

2024



Where Believing and Doing Are One.

The **Annual Reports** of
Second Baptist Church
100 North Main Street
Suffield, Connecticut

Staff:

The Rev. Justin Cox, *Senior Pastor*
Jean Aldrich-Jones, *Organist & Hand bell Choir Director*
Laura Burnaford, *Office Manager*
Anthony Ferreira, *Director of Music*
Sue Schneller, *Christian Education & Youth Coordinator*
Jennifer Sikes, *Custodian*

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Minutes of Second Baptist Church Annual Meeting January 28, 2024

I. Call the meeting to order, 11:03 am

Certified by Laura Burnaford that at least 25 members are in attendance.

II. Opening prayer – Pastor Justin Cox

III. Announcements & Moderator's Message – Scott Schneider

- A. The Annual Meeting is being recorded, but NOT streamed. To ensure that we capture all comments, please raise your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.
- B. Justin's Ordination Recognition by ABCConn: Official record will be received any day now.
- C. Looking Forward to 2024 and beyond: We have had several changes, responding with streaming in pandemic and several pastors. Now lives are busier and less available to volunteer or available every Sunday morning. Membership has gone down, including plate collections, approximately 100k. If we tap the investment funds, annual disbursement for operations goes down. So we need new ways to expand our mutual faith journeys. Request is we all work together to embark on this spiritual adventure. We have pastor Justin and exploratory team that will announce new activities. Ernie B. will work on stewardship, including what other churches are doing.

IV. Review of minutes

- A. Review & Vote on Approval of SBC 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes (p. 2-3)
Motion by Jamie G, 2nd by Cliff B, unanimous approval
- B. Review & Vote on Approval of March 2023 By-Law Revision Meeting Minutes (p. 4-5)
Motion by Jamie G, 2nd by Cliff B, unanimous approval

V. Financials, Nominations & 2024 Annual Report Review & Approval

- A. Review & Approval Vote of Treasurer's Report in 2023 Annual Report (p. 48-49)
 - 1. Overall Review & Discussion of Treasurer's Report by Treasurer
 - 2. Approval Vote on Treasurer's Report
Discussion: Diaconate checking account will fund Christian Ed. Therefore that line item will show under diaconate moving forward. This applies to Growth & Outreach support needed as well. This is all a part of efficiency by reducing number of groups given smaller membership. This is approach for 2024 and will be re-determined how to approach in 2025.
Motion by Nancy D, 2nd by Libby B, unanimous approval of approval with clarification that 3k Christian Ed and 1.5k Growth and Outreach is under the diaconate line item for 2024 only.
- B. Review & Approval Vote of 2024 Nominations in the 2023 Annual Report (p. 51-52)
 - 1. Overall Review Discussion & Questions with Congregation
Discussion: Karen S and Scott S will serve as Moderator. Karen will cover when Scott is out of the country. Diane Ruckdeschel was left off Calling and Caring Ministry. Bev S added to diaconate. Cliff mentioned house committee is violating the 4-year term intent.

Minutes of Second Baptist Church Annual Meeting January 28, 2024—pg. 2

Approval Vote on 2024 Nominations with the addition of Diane Ruckdeschel added to Calling and Caring Ministry and Bev Sikes to the diaconate.
Motion by David B, 2nd by Jamie G, unanimous approval

- C. Review & Approval Vote of Overall 2024 Annual Report (rest of report)
 - 1. Overall Review Discussion & Questions with Congregation
 - 2. Approval Vote on 2023 Annual ReportMotion by Howard B, 2nd by Jamie G, unanimous approval

VI. Resolution Adoptions

A. Resolution #1

- 1. Motion to approve resolution #1 read by Evelyne B:
Resolved that the treasurer of the church is authorized to sell immediately upon receipt any securities given to the church.
- 2. Discussion & Vote to accept resolution #1
Motion by Evelyne B, 2nd by Cliff B, unanimous approval

B. Resolution #2

- 1. Motion to approve resolution #2 read by David Battle
Resolved that the trustees shall have general supervision of the funds, securities and investments of the church now owned or held or which shall be owned or held by the church, and any two trustees shall have the power to sell, assign or transfer to any person or party, any stocks, bonds or other securities which may become the property of the church upon such terms and for such prices as they deem expedient and may sign and execute all instruments or documents necessary to effectuate any such sale, assignment or conveyance.
- 2. Discussion & Vote to accept resolution #2
Motion by David B, 2nd by Nancy D, unanimous approval

C. Resolution #3

- 1. Motion to approve resolution #3 read by Art Sikes
Resolved that the Treasurer of the Church, with the approval of one other member of the financial sub-committee, shall be authorized to borrow up to \$20,000 for operating expenses, if necessary.
- 2. Discussion & Vote to accept resolution #3
Motion by Art S, 2nd by Bev S, unanimous approval

D. Resolution #4

- 1. Motion to approve resolution #4 read by Howard Beal
Resolve that the Second Baptist Church of Suffield, CT at this regularly called meeting recommends to its pastoral compensation in the amount of \$125,340 of which \$43,200 is designated as Value of Housing and Utilities

Minutes of Second Baptist Church Annual Meeting January 28, 2024—pg. 3

2. Discussion & Vote to accept resolution #4
Motion by Howard B, 2nd by Lois VS, unanimous approval

VII. Reading of deceased church members & friends names who passed in 2023 (End of report). – Justin C.

X. Benediction & Close of Meeting 11:53 – Justin C.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Becky Tobiasz



Meeting Minutes of Special Church Meeting for Membership Requirements—June 2, 2024

Background Information: This section is included to add context to why this congregational meeting took place. None of the congregational information sessions or discussions are documented in this annual report.

For the past several years, we have been unable to fill the vice moderator position. In October 2023, we were having trouble finding a member to be moderator as well for 2024. We found out that an individual was willing to be moderator but was not a member, nor did they desire to become a member. The individual was heavily involved weekly with SBC church activities and worship. As news spread that an individual was interested but prevented from becoming moderator, other very active non-member congregants who have been with the church a long time, also voiced that they would also like to become even more involved by being Deacons and other member only positions.

As this issue began to grow, we held a congregational discussion in January 2024 in fellowship hall to discuss the matter and get opinions from everyone. An 80-minute discussion was held, and there seemed to be little to no opposition to opening up the barriers to membership. To get a better feel on what the congregation thought, the question of membership was included as one of the survey questions handed out in the spring 2024. The results revealed that most people agreed with making the change to the membership rights. Based on the surveys, if a vote on changing the bylaws occurred, it would barely pass the 2/3's requirement for approval, but it would pass. After this was discussed in a COM meeting, it was decided that the only way we would know for sure if these changes to the SBC constitution and bylaws would pass, is by actually having a congregational vote. So, these minutes document that congregational meeting and vote.

June 6th Minutes Follow:

Scott Schneider brought the meeting to order at 11:12 am

Purpose of the Meeting: To modify the SBC Constitution and By-laws to expand the ways a Second Baptist Church (SBC) congregant can become a SBC member. This would allow SBC congregants who have been very active in the church for at least the last 18 months to have the same rights as members at Second Baptist church. The red-lined or highlighted changes are shown in the attached SBC Constitution and By-Laws.

This was an issue that whether the individual agreed or disagreed with the change, there were strong opinions held. Because the issue had been discussed multiple times over the past 7 months, no presentation repeating earlier meetings was conducted.

There were multiple questions on how this new approach would work, and there was concern on who might be able to make church decisions if this constitution and bylaw revision was approved. The same safeguards for members making improper decisions was also held for others who may share this right.

Voting:

Paper ballots were handed out, collected and tallied

Results: 36 votes, 20 in favor, 16 against. Needed 24 in favor to have the required 2/3rds.

Motion denied

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Tobiasz, Clerk

Meeting Minutes of Special Church Meeting for Proposed By-Law Revision—October 6, 2024

Scott Scheider brought the meeting to order at 11:12am.

Explained and then made Motion:

A motion to suspend the portion of the by-laws that pertain to the number of positions and ministries in service to the church for no more than 18 months.

Second by Nancy Drenzek

No discussion

Unanimous approval

Vote Passes

Discussion and Q/A on the subject: By-law change to allow diaconate to vote on whether to allow a non-member to hold a position for SBC that is only currently open to members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Tobiasz, Clerk



2024 Annual Report of the Rev. Justin A. Cox

Well, here we are—the final pastor's report from me.

I've been racking my brain in an effort to figure out what to pen. What should I say? What do I offer? What will be my last words to you all be in this position?

If I were a traditional pastor, I'd walk through the things we found joy in together. I'd wax on poetically about how we continued to do _____ and found new meanings in *this* or *that* ministry. That would be a reasonable and fair assessment.

However, as you all have learned during my time here, I'm not the most traditional sort of minister.

So instead, I'll focus on two words that kept flooding my mind when I sat down to write.

The first - *gratitude*.

To be called to a community is a privilege. This practice of the Baptist faith is one of the most sacred rites of passages we have. There are elements of reciprocity and covenantalism, meaning we depend on each other's willingness to try and make our efforts hold some form of agreed-upon unity. This is not an easy task. It's challenging and uncomfortable, as are any such times when we are invited to listen and hear different perspectives other than our own.

In that spirit, I am grateful to have been called to be your pastor. I'm grateful to those who took the chance to call my family and me to Suffield. I'm grateful for those who actively sought to get to know us, listen to our stories, and extended the opportunity for us to get to know them. If I hold a regret during my tenure as your pastor it is that we didn't get the chance to do this more. In the words of Tolkien's character, Bilbo Baggins, "I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve."

Read that line again. And trust me, its delivery is not with my tongue placed on my cheek.

The second word - *reimagine*.

Here is where I tell you something you already know, even if you aren't fully ready to admit it.

What we know of church, specifically organized/institutional religion, is over. It has gone the way of the hula-hoop. The heyday of swarms of people gathering on Sunday mornings in large downtown buildings with steeples reaching piercing the heavens is in the rose-colored past.

Second Baptist, like many other faith communities nationwide, has two choices presented to her; continue to press on with what it knows, or reimagine what it can be in the world it is called to serve now.

My hope is that you'll struggle with the latter. That you'll follow the Holy Spirit's nudging and try something new. That you'll be there for each other when things don't go as planned and celebrate with each other when they do. That you'll *reimagine* what church, the people of God, can be.

Because here's the secret - *it can look, sound, taste, smell, and feel any way you want it to*.

My only advice, carry into the future that which still gives you meaning and leave the rest behind.

I'll close with this.

Love God, love neighbor.

Find joy in simple things.

And always be peacemakers, not peacekeepers.

Y'all take care of one another.

~Justin



Presidents/Moderators of Second Baptist Church

1950-51	A. Ward Spaulding	1985	Gregory A. Haggett
1951-52	Marjorie Graham	1986	Richard L. Carmon
1952-53	Hermiona U. Spaulding	1987	Franklin A. Fuller
1953-54	Ernest A. Warner	1988	Allan G. Seibert
1954-55	William S. Fuller	1989	Arthur Brennan
1955-56	William S. Fuller	1990	Samuel Wolcott
1956-57	Bernhard J. Ahrens	1991	Henry Windsor
1957-58	Bernhard J. Ahrens	1992	Laurie Gokey
1958-59	Clifford A. Babb	1993	Rebecca M. Fuller
1959-60	Ernest A. Warner	1994	Stephen L. Smith
1960-61	Samuel S. Fuller	1995	Barry N. Sisk
1961-62	Frederick C. Dill	1996	B. Sisk/R. Johnson
1962-63	Thomas Orr, Jr.	1997	Robert Johnson
1963-64	David H. Johnson	1998	Gilbert P. Ahrens
1964-65	A. Raymond Taberman	1999	Howard Beal
1965-66	Sumner F. Bissell	2000	Rebecca M. Fuller
1966-67	William H. Connelly	2001	James Wood
1967-68	Everett A. Bartlett	2002	Winston Senter
1968-69	Everett A. Bartlett	2003	Lucile Loiseau/Richard Knapps/Becki Fuller
1969-70	Leavitt B. Ahrens		
1970-71	Erskine A. Harvey	2004	Russell S. Campbell, Jr.
1971-72	Sydney F. Fuller	2005	Arthur M. Sikes Jr.
1972-73	Rayford R. Parker	2006	Claudia Hepner
1973-74	Rockwood N. Berry	2007	Ernest J. Begin
1974-75	Harold A. Stewart	2008	Joseph P. Harry
1975-76	Roger L. Dalgleish	2009	Lena Calvo Blake
1976-77	Nathana H. Fuller	2010	Barry N. Sisk
1977-78	Cecil P. Chase	2011	Barry N. Sisk
1978-79	Dorothy G. Kent	2012	Richard Hubbard
1979-80	Joseph P. Harry	2013	Richard Hubbard/Karen Santi
1980-81	Raymond L. Crosier	2014	Karen Santi
1981-82	David H. Johnson	2015	Lucille Miller
1982-83	Charles H. Linke	2016-18	Scott Schneider
1983-84	Rockwood N. Berry	2018-22	Becky Tobiasz
		2023	Scott Schneider (Interim Moderator)
		2024	Scott Schneider

