

# New Outlook

June 2008  
Web version

Second Baptist Church  
Open and Progressive since 1833



## A Concert in Our Rose Garden This Sunday

The woodwind quintet *A Perfect Fifth* will perform in the Rose Garden at Second Baptist on Sunday evening, June 8, from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. The group has a repertoire ranging from early Baroque to contemporary favorites. Flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn, and bassoon create a lovely, distinctive sound. Since 1981, the Quintet has performed extensively in the St. Louis area, appearing at the Art Museum, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Science Center, the Old Courthouse, Tower Grove Park and the St. Louis Zoo.



Chairs will be provided, or guests may bring blankets for the lawn. Refreshments will be served following the concert. This concert is a part of the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a gift to neighbors of the church and the general public. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the church's Sanctuary of the Beatitudes.

## Church School Schedule

- All adult classes will meet together this Sunday, June 8, at 9:15 a.m., for the final session in our church school series on healing and wholeness. The topic is "Aging," led by Meg Gilmore.
- Children and youth classes also continue through June 15. After a break for the summer, church school for all ages will resume September 7.

## June Worship Schedule

### June 8: "Circles of Shalom"

We are called to build circles of shalom in our lives. Text: Luke 24:44-53  
Stephen Jones preaching  
Teacher recognition Sunday

### June 15: "Higher Ground"

There is within us a deep yearning for higher ground. As the old hymn suggests, "My prayer, my aim is higher ground."  
Text: Psalm 8  
Stephen Jones preaching  
Service of Confirmation and Baptism

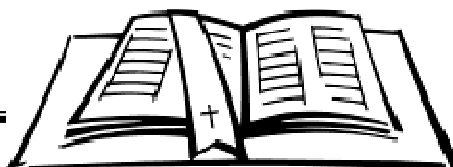
### June 22: "Celebrate"

Text: Matthew 7:1-12  
Larry Whitlock preaching

### June 29: "Maintaining Our Faith"

We need to take care of the faith God gives us and let our hearts be full!  
Text: Romans 12:9 - 21  
Fred Adams preaching





**Shalom Circle...Seeking Wholeness and Wellness**

I'd like to propose a Shalom Circle meeting every other week as an "open night" for deeper sharing of concerns and celebrations, services of healing, holy communion and intercessory prayer. I have thought of offering this on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:15 when the Community Room is open. I envision Shalom Circle being a confidential group but open to anyone to participate as they desire. It would not require a long-term commitment from participants. Please let me know if Shalom Circle interests you.

Stephen Jones

**Interested in Learning What the Bible Really Teaches about Homosexuality?**

It is important for Christians to know scripture, particularly as it relates to hotly debated issues in our society. As Baptists, we cannot ignore scriptural authority. No issue within society or the church is more polarizing right now than homosexuality. We hear the Bible quoted all the time. I have found that there is a large disconnect between what people think the Bible teaches and what it really says. I am willing to offer a class on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for five weeks beginning mid-summer. Let me know if you are interested. Stephen Jones

**Sold Out!**

All the tickets have been sold for the Cardinals game with the Royals on Wednesday, June 18, at 7:15 p.m. If you've got a ticket and would like to carpool to the stadium from church, call Linda Marks. If anyone wants to park at Steve and Jan Jones' house and walk one mile to the stadium, let them know!



**Book Group to Discuss *Quartet in Autumn***

Second's book group will meet Monday, June 9, at 2:00 in the Community Room. The book to be discussed, *Quartet in Autumn* by Barbara Pym, is a small masterpiece, beautifully composed. It was short-listed for the Booker Prize in 1977.



Youth Mission Project

**Peoria Youth Join Second's Youth for Mission**

The youth of Peoria First Baptist Church will be hosted by the youth of Second Baptist for a mission trip to St. Louis on June 13-15, and they will be with us in worship on June 15. The youth will do some fun things together and on Saturday will rehab a house through Northside Team Ministry in the East Grand Avenue neighborhood. If there are adults who would like to join in the 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. work project, please contact Stephen Jones. Your participation would be welcome.

## Update on the Rooks



It was wonderful have Bill and Becky Rook in our worship service last Sunday! Bill preached, and Becky sang. Bill was Second's pastor from October 1997 to August 2006, and Becky was our choir director.

Here's what's going on in their lives:

Bill continues to combine a private counseling practice with university teaching. He teaches two courses for Lindenwood University: Ethics and Foundations of Counseling, and at McKendree

University he teaches a course in Clinical Skills as well as supervising interns. In the fall he will teach an elective class especially suited to his background: Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling.

Becky is beginning her third year in accounts receivable and payroll at Hubbell Wiegmann. Her major focus right now is planning a big welcome home party in August for son Aaron and his family as they come back for a visit after Aaron returns from Afghanistan.

Aaron, Dena, Madison, and Connor have been living in Italy since November 2006. Aaron is winding up 15 months of deployment to Afghanistan as a medic. He returned to Italy just once in that time. He expects to have one more deployment before this term of service ends.

While Aaron is gone, Dena, Madison, and Connor are learning Italian and taking advantage of their opportunity to experience life in Europe. Madison is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Connor in 4<sup>th</sup> at an American school on the post. Both kids are involved in Scouting and sports—Madison went to Girl Scout Camp in Germany.

The Rooks' daughter, Michelle, lives in Rochester, New York, where she is an architect for The Thomas Group, an architectural firm that specializes in designing schools.



