

the Spire

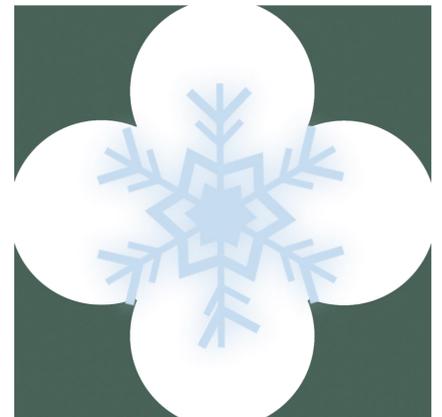
January 2021



What Gifts Will You Bring?



Volume 85 Issue 1



seattle first baptist

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Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior.

All submissions should be sent to editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org

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**please note office closure details on back cover*

From the Pastor's Desk

2020 – Year of Discovery!

By Rev. Tim Phillips

Years ago, there was a Sunday morning devotional program on TV filmed in Florida's Cypress Gardens. Our family watched faithfully before getting ready for church. Part of the fascination for me was that it was called "Day of Discovery" and it had a theme anthem that began: "Discovery! Discovery! Discov...ery!" Imagine that last "discovery" with confident voices on a triumphant chord.

At the time, my spiritual life was less discovery and more imitation. We memorized Bible verses, learned unquestioned "biblical truth," and stayed safely in our Baptist bubble away from the influences of the world. I was simply expected to imitate what I learned.

But then Sunday morning would come along and once again my spine would tingle with "Discov...ery!" I began to wonder: What if faith is an adventure and the practice of it is discovery?

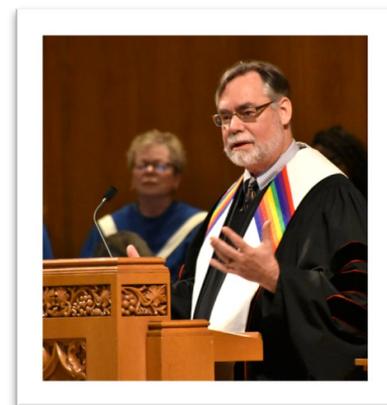
So, here we are at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. By now we have figured out that faith as imitation doesn't get us very far. It can't keep up with the changes and challenges of life. If this year has taught us anything, it's that.

Through this pandemic we have discovered a lot of things; like human beings are absolutely connected regardless of anything; that racial hatred runs just below the surface; that even some of us introverts can have too much time alone. We have discovered how to stay connected without being in the same place. We have discovered vaccines and resilience and political resistance to the very things that will keep us alive.

On this adventure of 2020, discoveries – both good and devastating – have appeared around every corner. Perhaps a way to head into 2021 is simply to make a list of them. For instance, every time someone says that violence and dangerous rhetoric are just not "who we are," I have to point out that we have discovered that is not the case. On the other hand, much though I struggle with technology, we have discovered that we can find new ways to bond with others. We have discovered some things about ourselves and our world and it will be important not to ignore those in 2021.

I wish I could recover the sound of those confident voices singing "Discovery!" triumphantly on a Sunday morning. Every day this year has felt like discoveries that were often less confident or triumphant. It's tempting to fall back on faith as imitation of another time – "normal" time, less complicated time, less dangerous time. But it won't work. Faith is an adventure and discovery is the practice of it.

So, make your list and open your heart to the One in whom all things are possible!



Growing Together

YOUNG ADULT NEW YEAR'S GATHERING

Growing Forward:

A check-in and discussion about being millennials and Gen Z at SFBC

Sunday, January 10, 5-6 p.m. PST

Zoom Code: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89781179108>

Meeting ID: 897 8117 9108
Email Pastor Anita with any questions.

Youth Group New Year's Gathering Sunday, January 3, 5-6 p.m.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88255868644>

Meeting ID: 882 5586 8644

Young Adult New Year's Gathering Sunday, January 10, 5-6 p.m.

