

"Notice *the priesthood of all believers* revealed in the Bereans' response: they searched the Scriptures for themselves. They did not need the intermediary of some priest or academic to teach them what they needed to know about God and His Word. True, they undoubtedly asked for the help of the local rabbi and those who had a measure of maturity in their understanding. But the Scriptures were open to everyone to examine. At the very least, this should encourage us to bring our Bibles with us to the worship service and to open them and follow along as it is read and preached. The holiest sounds of a worship service are the frequent rustling of the leaves of Scripture being turned in the pews! Notice also *the perspicuity (clarity) of Scripture*. The essential truths of the Bible can be understood by all believers using the ordinary means of learning. Note as well that the Bereans were preoccupied with what was being said rather than who was saying it. Their enthusiasm was not for the preacher himself; it was what he said and more especially, the gospel that he proclaimed that captivated their attention. The Bereans searched the Scriptures in order to better understand the gospel rather than to sign up for a preacher fan-club."

"Third, the Bereans *responded to the Word*. "Many of them therefore believed" (Acts 17:12). Listening to sermons should result in a desire to put what we learn into practice. Good preaching always applies the Bible to daily life. Good sermons tell us what promises we are to lay hold of in our troubles, what sins we are to avoid when we are tempted, what attributes of God should elicit praise from our hearts, what virtues we ought to cultivate, what goals we should pursue, and what good works we should engage in. Paul was careful to tell Timothy that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:15-17)."

I hope that Dr. Thomas' teaching will be helpful to you as you engage in one of the most important activities in life: listening to the preaching of God's Word. As a hearer of preaching, I was helped as well. Here are concluding words from Dr. Thomas:

In the end, the question is this: will you submit to what is true if God teaches it? And how will you know that? The answer: by turning to the Bible and examining it. You have no excuse, my friend. You have a copy in your own hands, or at least in your own home. Will you be a hearer only? Or will you be both a hearer and a doer of the word? This is the only honest way to listen to a sermon!

May the Lord bless you all this week.  
In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Rick Phillips

### CHURCH INFORMATION

**Website:** www.secondpca.org  
**Telephone:** Office (864) 232-7621

**Fax:** (864) 232-7622 \* **Email:** info@secondpca.org  
**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Information Centers:** Church Services information 1 \* Directions 2  
Hospital Information 3 \* Upcoming Events 4 \* Church Directory 5 \* Monthly Activities 6

**Church Services:** **Sunday:** Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Morning Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 AM \* Evening Worship - 6:00 PM

**Wednesday:** Supper - 5:45 PM \* Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:45 PM

**Radio Broadcast:** Sundays, 9:00 AM, Station WLFJ 660 AM

### Upcoming Events

July 29	Friday Playdate @ Legacy Park
July 31	Hymn Sing
Aug. 1	Diaconate Meeting
Aug. 3	WIC Council
Aug. 3	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Aug. 3	Administration Committee Meeting
Aug. 6	Recipe/Pantry Shower for Lori Sparkman
Aug. 7	Ice Cream Social
Aug. 8	Session Meeting
Aug. 9	WIC Circles
Aug. 10	Musical CAT Kids Program
Aug. 12	Fun Friday Playdate @ Riverplace Fountains
Aug. 17	Musical CAT Kids end-of-summer celebration
Aug. 17	WIC Circle 6
Aug. 21	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
Aug. 24	CE Committee Meeting
Aug. 24	Regular CAT Kids resumes
Aug. 25	WIC Annual Meeting
Aug. 26	Fun Friday Playdate @ Jones Gap State Park
Aug. 28	Rally Day
Aug. 28	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
Aug. 28	WIC Installation of Officers

### Hymn Sing



Sunday, July 31  
Following the evening service in the sanctuary.  
A special time of fellowship as we sing your favorite hymns from the Trinity Hymnal.



### WIC Recipe/Pantry Shower



Ladies, you are all invited to a Recipe/Pantry Shower for Josh Sparkman's new bride, Lori, on Saturday, August 6, 10:30-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we welcome Lori into our church family. Please bring some pantry items and a favorite recipe to share.



### Calling All Ice Cream Makers



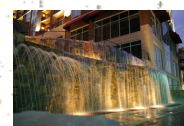
We will be having an ice cream social Sunday August 7, after the evening service and we need your help. We are asking for volunteers to churn up some good ol' homemade ice cream to share with everyone. Come enjoy some refreshing homemade ice cream and wonderful fellowship. Contact Tindell Russell (294-7540).



### Fun Friday Playdate



**ATTENTION:**  
Second Pres. Nursery Kids and Moms  
**Our next Fun Friday Playdate**  
August 12, 2011 @ 10:00 AM  
Riverplace Fountains



Meet at the water area,  
which is just outside the lower portion of the Hampton Inn  
For questions call Kelly Woodard @ 895-1241  
or Rebekah Johnson @ 430-3408

### Music Notes

#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Summer Musical CAT Kids' final program:  
**Wednesday, August 10, at 7:00 pm.**  
End of the summer celebration:  
**Wednesday, August 17, at 6:45 pm.**  
Regular CAT Kids will resume:  
**Wednesday, August 24.**

### Meals for New Mothers

The WIC's program "Meals for New Mothers" is online at [takethemameal.com](http://takethemameal.com). Two new mothers now in the schedule are Erin Harvell and Frankie Casey and their families. The login is their last name and the password for each is 1892. If you have any questions you can call Janice Leathers at 895-6646 or 616-4854.

