

2015 Review



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Dylan Franklin

Waiting

I don't like to wait. I don't mean that I'm a little impatient. I mean I don't like to wait. I have learned that I am, however, patient with things that some people aren't - like doctors, car inspection traffic. What I don't like waiting for is life-changing things. These include but are not limited to: jobs, my children's futures, test results, and death. You might think it's weird to say death but have you ever been in a situation where death was inevitable? It seems like forever and ever and ever.

Lately, I have had to deal with this a little more than I like. Our family dog has been very sick. My grandmother was told that she didn't need to do chemotherapy. It's the circle of life—right? Why is it that once we know life is about over we get impatient for something that we dread our entire lives? In Psalm 27:4, David writes, "Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord."

The Lord is teaching me that waiting on Him is right and good. But, it is so, so hard.

Waiting is also hard with children. As someone who works with children each day I get impatient waiting to see what the Lord is doing in their lives. (Most of these children won't even remember me year to year.) I get antsy wondering if my own daughters will ever "get it" or what their futures look like. But I know this: Jesus is faithful! My hope is not in the results—my hope has to lie in the One who holds my future. My faith has to be in Him and Him alone.

Is this easy? No! Never! I like to be in control which means knowing what is coming. I will say this though: when I think of waiting as an exercise in faith; even waiting on things that seem scary, I realize how much I can grow as a result. Ministering to children is an exercise in patience itself. I'm waiting on God to work in their hearts and minds. My hope is that they will choose to love the Lord with all their heart!!

So know this friends: even though we might not always see the fruit of our labors the Lord is in control and never makes mistakes. As you go through each day or week or year, be strong in God's assurance of faithfulness. He knows your future and it's exactly as it should be!

Dylan Franklin,
Director of Children's Ministry



VBS RECAP

This past June, our church hosted over 800 children at our annual Vacation Bible School week. This year's teaching focused on the theme, "Discovering God's Plan 4 You."

Continue



Over the course of 5 days, the “adventurers” made crafts, sang songs, played fun games in the gym, and got to “visit” different countries each day to learn more about the love of God through His creation and His people. At the end of the week the children not only left with a better understanding of their sin, but also of their gracious Savior Christ Jesus who came to die for them so that they can be with Him in heaven one day.

Discover your place in VBS

Watch our website

2pc.org/getinvolved/kids

for ways to serve at VBS 2016.

“VBS is one of the highlights of my year. It is such a privilege for me to see the children who come discovering God’s truths throughout the week in such a fun and memorable way.”

Jenni Brooks,
VBS Director



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PATRIOTIC POPS

Each July, the families of Second Presbyterian Church look forward to gathering together to celebrate the church's annual Patriotic Pops concert at the Levitt Shell. This past summers concert drew almost 5,000 people to the Shell as the Second Presbyterian Choir and Orchestra, as well as some special guests, preformed sing-along favorites like "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." The children also got to do some fun, patriotic activities such as crafting red, white, and blue hats, putting on temporary tattoos, and even participating in the patriotic parade that marched through the crowd to the beat of the music. The highlight of the night was of course the incredible fireworks show that dazzled both children and adults alike as the bright colors lit up the sky as the band played the National Anthem to conclude the night.

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Parents' Day Out
at Second

PDO is off to an incredible start for its 20th year! We are excited about all of the fun opportunities and events we get to offer our students as they go throughout the year! When looking back where we started, we feel so blessed that the Lord has given us so many great families over the years.

Continue



Each child in Toddler 2 - Preschool 4 participate in Science class. Every month we focus on a different topic such as weather, simple machines, magnets, and objects that will either sink or float. This class allows the students to interact, have hands-on learning, and learn more about the world around them!

All children also a fun music class that meets one week per month and teaches them about different types of music as well as instruments and the sounds they make. Currently the students in the Toddler 2- Preschool 4 music class are hard at work preparing for their Annual PDO Christmas program, which will take place on December 16. This is a fun annual event that is quickly becoming a beloved tradition at PDO.

If you are interested in learning more about PDO and the classes that it offers, you can schedule a tour on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday with the director Sha Deme. You can also visit 2pc.org/pdo to learn more about our program.

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Shadow Friends Ministry

One of the sweetest branches of the Children’s Ministry at Second Presbyterian Church is the “Shadow Friends” ministry, which provides a peer support system for children in 1st through 5th grade who typically would struggle in the Sunday School environment. The program has become an essential part of Sunday mornings for these children who need a little extra support to stay with their peers in Sunday School and it also allows their parents to have the opportunity to go and be with their own Congregational Community.

The program was developed about 4 years ago by Ginna Rauls when she first saw a need for Shadow Friends, and now it has grown to provide shadows and buddies for 9 children each Sunday! Each child who needs extra support has a team of buddies who specifically know how to meet and provide for that child’s needs. The buddies that shadow are not random; they have been trained by our very own expert Margaret Ziegenhorn to support and involve that specific child in the actual class activities and schedule. This program is a blessing to both the families involved and the buddies who shadow the students, and is continuing to grow and expand, as 7 peer-aged buddies are also helping their friends within the Sunday school setting!



