

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 20

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
- 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**

### Tuesday, December 22

- 4:30 PM I Mites Basketball practice
- 5:30 PM Mites Basketball practice
- 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
- 6:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice

### Wednesday, December 23

No Wednesday night activities

### Thursday, December 24

Church Office Closed

- 6:00 PM Lessons and Carols

### Friday, December 25

Church Office Closed



Basketball games (see schedule in Herald)

### 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. 16 Family Night Christmas Dinner and Youth Program
- Dec. 18 College & 20's Christmas party
- Dec. 18 Middle School Christmas party
- Dec. 20 The Lord's Supper at the evening service
- Dec. 23 No Wednesday night activities
- Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 24-28 Church Office Closed
- Dec. 27 Christmas Hymn Sing
- Dec. 30 Church Office Closed
- Dec. 30 No Wednesday night activities
- Jan. 1 Church Office Closed
- Jan. 3 Deacon Ordination/Installation
- Jan. 3 Reception for New Deacons
- Jan. 6 WIC Council
- Jan. 6 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- Jan. 10 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- Jan. 12 Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
- Jan. 11-12 WIC Circles
- Jan. 12 Missions Committee Meeting
- Jan. 17 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
- Jan. 18 Young At Heart
- Jan. 19 WIC Bible Study resumes
- Jan. 20 Administration Committee Meeting
- Jan. 23 Calvary Presbytery at Fellowship PCA
- Jan. 24 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
- Jan. 27 CE Committee Meeting
- Jan. 31 Koinonia Volunteers' Fellowship

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

## Remembering One Another

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

**Jerry Rice**  
12 Galphin Drive  
Greenville, SC 29609  
244-4473

## Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

**David and Susan Eller**  
**Ginny Erwin**  
**Bill and Faye Evans**  
**Andrew and Becca**

## 2015 PCA 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 39 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](http://www.pcadonate.org)

 **Basketball Schedule for the Week** 

Dec. 21	6:00 pm	Sr. High Girls	Home
Dec. 21	8:00 pm	Sr. High Boys	Home

**2016 Offering Envelopes**

The 2016 offering envelopes are on a table outside the church library. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes this week. 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. Please use the 2016 envelopes beginning the first Sunday in January. Your 2015 envelope number may be different from the 2016 number.

**Year-End Contributions**

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2015 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

**December Schedule**

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:  
Wednesday, December 23  
Wednesday, December 30
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:  
December 24-28
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of:  
December 28.

**Construction Notice**

YPS is doing a major concrete pour (250 truck loads of concrete) this coming Tuesday night (12/15) @ midnight until at least 4pm on Wednesday afternoon. Rhett Street will be closed during this time from the intersection of River up to our parking lot entrance and it is possible that our entrance could be blocked due to all the trucks.

*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program  
Wednesday, December 16th @ 5:30 pm, Church Gym  
Dinner: 5:30 pm \* Program: 7:00 pm*

*Lessons and Carols  
Thursday, December 24, 2015  
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 Meeting December 13th the following Deacons were elected:  
David Caldwell                      Phil Larson  
Hunter Leigh                         Hank Ludwig  
Ernest Ray Ouzts                    Spencer Player  
Ken Pujdak                             Kye Zimmerman
  - ⇒ The 2016 SPC Budget was received and adopted by the congregation.
- The new Deacons will be ordained and installed at the evening worship service on January 3, 2016.

**Christmas Parties**

- WIC Circle 6 Christmas Fellowship**  
Dec. 9 @ 7:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall
- ACTS Sunday School Class Christmas Party**  
Dec. 11 @ 6:30 PM at Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Sr. High Christmas Party**  
Dec. 11 @ 6:00 PM at Scott and Christina Cooks'
- College & 20's Class Christmas Party**  
Dec. 18 @ 6:30 PM at Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Middle School Christmas Party**  
Dec. 18 @ 6:30 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall

**The church office will be closed Friday, 1/1/16.**

**Read Through the Bible in a Year**

Have you ever wanted to read through the entire Bible in a year? Have you ever tried – and failed? Have you done it in the past and want to do it again? We are going to dedicate a Sunday school class to help you read through the Bible in 2016. Every week the class will “preview” the reading assignment for the upcoming week and will “review” the reading assignment from the previous week. The preview will include outlines, key doctrines, important memory verses, maps, etc. The review will allow for questions and comments.