Life Diaconate

Cynthia Hill

Signe Wright

David Jones

Moderator Report

It's been a year jam packed with events. Major Events/Decisions impacting SBC leadership and all of us for this past year are summarized below:

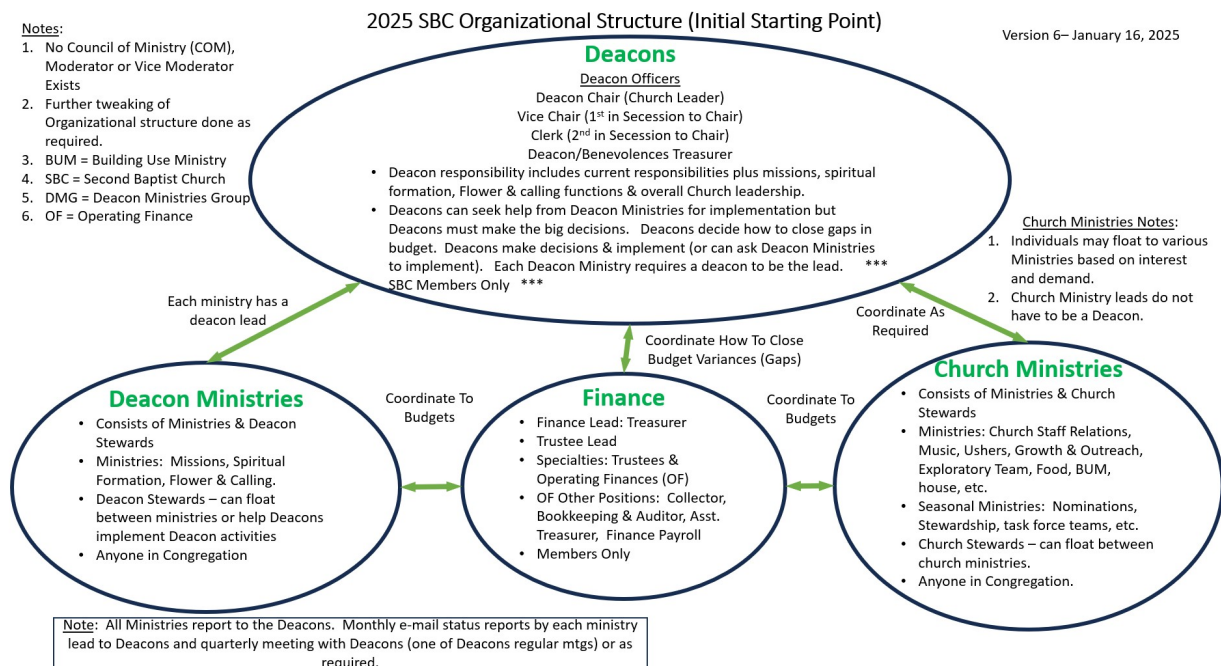
- In January, we held a congregational discussion in fellowship hall on what church membership meant to everyone. What does it mean to be church family? It was very insightful.
- Surveys were completed by congregants in March/April on how SBC should evolve, improve and grow. Results were analyzed and discussed within church leadership and used in making future decisions. Between the congregational discussion and survey results we decided to seek a congregational vote on whether to change the church constitution and bylaws to expand the membership entry requirements to include congregants with many years of active service.
- In June, a congregational meeting was conducted to vote and decide whether we change the church constitution and bylaws requirements to become SBC members. A 2/3's approval vote threshold is required to change the constitution and bylaws. At the meeting, there was a majority vote to make the change, but the 2/3's threshold was not reached, so the membership requirements remained unchanged. Additional information is contained in the June 6th Congregational meeting minutes in this annual report.
- This past year, church leadership focused on church security. The house committee installed an electronic door lock mechanism on the back door to fellowship hall that can be unlocked/locked electronically or remotely. Right now, it's being beta tested by church leadership and staff; but eventually everyone who need access to the church will use it. New safety protocols have also been developed and will be communicated & implemented within the next few months.
- As you know, the past several years we have struggled to fill all the church positions especially leadership positions. The Council of Ministries (COM) determined that 84 positions were required with the current organization, not including the 16 required for church ushers. Since our weekly congregation size is usually between 50 and 70 people, we thought we needed to change the organizational structure of the church to suit a church our size. In October, a congregational meeting and vote was held and approved to suspend the highlighted areas of the SBC constitution and bylaws (2/3's vote of approval required) for up to 18 months to allow us to develop and evaluate a new church organizational structure. The development and reasons why the church organizational structure was changed is discussed in more detail below.
- In early December, Justin announced he was leaving SBC to head back to North Carolina to be closer to the rest of his family and help take care of his mother. Justin's last Sunday was December 29th. On December 22nd after worship, we had a send-off for Justin to wish him well as he continues his ministry down south. As soon as Justin announced his departure, SBC leadership responded quickly to fill the pulpit in January and beyond and also created an interim pastor search team or task force. A longer-term pastor search team is planned to be created in February.

I would like to elaborate on a new church organization development which requires less individuals to run the church. Survey results also indicated that folks wanted the church to be run less like a business, and more spiritually focused. Congregants also sought less meetings (especially administrative) to allow us to do more activities and help more people.

Moderator Report, pg. 2

Organizational flexibility was another desired trait. SBC leadership believes this new Deacon lead organization should accomplish these goals, and we will tweak and change the organization as desired over the next 18 months to form a better long-term organizational structure. The new organization goes into effect after the 2024 annual meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Nominations for 2025 positions were based on this new organizational structure.

This new organization eliminates the COM and the organization is now led by the Deacons. All other ministries will report to the Deacons instead of COM. Existing Ministries have been grouped together by similarity. Because we are a smaller organization than we were 10 years ago, the goal is to simplify our required tasks and eliminate those tasks where no one feels added value or no one is passionate about. See organizational chart below.



The existing church Ministries have been gathered into four groups: Deacons, Deacon Ministries, Finance, and the Church Ministries group. Deacons have responsibility for overall church leadership with the Deacon Chair and Deacon Vice Chair being the church's leader and second in charge, respectively (similar to Moderator and Vice Moderator). The church clerk is now a Deacon (and the church leader if the Deacon Chair and Vice Chair are unable to lead). Deacons must be SBC members. Missions, Spiritual Formation, and Flower & Calling Ministries have a much closer relationship with Deacons as the lead of each ministry is a Deacon. Deacons and the pastor make the spiritual decisions for the church, but anyone in the Deacon Ministry group can help the Deacons with actions to be done such as Communion, Worship, Visitations of home bound, and other spiritual pursuits, etc. Previously, several ministries such as Missions, Spiritual Formation, and Flower & Calling were under Deacons, but completely separate. Now these Ministries are all included in the Deacon Ministries group.

Moderator Report, pg. 3

All individuals in the Deacons Ministries Group are Deacon Stewards. Deacon Stewards may float between the ministries in Deacon Ministries Group, stay with one ministry, or be general deacon stewards who only want to perform spiritual duties and not have to go meetings. General Deacon Stewards may help with Communion, spiritual small group leadership (e.g. book or discussion groups), calling, worship and other Deacon like duties. The ministries within the Deacon Ministries can choose to have meetings or conduct their group as they see fit. Anyone from the congregation can be in the Deacon Ministry group.

The next group is the Financial Group which includes Trustees, and the Operating Finance (OF) team. Although the Trustees is an independent ministry, the overall group will be led by the Treasurer, and he/she will call meetings when required to deal with the operating budget. It is anticipated that meetings will be required for forming/creating next year's budget or if there is some significant expense variation from the budget during the operating year. If a major decision on the church operating budget needs to be made, then Treasurer will present the Deacons with suggestions from the Financial Group, so the Deacons can make an informed decision. After a new budget is proposed or modified, the Deacons must approve the budget or change. Anyone handling church finances should be a SBC member.

The "Church Ministries" group contains Church Staff Relations, Music, Ushers, Growth & Outreach, Exploratory Team, Food, BUM and House. Like before, these ministries will select who they want as their lead person (and they do not have to be a Deacon). These Ministries can fluctuate in size depending on demand and do not have to hold regular meetings if they choose as long as they accomplish their desired goals. With the exception of Church Staff Relations, non-lead group members are Church stewards. Church stewards can float between ministries if they so choose depending on demand and the individual's desires. Individuals within the "Church Ministries" group do not have to be church members.

For good communication to all Ministries and the congregation, each Ministry submits a monthly progress report to the Deacons. These reports will be collected together (e-mail) and sent out to all the Ministries and perhaps the congregation to help communication. Periodically (maybe quarterly or every third of a year), Deacons will meet with all the Ministry leads for some overall church decisions and for complete information sharing. It is hoped that this new approach will reduce the administrative meetings or at least reduce the number of individuals involved in the administrative meetings.

Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help SBC this year. A special thank you to our church staff, who put in long hours to help our church be successful. Also, I would like to thank Justin for his service to our church since September 2022, for he has made us grow in ways we are only beginning to realize. We wish him well.

Looking forward, it looks like our adventure has just begun as we explore who we are, develop further how we work with God and begin the search for a new long-term pastor to lead us into the next chapter of this church's life.

Scott Schneider
Moderator



Council of Ministries

The structure below is how we operate. The leader or designee from each ministry attends a monthly Council Of Ministries meeting, led by the Moderator. This ensures all are informed and can get valuable input from the other ministries. This is critical as most functions require collaboration from multiple ministries. This also empowers each church family member, as they can either attend the COM or request the Moderator or any other COM attendee to bring up their topic for discussion and consideration.

We adopted this Council of Ministries Structure in June 2018 and established a Task Group to rewrite the By-Laws and Constitution to reflect this new structure which was completed by a By-Laws task group in June 2018.

This structure will be suspended after the 2025 Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025.



STRUCTURE OUTLINE

Growth and Outreach Ministries

- Welcome
- Follow-up
- Online
- Publications
- Grow Ideas & implementation

Worship Ministries

- Diaconate
- Ushers
- Communion Servers
- Suffield on the Green
- Baptism
- Music Ministries

Fellowship and Caring Ministries

- Calling and caring for Sick or homebound
- Food Ministries
- Fellowship Time
- Flower and Church holiday Decorating

Spiritual Formation Ministries

- Christian Education (Birth through High School)
- Adult Education flex teams

Mission Service and Justice Ministries:

- Mission Committee
- Suffield Community Aid
- Soup Kitchen
- Green Team/ Environmental Stewardship
- Interfaith Council
- Women's Group

Financial and Building Ministries

- House
- Building Use Ministry
- Trustees
- Finance Team: Treasurer, Asst Treasurer – bookkeeper. Payroll

Administrative Ministries

- Moderator
- Vice Moderator
- Clerk
- Collector
- Auditor
- Church Staff Relations
- Search
- Nominations

The Church Clerk's Report

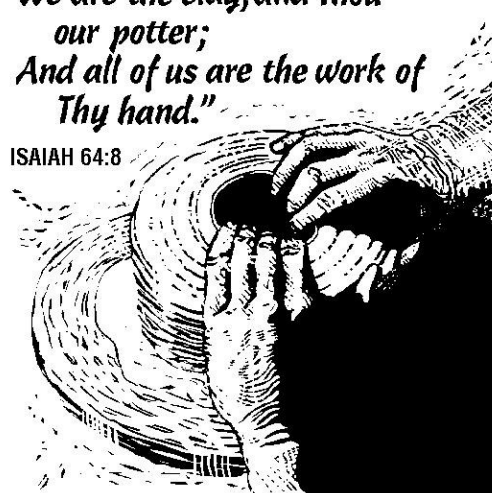
Requested Removal from Membership: 1

115 Resident men	46 Non-resident men
<u>160 Resident women</u>	<u>65 Non-resident women</u>
275 Resident members	111 Non-resident members
139 Active resident members	
136 Inactive resident members	
386 Total Members	

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyne Battle

*"But now, O Lord, Thou art
our Father,
We are the clay, and Thou
our potter;
And all of us are the work of
Thy hand."*

ISAIAH 64:8



Annual Report of the Diaconate

Currently, we have positions available, if you would like to join our committee or be a Diaconate steward.

2024 was a productive year for the Deacons with many changes.

We have had several conversations about how we can be a neighborhood church and include all from our community. We are also focusing on how to be more spiritual during our weekly services. This will be an ongoing discussion in 2025.

We continue to explore how to use our ministries and resources through our kitchen and fellowship hall to reach out to the community.

