



the Spire

The Monthly Newsletter of Seattle First Baptist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

A Responsive Farewell

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY PHILLIPS

It doesn't seem possible that it has been more than 12 years since February 1, 2009. That's the day you welcomed Patrick and me into our life together here at Seattle First Baptist Church. I remember sitting on the chancel that first Sunday morning (we sat on "thrones" in those days) and looking out on a congregation that was not completely unfamiliar to me. But I knew there was a lot to learn and I was certain that there was a lot I did not know. As I said in my annual report this year: "Never did I imagine that I would stand in the Skoglund pulpit or be among the ancestry of those pastors I admire - both past and present. But here I have been. The impossible made possible."

Retirement, for me, is another impossibility made possible. There was no guarantee that any church would have me and amazing congregations did. Fi-



nances while I was working were always tight and the prospect of ever being able to quit regular work after 40 years in ministry seemed hopeless. And then you and our denominational retirement board (MMBB) stepped in. For the 23 years of our life together, Patrick and I have been bound together by a love for and service to University Baptist and Seattle First Baptist communities. How could we possibly move away from the only life together we knew? But here we are.

To say I am grateful for this possibility is wildly understated. Patrick and I look forward to what Patrick is calling "a year of jubilee" - no major decisions, getting to know one another for the first time (again), visiting our sister con-

gregations and friends around the country, and always, always holding you all in our hearts. While we will be living in Burien for the next year, we are not sure where we will be led longer term. But we are sure that we will be led.

In the best of all possible worlds, we would get to say “goodbye” to all of you in person. The ongoing pandemic has made that impossible. But, as I say, God has a thing for the impossible. So, we hope to see those of you who are vaccinated and boosted and masked on February 6 both in worship and for the program following. And we are not willing to believe that exhausts the possibilities for opportunities to see you. Please understand that for your sake and for our own, we will need to keep our distance. There needs to be space for someone else to love and serve you alongside Pastor Anita and Pastor Patricia. And, still, we will see

you along the way.

The possibility of retirement only matters if our work here is done. If we have accomplished anything together, I hope it is a sense of being connected to each other - not just to us. If the pastoral team has modeled anything, I hope it is that a partnership of respect for different ways of being and doing can be powerful. If I am to leave you with anything, I hope it is the power of showing up and the possibilities of that power already at work within you to accomplish far more than any of you can ask or imagine. Don't be afraid of the impossible. That may be exactly where God shows up.

In the service on Sunday, February 6, Rev. Doug Avilesbernal will lead us in a “Responsive Farewell” collected by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hall, my friend, colleague, and one of my mentors. It ends with a prayer about missing each other while opening our hearts to welcome. That's what makes the farewell respon-

sive - it is simultaneously honoring our goodbyes with hearts open to welcome. Just like you did for Patrick and me all those years ago.

Holding you all in the love from which we can never be separated,

Tim & Patrick





Celebrating the Ministry of Rev. Dr. Timothy Phillips and Patrick Green

*Immediately following 11AM worship on
Sunday, February 6, 2022*

The celebration of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Timothy Phillips and Patrick Green has been scaled back because of the increase in COVID transmission with the omicron variant. The program that was originally planned for January 30 will instead be presented in the SFBC sanctuary immediately following worship on February 6, which is Pastor Tim and Patrick's final Sunday with us. Both worship and the program will be live-streamed on [our website](#) and on [Facebook](#) for those who choose not to attend in person.

If you do attend in person on February 6, please follow the guidelines below. To ensure the safety of everyone attending, **there will be no exceptions to these guidelines.**

- **Attendees must be fully vaccinated INCLUDING a booster shot. Proof of vaccination, a booster shot, and a valid ID must be presented to gain admittance to the sanctuary.**
- **N95, KN95 or KF94 masks are required.** Masks must be worn at all times while inside the building. Masks will be available at the entrance.
- Attendees must sit in designated seating areas that are distributed at safe distances throughout the sanctuary main floor and balconies.
- Attendees must practice social distancing before, during and after worship and the afternoon program.
- Attendees are asked to exit the building promptly at the conclusion of the program.

