

# New Outlook

Mid October  
2008  
Web version

Second Baptist Church  
Open and Progressive since 1833



We are launching...

## St. Louis Jazz and Blues Vespers

Our first Vespers is Sunday evening, October 19, at 6:00 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary of the Beatitudes  
Featuring jazz singer Mary Dyson and Friends.

*"Mary Dyson is a presence on stage to be reckoned with. From the moment she takes the microphone she captivates her audience and holds them until the last note. Whether it's the saucy tilt of her signature fedora, the way she looks her audience in their eyes or the clear, sweet notes she sings..., she's hard to ignore once she's taken stage; dinner forks stop in midair, conversations cease in mid-sentence. Her renderings of the Great American Songbook make old melodies new again...and she doesn't stop there...her repertoire of jazz...and blues is impressive and completely entertaining."*  
- Jay Brandt

Please take a poster and cards and help us spread the word about this great night of jazz at our church. Mary and her talented group of instrumentalists will launch our jazz and blues vespers in a wonderful way! The pianist will be Brock Walker, who played at Second Baptist with Kim Massie.

During the inspirational interlude, Stephen Jones will speak briefly on the topic "God as Improvisational Jazz Player," based on I Samuel 8. The inspirational interlude is intended to be as non-sectarian as possible, but still faithful to our church's broad, inclusive theological style. A free-will offering will be taken and a pastoral prayer offered. The interlude, about 20 minutes in length, comes in between two sets totaling 100 minutes of Great St. Louis Jazz and Blues!



### Please Bring Refreshments

If you are coming to the St. Louis Jazz and Blues Vespers, could you bring a plate of food to share with others in the narthex after the Vespers? The fare would be similar to Sunday morning Fellowship Time.



### It's Party Time for Young Adults!

When: November 2, 2008, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Judy and Bill Gurley's, 52 Meadowbrook Country Club Estates, Ballwin  
North side of Clayton Road, just east of Kehrs Mill Road  
Why: To visit and plan activities

Please bring a salad or dessert. The main course will be provided.  
R.S.V.P. or questions, call Lynn Wakefield 314-569-2382 or Judy Gurley 636-230-8393.

**New Worship Series**

**"From Every Tribe, Language, People and Nation"**

**October 19: "From the One, Many"**

Focus text: Genesis 11:1-9  
Kara Reagan preaching

**October 26: "From the Many, One"**

Focus text: Acts 2:1-13  
Kara Reagan preaching



**Adult Church School Classes Meet at 9:15 Sunday Mornings**

New Series: "Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth," a DVD and discussion series hosted by Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project. At a time when influential voices are demanding that we either abandon the practice of religion or reject the findings of science, this course offers a positive alternative: a way to live in today's world as scientifically informed believers. Meets in Fellowship Hall through November 30. Optional participants' books available for \$8.00.

The Karen Bible Class, taught by Pastor Carey San in the Karen language, meets in the library.

The Bible Study Class, led by Bill Gurley, is studying the gospel of Mark. Meets in the Community Room.

The Karen Young Adult Class is learning English through Bible study and faith exploration. Taught by Jan Jones and Jane Mahan in a classroom behind the chancel.

On Sunday, October 19, Stephen Jones will be preaching at the annual Consecration Sunday of Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Mission, Kansas. On Sunday, October 26, Stephen will be attending the Fall Board Meeting of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Pastoral Relations Committee Seeks Feedback**

The Pastoral Relations Committee will be meeting on the 30th of October. This committee is charged with working with the pastor to be a conduit of information from the congregation, a group to process issues brought up by the pastor, and to discuss with the pastor the reimbursement package which will be presented to the Council as part of the budget for the coming year.

As I am sure you will agree, there has been a great deal that has been accomplished at Second Baptist within the last year with new faces and new activities.

We would be interested in hearing your insights and perspectives on the church's activities, the pastor's activities and/or your overall assessment of the state of the congregation. Helpful suggestions are always welcome as well as words of appreciation. The sooner we receive your information, the better we will be able to integrate our discussion around these topics.

Feel free to contact any of the members of the PRC. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

Jay Jensen, chair 314-721-6621 or [jtjensen@hotmail.com](mailto:jtjensen@hotmail.com)  
Ed Wakefield 314-569-2382 or [hixwk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hixwk@sbcglobal.net)  
Linn Whitlock 636-456-6012 or [lwhitlock@centurytel.net](mailto:lwhitlock@centurytel.net)

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Sun 8:45 a.m. Adult Choir practice
- Sun 9:15 a.m. Church school for all ages
- Sun 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- Tue 10:00 a.m. 1st and 3rd, ABW Ministries
- Tue 6:30 p.m. Adult Children of Alcoholics
- Wed 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

- Oct 18 Men's Breakfast, SBC, 7:30 a.m.
- Oct 19 St. Louis Jazz & Blues Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct 21 Council meeting, 6:30 pm
- Oct 26 *Outlook* deadline
- Oct 27 Prostate Cancer Support Group, 7:00 p.m.  
Shalom Circle, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 02 Young Adult party, 5:00 p.m., Gurleys' home  
Daylight savings time ends
- Nov 09 Annual Stewardship Commitment Sunday  
and lunch after worship
- Nov 15 Annual Progressive Dinner
- Nov 16 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with former  
pastor Jerry Keeney
- Nov 21 Karen Congregational Dinner with American  
Baptist missionary Duane Binkley, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 30 Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5:30p.m.