Join us for a check-in and discussion about being millennials and Gen Z at SFBC on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89781179108>

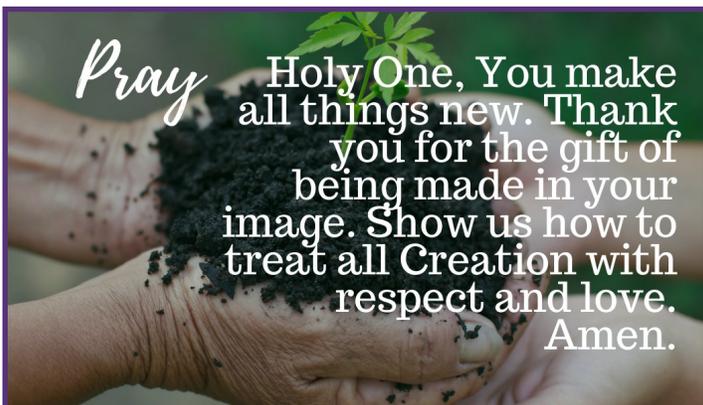
Meeting ID: 897 8117 9108

Contact Pastor Anita with questions at anita@seattlefirstbpatist.org

Update Your Child's Information!

In our ministries, it is important for us to have information about your child so we can serve them best. Please find the necessary forms on the [Next Generation page of the SFBC website](#). Also, know that we use these guidelines when gathering with children online:

- * All adults and children must have video on.
- * There is no situation in which one adult and one child are in a Zoom room alone.
- * Adults always ask guardians' permission before posting photos or names of children on church website or social media.
- * Children joining church activities on Zoom must be nearby an adult in their household. The adult does not need to be in the frame of the video but must be within reach.
- * Children & adults must have their full name displayed on Zoom to be let into Zoom meeting. No strangers will be allowed in meeting.
- * Screen sharing will be disabled for all meeting participants unless pre-planned and necessary.
- * Adults will not record Zoom meetings unless granted permission by children's adult guardians.



Visit: www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/adult-education to learn more!

Depolarizing Begins Within Sunday, January 3, at 9:30 a.m.

Braver Angels

When we think about society's polarization, we don't typically think about our own role in it. But according to Braver Angels, an organization that brings together "Red and Blue Americans," much of today's division is driven by how we talk with like-minded people about those on the other side. Our Braver Angels presenter, volunteer Lorraine Howell, will introduce us to:

- How to be more aware of our own "inner polarizer."
- How to be critical without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large parts of the population.
- Strategies for intervening constructively when conversations veer into ridicule of people who hold other political views.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Our SFBC Task Forces Sunday, January 10, at 9:30 a.m.

What would you like to know about the congregation's task forces working to move us ahead in 2021? Please bring your questions about scheduling, membership, reporting relationships—anything you would like to know about task force work. SFBC Executive Committee members will facilitate this session. They will do their best to answer your questions as we move into the new year.

Reflecting on MLK's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Lessons for Today Sunday, January 17, at 9:30 a.m.

Facilitated by Susan Blythe-Goodman, this session offers an analysis and discussion on Dr. King's famous letter and its context within the Civil Rights Movement. We will talk about constructive nonviolent tension, justice and injustice, organizing movements, and love. Read Dr. King's letter (https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html) or listen to it (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATPSht6318o>) to prepare for the conversation.

Note: *The full letter is over 6,900 words, so allow plenty of time to take it in.*

Contemplative Practices of the Black Church Sunday, January 24, at 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Seattle, will lead us in this session. We will explore:

- Spiritual exercises innate to the Black Church as the praxis for more profound theological reflections.
- How movement, dance, and the music become central in connecting with God.
- The significance of the "mourners' bench," revival, and prayer meeting as contemplative practices.
- Rev. Dr. Carr will also reflect on how contemplative practices during COVID-19 have given her grit, resilience, and restoration.

