

Late December 2009

## Upcoming Worship:

### Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010: “A Gift that Keeps On Giving”

Matthew 2:1-2; When the Wise Sages learned that the Jews had been gifted with a new-born king, they in turn wanted to give gifts in response. Reciprocity, the “reflex” of giving, suggests that when you receive, you also want to give. “We give, because God first gave to us.” (I John 4:19)

Service of Holy Communion; Ritual of Cleansing

### Jan. 10: 177<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Second Baptist Church

#### PEOPLE NEWS

*Let us keep in our prayers...*

- Bill Curson recovering from successful thyroid removal surgery
- Hari Smith and Larry Whitlock, struggling with back pain
- Jean Oschner recuperating from a broken leg at Brooking Park Center.
- Carol Novak who had cataract surgery on Dec. 29, the first in a series of eye surgeries in 2010
- Ron Barbre who had surgery on Dec. 30
- June Pearse who had surgery on Dec. 29
- Randy Sumner who is anticipating treatment for a possible tumor

*Let us rejoice with...*

- Bill E. and Millie Winter who were able to attend church on Christmas Eve!
- We had the largest worship attendance in many years at Second Baptist Church on Christmas Eve: 198 people attended! (Easter in 2009 was 177. Average worship attendance for December was 131; in 2008 it was 116.)

*Let us give thanks for...*

- Brad, Marilyn and our wonderful choir for the inspiring music they provided on Dec. 20. And to our wonderful poets who wrote original poems for our “Songs and Sonnets of Christmas” program: Brooke Justis, Linda Novak, Melissa Bancks, Judy Gurley, and Elizabeth Brooks.
- Kennedy San who, week by week, does such a wonderful job as our sound technician

*Thank You!*

We want to thank the church for your lovely generosity in giving a Christmas bonus to each member of your staff. We love serving you and appreciate your on-going support. – SBC Staff Members, Steve, Harmony, Marilyn, Brad, Feng-Mei, Cassandra and Janelle.

*The Second Baptist Youth Group meets on Friday, Jan. 8 and Friday, Jan.22, 6-8 pm*

*The next issue of our church's newsletter, The New Outlook, will come out the week of January 11.*

*Christmas Schedule  
The church office will be closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.*



Many thanks for Judy Winter for taking such loving care of our Second Baptist plants for so many, many years. She's spent choir nights, Sundays, and many extra trips "in" to fertilize, water, repot, and trim the plants for well over a decade. They look great, and when you're in the basement, please check out the Christmas cactus on the right (as you look out the windows.) It's already in full bloom — reminding us of Christmas' approach and of the hope and joy that this holiday brings. Thank you, Judy!





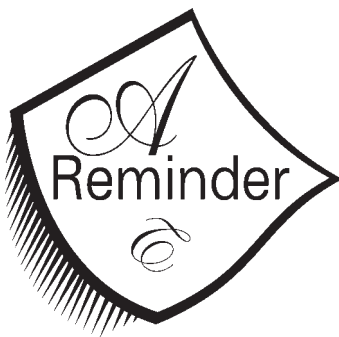
## BOOK GROUP

*“THE MOONFLOWER VINE opens in the early 1950's with the Soames family gathered on the family farm outside Renfro, Missouri, for their annual summer visit. Matthew Soames, a retired school teacher, and his wife, Callie, are enjoying the last days of summer with three of their daughters and one grandson. The opening scenes paint a touching portrait from the youngest daughter's point of view, of rural life and family ties: strong ties that bring them home on their annual pilgrimage, but only hint at the secrets and sorrows that lie beneath. The last day of their visit coincides with the blooming of the moonflower vine, a flower that blooms only a few days each season at sunset. The moonflower vine symbolizes a silent tribute to their family history and the life changing events that have marked the Soames family. After a heartwarming introduction, the novel is divided into five sections, telling the individual stories and secrets of Jessica, Matthew, Mathy, Leonie and Callie.”*

