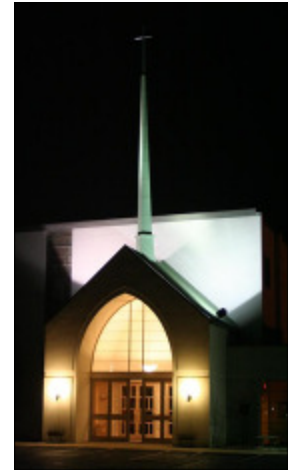


# New Outlook

May 2011

Second Baptist Church  
*Open and Progressive since 1833*



## **Congratulations to Graduates Rebecca and Shari!**



Rebecca Nall will graduate from Parkway Central High School on May 12. As a student there, she has been on the debate team and the swim team, as well as being chosen for Youth Leadership, St. Louis, an offshoot of Focus St. Louis, in which young people learn about St. Louis and what they might do to make it better. Her favorite course was Honors English. “I had a great teacher,” she says, “who helped us understand American culture and the system of values that created it.”

Rebecca has chosen the University of Miami—Ohio for college, where she will be in the Honors Program. Miami “just felt right,” she says. Rebecca was attracted by the fact that the school has a program in Luxembourg, and they would like to have at least 40% of their students study abroad. Because Rebecca has taken several Advanced Placement courses, she will have close to a semester’s credit when she starts college.

She has recently returned from Italy, where she went with her Latin class. “Going to Italy was the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” says Rebecca. “It was fascinating to be in a different culture and see things thousands of years old that we don’t have here.”

Rebecca has been an important part of Second Baptist since the day she was born. She is an active member of our youth program and has attended Green Lake several times. We’re all part of her cheering section!

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Shari Nelson—Faulkner will be awarded a Master of Arts in Library Science degree from the University of Missouri--Columbia this month. This is her third master’s degree: she earned an M.Ed. in English education from Harding University and an M.A. in English and American literature from Washington University.

Shari says, “I was in my 30’s when I decided what I really wanted to do with my life.” After working in a bookstore for 5 years, she was asked to review children’s picture books, and she got interested in connecting children with books they might like. She would like to find a job as an elementary school librarian. “School librarians teach children and young people information literacy: how to find information, evaluate it, and cite it in a research paper,” says Shari. Right now she is substituting at Brentwood Elementary School for a librarian on maternity leave.

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**Shari** (Continued from p. 1)

Now that she has finished her degree, Shari says, "I am looking forward to have a life again." She is not the only one in her household who has been knee-deep in studies; her husband, David Faulkner, is working on a Ph.D. in school administration. He is the Assistant Superintendent of the Brentwood School District.

Shari did a great job as our Director of Children's Ministries at Second Baptist, and she continues to teach the middle school church school class and lead the music in our Second Hour program. We appreciate all she has done for our church. Whatever school gets her for its librarian will have a wonderful asset for its children. Congratulations, Shari!

## **Living in the Power of the Resurrection** **A Small Group Renewal Experience**

For the first four Sunday evenings of May, Tom Clifton and Brooke Justis will lead the congregation in a season of spiritual renewal to celebrate the season of Eastertide. This small group experience will focus on Bible study, prayer, and personal sharing. A study guide, *Easter from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas, will be available for \$10.

Participants will gather for a light meal in the Community Room at 5:30 p.m. followed by the program from 6:00 to 7:00. Those attending will be invited to bring a simple salad, bread, or dessert to share at mealtime. Please register on the green sheet if you will be attending and if you want to purchase the study guide. Or contact Brooke at 314-664-2417 or bhjustis@accessus.net.

## **There's Still Time to Sign Up!**



Now is the time to take your first step toward stardom! It's not too late to sign up to perform in the talent show on Saturday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You'll never have as supportive an audience as you will have at Second Baptist that night. If you're still wavering, now is the time to decide to just do it! Sign up in the narthex or on the green sheet.

A snack buffet will open at 6:00. Please plan to bring a sweet or savory snack to share if you can. The cost for the evening is \$3 per person, with a family maximum of \$10. All proceeds will go the youth for their trip to Quest 2011 at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin.