Our committee gave financial assistance and support to those who were in need from our congregation.

We had the privilege of guest preachers to visit our pulpit along with very talented musicians during worship.

Recently, we heard of the resignation of Pastor Justin Cox. We wish him blessings as he returns home to North Carolina to be with his family and begin a new pastoral position. There is a team/committee in place currently working on pastoral care and a long term interim pastor. We are very hopeful for a New Year filled with positive new beginnings.

We look forward to continuing our ministries in the upcoming year!

Chair of Diaconate,
Melissa Bednarz



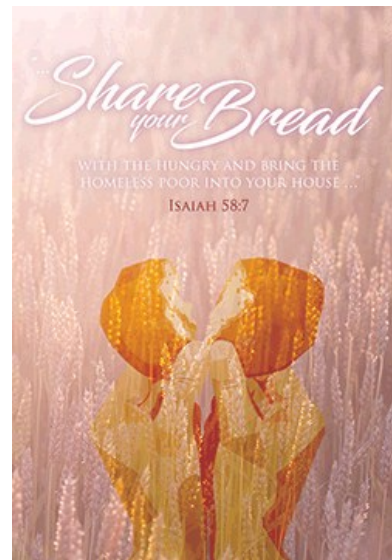
Diaconate Fellowship Fund

The Diaconate Fund started with a balance of \$19,747.52 as of January 1, 2024. Expenses during 2024 included reimbursements of expenses of underfunded church committees including Spiritual Formation and Food, as well as financial support for church members in dire need. Diaconate also covered the cost of guest preachers.

A deposit from the Trust Fund comes to the Diaconate Account four times a year. Deposits for \$4,073.43 were made in February, May, August and November.

The ending balance for 2024 was \$24,883.37 on December 23, 2024.

Respectively Submitted by
Caroline d'Otreppe
Treasurer of Diaconate
January 9, 2025



Music Ministry

Music has continued to play an integral role in Second Baptist's weekly services throughout 2024 thanks to the talent and dedication of our choir director, Anthony Ferriera and our organist/pianist/handbell director, Jean Aldrich-Jones.

The Ministry's main event in 2024 was a presentation of movements from Johannes Brahms' Requiem in May. This fantastic, large-scale production, sung in the original German, was performed by the combined voices of some 80 individuals, including our SBC choir and the Suffield High School choir, as well as members of the Cetto Chamber Singers and other local church choirs. A 23-piece orchestra accompanied the singers, and the entire ensemble was conducted by our own Anthony Ferreira! The concert was very well-attended and enjoyed by the greater Suffield community.

In March, the Music Ministry sponsored a fundraising "sub sale" following church, raising \$400 to help defray some of the costs of the Requiem performance. During the year, we have welcomed several guest soloists to our weekly services, and some members of our own SBC family have shared their musical talents with us individually. As is tradition, our friends, the Hot Cat Jazz Band, joined us in April and again in September for Welcome Back Sunday. SBC also hosted a community-wide concert offered by the Cetto Chamber Singers ensemble on June 1st.

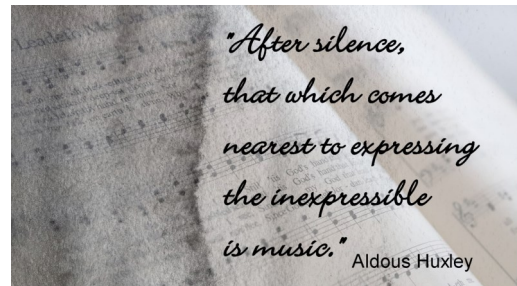
One of our goals for this year was to increase the numbers in our vocal and bell choirs. We are happy to report that two new community members have joined our talented vocal choir - welcome Andrea and Kristen!

In December, SBC again celebrated the Christmas spirit with our annual Community Christmas Concert, which included performances from our own choir, as well as the Suffield Middle School Elite Voices and the Suffield High School choir. All three choirs combined to sing Mozart's Ave verum corpus. Jean and Ed Napolski also rocked a four hands piano rendition of "Up on The Housetop"! A free-will donation raised over \$600 for the Suffield Community Aid fund bank.

To end the 2024 year, the Christmas Eve candlelight service featured musical offerings from the SBC choir, the handbell choir, and a string quartet. Looking ahead to 2025, the Music Ministry is looking to explore new opportunities for incorporating diverse musical pieces into worship and continuing to encourage wider participation in the choir and handbell ensembles.

We extend our thanks to all who have supported the Music Ministry this past year!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Vormstein-Schneider



2023 Second Baptist Streaming and Audio-Video Operations

This is the third annual report on streaming and audio-visual operations at Second Baptist Church. We continued to stream almost all the services. Our Channel has grown in viewership during 2024 to a current total of 175 subscribers, an increase of 24 new subscribers during 2024. We typically have 7-9 viewers of the actual live service and then during the next several weeks there are additional viewers. The table below shows the number of views of our stream from the last few services in 2024:

Date	# of views
Dec 15	50
Dec 22	51
Dec 24 (10 PM)	35

There were also several challenges during 2024, most notably a buffering issue that has continued to impact our stream. We have been working with the church's computer consultant and the equipment manufacturer to find a solution. As of early January 2025, we believe the solution may be at hand – a software patch. Time will tell if this resolves the problem.

The hearing assist system for the Sanctuary was upgraded to a digital system in late 2023. The new system has been functioning well during, providing an enhanced level of hearing assistance to congregants.

Preparation for each week's service begins on Tuesday or Wednesday with editing the opening and closing video clips, periodically changing both the music and graphic elements to reflect the various seasons of the church year. Then, as the bulletin is filled in, Power-Point slides are created for the various elements in the service including words to each hymn, responsive and scripture readings, music references, and participant information. When all this is completed, a script is created showing each camera change as well as any change in the view being streamed. This includes a separate sheet listing each camera and the view for each of the nine camera pre-sets. Everything is then transferred to a flash drive and copied to the computer in the balcony. We have become more efficient at creating the weekly material for the stream, now 4-6 hours for most weeks.

During this past year, Michelle Brown-Quin has been a tremendous asset as an extremely able assistant with the streaming. She has streamed the entire service on several occasions when I was absent.

Michele and I are always looking for additional people who would like to learn the streaming operation. Please speak to either one of us if you would like to join our team. The view from the balcony is fantastic.

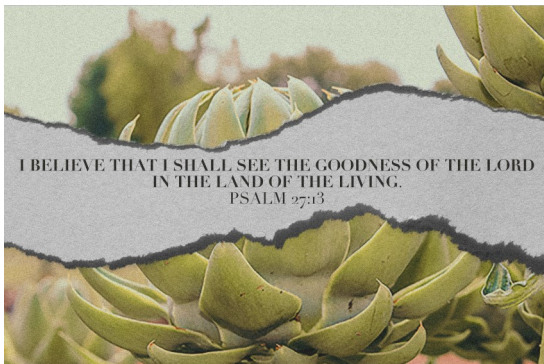
Respectfully submitted,
Dave Jones

2024 Growth and Outreach

The Growth and Outreach Committee has had a productive year and been an integral part of life at Second Baptist Church. We have organized and run many events and programs throughout the 2024 year:

Our Souper Bowl event has been a great way to raise money for the Suffield Community Aid Fuel Bank, we raised \$1090.00 this year. Even though this is an event that is much enjoyed by the Church Community, we have decided to take a break from this fundraiser for 2025 and concentrate on some of our other programs and events. During the summer months we began to collect school supplies for Suffield Community Aid that they can hand out to local children before the school year begins. We were able to gather numerous supplies and it was quite a successful collection. This fall we began a Prayer Shawl Ministry where during church members of the Second Baptist congregation can choose to either knit or crochet shawls that will be handed out to people in need. Several individuals have taken to this ministry and are actively working on their projects. Our booth at Suffield on the Green was very popular and with our spinning wheel and toys we were a fun spot for the children and families on the Green. The kids that came to the booth loved doing the craft we had for them. We have found over the last several years that with the addition of the craft and the spinning wheel, we are able to draw families over to our booth. Growth and Outreach has begun working on a cookbook which will come out in 2025, our church family has graciously shared their much loved recipes and this cookbook will give us the opportunity to showcase all of the great cooks in our congregation. We had a very successful church fair in 2024, our Tag Sale did great and our other tables (bake sale, jewelry, and plants) all did very well. Through the hard work of all of our Church Members we managed to raised \$ 2,344.84 at our Church Fair, which is \$600.00 more than we made in 2023. Suffield Alight, was a great success we have between 60 to 70 visitors who enjoyed the warmth of our church and the free hot cocoa on a very frigid night. (We are hoping to bring back our photo cutouts for next year)

The reason that Growth and Outreach's programs and events are so successful is because of the hard work of our Committee Members (and those who help out at our events who are not a part of Growth and Outreach) who take the extra time to plan, organize, and volunteer at each of these events so that everyone in the congregation and individuals from the local community who attend are able to enjoy them. We are looking forward to next year when we are hoping to bring back many of our events and programs mentioned above but also add some new ones. We will be bringing back our spring event with crafts and games for young children both in our church and greater Suffield Community. We are hoping to have the church cookbook finished for the first part of 2025. We will also be organizing a Halloween event for the children of Second Baptist with crafts and games.



Respectfully Submitted,
Corey Haynes, Chair of Growth and Outreach

Growth and Outreach 2024 Treasurer's Report

In 2024 Growth and Outreach took over the checking account (just account number not the funds in it) from the SBC American Baptist Women's Group. We changed signers on the account in August/September of 2024. The American Baptist Women's Group after much thought and consideration decided that they would like to donate the funds that remained in their account to Suffield Community Aid to help with their programs.

Starting Balance (American Baptist Women's Funds):	\$497.41
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Check to Suffield Community Aid:	- \$497.41
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Deposits from Growth and Outreach: (Church Fair deposits 2023/2024,etc)	+ \$3,302.14
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New Checks:	- \$29.50
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Change for Church Fair:	- \$300.00
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Reimbursements to Members for Growth and Outreach Expenses:	- \$ 550.51
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Ending Balance	\$ 2,422.13
(Note: some of the reimbursement Checks have not been cashed as of 12/31/2024)	

Spiritual Formation / Christian Education

The Board of Spiritual Formation continues to work at keeping Second Baptist Church a welcoming environment where we can freely say, “Let the children come”. Our hope is to provide meaningful opportunities for kids to develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and equip them to serve in His name.

This year we continue to embrace our theme of “Learn it, Love it, Live it!” by offering learning experiences that are fun and faith filled.

10 Families, 18 kids

SF Events of 2024

Sunday School
Vacation Bible School
Christmas Eve Pageant
Advent Workshop
Craft Days
Camp Wightman
Parents Time Out
Ladies Luncheons
Suffield Alight
Cupcake Sale



Spiritual Formation is thankful for the many volunteers and the tremendous support from the congregation.

We look forward to the coming year and future successes.

Spiritual Formation Goals for 2025:

1. To continue to reach out to the community offering programs that draw people into our church
2. To improve outreach efforts to children and families in need.
3. To provide mission opportunities for youth and families.
4. To continue and grow our partnership with other church committees in doing God’s work.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schneller

Spiritual Formation /Christian Education 2024 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$493.45
Deposits (Budgeted monies acquired from Diaconate funds, fundraiser and VBS)	+\$2225.00
Disbursements	-\$1517.89

Areas of Disbursements:

Sunday School

Ladies Luncheon

Children's Sunday

Vacation Bible School

Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas events

After School Crafting/Children Fellowship

Added 2024: Sunday morning Meditation and Reflection supplies

*A one time reimbursement for prayer shawl supplies, in the future will come from Growth and Outreach.

Ending Balance 2024	\$1200.56
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Respectfully submitted,
Jean Rinaldi

Adult Education/Small Groups

We offered several options for adult education in 2024.

We continued our Pub Theology meetings, discussing faith, God, and current events. All meetings were held at a local restaurant, Three Figs in Suffield. Meetings were well attended and open to the public.

We hosted several Dinner Church services in the Fellowship Hall with participation from different ministry groups in the church. Those there helped set up, cook meals, and clean up together. Audio and video resources were used to enhance the experience. Services included brief messages, communion, and topics of discussion.

Two film screenings of “1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture” were held in the Common Room. The documentary detailed how the word “homosexual” was translated incorrectly. The film was attended by church members and others from the greater Suffield area.

Two different preaching series were offered. The first focused on Baptist identity, specifically the Four Fragile Freedoms consisting of Bible, Religion, Soul, and Church. This series culminated with a presentation of church history led by Barry Sisk in the Fellowship Hall. Later in the year, we discussed the danger of Christian Nationalism.

On Sunday mornings the church library is available for a time of Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer.