Zoom Details

For all gatherings

Join us on Zoom at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362015470>

Or dial into the meeting:
346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 863 6201 5470

Our Life Together

Ripples of Love

By Ruth Fossett, Outreach Chair

"I would like to bake cookies for someone." That idea/gift from Sherry Willis birthed the Holiday Happiness Outreach project taking gifts of homemade cookies and of candy, gloves and socks to 320 homeless neighbors in December. Our fearless organizers and deliverers, Cookie Mobsters Ruth Fossett and Beth Reis were assisted by Elves Barbara Steele, Carole Cornell and Sandra Jones. Our partners in making this happen were four of Low Income Housing Institute's Tiny House Villages (Georgetown, Lake Union, Othello, and True Hope), and Night-watch, and WHEEL for Women's shelter at Trinity Church. Thirteen cookie bakers helped make the love real: Sherry Willis, Carole Cornell, Martha Hopler, Sue Phillips, Sandra Jones, Muriel Cashdollar, Krista Stackhouse, Joanne Wright, Gloria Tozer, Susan Blythe Goodman, Katy Lynn Harrison, Brooke Rolston, and Cherry Johnson. We even had bakers standing in wait should we need more.

The joy this project generated is fueling ideas for similar projects in 2021.

Thanks to all!

Stand Up!

By Michael Stern

Dear SFBC friends,

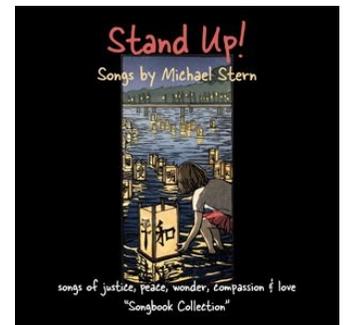
I recently published *Stand Up! Songs by Michael Stern* – a songbook of my best 21 songs of justice, peace, wonder, compassion, and love. The scored melodies with chords are presented in a format that is accessible, readable, and sing-able for folk musicians, singers and song leaders.

Fretboard diagrams are included for the less familiar guitar chords and non-standard tunings, and program notes which will help you learn by playing along with my recordings. To that end, you can also order a digitally re-mastered compilation Songbook Collection CD with all 21 of these songs in a sequence that matches the songbook.

I would be happy to personally deliver orders to your door in the greater Seattle area. The songbook costs \$25 and the CD is \$15, but you can get both from me for just \$30.

Just text me at 206-271-5136.

Peace, Mike Stern – www.mikesongs.net



Learn More About SFBC at Diaconate Board Meetings Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m.

Diaconate Board meetings are a great way to learn more about the future and vision of SFBC, especially as we transition and lean into our Long-Range Planning. Save the date and join in! The meetings are every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Open for all to come and listen. Notify the President at president@seattlefirstbaptist.org to receive the Zoom link.

Our Life Together

2020 Commissions

By Metta Williams

The following is the slate of participants for Commissions in 2021 that the Nominating Committee has put together. During the Annual Meeting in January, the membership will vote regarding the approval of these participants. A huge thanks to Nancy Szeliga, Renna Pierce, Sue Ross and Brian Ross for all the work they put in to get people involved.

Nominations, 2021

For 2021, the Diaconate will be made up of the Executive Committee, the chair of the Personnel Commission, the chair of the Stewardship Commission, stewards representing the other commissions and the members at large. This was decided by consent by the 2020 Diaconate.

President:	Jim Ginn	Vice-President:	Megan Walker
Treasurer:	Bob Sittig	Secretary:	Dick Miller
Adult Education:	Martha Hople	CFYA:	Mary Jeffers
Home Operations:	Rod Tull	Members at Large:	Mike Zaugg, Metta Williams
Membership & Engagement:	Brent Marble	Music:	Darla O'Brien
Outreach:	Beth Reis	Worship:	Sterling Morris
Personnel:	Theresa Pruet (c) Sara Tolefson, Peter Shafer, Marsha Ulmer, Joyce Phillips	Stewardship:	John Benner (c) Pat Kile, Rebecca Morris, Erik Zaugg

Long-Range Planning Update

By Jim Segaar & Joyce Phillips

December was a busy month for our Long-Range Planning program. We hosted six kickoff meetings via Zoom – one for each Task Force – and the Task Forces have started their work. It was gratifying to see the level of attention and excitement exhibited by the Task Force members. A list of the members of each Task Force are available on the SFBC website: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>

Work also continues on defining our Key Ministries. We hope to discuss these with the Diaconate in January or early February and with the entire congregation soon after that.

Please keep the task members in your prayers as they do important work to help determine the future of our church.

