

EARLY CHURCH

1862

- October 15 -- Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Army Chaplain and former pastor of Elgin's First Baptist Church, brought to Kane County about 110 escaped slaves from plantations in the south: 5 men, 28 women and 77 children, many of whom had been slaves on the Newsome, Oates, and Pride Plantations near Cherokee, Franklin County, AL. Many of this group of refugees, referred to as "contraband," formed the core of Second Baptist Church.
- Worship began as camp meetings at Colby's Grove, a site east of the Elgin Academy, (now Elgin Historical Museum). These meetings grew to informal services of prayers and songs in the home of Arthur Newsome, a contraband pioneer and charter member of Second Baptist Church. Rev. Adonirum J. "AJ" Joslyn and Harriett Cheney of the First Baptist congregation provided support and assistance. Rev. Joslyn had been a staunch defender of civil rights and spoke against slavery. He advocated the repeal of Illinois laws that restricted the rights of blacks.

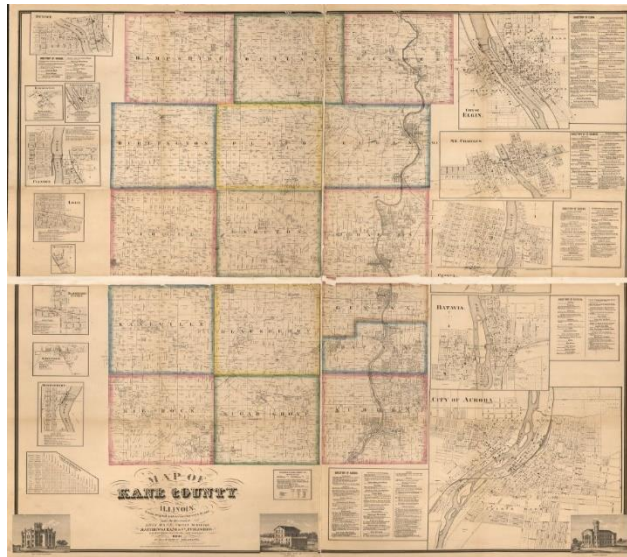


Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

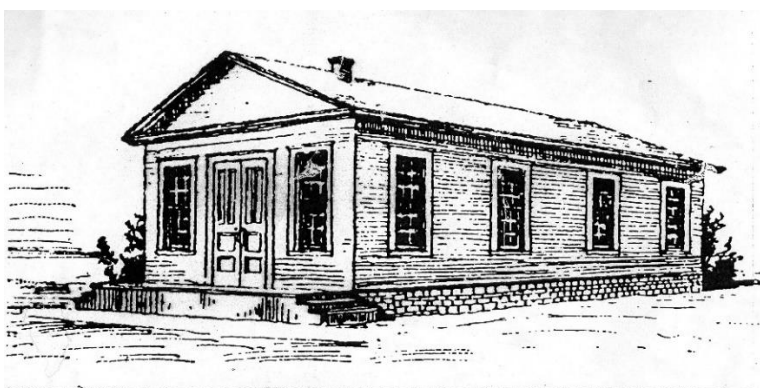
1863

- October 6 -- A segregated "colored school" was established in Elgin. Second Baptist Church served as this school. During the school's first year of existence, 16 boys and 28 girls were enrolled. The average daily attendance was 14. While attendance was irregular, black students progressed. Arthur Newsome was one of 16 blacks who signed a petition of protest, presented to the Elgin City Council, stating "We are taxed in proportion to our means to build and support all the public schools. We should be allowed the same privileges in using them that others have." Elgin abandoned its segregated system in 1872.

1866

- December 2 -- Second Baptist Church was formally organized and initially held service in the home of Arthur Newsome, on Ann Street. John Ford, Arthur Newsome and Peter Newsome, charter members, were elected as Trustees.

- Rev. R. M. Smith pastored at the first frame building, located on Center Street facing Barclay Park. Once the Methodists completed the building of their new brick church on Center Street, the former building (pictured below) was sold to the Second Baptist Church congregation, who then relocated it to Dundee Ave. and occupied it for service.



ORIGINAL CHURCH.
BUILT 1839.

Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

1867

- In June, Rev. A. J. Joslyn (1818-1868), was granted a letter of dismissal from the First Baptist Church in order to join Second Baptist Church. Land was purchased at the corner of Dundee Ave. and Kimball St. for \$100.

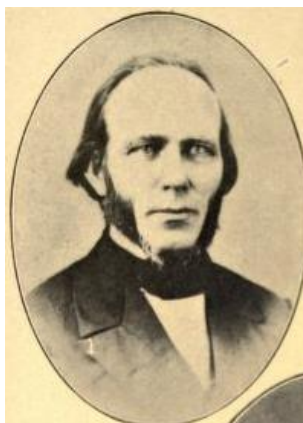


Photo copied from ElginHistory.com - Elgin: An American History by E. C. Alft

1868

- Second Baptist Church was located on the west side of Dundee Ave., between Kimball St. and Franklin St. There were 33 members. The religious service and Sunday school were held once every fortnight (two-weeks). About 50 people attended these services. The superintendent was George H. Knott.

1875

- March 28 -- Second Baptist Church was destroyed by fire. As a result, services were held in City Hall until a new brick structure was erected circa 1876 on the same site - the northwest corner of Dundee Ave. and Kimball St.

- The same site, now known as **Newsome Park**, was named in honor of brothers Arthur and Pete Newsome. Arthur spent his life in service to his country, his community and his church.



1876

- The new brick structure on the corner of Dundee Ave. and Kimball St. was built and remained the place of worship until 1961.

1879

- According to the *Educational Weekly*, Vol. V, 1879, "Eleven students were graduated from the Elgin High School on June 5, 1879." The class valedictorian was Miss Maggie A. Oates, a daughter of Millie Oates who had arrived in Elgin on the "contraband train" in 1862. Millie Oates was also a member of Second Baptist Church.

1880

- Robert Garrett (1861-1921) was one of the very young children brought to Elgin on the "contraband train" in 1862. Robert became a member of Second Baptist Church in 1880 and served as one of the early superintendents of Sunday school.

1894-95

- Rev. Solomon J. Griswold, was the minister of Second Baptist Church. In addition to being known as the "colored school," Second Baptist Church was also known as the "colored church."

1898

- Rev. Richard DeBaptisté (1831-1901) was the first African American minister of Second Baptist Church. He served as pastor prior to his death in 1901. Rev. DeBaptisté was described as a man who devoted his life to ministry. He once said, "I unreservedly gave up all my worldly prospects and projects in obedience to the call of my Master to enter His vineyard, to occupy till He comes; he that forsaketh homes, lands, brothers and sisters for my sake and the Gospel's, shall have homes, lands, brothers and sisters."



