

I also attended the Baptist Young People's Union. They featured great songs, Bible memorization contests that I excelled at, plentiful snacks, and cute girls. I tagged along to the revivals. The evangelist illustrated his sermon with a large flannel board and colorful characters and coordinated his appeal with the organist, who began playing softly and compellingly as the sermon came to its climax."

Buchanan tells of accepting Christ in a tent meeting, and his parents' reaction. His mother told him that for some "conversion is not a onetime, emotionally laced event but a process and that maybe I had taken one small step in a larger journey."

He then adds... "Conversion is both decision and process, and a 'decision for Christ' is made every day for the rest of our lives. We decide in the context of the lives we live —lives of amazing complexity with economic, political, and relational challenges, with moments of deep disappointment but also moments of great

Continued on page 4

WORSHIP

Small Group Led Worship in Sanctuary to Resume

SEPTEMBER 13, 11 AM

The Reopening Task Force has met and their recommendations have been discussed and confirmed by the deacons. On September 13, the small group-led worship service will resume, with the hopes that fairly soon after we can return to in-person worship.

One of the positive things that have come from our virtual worship is live streaming; that is, making it available for viewing on social media outlets such as Facebook and YouTube. We have heard from people outside the church who have benefitted from our worship, so we are grateful for this outreach opportunity. Before this, our only outlet was through our radio broadcasts.

The equipment has been purchased and is now being tested, which will enable us to live stream from the sanctuary. In our remote worship, the only way we could do it effectively was by recording and then editing the various worship elements together. Now, under the guidance of Scott Malone and those who will be working with him, we will be able to do it live. Thank you, Scott!

Obviously, the closer we get to our target date—and beyond for in-person worship—we will keep you apprised.

Let's keep the faith and pray for one another, our church, and our community!

GIVING

Financial Update

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

We are grateful for your continued financial support of FBC during this pandemic. Though we are not physically worshipping together, 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: www.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 using the church address and phone number and include your envelope number. Email Lisa Butts to get your envelope number. You can put in an amount to send automatically each 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. The form will lead you through completion. You have the option of specifying what account you want to the amount to be deducted from, the amount, frequency, and whether or not you want an ending date.

If anyone has questions concerning these giving methods, please email Lisa Butts (lbutts@fbcmemphis.org). God Bless and stay healthy!

YOUTH

Youth Sunday Nights

SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM

This fall, our Youth will be meeting outdoors on Sundays from 5-7 pm. The first hour will be spent in Bible study and connection, and the second hour will be spent in pure silliness. We will, of course, practice physical distancing and will wear masks appropriately. If you would like to host the Youth in your yard, please let Holly know.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Family Variety Show

SEPTEMBER 26, 7 PM

Hey, kids! Join Ms Holly for Zoom Family Variety Show on Sat., Sept. 26 at 7 pm. Each family will have time to perform a skit, song, dance, home-made movie, or works of art. This is going to be fun!

FAMILIES & YOUTH

Summer Recap

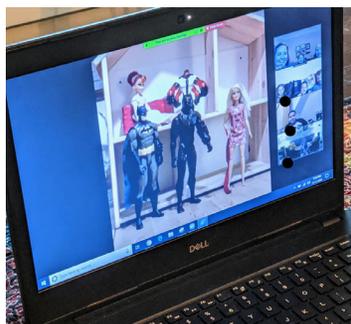
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Well, we did it! We made it through a summer of pandemic and quarantine! Thank you all for participating and for all of the support and encouragement along the way. Here are a few pictures from Summer 2020.

Youth Friends-Day Wednesdays



Vacation Bible Saturdays



FBC Kids Arty Party



FBC Family Drive-In Movie



Promotion Sunday



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

Published Monthly by
First Baptist Church
200 E Parkway N
Memphis TN 38112

Please send address changes to:
TOGETHER
200 E Parkway N
Memphis TN 38112-5414

Email: bellis@fbcmemphis.org

a different way to be Baptist

Bapterian, Continued from page 1

beauty and ecstasy. We decide daily to be Christ's man or woman and to stumble along behind him that day as best we can.

But not for a moment do I regret or resent what happened in that tent when a preacher placed his hands on my head and asked Jesus to save me. It was one step in a journey that I've been on throughout my life and that has taken me places where I never expected to be. In some way, at some time, each of us has to get up out of our chair and decide to take a first step."

We do indeed learn from one another, do we not, regardless of how we identify ourselves?

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Hubert McCommon** by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith

In memory of **Mildred Houser** by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith

In memory of **Ann Hall** Ms. Willena Highsmith

FBDS

FBDS Update

FBDS MAKE CARDS FOR THE VILLAGE RESIDENTS

The PreK students of First Baptist Day School used their first day of this school year to make some art for the assisted living and nursing home residents at The Village at Germantown.

