

Broadway Beacon

BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

Beloved Broadway,

On January 24, we will share virtually one of my favorite services of the year: Deacon Ordination. Together, we will ordain Christine Fuery to the Diaconate of Broadway Baptist Church. While physically laying hands on her shoulders to bless her into this work is not wise or prudent in these peculiar times, the work of calling continues on. You will be invited to send a card with a blessing, and while this is not the same as the traditional Laying on of Hands, she will now have a memento to carry with her to remember the words of blessing her church family used to set her apart for service in this community.

Blessing is one of those words which carries a great deal of baggage in our culture. The Southernism, "Bless his heart," is more curse than blessing. Televangelists who promise financial "blessing" if you "bless" them with your finances are a dime-a-dozen. Words, just like trinkets, lose their shimmer and shine over time if you don't take time to polish them up a bit. The word bless or blessing shows up 330 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, I believe we don't run out of blessing, and the more you bless others with words of kindness, affirmation, and gratitude, the more words you have. I can't help but think of old Isaac who accidentally speaks the words of blessing over the wrong son in Genesis 27, and believes he has no more blessing to give his other son, as if a father's love is finite. In verse 36, after Esau discovers his brother Jacob's deceit, he cries out, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" Isaac's capacity to lavish words of blessing was only limited by his imagination and compassion for his boy.

In a world of great disparity, we often see only scarcity. And yet, we worship a God of abundance, in whose Spirit there is always more Fruit to bear. When we speak our words of blessing over one another, do we hold back our *I-love-you's*? Or our *I'm-sorry's*? What about our *I-forgive-you's*? Do we fear there is a finite amount of love, joy, and grace to give until we are depleted? I was taught the prompt years ago in my youth ministry days, "What I like about you is..." as a port of entry to bless someone when you don't know how to start.

Throughout this Pandemic, you continue to amaze me Broadway. I told you in March of 2020, I never could have imagined being asked to sacrifice for Lent what I hold so dear—Us. And yet, we have continued to stay connected across the social distance while honoring the work of our essential workers in our community and protecting the health and lives of our most vulnerable members by keeping our distance. 2020 was not easy, but our resolve has been tested and our ties that bind have been stretched without snapping. Together, we have learned by God's good grace we can do hard things, Broadway.

So, thank you for being the Church—even outside the walls of the church-house. You are the blessing, Broadway.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Kevin



We have several Sunday School classes meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings. If you're interested in joining one of these online groups, please contact Susan Reed at susanr@broadwaybaptist.org.

ADVENT OUTDOOR CONCERTS

We were blessed with the talents and efforts of our Louisville Orchestra instrumentalists, The Kentucky Brass, as they braved the extreme cold weather and damp conditions for four straight weeks. Truly, their musical offerings during this unusual Advent season were both inspiring and uplifting. Please receive this note of affirmation from the players, "we always appreciate the opportunity to play at BBC and for their continued support and most definitely during this difficult year".



Dear Broadway Friends,

Elizabeth Barrett Browning has said, “The earth is crammed with heaven.” Over these past 5 1/2 years, I have experienced this heaven when I am amongst you, in worship in the beautiful sanctuary, or enjoying singing, laughter and fellowship in choir rehearsals. I also felt it very keenly during this past year of my life in your expressions of love, encouragement and care during the illness and death of my husband. It truly meant so much to me and was very much a comfort. I thank you. One of the last worship services we all shared together was a Sunday in which you, as a congregation, expressed appreciation to Jennifer and myself. I left church that morning feeling extremely grateful, but also very confident in knowing that the appreciation was not just shown on a Music Appreciation Sunday, but yet, all through the year. I have truly felt appreciated and encouraged every single week. When I started, I knew I had big shoes to fill — those big shoes are not necessarily referring to one person, but rather to an entire musical history within this place. I have been incredibly honored to be able to offer music here at Broadway Baptist — to bring the strengths I have as a musician, coupled with the weaknesses of course, and to hopefully offer music that is worthy of that history. It has been such a moving experience for me.

Unfortunately, with the unexpected turn my life took recently, I have been in a place of discerning not just what is next for me, but more importantly, what is best for me. After much prayer and thought, I feel that at this time in my life, I need to nurture my life within the area in which I live — I need to Live where I live. It is with very mixed emotions, but with peace, that I let you know I will be leaving Broadway Baptist Church as your organist. Accompanying your congregational singing will always be one of the great joys of my life. You have been a gift to me.