Please understand these requirements are to keep everyone safe.

Info about Tim and Patrick

While Pastor Tim's SFBC email will continue to work for a while, please do not use it for personal notes and definitely not for church business. Pastor Tim's new email address for personal use is revdoctim7@gmail.com. Please remember that Pastor Tim and Patrick will be making some

distance in this time to allow space for the person who will join Pastors Anita and Patricia on the interim pastoral team. If you have pastoral concerns, please contact the church office or Pastors Anita and Patricia. Also, Pastor Tim is taking some time away from Facebook for the first few

months of his retirement. They are happy to be moving to Buri-en for the next year in what Patrick calls "a year of Jubilee" - few responsibilities, some traveling, and lots of time to get to know each other again after 23 years of serving churches together.

Growing Together

Lent Starts March 2!

Our theme for the season of Lent is “Simple Joys of Grace.” This might seem like an odd theme to organize our Lenten gatherings around, since Lent is often about giving up something and tends to be somber. For us this year, in the midst of so much transition and ongoing uncertainty in the world, we will spend the 40 days of Lent paying attention to the grace that reaches us through simplicity in our daily lives. A flower peeking through the sidewalk crack. A hand held. The bus driver waiting for you to sit down before driving. An unexpected moment of calm. Join us during Lent to tune into Simple Joys of Grace all around us, reminders of Holy presence among us.

- ◆ **Wednesday, March 2 from 12-2**, Pastor Patricia and Pastor Anita will be offering “Ashes to Go” around Capitol Hill and First Hill. Stay tuned to *This Week* emails for locations.
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 2 at 6pm** will be the Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. Vaccination is mandatory, masks must be worn at all times, and social distancing will be observed.



Evergreen Way Leadership Retreat *Forged in the past, fit for today*

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2022 AT CAMP BURTON

Join us as we explore the many ways Evergreen seems tailor-made for the times we live in.

Who are we? How can we possibly function? How are we sustainable? How are we growing?

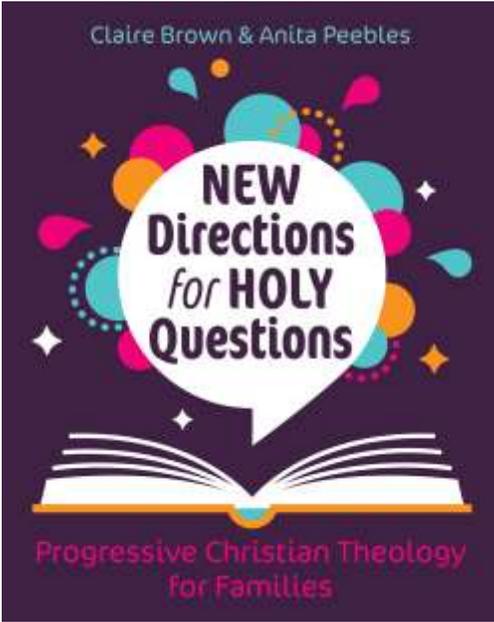
Been there, done that vibes? You're exactly who we need. Let's go "there" as the new people we are. So we can learn to do "that" in the way it needs to be done today.

Open to clergy and laity. Please see more information on the [Evergreen Association website](#).



Pastor Anita Wrote a Book!

New Directions for Holy Questions: Progressive Christian Theology for Families by Anita Peebles and Claire Brown is available now. This book engages 19 big questions in theology, from “Who is God?” to “why did Jesus die?” to “what is baptism?” to “how do we care for each other?”, all from a progressive lens. LGBTQIA+ affirmation and celebration, antiracism and countering Christian antisemitism are central to the values of the book. Each chapter includes stories about people pursuing justice in their communities, as well as some spiritual practices and reflection questions to make room for the Holy in daily life. Pastor Anita has books to purchase (\$16.95) in her office. The book is also available at [Elliott Bay Books](#), on [Amazon](#), and at [ChurchPublishing.org](#).