R. DeBAPTISTE.

Source citation: William J. Simmons, *Men of Mark: Eminent, Progressive and Rising* (Cleveland, Ohio: George E. Rewell & Co., 1887), 352. Source note: [Electronic Version](#) from the Documenting the American South Project, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

20th CENTURY

1900

- In the early days, even during the winter, baptisms were conducted in the Fox River in accordance to the doctrine of the church and the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.



Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

1908

- Second Baptist Church, was still located on the corner of Dundee Ave. and Kimball St. Church services were held at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday school was at noon; BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union) was at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Oliver T. Judge was pastor, and there were 75 church members.

1920s

- Rev. H. E. McWilliams was pastor of Second Baptist Church.
- Rev. Bellamy and Rev. Singleterry served as ministers.

1937

- Rev. Wm. Wright, was pastor of Second Baptist Church. During his leadership, church members, including Mary Wheeler, John Bell, and Deacon Jefferson Ford, celebrated Emancipation Day (see photo). For years, Second Baptist Church served as a meeting place and social center for the African American community. Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Ann Bosley were part of the original membership.



Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

1938

- Rev. L. J. Jefferson served as pastor from May, 1938 until 1961. Rev. and Mrs. Jefferson traveled from Evanston to Elgin, even when few members were present, to conduct services. Deacons included Jefferson Ford, Cletus Wainewright and Daniel Broadnax, Sr.



1945

- An Elgin unit of the civic league organization American War Mothers, was formed and named in honor of Mary Newsome (Hall) Wheeler, who was born into slavery and was the daughter of Arthur Newsome. Mary was a member of Second Baptist Church for 74 years. Other members of Second Baptist Church who were also affiliated with the American War Mothers #17 Mary Wheeler Chapter included Mrs. Rosie Smith and Mrs. Mary Jane Parrish Bellew.



Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

1953

- By 1953, Second Baptist Church membership had grown to 150. The church had a "facelift" which included replacing the foundation; repairing and tuck-pointing all of the windows; and painting the building. The total cost for all of the repairs was approximately \$3,000. The Building Committee included Rev. Jefferson, Deacons Broadnax, Sr., and Wainwright, and church members Sherman Hunter, Elijah Smith, Viola Wheeler, and Mayme Steele.



Photo courtesy of Elgin History Museum

1961

- May 1 -- The continuously growing Second Baptist Church congregation marched to its new house of worship located at 280 Franklin Blvd. SBC's new church home was formerly the site of the Church of the Nazarene. SBC's purchase of the property was successfully negotiated by Rev. Jefferson, his appointed assistant, Rev. Robert Clingman, and the Deacons and Trustees serving at the time.



1962

October 4 -- Rev. Theodore E. Bedford was called to serve as pastor of Second Baptist Church. A former student of Alcorn A&M, Rev. Bedford was a devoted leader.

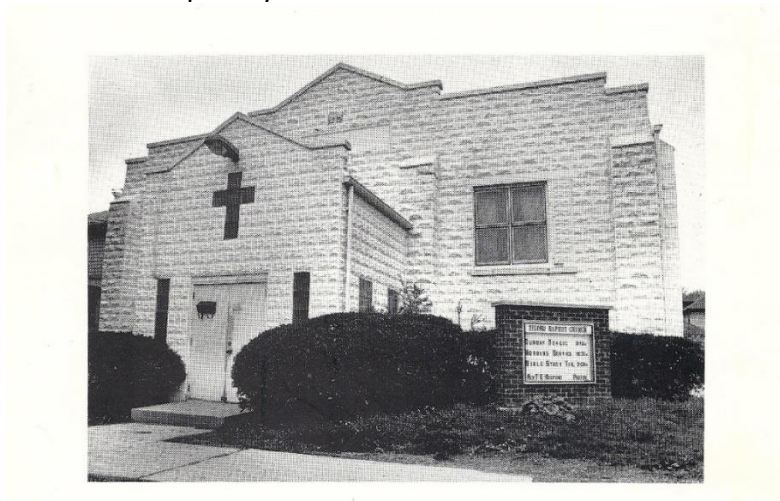


1970

- November 22 -- The church mortgage was burned. Rev. Bedford's vision for the church was: "We will succeed. We will progress. We will move forward."

1975

- Second Baptist Church was completely remodeled.

1976

- Missionary Society Ministry was formed to provide spiritual, physical and emotional support to the church family and the community.

1984

- Rev. Bedford prophesied, "The Lord said we need to move." In the summer of 1984, the land was purchased on Summit St. (Route 58) in Elgin.
- November 21 -- Rev. Shirley A. Roberts was licensed as a minister of the Gospel and was subsequently ordained on September 29, 1991. Rev. Roberts was the first female minister in the history of Second Baptist Church, and the first African American female to be licensed and ordained into ministry in the city of Elgin. Rev. Roberts served as an associate minister at SBC until her death in 2013.



Rev. Shirley Roberts

1985

- Second Baptist Church celebrated its 119th anniversary. The anniversary theme was: "A Teaching Church at Work."
- A church budgeting process was created through the leadership of Katherine Jackson, the first Budget Ministry chairperson.
- Orientation classes were established for new members.
- Vacation Bible School was established as a day program under the leadership of Margaret Spivey.

1988

- Second Baptist Church, led by the Missionary Ministry, began participating in the Elgin Soup Kitchen program. The goal of SBC's involvement was to serve the homeless a wholesome meal and share the Good News of the Gospel.

1989

- Second Baptist Church joined a coalition of churches serving the homeless through a Soup Kitchen established at Holy Trinity Church. SBC was assigned to host and prepare the Soup Kitchen meal on the third Friday of every month.
- The Christian Board of Education (CBE) was established and led by Janie McCutchen, the first CBE chairperson.
- July -- Groundbreaking service was held for a new church building. Among the guests in attendance was a host of civic and church representatives, including Elgin Mayor George Van DeVoorde. The site of the new church building was later annexed by the city of Elgin.



1990

- August -- 1280 Summit St., Elgin, IL, 60120 became the official street address for Second Baptist Church of Elgin.



1991

- The 125th anniversary of the church was celebrated with a commemorative vehicle sticker for the city of Elgin. The sticker bore the picture of the church with the anniversary theme: *Mighty as an Oak Tree*. The theme was meant to symbolize how the church had stood firm in faith and in its commitment to Christianity.

1992

- Second Baptist Church supported the local Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) by providing housing and food during winter months.
- The Brotherhood was established and led by Rev. Vancolie Riley.

1996

- The 130th church anniversary was marked by the installation of the new cornerstone.



