



magazine

Spring 2013

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Dylan Franklin

Welcome!

The desire of the children's department at Second Presbyterian is to teach children to know, love, and serve God and to be life-long followers of Christ. This is why I am so happy about our new children's magazine, as it will introduce you to the many activities, programs, and areas of service in which we participate. Enjoy the heartfelt and funny stories of 2PC members who volunteer in our nursery, serve on mission trips, or work with our special friends. These are all areas that the children's ministry is blessed and excited to be a part of!

Dylan Franklin,
Assistant Director of Kids at Second



Sha Deme

A Message from our Director of Parents' Day Out

The Parents' Day Out program is graced each week with 200 smiling faces. As the director of the PDO at Second Presbyterian Church, I love telling people about what we do here. Before becoming director, I taught in one of our toddler classes for nine years, during which I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children learn new concepts and having fun in the process.

We are happy to teach your child and to show them God's love every day through Bible stories and our daily curriculum. We teach using the HighReach Learning curriculum, which combines theme, language development, toddler and preschool fine and gross motor skills, and hands-on learning, in areas such as science and music. We feel that this curriculum provides a well-rounded start to each and every child that comes to our program.

We also maintain a safe and secure environment for all the children. We keep our teacher to child ratios low—1:3 for babies, 1:4 for toddlers, and 1:7 for preschoolers. It is important that all of our teachers are Christ followers and adhere to a background check and drug test. All preschool rooms have at least one teacher with a degree in early childhood education.

PDO's mission is to show God's love to children, to lead them to faith in Jesus Christ, to make them His disciples, and to call them to His service.

Sincerely,

Sha Deme

PDO Facts

PDO is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and children may attend one or two days per week. We have an academic school year session and a summer session.

Visit 2pc.org/pdo to learn more.

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News from the Nursery

An Interview with Watson & Helene Harris

How long have you been teaching in the nursery?

Nearly five years. For the first three, we were volunteering in the Blue Room once a month during the early service. Then about two years ago, Sam Barry, another nursery teacher, approached us to become full-time teachers.

What age do you teach?

The 2-year-olds in the Blue Room.

Do you have any funny stories from your time in the Blue Room?

Every Sunday we have music time. One of the songs we typically sing has the following lyrics: “God made my eyes to blink, blink, blink... God made my fingers to wiggle, wiggle, wiggle... God made my legs to shake, shake, shake...God made me that way.” As we were finishing up lunch one Sunday after church, we received a phone call from a friend whose daughter is in our class. Sounding perplexed, he inquired as to why his daughter was dancing around the house singing “wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, shake, shake, shake?” Well, the kids may not get all the lyrics the first time, but they eventually get the right song stuck in their heads!

What is the best thing about your job?

Watching the children grow in their relationship with Christ. Even though they’re only 2 years old, we are always amazed at how much the children are able to take in and comprehend from the weekly lessons.

Anything else you would like to add?

Serving in the nursery is an amazing opportunity to glorify God. When we joined Second, we were looking for a way to serve. At first, volunteering in the nursery attracted us because it was convenient. However, now it is so much more! God works in mysterious ways and He is working through us every Sunday to teach His message of everlasting love to children and parents alike. Teaching in the nursery has also strengthened our faith because it has been a great reminder of the simple truths we often take for granted in our busy world. No matter how old you are, it’s always good to be reminded that Jesus loves us simply because the Bible tells us so. ■

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Nursery News *Continued*



An Interview with Sarah Gaye Sneed

How long have you been teaching in the nursery?

Five years ago I was walking through the nursery, returning a book to a friend. While there, another friend grabbed me and said that the Yellow Room was inundated with children and she needed me there at once. She was pretty persuasive! So I went and have returned every week since.

What age do you teach?

The teachers in the Yellow Room joke that we have the “AP” class of the nursery, since our children make up the oldest nursery class, having all turned 3 years old before the Sunday School year begins.

Do you have any funny stories from your time in the Yellow Room?

