



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

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REMINDERS

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Pastor Search Committee
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Suspended. Learn more on
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Together

Vol 37 No 1

January 2021



Moving into 2021

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

Last year at this time, obviously unaware that an enemy named *Covid* was quietly invading our land, Janet and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.

We joined our children and grandchildren for a delightful two or three days in Gatlinburg. Just goes to show how things can change in one year.

It could go without saying, but I will say it anyway, that 2020 is not going to go down as our most illustrious period in history. And, just because we have turned the page on this past year doesn't mean that much will change for a while. We are hoping the vaccine will help, of course, but if we think that is license for us to behave the way we were doing – say, this time last year – we are fooling only ourselves. Bro. Corona isn't listening. The virus isn't going to give up without a fight.

The church, institutionally, is as affected by this as any other entity. Those of you who love our church, are committed to it and constantly pray that we will get through this, will be reading these words. Only you. So this is what I ask of you in terms of your consideration...

Pray for our church. I am confident you are doing this already, have been doing it as long as you have been involved with this congregation, and are asking God to lead us to be a continual light in our community. May I suggest you also ask, in your prayers, that God guide you in being a vital part of the church's response to the challenges

which confront it. In other words, put feet to your prayers. Otherwise, it could just be wishful thinking.

Be the church where you are. You may respond, "But because of the coronavirus I'm not going anywhere!" My guess is that you encounter more people, and have more influence on others, than you might suspect. Look for opportunities to live out your faith by your attitude, your kindness, your desire to serve the person who is in front of you. Think of how Jesus lived his life and seek to mirror that behavior.

If there are any lingering resentments toward anyone, especially someone in our faith family, work – and I do mean work – to rid yourself of such. These feelings affect you more than they do the other person. We must be one in spirit.

Be as supportive of your new pastor — whoever he or she may be - as you have been of me. Pray for our newly-selected search committee. In the December 17 *Table Talk* I printed a prayer for this group. If you have seen it, feel free to use it as

FBC

Annual Church Conference

JAN. 24 AT 5 PM, VIA ZOOM

Please mark your calendar for our **Annual Church Conference** on **Sunday, January 24** at **5 pm** via Zoom.

You can join the meeting using a laptop, tablet, or mobile device by clicking on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/3428095598?pwd=cEJrT0tjOUpCMWlhOERpQjc4MnJuQT09>

The Meeting ID: 342 809 5598 and Passcode: 5RmWQP

At this time the church body will approve the 2021 Church Budget and new committee members.

Contact the church office for more details.

From Moving into 2021, Continued from page 1

a model for your own prayer. Improve on it! If your prayer runs deeper in your soul than does the one I offered, pray it fervently, that God will lead the person to us who will guide our church to face the challenges that await us.

Finally, *let's not be satisfied with going back to what was*. Life, if for no other reason than Covid-19, will be different. Remember how 9/11 changed things? So will this invasive and destructive illness. But we can emerge from it stronger and better because our ultimate faith, while grateful for scientific breakthroughs, is in the One who created us and calls to be Christ followers.

I hope this will be a useful guide to you as we continue our journey together in 2021.

God Bless, Randy

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign to Raise Funds for Replacement of AHU & Chillers

First Baptist Church's capital improvement fund-raising campaign will conclude at the end January 2021, and will allow us to replace our aging A/C systems.

Deacons voted unanimously to support a recommendation from the finance committee to move forward with the replacement of the chiller as well as the air handler in the Chapel.

Our goal is to raise at least \$100,000 with the remainder of the cost, estimated at \$125,000, to be paid from our reserve funds.

It may seem odd to be concerned with cooling the church just as winter is approaching. But the process to replace the chillers takes about 12 weeks and needs to be completed prior to the onset of warmer weather in the spring.

Our beloved church building is 70 years old and as with any structure of that age, there will be maintenance needs that are necessary from time to time.

At the printing of the newsletter, \$20,700 has been raised toward our goal of \$100,000.