1997

- The Library Ministry was established under the leadership of Juanita Crear-Price, the first director of the new ministry.
- The Praise Dance Ministry, now known as Divine Movement, was formed under the leadership of Alicia McPherson.



1998

- Rev. Bedford revealed another prophecy: "Second Baptist Church will be the focal point of Elgin and serve the community."
- December 31 -- After more than 35 years of dedicated service, Pastor Bedford retired from the position of pastor of Second Baptist Church of Elgin. The distinguished honor of Pastor Emeritus was conferred upon Pastor Bedford on January 1, 1999. He was the first pastor of SBC to receive the Pastor Emeritus title.



1999

- With the retirement of Pastor Bedford, the leadership of the church became the responsibility of the Deacon Ministry chairman, Mitchell McCutchen. The ministry of the Word was not neglected, as the associate ministers of the church – Rev. Shirley A. Roberts, Rev. Freddie L. Rogers, Rev. Nathaniel L. Edmond, and Rev. Scott Clark – continued to preach the Gospel. The sheep of God were fed, and the congregation continued to grow.
- The process to elect a new pastor began in April 1999.

Ordained Associate Ministers and Deacons who served along with appointed Trustees under the leadership of Pastor Theodore E. Bedford:

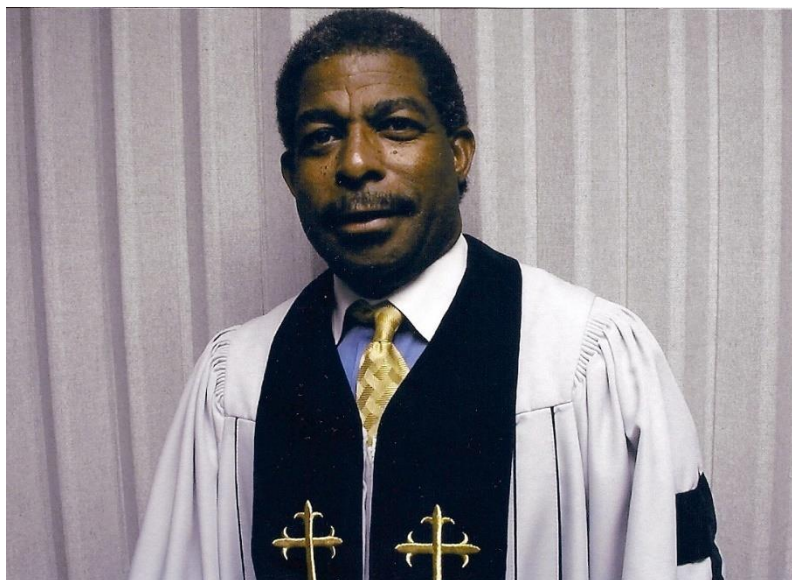
Associate Ministers: Kevin Bedford, George Clark, Michael Clark, Scott Clark, Nathaniel Edmond, Louise Forshe, John Johnson, Leonard Massie, Hazel McPherson, Vancolie Riley, Shirley Roberts, Freddie Rogers, Willie Tate, and Vocemus Vincent

Deacons: John Bell, Joe Bills, Byron Bradley, Ardell Clark, Scott Clark, Joe Dillon, Lindberg Echols, Robert Fitz, Ammon Johnson, Eddie Johnson, Terry Jones, George Kyles, Mitchell McCutchen, Amos Moore, Jerald Morris, Matthew Simon, Michael Smith, Jimmie Tate, Michael Thomas, and Rice Whitfield

Trustees: Helen Belew, John Bell, London Bradley, David Cole, Sr., Willie Donald, Lindberg Echols, Charles Hayes, Eddie Hayes, George Kyles, Julie Mabry, Otis Matthews, George McKinney, Jimmy Moffitt, Eleanor Patton, Jerry Randall, Donoval Reed, Ken Rubin, Albert Scruggs, Aleen Starks, Frank Starks, Willie Tate, and Robert Wells

21st CENTURY2000

- February 20 -- Rev. Nathaniel L. Edmond was called to serve and installed as pastor.



Rev Nathaniel Edmond

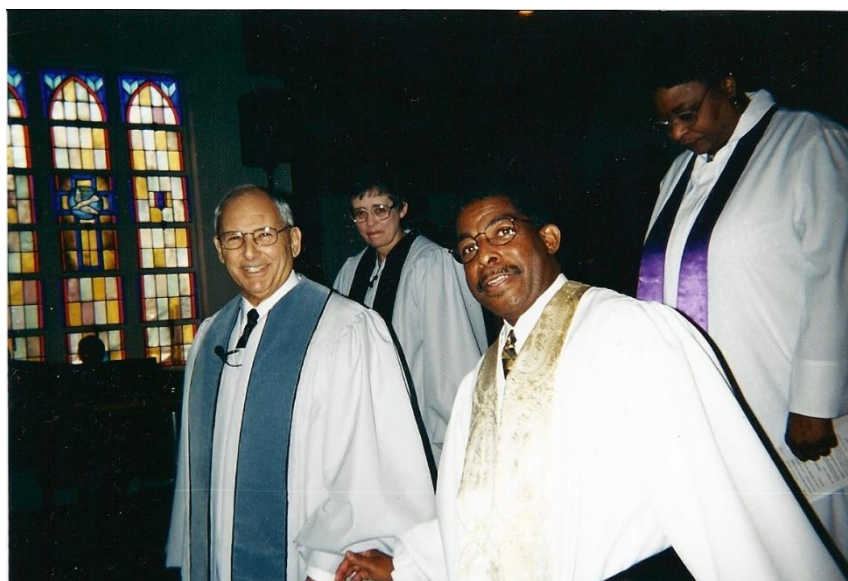
- The church nursery was refurbished and re-opened.
- The Young Adult Ministry was established to foster steady ground for steps of faith and Godly walks within a fellowship of young adults from the ages of 18 to 35.

2001

- "Wonderful Wednesday" mid-week service commenced.
- The first of two parking lot expansions began.



- An annual combined worship service was launched with Pastor Don Shank and the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren.



- One of the rocks unearthed during the construction of the foundation for the new building on Summit St. in 1989, had been preserved; and was now placed at the entrance to the parking lot to let everyone know that they were welcome and that Jesus is the Rock.

