



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

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Together

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From the late Oscar Romero

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

- It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
- The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
- We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is

complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

- No statement says all that could be said.
- No prayer fully expresses our faith.
- No confession brings perfection.
- No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
- No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about...

- We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
- We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
- We lay foundations that will need further development.
- We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
- We cannot do everything, and there

is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

- This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
- It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
- We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
- We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
- We are prophets of a future not our own.
- The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
- Believing that should not cause us to despair. Quite the contrary, it should give us the hope that the God who is beyond our vision will strengthen, restore, and keep us as we make our journey to the cross and BEYOND!

Randy

REMINDERS

Re-opening Update

Learn more on page 2.

Ordination Service of Holly Hatton

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Pastor Search Committee

update. Learn more on page 2.

SS Classes Return to Church

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CBF: Together on the Move

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Children & Youth Summer Events

Learn more on page 3.

RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

Update from the Re-opening Task Force

The reopening task force and the deacons have met and approved new guidelines regarding face masks and other procedures.

Beginning immediately face masks will still be required while entering or exiting the building as well as at anytime while moving through the building. In accordance with CDC recommendations, masks will not be required while seated in the sanctuary if you are fully vaccinated.. At this time, we still request that you sign in upon arrival.

In the coming weeks, the ensemble performing during worship services will expand to eight singers. Our sanctuary and Welcome Center will continue to be sanitized each Saturday to ensure it is safe for everyone to attend services on Sunday.

The senior adult Sunday School Class returned to in-person meeting in April. Several other classes have been making plans to return to in-person meeting beginning sometime in June.

We appreciate everyone's faithfulness and grace as we navigate through the pandemic as safely as possible.

Pastor Search

Update from Your Pastor Search Committee

We are happy to report that we are making excellent progress as a committee. We have been interviewing candidates via Zoom during May and will continue in June.

We are very excited about the highly-qualified candidate pool that has developed. We are impressed with their personalities, knowledge, education, and experience. The caliber of the applicants is giving us multiple options to consider as we pray for God's leading to the right person. We have been amazed at how unified we are about each candidate even though we are a very diverse group. We appreciate your prayers and can feel them with us. We know that God is in our midst and is leading us to the right person.

Respectfully, April, Betty, Cherish, Michael, Richard, Shannon, Tom and Cathy.

CHURCH

Ordination of Holly Hatton

MAY 23, 2021



On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Memphis gathered to affirm and ordain Holly Hatton. Rev. Sarah Jobe, who grew up at FBC, preached the service.

The Ordination Council was led by Rev. Dr. Carol Richardson and included Lora Chilton Burke; Rev. Dr. Randy Hyde; Rev. Dr. Courtney Pace; Rev. Marc Pendley; Mike Ward; Rev. Richard Wright; and Catherine Kellett.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Returns to FBC

At this time, we are allowing each Sunday School class to determine the best time for them to return to meeting regularly at the church. When your Sunday School class is ready to return to church on Sunday mornings, the teacher should send an e-mail to Bridget Ellis (bellis@fbcmemphis.org) letting us know the date you would like to return. We'll provide you with any necessary information to ensure the return of your Sunday School class will be as safe as possible.

TOGETHER FOR HOPE

On the Move: Together For Hope

MAY 15-AUGUST 15, 2021



First Baptist Memphis is participating in the On the Move Together for Hope to raise awareness and money for Together for Hope (a CBF missions project that ministers to

the poorest counties in the US) and to encourage all of us to MOVE more.

This is a virtual project that began May 15 and goes through August 15. For \$30 you can sign up at <http://cbfky.org/Tchaikovsky-virtual-walk-run-swim-ride>. You will get more info (and a cool t-shirt) when you sign up. Gayla Foscue (gayla.foscue@gmail.com) will be happy to answer questions. Donations are accepted. Checks payable to First Baptist Church with "Together for Hope" on memo line.

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Linda Haywood** by

Gayla Foscue
Brandi Posey
Bill & Betty Wilson
Willena Highsmith

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

Brandon & Joe Morrison

In memory of **Doris Green** by

Willena Highsmith

HONORARIA

In honor of **Ray Hatton** by

Jim & Patsy Donnell

In honor of **Glenn & Jeanine Everton** by

Jim & Patsy Donnell

In honor of **Kathleene Sims** by

Jim & Patsy Donnell

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children & Youth Summer Events

JUNE-AUGUST

*Beginning in June Youth will meet up on Wednesdays for Friends-day Wednesdays. A sign-up sheet will go out for backyard hosts.

*Beginning in June kids will have the option of attending Temple on Sundays at either 10 am in person or 3 pm via Zoom. Keep an eye out for Kid's Pop-Up Play Days throughout the summer.

June

June 5: Youth Senior Celebration
June 19: Vacation Bible SWIM @Wilson's 1-3 pm
June 21-27: Youth Beach Trip to Gulf Shores, AL

July

July 17: Vacation Bible SWIM @Kellett's 1-3 pm
July 18: Youth Dive-In Movie @Burton's 7 pm

August

August 15: 6th Grade Promotion and Messy Games 5 pm

FBDS

FBDS Director Search

The Day School Committee is seeking a new director for the First Baptist Day School after our current director moves on at the end of this school year.

We need someone who has a love for the Lord, a background with children, classroom experience, and education in the development of young children. We prefer a Master's degree, but a Bachelor's degree and 3 years experience in early childhood is essential. We will be seeking resumes in June, and possibly July.

If someone you know might be interested in this position, please ask them to send a cover letter of interest and a resume to firstbaptistmemphisdayschool@gmail.com. We will follow up with more detailed requirements and expectations for the position.

Betty Wilson, Chair of First Baptist Day School Committee

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LETTER

Letter to the Church

Dear FBC Family,

As I sit here trying to find the words to express my gratitude to you all not only for the beautiful blessing of ordination on May 23, but for the beautiful examples you have set for me my whole life, I have the lyrics of “To Sir, With Love” running ‘round in my head.

“But, how do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?

It isn't easy but I'll try...”

Thank you for being my surrogate grandparents and aunts and uncles. Thank you for telling me Bible stories. Thank you for hanging a disco ball in the gym. Thank you for making me memorize Bible verses. Thank you for serving me snacks and meals. Thank you for helping me build a model temple out of popsicle sticks. Thank you for taking me to the beach and the mountains and the Mississippi Delta. Thank you

for teaching me how to read scripture.

Thank you for not always having an answer to my questions. Thank you for placing a crown on my head and a scepter in my hand. Thank you for ordaining women. Thank you for praying for me. Thank you for enthusiastically discussing and debating with Jim Bob. Thank you for trusting me to teach your children. Thank you for loving Dylan and Janie. Thank you for giving me committee responsibilities. Thank you for providing a safe place for my tears to fall. Thank you for being my best friends. Thank you for sitting on the floor with me. Thank you for the music. Thank you for saying yes when I ask. Thank you for being reflections of God's love. Thank you for affirming my calling. Thank you for laying your hands on me in blessing.

“What can I give you in return?

If you wanted the moon I would try to

make a start

But I would rather you let me give my heart...”

As I start this new phase in my life, I will certainly do my best to serve you all as capably and as beautifully as you have served me. I will do my best to serve God as capably and beautifully as those who came before me. I will do my best to share Christ's love with others. I will do my best to give our children and youth a childhood as rich and as special as the one I had. This is a special place and you all are precious people. I know I have your hearts and I hope you know that you have mine.

Love,

Holly