We ask for your prayerful support as well as your financial support as we continue this fund-raising campaign which will ensure we are able to continue worshiping in this beautiful, sacred space for years to come.

If you have any questions about this process please contact a church staff member or Tom Marchand at fbcmemphisdeacons@gmail.com.

Tom Marchand
Deacon Chair

Jason Callahan
Finance Chair

Sunday School Glorious & Good

We are excited to have Julia Goldie Day who will be teaching the Glorious and Good curriculum to the Connect 4 and Youth Sunday School classes in January.

Reverend Julia Goldie Day is a Baptist pastor who has served churches in Tennessee and South Carolina, mainly working with children and youth. She is married to Ben and parent to Jasper, Barak, and Jillian and lives in Germantown, TN. She is an artist, a writer, preacher, and advocate for children and teenagers to live their fullest lives as image-bearers of God.

Julia will be a guest preacher in worship on February 14.

For more information contact Holly Hatton.

PRAYER GARDEN Memorial Prayer

A plaque in memory of Bob Flowers, was added to the Prayer Garden Memorial wall, donated by his family.

For more information on final arrangements in the First Baptist Church Memorial Prayer Garden contact Sandra Chandler.

FBC TRANSITION

Pastor Search Committee Approved by Church

On Sunday, December 13 during a called business meeting the following slate was approved as the Pastor Search Committee:

Approved Slate for Pastor Search Committee:

Deacon: Richard Wright

Young Adult: Laura Locke

Mid. Age Adult: Shannon Malone

Senior Adult: Betty Wilson

Children's Leader: April Blankenship

Missions Leader: Cherish Mathis

Youth Parent: Michael Pfrommer

Single Adult: Cathy Wilhelm

At-Large Position: Tom Marchand

Please keep the Pastor Search Committee and FBC in your prayers.

WORSHIP

In-person worship suspended; FBC moves back to Phase One

It has been confirmed by the Re-Opening Task Force and approved by the Deacons that FBC has moved back to Phase One, which is the closing of our sanctuary to the congregation for worship.

A virtual format of worship will be edited together by staff and lay worship leaders and will be available to view at 11 am Sundays on the church's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fbcmemphis) or the church's YouTube channel.

You can also listen to the service on the radio Sundays at 11 am on ESPN

92.9 FM or ESPN 680 AM.

This is a result of Shelby County surpassing the "tripwires" that had been set previously by the Task Force and Deacons when the 7-day average of new cases occur.

Please be in prayer for our church, the community, and the entire world as we look to the future when we can come together and worship our Lord.

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MEMORIALS

In memory of **Bob Flowers** by

Mark & Sally Smith
Mark & Susan Weaver
Louise Lee
Jeanne McCarty
Mary Katherine Stout
Ann Powell
Beth & Mike Mikeska
Robert & Lydia Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Kirkpatrick Bobo
Suzette Coors
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield
Willena Highsmith
Jim & Mary Ann Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Don Pritchard

In memory of **Dorthea Chryssanthis** by

Willena Highsmith

In memory of **Vera Hankins** by

Kate Weathersby
Ann Powell

In memory of **Iva Lou &
Bob Flowers** by

Marcus Ehrhardt
Lucas Ehrhardt
Georgia Wellborn
Lea Davis
Kenneth Woodmansee
Harris Quinn
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Meeks

In memory of **Linda Marks** by

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield

In memory of **Polly Bristow** by

Mark & Sally Smith

In memory of **Snowden
& Martha Hawkins** by

Lora Jobe Burke
Paula McPeak

In memory of **Iva Lou Flowers** by

Troy Zerilla
Mark & Susan Weaver
Jeanne McCarty
Patricia Peeples

In memory of **George &
Vivienne McHenry** by

Carolyn, J. P. & Patti McHenry Williams

In memory of **John B. &
Vivienne Wyckoff** by

Carolyn, J. P. & Patti McHenry Williams