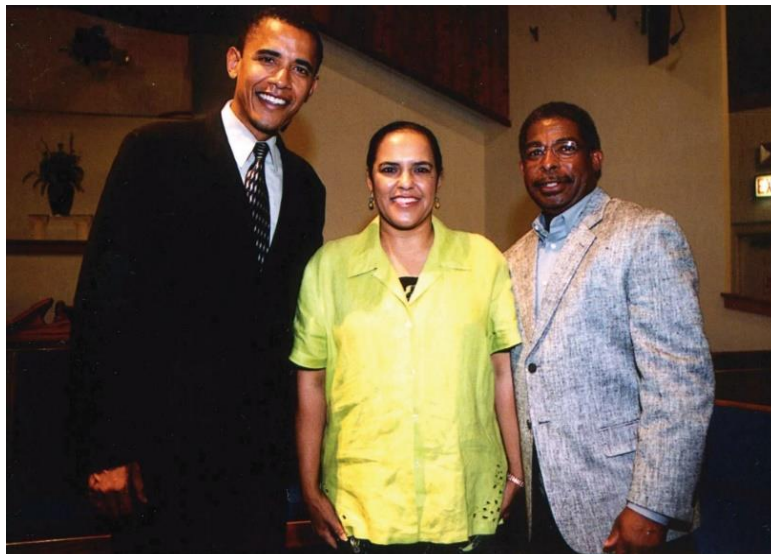


2002

- Worship services were expanded to include an 8:00 a.m. morning worship service in addition to the 10:30 a.m. service.
- The church website, www.sbcelginil.org, was launched.

2003

- May 11 -- Second Baptist Church was visited by then U.S. Senate candidate Barack Obama D-Chicago. Sen. Obama went on to become the 44th President of the United States.

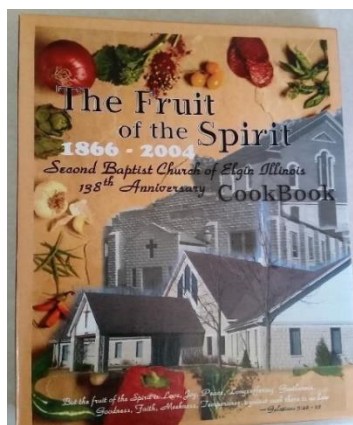


- The Public Relations Ministry was launched, under the leadership of Glenda Hodges, to promote the Gospel internally and externally via print and electronic media.
- The Bus Ministry was launched, and led by Deacon Terry Jones.
- The Prison Ministry was re-launched under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Love. Its purpose was to share the Good News of the Gospel with persons incarcerated at the Kane County Adult Justice Center by providing spiritual and emotional support through regularly scheduled worship services and Bible Study.
- A street ministry entitled "Operation Joshua" began in October under the leadership of Rev. Freddie Rogers.



2004

- The Nathaniel L. Edmond Oratorical Contest was established and scholarships were awarded to youth members of SBC.
- The 138th church anniversary was commemorated with a published collection of SBC members' favorite recipes. The collection was titled: "The Fruit of the Spirit Cookbook."



- The Theater Arts Ministry, now known as The Divine Arts Ministry, was launched under the leadership of Virginia Bailey.
- The “Couples United to Produce Success” (CUPS) Ministry, now known as the Marriage Ministry, was launched under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Love and Brenda Love.

2005

- March 6 -- The groundbreaking ceremony was held for the church’s 20,000 square feet multi-purpose building addition. Special guests included Elgin Mayor Ed Schock, Elgin City Manager Femi Folarin and Elgin City Councilwoman and Second Baptist Church member, Brenda Rodgers. The addition provided for eight classrooms, a nursery, a welcome center and a recreation and performance auditorium. Second Baptist Church celebrated the grand opening of the multi-purpose building in 2006.



- The Information Technology (IT) Ministry was launched, under the leadership of Connie Wallace, to support the growing technological needs of the church.
- Noonday Bible Study was launched and held every Wednesday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
- August 23 -- Devastation from a massive natural disaster struck the country's Gulf Coast region. SBC members rallied to aid the families affected by Hurricane Katrina by donating funds and welcoming survivors who were relocated to the Elgin area.

2006

- Rev. Lionel Sweeny led the first annual Leadership Workshop: “Jesus, The Greatest Leadership Role Model.”
- The Sheridan School Partnership Ministry was developed with School District U-46. The Partnership was launched with 24 trained volunteers serving as mentors and tutors to 45 Sheridan Elementary School students identified as “at-risk.” The ministry was led by Katherine Jackson and Deacon Randall Hodges.
- The Young Adult Sunday school class for ages 18-24 was re-launched.

- Rev. Clem McCullough, SBC associate minister, was called to lead the Children's Church which was designed to address the spiritual growth of children aged 6-12 years old.



- July -- The celebration of the 140th church anniversary included contributions totaling \$9,500 to Elgin area agencies as a symbol of the church body's faithfulness to God.
- October -- The first annual Women's Conference was launched. The conference theme was: "Christian Women Breaking New Ground."



- October -- Pastor Edmond and First Lady Christine traveled to Africa as a part of a World Vision International missionary trip. While visiting Kenya and Tanzania, they witnessed firsthand the

devastating effects of AIDS/HIV in these countries. In Tanzania, they met two of the children sponsored by Second Baptist Church, Musa and Mbaudel. Upon their return from Africa, Pastor Edmond published his personal, daily journal entitled "A Journey to Africa: A Mission of Outreach."



2007

- The congregation continued to support World Vision through individual members collectively sponsoring 132 Tanzanian children.
- A collaboration with the LaSalle Street Church of Chicago resulted in a joint contribution of \$10,000 provided to build a duplex for teacher housing in Kisongo, Tanzania, Africa. Construction of the housing units were completed in April 2008.



- April-June -- An evangelism campaign, led by the Evangelism Ministry and its president Melissa Ross, began with the training of church members and culminated with two visits to Clifford Court, a local housing complex. The vision of the Evangelism Ministry was to institutionalize the principles of Christian evangelism by furthering the Gospel and teaching and proclaiming the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

- The Youth Ministry hosted the first Senior Recognition Program to celebrate the academic achievements of graduating high school seniors.



- The Sheridan School Partnership Ministry was expanded to include Larsen Middle School. The ministry was subsequently renamed the Second Baptist Church School Partnerships Ministry.
- The first Minister of Music, Latrisha Jones, was appointed to oversee the various music ministries of the church. Other past and present pianists and organists were Josephine Bailey, Crystal Evans, Charlotta Clark, Rev. Michael Clark, Walter Cunningham, Vinnie Huntley, Betty Lewis, and Frankie Weaver.

2008

- January -- The School Partnerships Ministry received the Dr. M.L.K. Humanitarian Award from the city of Elgin as well as an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. award for volunteerism in the spring.
- The 10:30 a.m. worship service was moved to the multi-purpose center as a result of rapid membership growth and a sustained increase in attendance.
- The Deacon Ministry chartered an ad-hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the church constitution and recommend updates subject to ratification by the church body. The intent was to incorporate relevant administrative and operational changes that had been implemented since the last ratification of amendments in 1997.
- The Community Improvement Traveling Plaque for Renovation was awarded by the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of SBC's architectural design enhancements to the church's building structure, including the construction of the multi-purpose addition.