Parking Plans at Seattle First Baptist, 2021

By Robert Sittig, Representative of Parking Lot Task Force

The current pandemic has eliminated the previous need for numerous parking spaces at our facility. We are all looking forward to the time when we may worship together safely in our beautiful sanctuary, and when that day comes, we will be ready for it.

As many of you are aware, Carmel Developers will be building an 8-story residential dwelling on the parking lot west of the church building that we have been using. In order to accommodate those who have traditionally parked in that lot, the following arrangements have been made.

As of this date, the parking plans include:

- Leasing from Seattle University 10 parking spaces in their multi-story parking facility located on the east side of Broadway, just south of Madison St. These spaces are available to us 24 hours a day, every day, and are for the use of our staff only. Users will be pre-registered with the University.
- Available indoor spaces at the Polyclinic in the building across Harvard Avenue from the church on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Due to security concerns, we will not be able to use the elevators in the Polyclinic building. Those using the garage can drop passengers off at the church entrance before parking. Because of the steep hill, we are considering using a shuttle to bring folks up to the church. That has yet to be decided.
- The area on the south side of our building, previously a playground for the pre-school, will be converted to a parking area. It can hold up to twelve cars parked in a tandem configuration. This space will be designated for visitors during the work week and will be available for disabled persons for Sunday worship.

We continue to evaluate other opportunities in our neighborhood. The lot on the southeast corner of Spring Street and Boylston Avenue, known as “the choir lot”, may become available after construction on that block is complete. We will all enter into these unknowns together to find solutions to ensure the viability of our church and congregation.

Continued Closures at SFBC

In compliance with the most recent directives issued by the Governor’s office to limit the impact of COVID-19, the SFBC office will remain closed to the public, with expectations for this closure to last through January 2021. The safety and well-being of our staff and visitors is always our highest priority. There will continue to be very limited staff on-site every weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. You may always reach the staff through their individual e-mails or contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

The SFBC COVID Team continues to monitor the situation and will report as the situation changes.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2021 Begins

Wed, January 6, 6:30 p.m.
Hymn Sing
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/543978086>

Wed, Jan 13, 7 p.m.
Ask the Pastors: Preaching Process

Mon, Jan 18, 7 p.m.
Evergreen Baptist MLK Service

Wed, Jan 20, 6:30 p.m.
Intergenerational Game Night

Wed, Jan 27, 6:30 p.m.
Explore Godly Play

Sun, Jan 3, 5 p.m.
Youth Group
New Year's Gathering

Sun, Jan 10, 5 p.m.
Young Adult Gathering

Thurs, Jan 21, 7 p.m.
Diaconate Meeting
See details in article

Sunday, Jan 31, 12 p.m.
SFBC Annual Meeting



January at a Glance

January 6, 6:30 p.m.

Hymn Sing

*Hymns of Change, Renewal,
and New Beginnings*

Join Music Minister
Ben Luedcke for a night of
making music... virtually!



January 13, 7 p.m.

Ask the Pastors: Preaching Process

The pastors will talk about their
process of putting together
sermons and preaching, and
answer questions!



January 20, 6:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Game Night

Bingo, Name-That-Tune and
Team Trivia, oh my! All are wel-
come for this intergenerational
night of play and fellowship.

January 27, 6:30 p.m.

Explore Godly Play

Learn the philosophy and crea-
tivity behind the Godly Play
stories we experience in wor-
ship.

Evergreen Baptist Association of Churches⁶ Martin Luther King, Jr Day Celebration Monday, January 18, 7 p.m.

Join our network of churches for another collaborative
and soulful reflection on the ongoing work of racial
justice in our region. Featuring contributions from
numerous churches, ministers, and musicians.

Details to follow via weekly email.

Regular Gatherings

Sundays:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Education

10:30 a.m. - Godly Play

11 a.m. - Sunday Service

12 p.m. - Coffee Hour

Tuesdays:

12 p.m. - Prayer and Reflection
with Pastor Patricia

Wednesdays:

6:30 p.m. - Community Gatherings*

7:30 p.m. - Music Programming

Thursdays:

12 p.m - Bible Study with Pastor Tim

Fridays:

4:30 p.m - Happy Hour

* See details opposite:

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/543978086>

Keep up to date with calendar changes and find Zoom links for regular
gatherings and more at:

<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/calendar>