One morning, after feeding the children what seemed like a mountain of crackers, we told the class that snack time was officially over. One persistent little boy batted his big brown eyes at me and asked, “If snack time is over, why does my tummy say that I am

still hungry?!” You can be sure that one more cracker was given to this “hungry tummy” as I bit my tongue to keep from laughing!

What is the best thing about your job?

As I work in the nursery, the Lord continues to shower His blessings on me. I love the combined candor and innocence of 3-year-olds; the “lisps” of praise in the children’s songs that “silence the foe and the avenger”; the privilege of telling the next generation the praiseworthy things that the Lord has done; the challenge of teaching biblical truth in the simplest of terms; the story time responses of either watchful wonder or willful wiggles that remind me of my own ambivalence as I sit before the Word; the awesome privilege of joining precious young parents in keeping their baptismal vows. I often ask a big “Why me, Lord?” for the honor of planting small seeds for His Kingdom. ■

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Nursery Open House

April 21 at 9:45

Meet in the nursery lobby to take a tour of the nursery and to ask any questions you may have.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER IN THE NURSERY?

Volunteer opportunities are available on Sunday mornings at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00.

You can volunteer once per month or weekly.

Visit 2pc.org/getinvolved/kids or contact Dylan Franklin at dylan.franklin@2pc.org.

SPECIAL Friends

A Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church



The Special Friends class was started by Dick and Bette Bush, along with Jane Gnall, in September 1985. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:40 and 11:00. This year, in addition to our Bible story with life application, prayer time, music time, and refreshments, we are learning the Children's Catechism. The class has seven members that attend regularly, including two who are communicant church members.

2PC Special Friends Ministry hopes to provide joyful fellowship for members and visitors with any disability so that ALL may worship!

We would love to have volunteers and it is a great FAMILY volunteer opportunity (especially the Parents' Night Out events). Please email Ginna Rauls at ginnarauls@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer in any way!

Special Friends Activities

Sunday Mornings - Special friends enjoy crafts, music, fellowship, and Bible stories at 9:40 and 11:00 in N101.

Jumping for Jesus - Fun exercising and dancing to music! Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 in N101.

Vacation Bible School - A week-long special friends class during 2PC's Vacation Bible School, from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. in N101

Monthly Parents' Night Out- Special friends of all ages and disabilities are invited for a fun-themed evening such as Valentine's dances, and activities like scavenger hunts and bowling and movie nights. Siblings are welcome.

We also have a brand new shadowing program, in which younger participants who need extra support in their Sunday School classes are paired with trained volunteers who can help attend to their specific needs, while the parents attend their own class.

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On Mission Together

An interview with Libby Dickinson about her family's mission trip experience in Belize

Why did you and your family decide to go on this trip?

We knew the trip would provide an opportunity to engage together in our Lord's work of spreading the good news of the Gospel. No one in our immediate or extended family had ever participated in a mission trip, so I decided to make our first one a family experience. Together, we would learn what it means to worship and serve God away from home.

What did you do to prepare as a family?

First, we began with prayer. We prayed a lot as a family for all the things you can think of including that: (1) our obedience and efforts to spread the good news would bring glory to God (2) we would be able to serve Pastor Juan Patt and his ministry in Corozal, Belize in meaningful ways (3) God would bless those who attended the VBS (4) our hearts would open, and we would learn and retain the lessons God would teach us while serving on foreign soil. Oh! There was also a lot of prayer over the basic logistics—what to take and leave behind, whether to ship or carry VBS supplies, whether our bags would meet the weight limit, and on and on!

Continued...



We also filled out applications, applied for passports, received malaria pills and other required shots, and located rolling suitcases. Going to the U.S. postal service for our Customs appointment was very exciting to my children and we bonded over the experience of reassuring one other after receiving shots. We felt empowered that we were taking action for the Lord as a family. Many pre-trip memories were made!

We also attended a team dinner and a planning meeting. My boys, McRae and Robert, ages 8 and 11 at the time, really enjoyed the company of the teens and adults who were on our team. The week before the trip, my boys got to go to Sam's Club to pick out candy for VBS snack time. It took a lot of time and conversation to select the perfect snack that would not melt in our checked bags or in the church without air-conditioning!

