

Early January 2010

## Upcoming Worship:

### **Jan. 17: A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Life and Mission: "Jesus, Gandhi and King: a Way of Nonviolence"**

Based on Matthew 5:38-48, Dr. Jones will explore the lives of these three teachers committed to the way of nonviolence.

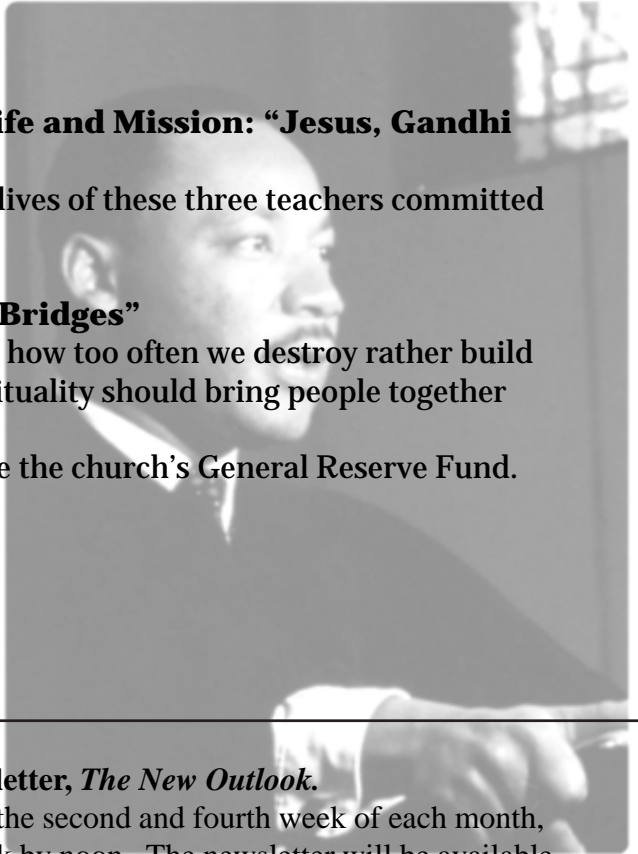
### **Jan. 24: A Celebration of Christian Unity: "Building Bridges"**

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:16-20, Dr. Jones will explore how too often we destroy rather build bridges, and we create adversaries rather than partners. Spirituality should bring people together rather than divide them.

We will take a special offering on this Sunday to restore the church's General Reserve Fund.

Jan. 31: Rev. June Pearse, preaching; Kara Reagan assisting

Feb. 7: Kara Reagan, preaching; June Pearse assisting  
Communion Sunday



### **New Distribution Plan for our church's newsletter, *The New Outlook*.**

Our newsletter will continue to be prepared on the second and fourth week of each month, with articles due on the Wednesday of each week by noon. The newsletter will be available on a table the next Sunday, in order to save on postage. If for whatever reason you do not pick up your newsletter on that Sunday, then we will mail it to you the next day. We hope to cut in half our postage costs in 2010. Here are the upcoming dates:

Articles are due for *The New Outlook* on: Jan. 13 and Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 24 and March 10 and 24. *The New Outlook* will be available for distribution on these upcoming Sundays: Jan. 17 and Jan. 31; Feb. 14 and 28 and March 14 and 28



