

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 21

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 12:00 PM Bill Watkins' Fold Lunch in Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship

Wednesday, December 24

Church Office Closed

- 6:00 PM Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 25

Church Office Closed



Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Scripture Reading for the Week

Matthew 1:20-23

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (ESV)

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 17 Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program
 Dec. 19 College Christmas party
 Dec. 19 Acts SS Class Christmas party
 Dec. 20 Jr./Sr. High Christmas party
 Dec. 21 Bill Watkins' Fold Lunch in Fellowship Hall
 Dec. 21 The Lord's Supper at the evening service
 Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols
 Dec. 24 No regular Wednesday night activities
 Dec. 24-26 Church Office Closed
 Dec. 28 Christmas Hymn Sing
 Dec. 28 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
 Dec. 31 No Wednesday night activities
 Dec. 31 Church Office Closed
 Jan. 1 Church Office Closed
 Jan. 4 Ordination and Installation of Deacons
 Jan. 4 Reception for New Deacons
 Jan. 7 WIC Council
 Jan. 7 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 Jan. 11 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
 Jan. 13 Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
 Jan. 13-14 WIC Circles
 Jan. 14 Missions Committee Meeting
 Jan. 18 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
 Jan. 19 Young At Heart
 Jan. 21 Administration Committee Meeting
 Jan. 22 WIC Bible Study begins
 Jan. 23 Jr. High Fellowship
 Jan. 24 Calvary Presbytery
 Jan. 25 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
 Jan. 28 CE Committee Meeting
 Jan. 30 WIC Game Night in Fellowship Hall

**If you have a date for the January calendar please contact the church office this week.
 232-7621, ext. 10 or
 jgrant@spcgreenville.org**

Remembering One Another

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

Al and Anne Anderson
 143 Lullwater Road
 Greenville, SC 29607
 271-1835

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Betty Orders
Ernest Ray and Lynne Ouzts
Barb Owen

2014 PCA Ministerial Relief Christmas Offering

RBI's Ministry of Relief has been providing financial assistance and encouragement to retired PCA pastors, missionaries, church servants and their families for 38 years. The predominant assistance we provide is to widows of PCA Teaching Elders. Without this financial assistance they struggle to afford the basic needs of life. In fact, many would live in near poverty without the assistance we provide.

The annual Ministerial Relief Christmas Offering is the principle source of funding to meet the needs of these widows and other PCA church servants. *We need your help more than ever.*

According to the recent PCA Retirement Readiness Survey conducted by RBI, the number of retiring PCA pastors will triple over the next 25 years. Since 82% of wives outlive their husbands by an average of 11, to 14 years, a large portion of those pastors retiring will leave widows who will outlive their retirement accounts resulting in incomes at or below the poverty level. Over the next 25 years, the number of families needing Ministerial Relief will quadruple.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please mark your check PCA Relief Offering and put it in the offering plate or you may donate online at www.pcadonate.org

 **Basketball Schedule for 12-1-12-8** 

Dec. 18	9:00 pm	Men	AYMC
Dec. 20	9:30 am	Jr. High Boys	AYMC
Dec. 20	11:30 am	Jr. High Girls	AYMC
Dec. 20	12:30 pm	I-Mites	Finlay Hall
Dec. 20	12:30 pm	Mites	W. Pres. II
Dec. 22	7:00 pm	Sr. High Girls	TLC
Dec. 22	7:00 pm	Sr. High Boys	OLR

Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program
Wednesday, December 17th @ 5:45 pm
Dinner: 5:45 pm in Church Gym
Program: 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Wednesday Christmas Service

This Wednesday evening, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. the youth and children of our church will lead us in a service of Scripture and song marking the occasion of Christ's birth with the singing of sacred carols and anthems. The service is built around the ancient, yet most relevant of stories as revealed in both the Old and New Testaments of Holy Scripture—the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ! The service will be held in the Sanctuary following the Christmas dinner and we hope you will make it a priority to attend. ~Verlyn Smoker, Director of Music

December Schedule

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:
 Wednesday, December 24th
 Wednesday, December 31st
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:
 December 24-26
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of
 December 29th.

Lessons and Carols
Wednesday, December 24, 2014
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.

Congregational Meeting

- ⇒ At the Congregation and Corporation Meeting December 14th the following Deacons were elected:
 Alan Farley Leon Harmon
 Marcus Laughner Roger Lusk
 Joe Martin Steve Plating
 Chad Scoggins
 - ⇒ The 2015 SPC Budget was received and adopted by the congregation.
 - ⇒ RE C. Douglas McDaniel was elected as Trustee for the SPC Corporation. He will serve with RE Pat Holbrook and RE Bobby Mann, Chairman.
- The new Deacons will be ordained and installed at the evening worship service on January 4, 2015.

Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in "Operation Christmas Child" by packing a shoebox. Second Pres. sent 66 out of 100 shoeboxes this year. Please remember to pray for the children who will be receiving these gifts, that each child would experience God's unconditional love and provision. Thanks to Pat Tyner for coordinating this effort.

Gym Closed

The church gym will be closed at 8:00 am Tuesday, December 23rd through Christmas for refinishing.

Christian Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to Ray McKenney and family in the death of his 19 year-old grandson, Timothy Arrowood, who died December 12, 2014 in an automobile accident. We pray for the family during this time of loss and grief.

New Bible Study for Women

All ladies are invited to a new Bible Study beginning Thursday, January 22, 2015 and continuing for 10 weeks each Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30 am. Please join us as we study The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis by Nancy Guthrie. If you plan to attend please call Mary Russell (329-1670) or email (erussell1670@charter.net) as books need to be ordered.

Christmas Parties

- College/20's Class: Dec. 19, 6:30 pm, Joel and Alice Barnetts'
- Acts SS Class: Dec. 19, 6:30 pm, Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Jr. High Class: Dec. 20, 6 pm, Joe and Leslie Martins'
- Sr. High Class: Dec. 20, 6:30 pm, Mark and Beth Baxas'

2015 Offering Envelopes

The 2015 offering envelopes are 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.

Year-End Contributions

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2014 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

Christmas Hymn Sing
Sunday, December 28, 2014
Immediately following the evening service



were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." This means that Jesus was working with God the Father in creating Adam.

Adam got to know Jesus better in those glorious first days of creation. Genesis 3:8 says that Adam and Eve "heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day." That is referring to Jesus, prior to his birth, who took a visible form and was a divine friend to his most beloved creatures. Imagine what it would have been like; before there was sin or anything bad in the world, when Adam and Eve were still righteous and upright in their hearts, for them to walk through the Garden talking with God's Son! Jesus wants this same kind of friendship with us. He wants us to know him. He wants to be our divine friend. He wants to teach us the glory of God in the beauty of holiness.

But Adam and Eve sinned. Sin made them hide from Jesus because they were afraid to be punished. God found them, however, and taught them to trust in Jesus, who would now be their Savior. In Genesis 3:15, God gave the first salvation promise and it was all about Jesus. He cursed Satan, who had tempted Adam and Eve into sin, by foretelling that Jesus would someday defeat him. God promised: "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." It would hurt to have your heel bruised, and Satan was able to hurt Jesus by causing him to die on the cross. But Jesus would crush Satan's head - that is, he would cause his complete ruin and defeat - by taking away the guilt of our sins. God pictured for Adam and Eve how Jesus would save them, and when they believed in him they were saved from their sins: "And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21). Can you see what this pictures? God had the lamb die in the place of Adam and Eve, showing how Jesus would die for our sins so that we can be forgiven. God then clothed Adam and Eve with the innocence of the lamb, just as Jesus would clothe us in his own perfect righteousness. We call this message the gospel: the good news that God forgives our sin through faith in Christ and clothes us in his righteousness. If you believe this, you will be saved by the same faith that made Adam and Eve the first Christians.

There is one last thing to say about Jesus and Adam. Did you know that Adam was a type of Jesus Christ? This means that Adam was himself a picture of what Christ would come to be. Adam pictured Christ in one way: by being the covenant head (or leader) for all who belong to him. When Adam sinned, he acted



as our representative, since all of us are born from his line. The New Testament says, "In Adam all die" (1 Cor. 15:22). This means that because of Adam's sin - both the guilt of what he did on our behalf and the sinful nature we gain from him - we all must suffer death as the punishment for sin. But because of his love and grace, God sent Jesus to be a new Adam. By trusting in Jesus, we gain him as our covenant head and we are saved because of what he has done for us. Though by nature we are joined to Adam and his death, through faith we are instead joined to Jesus for his salvation. The Bible says that while sinners are joined to Adam for death, believers "in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22). Where Adam failed us by sinning, Jesus saves us by fulfilling God's covenant of salvation. We are no longer just members of Adam's sinful race, but by trusting in Jesus we have joined his new righteous people. Jesus was born to start a new human race made up of those who believe in him, are born again, and live forever in the joy of God's grace.

Don't you think that Adam and Eve would have been looking forward to Jesus' birth? They were made by him, he was their divine friend, and he was the Savior they were trusting for salvation. All these things are true of us as well if we believe in Jesus! We should be looking forward to Christmas as a way of thanking God for the wonderful salvation he has given through his Son.