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank all of you for your prayers, phone calls, cards and food! It is a real comfort to us to know we have such kind and thoughtful friends! Also, we wish to thank the gentlemen that blew our yard clean!! We are unable to attend our church services now, and would enjoy a visit from you. Come and see us!

—Marion and Iris Dillard

### With Heartfelt Thanks

For your many kindnesses beyond all measure, your prayers, cards, visits and practical helps during and following Al's emergency surgery, we thank our beloved Second Church congregation. Like our Lord's "peace which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7), our congregation knows how to express its love which passeth all understanding. "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him." (Psalm 28:7)

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ, Al and Anne Anderson

### WIC Annual Meeting



All women in the church are invited and encouraged to attend the WIC Annual Meeting.

Thursday, August 25, 2011  
Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM

Agenda:  
Election of Officers  
Recognition of New Members  
Refreshments will be served.

The following slate of Officers have been nominated by the WIC Nominating Committee and approved by the WIC Council. The election will be at the Annual Meeting. The Officers will serve September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2013.

President-elect:	Margaret Holman
Vice President	Frankie Casey
Secretary	Barnetta Stephens
Chair MNA	Susan McDaniel
Circle #4 Chairman	Jean Pennington
Circle #5 Chairman	Pat Shuford
Circle #6 Chairman	Cindy Worley



## Church Calendar

### Sunday, July 31

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
- 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
- 7:15 PM Hymn Sing

### Monday, August 1

- 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

### Tuesday, August 2

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study

### Wednesday, August 3

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 5:00 PM WIC Council
- 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- 5:45 PM **Family Night Fellowship Supper**
- 6:45 PM Musical CAT Kids
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
- 8:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting

### Saturday, August 6

- 10:30 AM WIC Recipe/Pantry Shower for Lori Sparkman

**WIC Circle 6 will meet Wednesday, August 17 at 6:45 pm instead of August 10th.**

### WIC Shower

*Needs:*  
6 months clothes and up; size 2 diapers; if you would like to contribute to a larger gift please contact Janice Leathers (895-6646).

The WIC cordially invites all ladies to a Baby Shower for  
**Storie Dalton and Braylon**  
Thursday, July 28  
7:00 pm  
Church Fellowship Hall  
We hope you will join us in this time of fellowship and love!



It's  
a  
Boy!



### Rally Day - August 28, 2011

### Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.  
Also, send them a note of encouragement and/or give them a call.

**Mr. and Mrs. Henry Montgomery**  
564 S. Buckhorn Road  
Greenville, SC 29609  
244-4542

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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### WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY JULY 31, 2011

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

**HASTEN, O GOD!**  
Psalm 70

Anthem:

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

Hymns: 668, 2, 691

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

**EVENING WORSHIP**  
6:00 PM

**THE SONG OF DELIVERANCE**  
Psalm 32

Hymns: 55, 486, 464

Psalter: Psalm 115

Rev. Robert E. Spears preaching

## Letter From The Senior Minister How To Listen To A Sermon

"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

I recently read a chapter in Dr. Derek Thomas' forthcoming commentary on the book of *Acts*, titled, "How to Listen to a Sermon." The chapter was an exposition of Acts 17:10-15, Luke's description of Paul's preaching in the city of Berea. This passage is famous for the above quoted statement, which sets an example for us all. Dr. Thomas writes: "These words provide for us a paradigm as to how preaching ought to be heard at any time. They provide an answer to the question, "How should we listen to a sermon?" Thomas breaks down the Bereans' example in three points: they *received*, *researched*, and *responded* to the Word that was preached. Here is what he had to say:

"First, *they received the Word.*" Specifically, they received the Word "with eagerness." There was a sense of expectancy about their listening. This was no mere academic enterprise, to be engaged in with emotional detachment. Neither did they engage in it with routine familiarity, listening only half-heartedly and out of a sense of obligation rather than desire. To listen with eagerness to a sermon is not something that comes naturally; it is something that needs careful cultivation.

"In order to cultivate a sense of expectancy when it comes to preaching, we need to prepare ourselves for it. Our souls need to be prepared *beforehand*. It begins by faithful and earnest prayer for the preacher during the course of the week, and especially in the hours leading up to the worship service. We should ensure that time is set apart on Saturday evening and early Sunday morning to ask for the Lord's blessing on the reading and exposition of Scripture. The cure for sleepy heads on Sunday morning is to get to bed earlier on Saturday night. Preparation of the heart for worship is like putting on armor: we are powerless to resist idle thoughts in worship if we make no preparation to resist them beforehand."

"Second, the Bereans *researched the Word.* Luke tells us that they were "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11). For several days after the Sabbath, these Jews evidently came back to the synagogue and searched the scrolls (they being too expensive for private ownership), to check whether the things Paul said were true or not.



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