Linda Marks will serve as the emcee for the evening and will be organizing the talent. Entertainers always like a good audience, so please come and cheer them on even if you're not performing yourself. You'll enjoy a fun, light-hearted evening and be surprised at what your fellow church members can do!

## Game Night



## Palm Sunday



Passing out the palms

## Good Friday



Waiting for the storm to pass

The Second Baptist and Eliot Chapel choirs performing César Franck's "Mass in A"

## One Great Hour of Sharing

During the month of May, we will be invited to help people in aching need through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. By sharing our resources, combined with offerings from thousands of congregations in eight other denominations across the United States, we can:

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty,
- bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable,
- nurture stronger futures and self-sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods.

We are blessed that God is able to provide help when and where it is needed through us. Sharing because we have felt God's love aligns our lives with God's own life and work in our world. Sharing our love for God through One Great Hour of Sharing, we offer ourselves to others as they need us, imitating Christ's offering of his life for us. In turn, we receive him more deeply into our own hearts.

Envelopes for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be in the pews this Sunday.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sun	8:45 a.m.	Adult choir rehearsal in Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Classes for children, youth and adults
	10:30 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary
	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	6:30 p.m.	Adult Children of Alcoholics in Community Rm
Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

May 1	10:30 p.m.	Novak anniversary coffee
May 1	5:30 p.m.	Meal and Resurrection study, Community Rm
May 8	5:30 p.m.	Meal and Resurrection study, Community Rm
May 9	6:30 p.m.	Koinonia, Meg Gilmore's
May 10	1:00 p.m.	Book group, Community Room
May 12		<b>NO</b> choir practice
May 14	6:30 p.m.	Talent show, Fellowship Hall
May 15	5:30 p.m.	Meal and Resurrection study, Community Rm
May 16	6:30 p.m.	Church Council meeting
May 21	7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast, Delmar Baptist
May 22	9:15 a.m.	Last day of church school
May 22	10:30 a.m.	Teacher Appreciation Sunday
May 22	11:30 a.m.	Baby shower for Elisa Chi
May 22	11:45 a.m.	Search Committee meeting
May 22	5:30 p.m.	Meal and Resurrection study, Community Rm
May 23	6:30 p.m.	Koinonia, Meg Gilmore's
May 23	7:00 p.m.	Prostate Cancer Support Group

### Please pray for . . .

Don Humphries and former custodian Bob Johnson, whose homes were damaged by last week's storm.

Everyone is invited to a baby shower for Elisa Chi during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, May 22.



**June 24**  
**3:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Please sign up in the narthex if you can help with the blood drive or give blood.

The *New Outlook* is published monthly during the summer. Please send articles and photos to [mary@shepardson.us](mailto:mary@shepardson.us) by

## Learning about the Karen

Tom Clifton and Kara Reagan recently attended a conference for pastors who have Karen in their congregations. Below is some information they were given at the conference. In future newsletters, we'll be sharing more of what they learned.

### What is the Baptist Connection with the Karen?

Nearly 200 years ago, American Baptists introduced Christianity to the Karen in Burma, and it was the mission work in Burma that led to the organization of Baptists into a denomination. Reid Trulson, executive director of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches recently said, "At the very center of our identity as International Ministries, and as American Baptists, stands our impetus for coming together as Baptists in America - the mission of Adoniram and Ann Judson to Burma at the dawn of the 19th century."

The Judsons were the first missionaries from America. Leaving in 1812, their original destination was India to join in the work of pioneer British missionary William Carey. But since India was a British colony, the War of 1812 between the U.S. and England prevented the Judsons from staying in India. So instead, they became the first missionaries to Burma, where they arrived in 1813.