- Pastor and First Lady Edmond joined the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations and along with a group of other Chicagoland pastors and spouses, journeyed to Israel as "Peace Ambassadors."
- October -- The SAFE Ministry (Standing Against Abuse for Everyone), led by Carol McCray, was launched. The ministry was honored in 2013 by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its outstanding work in promoting education and solutions in the area of domestic violence prevention.

2009

- The Taste of SBC was established, under the leadership of Deidre Puller, as a new feature of the church's annual anniversary celebration.

2010

- May -- Second Baptist Church enhanced its presence on social media through the launch of its Facebook page which allowed the church to improve communications with its membership base and expand its voice in the community.
- August -- Second Baptist Church's Summit Street Legacy Capital Campaign concluded with the purchase of the adjacent nine acres of property east of the church. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held.



- December -- School District U-46 and its African American Advisory Council hosted the first annual African American Family Education Summit at Second Baptist Church.
- The Youth Ministry hosted the first annual Career Exploration Fair.

2011

- The Sankofa Wax Museum of African American History was created and led by Jocelyn Yarbrough as a component of the church's Black History Month celebration.



2012

- The Empowerment Ministry, led by Dwayne Carpenter, was established to provide Christian-based support, encouragement and relationship building opportunities for career development and networking.
- The Beautification Ministry, led by Tammy Jackson, was created to edify the interior of the church through the art of design and interior decoration.
- The expansion project on the second parking lot was started and included providing additional parking, landscaping and a drainage pond on the land that was purchased in 2010.
- The League of Military Veterans Ministry, led by Deacon Ruberl Carr, was launched to support and honor active, retired and prior military service veterans and their families for their service and selfless contributions. Second Baptist Church membership honors a long and proud history of service to our country.

2013

- The Singles' Ministry, led by Shelia Redmon, was re-launched to support single adults and foster community and individual wholeness through a healthy, thriving relationship with God and each other.
- The first Gospel Fest event was held during the Taste of SBC church anniversary celebration.

2014

- The Youth Ministry hosted its first annual Youth Explosion.
- The Missionary Ministry hosted its first Sister-to-Sister fellowship. The event was a Building Healthy Relationships workshop.

2015

- "One Faith. One Ministry. One Church." was established as the church's vision and leadership development focus for members.

2016

- Kiosks were installed to facilitate electronic tithing, offerings and event registrations.
- As a result of the devastation caused by the water contamination in Flint, Michigan, Second Baptist Church of Elgin combined its efforts with those of Second Baptist Church of Wheaton and Watch City Lodge 131 to complete a water drive to aid the families affected by the crisis. A total of 11 pallets of water were delivered to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan.



- A Second Baptist Church Mobile app was introduced to enhance communication with our membership base and expand our voice in the community.
- The 150th church anniversary celebration included the debut of a commemorative logo designed by Vicente Espinoza.
- During the Anniversary Service, the Church received several acknowledgments:
 1. A proclamation from David Kaptain, Mayor, City of Elgin, IL
 2. House Resolution 1291 presented by Anna Moeller, State of Illinois House of Representatives 99th General Assembly
 3. Illinois Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth read our history into the U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Record of the 114th Congress, Second Session. She presented us with the flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol Building in honor of our 150th Anniversary.
 4. Congratulatory letter from Richard Durbin, Illinois United States Senator
 5. Congratulatory letter from Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States of America



Designed by Vicente Espinoza

Ordained Associate Ministers and Deacons who served along with appointed Trustees under the leadership of Pastor Nathaniel Edmond:

Associate Ministers: Jon Pierre Badie, James Bradford, Jr., Al Covington, Byron Curry, Albert Fontenot, Jr., Sidney Giddens, Jeannette Gray, Larry Henderson, Cynthia Hill, Phillip Hodge, Denise Holt, Johnny Jackson, Jr., Zina Jacque, Steven Johnson, Andrew Love, Clemon McCullough, Janie McCutchen, Carlos Mullins, Ashley Norris, Geraldine Richmond, Robbie Robinson, Thery Sims, Katie Staten, Lionel Sweeny, Lasha Tennyson, Greg Walker, Toni Walker, Shirley Welch, Patricia Williams, and Jean Word

Deacons: Greg Allen, Frank Barber, Jason Brown, Ruberl Carr, Earnest Casey, Martin Christian, Paul Cruse, Richard Emanuel, Terry Emehel, Calvin Giddens, Asa Gordon, Kevin Haynes, Randall Hodges, Mark Jones, Anthony J. Lewis, Donnie Lewis, Buford Lockett, Donnell McMillen, Cedric Neloms, Christopher Oliver, Mark Parson, Hurshel Ross, Michael Walker, Roscoe Wallace, Andrew Wiggs, and Richard Young

Trustees: Tony Adams, Darnell Alston, John Bell, James Bennett, Annette Berry, Sam Cadney, Orlin Campbell, DeSean Coleman, Ricky Ellis, John Harper, Eddie Hayes, Fred Henderson, Kathy Jackson, John Johnson, Edward Jones, Patricia Reed, William Saulsberry, Lawrence Stoner, Reggie Thompson, Lawrence Whitaker, Marcella Wilks, Annette "Chris" Wilson, and Donovan Young

2017

- June 24 -- The young ladies of Divine Movement performed at the Global Arts Festival in Bartlett, IL. This opportunity allowed the ministry to introduce praise dancing to a broader community.



- In conjunction with the 151st church anniversary celebration, the Library Ministry and Anniversary Committee partnered to host a “70 and Over Luncheon” to honor the senior members of the church. The luncheon was held in the multi-purpose room and the Brotherhood Ministry served as waiters.
- July 23 -- The Second Baptist Church App was launched during both Sunday services. The app has three sections: About Us, Events, and Giving. The goal is to fully embrace technology to better serve the church, its members and the community.
- The Brotherhood Ministry hosted its first annual Basketball Camp for children in grades 1 to 12. In addition to fun and fellowship, camp helped the children to improve their skills in shooting, passing, rebounding and defense. Rev. Marvin Thompson was the camp leader.
- October -- Pastor Edmond presented the 90-Day Challenge to the leadership team, trustees, deacons, and ministry leaders. The purpose was to challenge members to recommit their lives to Christ by increasing their prayer life, reading and studying the Bible, attending Sunday school and Bible Study, and increasing their giving (Malachi 3:10). The 90-Day Challenge was rolled out to all members in January 2018.

