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A PUBLICATION OF SOUTH MAIN BAPTIST CHURCH, PASADENA, TX



Dr. Ron Lyles, Pastor

It has been one year since the realization of the possible impact of a virus called COVID-19 was known. One year ago was the beginning of the major disruption to all of our personal lives, all of our institutions (political, educational, medical), and all of our for profit and not for profit businesses. One year ago everything that we considered to be the norms of life changed drastically. It has been guite a year since last March.

After Harris County declared a "stay at home" mandate in early March 2020, our building was dark on Sunday, March 15. We had no worship or Bible study. By the next Sunday we livestreamed our worship for the first time with no one in the Worship Center except the worship leaders. In addition to our online streaming services (which have continued without interruption until now), we began our successful Drive In worship times on March 29. We resumed in person worship on June 7 but had to stop them again after only three weeks. We returned to the parking lot for Drive In church until we resumed worship in person on Sept. 13. Sunday School classes began again on Nov. 1.

As you remember many ministries and programs had to be cancelled. These included Sunday evening worship, our Wednesday schedule, Deacon Banquet, Sunday school fellowship times, JOY, Gathering Place, Spring Event, Baby Day Parade, the special Memorial Day Service, Upward Sports, the Thanksgiving Banguet, and the Senior Single Sweetheart Banquet. Other ministries were implemented in a highly revised way. These included summer camps, Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival, and the Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles. Some phenomenal creativity was carried out.

We have seen the unbelievable statistics of the numbers of COVID cases and the number of deaths. We have now surpassed the 500,000 mark or half a million family members who have died with complications resulting from this virus. Several of our own Southmainers were among that staggering number. We are told that if we held one minute of silence for each of those who have died, the silence would last almost a full year in duration.

One year later, we are still feeling the impact of this pandemic. Some churches have not worshiped in person since last March. Some have closed. Churches are not alone. Some businesses have closed and will never be reopened. Schools from preschool care to Universities are still struggling to find a best path forward. Vaccines have become available, and they will surely help. Corona fatigue is a reality. We all long to return to some sense of normalcy or to what some call "the new normal."

Through the last twelve months, we have felt the strength of the real presence of our God with us. He who has walked with us through the last year will continue to walk with us through the next twelve months. Thank you Jesus for fulfilling your promise of always being with us to the "end of the age" which includes next year as well.

Your Pastor





MARCH 2021

RON'S REJOICINGS

ONE YEAR AND COUNTING

Let me begin this month's update with our youngest group. Our Wednesday evening Music and More program Will will continue through Wednesday. will continue through Wednesday, March 10. We will not meet Wednesday, March 17, due to Spring break but will resume on Wednesday, March 24, and continue through May.



Plans are to introduce an extended summer program in May that will carry through to Wednesday, September 8. The instrumental groups and choirs for age 4 through second grade have gone well and been a real source of enjoyment for all. Many thanks to all who have brought children our way through the winter months.

Student choir, grades 7-12, is set to return to Sunday evenings beginning, April 11. This group will be participating in a V21 virtual choir festival experience

provided by Youth Cue. It will be loads of fun and offer an opportunity to be a part of a first time ever production. Students may find out more about the V21 program by going to youthcue.org. What a joy it will be to once again enjoy this group and their contributions to ministry and worship.

Plans are underway to prepare a Maundy Thursday evening of music and scripture. This long standing tradition will be led by Dr. Lyles, myself, and an adult ensemble that will prepare the music portion of the evening. The

service will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, April 1. Help us spread the word about this Holy Week service that always makes Easter Sunday more meaningful. We always enjoy this service and special time of communion.

Blessings to you all as you persevere and continue to show the goodness of our God in challenging times. - Bobie



Notes from Jeff Thank you to all who have reached out to others through the trials of this past year and for helping those who have had damage due to the freeze. I am blessed to be a part of this church and to know that the love of Christ shows.

Please take time to register online or call the office for our next Church Congregation Conversation. The information is below. You will get a report of the results of our meeting January 31st and help us with phase 2.

TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

- PHASE 2 The conversation will center around our church today, by looking at data, demographics and our attitude looking toward the future. 1) In-Person meeting, Sunday, March 7 at 5:30 pm OPTIONS
- 2) Zoom: Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 pm or phone on Friday
- REGISTER Online, Sunday School or at the Welcome Desk

Your participation in this meeting is critical.

Please continue to keep our church in your prayers during this transition. www.southmain.org



Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is alive and active ... "

Main Women are invited to gather in person or by livestream for a special evening of worship and praise led by

Lauren Allen and Justin Kichline, with prayer time and testimonies from South Mainers about the power of God's Word during uncertain times.

Ladies Spring Banguet – Rescheduled from 2020

April Showers bring May flowers! We have rescheduled our Ladies Spring Banquet for Saturday, May 8th

Registration/ticket sales "resume" **Sunday, March 14th** in the Main Connection (as well as online). Tickets are \$15, which includes a meal. Jennifer Mathewson Speer, speaker/author of Women of Hope and Women of Faith will be our special guest speaker for the evening.

*If you paid last year to attend or signed up to host a table, you will be contacted to verify your reservation/assignment.



Women's Night of Thursday, March 25 6:30 PM





There are more activities as Spring approaches. Men's Basketball league will start mid-March.



VA. CONNEXION I love what a friend of mine said recently to his congregation and I think it is true: "As we enter into 2021, I pray we will embrace the importance of relying on one another - as a church, as families, as individuals. We may be able to survive on our own, but it is only together that we can thrive. May the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ give you strength to persevere." My friend Matt Broyles is wise and I believe as South Mainers we can be encouraged with these words. Let us get plugged in not only to events but to each other through studying God's word for our lives. We have opportunities for spiritual growth.

Young Adults: Sunday morning Bible study 9:30 am in the FLC or via zoom. Ignite: College aged, college students, or recently graduated meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in room 167 and meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in room 167.

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 108:5

enjoyed a great time of fun, food, and fellowship watching this year's Super Bowl outside in the Garage area, and are looking forward to more

opportunities of fellowship as we move forward into the Spring. Our students have done an outstanding job of inviting their friends to church for both Sunday morning and Wednesday night activities, and these efforts are something our entire church can be proud of!

The first weekend in May is just around the corner, and under normal circumstances that would mean preparations are underway for our annual Giant Garage Sale. After much prayer, speaking with several leaders, and considering all of the many variables involved in having the garage sale during this time of Covid 19, it has been determined, unfortunately, our Giant Garage Sale will NOT take place again this year. I appreciate everyone's input and support on this very difficult decision, but am looking forward to May 2022! I believe that will be a record year for money raised for our Students!

A R

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our SMBC Student Ministry, and we look forward to God's guidance!

We have wrapped up our Upward basketball season, and I would like to give a big thank you to all the coaches who

volunteered their time throughout the season!

> Be on the lookout for our next Disc Golf Tournament coming

soon. If you have not tried disc golf, but would like to.



DISC GOLF check out our course. We have discs available to be checked out at the front desk of the FLC.

Student Ministry Intel Our SMBC Student Ministry remains active and engaged during this temporary time of limited opportunities and a myriad of unforeseen scheduling adjustments. SMBC is committed to safely and fervently continue our ministry efforts to reach students for Christ! We recently