***“It was the mission work in Burma that led to the organization of Baptists into a denomination.”***

It took six years for the Judsons to lead the first Burmese person to Christ, but the church among the Burmese gradually grew. Along the way, Judson purchased the freedom of a Karen slave named Ko Tha Byu. Judson's early impression was not that positive, writing that Ko Tha Byu was a man "possessed of very ordinary abilities." But Ko Tha Byu was interested in the stories of God, and Judson and the other missionaries that followed were eager to tell him. So in 1828 Ko Tha Byu was baptized by George Dana Boardman in the Burmese city of Tavoy. The Boardmans had gone to Tavoy with Ko Tha Byu to begin mission outreach among the Karen people. No sooner baptized, and in spite of his perceived "ordinary abilities," Ko Tha Byu became an extraordinary evangelist. He was tireless in reaching out to the Karen people, first in Tavoy, then around Rangoon, then throughout Burma. The Karen, as it turned out, were eager to hear the gospel, and many were quick to accept the Christian faith. So the Karen church in Burma grew quickly. As news of this growth reached churches in the U.S., excitement to support missions grew.

Luther Rice soon followed Adoniram and Ann Judson to Burma. However, the Judsons and Rice soon saw that to sustain the work, the support of the churches in America was needed. Luther Rice fell ill, which was the incentive for him to return to the U.S., not only to recuperate, but to generate support for the mission efforts in Burma.

As tireless as Ko Tha Byu was in evangelizing the Karen, Rice was equally tireless in generating support. He was instrumental in establishing mission societies in which individual churches combined their efforts and resources in the support of missions. In *The Story of American Baptists*, Warren Mild writes, "Luther Rice's efforts led ultimately to the creation of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the American Baptist Publication Society and Columbian University in Washington. But his first and greatest contribution was

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getting American Baptists to organize for the support of overseas missions."

Finally, in 1907, in meetings at the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., it was agreed that the various societies, first started by Luther Rice and inspired by the success of mission efforts among the Karen and others, would come together to form the forerunner of what is the American Baptist Churches today.

As Luther Rice worked to generate support, a constant stream of missionaries went to Burma and worked among the Karen and other ethnic groups. Since the 1960's, missionaries have not been allowed in Burma. But in the spirit of Ko Tha Byu, the Burmese and Karen church has grown, as local evangelists continue to spread God's word. Now, among the people of the refugee camps, Baptists make up some 30 - 40% of the population, by far the largest Christian group.

There is a legend in the Karen mythology that says the Karen are one of several brothers. Each brother was given a book with the answers to life's mysteries. The brothers were separated, and the Karen lost their book. But, the legend said, one day their "younger white brother" would return with the "Golden Book." Many Karen saw Judson as the younger white brother and the Bible as the Golden Book. Even today, it is not uncommon to hear Karen repeat this story and express gratitude to Judson and the Baptist missionaries for bringing the Gospel to them. Brothers in legend, brothers in mission, brothers in Christ; now God is bring our brothers to America to live among us.

## **From Our Minister in Residence**

### **Mirian's going to Burma!**

ABC General Secretary, Roy Medley, is organizing a trip to Malaysia and Thailand, focused on visiting Chin and Karen refugees from Burma that are being driven from their homeland. This trip of about one dozen persons from the U.S. will depart on July 8, returning July 20.

On April 18, our Church Council enthusiastically approved the motion to send our own Mirian San on this journey. Mirian said of this opportunity that it is "a dream come true." Among the places that will be visited is the camp where Mirian and her family lived prior to coming to St. Louis. Mirian will be able to visit with her relatives as well as with relatives of her husband, Carey. Mirian, who will probably be the only Karen in the Baptist delegation from the U.S., will also have opportunities to preach and give her testimony.

A committee composed of Kara Reagan, Jane Mahan and Melanie Keeney has been formed to help Mirian with all the paper work and to arrange her transportation. The total cost of this trip for Mirian will be approximately \$3,000. Promises of support have already been given by members of the Church Council.

Please keep the committee and Mirian in your prayers as plans are being finalized and funds are being received. We can look forward to a big "send off" on July 3. The presence of our brothers and sisters from Burma among us is a "dream come true" for our congregation.

Tom Clifton

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

*An American Baptist Church*

9030 Clayton Road at McKnight Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1094

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Church School 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

A nursery is provided.

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Dr. Thomas E. Clifton,

Minister in Residence

Kara Reagan, Associate Pastor

Rick Hoyt, Moderator



**Easter Sunday**



Hallelujah!