Before the season of Advent, we held a small group discussion in the parlor using the resource *The Work of the People*. The video series we engaged in was entitled “Church: A Community Called for the Future. Those who attended discussed aspects of the video and shared in an open dialogue insights and reflections.

Submitted for approval by,
Rev. Justin Cox



Missions Services and Justice Ministries

The Second Baptist Church of Suffield is a community of faith whose members strive to identify and help those in need. The members of the Missions ministry are grateful that through the generosity of our congregants, we have been able to support many local and international organizations throughout the year.

In keeping with the Mission's ‘Giving’ theme of providing support to local organizations and individuals that are dealing with **food insecurity**, as well as international ministries whose focus is **Economic and Community Development, Health & Wellness, Training & Capacity Building and Peace & Justice**, we were able to identify and support a number of familiar, as well as several new organizations in 2024.

The 's of Giving

<i>A</i> <i>Affiliations & Sponsorships</i>	<i>B</i> <i>Beyond Our Borders</i>	<i>C</i> <i>Local Community Needs</i>
Second Baptist Church Groups <i>Special Needs Group</i> <i>Chair for a Prayer Fundraiser</i> <i>Camp Wightman-SBC members</i> <i>Community Assistance Fund</i>	One Great Hour of Sharing <i>Hurricane Relief</i> <i>General Support</i>	Springfield Rescue Mission and Homeless Center <i>-Operation Hope Totes</i> <i>-Funds for evening meals</i> <i>-Fundraiser for the New Life Women's Program</i>
First Baptist Church Jamaica Plain MA <i>Food Justice Program</i> First Church of Suffield <i>Collaborated to purchase</i> <i>School supplies for</i> <i>'Church World Service School'</i>	Global Servants Ministries (IM) Drs. Anita & Rick Gutierrez <i>Health Builders Ministry</i> Barbara & Dwight Bolick <i>Talita Cumi Girls Club libraries</i> Kristi Engel <i>Global Health Consultant-Ukraine</i> Ricardo Mayol-Bracero	Suffield Community Aid <i>Food and Fuel Bank</i> <i>Holiday food baskets</i> Pauline's Stockpot Kitchen <i>Food supplies & new fridge</i>
Third Baptist Church of Suffield <i>Donated funds to support the re-construction of a handicap ramp</i>	ABC- USA Annual Offerings <i>* America for Christ</i> <i>*World Missionary Offering</i> <i>*Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering</i> Light of Hope Mission Dominican Republic	Suffield Housing Authority <i>Food gift cards to support residents designated as low income</i> It Takes a Village <i>Postpartum support including home visits, infant clothing & parent education</i>
Souper Bowl Fundraiser <i>Matching funds to support SCA Fuel Bank</i> American Legion <i>Matching funds to support our local war veterans</i>	St. James Episcopal Church Black Mountain NC <i>Hurricane Helene Relief Funding</i>	Springfield Soup Kitchen Enfield Safe Harbor Warming Center Suffield Senior Center <i>Offset costs of senior lunches</i>

In our effort to better vet the requests we receive for support from individual community members, within Second Baptist and the greater Suffield Community, we compiled an intake Benevolence Form to assist the office staff, Pastor, and the Missions & Diaconate Ministries to assess and support needs as they arise.

In addition, a big shout-out to Larry Peters, a new member of the Missions Ministry, who used his large network of care providers to compile a ‘Community Assistance Resource Guide’ to help us share resources and local agencies to provide tailored supports to people who request assistance from SBC.

The Missions Ministry looks forward to providing more outreach opportunities as well as in-house ‘giving’ presentations throughout 2025.

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Ruddock; Missions Ministry Chair

Treasurer of Benevolences

Balance on Hand - January 1, 2024 \$ 12,956.88

RECEIPTS

Missions Support from SBC Treasurer	\$ 8,165.63	
Trust Funds - Missions	\$ 27,931.07	
Trust Funds - Third Baptist Church	\$ 5,564.25	
	.	
Communion Offerings and Special Collections	\$ 1,724.00	
Light of Hope Dominican Republic Mission	\$ 358.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	\$ 686.00	
America for Christ Offering	\$ 537.00	
World Mission Offering	\$ 483.00	
Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering	\$ 678.00	
Souper Bowl Fundraiser - Growth & Outreach	\$ 1,042.00	
Gift Cards Purchase	\$ 232.00	
Reimbursements	\$ 286.25	
Uncashed Check	\$ 100.00	
Interest Earned	\$ 5.20	\$ 47,792.40
		\$ 60,749.28

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH ABC-USA

ABC- USA Unified Budget	\$ 12,000.00	
America for Christ Offering	\$ 1,250.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,500.00	
World Mission Offering	\$ 1,000.00	
International Ministries Missionary Support	\$ 6,750.00	
RMMO	\$ 1,500.00	
		\$ 24,000.00

DISBURSEMENTS AS DIRECT PAYMENTS

Third Baptist Church of Suffield	\$ 6,200.00	
Reimburse Soup Kitchen Supplies	\$ 2,031.95	
Camp Wrightman	\$ 750.00	
Light of Hope - Dominican Republic Mission	\$ 2,000.00	
Gift Cards/Community Assistance	\$ 3,082.78	
Suffield Community Aid	\$ 4,150.00	
Suffield School Recognition	\$ 378.15	
Suffield Senior Center	\$ 500.00	
Suffield Housing Authority	\$ 475.00	
Growth & Outreach Support	\$ 413.31	
Special Needs	\$ 98.87	
Pastoral Assistance	\$ 386.01	
"Chairs for a Prayer" Campaign	\$ 500.00	
Pauline's Stockpot Kitchen	\$ 500.00	
Enfield Loaves & Fishes	\$ 1,000.00	
Enfield Safe Harbor Warming Center for the Homeless	\$ 1,000.00	
Springfield Rescue Mission	\$ 1,496.64	
It Takes a Village	\$ 1,515.00	
Center for Faith, Art and Justice - Food Justice Program	\$ 510.65	
Church World Service - w/1st Church	\$ 500.00	
American Legion - Tanguay-Magill Post 80	\$ 100.00	
Hurricane Support	\$ 2,555.83	
Mission Envelopes	\$ 28.17	
		\$ 30,172.36
Total Disbursements		
		\$ 54,172.36
Balance on Hand, December 31, 2024		\$ 6,576.92

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura L. Burnaford, Treasurer of Benevolences

Light of Hope Mission -2024



We had the privilege to go to the Dominican in January of 2024. We had a ton of supplies for the schools and the clinic. Corey and I were both very excited to see the kids.

For the preschool we brought games for the classroom and scissors and glue all the supplies that they don't have. Corey had made a bingo game with food pictures.

We were very happy to see that the bathroom that we had put in a few years ago was still working perfectly. We worked with the children, we read to them and then they had their lunch.



Thanks to June Hodges we had beautiful hand made dresses to hand out. Each dress had a special surprise in the pocket. We had knit and crocheted baby blankets that Gert Hastings and others had made.

At the clinic we delivered the medicine that we had brought and purchased what was needed. We were able to get almost everything on the list except for a blood pressure cuff which we just couldn't find.

We were very surprised that they didn't sell vitamins in large jars they sold them in the blister packs so next year we will be sure to bring more vitamins not the gummy kind because they melt, but the regular vitamins, for every age. The elderly could certainly could use the vitamins here too.

Dr. Rodríguez was thrilled with everything the clinic was busy a busy place. People needing breathing treatments, and some with just chronic pain.

We visited the school and dropped off supplies and talked to the kids. We handed out extra supplies to those that needed them and were able to visit in their homes.

Joel and Elizabeth and their church continues to thrive. Elizabeth is doing a lot of programs for women empowering them to be the best they can be. Feel free to follow Pastor & Elizabeth on Facebook. They post a lot of their events.

Our yearly visits to the Dominican continue to be a source of encouragement and spiritual growth. it truly fills your heart with joy to do for others. We hope we to do a trip this August, with some young people and anybody else that's interested in joining us. I know we were very disappointed that we couldn't go in January, but for health reasons it just wasn't possible . Thank you again for your continued support and prayers as we do God's work.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schneller



Light of Hope -Dominican Republic Account

Deposits & Starting Balance

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,554.77
Funds returned from January 2024 Trip	\$ 100.00
Support from Missions Committee	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
	\$ 3,654.77

Disbursements

Cash for January 2024 Trip	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursement for Travel Costs - January 2024 Trip	\$ 2,466.65
Medical Supplies - January 2024 Trip	<u>\$ 59.99</u>
	\$ 3,526.64

Deposits & Starting Balance	\$ 3,654.77
Disbursements	<u>\$ 3,526.64</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 128.13

Respectfully Submitted,
Ernie Begin



Greater Suffield Interfaith Council

In 2024, the Greater Suffield Interfaith Council held one service.

Both I and others of the Second Baptist Church community joined in the Martin Luther King, Jr service of celebration at Third Baptist Church. This event occurred in February and included other elements that drew attention to Black History Month. This time of fellowship included a meal and speakers/demonstrations from community partners in and around Suffield. Bishop John Selders, Jr. was the guest preacher.

Unfortunately, the interfaith Thanksgiving service was canceled again this year.

Submitted for approval,

Rev. Justin Cox

Calling and Caring Ministry

The Calling and Caring Ministry sends cards, phone calls, emails, and visits to people in our church when we hear they are sick or for a celebration. We also try to stay in touch with members and friends of Second Baptist.

This ministry is to help the pastor know of people that could benefit from a visit. This year was a challenge for all of us as we requested the pastor to go and visit a member that we had heard needed to be checked on. After several long months of requesting the ministry voted to send the chair to social services for help. That same week they went to the home and were able to get assistance for this person.

If you or you know of someone that needs a friendly call please let one of our members know so we can reach out. All info is kept in confidence and does not leave our meeting and only is given to the pastor.

Our meetings are the 3rd Wed. of the month except July, August, and December.
Gail Davis Dian Kingsbury Diane Ruddock Barry Sisk Bev Sikes

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Sikes - Chair

Flower Ministry

As a congregation we have enjoyed beautiful displays under the cross. At Easter we had fresh flowers that were donated in memory or honor of loved ones, and those were either taken home by the donor, or distributed to the homebound by the members of the committee.



We are very grateful for the Begin Family for cutting down a beautiful tree and standing it in our sanctuary. Chris and Jenn Sikes set up the Advent wreath, put all the window candles up, strung it with lights and cared for our gorgeous Christmas tree, beautiful wreaths with bows adorned our sanctuary. A shout out to June Hodges for fluffing and trimming all of them. Special thanks to Bev Sikes for putting up the creche in the front of the sanctuary. We also decorated the Common Room with lit Christmas trees and candles for Suffield Alight. We organized the ordering and purchasing of poinsettias by members of the congregation for our Sunday Christmas service on December 22nd.



Thank you to all who donated flowers this year and contributed to the flower fund. They add so much to our services and are further enjoyed by the homebound.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyne Battle on behalf of Flower Ministry

Food/Kitchen Ministry

In 2024, Kitchen Ministry was able to support our congregation in many ways. Through partnership with other ministries and special events we provided fellowship to nurture relationships within our congregation and the community.

Birthday Dinner
Lenten Breakfast
Dessert Auction
Music Ministry Concert Reception
Dinner Church
Community Christmas Concert Reception
Fellowship after church
Funeral Receptions



Thank you to all the Kitchen Ministry for all your hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Drenzek

Building Use Ministry

The Building Use Ministry (BUM) task force, consisting of David & Evelyne Battle, Tina Berrien, Laurie Gokey, and Jenn Sikes continued its work this year reviewing and approving ten Room Use Applications and managing outside-user events.

We have ongoing weekly activities at the church which include the Boy Scouts, Ping-Pong club, the two AA group meetings, two yoga classes, and the Friends of Kent Memorial Library who sort and store the donated books for their annual book sale in the Prior wing. We also have monthly events including Embroidery Guild and Garden Club meetings, Suffield Land Conservancy meetings, Cetto Chamber Singers rehearsals, American Red Cross Blood Drives, and occasional one-on-one Spiritual Direction sessions. Venturing Crew 261 meets in the library monthly and we hosted several one-off events during the year including birthday parties, Kent Memorial Library author program, memorial services, and Suffield Academy's Baccalaureate ceremony. All of this is in addition to the various church committee meetings which are held in person at the church.