2018

- January – The New Member Orientation Ministry consolidated the six new member classes into a one-day class held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Session 1 teaches “Who We Are as Christians”. This session can also be taken on-line on the church web site. Session 2 teaches “Understanding Our Obligations as Christians” and is classroom based only.
- January 6 -- The Youth Ministry saw a need for more programs focusing on our boys and young men. The Frontiers, a mentorship program for young men ages 13 and up, was started by Rev. Bryon Furdge. Meetings are on the second Saturday of each month. The goals for Frontier members are to learn who God is and how he cares for us, demonstrate leadership and responsibility and participate in church events.
- May 5 – The women of SBC honored First Lady Christine D. Edmond with a High Tea Luncheon at The Seville in Streamwood, IL. The women wore hats and fascinators as part of the celebration of our First Lady’s 18 years of service to SBC.
- September 23 – Pastor Nathaniel Edmond officiated the Ordination Service of four new deacons and seven new ministers. **Deacons:** Corey Dixon, Michael Montgomery, William Rorer, and Freddie Walker **Ministers:** Roshawn Adams, Ratisha Bolin, Kenneth Blanchard, Shimon Blanchard, Byron Furdge, Randall Hodges and Marvin Thompson.
- November 11 – The S-Step drill team for boys aged 6 and up had been inactive for several years. Under the leadership of Dante Leveritte, S-Step was reactivated and reintroduced to the congregation at the Music Ministry’s annual program. S-Step creates routines based on precision dance and marching to visually articulate the word of God.

2019

- January - The Youth Ministry has been revamped under the directorship of Marisha Telemaque. 2019 kicked off with a new name, logo, theme, and calendar. The Youth Ministry is now ELEVATE SBC Youth.

Upcoming events and activities can be found on Facebook, Snap Chat and Instagram. There will be a quarterly digital newsletter and text messaging over a private platform.

- January - Pastor Edmond announced his retirement would be in June 2020. A transition team was working on a hiring timeline for the future pastoral search committee and a training schedule to help them with interviewing techniques.
- January - The Elgin Police Department conducted an active shooter training session for the trustees, deacons and Pastor Edmond.
- February - The congregation met to discuss the qualifications wanted in a new pastor. Everyone in attendance had an opportunity to give their suggestions; all were discussed and a list of qualifications was established.
- February - Illinois 8th District Congressman, Raja Krishnamoorthi, read into the United States House of Representatives Congressional Record a proclamation honoring the faith, determination and good works of Second Baptist Church of Elgin. Congressman Krishnamoorthi presented the proclamation to Pastor Edmond at a Unity Breakfast held at SBC.



- February - A pastoral search committee was needed to find qualified candidates to present to the congregation for voting. Several church members volunteered and the congregation voted. In March, the committee was announced. Elected members were Diana Sweeny, David Bailey, Joyce Fountain, Nicole Lewis and alternates Marilyn Leveritte and Vernon Joy. Seated members were Deacon Mitch McCutchen, Trustee John Johnson and Church Treasurer Mike Walker. In April, the job ad for the new minister was posted.
- April - The Singles Ministry presented a Family Resources Life Series I event. Information was presented on Budgeting, Saving and Investments; Healthcare Power of Attorney; Medicare and Healthcare; Fraud and Identity Theft; Insurance-Life, Health & Long-Term Care; Men's Health

- May - The women of SBC hosted the last luncheon honoring First Lady Christine D. Edmond. “An All White Affair” was held at Villa Olivia, Bartlett, IL.



- August - Children’s Church announced that they would give a scholarship to a graduating high school senior in June 2020. To finance the scholarship, a fund raiser was held selling Double Good Popcorn. The congregation was invited to help by purchasing their favorite popcorn.
- October - The Pastoral Search Committee gave an update. It was stated that the job ad closed on July 8. There were 91 applicants but only 65 had completed the whole application. At this time, 21 applicants remained to be further evaluated.
- October - The 14th annual Women’s Conference was held off site for the first time at the Westin Hotel, Itasca, IL. The weekend began with dinner and a fashion show featuring the ladies of SBC as models. A movie and game night followed. Saturday was filled with praise and worship, exercise and several outstanding speakers, including the Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton. On Sunday the conference returned to SBC for two uplifting sermons.
- November was the one month “Thanksgiving Maintenance Campaign”. The campaign was launched to cover the unexpected cost of replacing 8 heating and air conditioning units in the sanctuary building.

2020

- January 18 – SBC participated in the Martin Luther King prayer breakfast sponsored by the City of Elgin. Pastor Edmond was a MLK Honoree. A video that honored Pastor Edmond’s civic accomplishments was created by SBC and shown at the ceremony.
- January 29 – ELEVATE SBC Youth announced that Second Sunday/Youth Sunday would have changing themes throughout the year. The February 9th theme was “For the Culture” wear African attire. The March 8th theme was “Soul Sunday” wear sneakers/gym shoes.

- February 23 – The Pastoral Search Committee announced the final three candidates for the pastoral position. They were Rev. Patrick E. Parks, Rev. Andrew Love and Rev. Robbie Robinson. Their sermons were scheduled to be delivered in March.
- March 15 – Pastoral candidate Rev. Patrick E. Parks delivered his sermon and presented his 180 Day Vision Statement as part of his candidacy for the pastor position.
- March 20 – During February, Americans began to hear of a deadly new respiratory virus that was spreading globally. The World Health Organization named this disease Coronavirus Disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19, Governor JB Pritzker issued guidelines for the residents of Illinois to follow. These guidelines were adjusted weekly as more people became ill. To keep SBC members encouraged during these times and up to date on major activities or issues affecting the church, Pastor Edmond created a bi-weekly “Friday Check-in” which was broadcast over the social media platform Facebook Live. Future Friday Check-ins included guest speakers from the Pastoral Search Committee, the Deacon Ministry, the Health Care Ministry and Insurance professionals.
- March 21 – Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor JB Pritzker issued a stay-at-home order for all non-essential businesses and activities. All SBC in-person activities and meetings were canceled. Worship service for the next two weeks were rebroadcasts of previous services and viewed on the social media platform YouTube.
- April 5 – Palm Sunday service was our first live-streamed service. It was streamed over Facebook Live. Deacons were available after the service for members to drive by and drop off tithes and offerings.
- April 8 – Bible Study was resumed using the video conferencing tool Zoom.
- May 5 – ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry created iHeartSBC Zoom meetings for May 26, June 9, Aug 25, Sept 29, Nov 17 and Dec 15. The meetings were a way for the young people to connect with their SBC friends. Activities included games, Bible trivia contests, Netflix movie nights and special guest speakers.
- May 17 – The SBC face mask was available for purchase and pickup after service during the tithes and offering drive and drop time period.
- May 22 – The church leadership team created the “Make Ready Committees” to ensure that the building was ready for the return to in-person service and that the membership followed all COVID-19 protocols. Although independent, all committees worked together.
 - Streaming Committee: This committee made sure that the streaming broadcasts were working properly and made necessary improvements for continued future use.
 - Zoom Committee: This committee made sure SBC had Zoom accounts for the Pastor, the leadership team and the ministries to use for virtual meetings and special events. They were also responsible for Zoom training.