Love,
Glenna Metcalfe

ANGEL TREE FOLLOW UP



Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our angel tree this year! We were able to provide gifts for 28 children and families in our community.



Dear Fellow Broadway Members,
Greetings. Happy New Year to you.

As I sit down to write this letter, I begin with a sense of gratitude and thankfulness.

We are thankful for the hope and promise of this new year. As I write this, we are experiencing the most significant spike in COVID 19 cases since the pandemic began. But, we remain hopeful that better and brighter days are ahead.

As a church, we are thankful for the Task Force chaired by Alix Davidson which has met and continues to meet frequently with a goal of bringing us back together for worship in our beautiful sanctuary. We all appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Task Force over many months.

We are thankful for our ministry team and for their creativity in providing outdoor vespers services, outdoor Advent services and the many online and recorded services over the time of this pandemic. We are thankful for the talents and service of Glenna Metcalf and wish her well in all that she does. We are grateful to Walter Jones for his year of service as Deacon Chair. As a Deacon body, we give thanks for you the congregation of Broadway for your continued support in so many ways.

As Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Thessalonica, in all things give thanks. And, we are thankful for the many blessings God provides each and every day.

Although we cannot gather together in person, your Deacon body held its first meeting of the new year on January 11. We continue to serve, even in during this pandemic, and are all available should you have questions or concerns.

Finally, something for which you as the reader of this newsletter may be thankful. I, as Deacon Chair, will continue to submit thoughts for this newsletter; however, unless something requires special attention or discussion, I plan to do so quarterly rather than each month.

Happy New Year to you all.

John L. Dotson, Deacon Chair



Beginning Tuesday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. we will have a 4 week Zoom Bible study on the book of Mark. If you're interested in being a part of this group, please email Susan at susanr@broadwaybaptist.org or call or text (502) 409-3825.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Lenten Devotional Bags will be provided. More details to come!

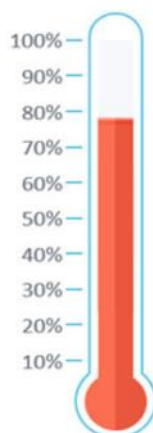
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Bound Together, Even Apart

Stewardship Campaign 2021

GOAL

\$850,000



ACHIEVED

\$665,680 as of January 7th



2020 Operations Update

As we conclude 2020, our Director of Operations, Scott Kimbell wanted to share a summary of completed projects.

- Plaster and Paint Repair for ceiling in stairwell, men's bathroom and paint and soffit work on the 2nd floor
- Kitchen disposal replacement
- Playground slide replacement
- Column and overhead demolition in small courtyard off of the Atrium
- Key fob and access pad installed outside Atrium
- Roof replacement over music suite
- Roof repair over hallway leading to Chapel
- Upgrade office alarm system
- Replace Sanctuary HVAC unit

CHURCH KEY SWAP

We now have key pad access at the office entrance as well as the entrance to the Atrium. If you have a key to the church, please contact Scott and he will trade a four digit personalized code (of your choice) for your key. This is in no way an effort to restrict access but rather to ensure the building is locked securely as well as an automated record of those who enter the church. Please contact Scott if you have any questions.

2020 Giving Statements

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Giving Statements for last year will be mailed out on January 15th. Please review them as soon as you receive them and call Sarah Sanders in the church office if you see any errors or have any questions about your statement. Thank you for your generous support of Broadway Baptist Church in 2020!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Would you like to sponsor a floral arrangement for Sunday morning worship in 2021? There are plenty of open spots in February, April and other times throughout the year. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Stopher (stopher@bellsouth.net or 895-1913). The costs are: \$65 for regular Sundays, \$80 (2 @ \$40) for Communion Sundays.

Food Delivery Follow up

"Thank you to all who donated and helped deliver food at Christmas!" - K. Belcher



Broadway Baptist Church

4000 Brownsboro Road

Louisville, Kentucky 40207

BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTACT US

Main Office - 502.895.2459

www.broadwaybaptist.org

Ministerial Contact Information

Robert Gammon - 502.631.0053

robert@broadwaybaptist.org

Kevin Gardner-Sinclair - 713.851.7557

kevin@broadwaybaptist.org

Susan Reed - 502.409.3825

susanr@broadwaybaptist.org

Kristin Belcher - 859.608.6183

kristin@broadwaybaptist.org