Packing, rising at 4 a.m. to travel to the airport, being in charge of their individual luggage, and going through customs were all new exciting adventures that my children experienced with me. It was wonderful to see it dawn on them how really BIG God's creation is and how great the experience of travelling abroad!

Once in Belize, what did you do?

Our first night there, we stayed in Belize City to attend a service celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Presbytery there. The service was in a church with floor to ceiling rolling doors situated in intervals around a huge room with pews. Wonderful sea breezes blew in through these openings during the four-hour bi-lingual service. My children sat and listened to the entire service and enjoyed it, despite the length!

On Sunday afternoon we travelled to Corozal and ran a VBS in the morning and painted the exterior and interior of the church in the afternoon over the course of the next week. My children assumed responsibilities that they would never be given at home and really grew through the experience.

Language barriers were not a problem for any of the team's children, as the universal language of all children seems to be play! And let me assure you, lots of soccer was played with the children in Corozal, which Robert and McRae loved! Also, team prayer time on the roof of our accommodations was a highlight, as well as family devotions in our room, as we faced each day's tasks or trials—like not having A/C during the summer day!

What did you learn as a family?

This trip allowed us a wonderful opportunity to draw closer in family worship and teamwork. We prayed, talked, planned, learned, and had the time of our lives. There was a sweetness to serving the Lord together as we prepared to go on the trip, spent the week in Belize, and returned home.

Continued...





Robert and McRae learned that the children in Belize have so little. Some did not even get to live with their parents, their houses were run down, their drinking water was unsafe, and they had little money. Yet they were so joyful! They listened to the good news of the Gospel in VBS, laughed, and played! In a PDS chapel program, Robert told his peers that Belize taught him how much God has blessed him with knowledge of Himself through the Bible, church, family, and friends here in Memphis. He also shared how grateful he is to have safe drinking water and air conditioning at home! McRae came home committed to having more real joy, like the children of Belize.

How would you encourage other families as they consider going on a mission trip?

We would encourage families interested in serving in Belize to go, go, go! It's a

wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse of the work our God is doing far from home. The trip gave us the opportunity to come together as a family and to intentionally spend time in His Word, in preparation for the trip, and in service and fellowship during the trip, which enriched our internal family dynamics. As a family, we now have a common experience to draw upon wherein we learned biblical lessons and came to appreciate previously memorized biblical truths together. We came away from this trip deeply delighted to experience God and His creation, in serving Pastor Juan Patt and the Corozal community in Belize, in having flat-out fun with our fellow Second team members, and in recognizing our family's joy and desire to intentionally worship, serve, and enjoy our God together! ■

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THE NEXT BELIZE FAMILY MISSION TRIP IS JULY 7-13

Please don't think that you can't be involved in this trip. This is a great way for your family to pray for the families on this trip, or even consider taking your own family on this trip in the future. If you are willing to be challenged, stretched, and changed, by serving with fellow believers in Belize, talk to your CC pastor about how you could be involved in this short term trip.

Have You Met?



Mandy Morse

Children's Ministry Administrative Assistant

Before coming to Second, Mandy worked in the school system for 12 years as a speech pathologist. Reading the newspaper one day, she came across this job description:

“Highly Active. Non-profit setting. Strong word-processing skills. Fast Paced. Multi-tasked. An initiator. Organized. Cheerful. Positive Atmosphere.”

If you know Mandy, you know this job was made for her. You also know that one of her favorite parts of her job is Vacation Bible School.

The children's department's biggest event of the year, VBS requires many hours of planning

and organizing. However, it all pays off when hundreds of kids come flowing into the building and seeds are planted in their hearts, and in the hearts of their parents. Just ask Mandy.

“VBS is one of the most amazing things you will see!” she says.

“One time in particular, a special needs friend came to VBS and went home so excited that she told her parents, and their whole family ended up joining the church. They saw that there was a true welcome, connection, and acceptance of their child and their joy was re-kindled. It's moments like those that confirm that I am right where God wants me. I can't help but love my job.” ■

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS

JUNE 3-7

Contact Mandy at
mandy.morse@2pc.org



Soup Kitchen Joe

Three statements from Joey Bland that describe his experience with his family serving others together at a local soup kitchen.