*Reviewed by: Barbara Fielding*

*Join the Second Baptist Church Book group on January 12, 2010 at 1:00 pm.*

**Do you have FaceBook? Have you become a fan of Second Baptist Church? If not, don't forget to add us! Keep updated on church life, see all the photos submitted that missed our newsletter and help spread the word about Second Baptist Church. To find us search for Office@2ndbc.org or send the office an email and we will find you.**



*Don't forget! We are always in need of people to sign up as greeters and to host coffee fellowship. If you forget to sign up on Sunday, feel free to call the office and see what dates are available. Thank you.*

**We are always looking for photos and stories for the New Outlook and of course our Facebook page. If you have photos or stories that you would like to share, please contact the office.**

*Thank you to Karen Fields for all your great photos and captions!*

## Julie Sparks

Julie Sparks is a new member of Second Baptist even though we have seen her around church for 2 or 3 years. There is a reason for that. Her daughter, Kara Reagan, was our pastoral intern during her Eden Seminary days. Mom has frequently shown up to cheer Kara on at times when she has led the congregation in worship.

I am delighted to be her sponsor. It turns out that we both have daughters named Kara, even though the pronunciation is different. We quickly found out that our daughters are quite similar in that they are very independent thinkers! (despite our best efforts. smile.)



Julie grew up in Foley, MO. However, the family spent much time in St Louis. Besides other activities, they loved to attend the Lester Family concerts where Betty, Julie's mom, struck up a nice friendship with them. Herschel Lester taught piano to Julie and voice to her brother, Darryl (who sings in our choir), Kara's good friend, Duane, is Herschel's grandson, and Donna Lester is Kara's Godmother.

When Julie and Darryl were young, they spent wonderful, adventurous summers in Washington, DC, with an aunt who lived there.

Music has been a large part of Julie's family's experience. Her mom began playing piano at their church when she (Julie's mom) was only 9, since they lacked a pianist. Years later Julie was the pianist at the Missouri Baptist Hospital Chapel, accompanying Darryl who sang.

When Kara was 5, her parents divorced. Julie and Kara moved back to St Louis from North Carolina and shared a home for a time in Creve Coeur with her brother, Darryl. As it turns out, her parents recently moved only a block away. All three family units now live in the same neighborhood. This family really sticks together!

Julie is coming from another Baptist Church where she was very active with the children's program. She also helped this previous church sponsor a church in the Soulard area.

She is working/has worked in IT and Human Resources with the title of assistant human resources manager, for the last 7 years at Sachs Electric in Fenton. Julie collects teapots and loves to cook. Matter-of-fact, on Christmas Eve morning she prepares breakfast for her whole family. For dinner Christmas Eve, they all go to her mom's house where quail (hunted by her father) is prepared by her mom, and Julie serves her homemade Cherries Jubilee for dessert. Darryl is in charge of the music and the reading of the Luke story of Christ's birth. Then Kara goes off to bed (even this year!) so Santa can come. (Of course she goes obediently since it IS Santa-critical!)

Julie already feels like a part of our church family and we look forward to sharing many years of fellowship with her. Please join me in welcoming her to our congregational family! She can be reached at home (314-432-5669, or email [julie.sparks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:julie.sparks@sbcglobal.net))



**REMEMBER with LOVE**  
**GIVE with GRATITUDE**

*During the month of January, we will be receiving the annual American Baptist Ministers and Missionaries Love Offering. This offering enables the denomination to give an annual "thank you" gift to our retired ministers and missionaries. Many of our pastors serve small, marginal congregations and appreciate and need this annual thank you gift. A percentage of the gifts also allow the MMBB Board to give grants to pastors who face emergency needs. The Love Offering will be the communion offering in January (next Sunday). We will take the offering throughout the month.*