Read more at newdirectionsforholypebbles.com/

FIRST AID

A Workshop for Allies Against Racism

February 8 at 7-8:30 PM



Join us to learn more about

- Identifying racist hurt
- Tools already available to help us
- How to use the right tool at the right time
- How to prepare the person for deeper care

SFBC friends who would like to be allies with our SFBC BIPOC friends and those interested in being part of the Anti-Racism Task Force are encouraged to attend.

Please contact Pastor Patricia to register (patricia@seattlefirstbaptist.org). Workshop materials will be sent in advance. Workshop will be led by Rev. Doug Avilesbernal,

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86750636227>

Join by Phone: 12532158782

Meeting ID: 867 5063 6227

Learning Together

Virtual Lent Retreat: *The Winds of God*

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022 | 10 AM–2 PM

Lent is traditionally a time for reflection. Amidst the chaos, challenges and constant change of the past two years, most of us have experienced a wilderness-kind of state -- have found ourselves feeling un-tethered, tossed about, and blown away. Perhaps we are in need of the winds of God to calm us, to nudge us in a different direction, to carry us home, to lead us to a place where new ways and resurrection are imaginable. But what does that mean for each of us personally and for SFBC as a sacred community? Join Cherry Johnson, SFBC Retreats Coordinator, on

**Saturday March 5, 2022
from 10am to 2pm**

for a virtual retreat: THE WINDS OF GOD, where we will ponder these and other questions. Expect to get to know and experience fellowship with others, stretch

some spiritual muscles, sense the presence of the Sacred, and have some fun. Retreats are a great way to meet people if you are new and to expand your circle if you've been around a while.

This retreat is FREE and open to all. (Donations to the SFBC Retreat Scholarship Fund are always welcome. Such funds make it possible for people who would not otherwise be able to afford it to attend overnight retreats in the future.)

YOU MUST REGISTER TO GET THE ZOOM LINK. Here's how:

Email retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org
OR call the church office 206-325-6051

In either case, please provide an email address (or phone number if you don't use email).



Our Lives Together

New Parking on Sundays

Poly Clinic is no longer available for parking beginning Sunday January 23. Free parking will now be available at Harvard Market Parking Garage. The address is 1401 Broadway. The lot entrance is on Broadway just north of the Seneca/



Broadway intersection. The entrance gate system is currently out of order. Simply park in the lower garage and sign in at the hospitality desk when you get to the church. This will allow us to have a count

so we can pay the garage. Parking is in the UNDERGROUND lot only. Once parked, take the elevator to the top floor and walk towards Harvard. The walk is about the same distance

as the Poly Clinic but there is much less of an incline. It is anticipated that the church will have much more flexibility in the use of this lot. Contact [Church Administrator Darren Hochstedler](#) with questions.

Pastor Anita's Office Hours

We are going through a time full of transition, including the retirement of our beloved Pastor Tim. To offer support, Pastor Anita will have online office hours on Zoom on Wednesdays during February from 5-6pm (Feb 2, 9, 16, 23). All are welcome to schedule an appointment outside of this time by contacting the church office or emailing [Pastor Anita](#). Look for a Zoom link on the [church calendar](#) (online).

Report on January Outreach Event in Support of Our Siblings Experiencing Homelessness

BY BETH REIS, 2021 STEWARD FOR OUTREACH

In January, about 50 of us baked, crocheted, shopped, donated, sorted, and delivered approximately:

- 90 face masks
- 450 cookies
- several dozen candy canes
- several dozen granola bars
- 2 dozen containers of Ensure
- 5 pairs of shoes
- and boots
- 100 pairs of socks
- 20 pairs of pants
- 30 warm scarves
- 40 warm hats
- 25 pairs of gloves
- 50 sweaters, vests, and shirts
- 55 hoodies
- 40 warm coats
- 72 sets of long underwear
- 5 sleeping bags
- 1 hand-crocheted pillowcase
- 3 tarps
- 10 blankets
- 240 tubes of lip balm
- 288 tubes of body lotion
- 800 packets of acetaminophen
- 20 pairs of hand-warmers
- 80 hand sanitizer wipes