In the fall, we sponsored our "Chair for a Prayer" fundraising campaign to replace the old red chairs in Fellowship Hall with new, lightweight folding chairs. A total of \$3,675 was raised from generous donations and the balance of \$2,220 was taken from Memorial Funds to purchase 120 new Lifetime Commercial Folding Chairs and 4 storage carts. The old chairs were donated to Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

We are very grateful for our wonderful custodian, Jenn Sikes, who does a wonderful job maintaining the calendar of events, meeting with prospective users, and keeping the building clean and safe for us all.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyne Battle
Chair, Building Use Ministry

Fellowship for People with Special Needs/Disabilities

Fellowship for People with Special Needs/Disabilities met every second Monday of the month (except July and August) during 2024. As usual we had a wonderful time. All participants really enjoyed our monthly singing, seasonal crafts and snacks. We have partnered with Donna Carney-Bastrzycki from Suffield Parks and Recreation, who sent out our monthly invitations to all those involved in her program letting them know when we were hosting our monthly meetings. A highlight of the year was our Annual December Christmas gift giving. This year our guests each received a Holiday throw pillow for couch, bed or in the car!!

Those involved from Second Baptist Church included Tina Berrien, Jean Aldrich-Jones, Scott Miller, Caroline D'Otreppe, Susan Ruddock, and Sue Schneller. In addition, Donna Carney-Bastrzycki from Suffield Parks and Recreation, Laura Vindigni, and various parents of our guests assisted at our gatherings.

Jean Aldrich-Jones

Soup Kitchen

Luke 3:10

Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.

When- On the second Saturday of the month (September-June), our church delivers and serves a meal for anyone in need at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, which is located at the South Congregational Church in Springfield, MA. Helpers coordinate a meeting spot or meet at the soup kitchen at approximately 11:30am and return to Suffield by 1pm.

Who Can Participate- Everyone is welcome. This is a great family activity or maybe you know of another group that may want to share this experience (scouts, clubs, friends, families in your neighborhood). This changes lives – both yours and theirs.

Pizza, Cookies and Bananas- 9 Party pizzas are picked up from Big Y. Banana's (12-15 bunches) and pre-packaged cookies are bought from Costco.

Please consider participating. It can be a life changing experience.

The Missions Committee funds the meal. Reimbursements with receipts can be obtained through the benevolence treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Brown-Quinn

Suffield Community Aid

Suffield Community Aid offers a wide variety of services to help members of the local community and every year members of Second Baptist Church have the opportunity to help with their Holiday Basket drive. In 2024 our Church was asked to support five local families by providing food and paper goods for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets and gifts for the Holiday Season. Our Church family always come together and are eager to contribute food and gifts to the families in need and are always willing to donate their time to help sort, package, and drop off the baskets.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corey Haynes

Exploratory Team

This year the Exploratory Team consisted of: David Battle, Melissa Bednarz, Laura Burnaford, Justin Cox, Nancy Drenzek, David Jones, Jean Rinaldi, Scott Schneider and Sue Schneller.

At the beginning of this year, we held a Birthday celebration dinner after church on January 14, 2024. There were 12 tables, one for each month. Everyone sat and ate at the table in the month they were born. This generated more mixing among the congregation and a more thorough fellowship. Special thanks to the Food Ministry, Sue Schneller and others who really got the event going this year. Everyone had a great time. We agreed we should do it again next year around the same time.

Since there was much discussion about what SBC membership meant and what should be the requirements for SBC membership. The exploratory team contributed to getting a survey out to the congregation to get everyone's thought on the matter, along with other thoughts congregants had on how SBC could improve and grow. Along with other ministries, the Exploratory team digested the survey results to determine how the team should continue forward.

Justin showed us the concept of Dinner church, which had great success at other churches across the country. Dinner church is where the participants get together to prepare the food, eat together, worship, discuss, and clean up together. It promotes a more intimate worship and spiritual discussion setting. The exploratory team further evaluated this idea with a few of us attending Dinner church up in Northampton, MA. Those of us that went felt it had possibilities at SBC. After attending a couple of these events in Northampton, we decided to try the event with only the Deacons and Exploratory team to start and to work out the "bugs". Each month we expanded the group until we invited the entire church in July. In the autumn we conducted a monthly dinner church on Wednesday evenings.

In conducting these events, the Exploratory team realized that a budget must be created if we wanted to continue with Dinner church and the Birthday Dinner along with introducing new events for people to get excited about. So, for the 2025 program year, the Exploratory Team submitted a budget so that these events could continue and expand.

In January and February 2025, we will determine what we should pursue next and how to navigate through this pastor transition period. Even though Justin is not here now, we may continue to hold periodic Dinner church events throughout the year. The team would like to do more events to promote fellowship or which may involve the community as well.

If anyone has any ideas they would like explored by our church, please contact one of the members of the exploratory team. We're thrilled to get feedback and improve further.

Respectively Submitted,

Scott Schneider

What...
...If?

2024 Collector's Report

Offering Towards 2024 Pledges	\$ 67,754.24
Additional Donations from Members and Friends	\$ 11,545.10
Cash (Plate) Offering	\$ 5,089.35
Offering Towards 2025 Pre-Pledges	\$ 7,060.00
Total	\$ 91,448.69

Respectfully Submitted,
Evelyne Battle and David Burnaford
Co-Collectors

Financial Discipleship Report of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign

The number of pledges declined to 35 pledges in 2025 from 39 pledges in 2024. The total amount pledged towards 2025 is \$72,704.00, a decrease of \$3,186.00 which is a decrease of 4.2% from 2024.

Church Staff Relations

No report was submitted as there was no active within this ministry in 2024

American Baptist Women

American Baptist Women group within Second Baptist Church became inactive in 2024. Many of their activities have become absorbed within Growth and Outreach Ministries.

House Committee

The SBC House Committee continues to support the church by trying to deal with the effects of time and use on our properties. We completed many major projects over the past year and several minor updates. Below is a list of some of our major accomplishments or items worth noting:

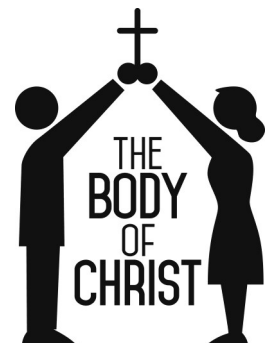
1. The leaking flat roof was completed. Much of this work was in 2023 but it carried over into 2024. As a bonus we had another flat roof leak – we think/hope it was caused by a clogged drain on the roof. We are monitoring for potential repair/replacement. The only good thing is it is small at 8x8.
2. It took forever but the mason who rebuilt the parsonage chimney finally “found the time” in his schedule to fix the flashing to stop the leak.
3. The kitchen ceiling with its outdated lighting and falling ceiling tiles was upgraded.
4. Fellowship hall light fixtures were retrofitted to L.E.D.
5. Our new fire marshal has informed us that all emergency lighting must be tested monthly and a log of the test must be kept. As part of his inspection a few fixtures required replacement. During the replacement, it was discovered that some of the fixtures were wired incorrectly – they had been on light switch circuit. That was rectified to meet requirements.
6. The COM decided we needed to do something about building access. After significant discussion it was determined to start by upgrading the locks on the main doors to in from the main parking lot to electronic locks. Currently we are in learning period. The next steps are to provide access to those who request and require access and then to re-key the exterior doors.
7. Our congregation was left with a mess to deal with at the parsonage. Several volunteers helped with the removal of items left behind. Because of the condition of the parsonage the only thing that was salvageable was the hutch. Next steps are:
 - a. Deep cleaning
 - b. Sanitizing and deodorizing the basement due to feline urine and feces.
 - c. Wall repair
 - d. Repainting
 - e. Additionally, with the parsonage being empty a plan for the future is being considered and what needs to be done based on the direction we move in.

We are forever indebted to Walt for taking the lead overseeing and managing the majority of this work

To the members of the House Committee, Walt Malec, Richard Binns, Ted Scheiber and Jamie Guilmette, thank you for your dedication and support of our church – you make a difference.

There are many items on our punch list. Overseeing of the Church properties is done on an all-volunteer basis – our plates are full and our to-do list is long. We ask members of the church to be understanding of our time – if you see something say something and understand we will get to it as time and budget allows.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cliff Barron, Chairperson



Church History 2024

The mission of the Second Baptist Church of Suffield is “The grace of Jesus Christ calls us into a community of faith embracing God’s justice and love for all.” Thus, a church (Congregation) history should be the story of its successes and failures. Pastor Justin, the Diaconate, the Exploratory Team, and the Council of Ministries were diligent in their efforts to stimulate spiritual and church growth. However, a shortage of leaders and low attendance at worship services continued to be a problem. Many volunteers dedicated time and talents to serve in all areas of church life. Pastor Justin Cox announced his resignation in early December with Sunday, December 29 his last service.

A major need within the congregation was recognized by lay leadership and the pastor as issues were identified: *What is Second Baptist and what is its future? Feedback from the congregation was requested in the form of a series of surveys during Lent. The surveys were a starting point to describe the future of SBC: the information in the surveys was explored by the Diaconate, the Exploratory Team, the staff and the Pastor. The Pastor began a series of four sermons on February 18 about Baptist beliefs. On April 14, additional feedback from the congregation was requested by leaders. As a start, two special congregational meetings were held.*

Two special congregational meetings were held immediately following the 10:00 am worship service. On June 2, proposed changes to the SBC Constitution and By-laws to give non-members with long (minimum two years) term committed years of service the same rights as those of members were rejected. On October 6, a vote of approval was made to suspend “parts of the SBC Constitution and By-laws regarding ministry positions as the church develops a proposal to restructure the church’s organization.”

Like previous years, church life in 2024 was active and community groups continued to use church facilities. Church ministries were conducted with the dedicated commitment of staff and volunteers. The music program was ably led by Music Director Anthony Ferreira and Organist and Handbell Direct Jean Aldrich-Jones. Worship and some special services continued to be live-streamed by David Jones and Michele Brown-Quinn, an activity which demanded much volunteer time. The Office Manager, Laura Burnaford, efficiently and patiently fulfilled her responsibilities. Sue Schneller managed and supported a variety of activities. The Building Use Manager, Evelyn Battle, efficiently kept order. Our large building was maintained in excellent condition by Facilities Manager and Custodian Jennifer Sikes and the House Committee led by Cliff Barron.

The dedication of Treasurer Howard Beal to carefully maintain financial records required a substantial amount of volunteer time. Church Clerk Becky Tobiasz coordinated her work of record keeping with the Office Manager. The volunteer work of Corey Haynes on projects involving both missions and growth and outreach concerns was marked by a strong commitment to the mission SBC.

Second Baptist serves the community by providing meeting space. Some groups met weekly: Boy/Girl Scouts, two Yoga groups, two Alcoholic Anonymous groups, a ping pong group. Other groups or activities met biweekly, monthly or bi-monthly: Suffield Garden Club, Boy Scout Committee, Land Conservancy, Pioneer Valley Chapter-EGA. Other activities occurred irregularly or one time: Suffield Academy Baccalaureate in May, Suffield Community Christmas Concert on December 15. Lester Smith memorial service on October 19, Suffield Historical Society on three occasions, Cetto Chamber Singers Concert on June 1, Tini Eagle Ceremony on June 13, “Brahms Requiem” Concert on May 18. Beyond the community, SBC opened the building for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Northeast) Retreat on May 3 & 4. The American Red Cross periodically held blood drives in Fellowship Hall.

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All year workspace is provided (rented) to The Friends of Kent Memorial Library for processing books for the Book Fair in September. Kent Memorial Library uses Fellowship Hall on occasions when program attendance exceeds KML capacity.

Weather forced a slow start for church activities in January. The Sunday morning worship service on the 7th was cancelled because of snow – very unusual. Then, routine church life renewed after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Staff meetings were held every Tuesday morning, Ministries usually met once a month: Diaconate 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm; Calling and Caring at 11 am 3rd Wednesday; ABW Lunch Bunch 3rd Wednesday at noon; Growth and Outreach at 9 am 2nd Sunday; Missions on 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm; House at 7 pm on 4th Monday; Soup Kitchen on 2nd Saturday 11 am to 1:30 pm; council of Ministries as needed (at least once a month); Handbell choir 6:15 pm, Sanctuary Choir 7:15 pm on Thursday; Music as needed.

In January, the Hot Cat Jazz Band provided music at the 10 am worship service on the 14th. After the service an all-church birthday lunch was enjoyed. On Monday the 15th, Corey Haynes and Sue Schneller travelled to the Dominican Republic on a Light of Hope mission trip for the week. A red Cross blood drive occurred on the 17th in Fellowship Hall, noon to 5 pm. A contemplative practices study group, led by the Pastor, viewed a video, “Soul Work”, on the 18th 4-5:15 pm; a discussion followed. After the worship service on the 21st, a congregational discussion on the meaning of membership occurred. The 219th annual meeting of SBC immediately following the worship service on the 28th.