- Church App & Kiosk Committee: This committee made sure the Church App and Kiosk were up to date and working properly.
 - Return Safety Committee: This committee was responsible for making sure that the church could safely reopen following CDC guidelines. For example, the building was professionally cleaned, hand sanitizer dispensers were installed and disposable masks were purchased.
 - Social Distancing Committee: This committee created a seating plan for the sanctuary, the fellowship hall and the multi-purpose center. They also worked with the Usher ministry on seating and dismissal procedures for each service.
 - Deacon O & C Committee: This committee handled Offering collection and Communion service logistics.
 - Trustee Committee: This committee supported all of the committees with any logistical needs that arose.
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- June 4 – Rev. Jon Pierre Badie started SBC Hot Wheels, a weekly event for youth up to age 12. Biking, skating, skateboarding and bike riding lessons took place in the back-parking lot.
 - June 18 – The SBC youth organized the “Our Lives Matter Rally”. The rally was in response to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis, MN police on May 25th. The rally gave our youth the opportunity to let their voices be heard publicly. The rally was held on the church grounds and filmed with the assistance of a drone.



- June 21 – The Senior Recognition Program, which honors our high school graduates, was virtual. A video highlighting each graduate was available for viewing on Facebook Watch.
- June 29 – Advocate Aurora Health/Sherman Advocate Hospital offered free drive-up COVID-19 community testing in the parking lot of SBC. Testing was by appointment from June 29 to July 2.

- July 5 – “Our Lives Matter PSA – SBC Youth” was a collaboration between the SBC Sunday School and the ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry. The public service announcement included footage from the “Our Lives Matter Rally” and was posted on the church Facebook page. Viewers were able to hear the voices of our youth as they spoke out against racism and police brutality in America.
- July 5 – The first in-person worship service was held since the COVID-19 shut down in March. Services also continued to be live streamed for those not ready to return to the building. The SBC leadership team made sure that all COVID-19 safety protocols were followed. Chairs were spaced six feet apart, hand sanitizer stations were set up, and members were required to wear face masks while in the building.



- July 26 – The Taste of SBC and the Gospel Fest, normally part of our anniversary celebration, were canceled. We celebrated the 154th Church Anniversary during Sunday in-person and live streamed service. There were two themes: “New Beginnings” Isaiah 42:9 and “You Belong Here” Romans 12:4-5.
- August 9 – SBC celebrated the 20th Anniversary and Retirement of our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond and First Lady Christine Edmond.
- August 12 – Dave Kaptain, Mayor of The City of Elgin, and the Elgin City Council presented Pastor Nathaniel L. Edmond the Key to the City in recognition of his civic leadership and spiritual contributions in the community. The Key is only the second one that has been given in the history of the city.
- August 21 – Rev. Robbie Robinson withdrew his name from consideration as our new pastor.
- August 23 – Pastoral candidate Rev. Andrew Love delivered his sermon and presented his 180 Day Vision Statement as part of his candidacy for the pastor position.
- August 30 – The members of SBC voted and elected Rev. Patrick E. Parks as the new pastor.

- September 9 – The Senior Recognition Program was renamed ELEVATE Beyond. The mission was to prepare and guide high school juniors and seniors for life beyond high school. Quarterly sessions were scheduled for Nov-Feb-June-Aug.
- September 12 –The ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry sponsored “Pop Up On Pastor” an outdoor drive-up event for the youth to say good-bye to Pastor Edmond and First Lady Christine Edmond.
- September 13 – Pastor Edmond and First Lady Christine Edmond were presented with numerous accolades, awards, and gifts from the congregation and Elgin community in recognition of their service.
- September 27 – Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond delivered his final sermon as Pastor of SBC.
- September 27 – The multi-purpose center was renamed “Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond Multi-Purpose Center”.
- October 1 - Rev. Patrick E. Parks was officially named as the new pastor of SBC.
- October 2 – Pastor Parks had an opportunity to meet and greet the youth of SBC at the last Hot Wheels event of the year, “Ride Out with Pastor Parks”.
- October 4 – Rev. Patrick E. Parks delivered his first sermon as Pastor of SBC. His message was “Moving Forward by Faith”.
- October 18 – SBC launched a new and improved website. www.sbcelginil.org
- October 22 – SBC held its first Football/Cheer Skills Camp for youth. Church teens assisted adults with non-contact, socially distanced instruction.
- October 28 – Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond presided over the installation service of the newly elected pastor, Rev. Patrick E. Parks. The guest speaker was Rev. Patrick Tucker, pastor of Gray’s Creek Baptist Church in Arlington, TN.



- November 8 – As a result of the surge of COVID-19 cases in the state and local community, the church leadership team made the decision to temporarily suspend in-person services.
- December 20 – SBC Sunday School Christmas program, The Miracle of Christmas, was presented virtually on Facebook Watch. Students recited scripture and explained what Christmas meant to them.
- December 31 – Due to the pandemic, SBC was unable to celebrate the traditional Watchnight service. Therefore, the service was pre-recorded and made available on the social media platform YouTube.

2021

- January 1 – Toya Badie became the new Director of ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry.
- January 3 – Children’s Church service resumed under the leadership of Rev. Jon Pierre Badie. Services were held virtually via Zoom following the regular Sunday service.
- January 8 – Pastor Parks initiated “Word of the Week”, a biweekly, Facebook Live, informational update of SBC happenings. Inspirational mini-sermons were also delivered by the associate ministers.
- January 10 - Sister Circle, a women's book club founded on biblical principles and focusing on building community among women of God, was started by Rev. Ratisha Bolin. Working under the Library Ministry, Sister Circle supported the church's vision of living and learning together.
- January 11 – A new digital sign was installed in front of the church. The PR Ministry and the webmaster were able to remotely update the sign with the latest church events.



- January 17 - Live streaming of Sunday’s service began on Church App Live and the SBC web page. Church App Live provided better video and audio quality than Facebook Live. It also had a chat and note taking feature. Church App Live is owned and managed solely by SBC.

