

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 18

8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE  
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 20

5:30 PM Mites Basketball practice  
6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training  
6:30 PM I-Mites Basketball practice

### Wednesday, December 21

5:30 PM CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
8:15 PM Senior High Boys Basketball practice

### Thursday, December 22

4:00 PM Minors Basketball practice  
5:00 PM Jr. High Boys Basketball practice

### Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed through 26th

### Saturday, December 24

6:00 PM Lessons and Carols



## 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. 14 Christmas Dinner and Program  
Dec. 15 Joel Barnett Fold Christmas Party @ Barnetts'  
Dec. 16 Chancel Choir Christmas Party @ the Smokers'  
Dec. 16 College & 20's Christmas Party @ the Cooks'  
Dec. 18 The Lord's Supper at the evening service  
Dec. 21 Churchwide Christmas Caroling  
Dec. 21 No Wednesday Night Activities  
Dec. 23-26 Church Office Closed  
Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols  
Dec. 28 No Wednesday Night Activities  
Jan. 4 WIC Council  
Jan. 4 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting  
Jan. 8 Worship & Music Committee Meeting  
Jan. 8 Deacon Ordination & Installation  
Jan. 8 Reception for New Deacons  
Jan 10-11 WIC Circles  
Jan. 10 Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting  
Jan. 11 Missions Committee Meeting  
Jan 13-15 **2017 SPC WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE**  
Jan. 15 The Lord's Supper at the morning services  
Jan. 16 Young At Heart  
Jan. 18 Administration Committee Meeting  
Jan. 25 CE Committee Meeting  
Jan. 28 Calvary Presbytery at Bailey Manor

**If you have a date for the January calendar please contact the church office this week:  
232-7621, ext. 101  
jgrant@spcgreenville.org**

## Remembering One Another

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

**Edna Heath**  
17 Green Hill Drive  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
963-5824

## Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

**Jeremy and Emily Weaver**  
**Tucker and Colin**  
**Brian and Nicole Welch**  
**Henry**  
**Dave and Mary Weiland**

## 2016 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 40 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. 17	10:00 am	I-Mites	Christ Church-Finlay
Dec. 17	10:10 am	Mites	AYMC/FBC 1
Dec. 17	12:00 pm	Minor Boys	W. Pres. 1
Dec. 17	12:30 pm	Jr. High Boys	St. George
Dec. 19	7:00 pm	Senior Girls	OLR
Dec. 19	9:00 pm	Senior Boys	St. Matthew

**2016 Offering Envelopes**

The 2017 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. 104. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. Please use the 2017 envelopes beginning the first Sunday in January. Your 2016 envelope number may be different from the 2017 number.

**Year-End Contributions**

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2016 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than Dec. 31.

**Back Pack Blessing Program**

Thank you for your generous food contributions to the Back Pack Blessing program at Augusta Circle. That need continues on a weekly basis, so more items are appreciated.

*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program  
Wednesday, December 14th @ 5:30 pm, Church Gym  
Dinner: 5:30 pm \* Program: 6:45 pm*

**Congregational Meeting**

⇒ At the Congregation Meeting December 11th the following Deacons were elected:

- John Atwood
- Mike Carey
- Willy Madrid
- Bill McDaniel
- Ron Vanderwey

⇒ The 2017 SPC Budget was received and adopted by the congregation.

The new Deacons will be ordained and installed at the evening worship service on January 8, 2017.

There will be a Reception in the gym for the new Deacons following the evening worship service.

**December Schedule**

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:  
Wednesday, December 21  
Wednesday, December 28
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:  
December 23-26
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of:  
December 26.

**Christmas Caroling**

There will be an opportunity for church members to go caroling this year to shut-ins within the congregation. Mark your calendars for the night of Wednesday, December 21st. Notify Mel Duncan (mduncan@spcgreenville.org, 232-7621 ext 102) if you would like to participate. Let Mel know if you would be willing to drive. Groups will be organized by geography and then meet at the church afterwards for refreshments.

**The church office will be closed:  
December 23-26  
and  
December 30.**

*Lessons and Carols  
Saturday, 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.*

**Good News Club**

We have lost several volunteers at the Kroc Center on Friday afternoons. We currently need Grade Shepherds in order to continue that program. You can be quickly trained to sit with the children, to encourage them and help with memory verses, and to love them! Please contact Cyndi Player (864-483-4644) if you are willing to give two hours weekly (beginning mid-January) to this most worthwhile ministry.