We will read through the Bible chronologically – to help you understand the relationships between the different parts of the Bible (for instance we will first read Genesis 1-11, but the next readings are in the book of Job!!!) The daily reading assignments are NOT overwhelming – usually 3-4 chapters a day. Even if you fall behind a day or two, catching up is not too hard. To illustrate, these are the readings for the first three weeks:

Jan. 1	Gen. 1-3	Jan. 8	Job 17-20	Jan. 15	Job 40-42
Jan. 2	Gen. 4-7	Jan. 9	Job 21-23	Jan. 16	Gen. 12-15
Jan. 3	Gen. 8-11	Jan. 10	Job 24-28	Jan. 17	Gen. 16-18
Jan. 4	Job 1-5	Jan. 11	Job 29-31	Jan. 18	Gen. 19-21
Jan. 5	Job 6-9	Jan. 12	Job 32-34	Jan. 19	Gen. 22-24
Jan. 6	Job 10-13	Jan. 13	Job 35-37	Jan. 20	Gen. 25-26
Jan. 7	Job 14-16	Jan. 14	Job 38-39	Jan. 21	Gen. 27-29

The first class will start on December 27 in the large Sunday school room down the hall from the church office (C-209) to preview the first few days (since January 1 falls on a Friday). The classes will be recorded and put on the church website. The class notes, outlines, and slides will also be on the church website. So if you miss a week or two, you will be able to catch up even if you are away from the church. If you have any questions, you may speak to Pastor Spears (864) 430-7389.

**Christmas Hymn Sing  
Sunday, December 27, 2014  
Immediately following the evening service**



- e. Christians can be in error (Galileo, etc), so we need to evaluate our doctrines to make sure they really are true to Scripture.
- f. Ultimately, Christians give priority to biblical authority. Rather than making Scripture change to fit science, we evaluate science by Scripture. Young: “general revelation is to be interpreted by special revelation, nature by Scripture, ‘science’ by the Bible” (*Studies in Genesis*, 54).

## 2. Non-Literal Theories of the Creation Days

### a. Age-Day Concordance Theory

- i. Accepts scientific theories of a very old creation.
- ii. Notes that “day” (Hebrew, *yom*) may mean “era.” Supposes that the creation days were ages of millions/billions of years.
- iii. Problems: The days of Genesis 1 are clearly ordinary days (“evening and morning”); even if the days are ages, it doesn’t fit scientific theories.

### b. Analogical Days View

- i. Assumes that the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-3) is an unending, eternal day, because it does not end with “evening and morning.” Asserts that this proves a “day-age” analogy in the text.
- ii. But the seventh day is not eternal. No biblical warrant for this. The seventh day is a *symbol* for the eternal Sabbath. Note earlier problems with day-age.

### c. The Framework Hypothesis

- i. Argues that Genesis 1 does not intend to be read as a literal chronology, but a literary story focused only on theological themes.
- ii. Argument #1: Genesis 1 is poetry or “semi-poetic in the epic tradition.” Response: Genesis 1 lacks the parallel restatement that is basic to Hebrew poetry. Genesis is absolutely historical prose narrative, employing the *Waw Consecutive* grammatical structure (Hebrew *waw + verb = historical narrative*).



- iii. Argument #2: Genesis 2 tells us that Genesis 1 should be interpreted as *ordinary vs. special providence* (i.e. nature working normally vs. supernaturally). Also argues that too much happens in Genesis 2 to occur on an ordinary day (day 6 of creation). Response: But Genesis 2 is not a parallel account of Genesis 1. The introduction: “these are the generations of” means that this is the history that results from the prior history. Moreover, Adam need not have studied every last specie (and there would not have been that many “kinds” any way, so there is no reason to doubt that Genesis 2 could have happened in a single day.

- iv. Argument #3: The days of creation in Genesis 1 are organized in a literary structure: God provides environments (kingdoms) and places occupants (kings). Days 1-4 (light and darkness/ sun and moon); Days 2-5 (waters and sky/ fish and birds); Days 3-6 (dry earth/ land creatures). This shows that it is thematic, not chronological. Response: Why does a literary scheme prove it was not literal? Why shouldn’t we think that God did it the way that he said?

### d. Assessment of Non-Literal Theories:

- i. None of them handle the text of Scripture faithfully, but impose outside truth on the Bible.
- ii. Their motivation is to accommodate Scripture to science. Henri Blocher: “The rejection of all the theories accepted by the scientists requires considerable bravado. . . . current opinions, built on the studies of thousands of research scientists who keep a very close eye on one another, continue to look very probable.” (*In the Beginning*, 48).

## 3. Evidence for a Literal Chronology of Genesis 1

- a. Genre: As historical prose narrative, Genesis 1 represents actual, literal historical events. Derek Kidner: “the author shows no consciousness of speaking otherwise than literally.” (*Genesis*, 61).



