

- Christians are not nationalists who despise rival nations. As a believer in Jesus, I look on Christians of all races, tongues, and nations as brothers in Christ, and I consider non-Christians of all nations as fellow sinners in need of my loving witness to the gospel. My chief desire as a believer is that stated in Psalm 67:3, "O God, let all the peoples praise you!"

Based on the above principles, there are some people who would say that Christians have abandoned patriotism altogether. This is not true, however. Christians should not turn a cold heart away from their nation. In fact, celebrations like those of Independence Day provide a good start for developing a Christian patriotism:

- July 4 reminds us that we are part of a nation, with a great history, wonderful privileges, and important responsibilities. We are all indebted under God's grace to the sacrifices of others and in God's providence we are part of a great historical legacy of freedom and blessing that is worth celebrating. Recognizing our debt to prior generations and the blessings we have received as Americans should produce gratitude to God - a gratitude that serves as a good basis for Christian patriotism.
- July 4 reminds us that God has sovereignly placed us in this land and under this government. I praise God to be an American, precisely because of what Independence Day represents. As I have traveled on other continents and had personal interactions with government tyranny and injustice, I have learned once more to bless the sight of an American flag. Yes, Christians should frankly admit and oppose the evils of our nation, but we should not fail to be grateful for the many good things our country does and represents. Moreover, when Romans 13:1-7 commands us to honor and obey civil authorities, Christians should do so from the heart, with love and fervor for the blessings of the land in which God has placed us and with sincere loyalty to all public servants who are seeking to do good.
- July 4 reminds us to play our part today in the civil life of our nation. When God addressed the Jewish exiles living in Babylon, he told them to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf" (Jer. 29:7). Christians rightly think of any earthly home as a sort of exile, longing to arrive in the kingdom of glory with God. But we should be involved in the society and life of the land in which we are living. This means that we should be civic-minded as a church and as believers, exercising all kinds of gifts and opportunities to be a blessing to the nation and city in which we are living. In America, this calling involves participation in the political process, opposing evil, and promoting truth and righteousness. Especially when there are political leaders who openly seek a biblical agenda of godliness and civil well-being, they deserve the special support and prayers of God's people.

So maybe Christians can be patriots after all! Indeed, we can be, and we should celebrate our national heritage with thanks to God and with prayers for renewed faith and needed repentance. In fact, the best kind of Christian patriotism is that which offers a loving witness to the Savior, the great King Jesus Christ, who alone can give true freedom to anyone.

May God bless you and may God bless America,  
Pastor Rick Phillips

### CHURCH INFORMATION

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

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

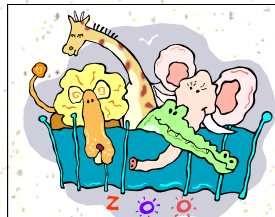
## Upcoming Events

July 11	Missions Committee meeting @ 5:30 pm—Conf. Room
July 14	Second Pres. leads worship @ Perry Correctional
July 15	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
July 17-20	Richmond Hill, GA Mission Trip
July 20	Fun Friday at Greenville Zoo
July 22	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
July 23-27	Jr. High Ridge Haven Retreat
July 25	CE Committee Meeting
July 27	WIC Game Night & Pool Party
July 28	Calvary Presbytery at Norris Hill PCA
July 29	Hymn Sing

### Worship at Perry Correctional

Second Presbyterian will be leading a worship service at Perry Correctional on Saturday, July 14th. The service will be in the evening. Anyone interested in singing in a choir or otherwise attending to see the work going on at the prison, please contact Bill Watkins (304-4737) or Kirby Kee (907-7546).