This was a great experience that we ended up volunteering for several times over the summer and fall.

After serving the first time, my 17-year-old said as we left, “We need to do this every Sunday!”

Our children range in age from 5 to 17 and all have felt this experience was one of the best of the year.

Be on the lookout for other opportunities to serve as a family.

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Children's Choirs



From the Mouths of Babes

Psalm 100:1 says, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!” And, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons, that’s just what we’re doing. Children’s choirs are preparing for several events:

March 24 JK–1st grade choirs sing for Palm Sunday

April 24 Grades 2-6 will present their spring musical, “Down by the Creekbank”

We are blessed in the children’s music ministry to have amazingly talented volunteers. Each week, they give of their time by reading, singing, preparing dinner, leading, accompanying and, most importantly, loving our children.

We are also thrilled to have our music intern, Molly Johnson, to assist in leading the children’s choir program. Remember, it is never too late to join a choir!

OTHER MUSIC ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The Second Conservatory is open to all ages. Please visit our webpage www.2pc.org/conservatory for more information. Summer session registration will be available soon.

Rhythm U Arts Camp—Information and registration will also be on the webpage soon. You don’t want to miss out! July 22-July 26, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

For more information contact; Terri Theil, terri.theil@2pc.org

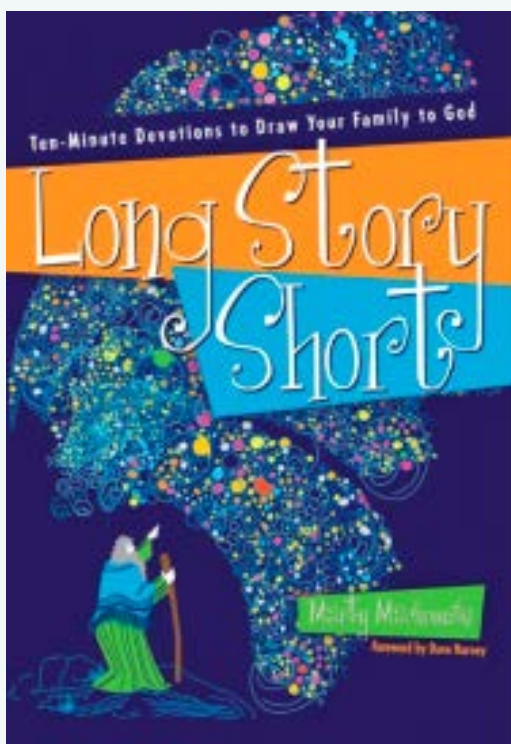
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KiDSKONNECTION



On Wednesday nights, volunteers lead kids in grades 2-5 in a wild and wonderful evening of playing, engaging in fellowship, singing songs, and learning biblical truths. The kids are divided up by age to play games in the gym before settling down for praise music, a fun activity, and a short Bible lesson. Kids Konnection is a great time for kids to fellowship with friends and to get to know kids from other schools. It has been fun to see children from outside 2PC come with their friends to learn what Wednesday nights are all about at Second. Kids Konnection also prepares them for later ministries like 3 Degrees and True North by making Wednesday nights part of their weekly routine. With more than 100 children in attendance who sing loudly, laugh heartily, and listen intently to the speaker, the Lord has surely blessed this sweet Wednesday night ministry.

Transform Your Family with Ten Minutes a Day in the Gospel Story using the Devotional *Long Story Short* by Marty Machowski



Christian parents know the importance of passing the Gospel story on to their children, yet we live in a busy world with distractions. Schedules collide, there is homework, yard work, dishes and laundry, the car's oil should be changed, there are phone calls to make... and before you know it, everyone is getting to bed late again.

This easy-to-use family devotional:

- Focuses on the gospel of grace through stories from the Old Testament.
- Is suitable for children from preschool to high school.

Long Story Short is available to purchase in the Bookmark Bookstore.

Sports and Recreation



Robert O'Kelley

We pride ourselves on building an environment in which every kid matters and has the opportunity to enjoy playing sports.

