

should be considered as poetry. The idea is that if Genesis 1 is poetry, the events recorded in the chapter should be considered as figurative and not literal. The first problem with this argument is that Genesis 1 does not employ the parallelism that is the chief feature of Hebrew poetry. Instead, Genesis 1 bears all the marks of historical narrative – i.e. the kind of writing that intends to record events that really happened. The second problem is that even if Genesis 1 was poetry – which it is not – there is no reason why it could not record historical events, as so many examples of Old Testament poetry do (e.g. Ex. 15:1-2 and Jud. 5:1-31). Therefore, Genesis 1 continues to teach a very different view than what is taught under evolution and, so long as we retain a high view of the Bible's truth and authority, there remains no reason for Christians to entertain evolutionary teachings.

- A similar attempt is being made today to make Genesis chapter 2 compatible with evolution. Here, the "problem" is Gen. 2:7, which says that "the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." Pro-evolution scholars are suggesting that this verse might metaphorically summarize millions of years of evolutionary progress, in which case the Bible would not be considered anti-evolution. Notice, however, that there is nothing in the text itself to suggest such a view: the evolutionary paradigm is simply imposed upon the Bible. This shows that support for evolution requires Christians to accept secular teaching as a higher authority to Scripture, which we would be willing to accommodate as the unbelieving world requires. It is hard to imagine what kind of Christianity we will be left with if evangelicals are willing to embrace such a low view of God's Word.

- Genesis 3 also poses a deadly threat to evolution, since it teaches that death came into the world as God's punishment for sin. Therefore, death is considered our enemy, which Christ came to overthrow (see 1 Cor. 15:26, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death.") Evolution, in contrast, teaches that death is a positive force for improvement, since it is through death that the survival of the fittest improves our race. While there are many examples of how evolution conflicts with Christian teaching, the evolutionary view of death shows how opposed this doctrine is to the entire Christian worldview. Pro-evolution "Christian" scholar Peter Enns recently went so far as to suggest that Christians embrace the value of sexual promiscuity and violent aggression should be rethought in light of their value in an evolutionary scheme. To his credit, Enns is consistently applying the logic of evolution, while making the point that Christians can only embrace such secular teaching at the expense of our entire religion.

It is my belief that our denomination will speak clearly against the teaching of evolution in the upcoming General Assembly, as we have done so consistently in the past. We are reminded, however, of the necessity of vigilance and prayer. I hope this material will help you to be informed against false teaching and that you will pray for our church and denomination to continue to stand boldly on God's Word in years to come.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips



CHURCH INFORMATION

The West End Herald Editor: RE Melton L. Duncan, Sr.

Website: www.secondpca.org
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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

Upcoming Events

Mar. 3	WIC Calvary Presbytery Annual Meeting
Mar. 4	New Members' Class begins
Mar. 4	Communicants' Class begins
Mar. 4	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
Mar. 5	Diaconate Meeting
Mar. 7	WIC Council
Mar. 7	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Mar. 11	College/Career Group Luncheon
Mar. 13	Session Meeting
Mar. 13-14	WIC Circles
Mar. 18	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Mar. 19	Young At Heart
Mar. 22	Jessamines Group
Mar. 23	Senior High Game Night
Mar. 25	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
Mar. 25	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Mar. 28	CE Committee Meeting

Mark Your Calendars

New Members' Luncheon	May 6
Graduation Banquet	May 9
Mother/Daughter Tea	May 11
CAT Kids Program	May 16
Hartsville, SC Missions Trip	June 10-14
General Assembly	June 18-22
Vacation Bible School	June 25-29
Senior High Trip	July 16-20
Richmond Hill, GA Missions Trip	July 17-20
Jr. High Ridge Haven Trip	July 23-27
Trujillo, Peru Missions Trip	August 3-11
Marriage Retreat at Bonclarken	August 17-18

Upcoming Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate (May or December) or you know someone in the church who is, please contact the church office (ext. 10 or judy@secondpca.org.) We want to recognize all our graduates at our upcoming banquet in May.

Happy Birthday

On March 8, 2012, Mildred Holcomb will turn 98 years old. She is our oldest aged member. To help her celebrate this milestone you may send her a special birthday card to:
Mrs. Perky Pollard (her niece)
439 E. Mountain Creek Road
Taylors, SC 29687
Perky will present these cards to her at their family celebration.

Annual Sports Banquet

Wednesday, February 29, 2012
Dinner: 5:45 PM * Program: 6:45 PM
Speaker: Mr. Bill Hedgpeht
The entire church family is invited to this event as we honor our young people who participated in this year's sports events.

Communicants' Class

A Communicants' Class will be held for 5 weeks beginning Sunday, March 4, 2012. The class will meet at 10:00 on Sunday mornings in classroom S-307 (balcony level). Parents who judge their child ready to meet with the Session for communicant membership should bring their child to the class. Please see Pastor Starkey if you have any questions.