**Tonight: 6:00 PM**

***Mardra and Reggie Thomas***

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

# *PEOPLE NEWS*

## **Let us keep in our prayers...**

- Hari Smith struggling with an infection in his spine and is unable to work
- Jean Oschner recuperating from a broken leg at Brooking Park Center.
- Randy Sumner for an intestinal growth that doctors removed on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at St. Luke's
- Rita McCaffrey who is having outpatient surgery on January 21.
- Carey San has struggled for six weeks with a lingering cough and has been under his doctor's care. We miss his presence and leadership on Sunday mornings!
- Carey San's older adult children living in Burma have recently experienced severe hardship. The village in which his son and daughter and grandchildren lived was burned by the Myanmar Army and the inhabitants were forced to flee into the forest and live on the run. They were able to get word out to Carey and Mirian. They are hungry and without adequate food or shelter and are trying to get to one of the UN refugee camps on the Thai border.
- The mother and father and 18-year-old sister of Elisa Chi, who recently arrived in West Springfield, MA as immigrants from Burma, and who now desire to relocate to St. Louis.
- The family of Rev. Richard Taylor, pastor of Fourth Baptist Church of St. Louis, who recently passed away after an extended illness. We lift up Allen Gilliard who was a special friend of Richard.
- Carol Novak who will have cataract surgery on her other eye on Jan. 26.
- Amy Gottschalk, a former member of our church, has moved from her home to a care center

## **Let us rejoice with...**

- Bill and Carol Curson upon their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Bill's recovery from his recent thyroid surgery
- Ron Barbre and his recovery from surgery; Ron has now returned to work
- June Pearse and her recovery from surgery; June was in church on Jan. 3 as her decision was announced to seek membership in our church and again on Jan. 10 as she received the Hand of Fellowship as our newest member!
- Haley Rardin who was hired as a Senior Analyst with Express Scripts and is enjoying her new job very much!
- Audrey and Mike Munsch who recently sold their home and have now purchased a new home in St. Charles.
- National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches who again gave Second Baptist Church a grant (\$500) in 2010 to assist with our Karen ministries.

## **Let us give thanks for...**

- Janelle Jones, Soe Than, the SBC youth group, and many of the Karen adults who made fleece blankets for all the children of our church; the blankets were purchased from a special gift to the church's emergency fund when it was learned that some of our children did not own blankets
- Jane Mahan for coordinating the Annual Budget dinner
- Jo Koehler for her on-going faithfulness in keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies and preparing the coffee each Sunday

## Welcome New Member: June Pearse



June grew up on a farm in Odessa MO. Her mother, sister, and brother and their families live in the Dallas area.

After graduating from high school she attended Northwest MO State University in Maryville MO. One of her best kept secrets is that her undergraduate degree is in Vocational Home Economics. She admits that she is not domestic in the least!

Following graduation from college she worked for the State of Missouri moving around the state with different jobs. Much of the time she lived in Jefferson City. For many of those years she felt a calling to ministry. She stepped out on faith, quit her job, sold her home and moved to Louisville Kentucky to attend Southern Seminary. She graduated in 1991 with an M. Div. degree and an emphasis in Pastoral Care and Counseling. While at seminary she did a unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education)-chaplain training and really loved it. That was the start of her training to become a chaplain.

After graduation she returned to Jefferson City and worked with the Prison PATCH program at the Renz Correctional Center. PATCH is a not-for-profit agency that has a mission to build relationships of the incarcerated mothers and their children during the time of separation. She traveled many miles picking up children to visit their mothers at Renz. While she was working in the prison she became very close to an inmate who has been in prison for 23 years who still maintains her innocence after all of these years. June has known her and her family since her first PATCH visit in 1986 and has spent many hours writing letters and attempting to solicit community support in an attempt to get her friend released from prison.

In 1996 she moved to St. Louis to complete additional CPE training at Laclede Groves Retirement Community. She was the first Southern Baptist woman that had ever been in that program.

After completing CPE she was hired at St. Joseph Hospital Kirkwood as a chaplain. She was on many planning teams as St. Joseph prepared to move to St. Clare in Fenton. It has been a wonderful experience serving as chaplain in a brand new facility. She also worked for 9 years at Union United Methodist Church, St. Louis, MO as assistant pastor.

Growing up Southern Baptist she believed that a woman could only do one thing- be a missionary. With the job as chaplain in a Catholic hospital and an assistant pastor in a Methodist church, other doors opened up for her.

Her spiritual beliefs about many things have changed over the years and after she left the Methodist church she started looking for a church that would be more in line with what her beliefs. One day she was visiting a patient in the hospital. He said that he was a member of 2nd Baptist. She asked if the pastor gave a good sermon and he said yes. She had attended 2nd Baptist one time many years earlier and loved the interesting stain glass windows. This past fall as she was looking for a congregation she attended 2nd Baptist and found many of the things that she was looking for in a congregation including a pastor that gives a good sermon. She is so thankful to be joining this congregation and being involved in the ministries of the church.