“It has been amazing to see how my son connects with his buddies and how he has developed a unique relationship with each of them. Not every day is great; in fact we definitely have our share of ups and downs. But with this, Sam grows and the buddies grow, and ultimately God is glorified. It has been a positive experience for not only Sam, but his peers as well who have grown up with him and have been so gracious. They know him and accept him because this is who God created him to be. They’ve watched us all support Sam and they include him as they would any of their other peers. This program is a “win win” for all who are involved. We are so thankful for everyone who plays a part in making this program happen.” – Courtney Davis

God is so amazing how He is using this ministry in so many ways - the parents get to attend their CC without the worry since their child has a buddy, the buddy’s have had life-transforming moments working with the kids, and seeing the peers embrace the special friends has been so touching to everyone in the room! It is the best example of the hands and feet of Jesus I’ve ever seen!” – Ginna Rauls



Saying Goodbye to MJ

We are so sad to be saying “see you later” to MJ and Andrew Keasling and their family, but are even more excited for the new adventure that lays ahead of them in Knoxville. We have loved being a part of their lives for the last 12 years. They have loved, cared for, and served the children and families of Second Presbyterian Church so well and will be very missed by this church family. Please be praying for the as they transition into their new roles and new church community!

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“MJ has been a blessing to the children’s ministry and to me personally in more ways than I can count. She has a genuine love for the children she is serving and also cares deeply for the volunteers she works with. You can see the love of Jesus spilling out of her onto these children whether it’s singing with them, playing with them, or teaching them God’s word. And she has such a passion to ensure that the gospel is preached to these children each Wednesday night. Plus, she’s just fun to work with! MJ will be deeply missed by so many, but Knoxville is lucky to be gaining such an amazing asset. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for the Keasling family!” - Haley Overcast

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“MJ epitomizes the Light of Christ to everyone that comes into contact with her. The children of Second, as well as their Sunday School teachers, have had a front row seat to that light. We have all been immeasurably blessed by her and her ministry. She will be greatly missed on Sunday mornings.” - Marian Staffel

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Staff Christmas Movies & Traditions



Dylan Franklin
*Children's
Director*

My favorite movie is *Christmas in Connecticut* (older tradition) as well as *Elf* and *Christmas with the Kranks* (new tradition). Our family also always goes to the Christmas Eve candlelight service- no matter how old my children get, this makes them smile and appreciate the beauty of our Savior's birth..



MJ Keasling
*Elementary
Coordinator*

I absolutely LOVE going to see Christmas lights! When I was little we had a tradition to go get pizza and go see lights with another family. Now my family loves *Starry Nights* or just hopping in the car and trying to see what we can!



Sha Deme
PDO Director

My favorite One of my favorite Christmas traditions is going with my family to my aunt's house on Christmas Eve to open presents, watch Christmas movies, and eat pizza. Of course, right now we are working on our strategy for Black Friday.



Mandy Morse
*Administrative
Assistant*

Several years ago, I started a new Christmas Eve tradition with my daughters. After coming home from dinner and the family Christmas Eve service at our church, we each open one present of matching or coordinating pajamas. Emily and Clair also open one additional "group" gift which is a Christmas movie. Then the three of us put on our new pajamas, pile up on the couch with a snack, and watch the new movie together. The fun thing is how varied the movies are each year - from family classic to comedy to musical!



Kirsten Scheel
*Early Childhood
Coordinator*

My favorite Christmas tradition is that my dad would always read *The Night before Christmas* and would read from Luke about Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. Oh, oh and also my sister and I have had sleepovers every Christmas Eve until I got married!

Meet the Intern

Sarah Caitlin Wheat is a Mississippi State graduate with a major in Special Education. She is from Jackson, MS where her father is pastor at Highlands Presbyterian. She is participating in our Fellows program while working at 2PC and also at Special Kids and Families. Sarah Caitlin loves music and running.

My favorite Christmas tradition is Christmas Eve with my family. After the night service, we always come home and eat breakfast for dinner and then sit around our Christmas tree drinking hot chocolate and reading the Christmas story from the Bible together. We also get to open one present (which to this day is still always new pajama's). Its a special time to be together, and also a time to recenter our minds on why we truly celebrate Christmas.

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Milestones for PK – 5th Grade

At 2PC we want to create events for all in Children’s Ministry to look forward to each year. These milestones serve to bond families, reinforce our mission, and encourage children in God's will.

Grade	Milestone	Month
PK	Tour/welcome/ice-cream	August
JK	Family Devotion (in addition to the two days offered with curriculum.)	September
SK	Easter Eggs	March
1st	Christmas Play & Gift Bible	December
2nd	Service Project	October
3rd	Brunch for mom’s and sons	February
4th	Brunch for dads and daughters	February
5th	Nativity/ Fun Night	December

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November	29	Hanging of the Green
December	6, 13	New toy collection for NCC in Sunday School
	18	PDO Music Program
	21, 22	TOTS
	21	PJ Story Time
	27	No Sunday School
January	13	Midweek resumes
	13	Parents' lunch
	22-24	Christian Life Conference
February	7	Nursery Open House
	26-28	KidMission Festival

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