**Take Them A Meal**

If you would like to furnish a meal for Brian and Nicole Welch after the birth of their son, Henry Brian please go to [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com) and log-in with Welch, password 1892.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**For Christ in South Carolina and the World**  
  
2017 SPC WORLD MISSIONS  
CONFERENCE  
  
HERE WE STAND:  
THE POWER OF THE WORD  
  
January 13-15, 2017



Let me give some of the reasons why Jesus Christ took on our flesh through the womb of Mary. One reason is so that God could know us experientially and thus fully sympathize with us in our needs. Because Jesus became man, he is able to have compassion on us in our trials and he knows what it is to feel sorrow and joy as a human being. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." As such, Jesus also sets an example for us to follow, as he leads us through this life in the way that he has blazed for us.

A second reason why Jesus became man was to show us the glory of God in a form that we could receive. God is spirit and is invisible in his true nature (1 Tim. 6:16). Therefore, God the Son clothed himself in human form so that men and women could see and understand the character of God. We can know God's holiness and love by seeing it in the human life of Jesus as he is revealed in the Bible. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9).

Most importantly, Jesus became a man in order to die for our sins. Since it was men and women who broke God's law and fell under God's wrath, the true atonement could only be made by one who was a man. Jesus became a human being so that he could offer himself for the sins of his people, since he alone was able to suffer the penalty of death in his human nature and yet conquer through life in his deity.

In the ancient world there were many myths about gods who came down to earth for a little while, until they got tired and returned to the clouds. But nowhere in the ancient world was there ever an idea of God becoming man, the Word taking up flesh, out of his desire to save us. But this is our joyful Christmas message: "Lo, within a manger lies / He who built the starry skies... / Thus to come from highest bliss / Down to such a world as this!" What does this say about God's desire for our salvation – that he actually stepped into our world and became one of us! How great is God's love for each of his people, that he would send his Son to die for us and thus to enable us to live with God forever in glory! This is the gift we celebrate with thanks to God at Christmas.

John says that Jesus not only dwelt among us, like God's tabernacle in the midst of the exodus tribes of Israel, but that he showed us his glory. There is so much glory associated with Christmas, and I



hope you all – especially our children – can sense some of the glory, of which the angels sang in the fields of Bethlehem – during your Christmas celebrations. But, according to Jesus, the true glory for which he came was revealed at the cross. On the brink of his entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion, Jesus declared, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (Jn. 12:23). Jesus was not talking about the Hosannas of Palm Sunday but about the agonies of his atoning death. On the cross, God showed us the true shame of our sin, since even one so perfect as Jesus had to suffer death for it. But on the cross, God also showed us the true glory of his love, since he was willing to give even his own Son if that is what it took for us to be saved. Now, it is by seeing the glory of God's grace on the cross that sinners like us are saved. Is Jesus, who was born in the manger to die on the cross, your glory?

Today, the glory of Jesus, "the Word", shines into our hearts through the writings of the Bible (2 Pet. 1:19). So we hold in a book the truth of God in all its glory, provided for us through the ancient prophets and apostles of Jesus Christ. If we have received God's grace at the cross of Christ, then let us love and desire the knowledge of God's truth in his Word. Let's make sure that this Christmas season we celebrate God's gift by spending some time in the Bible. Then let our Christmas gift to him be our trusting devotion to Jesus and our delight in worshiping God with thanks in our church and together with our families. In this way, may the Lord give you all his richest blessings this Christmas season.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Rick Phillips



### CHURCH INFORMATION

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

**Telephone:** 864.232.7621

**Website:** [spcgreenville.org](http://spcgreenville.org)

#### Social Media

[facebook.com/spcgreenville](https://www.facebook.com/spcgreenville)  [twitter.com/spcgreenville](https://twitter.com/spcgreenville) 

**Fax:** (888) 511-1949 \* **Email:** [info@spcgreenville.org](mailto:info@spcgreenville.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Information Centers:** Church Services information 1 \* Directions 2

Hospital Information 3 \* Wednesday night menu 4

Church Directory 5 \* Weekly Activities 6 \* Monthly Activities 7

**Church Services:** **Sunday:** Sunday School - 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 AM \* Evening Worship - 6:00 PM

**Wednesday:** Supper - 5:30 PM \* Prayer Meeting - 6:55 PM

Adult Bible Study - 7:25 PM



### SPC Bible Reading Plan

Below is the upcoming week's schedule for the SPC Bible Reading Plan. We invite all members to participate in this exciting adventure of reading through the Bible in one year.