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men" - John 1:4

This article originally appeared on Reformation 21 magazine



CHURCH INFORMATION

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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 - 6:55 PM
Adult Bible Study - 7:25 PM

At the Corner of River and Rhett

As the year draws to a close here at the Corner of River and Rhett I want to give pause and express my thankfulness for the remarkable people the Lord has called to serve Second Presbyterian Church on its ministry staff. Each complements one another and brings glory to God in excellent ways for the benefit of our congregation. As a Church Administrator it is a joy to serve with these outstanding Christians along with our 615 Active Members in the work and mission of Second Church.

Richard D. Phillips, Senior Minister

Pastor Phillips came to Second Church in the summer of 2007 and has proclaimed over a thousand sermons and lessons to the congregation from the pulpit. This past year he completed a multi-year project *John: Reformed Expository Commentary*, as well as several hundred Rafiki Foundation Bible Studies for use in Africa. Together with Sharon they are the parents of five amazing children. *I am thankful for his Faithfulness to the Word.*

Robert E. Spears III,

Associate Minister for Congregational Care

Pastor Spears has served on staff since 1996 and for many years led SPC Missions Teams to points around the World. This past year he journeyed to Peru (twice) where he serves on the Board of Peru Mission, one of Second Church's strategic Christian Missionary partnerships. Robert coordinates a variety of ministries for the church and together with Jenny they are parents and grandparents of a host of Second Presbyterians. *I am thankful for his Faithfulness in Ministry.*

Verlyn D. Smoker, Director of Music

In May 2014 Mr. Smoker joined the church staff from the warm plains of East Texas. An accomplished church musician and an active member of both the SPC Worship & Music and Pastoral Care Committees he has had a busy year. I am looking forward to both the Family Christmas Program (tonight) and Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve. Together with Kelli they are the parents of three talented youth. *I am thankful for his Love for Musical Beauty.*

At the Corner of River and Rhett continued

Scott Cook, *Director of Student Ministries*

Mr. Cook joined the staff in 2013 and is now in his final months as a seminary student at RTS Charlotte. He primarily works with Student Ministry. The Session will call him after graduation (DV) as an Assistant Minister in July of 2015. Scott is married to Christina. *I am thankful for his Love for Families.*

Jeff Windt, *Ministerial Intern*

Mr. Windt joined the staff this past fall and is in the middle of his seminary endeavor at RTS Charlotte. He primarily works with Middle School Ministry and balancing work and school responsibilities. Together with Mariah they have two handsome young sons. *I am thankful for his Love for the Lost.*

Rob Gustafson *Ministerial Intern*

Mr. Gustafson has served SPC as a volunteer staff member since 2013. An accomplished educator and churchman he is pursuing a Doctorate at Erskine Seminary and is currently under care of Calvary Presbytery while in pursuit of a call to serve in PCA ministry. Together with his wife Beth they are parents of two grown children. *I am thankful for his Love for People.*

Paul Settle, *Pastoral Associate*

Mr. Settle returned home to Second Church in 2010, after serving previously as our 10th Senior Minister (1976-1991). Serving in a variety of roles for the last 2 years he is an active part of the Pastoral Care ministry of SPC. A Father and Grandfather he is a Founding Father of the PCA and longtime Trustee of Westminster Theological Seminary. *I am thankful for his Love for the Church.*



The Editor

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

**WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY**

December 21, 2014

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 & 11:00 AM

A SON IS GIVEN

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hymns: 203, 219, 199

Anthem: What Child Is This?

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH

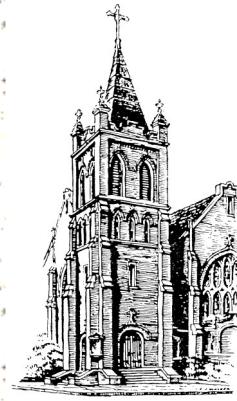
Romans 8:3-4

Hymns: 218, 207, 420

Psalter: Psalm 68 (verses 1-8)

Mr. Scott Cook preaching

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The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
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December 15, 2014

**Letter from the Senior Minister
Christmas Meditation**

As our families and churches prepare for the Christmas celebration, many are seeking to emphasize the biblical expectation of the promised Savior, rather than the commercial and sentimental emphasis of our society. One way to do this is to walk through the Old Testament, following the centuries-long expectation of God's people for the promised Messiah. This spirit is found in one of our advent hymns: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." It reads:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

In this spirit, I would like to offer a series of brief meditations on how the Old Testament anticipates Jesus' coming and in which Christ appears prior to his incarnation. If these direct our thoughts to Christ during the holiday season, and especially if these meditations prove suitable for parents to read to their children, I will be greatly rewarded.

Jesus and Adam

Did you know that Adam knew Jesus? Adam was the first human being, made by God's special creation in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:7). Jesus was there, with the Father, as they fashioned the first man and breathed into him the spirit of life. John 1:2-3 says that Jesus "was in the beginning with God. All things