### **ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

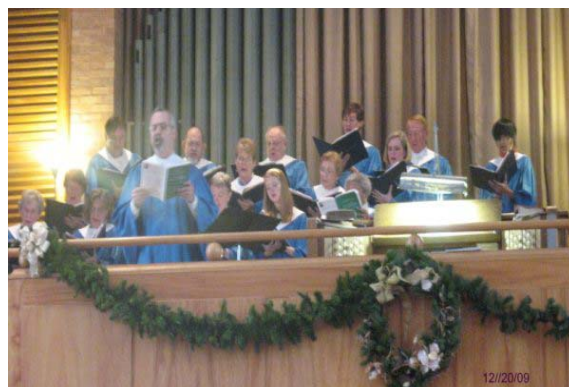
*Adoption of the 2010 Church Budget will occur at a called business meeting of the congregation on Sunday, Jan. 10, in a congregational catered dinner at noon in Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations on next Sunday's Green Sheet or by calling or e-mailing the church office. Cost: \$8 adults; \$3 children; \$20 family maximum. Upon recommendation of the Church Council and subject to funding, the congregation will vote on a part-time pastoral call to Kara Reagan, beginning in January, 2010, to join our pastoral team, with specialty in spiritual growth.*

### **New Church School Series Begins January 3** **"Speaking the Truth in Love"**

Often we know we should say no because it's the right thing to do or because we need to protect ourselves or others from someone's inappropriate demands. But we feel we have to choose between our principles and maintaining a relationship with someone we care about—or work for. A new 5-week church school series beginning January 3 will address this dilemma. It is based on the book *The Power of a Positive No: How To Say No and Still Get To Yes*, by William Ury, director of Harvard's Global Negotiation Project. Ury has negotiated agreements at all levels of society: within families and companies and between countries. His book is filled with fascinating stories of people and groups who found a way to say no in a positive way. This class is sponsored by Second's Peace Group and will be led by Mary Shepardson. It will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 Sunday mornings. You don't need to read the book to participate, but if you would like one, let Mary know. Books cost \$10.88. Come join us as we learn some skills for "speaking the truth in love," as the apostle Paul tells we need to do.

Other adult offerings:

- The Bible Study Class, led by Bill Gurley, is studying I Corinthians. Meets in the Community Room.
- The Karen Bible Class is taught by Pastor Carey San in the Karen language. Meets in the library.
- The Karen Young Adult Class is learning English through Bible study and faith exploration. Native English speakers are welcome, too! Taught by Jan Jones and Linda Novak in the classroom behind the chancel.



**Sunday, January 17, 2010**

***Mardra and Reggie Thomas***

*This husband-wife team recorded "Standard Time" on Victoria Records and "Fade to Blue" with Max Jazz.*

- 01/01 Soe Soe, Thoo Law Paw, Soe Than, So Moe, Wah Gay Moo,  
O San Kee, Muang , Mye Sa
- 01/04 Mike Apple
- 01/08 Melissa Bancks
- 01/14 Ed Wakefield
- 01/15 Inez Mixon, Linnette Whitlock
- 01/19 Mildred Winter
- 01/20 Richard Daily
- 01/21 Jane Mahan, Joshua Jensen
- 01/28 Eh Mu Lar K'Paw



Happy Birthday!!

*Learning Community Classes for all ages resume this Sunday, Jan. 3, 9:15-10:15 am.*

*Church Council meeting is on Saturday, January 9, 9:00 am in the Community Room*

January 12, 2010  
*The Moon Flower Vine,*  
 by J. Carelton



## ***Light UP the World!***

Pledged to date for 2010: \$203,350

At the Budget Forum on Sunday, the congregation learned that our proposed 2010 budget is \$15,000 out of balance. If it is possible, you are invited to re-consider your pledge for 2010 in light of this reality. If you have never pledged to Second Baptist Church, we encourage you to do so. Only through a pledge, can we build a 2010 church budget that funds our mission and our goals for the coming year.

Please cut and return by mail, drop in the collection plate or email the office at [office@2ndbc.org](mailto:office@2ndbc.org).

### ***Financial Re-Pledge for 2010***

In light of the anticipated short-fall for 2010, I/we wish to re-pledge the following amount instead of the pledge made earlier:

My new pledge for 2010 for the entire year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will give this pledge to the church \_\_\_ weekly \_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Let us Light Up the World with our Generosity!*