



Winter 2015



**magazine**

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# Welcome

Recently I read an article about Generation Z, which includes any child under 19 years of age. First, I thought about my own children and how they interact in their world. Then I thought about the children at 2PC and my responsibility to be loving, educated, and relevant to these precious ones. The unique thing about this generation is no surprise: they are used to everything being fast and changing. They are not just familiar with technology — it is innate. It's all they've known.

How does this affect me or you and our service to the next leaders of our church? We have to remain constant and available, but we also have to be flexible and change with the generations. This can be hard on me. I like routine and I don't always buy in to this generation talk. However, it is impossible to ignore when I recognize the truth of what is being said by experts much smarter than I. As the Children's Ministry Team, sometimes we need to change and plan for such things...

**The curriculum:** It has been suggested for years that it would be helpful for the curriculum to be consistent for all grades. It is especially beneficial so that families can gather and talk about the same material. I think that because of this change my family now discusses the topics in more depth and for longer periods of time than before.

**The format:** Did you know that the average child today has an 8 second attention span? 8 SECONDS!!! What can you teach/learn in 8 seconds? Well, we can't do 8 second lessons, but we can add movement and variety. This is why we changed to a big group/small group model. Also, having small groups allows a more intentional relationship between "teacher" and child.

**Wednesday nights:** Through our nursery and Connect programs we want to reinforce the Bible verses being taught on Sunday. The Bible is what our children will hold in their hearts throughout life, and we want to provide them with a solid foundation.

Generation Z is a group of doers and thinkers that moves at a much faster pace than ever before. Each new generation has a certain blueprint and this one is no different. As we try to keep up and identify with the current one, I am reminded that God's word is constant and is true forever (Joel 1:3).

As things seem to constantly change, please remember that our sweet Jesus never does!

Dylan Franklin,  
Director of Children's Ministry



Dylan Franklin

# A Word from Andrew

As many of you know, this year we rolled out a new curriculum for children and youth. Our goal for the curriculum was to allow parents the best opportunity to have spiritual conversations with all of their children.

Our strategy to accomplish that goal was for all children and students from JK-12th grade to study the same character from the Bible at the same time. We also wanted to give parents an outline and follow-up questions to be used at Sunday lunch (or another time during the week) to reinforce what children are learning both at home and at church. In addition, we created Family Devotions to coincide with the character from each week's lesson so that families would be encouraged to spend time together talking about God and His word.

We have received a lot of positive feedback from families who are using the curriculum and devotions, and we praise God for that. This year's curriculum is one piece of a seven-year plan for students that would allow them to study each subject twice during their time in school. We have plans for summer curriculum as well which will not be in a bound book, but will be available online for parents. We are very excited to see how God uses this new format in the years to come!

Andrew Keasling  
Youth Director

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Andrew Keasling

## BEHIND the SCENES



In the last year the staff of Kids at Second and the Youth department spent many hours working together to create and update teaching materials for nursery through youth. This will continue in 2015 as we work on summer devotions, update nursery materials, and develop VBS lesson plans specific to the needs of children at Second Presbyterian Church.



# Serving *in the* Blue Room

“Peg and I started working in the nursery in the early 80s. We knew why the Lord drew us there after a couple of years when we were blessed by having our third daughter, Kathryn. I have been working with the 2 year olds ever since, and I think some of my once 2 year olds are now bringing me their 2-year-old children! Working in the nursery has been a blessing to me.”

Sam Barry



“Working in the nursery has been such a blessing for me. I love getting to know the children and having a connection with young families in our church now that my children are grown. The nursery curriculum is easy to follow and teaching with a team of people allows us all some flexibility. We take turns so some weeks I am teaching and other weeks I just show up and love on the children. It is always amazing to me how much of the message these little ones can take in as we teach them about Jesus and His love for them. If you have never worked in the nursery, you should stop by sometime and just see what we do. It is a great bunch of folks and we have fun on Sunday mornings!”

*Continued*

Macon Ivy



“Helene and I began working in the Blue Room as once a month volunteers soon after we joined Second. We found this to be a great way to get involved in the church as new members. A few years later Mr. Sam approached us about serving as the permanent Sunday school teachers with him. We agreed to this role and have been serving ever since (about four years).

Our favorite part about the 2-3 year old nursery is seeing the children develop and grow in Christ over the course of the year. It’s amazing how much these little ones retain.

My other favorite part is waiting to see what these children might say each Sunday. For example, one Sunday we were teaching that God gives us homes. I showed the children various pictures and asked them what they were. I held up a picture of a lamp and asked one of the children what it was. The response: “God.” It was a good guess with the ole Sunday school answer but not quite what I was looking for.”

Watson Harris

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## Volunteer Video

Each room in the nursery has its own specific color associated with it. Reginald “Reg” Udouj has made a short video about serving in the Red Room. You can view it [on vimeo here](#).

## Get involved with Kids at Second

Visit [2pc.org/getinvolved/kids](http://2pc.org/getinvolved/kids)  
or contact Dylan Franklin at  
[dylan.franklin@2pc.org](mailto:dylan.franklin@2pc.org).