- January 17 - The annual fellowship with Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren was live streamed for the first time.
- February 3 - The Missionary and Deacon Ministries partnered with Food for Greater Elgin to distribute food to members of SBC and non-members who were identified as needing assistance. Food arrived pre-boxed and was distributed the first Wednesday of the month. The program was suspended in August after the number of participants dropped significantly.
- February 7 - Youth Sunday School classes resumed on Zoom at 11:15, right before Children's Church. There was one class for pre-k to 2nd grade and another for 3rd to 6th grade.
- February 8 - The ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry went virtual for the 10th annual Sankofa Wax Museum/Black History Program. The theme was "Agents of Change: Past to Present". The event began with a special greeting from Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. Throughout the month, video presentations from our youth were shown during Sunday service and could also be viewed on the SBC Facebook page.
- February 9 - SBC partnered with the Greater Elgin Family Care Center to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to members eligible under State guidelines. The second dosage was administered on March 9, 2021.



- February 21 – The youth of SBC participated in the annual African American Christian Ministers Alliance (AACMA) Black History Program. This was the first time the program was held on Zoom.
- February 27 - The SAFE Ministry hosted its first virtual conference for teens.
- The conference was for all teens with a special focus on teens who have experienced dating violence and for those who date and want to prevent dating violence.
- February 28 - Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond was given the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church of Elgin.
- February 28 - ELEVATE SBC Youth Ministry presented "ELEVATE Beyond – Military Style". Special guest speaker was SBC member Nicholas Pauley ARMY ROTC – Western Illinois University.

- March 2 – Corey Dixon, SBC member and Elgin City Council member, and the Greater Elgin Family Care Center partnered with Progressive Baptist, Living Gospel COGIC, Bethesda, and St James AME churches to host COVID-19 vaccinations at the SBC Edmond Multi-Purpose Center on March 2-5, 2021. The second dosage was administered in April.
- March 6 – The Leadership Conference was presented virtually via Zoom. The conference theme was “Equipped to Serve”. Topics included: Private Time with God, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, Sermon Preparation and Avoiding Burnout.
- March 18 - SBC announced the hiring of member Sister Xanthia Hicks as the new Administrative Assistant.
- March 26 - After eighteen years of faithful service to SBC, Kim Cozart-Harris announced her retirement as SBC’s Administrative Assistant. Kim Harris Appreciation Week was March 22 -26. A formal acknowledgement of her service was presented during the April 11th church service.
- March 28 - In-person service resumed on Palm Sunday. Service was also Live streamed on our church website and Church App Live. Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Parks reminded the congregation: No Hugging, No Huddling, and No Hopping from seat to seat.
- April 2 - SBC participated in The African American Christian Ministers Alliance (AACMA) Good Friday Service. It was hosted by St James AME Church via Zoom.
- April 4 - SBC 2021 Sunday School Easter Program was available to view on SBC Facebook page.
- April 10 – The SBC teens of Elevate Beyond Borders fellowshiped with the teens of the Stephen Trowen Nagbe United Methodist Church of Liberia, West Africa. It was a successful exchange of sharing the Word of God beyond our borders. Another session was held May 22, 2021.



- April 14 - SBC Healthcare Ministry presented a COVID-19 Healthcare Education Live Panel Discussion via Zoom. The panel was made up of ministry members who work in various healthcare professions. The purpose was to bring awareness about the COVID-19 vaccine, dispel myths surrounding the vaccine and answer any other health related questions.
- April 21 - The Missionary & Deacon Ministries partnered with Willow Creek Church Food Pantry to distribute food to members of SBC and non-members who were identified as needing assistance. Food arrived pre-boxed and was distributed the third Wednesday of the month. The program was suspended in August after the number of participants dropped significantly.
- May 9 - First Lady Diane Parks participated in her first Pin a Sister Ceremony for Breast Cancer Awareness.
- June 22 - SBC resumed in-person Vacation Bible School. There were classes for youth ages 6 to 12, teens and adults.
- June 26 - Youth Plan of Salvation class for new members was held via Zoom. This was the first class since March of 2020.
- June 26 - The Healthcare Ministry had a Zoom live panel discussion that discussed High Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Diabetes and Healthy Eating. They discussed what these health issues are, how they affect us and how to get them under control.
- June 27 - Last day for Deacons to collect Drive and Drop donations. A new secure drop-off box was installed in front of the church. Members could also pick up offering envelopes and the Daily Bread booklets from the drop box.
- July 4 - Baptism resumed with seventeen candidates.
- July 4 - Children's Church resumed in-person service in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Sunday school classes for youth in 1st to 6th grade moved to the Noon time slot on Zoom.
- July 12 - Christian Board of Education resumed in-person meetings. All ministries were also encouraged to resume in-person meetings.
- July 25 – The 155th Church Anniversary celebration was moved to an afternoon program. The theme was “Prevailing in the Power of God’s Word” Matthew 16:18 NLT. The guest speaker was Rev. Barry Jones, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Elgin.
- August 14 - The Veterans Ministry held a flag replacement ceremony. The American Flag, the Church Flag and the Veterans Flag were all replaced.



- September 17 – The Women’s Conference resumed and was held in-person at the church.
- September 20 – Work on the sewer system in the original building began. The women’s restroom was remodeled as part of the project.
- September 25 - The Brotherhood and Healthcare Ministries sponsored a Men's Healthcare Symposium. This was a virtual symposium to address men’s healthcare concerns and encourage them to be more proactive in their health management. Guest speakers were Dr. Sajit Bux, St. Joseph Hospital and SBC member Dr. Sylvester Barnes, Loyola University Medical Center.
- October 2 - The Brotherhood Ministry sponsored a Medicare seminar for Medicare eligible SBC members. Carol Cherry, the facilitator for this event, provided valuable information that explained the Medicare program and its many health insurance options.
- October 6 - Wonderful Wednesday Service resumed in the Edmond Center.
- October 10 - Rev. Jon Pierre Badie officiated his first Children’s Church Anniversary. The children were in charge of the morning service. Their theme was “This is the way we praise Him!”
- October 16 – “Coffee with the Pastor and First Lady”. This was a Zoom event that allowed the congregation to get to know Pastor Parks and First Lady Diane.

- October 17 - The One Year Anniversary for Pastor Patrick E. Parks and First Lady Diane Parks was celebrated in an afternoon service. The theme was “Enduring the Storm, Staying Anchored in Christ”. The scripture was Isaiah 40:30-31 KJV. The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch Sr., New Mount Pilgrim MB Church, Chicago, Illinois.



- November 6 - The Missionary and the Mother's Board Ministries held an in-person fall prayer service. Previously this was a prayer breakfast but due to COVID-19 no food was served.
- November 8 – The congregation voted on a new church logo.



- November 25 – Thanksgiving Day Service resumed in-person. The sermon title was “Continuous Praise”. The scripture was Psalm 34:1-3 KJV
- December 31 – Watchnight Service resumed in-person. Due to COVID-19, no food was served after the service. The sermon title was “A New Walk, For a New Year!”. The scripture was Romans 6:1-4 KJV.