

where he received a yearly income of £200 from Queen Anne after composing for her the *Utrecht te Deum (We Praise Thee, O God)* performed in 1713. In July 1717 Handel's *Water Music* was performed repeatedly on the River Thames for the king and his guests.

As time went on, Handel, once a sought-after composer, began to lose his popularity with his audiences who were changing with the times to more modern and more comical musical plays. They lost interest in his more formal approach to music. He started receiving indifferent responses from the public and eventually they withdrew support for him and his music completely. Handel, worn out and faced with financial problems and with the threat of debtors' prison, decided to leave England to return to his home of Germany. Before he left, Handel had one final concert series to benefit local hospitals in Dublin, Ireland in 1741. This concert series presented his new oratorio, *Messiah*. Handel wrote the *Messiah* score very quickly and intensely, completing it in 24 days. He poured himself into this oratorio which he thought was to be his last composition. This score was so successful that his musical career sprang to life once again.

Handel divided the *Messiah* into three parts containing different scenes:

Part I: The Annunciation: Scene 1: The prophecy of Salvation, 2: The prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, 3: Portents to the world, 4: Prophecy of the Virgin Birth, 5: The appearance of the Angel to the shepherds, 6: Christ's miracles

Part II: The Passion: 1: The redemptive sacrifice, scourging, and agony on the cross, 2: Christ's death and Resurrection, 3: His Ascension, 4: God discloses His identity in Heaven, 5: The beginning of evangelism, 6: The world and its rulers reject the Gospel, 7: God's triumph

Part III: The Aftermath: 1: The promise of redemption from Adam's fall, 2: Judgment Day, 3: The victory over death and sin, 4: The glorification of Christ.

While Handel's compositions include 42 operas, 29 oratorios, more than 120 cantatas, numerous trios, duets, arias, and chamber music, a large number of ecumenical pieces, and 16 organ concerti, it is *Messiah* that is most known and remembered throughout the world, especially during the Christmas season. While I cannot know his heart, I find it interesting that when Handel stopped trying to be "popular" and focused his composition on The Ultimate Truth in Scripture, he realized the most success. I pray that as our choir sings seven of the choruses from *Messiah* it will bless you this Christmas season.

In His Service,
Elizabeth Guest, Music Director

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

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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

Dec. 8	Messiah Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary (10am-12noon)
Dec. 8	Choir Lunch and Christmas party (12noon)
Dec. 9	Selections from Handel's oratorio, The Messiah, by the Adult Choir at the evening worship service
Dec. 9	Churchwide Reception for Choir
Dec. 10	Session Meeting
Dec. 11-12	WIC Circles
Dec. 12	Christmas Dinner
Dec. 12	Youth and Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 14	ACTS SS Class Christmas party at the Spears
Dec. 16	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
Dec. 17	Young At Heart
Dec. 18	Jr. High Christmas party at the Maralits
Dec. 19	NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
Dec. 20	College and 20s SS Class Christmas party at the McCarthys
Dec. 21	Sr. High Christmas party at the Detmers
Dec. 24	Lessons and Carols
Dec. 24-27	Church Office Closed
Dec. 26	NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
Dec. 30	Christmas Hymn Sing in the sanctuary
Dec. 31	Church Office Closed

Join us for a special presentation of
Selections from Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah"
Sunday, December 9, 2012
at our 6:00 evening worship service.
Please invite family and friends to share in this
special service to the glory of God.

Churchwide Reception for Choir

On Dec. 9th, following the Messiah, the WIC will be hosting a reception for the choir. WIC is asking our circles and any interested parties to donate Christmas cookies. Please contact your circle chair or Judy Bishop (246-0951) for details.

The Chapel Sunday School Class

The adult Sunday School class meeting in the Chapel will begin a study of the New Testament book of Colossians on December 9th. The theme of Colossians is the pre-eminence of Christ. Please come and join us as we begin this new study.

Congregational Meeting Report

- The following men were elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 2nd, by the congregation for the office of Deacon:
Kip Altman, George Cumbus, Jimmy Looper, Ron McNeely and Jeremy Weaver
- The 2013 budget was received and supported at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2012.

New Baby

Kellen William Sparkman was born to Josh and Lori Sparkman on December 2, 2012. Kellen weighed 5 pounds and was 18 inches long. Both mother and son are at home doing well.

Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Frances Giles who went home to be with the Lord on December 2, 2012. We are thankful for the life and service of Frances and pray for the family during this time of grief.

Young At Heart

The Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon will be Monday, December 17, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. A special catered Christmas lunch will be \$7.00 per person payable at the door. Our Christmas program will feature special Christmas music by Allison Detmer. Make plans to join us as we enjoy good food, fellowship, and a wonderful program.

Rivertree Singers Concert

Rivertree Singers Concert

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

7:30 pm

Second Presbyterian Church

A free concert of sacred and secular Christmas Music

Christmas Eve Service

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 24th, 6:00 PM

We will marvel with the heavenly host
as we hear the good news of our Savior's birth
retold in Scripture and song.

2013 Offering Envelopes

The 2013 offering envelopes are in the process of being prepared. If you do not have offering envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. If any of your children need a box of envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18.