# Parents' Day Out Update

We have had a great fall/winter semester at PDO, with lots to keep us busy! Along with everything from field trips to the pumpkin patch to our Christmas program, we have had some exciting changes. This semester, for example, we added the option of three half days in our Preschool 3 & 4 classes.

*Continued*





With the addition, we are able to teach academics with a fun twist. Not only do we integrate fine and gross motor skills into our playtime, but we also cook, go on nature walks, have visitors from the community, and computer time.

We've especially learned a lot in Science this semester! We discussed trees and acorns; all about clouds; what lives in the oceans; and bears and their habitats. It's amazing how all of these things work together to make our environment function each day!

*Continued*







This semester we also began having Chapel again. The children love going to the chapel and hearing from one of our pastors about the love of Jesus and a Bible story. They get to sing and leave knowing that Jesus loves them and cares about them each day. No matter what the activity, the children at PDO experience a fun day that is filled with new and exciting learning opportunities!

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## Discover your place in VBS

Watch our website [2pc.org/getinvolved/kids](https://2pc.org/getinvolved/kids)  
for information about how you can serve in VBS this summer.



# Kids at Second Staff

Our Children's Ministry Team is made up of people who are dedicated to loving and serving the little ones at Second Presbyterian. Here are a few fun facts to know about each of them!



**Mandy Morse**  
*Administrative Assistant*

- I've served as the Administrative Assistant in Children's Ministry for 10 years. This role supports all events for children ages birth – 5th grade, including our PDO program.
- I have been married for 19 1/2 years to Mark and we have two daughters, Emily (16) and Clair (13).
- Going to the beach is my favorite thing to do!
- My favorite week of the year is VBS!
- I love to do canvas paintings. It allows me time to be creative and yet is very relaxing.

**MJ Keasling**  
*Elementary Coordinator*

- My job is anything involving 1st-5th grade.
- I have been in Memphis at 2PC for 11 years.
- I love to read, drink coffee, and hang out with people.
- I do not love running, crafts, and asking for favors.
- I have been married for 15 years and have two kids, ages 8 and 11.
- I love watching kids worship.
- Butterflies remind me of God.



**Kirsten Kirkpatrick**  
*Early Childhood Coordinator*

- My job is anything involving newborns to 5 year olds.
- I am getting married May 16, 2015! Wahoo!
- I LOVE running, DIY projects (Chalk paint anyone?!), and dancing.
- I love hearing little ones tell others what they are learning about God.
- I love seeing God in the mundane things of life and in nature and then blogging about it.
- I don't like asking people for help!



**Sha Deme**  
*PDO Director*

- I'm the director of Parents' Day Out, which is for 5 months – 5 year olds.
- I've been in Memphis my whole life!
- I'm a wife and a mother of one 14 -year-old boy who loves football.
- I love my job, helping people, and shopping!
- I attend Innovation Church.



**Dylan Franklin**  
*Children's Director*

- As the Children's Director, I work with all children and families, birth-5th grade.
- I played soccer and volleyball growing up.
- I am an only child.
- I am married to my fabulous husband, Dean, and we have four daughters: McKenzie (21), Avery (17), Lucy Rose (14), & Joyner (11).
- I love college football!



Matthew 5:16 instructs "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Our Shine classes are designed to share the good news of Christ's love with those who may have unique learning or physical challenges and help them to *shine* that news before others.

## Sunday

Our Shine Sunday School class meets in N101 during the 9:45am Sunday School hour and the 11:00am church hour. All ages are welcome!

## Parents' Night Out

This event takes place two times a semester on a designated Friday night from 6:30 – 9:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Parents can bring their special needs child and siblings of any age and go enjoy a much deserved break. We play games, make crafts, have a snack, and even participate in karaoke. The cost is \$5 per family.

## Jumping for Jesus

Join us for six weeks of exercise, music, crafts, and worship on Wednesday nights, January 14 – April 22, 2015 from 6:15-7:30 in rooms N100 and N101. Email [ginnarauls@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnarauls@hotmail.com) to sign up or to volunteer to help! This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for the whole family.

## Vacation Bible School

Each year, 2PC has a week-long VBS and there is a Shine class! The dates for 2015 are June 1-5.

## Volunteers

We would love to have Shine volunteers and it is a great FAMILY volunteer opportunity (especially the Parents' Night Out events). Please email Ginna Rauls at [ginnarauls@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnarauls@hotmail.com) if you would like to volunteer in any way!

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# Important Dates

January 14	MidWeek/Connect Resumes
January 23	Christian Life Conference Begins
February 27	World Missions Conference/KidMission
March 27	Life with Kids Luncheon
April 4	Egg Hunt
June 1	VBS
June 3	Church Picnic

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## at Second

4055 Poplar Avenue · Memphis, Tennessee 38111

(901) 454-0034 · [2pc.org/get-involved/kids](http://2pc.org/get-involved/kids)

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Special thanks to Lisa Buser for many of the photographs in this issue of KIDS magazine.