Dec. 19	Titus 1-3
Dec. 20	1 Peter 1-5
Dec. 21	Hebrews 1-6
Dec. 22	Hebrews 7-10
Dec. 23	Hebrews 11-13
Dec. 24	2 Timothy 1-4
Dec. 25	2 Peter 1-3; Jude 1



#### Joel Barnett Fold Christmas Party

Dec. 15 @ 6:30 pm at the home of the Barnetts'

#### Chancel Choir Christmas Party

Dec. 16 @ 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the home of the Smokers'

#### College & 20's Class Christmas Party

Dec. 16 @ 6:00 pm at the home of the Cooks'

Isaiah 9:6-7

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end, on the throne of David and over  
his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with  
righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (ESV)*

**State of Theology in America: A Survey**

Here's what Americans think. Less than half, only 47%, think that God is the author of Scripture. About the same amount think Scripture is true. And the same amount, 48%, agree with the statement, "The Bible alone is the written word of God." If we press even further we find that only 43% agree that the Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches. More disagree with that statement than agree. To be exact, 46% disagree. The Bible has had and continues to have a place, quite literally, in American homes. But the Bible does not have the place it deserves. C. S. Lewis made the memorable observation that Jesus is either Lord, liar, or lunatic. One thing He can't be, though, is a good man or a good teacher. He's either delusional or deceptive; or, He is exactly who He claims to be. The same is true of Scripture. It's either God's authoritative and true Word, or it is a dangerously deceptive book, or it is a book of tales by deluded madmen. It cannot be one thing, however. It cannot be a good book. To a certain extent, it is good that the Bible has a place in American culture. The Bible provides a solid ethical base for a civil society. The Bible is the means by which God's grand plan of redemption is revealed. The Bible is powerful and life-changing. Its presence in homes should be encouraged and applauded. It was said of Calvin's Geneva that as domestic issues reached the ruling body of the City, known as the Consistory, one of the first questions asked was if there was a Bible in the home. If not, the first thing the Consistory did was to order that a Bible be secured. For those without means, the Consistory readily provided one. Exposure to God's Word is a good thing. But good things can become problematic things. So it is with the Bible in America. The State of Theology survey shows that Americans prefer a tamed and domesticated God. The State of Theology survey also shows they prefer a tamed and domesticated Word of God. Just as a tamed God is really not God at all, so, too, a tamed Bible is really not the Bible at all.

*~From Ligonier Ministries*

**The Second Presbyterian Church**

105 River Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND  
THE LORD'S DAY  
December 18, 2016**

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
8:30 & 11:00 am

**THE I WILLS OF GOD**  
Genesis 12:1-3  
Hymns: 214, 221/131, 34  
Anthem: The Sussex Carol  
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

**EVENING WORSHIP**  
6:00 pm

**HOLY IS HE!**  
Psalm 99  
Hymns: 199, 193, 420  
Psalm 119 (verses 145-160)  
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



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

December 12, 2016

**Letter from the Senior Minister  
The Word Became Flesh**

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory" (Jn. 1:14).

Our Christmas celebrations are like Israel's exodus from Egypt. This great migration took on a beautiful splendor, as Israel was laden with the treasures of the Nile, just as our Advent season glitters in red and gold. But the true glory of the exodus was not the shimmering colors of Egyptian riches, nor even the uplifted faces of the people following Moses to the Promised Land. Rather, the true glory of Israel was the glory of God in their midst through the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. So it is for us with Christmas: our true glory is that of Christ himself, as he is proclaimed, trusted, and praised in the midst of his people. This was the apostle John's teaching in his Gospel as he spoke of the meaning of Christmas: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).

Unlike the other Gospels that tell the events of Jesus' birth, John's Gospel tells the story of Christmas in theological terms. John 1:14 states the doctrine of the incarnation of Christ. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, yet the second person of the Trinity did not come into being at this birth. Rather, John says, "the Word," that is, God the Son, took up a human form and nature to add to his eternally divine nature. Christ's incarnation means that God's Son became human in the fullest sense, without losing any of his divinity. Being sinless, his is uncorrupted, true humanity, as God had originally designed it.