In her spare time June enjoys reading and spending time with her dogs Emily and Priscilla. They are shitzus and rule the Pearse household. She also loves to travel. Her favorite cruise was to Alaska and her favorite trip was to Ireland. She invites you to ask about the famous Irishman that shares her last name.

# Second Baptist Church of St. Louis, MO

## *One of the Fast-Growing Congregations in Greater St. Louis*



Is this true? Well, we certainly are growing at a steady pace and the fact that this is occurring while located in a stable, developed neighborhood far from the potential of new housing is even more remarkable.

Let's look at worship participation over the past four years because it best tells the story of a growing church:

Easter and Christmas Eve are our largest services of the year. Our Christmas Eve service had 72 people in attendance in 2006; 90 people in 2007; 135 people in 2008 and 198 people in 2009, surely the largest worship attendance in our sanctuary in several decades. Our attendance more than doubled in two years. For Easter, we had 100 people in 2006; 108 people in 2007; 115 in 2008; 177 people in 2009. This represents the same pattern of increases. Our yearly average weekly worship attendance in 2007 was 71; our yearly average attendance in 2008 was 89; and our yearly average attendance in 2009 was 112. This is fast growth by anyone's definition.

Our membership records carry names of people who no longer appear in our printed Membership Directories. In our latest directory, there were 114 members. Last year, we had a net membership gain of 24, a substantial 21% increase.

Why are we growing? The growth began when a full-time pastor was employed. Thus, the vision of the congregation, and the sacrifice, in stretching to employ a full-time pastor was of significant importance. But every pastor wants to see his or her church grow, and many churches don't. So, it isn't just the pastor that causes growth.

One of the first things we did together was launch a Welcoming and Hospitality Study in which recommendations were made to attract, welcome and include visitors. We implemented every recommendation in a short period of time. There was strong motivation in this area and it has been highly effective.

Another goal was to examine and enhance our public visibility in the Greater St. Louis area. Many churches fail to work on this. One example is the way in which our building and lanes are now lit at night, whereas before our corner was mostly dark. The signage accomplished prior to my coming also made a real difference. We do a lot of press releases, and we have the addresses of 900 of our immediate neighbors with whom we have connected several times. We've offered a lot of events at our church that are publicly noteworthy.

A pastor does play a key role in congregational growth. A pastor's attitude and enthusiasm toward growth are important. But just as important is the "fit" between the pastor and the congregation. If the "fit" is healthy, and life-giving, it attracts others. If the fit is awkward, dysfunctional, or conflicted, it keeps others away. I just read last week that churches with pastors who stay at least six years are more apt to grow. Our growth has begun in the first years of my ministry, which probably suggests that if we continue with the same priorities and vision for ministry, growth will continue. And because our average Sunday attendance is equal to our active membership, this is another sign that we attract every Sunday many who have yet to join.

Numbers are only part of the story. They are only indicators of what truly matters. This is why we have called Kara Reagan with an emphasis in spiritual growth because this is an area in which we need to develop and expand offerings. Let us pray and work for growth in this area as well.

– Stephen Jones

We recently celebrated Milla Munsch's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday  
& Eh Mu Lark's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Photos are from our annual budget meeting and  
services on January 10, 2010



## KARA REAGAN TO JOIN THE PASTORAL TEAM

Ms. Kara Reagan has joined our pastoral team receiving the unanimous call of the congregation at the Annual Budget Meeting. It will be a part-time position of eight hours a week with an emphasis in spiritual growth opportunities and exploring a new structure for congregational care. You will regularly enjoy Kara's worship leadership on Sunday mornings and occasional preaching. Kara served as our seminary intern for two academic years, completing her work with us upon her graduation from Eden Theological Seminary with her Master's of Divinity degree in May of 2009. We look forward to an on-going pastoral relationship with Kara.