## **Seventy-Eight People Commit to Outreach Groups**

Since World Communion Sunday, 78 commitments have been made by members and friends of Second Baptist Church to our mission outreach groups. People came forward in the middle of the service to enter into a covenant of service and action. These commitments were made:

St. Louis Jazz and Blues Vespers ... 13 commitments  
 Burma Refugee Team ... 14 commitments  
 American Baptist Women ... 8 commitments  
 John Mason Peck Walk in the Woods ... 4 commitments  
 Second Baptist Peacemakers ... 6 commitments  
 First Baptist Partners ... 5 commitments  
 Habitat for Humanity Partners ... 9 commitments  
 Hospitality Team... 6 commitments  
 Prostate Cancer Support Group ...2 commitments  
 Churches Supporting Churches in New Orleans... 11 commitments

## **Nineteen People Commit to Individual Ministry**

On Sunday, October 12, 19 members and friends of Second Baptist Church came forward to ask for a Prayer of Empowerment and Blessing over their individual ministries. An individual ministry is any kind of compassionate ministry to which persons feel called. It could be as a parent, a friend, a neighbor. It could be in your career or vocation. It could be your hobby or avocation. It could be as a volunteer, anywhere, in any capacity. Below are some of the ministries our people are carrying out:

College chaplaincy  
 Second Baptist pastoral intern  
 Organizational commitments  
 Music  
 Teaching prisoners to read; GED preparation  
 Teaching  
 Cancer support and hope  
 Hospitality  
 Volunteer RN  
 Church leadership  
 Friend  
 Hospice volunteer  
 Pastoral ministry at Second Baptist  
 Tutoring Karen (Burmese) young adults  
 Active presence and support to extended family  
 Seeking humbly to find my role in the healing process  
 Second Baptist website coordinator  
 Work at the Wellness Community;  
 Work with Burmese refugees  
 Exploring rebuilding churches in New Orleans  
 Karen advocate  
 Helping Karen people  
 Teaching  
 Holistic health practitioner



**From the Pastor****Transportation Is a Justice Issue**

I regret that as a city resident I can't vote on the public transportation half-cent sales tax increase facing voters in St. Louis County in the upcoming election. I also regret that my personal use of public transit isn't as frequent as I would like. In Seattle, I took the bus all the time because there was a bus stop near our house that went directly to the church. When I have taken MetroLink, it has been a pleasurable experience. Because a majority of our members live in St. Louis County, I want to explore transportation as a justice issue. As I understand it, if St. Louis County residents pass the increase, the same increase applies to St. Louis City due to an earlier vote by city residents.

Transportation is a critical right of every citizen in our society. Without the freedom to move about, virtually every necessity of life is put at risk. Mass transportation is a justice issue because it levels the playing field in terms of access to transportation for the young, the old, the disabled, the immigrant, the poor, and any family who cannot afford one car for every driver in the household. In a failing economy, public transportation is an even higher justice concern. In a time of high gas prices and the ludicrous nature of single-occupant automotive road trips (I'm as big a culprit as anyone), public transportation is one long-term solution to decreasing our dependence upon foreign oil and saving our world from global warming.

After living in St. Louis for over a year, it seems to me that our metro area needs to better distinguish itself as a global and regional leader. We cannot merely react to developments swirling around us. One significant way that St. Louis looks and acts like a world-class city is our 46-mile light rail MetroLink system. While many cities have yet to begin construction of such a system, ours has been built. But it needs to expand to reach larger portions of our population.

Almost all experts in urban planning agree that light rail stations spur economic development. Over \$2 billion in development has already occurred near MetroLink stations, but once the economy improves we will see even more. This is happening around the country. Our light rail already connects to the airport, to the cultural activities in Forest Park, to UMSL, to downtown Clayton and the St. Louis Galleria, to Scott Air Force Base and to downtown St. Louis.

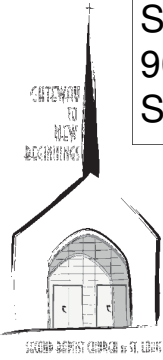
There has been waste and mismanagement of St. Louis' Metro system. It seems as if hard lessons have been learned and there is tighter management. In the past year, there have been 55 million passenger boardings on the Metro system. Metro keeps over 45,000 vehicles off the roads every day.

No public transit system in the country operates without subsidy, just as no roads in the country operate without public subsidy. All transportation is subsidized. The question before voters is whether to keep our Metro system operating without serious cutbacks and deepen the commitment to expand the existing system.

This is an awkward time to advocate new taxes with the economic uncertainty around us. A positive vote would show that residents of St. Louis County have a vision of how great our metro area can be and of justice for those whom the private automobile excludes.

P.S. Since we are at the beginning of our relationship, I want you to know that I will never use the pulpit or this newsletter to advocate for partisan politics or for individual candidates for public office. That is a violation of the separation of church and state. But because we cannot and must not separate faith from politics, I feel compelled to address relevant public issues. This long-standing pastoral tradition at Second Baptist Church needs to continue.

– Stephen Jones



Second Baptist Church  
9030 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, MO 63117



Open and Progressive since 1833



*"The Man with 20 Hands" was repeated at First Baptist Church on October 12.*

*This plaque was presented to Second Baptist Church at the performance along with a picture of the pastors of First and Second Baptist Churches.*

DVDs of "The Man with 20 Hands" performed at First Baptist Church will be available soon for \$15 each. You can order one through the church office.



Second Baptist Church  
9030 Clayton Road  
St. Louis, MO 63117  
Telephone & Fax  
(314) 991-3424  
E-mail: [office@2ndbc.org](mailto:office@2ndbc.org)  
Website: [www.2ndbc.org](http://www.2ndbc.org)

#### Staff

Dr. Stephen Jones, Pastor  
Kara Reagan, Pastoral Intern  
Marilyn Short, Music Director  
Brad Short, Choir Director  
Paula Rardin, Moderator  
Dar Novak, Vice moderator  
Debbie Albu, Secretary, Layout  
Mary Shepardson, *Outlook* Editor  
Jim Shepardson, Photographer