## Marcus Borg in St. Louis

Marcus Borg will lead a conference at Mercy Center on June 13 and 14 on the topic "Christian Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The Friday evening session goes from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m., and the Saturday session begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$100.

Borg is best-known for his book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, which we studied here at Second. Meg Gilmore and Mary Shepardson will be attending this event. See one of them for details.

## From the Pastor

### **A Safer World?**

Ever since 9/11, we have convinced ourselves that we are living in an increasingly dangerous world. The thought of religious fanatics targeting innocent people to inflict their will upon others is a terrorizing thought.

Yet a recent study released by Simon Fraser University documented a significant decline in terrorism around the world. The most revealing finding is the “extraordinary drop in support for Islamic terror organizations in the Muslim world over the past five years.” An ABC/BBC poll in Afghanistan in 2007 showed support for the jihadist militants in the country to be 1%. In Pakistan’s North West Frontier province, where Al Qaeda has bases, support for Osama bin Laden plummeted from 70% in August 2007 to 4% in January 2008. With every new terrorist attack, public support for jihad falls. This pattern is repeated in country after country in the Muslim world. Another recent study reveals a 54% decline in the number of organizations using violence in the Middle East and North Africa between 1985 and 2005. Nonviolent social protest is on the increase but not violent protest (*Newsweek*, June 2, 2008).

The heart and soul of Islam is peace and tolerance toward one’s neighbor and toward other faiths, particularly Judaism and Christianity. We have hoped and prayed that the Islamic masses would turn from tacit support of violence. This appears to be happening. They don’t like random and indiscriminate violence against their loved ones any more than we do. We are now hearing more forthright and reasonable voices from Islamic leaders reaching out to Christian leaders. New partnerships are being formed. I even recently read of a new comedy trio comprised of a Muslim, Christian and Jewish comedian performing together!

Last Sunday afternoon four of us from Second Baptist Church joined with approximately 50,000 African Americans from around the metropolitan area to take back the streets from random violence and lift up positive role models for African American males in our society. We were inspired by the will of this large crowd to declare one-ness and take a stand for nonviolence. As disturbing as are the nightly reports of violence on St. Louis streets, this collective will followed by subsequent action could mark a turning point.

There will always be fearful things in our world, and there will always be extremist ideologies that have sobering implications for our well-being. Let us celebrate any discernable turn toward compassion and sanity.

– Stephen Jones



*Steve Jones, Janelle Jones, Audrey Munsch, and Karen Fields at the “Call to Oneness” walk and rally*

## Tim Keeney Reflects

*Editor's Note: Tim Keeney has been Second Baptist's moderator through Bill and Becky Rook's resignation as pastor and music director, during Mike Dixon's year-long tenure as interim pastor, and for Steve Jones' first 10 months as Second's pastor. Tim agreed to a second term as moderator, which required a 1-year variance in the bylaws, so that he could provide continuity as we chose and got acquainted with a new pastor. We so much appreciate his thoughtful, conscientious leadership during this time of transition. We asked Tim to share some reflections about his time as moderator and where the church is now.*



One thing I have learned about Second Baptist: when a task is identified, people jump into it and do a good job. It has been a heartening and uplifting experience to work with a group of folks who are all focused on moving the organization forward.

I see us as being a lot more outwardly-focused than we have been for a long time. Mike Dixon did a tremendous job of helping us to look at ourselves as we thought about what we were looking for in a permanent full-time minister. That turned everybody's perspective to the outside, to see what we could do in the community. It was a neat thing to see that happening.

We are in a good spot now. So many new things are happening: building projects, new ministries, the kids going to Green Lake for two years in a row, having Kara as our intern, the recital, and other programs for the community. We are evolving!

As we look ahead, we need to be mindful of the diversity of views at Second and be vigilant to keep everybody working together. It's important that we don't go too far in one direction or the other because our strength has always come from honoring our diverse perspectives and our ability to learn from one another.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Church School 9:15 a.m. (through June 15)  
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
 Nursery provided.

9030 Clayton Road  
 St. Louis, MO 63117  
 Telephone & Fax (314) 991-3424  
 E-mail: office@2ndbc.org  
 Website: www.2ndbc.org

### Staff

Dr. Stephen Jones, Pastor  
 Kara Reagan, Pastoral Intern  
 Marilyn Short, Music Director  
 Brad Short, Choir Director  
 Shari Nelson-Faulkner,  
 Children's Education Director  
 Tim Keeney, Moderator  
 Paula Rardin, Vice Moderator  
 Debbie Albu, Secretary, Layout  
 Mary Shepardson, *Outlook* Editor  
 Jim Shepardson, Photographer

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sun 8:45 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 9:15 a.m. Church school (through June 15)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- Mon 7:00 p.m. Obsessive-Compulsive Group in Community Room
- Tue 6:30 p.m. Adult Children of Alcoholics in Community Room
- Wed 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Jun 8 Annual church meeting and lunch, election of officers
- Jun 8 Classical Music in the Rose Garden, 6:30 p.m.
- Jun 9 Book Group, 2:00 p.m., Community Room
- Jun 15 Personal Financial Planning Session, 9:15 a.m.
- Last day of church school until September 7
- Father's Day!
- Jun 16 Church Council, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Jun 18 Cardinal Baseball game with Second Baptist family, 7:15 p.m.
- Jun 21 Men's breakfast CANCELLED