Stephen Jones said of this call, "Kara will certainly be building upon the pastoral relationships that she developed while a seminarian. But there will also be changes. I will no longer be her supervisor and while all pastors are engaged in life-long learning, she is now called as a pastor of this church to be in a collegial relationship with me. I have missed Kara's staff participation since last May and I am eager to re-engage as her colleague in ministry. I think her presence will allow us to grow in offering spiritual growth and small group opportunities, an area of great need in our church. Without doubt, Kara will be an even greater blessing to our church in the future."

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## ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING REPORT

The following items of business were conducted at our annual budget meeting that was marked by a spirit of harmony and hope:

1. Judy Gurley was unanimously elected to serve an unexpired term on the Church Council as World Mission Leader.
2. Kara Reagan was called to become a part of our pastoral team (see article above) and the church authorized use of a designated gift to fund this new pastoral position.
3. A careful review was made of our 2009 Treasurer's Report. We narrowed the deficit considerably from the deficit at the end of November (\$27,195) and ended the year with \$247,364 in income and expenses of \$258,600, or a end-year deficit of \$11,236. Because this depletes the church's General Fund Reserve (which is an historic account created by budget surpluses from prior years and provides cash flow throughout the year), the church voted to move \$6,161 from the "Insurance Reimbursement Reserve Account" (insurance funds left over from the hail damage to the steeple), to include the General Fund Reserve balance from the beginning of 2009 of \$3,522, and to take a special offering on Jan. 24 to make up the balance of \$1,553. Several persons have made commitments to help make up this short-fall. If everyone participates, we should launch 2010 with a positive balance in the General Fund Reserve.
4. The church council informed the congregation of procedures for closer monitoring of the budget in 2010 to prevent over-spending.
5. The church adopted a balanced 2010 budget of \$258,403. The Council feels that the expense budget is much more realistic than in the past several years. There are no salary increases for staff in 2010.

## Special Offering for the Church: Sunday, Jan. 24

Because we ended 2009 with a deficit, the congregation voted to take steps to restore the General Fund Reserve to a positive balance. The General Fund Reserve is the historic reserve of surpluses from prior years and is used as a financial cushion and for cash flow during the late Summer months.

One decision of the congregation was to have a special one-Sunday offering on January 24 to make up the difference of \$1553 and bring the General Fund Reserve to a positive balance. We were behind in pledges for 2009 by \$6065. Several families were unaware that the year ended and they had not fulfilled their pledges and have stated that they will give to this offering to make up for this deficit. If any can give, please do so on or before Jan. 24. Make your check payable to Second Baptist Church and note it for the "General Fund Reserve."

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

*During the month of January, we are receiving the annual American Baptist Ministers and Missionaries Love Offering. To date, we have given \$366. Last year we gave \$1,514 to this 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 taken throughout the month.*

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## Christmas Eve Survey

*Please fill out this form and return it to the church office or place in the morning offering plate:*

With worship attendance on Christmas Eve approaching full capacity, the Church Council has decided to survey the congregation regarding a second candlelight service on Christmas Eve, 2010. While the Christmas season is still fresh in our minds, it is a good time to gain feedback and begin a dialogue within our church. Council wants to continue with the first candlelight service at 5:00 pm. Thus, the question we face is when to schedule the second service. The second service would likely be similar in many ways to the early service except lacking a children's conversation and there could be changes in the special music for the second service.

Are you often unable to attend the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service because of conflicts with family gatherings, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you find attending a later service, similar to the first, a possible attractive alternative in 2010?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer a 9:00 pm worship service concluding at 10:00 pm? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer a 10:00 pm worship service concluding at 11:00 pm? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer an 11:00 pm worship service concluding at midnight? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

***The Second Baptist Youth Group meets on Friday, Jan. 22, 6-8 pm The youth are planning a Bake Sale on Sunday, Jan. 24 after worship to raise funds for their annual trip to the Quest Youth Conference at Green Lake.***



**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.