

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 9

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL** (5th grade & under)
 10:00 AM **Congregational Meeting to Elect Deacons and receive and support 2019 budget**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
GLORIA! Presented by Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra
 7:30 PM Churchwide Reception in Gymnasium

Monday, December 10

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 11

11:00 AM WIC Circle 3 Christmas Luncheon @ Mary Settle's
 11:30 AM WIC Circle 5 Christmas Luncheon/FH
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:30 PM WIC Circle 2 Christmas Dinner and Devotion at Tammy Loopers'
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 at Harris Teeters'

Wednesday, December 12

5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting
 5:30 PM **CHRISTMAS DINNER & PROGRAM**
 6:00 PM Session Meeting

Thursday, December 13

6:00 PM Mission to Main Street
 6:00 PM Good Grief Dinner in Gym

Friday, December 14

10:30 AM Playdate at the church
 12:00 PM Men's Lunch & Bible Study

Saturday, December 15

2:00 PM Hunter Leigh/Attee Reese wedding

Save the Date

SPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

January 18-20, 2019

Speakers:

Josh Rieger, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, England
Matt Patrick, RUF @ Wofford

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 Dec. 8 WIC Cookie Exchange
 Dec. 8 Young Adults "Night Out on the Town"
 Dec. 9 Congregational Meeting to Elect Deacons and receive and support 2019 Budget
 Dec. 9 Christmas Concert and Reception
 Dec. 10 Perry Correctional Christmas Party
 Dec. 11 WIC Circle 5 Christmas Luncheon
 Dec. 11 WIC Circle 3 Christmas Luncheon
 Dec. 11-12 WIC Circles
 Dec. 12 Session Meeting
 Dec. 12 Missions Committee Meeting
 Dec. 12 Christmas Dinner & Program
 Dec. 13 Good Grief Dinner/Gymnasium
 Dec. 14 Playdate
 Dec. 16 The Lord's Supper at the evening service
 Dec. 17 Barnett Fold Christmas party
 Dec. 17 Young Adults Cookie Exchange/ Game Night
 Dec. 19 No Wednesday Evening Activities
 Dec. 19 Christmas Caroling
 Dec. 21 Mobley Fold/ACTS SS Class Christmas party
 Dec. 23 One Worship Service (10am; SS 9am)
 Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols
 Dec. 24-28 Church Office Closed
 Dec. 26 No Wednesday Night Activities
 Dec. 28-Jan.1 Ridge Haven Winter Camp (7th-12th grades)
 Dec. 30 One Worship Service (10am; SS 9am)
 Dec. 30 Christmas Hymn Sing

Scripture Reading for the Week

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

*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.*

Remembering One Another

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

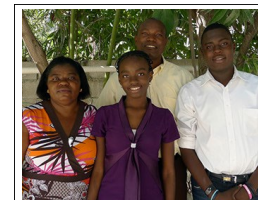
Louise McAlister
 14 Millbrooke Circle
 Greenville, SC 29609

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Shannon Flaherty
Wayne and Gladys Fullerton
William and Laura Fultz
Steven and Carrie

Missionary of the Week



Rev. and Mrs. Octavius Delfils
Reformed Presbyterian Church
Haiti Mission

Rev. Delfils and Rev. Hopp are working together in church plants located both on the island of La Gonave and in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The OPC has been working on the island of La Gonave since 2002. This remote, rural island is located in the harbor of Port-au-Prince and is home to over 100,000 people. It takes an hour and a half to reach the island by ferry. The work on La Gonave began with five congregations and has expanded to seven. Attendance at the services of these churches in the mountains of La Gonave averages between 30 and 70 people. The church at Dolgace is led by Pastor Lexene Leveille while the other six churches have men who are elders-in-training. These men teach and lead worship for the congregations from week to week. The training of men for the ministry is done through seminars held four or five times per year on the island.

Special areas of labor: Leadership training, Youth & Children, Translation work.

