

Q: I've heard it said that the Psalms are so meaningful in showing the response of God's people to the "crucible of trial." Is this right?

A. I had a seminary professor who explained the Psalms this way: Most of the Psalms spend about 2/3 of their time saying, "life is really a bummer." But then the second-to-last verse says, "Oh yeah, but I have been forgetting about God." The last verse then tells us, "Well, if God is there then maybe I will be all right after all." That is not a bad summary of a lot of Psalms. I should add to this their piercing depth in probing the fears, suffering, and griefs of God's people in the midst of trials. The Psalms do not suffer from Jeremiah's complaint against those who heal the wounds of God's people lightly! Instead, they probe deeply and painfully that we might be cast upon the mercies of God alone.

Q: Are the Psalms really the hymnbook of God's Old Testament people, and is this why we sing them at Second Church?

A. Yes, and yes. It is helpful to remember that the Psalms were originally sung, which explains why they are so effective in dealings with our emotions. We sing a Psalm every Sunday evening, and I usually have us do a hymn in the morning that is based on a Psalm. We will likely sing quite a few of the Psalms after the sermon, many of which are in our hymnal. I like to remember that our dear Lord Jesus would have learned these very Psalms as a boy in the house of Joseph and Mary and that so many of them speak directly about Him. When Jesus gathered with His disciples, we know that they would sing from the Psalter during meal-times. I feel like I am joining Jesus at worship when I sing the Psalms – and, in fact, I am!

Q: Ultimately do the Psalms teach us that the response to adversity in the Christian life is joyfulness or sober-mindedness?

A: One of my mottos is that being a Christian does not make me less human but more human. Christ not only conveys divine blessings to me but He expands my humanity. This means that as a Christian I experience the full range of the human condition, including the highs and the lows. This is exactly what we will see in the Psalms. They will reduce us to tears and they will lift us up on wings of eagles. They will help us to be sober and they will convey a joy to our hearts. Psalm 2 tells us to "rejoice with trembling" – that is the kind of realism we encounter in the Psalms. They remind us that we are not saved from being real human beings but rather to being real human beings. God made us to bear His image, and the Psalms help us to connect with His heart and to reflect His attributes in our real experiences, both high and low.

I give my thanks to Mel for his excellent questions, which make me all the more excited about the journey we will be taking in the coming months in the Book of Psalms.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Phillips

#### CHURCH INFORMATION

Website: [www.secondpca.org](http://www.secondpca.org)  
Telephone: Office (864) 232-7621

Fax: (864) 232-7622 \* Email: [info@secondpca.org](mailto:info@secondpca.org)  
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

Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Station WLFJ 660 AM

### Upcoming Events

Nov. 14	International Day of Prayer
Nov. 14	College Lunch at the Shaws
Nov. 15	Young At Heart
Nov. 17	Administration Committee Meeting
Nov. 19-21	<b>FULL CONFIDENCE CONFERENCE</b>
Nov. 21	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Dinner and Program
Nov. 25-26	Church Office Closed
Nov. 27	WIC decorates the church for Christmas
Nov. 28	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee meeting

### December Calendar

Please call the church office this coming week if you have a December date for the calendar. We encourage Sunday School classes and other church groups to be sure and let us know the date if you are planning a Christmas party. Due to the Thanksgiving holidays, and this busy time of year, we would like to have all dates on the church calendar before Thanksgiving Day. The office will be closed Thursday and Friday of that week.

### Young At Heart Thanksgiving Luncheon

The monthly Young At Heart luncheon will be Monday, November 15, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Since this will be a very special Thanksgiving lunch the cost is \$7.00 per person payable at the door. Gordon Rosensteel (Judy Brigrman's granddaughter) will be presenting a Thanksgiving Piano Recital. Gordon has been playing piano since the age of 7, with 8 of those years having formal training. After enjoying a selection of sacred and classical piano pieces there will be a time of fellowship.

### Ushering

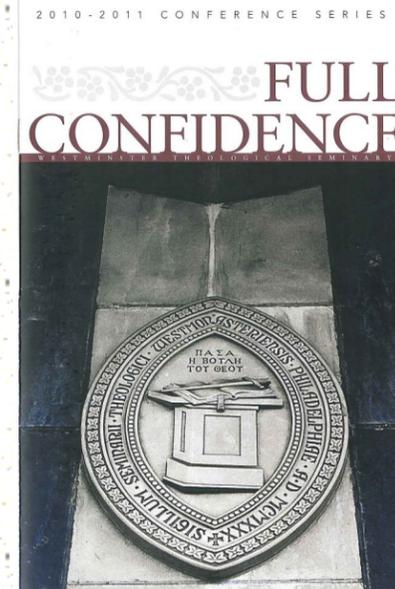
Any man, high school age and above, interested in serving as an usher for any or all of the Sunday services next year, please contact Kip Altman as soon as possible. ([ckaltman@yahoo.com](mailto:ckaltman@yahoo.com) or 292-3353) There will be an informational meeting for all interested, future and current, on December 8th at 8:15 in the sanctuary.