### Fun Friday for Second Pres. Kids



**ATTENTION:**  
Second Pres. Nursery Kids and Moms  
**Our next Fun Friday Playdate**  
July 20, 2012  
10:00 AM  
Greenville Zoo  
150 Cleveland Park Drive, Greenville, 29601  
(Meet at the entrance at 10:00 am)  
(Zoo admission charge or zoo pass)

### WIC Pool Party and Game Night

For college-aged girls and above  
Saturday, July 27, 2012  
4:00 pm....until  
Home of Alice Barnett  
1000 Old Boiling Springs Rd., Greer, SC 29650  
Call for directions: 289-0536  
Please bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre.  
Swimming is optional/there will be inside and outside games.



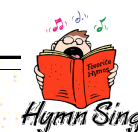
### Calvary Presbytery

The 115th meeting of Calvary Presbytery is Saturday, July 28, 2012, beginning at 9:00 AM at Norris Hill PCA in Anderson SC. Please be in prayer for the pastors and elders that will be attending: Pastor Phillips, Pastor Spears, Pastor Starkey, RE Duncan, RE Bragdon, and RE Player. Visitors are welcome.

### Hymn Sing



Sunday, July 29  
Following the evening service in the gymnasium.  
A special time of fellowship as we sing your favorite hymns  
from the Trinity Hymnal.



## Treasurer's Report

### June 2012 & YTD Financial Status

	Actual		
	June 2012	YTD 2012	YTD Budget
Offerings	71,552	475,576	498,887
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	60,740	371,821	440,772
Mission Disbursements	6,528	51,414	58,115
Total Outlays	67,268	423,235	498,887
Net Offerings	4,284	52,341	

If you have any questions, please contact  
Bobby Mann or David Rainey.

- Contributions in June 2012 were \$71,552 versus budget of \$83,148.
- YTD contributions are \$475,576 vs. \$454,628 for the same period in 2011.
- Through June 2012, actual contributions are behind budget by \$23,311.
- Operating expenses for June 2012, were \$60,740 versus the budget of \$73,462.
- Missionaries have been paid one half of their annual commitment.
- Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide the financial resources necessary for the programs and ministry of SPC.

### Second Presbyterian Marriage Retreat

Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC  
August 17-18, 2012

Conference Speaker: Dr. Derek Thomas

Minister of Preaching and Teaching, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC  
\$189.00 per couple

(includes lodging, Friday evening dinner and Saturday morning breakfast)

**\$50.00 reservation deposit due June 24th (balance due July 22)**

Please contact Bill Hedgpeth for details and to reserve your room.

### Report of the WIC Nominating Committee

The following slate of WIC Group One Officers has been nominated for two years of service in Second Church WIC by the WIC Nominating Committee and approved by the WIC Council. The election will take place at the August Annual Meeting. The Officers will serve September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2014.

President:	Margaret Holman
Treasurer:	Margaret Butler
Historian:	Rosie Hedgpeth
Chairman, Christian Growth:	Cindy Crunk
Chairman, Mission to the World:	Lynda Duncan
Chairman, Circle One:	Vicky Rogers
Chairman, Circle Two:	Tammy Looper
Chairman, Circle Three:	Grace Cooley

The WIC Nominating Committee:

Shirley Duncan, Chair, Laurie Farley, Ashley Maralit, Jane Rainey, Jenny Spears

Election will be held at

WIC Annual Meeting  
Thursday, August 23, 2012, 7:00 pm  
Church Fellowship Hall

### Memorial Flowers

The following dates are open for anyone who would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone: July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, September 30, October 7, October 14, and November 18. If you would like to furnish the flowers for any of these dates, please contact Judy Grant (232-7621, ext. 10) or Judy Bishop (246-0951).

## Church Calendar

**Sunday, July 15**  
 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP  
 9:45 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

**Tuesday, July 17**  
 Richmond Hill Mission Trip  
 (return July 20th)

**Wednesday, July 18**  
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 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

**Friday, July 13**  
 10:00 AM Fun-Friday at Greenville Zoo  
 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch and Bible Study

**All Adult Summer Sunday School Class**  
**Sunday, July 15, 10:00 am, sanctuary**  
**J. R. Foster - "Consider Your Calling"**

### Thank You

*Dear Second Pres. Family,*  
*The out pouring of loving care showered over our family has been overwhelming and a tremendous blessing. From the groups of people who have sacrificed their time to help in our yard and around the house to bringing meals and preparing and serving lunch to our large family following Bill's funeral; not to mention the countless hours of prayer lifted up to the Lord on our behalf. We are humbled by your gifts of service to us and praise the Lord for each of you.*

*—Thank you. In Christ, The Detmer Family*

### Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in member.  
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.