It's Cookie Swappin' Time



The WIC Cookie Swap will be Sat., Dec. 8 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am until 12 noon. Come with your best cookies and join in the fun, food, and fellowship!

Young Adults "Night Out On Town"



Saturday, December 8th
Dinner at Barley's (7:00-8:30 pm)
Ice on Main (8:30-10:00 pm)

For more information email Judith Campbell:
campbell.judithm@gmail.com

There will be a Congregational Meeting on December 9th, at 10:00 am to elect Deacons and to receive and support the 2019 budget.

Play Dates



Next Playdate: Dec. 14 (church)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Please let Amy Plourde (864-787-6017) know if you plan to attend.

*The pleasure of your company
is requested at the marriage ceremony of
J. Hunter Leigh
and
N. Attee Reese
December 15, 2018 at 2:00 pm
Second Presbyterian Church
Reception to follow*



Gloria!

**Antonio Vivaldi
December 9, 2018**



Presented by The Chancel Choir
at the evening worship service.
Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family.
A Reception for the church will follow.

*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program
Wednesday, December 12th @ 5:30 pm, Church Gym
Dinner: 5:30 pm * Program: 6:45 pm*



Christmas Parties



- Dec. 8 WIC Cookie Exchange/Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 10 Perry Correctional Christmas Party
- Dec. 11 WIC Circle 5 Christmas Luncheon/FH/11:30am
- Dec. 11 WIC Circle 3 Christmas Luncheon @ Mary Settle's @ 11:00 AM
- Dec. 11 WIC Circle 2 Christmas Dinner @ Tammy Loopers' @ 6:30 pm
- Dec. 12 Christmas Dinner & Program
- Dec. 13 Good Grief Dinner/Church Gymnasium
- Dec. 17 Barnett Fold Christmas party @ the Barnetts, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 21 Mobley Fold/ACTS SS Class Christmas party at the Mobeys @ 6:30 pm

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 19th. 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.

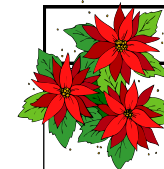
December Schedule

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:
Wednesday, December 19
Wednesday, December 26
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:
December 24-28
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of:
December 24th.
- ⇒ One Worship Services:
December 23
December 30
(SS-9:00 am; Morning Worship-10:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm)

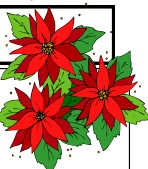
Sunday School & Children's Chapel

Sunday School and Children's Chapel will be held on December 9, 2018 for 5th grade and below. Children's Chapel will be held in the Chapel. A Class for our visitors will be led by Rev. Chad Bailey.

Christmas Poinsettias



It's time to order the Christmas Poinsettias for the sanctuary. This year you may purchase a white Poinsettia for \$10.25.
Orders will need to be in by Dec. 9th.



If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the form below and leave it in the church office. **(Please do not put in the offering plate.)**

I would like to purchase __Poinsettia (s) at \$10.25 ea. Total: _____
In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____
(Name) _____ Telephone # _____

When We Use Extraordinary Means

It's plenty, because bad things happen when we exchange God's means of grace for our own—or when we misuse his. Ask Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu. While handling the sacred things in worship, they offered strange fire on God's altar—a means of worship he did not command. The result? God vaporized them.

Ask Old Testament Israel, who embraced the pantheon of deities worshiped by the nations around them. So God used Assyria and Babylon—wicked nations—as instruments of judgment. (Of course, in his holiness God poured out judgment on those nations for their sin as well.)

One of the under-discussed principles of the Reformation is simplicity. Worship, ministry, and all the things that go with it (including church architecture) should be simple. My north Georgia friend was on to something that we—even in our good desire to see Christians edified and sinners embrace Christ—often forget: God performs his extraordinary work of spiritual awakening through ordinary people and ordinary things.

When We Use Ordinary Means

In Acts 2:23, Peter preached “this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, [whom] you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.” And then we read, “There were added that day (to the church) about three thousand souls” (v. 41). The “foolishness of preaching” has power that confounds our wisdom, for what the world sees as weak is strong in heaven's sight—and vice-versa (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18–2:5; 2 Cor. 12:1–10).