December Schedule

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:
Wednesday, December 19th
Wednesday, December 26th
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:
December 24-27
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of December 24th.

Year-End Contributions

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2012 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 30.

Treasurer's Report

November 2012 & YTD Financial Status

	Actual		
	Nov. 2012	YTD 2012	YTD Budget
Offerings	119,407	913,072	914,625
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	77,520	750,215	808,081
Mission Disbursements	0	102,429	106,544
Total Outlays	77,520	852,644	914,625
Net Offerings	41,887	60,428	

- ⇒ Contributions in November 2012 were \$119,407 versus budget of \$83,148.
- ⇒ YTD contributions are \$913,072 vs. \$851,233 for the same period in 2011.
- ⇒ Through November 2012, actual contributions are behind budget by \$1,553.
- ⇒ Missionaries have been paid 100% of their annual commitment.
- ⇒ Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide the financial resources necessary for the programs and ministry of SPC.
- ⇒ If you have any questions, please contact Bobby Mann or David Rainey.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 9

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 4:00 PM Regular Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Christmas Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
Selections from Handel's Oratorio, "The Messiah"
 7:15 PM **Churchwide Reception for Choir and their families**

Monday, December 10

6:00 PM Sr. High Girls' Team 1 Basketball game at John Knox
 6:30 PM Session Meeting
 7:00 PM Sr. High Girls' Team 2 Basketball game at John Knox
 7:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball game at home

Tuesday, December 11

10:00 AM WIC Circles 1 & 3 meet at the church
 11:30 AM WIC Circle 5 Christmas Lunch
 4:30 PM I-Mites and Mites Basketball practice
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828
 6:00 PM Bach Christmas Concert in the sanctuary
 7:00 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 meets at the home of Tammy Looper
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 meets at the church

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER**
 7:00 PM **Youth and Children's Christmas Program**
 8:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball practice

Thursday, December 13

5:30 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball practice
 8:00 PM Men's Basketball game at OLR

Friday, December 14

12:00 PM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship Lunch
 6:30 PM ACTS SS Class Christmas Party at the Spears'

Saturday, December 15

10:30 AM I-Mites Basketball game at Finlay
 10:30 AM Mites Basketball game at W. Pres. II
 10:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at 4th Pres.
 11:30 AM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at St. George

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement and/or give her a call.

Kathleen Cleveland
 109 Blakely Road
 Piedmont, SC 29673
 277-5572

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Daniel and Meredith Evans
Spencer and Lora Evans
Matthew, Rebekah, Caleb
Alan and Laurie Farley
Thomas, Jacob, Scott, Elise

The Second Presbyterian Church

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WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY
DECEMBER 9, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

THE WEIGHT OF GLORY
 Revelation 4:6-11
 Anthem:

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
 Hymns: 195, 162, 547.
 Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

SELECTIONS FROM HANDEL'S ORATORIO
"THE MESSIAH"

Presented by the Adult Choir

THE DAY OF HIS COMING
 Malachi 3:1-4

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



The West End Herald

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

December 3, 2012

Letter from the Music Director Handel's Messiah

KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS! These words have inspired many for hundreds of years as they do us now in this Christmas season. This phrase is found in several different places throughout scripture; I Timothy 6:15, Revelation 17:14, and Revelation 19:16. It is a powerful statement of Jesus Christ's supreme authority over all other kings and lords of the earth and is found repeatedly in Handel's *Messiah*, from which our choir will be offering selections on Sunday evening, December 12.

George Frederic Handel was born in Halle, Germany on February 23, 1685, the same year as other musical greats Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti. From an early age, Handel had a strong propensity towards music but his father, a surgeon, said that no one would ever make money, let alone a career, with music and insisted he study law. With help from an uncle, Handel sneaked a clavichord into the attic of his house and taught himself to play while his family slept. Shortly thereafter, George Frederic and his father traveled to the neighboring town of Weissenfels to the castle of Duke Johann Adolf I. Handel crept to the organ and started to play. The duke, upon hearing him urged Handel's father to allow young Handel to study music. His father agreed as long as he continued to study Law as well. From that point forward Handel not only pursued instrument studies but also studied harmony and counterpoint, analyzed sheet music scores, learned to work fugue subjects, and composition. He flourished in his lessons in musical composition and keyboard technique under Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow and in his organ lessons from the organist of the Lutheran Marienkirche. Handel was so skilled that sometimes he would take his teacher's place as organist for services.

In 1702, George Frederic Handel succeeded in getting an appointment as the organist at the local Protestant cathedral in Halle. After only a year there, Handel became dissatisfied and in 1703 moved to Hamburg accepting a position as violinist and harpsichordist in the orchestra of the opera house. His fascination with opera developed and he began to write Italian opera. In 1706 Handel moved to Italy to continue his opera composition and to accept musical work from the wealthy Medici family. While in Rome in 1707, Handel composed sacred music for the Roman clergy because opera was temporarily banned in the Papal States. In 1710, Handel became Kapellmeister (chief musician and composer) to the German prince George, Elector of Hanover (who would become King George I of Great Britain in 1714). Handel decided to settle permanently in England