This is why we have a rule that ensures that each child plays at least 50% of the game and we try our best to put together teams that are even in talent. Having even teams ensures that every child has a chance to be challenged and to improve in fundamentals. Most importantly, we are a sports ministry and we want to keep in perspective that it is God who is the center of our lives. Meeting new people, competing in a healthy environment, and growing as young men and women through sports are what we want to accomplish here at Second Presbyterian Church.

The Recreation Program of Second Presbyterian Church is a church-supported nonprofit program designed for boys and girls ages 4-18. Second Presbyterian Church has provided this program for more than 20 years, coaching youth and teaching them the many values that athletics have to offer.

The mission of the Second Presbyterian Church Sport and Recreation Ministry is to glorify God and to build His church by using sports, fitness, and recreational activities to provide an environment for Christian fellowship, personal evangelism, and service to our city. ■

Volunteer to Coach!

Call Robert O'Kelley at 454-0034 or email robert.okelley@2pc.org.



ANNUAL SCHEDULE

Flag Football and Soccer, JK - 6th Grade
August - October

Basketball, JK - 12th Grade
November - February

Soccer and Baseball, JK - 6th Grade
March - May

Sports Camps
June and July

Get up to-date information about sports and recreation at 2pcsports.org.

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Quest

A Journey for Sixth Graders



Each Sunday, sixth-grade students are hearing and reading God's Word through a mixture of lecture and teacher-led small group discussions, which emphasize Christianity as a comprehensive worldview. Students are taught to think critically about truth, and to test the truth claims made by various aspects of the culture, including the Bible. Evidence for the reliability of the Bible is assessed and compared with evidence for other religious and ideological claims, including modern atheism. Once the truth of the Bible is established, a series of topical lessons applies biblical principles to matters affecting the lives of young people today. The year concludes with a general call to action in sharing the Gospel and encouragement to shine God's light in and beyond our usual circles of influence.

On Wednesday nights, sixth-grade students have QUEST. There, students spend time playing games and studying questions regarding the Bible, faith, doubt, and the Gospel through large and small group discussions, while enjoying fellowship with adult and high school leaders and other students.

Dean Franklin,
6th Grade Coordinator

The Truth About the Youth

(MINISTRY)



Andrew Keasling

The goal of our youth ministry at 2PC is twofold. First, it is to lead students in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, with the community of Jesus Christ (the Church), and with the work of Jesus Christ in the world (personal evangelism and missions). We say “growing” because we want to meet students where they are. We didn’t have to clean ourselves up before Jesus accepted us. He accepted us right where He found us, but He also didn’t leave us there. As a youth ministry, we want to reflect this work that Jesus is doing in us. We say “relationship” because Christianity is not simply a set of rules that make up a religion. God desires a personal relationship with us. He wants to be our God and He wants us to be His people. This is personal and intimate. In all of this we trust the work of the Holy Spirit—in us, in our families, and in our students.

Second, we see ourselves as coming alongside parents in raising their own children to know and love God. We want to not only partner with parents but also to equip, encourage, and empower them to capitalize on their God-given role as the primary spiritual influencers in their children’s lives. We seek to accomplish this by providing guidance, encouragement, and resources to help them grow in the discipleship of their children.

Andrew Keasling,
Director of Youth Ministries/Senior High Director

Youth Summer Dates 2013

Sr. High Baltimore Missions Trip
May 25-June 3

Jr. High 5 Days Straight
May 28-June 1

8th grade New Orleans
Missions Trip
June 2-9

Sr. High Beach Trip
June 10-14

Jr. High EDGE Conference
June 17-21

Sr. High Budapest
Missions Trip
July 2-14

6th and 7th grade Dallas
Missions Trip
July 14-20

Sr. High Missions Trip with
Leadership Empowerment Center
July 21-27

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2PC Western ROUNDUP



VBS • JUNE 3-7

KIDS

at Second

4055 Poplar Avenue • Memphis, Tennessee 38111

(901) 454-0034 • www.2pc.org/get-involved/kids

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Special thanks to Catherine Burns for many of the photographs in this issue of KIDS magazine.