Acts 2:42 recounts church-wide devotion to God's ordinary means: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Moreover, Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel boldly to the Gentiles—and God brought awakening: “And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region” (Acts 13:48).

The conversion of Charles Spurgeon is a remarkable illustration of the Word's power. As a 15-year-old he ducked into a Primitive Methodist Church to escape a snowstorm. The regular preacher was away, and a substitute stepped into the pulpit and read Isaiah 45:22—“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.” God cut Spurgeon to the heart. Spurgeon's kingdom influence defies imagination. It began with the bare reading of Scripture.

When we use God's ordinary means, we get his power with them. There are so many reasons to build our churches around a ministry of God's ordinary means of grace, but here are five.

1. They are timeless.

God never changes, nor does his Word. Protestant liberalism argued that Christianity must change or die. Today, most churches who bought into that message are dying. Many churches that preach the genuine gospel are growing.

2. They may be deployed by any faithful church.

I pastor an obscure church of approximately 60 people. We certainly desire to grow in both grace and number, but we don't have to wait until we have bricks and mortar or a top-notch sound system to be a valid church doing valid, Word-centered ministry. We take no pride in being small—that's a different heart issue—but our elders and members are simply trusting God to honor his Word.

3. They do not require extraordinary innovation.

In God's economy the weak is strong and the strong is weak (2 Cor. 12:1–10). The bar for ministry success, then, is persevering faithfulness.

The ordinary means of grace may appear pathetic and insignificant, with little potential to accomplish anything of deep effect. But God works this way. He used a rebellious prophet to reach Nineveh with the good news. He turned a weak, cowardly, Jesus-denying disciple into one of the boldest preachers the world has known. Though we are deeply flawed and desperately feeble, he uses us.

4. They promote humility and reverential worship.

When God sets the agenda and we follow, we are admitting that he is sovereign, and we are not. When we deploy his means, we are saying, “You are God, and I am not. You have revealed yourself in Scripture, and I joyfully submit to your wisdom.” That's humility. When we humble ourselves, we are positioned to worship God with grateful awe, because he has done it.

5. Using them rightly is an act of faith.

Jesus promised, “I will build my church and the gates of hades will not overcome it” (Matt. 16:18). God builds his church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, which means his Word, with Christ as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). The ordinary means of grace are the divinely appointed, Spirit-driven carpenter of the church.

The Word of God and the Spirit of God conspire to form the engine that pulls the cars down the tracks of salvation and sanctification. We must unleash them faithfully, with all the energy God gives us, trusting he will use them to perform the miracle of remaking sinners into saints.

On a purely human level, our task as church leaders is simple. Like Cal Ripken, we must show up every Lord's Day and at every evangelism outreach, day after day, week after week, year after year, faithfully unleashing his ordinary means of grace. Then we watch, as God builds his church in a way the world, with all its extraordinary things, will never be able to explain.

This article originally appeared on the Gospel Coalition website and is used with their permission.

Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

Y Is YHWH

YHWH is known by the technical term *Tetragrammaton* (Gk., meaning “four letters”), these are the four consonants which make up the divine name (Exod. 3:15; found more than 6,000 times in the OT). The written Hebrew language did not include vowels, only the consonants were used; thus readers supplied the vowels as they read (this is true even today in Hebrew newspapers). Reverence for the divine name led to the practice of avoiding its use lest one run afoul of commandments such as Exod. 20:7 or Lev. 24:16.

Treasurer's Report

NOVEMBER 2018 & YTD

	Actual		
	Nov. 2018	YTD 2018	YTD Budget
Offerings	96,652	1,079,793	1,220,083
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	93,380	955,697	1,060,555
Mission	<u>3,308</u>	<u>131,926</u>	<u>159,528</u>
Total Outlays	96,688	1,087,623	1,220,083
Net Offerings	(36)	(7,830)	

- Contributions in November 2018 were \$96,652 vs. budget of \$110,917.
- Contributions for November 2017 were \$104,441.
- Contributions YTD November 2018 were \$1,079,793 compared to YTD November 2017 of \$1,111,898. Net decrease of \$32,105.
- Operating expenses for November 2018 were \$93,380 versus the budget of \$96,414.
- The fourth quarter Mission and Benevolence payments are expected to be paid in December.
- 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 Doug McDaniel or David Rainey.

