

# New Outlook

July 2025

Second Baptist Church

*Open and progressive since 1833*



## Thank you!



*Lori on the computer,  
payng bills and keeping  
track of the money*

Many, many thanks to outgoing council members Lori Watrous, Treasurer, and Pat Justis, Property Management Chair. Would you believe that Lori has been treasurer since 2012, and Pat has been Property Management Chair since 2013?? That's 13 years for Lori, and 12 for Pat. Each of them has spent countless hours at the church when no-one else was there, overseeing our finances and our property.



*Pat at a work day  
he organized*

We so appreciate all of the hours of hard work you have put in and the thoughtful care you have shown in taking care of our resources. You're the best!!

Note: Until the treasurer position is filled, Mary Winter will pay the bills and Lori will keep the financial records. She says, "I want to ensure a smooth transition and help any way I can, by training a replacement, completing current projects, and keeping up with reporting requirements."



*AJ Short playing Second Movement, Sonate, opus 166, by Camille Saint-Saens on the oboe,  
accompanied by Marilyn Short, at the worship service on June 9. Beautiful!*

**Worship service** Sundays at 10:30 a.m. In person or live on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/155120191289/live/> or later at [2ndbc.org/services](https://2ndbc.org/services).

**A service in the Karen language** is held in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday worship service.

**Lifeline Screening** Wednesday, **July 9** in Fellowship Hall from 9:00—5:00. The cost is \$129. See the back page for details.

**The Faith Support Group** will meet via Zoom Monday, **July 14**, at 6:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>. Passcode: faith.

**Blood drive** at Second Baptist from 2:00—6:00 p.m. Monday, July 21.

The **Council Retreat** is Saturday, **July 19** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Community Room

**No council meeting** Monday, **July 21**.

The **deadline** for contributions to the August issue of the *New Outlook* is Sunday, **July 20**.

**Looking ahead to August:**

Second Baptist will provide a meal for 20-25 people for **Room at the Inn** on Wednesday, **August 6**. If you'd like to help, contact Larry Marks. The food will be prepared and cooked at church.

**The Faith Support Group** will meet via Zoom Monday, **August 11**, at 6:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>. Passcode: faith.

**Church council** meets Monday, **August 18**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The **deadline** for the September issue of the Outlook is Wednesday, **August 20**.



Jason singing "You Raise Me Up," accompanied by his brother Joey, in the worship service on June 15.



Happy Father's Day!



## Treat yourself Tuesday at the Art Museum



At lunch at Dayspring Baptist, after the joint service we had with Antioch and Dayspring, Linda Marks met Nikki Finkelstein-Blair, a member of Dayspring, who turned out to be a volunteer tour guide at the St. Louis Art Museum in Forest Park.



Linda asked Nikki if she would take the Treat Yourself Tuesday

group on a tour. Yes! On May 27 Nikki led us on a tour with a religious art theme that she created just for us.

We ate lunch at the art museum after the tour. It was a great day!



## **From our pastor. . .**

Hey everybody,

Have you ever listened to a song but couldn't quite understand the words? It happens to me all the time. Some misheard lyrics of some very popular songs have become classics in their own right.



- ♦ While the Beatles sang "Lucy in the sky," there were people who would swear that they were hearing "blue seals in disguise."
- ♦ The line in the 1960's musical, Hair "this is the dawning of the age of Aquarius" is heard by some to be "This is the dawning of the Age of Asparagus."
- ♦ While the Monkees declared, "Then I saw her face, now I'm a believer," others heard them declaring, "Then I saw her face, now I'm gonna leave her."
- ♦ Creedence Clearwater Revival sang, "There's a bad moon on the rise," not "There's a bathroom on the right."
- ♦ Young Bob Dylan didn't sing "The ants are my friends;" rather, he sang "The answer, my friends."
- ♦ Taylor Swift sings, "Got a long list of ex-lovers," not "All the lonely Starbucks lovers."

I could literally fill six pages full of misheard lyrics that are almost as well known as the words intended.

Why are song lyrics so easily misheard? Some possible reasons:

- ♦ Because the singer doesn't enunciate,
- ♦ Because the musical instruments prohibit one from hearing clearly,
- ♦ Because the recording or the sound system is problematic,
- ♦ Because some lyrics are not clear in their meaning,
- ♦ Because a listener's culture or experience may cause them to comprehend the lyrics differently,
- ♦ Because some listeners don't listen intentionally enough to catch the right lyrics.

I bring all this up because we sometimes mess up in our communication with each other just as listeners sometimes mishear a lyric. Sometimes the communication gets messy because we

aren't clear in our communication. Sometimes the noise around the communication creates a barrier to hearing and being heard. Sometimes the style of communication is not conducive to complete understanding. Sometimes it gets messy because two communicators have very different perspectives and hear each other differently. Sometimes communication is hard because one of the communicators feels that they are unheard and sometimes they feel attacked.

Miscommunication is a struggle in any community, but in a community of faith it is especially difficult because faith communities are built on trust, acceptance, caring, and love. Often, miscommunication comes across as the opposite of these building blocks.

While I have been guilty of my fair share of missteps in the area of communication, I humbly make these communication suggestions:

- ♦ Listen with your eyes as well as your ears.
- ♦ Try to resist the temptation to start thinking about your response while you are listening—just listen.
- ♦ Be kind.
- ♦ Be honest and authentic.
- ♦ Ask clarifying questions.
- ♦ Always be respectful.

When writing a letter, an email, or a text that you think might offend or hurt the recipient, hold off sending it until you have plenty of time to reflect on its ramifications. (When I do this, I usually end up not sending it.)

Avoid sarcasm in emails and texts. Sarcasm just does not translate into print.

Do not respond negatively to people's posts on social media. Most folks understand that space as a place to share their thoughts; they do not perceive it to be a place for debate and argument. If you disagree with a person's post, don't argue with them. Feel free to post your thoughts on your feed, but leave other people's feeds alone. Remember what your grandma said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything."

Always, Always, Always speak your truth in love.

Let's take care of each other,

Steve (he, him, his)

## ***Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis***

*An American Baptist Church*  
9030 Clayton Road at McKnight  
St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1094

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Worship service 10:30 a.m.

Worship in the Karen language 11:30 a.m.

Telephone: (314) 991-3424

E-mail: [office@2ndbc.org](mailto:office@2ndbc.org)

Website: [www.2ndbc.org](http://www.2ndbc.org)

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

[stevemechem@gmail.com](mailto:stevemechem@gmail.com)

Mary Winter, Moderator

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

## **Treat Yourself Tuesday at the Boathouse**

