



**SOUTH FLORIDA  
BIBLE COLLEGE**  
& THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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# THE MESSAGE

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Thank you Intersection Online, Inc. for underwriting this issue! **iO.**

## SFBC Welcomes Donors to its Annual Luncheon

SFBC&TS was proud to host its esteemed donors on campus for the return of the Donor's Appreciation Luncheon on April 11th. This special event is a significant occasion for the college community, providing an opportunity to celebrate those whose generosity and support have been instrumental in advancing the institution's mission to prepare men and women for service to Christ.



The luncheon welcomed a distinguished group of guests, including Dr. Gail Neer and Anne Sylvester and her family. Also in attendance were several members of the SFBC&TS Board of Directors, reflecting the strong leadership and guidance that continues to drive the college forward.

Adding to the impact of the event, attendees were blessed with an insightful presentation by two deputies from the Behavioral Response Unit of the Broward Sheriff's Office. The deputies testified about their impactful work, highlighting the critical role they play in addressing mental health issues within the community.

Once again, the Donor's Appreciation Luncheon was a memorable and meaningful occasion, fostering a deeper sense of connection and gratitude among the SFBC&TS community and its valued supporters.



## *Celebrating Milestones:* **COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT DAY**

Amidst a flurry of caps and gowns, South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary's class of 2024 gathered for a day that marked the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and growth. The commencement ceremony was a jubilant affair filled with proud families, excited graduates, and inspiring speeches. The event opened with a warm welcome from the college president, who lauded the class of 2024 on completing their challenging journey.

The keynote address, delivered by Dr. Gregory Fredericks, resonated deeply with the audience. He spoke passionately about the importance of Scripture being central in the life of a follower of Christ. This principle is the very essence of SFBC&TS's mission and is etched into the curriculum for every class these graduates experienced in their journey.

As the ceremony ended, the graduates took part in the time-honored tradition of turning their tassels, symbolizing their transition from students to alumni. This is a moment that will be cherished by the graduates and their families for years to come. The journey of spiritual formation is not an easy one, but one that is most certainly worthwhile. SFBC&TS Commencement Day 2024 was not just an end, but a beginning—marking the start of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities to impact the Kingdom of God.



### The Message Publication Team:

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## FLOURISHING INSTITUTIONS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES by Dr. Mary Drabik



Flourishing schools are places of hope and sanctuaries that provide transformational learning experiences for their students. They are beacons of hope for the community they serve and are often the most significant institutions in their local areas. In a world full of challenges, institutions that cultivate hope are essential.

It is disheartening when an institution of higher learning must close its doors. Between 2010 and 2019 (pre-pandemic), 92 nonprofit colleges and universities closed. Between 2020 and 2023 (post-pandemic), 53 more nonprofit institutions shut down. In 2023 alone, 15 nonprofit colleges or universities closed, 10 of which were religiously affiliated.

Despite these closures, we believe God is still at work. Here at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary, we are witnessing something truly amazing, a rarity across the nation. This past fiscal year, 2023-2024, we have seen record enrollment for both the College and Seminary. Even more encouraging is the continued growth in diversity at our institution. With over 24 nations represented in our student body, SFBC&TS is not only diverse in theological denominations but also nationally and culturally.

We believe that God is using this institution to reach the local community and serve as a beacon of hope to a lost and dying world. Our prayer is for God's continual guidance and grace as we strive to be this beacon, and to be characterized by our diverse community of students and scholars who are ready to serve in the name of Jesus.

*Dr. Mary Drabik*

## 2024 South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary Staff Retreat - 2024

SFBC&TS held its annual staff retreat on June 13th and 14th in the beautiful city of Naples, Florida. Despite heavy rainfall and overcast skies, attendees' spirits remained high, with everyone fully embracing the moment. The clouds even parted just long enough for the group to enjoy praise and worship on the beach outside the Vanderbilt Resort!

Overall, the event provided a much-needed opportunity for staff members to recharge, reflect, and bond outside of the campus halls. More importantly, it offered a chance for individual and group prayer and worship that is so vital during the turbulent times this community of faith faces daily.



## The Block Party Returns!

On April 20th, SFBC&TS hosted its 2nd annual Block Party, and it was an amazing success! With over 500 attendees, nearly double the turnout from 2023, the event was buzzing with excitement. The campus parking lot was transformed into a vibrant fairground, filled with rides, games, food booths, live music, and even a dunk tank where Josiah Stephan, the Vice President of Academics, enthusiastically took a plunge, much to the delight of many nearby children.

Whether attendees were sending SFBC staff members into the watery tank, climbing the rock wall, gleefully sliding down the massive bouncy slide, enjoying snow cones and pizza, or simply basking in the atmosphere permeated by the Spirit of God, one couldn't help but smile at the festivity.

As SFBC&TS's community presence grows from events such as these, so does its impact. Countless stories emerged from this event, painting a picture of joyous, family-friendly fun. This celebration underscores the importance of SFBC&TS's ongoing outreach, not just in Deerfield or South Florida, but reaching communities around the country and around the world. Here's to many more years of success for this annual event tradition!



### SFBC&TS MISSION STATEMENT

South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning where the Bible is central in preparing men and women for ministry to serve Christ and His Church through Biblical thought and Christian life.

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT SFBC&TS

Pray for us, visit and tour the campus, tell your church about us, donate by going to [sfbc.edu](https://sfbc.edu) and clicking on the donate tab, or simply scan this QR code. You may also mail your support to: SFBC&TS - 2200 SW 10th Street, Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442



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