**Gerry Rice**  
 12 Galphin Drive  
 Greenville, SC 29609

### Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

**Al and Anne Anderson**  
**Allene Anderson**  
**Sam Andrews**

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND**  
**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**JULY 15, 2012**

MORNING WORSHIP  
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

**WHERE IS GOD?**

Psalm 88

Anthem:

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

Hymns: 119, 398, 378

Rev. J. R. Foster preaching

EVENING WORSHIP  
 6:00 PM

**BLESSED SUFFERING**

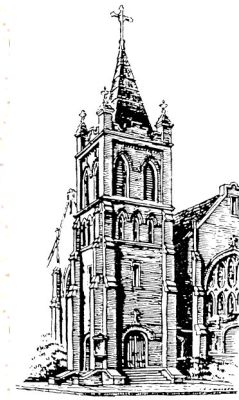
1 Peter 3:13-22

Hymns: 667, 681, 691

Psalter: Psalm 139 (verses 1-12)

Rev. Paul Settle preaching

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



# The West End Herald

Vol. CXX, Edition 28

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

July 9, 2012

## Letter from the Senior Minister Christian Patriotism

On July 4, our nation celebrated its independence with waving flags, picnics, and parades. Some churches decked their sanctuary with red, white, and blue, and devoted the worship service to the honor of the state. Other Christians virtually ignore this or any other national holiday. This raises the question, "How does Christianity tell us to think about patriotism?"

This question is quite personal for me, since I grew up in an intensely patriotic family. Patriotic holidays were solemn occasions and the national anthem and flag were regarded as holy objects of veneration. In many respects, my childhood was probably not typical of others', since I was raised on Army posts during a war. My childhood virtually coincides with the Vietnam War, a conflict which twice took my father away for a year and cast its shadow over our lives, both for good and for ill. My father returned from Vietnam, but many of my boyhood friends' dads did not. I would guess that I attended more funerals by the age of ten than most people do in a lifetime. As a result, these formative years instilled in me an intense patriotism, which played no small part in leading me into a military career like my father and grandfather before me. I was commissioned on Memorial Day, a time when I was always proud to be an American, and grateful for those who laid down their lives for us all.

Another way in which I am probably not typical is that my conversion to faith in Jesus Christ, which occurred when I was 30 years old, required me immediately to recast my ideas of patriotism. At first, I was tempted to reject the idea of patriotism altogether, since I had been transferred out of the world into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. However, even though my relationship with Jesus greatly altered my attitude towards flag and country, I soon realized that there is a Christian patriotism that believers should feel towards their country.

What are some guidelines based on biblical teaching that can help us to embrace a biblical idea of patriotism? First, let me point out patriotic views and attitudes that Christians must reject:

- *Christians must reject a longing for national preeminence and power.* How well I remember the fiery passion of my youth, determined that America would be first in all things. As a Christian, I no longer crave earthly glory for my nation, but rather God's blessing. As a Christian I embrace the principle of Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."
- *Christians do not accept the statement: "My Nation, Right or Wrong."* A disciple of Christ must be loyal to God and his commands, even if it means speaking against his or her nation. As a Christian, I am horrified by sins widely embraced in America and consider it my duty to oppose in lawful ways the wide range of evil that increasingly dominates our culture. As a servant of Christ I am appalled both by the empty materialistic idolatry that often attaches itself to the political right and even more so by the pagan evil espoused by the political left. In any case, my desire is for our political leaders to appeal to God's Word as our founding fathers so often did.