New Members' Class

Begins Sunday, March 4, 2012
9:45 AM in Room C-209 (on second floor)
Taught by Pastor Phillips
The class will meet each Sunday for 7 weeks.
Attending the class does not obligate one to join the church, however, you are requested to take the class before joining the church

Wednesday Night Supper and Families

During our weekly Wednesday night family supper let's use this time proactively to engage with new people and make an outreach to others. Look for others to include who are new and seem to be sitting alone. Also, parents with young children, please be reminded that from 5:45 until 7:00 pm there is to be no organized ballgames while families are eating. Deacons are being asked to lock up basketballs until after supper is over. It would help if parents would enforce this directive. Also, we are asking that footballs not be thrown in the gym until after 8:00 pm. Thank you.

Church Directory

Please make the following changes to your directory so you will have correct and current information.

- Lloyd Wright's** original address is correct:
3 Bendingwood Circle, Taylors, SC 29687
- Linda Francis'** cell phone number: 864-238-6048
and her new email address: granofsix@gmail.com
- Bobbie Houser's** new address:
4 Hoke Smith Blvd., PC 16, Greenville, SC 29615
Cell Phone: 569-9752
- Elizabeth Johnson'** new address:
97 Jamestowne Way, Unit 101, Taylors, SC 29687
- Chris and Michelle Lynch's** correct home phone number: 417-5595
- Regina Icard's** new email address: craigpottery@gmail.com
(The Icard's home phone is no longer active. Please use their cell phone numbers.)

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter Lily to place in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of someone special, please call Judy Bishop (246-0951) by **Friday, March 30**. Also fill out the form below and place in the church office in Judy Grant's mail box along with \$8.00 for each lily.

I would like to place _____ (how many) Easter Lily(ies) in the church on Easter Sunday:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Church Calendar

Sunday, March 4
 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:45 AM New Members' Class
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM Communicants' Class
 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**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir
 7:15 PM CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
 A - J Main Course
 K - Z Side Dishes
Everyone please bring one 2-liter drink.

Monday, March 5
 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, March 6
 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, March 7
 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**
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday, March 8
 9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training

Friday, March 9
 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study

Sunday School Helpers

If you are interested in helping with our Sunday School program now is a good time to get involved. There is an immediate need for a 2 year-old Sunday School Class Assistant. Please contact Mel Duncan if you can help. (232-7621, ext. 14)

Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 02/19/12
 Pledges Received: **\$96,969**
 Contributions Received: **\$95,493**

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement and/or give her a call.
Frances Giles
 4 Hoke Smith Blvd., Apt. 14
 Greenville, SC 29615
 234-5660

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY MARCH 4, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 and 11:00 AM

THE CHURCH IMPERATIVE

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
 Anthem:
 My Jesus, I Love Thee
 Hymns: 347, 355, 606
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

VENGEANCE FOR THE GIBEONITES

2 Samuel 21:1-22
 Hymns: 449, 30, 455
 Psalter: Psalm 122
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
 «Address Line 1»
 «Address Line 2»
 «City» «State» «ZIP Code»



The West End Herald

Vol. CXX, Edition 9

The Second Presbyterian Church
 Corner of River and Rhett Streets
 Greenville, South Carolina

March 4, 2012

Letter from the Senior Minister Theistic Evolution and Biblical Authority

About a year ago, a controversy arose over evolution during a homeschool convention held here in Greenville. That controversy centered on criticism from Dr. Ken Ham of the *Answers in Genesis* ministry for the teaching of Dr. Peter Enns. Both Ham and Enns were presenting during the convention, and Ham expressed concern for Enns teaching of evolution and especially for a new children's Bible curriculum that Enns was authoring from that perspective. The offshoot of that particular controversy was the removal of both Ham and Enns from future venues of that convention.

The controversy over theistic evolution has not gone away in the meantime, however, and this year's General Assembly of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) will see several overtures clearly stating our opposition to this teaching. Evolution, as most will know, is the theory that posits an unguided process of natural selection as the origin of the human race. Theistic evolution is the teaching that God created all things, but chose to do so by means of evolutionary processes. Throughout its forty years, the PCA has taken a strong stand against theistic evolution, believing it to be contrary to Scripture. In the late 1990's, the PCA commissioned a study committee (on which our own Dr. Patterson participated), the result of which included a clear prohibition against the teaching of evolution in the PCA. Nonetheless, the last few years have seen a remarkably strong movement in favor of accepting evolution within the broader Evangelical and Reformed academic community, with the support of some well-known teachers and leaders in the PCA. As a result, a fresh response to this challenge to biblical authority will be necessary in the years to come.

What, you may wonder, are the arguments being used by Bible-believing Evangelicals in support of theistic evolution?

- The first claim of those Evangelicals supporting theistic evolution is that a failure to embrace the prevailing scientific paradigm will undermine the credibility of Christians in our culture. Some voices are demanding that Christians accept that science has definitively proven evolution as a theory. The problem with this, as our own Creation Study Group frequently demonstrates, is that it simply is not true. It is true that many cultural voices claim that evolution can no longer be denied, but there is no reason for Christians to agree to this statement in the face of so much evidence to the contrary. Christians who support evolution have made the argument that we need to rethink the way we read the opening chapters of Genesis, in order to remove the apparent discrepancy between evolution and the Bible. The historical Christian understanding of Genesis 1, for instance, teaches the very opposite of evolution. So how will we rethink Genesis 1 to make room for evolution? The main answer is to assert that because of the way Genesis 1 is structured, with the repeated refrain, "there was evening and there was morning" it