- b. Grammar: *Waw Consecutive* construction marks historical prose narrative (this happened, then this happened, then this happened...). *All* of Genesis functions this way.
- c. Numbered Days: The numbering of the days (day one, day two, etc.) indicates a literal sequence in a genuine creation week.
- d. Context: We know how to interpret “day” because the context is one in which there are evenings and mornings. These are ordinary 24-hour days.
- e. Biblical support: The Bible looks back on Genesis 1-3 as literal history (2 Cor. 4:6; Mt. 19:4; Ps. 33:6; and especially Ex. 20:8-11, the Fourth Commandment.)
- f. How do we answer the conflict with science? Creation science and the “mature creation” theory.

## 4. Creation and the Gospel.

- a. Mathematicians or Christians? Rightly interpreting Scripture is essential to being a Christian.
- b. Christian truth does not hang on literary structures but on historical events that really happened (creation, fall, redemption).
- c. The Bible’s account of creation is essential to the gospel. Without a literal creation account there is no fall of Adam, and the rest of the Bible has no relevance.
- d. The unbelieving world is just as skeptical of the New Testament Gospels as it is of a literal Genesis 1. Science denies the possibility of Jesus’ virgin birth, miracles, resurrection, etc. The approaches taken to accommodate Genesis 1 to science will, if applied to the Gospels, eviscerate the Christian faith.
- e. Some think we can give away creation in order to gain a hearing for Jesus. But where does Christ’s story begin? Genesis 1. “In the beginning was the Word” (Jn. 1:1).

THANKFUL FOR SPC MINISTRY LEADERS

During a typical week at Second you will find over 100 people volunteering their gifts to make ministry happen at the corner of River and Rhett. This happens for multiple services each Sunday and most Wednesdays - 52 weeks a year.

SPC is blessed to have individuals sacrifice their time for the benefit of others: Choir, Counters, Greeters, Librarians, Media Techs, Nursery Volunteers, Teachers, and Ushers. Your generous use of your time and talent for the benefit of others is a wonderful expression of your love for the Savior. I would like to express my gratitude to all our ministry groups and make special mention of the following.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY TEAM

SPC Greenville likes to eat! Our Mid-Week Family supper program regularly feeds 175 people almost every Wed. night of the year. In addition to this we have a marvelous group who facilitates smaller meals for Men's Ministry, Young at Heart and other programs an additional 50 times a year. Altogether we have over 100 programs a year with food & hospitality component. We are so thankful for Kitty Swillen, Jim and Judy Bishop, Lynn and Ben Shaw and their assistants who provide delicious food around vital ministry. We also appreciate our Hostess Pat Shuford for making banquets and receptions so special.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Our Sanctuary is One Hundred Sixteen years old! Since 1909 when the congregation moved to our current location we have built and connected several structures that knit together our church family and ministry. Each building has its own challenges to maintain. The deacons have not just maintained the facility in 2015 but have invested heavily in improving it. Individual members of the Material Property committee have given hundreds of hours to the church this year and the congregation has been well served by the leadership of Jimmy Looper.

I could mention another dozen ministry groups in the church and not have even started telling the story of people who have volunteered for the Lord in 2015. Will you get involved in 2016?

~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 20, 2015

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00

A BRANCH FROM JESSE

Isaiah 11:1-9

Hymns: 203, 230, 221

Anthem: Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

MIRACLES AND THE CROSS

Luke 9:37-45

Hymns: 218, 212, 420

Psalms 97

Dr. Richard A. Phillips preaching



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

December 14, 2015

Letter from the Senior Minister  
Summary Points of "The Days of Creation"

At the suggestion of a church member, I offer an outline of last week's sermon, which was necessarily complicated. I hope this outline helps you to remember and keep track of the points that I made.

Genesis 1:5, The Days of Creation

Introduction: Does Genesis 1 teach science or theology? Should it make mathematicians or Christians? (Augustine). E.J. Young: "Inasmuch as the Bible is the Word of God, whenever it speaks on any subject, whatever that subject may be, it is accurate in what it says. The Bible may not have been given to teach science as such, but it does teach about the origin of all things" (Studies in Genesis, 43).

1. Science and the Bible.
  - a. Science reads *general revelation* (nature), while theology reads *special revelation* (Scripture). In principle they agree, having the same perfect author in God.
  - b. But there is no such thing as *objective* science, since humans all have bias and preconceptions. Sin also gives scientists a tendency to rebel against God.
  - c. There is also no such thing as *settled* science, since there is always more data to be considered, which is why theories ("scientific truths") change.
  - d. The Bible, in contrast, is the Word of a perfect, trustworthy God, who possesses all the data and was the prime actor in creation.