We shared all these resources through 4 partner organizations chosen because they treat our siblings with respect and dignity, create relationships, meet them exactly where they are, see them as whole, 3-dimensional human beings with talents, strengths, and stories to tell. Three of the four have some religious affiliation, but none has a religious litmus test for services or expects its community members to attend worship in return for love. The four organizations with whom SFBC proudly partnered in 2021 are:

- 1) **Window of Kindness**, a program of Facing Homelessness housed at University Friends –a Seattle Quaker Meeting, in the U District which offers conversation, food and resources to its neighbors
- 2) **Aurora Commons**, a program of Awake Church on Aurora Avenue in NW Seattle which offers a kitchen and food, a safe living room and even art classes and poetry slams to its neighbors
- 3) **All Pilgrims Christian Church**, a Capitol Hill congregation which serves community lunch five days a week (in front of church during COVID) and conversation and resources
- 4) **Women’s Shelter at First Presbyterian Church on First Hill**, a service of WHEEL, offering safety and community to women who have been living unsheltered, organized and staffed by peers with lived experience on the streets

I am so proud of my SFBC family for wanting to support the relationships these organizations build with our neighbors. We may not have the capacity to offer overnight shelter, meals, a kitchen, or classes ourselves, but we have plenty of heart and hands to stand with our partners who do.



Working at the January Outreach Event

Annual Meeting Report

BY ANITA PEEBLES

On Sunday, January 23, 83 members and 7 non-members attended the 152nd Annual Meeting of Seattle First Baptist Church utilizing the Zoom platform. Newly-elected President Megan Walker led an informative session on Zoom functions. Volunteer of the Year Awards went to Beth Reis, Outreach Steward, and Karen Carlos, convener of Brave Space conversations for white-identifying people. Also recognized for Volunteer of the Year were Joyce Phillips and Jim Segaar, who formed the Program Office for the Long-Range Plan and helped the six task forces communicate with each other and keep the church updated on progress.

Much gratitude was given for the work of the six task forces throughout 2021. Their dedication and collaboration led this church forward to follow through on the Long-Range Plan work from 2020. Thank you, all who served this congregation on a task force.

Church business included adopting revised and amended bylaws, receiving the financial reports, approving plans for the utilization of Dr. Rod Romney Legacy Fund monies, and electing a new leadership body, now called the Council of Ministries.

Seattle Jazz Vespers in February Miranda Kitchpanich Band

February 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



Seattle Jazz Vespers is proud to present the Miranda Kitchpanich Band on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

Miranda Kitchpanich is an energetic and dynamic 20 year old vocalist, guitarist, bassist, and songwriter hailing from the rainy city of Seattle, WA. She grew up in

a musically rich environment and her skills as a vocalist were developed at an early age. Her earliest influences consist of Classic Rock and Blues, but she expanded to Jazz, Funk, and Soul both vocally and instrumentally. Some of her favorite artists include Led Zeppelin, Queen, Heart, Soundgarden, Beth Hart, Etta James, Stevie Ray Vaughn, and Elmore James. Joining Miranda are Andrew Cloutier - drums, Robin Moxie - guitar, Kenny Prior - bass.

Miranda has been representing the Washington Blues Society and the South Sound Blues Association at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee at their Youth Showcase Act for 5 years. She has been on 5 national All-stars tours with the School of Rock, giving her the opportunity to play on stages such as the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Lollapalooza, Gathering of the Vibes, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Summerfest in Milwaukee, and many others all across the country. She was nominated as best blues female vocalist in the 2020 Washington Blues Society Awards.

For the last concert of our 2019-2020 SJV season (just before Covid,) Miranda showcased as a guitarist and lead vocalist with the Randy Oxford Band. Just recently, she performed on the season premiere of American Idol, February 14, 2021.

Free voucher parking is available at the Harvard Market Garage (underground at the QFC,) 1401 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122.

Learn more about this and future shows at [SJV's Facebook page](#).

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2022 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at
contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Officers	President: Megan Walker VP: Dick Miller Treasurer: Metta Williams Secretary: Eric Watness
Members at Large	Inola de la Cruz David Delgado Martha Hopler Nirmala Jeldi Bob Sittig Christine Warren David Young

Service at 11 a.m. in-person and online

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