Corner of River and Rhett

MEET JEFF EARLY
Our New Ministerial Intern



I was raised by a single mother in a nominal Christian home in the Richmond Virginia area. We attended several different churches while I was growing up, everything from Southern Baptist, to Methodist, to Assembly's of God. For various reasons we never developed roots in any of the churches we visited. That all changed in fall of 2011 when I was invited by a dear friend named Bethany to attend a local Independent Baptist church with her and her family. The Lord used that church and the power of His Word to completely transform my life. *For it is no empty word for you, but your very life* (Deuteronomy 32:47a). Over the course of the next couple of months I wound up quitting my second job so I could attend evening services as well. I wanted to know Jesus better.

After a couple of years of deep personal study I became convinced of the Reformed Faith. I also was gradually afforded more and more teaching opportunities in the church to the point where Bethany (by this point my wife) encouraged me to apply for seminary. With her support and encouragement we moved to Greenville in the Summer of 2018 with our daughter Brooke. I am currently pursuing my MDiv at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Shortly after arriving in Greenville, the Lord led my family to Second Presbyterian Church. It is an honor to serve Christ by serving his saints.

The Editor 

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND

THE LORD'S DAY

December 9, 2018

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 am & 11:00 am

THE DAYS OF WEeping

Genesis 50:1-14

Hymns: 199, 193, 609

Anthem: Carol of the Annunciation
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

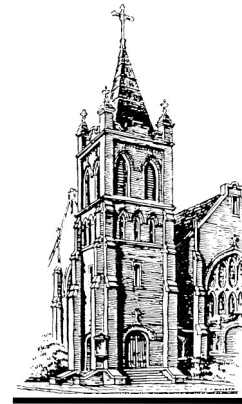
6:00 pm

GLORIA!

Antonio Vivaldi

Presented by
The Second Presbyterian Chancel Church Choir
with Chamber Orchestra

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



The West End Herald

Vol. CXXVI, Edition 49

The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

December 3, 2018

**5 Reasons the Ordinary Means
Are Extraordinary Gifts
From the Gospel Coalition**

Cal Ripken Jr. became an extraordinary baseball player by doing an ordinary thing: he showed up for work. He did it again and again and again, a record 2,632 consecutive times. The Hall of Fame third baseman first appeared in the Baltimore Orioles starting lineup on May 30, 1982. His name wouldn't be absent until September 20, 1998.

Barry Bonds became baseball's Benedict Arnold by attempting something extraordinary: bending baseball's rules. One of the most feared sluggers of the 1990s and 2000s, Bonds broke a most hallowed record—Hank Aaron's 755 career home runs. But Bonds did it by cheating. For the last several years of his career, he took drugs that artificially enhanced his performance—and inflated his home-run totals—enabling him to pass Aaron.

These two baseball players illustrate two different approaches to ministry—God's way and ours. In the Reformed tradition, preaching, prayer and the ordinances—baptism and the Lord's Supper—are often called the "ordinary means of grace," since they form the heart of worship and the core of local church ministry.

But in our good desire to see disciples made, I fear we get thrown by the term "ordinary."

Grace Is Not Ordinary

The phrase "ordinary means of grace" does not imply God's work is dull and unspectacular. There is nothing ordinary about God's grace. His Spirit uses the public proclamation of an ancient book to convince an enemy army to love him and want to join his family.

A few months ago, a pastor from my hometown told me he'd recently planted a new church. I asked him to tell me more about it. As only a mountain man from north Georgia could put it, he said, "Well, it ain't much to look at. Just preachin', prayin', and sangin'." But we figure that's plenty." Plenty, indeed.