Communion was observed February 4th. The Communion offering for February was to support the Suffield Community Aid Private Fuel Bank. During the year, many Suffield or area aid programs and four major ABCUSA offerings received generous contributions designated by Missions Ministry. After worship on the 4th, the Pastor explained his doctoral thesis which used SBC food practices as his central theme. Home-made soups were sold on Souper Bowl Sunday to benefit the Suffield Community Aid Fuel Bank. Ash Wednesday (14th) was observed with a service at 5:30 pm in the Common Room. Lenten breakfasts and devotionals began on the 18th at 9 am in Fellowship Hall and were held each Sunday in Lent. Also, Pastor Justin gave the first of four sermons on Baptist Beliefs. And, the first of four weekly surveys was provided to the congregation. On Sunday, the 25th, the sermon was entitled “Bible Freedom” and Third Baptist Church hosted a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration community service at 3 pm.

On March 3, the third sermon on Baptist Beliefs, “Church Freedom”, was preached by Pastor Justin. Contemplative Practices was held on the 6th, 4:5:15 pm. On the 4th Sunday in Lent, breakfast and devotionals were held at 9 am and at the 10 am worship service Pastor Justin’s sermon was on “Religious Freedom”. The last of four sermons on Baptist Beliefs was on “Soul Freedom” and a discussion on Baptist Beliefs was lead by the Pastor at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Palm Sunday was on the 24th and Maundy Thursday was observed at First Church, CC with an evening service. A period of quiet meditation was held at SBC from 3-8 pm on Food Friday. Easter Sunday was the 31st.

April began with the Suffield Garden Club meeting at 10L30 am on the 1st. After the 10 am worship service a sub and grinder sale was held by the Music Committee to benefit the SBC music program. The Hot Cat Jazz Band provided the music at the worship service. Special Needs activity was held on the 8th in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. A red Cross blood Drive occurred at noon-5 pm on the 10th. The monthly Soup Kitchen mission took place at the South Congregational Church in Springfield on Saturday the 15th. A cupcake decorating activity was enjoyed Saturday 20th at noon in Fellowship Hall. Camp Wightman Sunday was observed on the 21st and at fellowship time delicious cupcakes were served. The Pastor’s “Pub Theology” was enjoyed 6-7:30 pm at Three Figs.

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On Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship held its Northeast Retreat at SBC. The communion offering for May was for the Light of Hope mission trip to the Dominican Republic. A spaghetti supper and dessert auction was ENJOYED by young and old alike on the 11th. The first part of the auction was for the kids. Then the adults took over with their big bucks. The supper charged \$9 for adults, \$5 for kids 6-12 and under 6 free, all to support the Food Ministry program at SBC. Special Needs met at 4 pm on the 13th and the Women's Lunch Bunch ate at noon on the 15th. "Brahms Requiem" was performed on the 18th at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. This community activity was directed by Anthony Ferreira, Director of Music at SBC. There were about 30 vocalists and a professional chamber orchestra. Suffield Academy held its Baccalaureate Service in the Sanctuary on May 23. SBC joined with First Church for worship on the 26th.

June began with a concert by the Cetto Chamber Singers in the sanctuary at 3 pm on the 1st. A time of meditation, reflection, and prayer was open to all in the library 9-9:45 am. After worship on the 2nd, a congregational meeting rejected proposed changes to the SBC Constitution and By-laws regarding membership. Children's Sunday was observed on the 9th with a picnic following worship. On the 12th, the Suffield Historical Society met in the Common Room. The Tini Eagle Ceremony was held in Fellowship Hall on the 13th beginning at 5 pm. Combined worship with First Church (UCC) began on June 30 and continued through July.

July began with a Growth and Outreach project to support the "Back to School Program" of Suffield Community Aid, a program to collect school supplies. Vacation Bible School, directed by Sue Schneller, was run cooperatively with First Church July 6-12, 9 am-noon. The Sunday service on July 30 at SBC was the responsibility of West Suffield Congregational Church, which included its choir, as worship was shared with SBC and First Church.

August worship services were the responsibility of First Baptist Church of Suffield. Because the First Baptist Church building was undergoing repairs, the worship services were held at Second Baptist. Various community groups used SBC facilities during August. Kent Memorial Library held a large activity at 9 am on the 24th in Fellowship Hall. Some SBC ministries held meetings this month.

The worship service on the first Sunday in September was run by First Baptist. Community groups resumed or continued use of SBC facilities at the start of the month. SBC ministries resumed their regular activities during the first week of the month. At the worship service on the 8th, Pastor Justin Cox began a series of sermons about Christian nationalism which is a rightwing extremist movement threatening freedom of religion. Suffield on the Green was held on Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th and Second Baptist had a booth to "market" our church. The Hot Cat Jazz Band provided the music for "Welcome Back Sunday" on the 15th. A "dinner church" (food and faith) was held at 5 pm on Wednesday the 18th. On the 29th, a "coffee house" worship service occurred in Fellowship Hall at 10 am. It was informal and the "sermon" consisted of historical comments about SBC by SBC Historian, Barry Sisk, in response to the question *"Who Is SBC?"*

October began with projects and business as well as worship. On communion Sunday, the 6th, SBC Missions Ministry designated the World Mission Offering to receive our gifts. Also, the need for practical folding chairs for Fellowship Hall initiated a fund-raising project. A congregational meeting followed at which a unanimous vote approved "suspending parts of the SBC Constitution and By-laws regarding ministry positions as the church develops a proposal to restructure the church's organization." The sermon on the 13th was given by Wyatt Moyer, an 11th grad student from the United Church of Lincoln in northern Vermont. He was a serious student of the Bible and gave a thoughtful sermon. On Saturday the 19th at 2:30 pm, a community memorial service for Lester Smith was held with SBC Pastor Justin Cox in the pulpit. After worship, an informational meeting gave the overall status of SBC. The Women's Lunch Bunch luncheon was open to all including men on the 23rd for a 100th birthday celebration for Gert Hastings. To stimulate congregational thinking about SBC, the Pastor presented a video "Church: A Community Called for the Future" on the 20th at 11:15 am. That was

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November began with the “Christmas in Suffield Craft Fair” 9 am – 3 pm. During the worship service the next day, Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, Executive Minister of ABCConn, presented a formal recognition of Rev. Just Cox as an American Baptist minister. The third video in the series was shown after the worship service: “Eucharistic Community: How We Will Connect”. On Sunday, November 10, the fourth video was shown after worship: “Organic Church: How We Will Grow.” On the 17th after the worship service, the fifth video was shown: “The Self-Forming Church: How We Will Claim Our Christian Journey.” On Saturday, November 23, the SBC Thanksgiving Dinner in Fellowship Hall pleased everyone. Meals were delivered to shut-ins.

The first Sunday of Advent was December 1. The Candle of Hope was lit by the Begin family. “Suffield Alight” occurred on the 6th and the SBC Common Room was open with hot chocolate served to passersby. The 4 pm community carol sing at First Baptist was enjoyed on the 8th. The Community Christmas Concert in the SBC sanctuary took place on the 15th at 3 pm. A meal was provided for the Women’s Lunch Bunch at noon on the 18th. On Saturday December 21 at 10 am, cupcakes for Sunday’s fellowship time were decorated. Christmas Eve was celebrated with the pageant at 5 pm and a service of carols and readings was held at 10 pm. This was the last service for SBC pastor Justin Cox who was moving to a church in North Carolina.

A major thrust of the ministry of Pastor Justin was to lead the congregation to a sense of understanding of its character as Baptists and what its spiritual future could be. This year was a year of transition for our congregation as we sought to understand God’s will for our efforts to fulfill the mission of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry N. Sisk
Church Historian



2024 Annual Report to Second Baptist Church BSA Troop 260 (Boys), Troop 262 (Girls) and Venturing Crew 261 (Co-ed)

Troops 260 and 262, along with Venturing Crew 261, remain deeply grateful for the sponsorship and unwavering support of Second Baptist Church. We are proud to call Second Baptist our home and truly appreciate the church's hospitality in hosting us.

Troop 260, established in 1991, and Troop 262, established in 2020, continue to offer strong, year-round programs that foster character, leadership, and community spirit. Venturing Crew 261, launched in 2023, is centered on high adventure, mentorship, leadership development, and community service.

Leadership Updates

Troops 260 and 262 are guided by dedicated and hardworking leaders who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth. Troop 262 welcomed a new Assistant Scoutmaster, Sarah Thomas, who has already made a positive impact on the program.

Troop 260 saw the addition of several new leaders. Nate Sebastiao, an Eagle Scout from West Hartford and former Den Leader of the AOL Den that recently crossed over, joined as an Assistant Scoutmaster alongside his Assistant Den Leader, Dave Forrest. Both bring valuable experience and enthusiasm to the Troop. Additionally, Daniel Craig, a recent Eagle Scout who aged out, continued his service by becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster. This marks the first success of the Venturing Crew retaining a Scout who aged out, demonstrating the benefits of active involvement in both units. Looking ahead, the Troop has already begun working with the current AOL Den Leader to ensure he joins as a leader later in 2025.

Jacob LaValley and Krystal Holmes have continued their dedicated service as Scoutmasters for Troops 260 and 262, respectively. Cliff Barron remains steadfast as Committee Chair for Troops 260, 262, and Venturing Crew 261, and Walter Malec continues to serve as the Charter Organization Representative for all units.

Membership Highlights

- **Troop 260:** Membership grew rapidly to 29 Scouts, thanks to a large crossover of AOLs from multiple towns. The Troop also attracted older Scouts from surrounding communities, boosting membership further. We are expecting an additional 6 Scouts to join in 2024 through crossover.
- **Troop 262:** Membership has grown to 14 Scouts. The Cub Scout Pack now includes 11 girls, and their numbers continue to grow. The Troop will also welcome its first AOL crossover this year, further reinforcing a steady pipeline of crossovers in the years ahead.
- **Venturing Crew 261:** Membership has grown to 18 Scouts, making it the largest Venturing Crew in the council. This growth reflects the Crew's success in offering a unique program focused on high adventure, personal development, and community service.

In 2024, **four Scouts from Troop 260 achieved the rank of Eagle Scout**, the highest honor in Scouting: Andrew Tini, Dylan Holmes, Ethan Coleman, and Joseph Krar.

2024 Annual Report to Second Baptist Church BSA Troop 260 (Boys), Troop 262 (Girls) and Venturing Crew 261 (Co-ed), pg .2

Program Highlights

Inspired by our Scouts, our 2024 programs reflected an active and diverse range of adventures:

- **January:** Skiing in New Hampshire
- **February:** Klondike Derby, where the combined units' team took first place
- **March:** Merit Badge Weekend at Camp Workcoeman
- **June:** Allagash River Adventure in Maine
- **July:** Summer Camp
- **August:** Camping at Dick Drake Campsite at Camp Workcoeman
- **September:** Caving in Clarksville, NY
- **October:** Ultralight hiking on the Appalachian Trail
- **November:** Urban Navigation in New York City
- **December:** Holiday in the Woods at Jesse Fowler Smith

Allagash River Adventure

In 2024, both Troops and Venturing Crew 261 embarked on an incredible week-long canoeing expedition on the Allagash River in Maine. This high-adventure trip brought Scouts together for a challenging yet rewarding journey through one of the most iconic wilderness areas in the Northeast. Highlights of the trip included navigating whitewater rapids, observing local wildlife, and honing advanced canoeing and camping skills.

The adventure was a testament to the resilience and camaraderie of our Scouts, strengthening bonds within the Troops and Venturing Crew. The trip's success also sparked interest from Scouts in neighboring towns, resulting in new members joining Venturing Crew 261 to take part in its unique opportunities for high adventure and personal growth.

Gratitude to Second Baptist Church

We remain conscious of the vital role Second Baptist Church plays in enabling us to positively impact young people. Your support helps us nurture responsible, capable, and compassionate individuals who are ready to make meaningful contributions to society.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cliff Barron

Committee Chair, Troop 260, Troop 262 & Venturing Crew 261

Krystal Holmes

Scoutmaster, Troop 262

Jacob LaValley

Advisor, Venturing Crew 261

Scoutmaster, Troop 260

2024 Audit Report

Below is the reconciliation of the Second Baptist Church accounts at People's Bank in Suffield as of 12/31/2024 compared to the 2024 Second Baptist Church annual report.

Below is a summary of the findings:

Account Name	Type	People's Bank 12/31/24 Balance	SBC Annual Report 12/31/24	Difference	Interest ¹
SBC Main	Checking	\$76,746.24	\$76,746.24	-	No
SBC Savings Account Inv	Savings	\$33,508.50	\$33,508.50	-	Yes
Diaconate Fellowship Fund	Checking	\$24,183.37	\$24,883.37	(\$700.00)	No
Missions	Checking	\$6,576.92	\$6,576.928	-	No
Christian Ed/ Spiritual Formation	Checking	\$1,200.56	\$1,200.56	-	No
ABW Amer Bapt Women ² (now Growth & Outreach)	Checking	\$2,796.48	\$2,422.13	374.35	No
Memorial Fund	Savings	\$9,307.27	\$9,307.27	-	Yes
Memorial Fund	Checking	\$1,647.05	\$1,647.05	-	No
Dominican Mission Trip	Checking	\$128.13	\$128.13	-	No
Parsonage Oil	Checking	\$899.83	\$899.83	-	No
Account Totals		\$156,994.35	\$157,320.00	(\$325.65)	

¹During the fall, Peoples eliminated checking with interest options.

All checking accounts are now non-interest-bearing accounts.

²In the middle of the year the checking account for ABW was signed over for Growth and Outreach to use.

Explanation of differences:

- Deacons: Difference of (\$700) is currently unexplained
- Growth & Outreach: One outstanding check: Check #1362 (\$374.35) not included in 12/31 bank balance.

Respectfully submitted,

David Jones

Second Baptist Church Memorial Fund 2024

2024 Receipts to Memorial Fund

Anne Harry	100.00
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2024 Expenditures from Memorial Fund

"Chair for a Prayer" Campaign - Fellowship Hall Chairs	1,845.30
Total Expenditures	1,845.30

Memorial Fund Activity

Memorial Fund Total as of January 1, 2024	12,689.14
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Memorial Fund - Investment Savings Account as of 01-01-2024	11,852.79
Transferred to Checking	(2,556.00)
Interest Earned	<u>10.48</u>
Memorial Fund - Investment Savings Account as of 12-31-2024	9,307.27
 Checking Account Balance as of 01-01-2024	 836.35
Donations	100.00
Transferred from Savings	2,556.00
Withdrawals	<u>(1,845.30)</u>
Checking Account Balance as of 12-31-2024	1,647.05

Memorial Fund Total as of December 31, 2024	10,954.32
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Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca M. Fuller
Memorial Gifts Treasurer

Parsonage Checking Account

The Second Baptist Church Parsonage Checking Account was established August 31, 2022, as a means to make Cash on Delivery payments for spot delivery of heating oil to the Parsonage. The objective was to pay the lowest possible price (\$/gallon) by making appointments with the heating oil dealer for oil drop amounts of 150 gallons or more and paying at time of delivery.

We summarize 2024 activity within the checking account as follows:

Opening Balance JAN 01, 2024	\$ 1098.17
Total Deposits from SBC Main Checking	\$ 2200.00
Total checks cut for heating oil delivery	\$ 2398.34
End Year Balance DEC 31, 2024	\$ 899.83

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Burnaford
Assistant Treasurer

Trustees Report

It has been the policy of the Trustees to contribute to the financial support of Second Baptist Church from the Trust endowment fund on a quarterly basis. Annual distributions are based on 5% of the 3-year rolling average. The endowment average is taken on November 30th of each year. Therefore, the trust fiscal year is from Dec 1st through Nov 30th. The endowment value November 30th, 2024, is \$5,156,878.05. This total value includes \$92,186.86 of non-trust monies that are being held in the trust account to gain more growth than in a bank savings account. The endowment is managed by two institutions, Bank of America holding \$2,104,398.45 and Bach Investment holding \$3,052,479.60. There were no new contributions to the trust this year.

The period from November 30th, 2023, to November 30th 2024 was positive returning growth in both funds with SBC Trust gaining \$704,604.17 or 15.83% after trust distributions of \$225,269.37 and \$40,000 investment distribution were made for 2024. The planned withdraw for 2025 is \$226,848.02 that will be allocated quarterly to 70% Operations (half of this is Pastor Salary), 15% Mission (including Third Baptist, Baptist Home Missions and Baptist Foreign Missions), 7% Diaconate's Poor/Fellowship fund, 6% House and 2% Music. These allocations are based on designated funding by donor or by trustee allocation. Full details of the Trust monies is supplied on the following pages by donor and category.

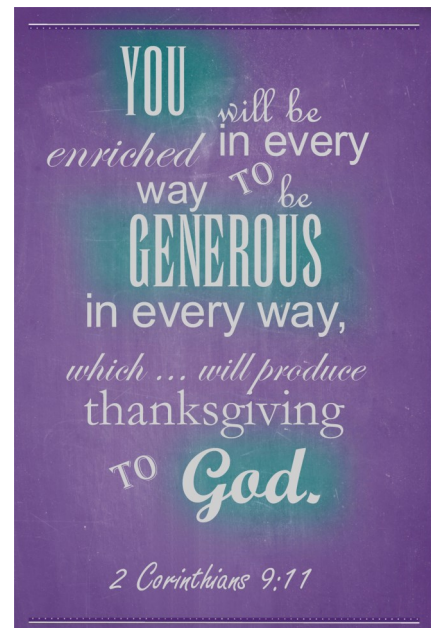
Trustees calculate the trust balance and contributions at the end of November so to have the Trust contributions known during the church budgeting process which starts in December so can be finalized by this annual report publication early January.

As usual in November 2024, trustees held their annual review separately with Bank of America and Bach Investments to conduct a formal review of our investments for the past year and plan for the upcoming year and potential investment changes to trusts.

Looking forward to having Art Sikes back on Trustees as the original 'number cruncher' as I have completed my 4-year term and roll off.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Santi, Chair



Second Baptist Church Endowment Funds for the Year 2024, pg 1/3

Grantor Restrictions		Market Value 11/30/2024	Proration 11/30/2024
Funds for General Purpose			
Purpose	Name of Fund		
U	Leavitt B. Ahrens	\$14,501.64	0.00286328
R	Loomis Hatheway Ahrens	\$23,883.91	0.00471577
R	Mary B. Ahrens	\$21,365.70	0.00421856
U	Polly Baker, added Nov 2020	\$11,248.71	0.00222101
R	Alice Bartlett	\$80,464.33	0.01588731
R	Charles S. Bissell	\$31,556.75	0.00623074
R	Dorothy F. Bissell	\$28,120.90	0.00555234
U	Shirley Brown	\$528,902.24	0.10442932
R	George L Creelman	\$4,426.29	0.00087395
R	E. Scott Farley Memorial	\$1,335.36	0.00026366
U	Frankie Connelly	\$96,535.30	0.01906045
R	Edward A. Fuller Fund (3/5)	\$182,834.94	0.03609992
R	Edward A. Fuller Fund #2	\$210,706.18	0.04160297
U	Emma J. Fuller	\$7,635.50	0.00150759
R	Franklin Fuller	\$90,299.75	0.01782927
U	Nathena Fuller	\$480,100.34	0.09479361
U	Samuel Fuller	\$6,300.13	0.00124393
U	Summner F. Fuller	\$33,704.52	0.00665480
U	Susan Fuller, added Sep 2020	\$46,658.78	0.00921256
U	Valyn Galvin	\$131,793.05	0.02602193
R	Alberta P. Greer	\$5,076.84	0.00100240
R	Erwin Grimmeisen	\$33,642.70	0.00664260
R	Cora E. Halladay	\$295,316.10	0.05830881
U	Astrid Hanzaleck, added Apr 2020 & Nov 2020	\$34,270.16	0.00676649
R	Ernest A. Hathaway	\$49,134.28	0.00970134
R	Louise E. Hatheway	\$4,286.23	0.00084630
U	Dorothy Kent	\$101,770.92	0.02009420
R	Helen M. King Church Expenses	\$14,489.70	0.00286092
R	Helen M. King Residuary	\$37,452.25	0.00739478
R	Land Sale Fund	\$75,772.92	0.01496101
R	Marian Lamont Maintenance Fund	\$82,952.65	0.01637862
R	Howard F. Pease	\$19,993.01	0.00394753
R	Nellie M. Pease	\$31,597.21	0.00623872
R	Bessie F. Perry	\$364,897.92	0.07204742
R	Edwin and Caroline Pomroy	\$21,365.70	0.00421856
R	George L. and Mary L. Pomeroy	\$15,548.02	0.00306989
R	Clifford H. and Helen F. Prior	\$52,524.03	0.01037063
R	Agnes Hatheway Senter	\$3,922.03	0.00077439
R	Charles L. Spencer	\$12,615.85	0.00249094
R	I. Luther Spencer Memorial	\$109,051.00	0.02153162
R	Louise P. Spencer	\$2,113.55	0.00041731
U	Harriet Wing Estate (3/4)	\$62,721.55	0.01238408
U	Miscellaneous Gifts, added to Nov 2020	\$90,896.07	0.01794701
	Total General Purposes	\$3,553,785.01	0.70167852

Second Baptist Church Endowment Funds for the Year 2024, pg 2/3

Grantor Restrictions		Market Value 11/30/2024	Proration 11/30/2024
Funds for Property Upkeep			
U	Frankie Connelly Property Upkeep Fund	\$128,713.73	0.02541393
U	Nathena Fuller Property Upkeep Fund	\$131,836.06	0.02603042
U	Samuel Fuller Property Upkeep Fund	\$4,200.08	0.00082929
U	Susan Fuller, added Sep 2020	\$11,157.53	0.00220300
U	Fred Hanzalek Property Upkeep Fund	\$13,353.84	0.00263665
U	Astrid Hanzaleck, added Apr 2020 & Nov 2020	\$8,195.36	0.00161814
	Total Property Upkeep	\$297,456.60	0.05873144
Name of Fund		Market Value 11/30/2024	Proration 11/30/2024
Funds for Music			
U	Samuel Fuller Music Fund	\$2,100.04	0.00041464
R	Marian Lamont Choir and Music Fund	\$82,952.62	0.01637861
U	Miscellaneous Gifts, added to Nov 2020	\$8,998.97	0.00177680
	Total Music	\$94,051.63	0.01857006
Funds for Fellowship Assistance			
R	Zebrine Adams & Emily Sheldon	\$48,303.18	0.00953724
U	Frankie Connelly	\$48,267.65	0.00953023
U	Nathena Fuller	\$90,277.66	0.01782491
U	Samuel Fuller	\$3,150.06	0.00062197
U	Susan Fuller, added Sep 2020	\$11,157.53	0.00220300
U	Astrid Hanzaleck, added Apr 2020 & Nov 2020	\$8,195.36	0.00161814
U	Mary J. Hatheway (1/2)	\$349.78	0.00006906
R	Helen M. King	\$51,107.76	0.01009099
R	Marion Lamont Fund for Poor Members	\$82,952.62	0.01637861
R	Geneve E. Last Poor Fund	\$11,417.45	0.00225432
R	Betsy Loomis	\$7,019.18	0.00138591
R	Chauncey Sheldon	\$4,130.57	0.00081556
	Total for Fellowship Assistance	\$366,328.79	0.07232994
Funds for Missions			
U	Frankie Connelly	\$48,267.65	0.00953023
R	Edward A. Fuller #2 (Curr. Expense 1/2)	\$210,724.87	0.04160666
U	Nathena Fuller	\$157,507.03	0.03109904
U	Samuel Fuller	\$5,250.11	0.00103661
U	Susan Fuller, added Sep 2020	\$11,157.53	0.00220300
U	Astrid Hanzaleck, added Apr 2020 & Nov 2020	\$8,195.36	0.00161814
U	Mary J. Hatheway (1/2)	\$575.85	0.00011370
U	Harriett Wing Estate (1/4)	\$20,907.18	0.00412803
R	Mission Outreach (formerly Poor Fund #2)	\$109,414.45	0.02160338
	Total for Missions	\$572,000.03	0.11293878

Second Baptist Church Endowment Funds for the Year 2024, pg 3/3

Grantor Restrictions		Market Value 11/30/2024	Proration 11/30/2024
Funds for Women's Bapt Home Mission Soc.			
R	Hattie A. Fuller	\$7,274.43	0.00143630
U	Nathena Fuller	\$3,425.12	0.00067627
R	Sarah L. Fuller	\$6,362.40	0.00125623
R	Emily A. Spencer	\$10,922.53	0.00215660
	Total WBHMS	\$27,984.48	0.00552541
Funds for Women's Baptist Foreign Mis- sions			
R	Hattie A. Fuller	\$7,274.43	0.00143630
U	Nathena Fuller	\$3,425.12	0.00067627
R	Sarah L. Fuller	\$6,362.40	0.00125623
R	Emily A. Spencer	\$10,922.53	0.00215660
	Total WBFMS	\$27,984.48	0.00552541
Funds for Third Bap- tist Church Suffield			
R	Cora A. Cone	\$3,190.54	0.00062996
R	Edward A. Fuller (2/5)	\$121,909.63	0.02407050
	Total Third Baptist Church	\$125,100.18	0.02470045
	Total Trust Funds:	\$5,064,691.19	1.00000000
Non-Trust	Investments	\$92,186.86	
	Total Consolidated Endowment Fund:	\$5,156,878.05	
As of November 30, 2024 funds were invested as Follows:		2024 return	
	BOA Trusts	\$2,104,398.45	9.27%
	American Funds	\$3,052,479.60	20.83%
	Total Consolidated Investment Funds	\$5,156,878.05	15.83%

2024 Treasurer Report for Second Baptist Church (SBC)

The first two pages present year SBC 2024 Financial Statements for Budget vs. Actual Expenditures for 2024 plus the 2025 Proposed Budget. The third page presents SBC Investment Report summarizing our Main Checking Account and Investment Account activity for 2024. We had one Merrill Lynch and one American Funds Contributed Investment Sell activity event this year. Funds held in the Investment Account resides both in our bank Savings Account and SBC Trust Accounts and are earmarked for future designated purposes.

For JAN 01, 2024 Investment Account starting balance was \$ 149,166.66 with closing balance on DEC 31, 2024 of \$ 125,695.36. We benefitted from positive stock market performance during the year, but the net decrease of \$ 23,471.30 came from funds consumption undertaking repair projects and covering other expenses such as the new keypad lock system.

Besides the Trust Funds, SBC Treasurer funds Missions Support (Treasurer of Benevolences) through a percentage of Pledges and Plate Offerings. In 2025 we will continue the 10% amount we have been using in 2023 and 2024.

For 2024, PayPal electronic payment service delivered 38 transactions netting \$ 9,608.10 to church operations plus 1 transaction direct to Missions support for \$ 48.00, while we paid \$ 308.19 in fees. For comparison, 2023 saw 54 transactions netting \$ 8,615.75 after fees. 2022 saw 90 transactions netting \$ 10,082.06 after fees, while 2021 saw 118 transactions netting \$ 19,787.71 after fees, and 2020 saw 101 transactions netting \$ 24,265.02 after fees.

Of total SBC 2024 Income, Collections of Pledge, Plate, and Future Pays was 25.0% of total; Building Use Fees were 13.6%; Trust Fund Distributions 61.5%. For total SBC 2025 Predicted Income, Collections of Pledge & Plate is 23.1% (we can't predict 2026 Future Pays); Building Use Fees 13.7%, Trust Fund Distributions 63.2%. Clearly SBC operations are supported thanks to the generosity of our forebears, plus our policy of offering expanded SBC building use for benefit of our community.

2025 continues to see all SBC Part-time Staff positions filled 100% which helps enormously in getting a multitude of tasks done in the church. Total Payroll expense was 54.5% of Total Income received in 2024, while total Payroll expense is projected to be 50.3% of predicted Total Income based on raises planned for 2025. It goes without saying Pastor Search will be a major challenge in 2025. The Pastor Hire Date and contract provisions are unknown, and the scope of Parsonage refurbishment and other repair/maintenance projects at the SBC facility are only partially predictable, making the 2025 budget a forecast, not a guarantee of future results

I extend thanks to other contributors to our Treasury Team: Laura Burnaford - Assistant Treasurer; Evelyn Battle and David Burnaford Co-Collectors; and don't forget Karen Santi, Art Sikes, and Ernie Begin – playing roles as Valuable Consultants assisting us in our financial responsibilities in Treasury and Payroll functions.

Our System of Record is QuickBooks, recording deposits, bank reconciliation, expenses, and financial reporting. SBC holds checking and savings accounts at Peoples' Bank of Holyoke MA.

Respectfully Submitted, Howard R. Beal, Treasurer

Investment and Checking Account 2024

All Starting Balances as of 1/1/2024

All Ending Balances as of 12/31/2024

Checking Account, PeoplesBank		2024	Starting Balance	\$68,472.57
Checking		2024	Ending Balance	\$76,746.84
Savings Account and Trust				
Investment	savings	2024	Total Investments starting:	\$149,166.66
Major Repair Fund			Starting Balance	\$70,754.90
For major repairs Church & Parsonage			Interest + Investment Gain	\$ 10,343.54
			Withdraw	\$ (40,000.00)
Repair funds direct to repair expenses in 2024			Money Added	\$5,100.00
			Ending Balance	\$46,198.44
Organ Repair Fund			Starting Balance	\$42,981.25
Used for organ service required every			Investment Gain	\$ 3,972.33
25 years, last done in 2001.			Ending Balance	\$46,953.58
Van Rental Fund			Starting Balance	\$793.67
Used for Van Rental for Church			Interest	\$ 0.89
Functions and/or events.			Ending Balance	\$794.56
Pastor Sabbatical Fund			Starting Balance	\$3,257.61
sabbatical for pastor every seven years.			Investment Gain	\$ 1,588.93
			Ending Balance	\$4,846.54
Continuing Education Fund			Starting Balance	\$1,794.94
			Interest	\$ 2.01
			Ending Balance	\$1,796.95
Kitchen Upkeep/ Food Ministry Fund			Starting Balance	\$2,147.14
keep equipment up to date and maintained			Interest	\$ 2.41
			Ending Balance	\$2,149.55
Food Ministry Fund			Starting Balance	\$1,726.92
			Contributions & Interest	\$ 1,093.16
			Ending Balance	\$2,820.08
Music Fund			Starting Balance	\$13,857.44
			Interest	\$ 12.13
			Net Withdrew	\$ (3,041.18)
Music funds direct to music expenses in 2024			Money Added	\$0.00
Used by Music Ministry			Ending Balance	\$10,828.39
Memorial Fund			Starting Balance	\$11,852.79
Memorial Gifts to SBC Used for Special purpose			Money Withdrawn	(\$2,556.00)
			Interest	\$ 10.48
			Ending Balance	\$9,307.27
As of 12/31/2024			Total Investments ending:	\$125,695.36
			TRUST	\$ 92,186.86
			SAVINGS ACCT	\$33,508.50

Second Baptist Church of Suffield

2024 Statement of Income, Expenses and Proposed 2025 Budget

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
1100 OFFERING			
1110 Pledges	75,890	67,754	72,704
1120 Non Pledge & Plate	23,000	16,634	17,000
Subtotal Pledges	98,890	84,389	89,704
1130 Pledge prepayments	0	7,060	0
Total 1100 OFFERING	98,890	91,449	89,704
1200 BUILDING USE AND LEASES			
1230 Bldg Use Fees	6,600	7,449	7,400
1240 EAB Preschool	12,000	12,000	12,000
1250 T-Mobile Lease	35,100	36,032	33,691
Total 1200 DONATIONS BLDG USE AND LEASES			
1300 TRUST FUND RECEIVED			
1310 Second Baptist Church	158,337	158,067	159,174
1320 Fellowship Assist./Diacona	16,294	16,294	16,408
1330 Missions	27,931	27,931	28,127
1340 Third Baptist Church	5,564	5,564	5,603
1350 Lamont Trust	17,967	16,847	17,967
1370 Property Upkeep	13,230	13,230	13,323
1380 Music	3,913	3,913	4,213
Total 1300 TRUST FUND RECEIVED	243,236	241,846	244,815
1500 INTEREST INCOME	25	44	0
3300 Non-Budgeted Income		4,060	
3000 Other Income	1	0	35
Total 3300 Non-Budgeted Income	26	4,104	35
Total Income	395,852	392,880	387,645
EXPENSE			
2100 CHURCH PROPERTY			
2110 Insurance	20,000	20,944	23,000
2120 Maintenance	34,278	20,875	34,278
2130 Utilities	31,526	40,685	35,000
2140 EAB property Expenses	12,000	11,759	12,000
2150 Major Repairs	0	0	
2160 Property Upkeep		0	
Total 2100 CHURCH PROPERTY	97,804	94,264	104,278
2200 CHURCH EXPENSE			
2210 Christian Education children and youth	0	Reimb by Diaconate	0
2251 IT Streaming and CCB	4,600	5,301	5,300
2220 Music	2,600	2,304	2,600
2230 Paid Musicians	3,961	4,275	4,000
2240 Office and Printing	6,000	6,072	6,000
2250 Program and Outreach	1,500	663	3,980
2260 Paid Substitutes [Jan & Feb '25]	1,500	950	2,000
2270 Food Ministry	1,000	444	1,000
2280 Staff Continuing Education	500	0	250
2281 Flowers	550	-278	550
2285 Search Committee	0	0	3,000
2290 Banking Expenses	605	371	400
Total 2200 CHURCH EXPENSE	22,816	20,100	29,080

Second Baptist Church of Suffield

2024 Statement of Income, Expenses and Proposed 2025 Budget

Expenses (cont)

2300 MISSION SUPPORT			
2310 Treasurer of Missions	9,600	8,166	9,070
2320 Fellowship Assist./Diacon	16,293	16,244	16,407
2330 Treasurer of Benevolence	27,931	27,931	28,127
2340 Third Baptist Church	<u>5,564</u>	<u>5,564</u>	<u>5,603</u>
Total 2300 MISSION SUPPORT	59,388	57,905	59,207
2400 PASTOR			
2410 Salary [EST for Interim Pastor in 2025]	48,898	47,320	59,375
2412 FICA Offset	6,506	6,430	0
2414 Retirement, MMBB	14,736	14,483	0
2416 Reimbursement Health Ins.	12,000	12,000	0
2418 Professional Expenses	300	25	0
2420 Continuing Education	1,250	1,250	0
2422 Mileage	<u>750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>360</u>
Total 2400 PASTOR	84,440	81,508	59,735
2500 PAYROLL EXPENSE/SALARY			
2520 Choir Director	15,583	15,583	16,050
2530 Christian Ed. Coord.	27,910	27,910	28,747
2540 Custodian/Bld Use Mgt	29,541	25,149	30,427
2570 Organist	15,975	15,975	16,454
2580 Office Manager	<u>28,132</u>	<u>28,132</u>	<u>28,976</u>
Total 2500 PAYROLL EXPENSE/SALARY	117,141	112,749	120,655
	Payroll vs. < 50% recommended	vs. pledge & plate	vs. pledge & plate
2600 PAYROLL EXPENSE & FICA	118%	134%	135%
2610 Staff FICA	10,543	8,814	10,859
2620 Workman Compensation	1,907	1,846	1,964
2630 Payroll Expense/PayChex	<u>1,812</u>	<u>1,873</u>	<u>1,866</u>
Total 2600 PAYROLL EXPENSE & FICA	14,262	12,534	14,690
2700 INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS			
2703 Organ Repair Fund	0	0	0
2710 Music Fund	0	0	0
2760 Property Upkeep Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total 2700 INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4000 Other Expense		4,060	0
Total 2024 EXPENSE	<u>395,852</u>	<u>383,120</u>	<u>387,645</u>
	<u>Net Income</u>	<u>9,760</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2025 Prepayment of</u>		
Less:	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>7,060</u>	
	<u>Net Gain 2024</u>	<u>2,700</u>	

Nominations

Nomination Ministries – Positions to be Nominated and Voted (per Reorganized Structure)

Diaconate	Diaconate Co-Chair	Melissa Bednarz
Diaconate	Diaconate Co-Chair	Scott Schneider
Diaconate	Diaconate Vice-Chair	David Jones
Diaconate	Diaconate Clerk	Nancy Drenzek
Diaconate	Treasurer – Diaconate/ Benevolences	Laura Burnaford
Diaconate	Diaconate	Caroline d'Otreppe
Diaconate	Diaconate	Jamie Guilmette
Diaconate	Diaconate	Mark O'Hara
Diaconate	Diaconate	Bev Sikes
Diaconate	Diaconate	Barry Sisk
Diaconate	Diaconate	
Diaconate	Diaconate	
Ministry	Treasurer	Howard Beal
Ministry	Assistant Treasurer/ Bookkeeper	Laura Burnaford
Ministry	Co-Collector	Evelyne Battle
Ministry	Co-Collector	David Burnaford
Ministry	Memorial Funds	Art Sikes
Ministry	Memorial Funds Assistant	Becki Fuller
Ministry	Trustee Lead	David Jones
Ministry	Trustee	Howard Beal
Ministry	Trustee	Walt Malec
Ministry	Trustee	Art Sikes
Ministry	Trustee	Becky Tobiasz
Ministry	House Lead	
Ministry	Music Lead	
Ministry	Growth and Outreach Lead	
Ministry	Church Staff Relations Lead	

NOTE: Among the Diaconate, leads will be determined for

- Spiritual Formation
- Missions
- Calling

This flexible organizational structure may expand, contract, and evolve as congregation desires (especially in the 18 month trial period).

IN MEMORIAM

Second Baptist Church Members

Josephine F. Chisnall

Joined Second Baptist on September 30, 1962

Died on October 29, 2024

Ruth Cramer

Joined Second Baptist on April 22, 1962

Died on November 15, 2024

John Fleming

Joined Second Baptist on April 4, 1969

Died on April 26, 2024

and Friends...

Anne Harry – Died January 7, 2024

Alice LeClerc – Died October 31, 2024

Lester Smith – Died August 29, 2024