### Music Notes

Choir Members: Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 4th. We will rehearse Messiah from 4-6 pm in the sanctuary. Following rehearsal we will have our annual Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. Please bring heavy hors d'oeuvres, spouses, and a white elephant gift.

### Upcoming Dates for December

WIC Wreathmaking	Dec. 2
Messiah Rehearsal/ Choir Christmas Party	Dec. 4
Deacon Election	Dec. 5
Messiah Presentation	Dec. 12
Christmas Supper/ Caroling Downtown	Dec. 15
Jr. High Christmas Party	Dec. 18
Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon	Dec. 20
No Wednesday night activities	Dec. 22
Lessons and Carols	Dec. 24



### The Bible Should It Be Trusted?

November 19-21, 2010  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Friday: 7-9 pm  
Saturday: 9-12 Noon  
Sunday: 8:30 & 11 am

#### Speakers:

Rev. Dr. K. Scott Oliphint  
Rev. Dr. Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.  
Rev. Dr. David B. Garner  
Rev. John Currie

Register today at  
[wts.edu/fullconfidence](http://wts.edu/fullconfidence)  
or see Robert Spears/Melton Duncan

### Operation Christmas Child

Once again we have the opportunity to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project. Informational brochures are available through Pat Tyner, the church office, or posted throughout the church. Information on gift ideas and how to pack the box can be found in the brochure.

**Please plan on bringing your prepared box(es) to the church office by Sunday, November 14th.**

### WIC Precepts Bible Study

WIC Precepts Bible Study: Hebrews 2 will begin on Thursday, December 2, at 9:30 am in the Conference room. This study will be a 19-week course. If you would like to attend, please call Mary Russell by noon, Friday, November 12th. (329-1670) It is not necessary to have completed Hebrews 1 to take Hebrews 2.

**WIC will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 27th, beginning at 9:30 AM.**

### International Day of Prayer

Sunday, November 14  
**International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**  
Join us at 5:30 pm in the Chapel as we intercede for our brothers and sisters under persecution.

More Christians have been persecuted in the past 100 years than in all previous centuries combined. Hebrews 13:3 urges us to "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Christians in churches across America have gathered to pray each November since 1996 on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. What can you do? You can pray. The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, which takes place **November 14**, is a good place to start. Then we must continually comfort our persecuted brethren thereafter with our prayers and actions.

**Thanksgiving Supper and Service**  
**Wednesday, November 24th**  
**Supper - 5:45 PM - Church Gymnasium**  
**Service - 7:00 PM - Church Sanctuary**

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, November 14

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel  
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 12:30 PM College Class Lunch at the Shaws  
 4:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 5:00 PM Messiah Rehearsal  
 5:30 PM Prayer in the Chapel for the Congregation and Officers  
 Prayer for the Persecuted Church  
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**  
 6:30 PM Wee Worship Choir

### Monday, November 15

- 11:45 AM Young At Heart  
 5:30 PM 5th/6th grade Basketball practice

### Tuesday, November 16

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study  
 5:30 PM Midget Boys' Basketball practice  
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion training  
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

### Wednesday, November 17

- 5:30 PM Administration Committee Meeting  
 5:45 PM **Family Night Fellowship Supper**  
 6:30 PM Covenant Choir  
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids  
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study  
 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study  
 8:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball practice

### Thursday, November 18

- 9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study  
 5:00 PM Jr. High Boys Basketball practice

### Friday, November 19

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 6:00 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball practice  
 7:00 PM **FULL CONFIDENCE CONFERENCE**

### Saturday, November 20

- 9:00 AM **FULL CONFIDENCE CONFERENCE**  
 10:30 AM Sr. High Girls' Basketball practice

## Remembering One Another

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

**Mrs. Frances Giles**  
**4 Hoke Smith Blvd.**  
**Apt. 14**  
**Greenville, SC 29615**  
**234-5660**

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND**  
**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2010**

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

**A CRY TO THE KING**

Psalms 44  
 Hymns: 35, 76, 165  
 Anthem:  
 Psalm 149

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

**EVENING WORSHIP**  
 6:00 PM

**THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

2 Samuel 3:22-39  
 Hymns: 4, 691, 699  
 Psalter: Psalm 96

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching



# The West End Herald

Vol. LXVIII, Edition 45

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

November 8, 2010

## Letter From The Senior Minister An Interview on the Psalms

As we are beginning our studies in the Psalms in the morning worship services, Ruling Elder Melton L. Duncan took some time from his busy schedule to ask me some questions. Here is Mel's hard-hitting investigative journalism at work in this interview:

*Q: How has the Book of Psalms helped you in your own time of personal prayer and devotion with God?*

A. Like everyone else, there are times when I find it difficult to pray. I will sometimes go to my knees for a period of prayer with the Lord and find myself going directly to a list of petitions. I know enough to realize that this is a poor approach to prayer. My old pastor, James Montgomery Boice, always stressed the ACTS model of prayer (Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication), so I know that I should begin with a period of worship and praise. Here is where the Psalms really help me. Often I will begin by praying through a Psalm. I just read a verse or two and pray about it to God, often extolling the attributes mentioned or thanking God for the salvation described. The Psalms also point to issues in the believer's life, and this helps me to talk with God about my own spiritual condition. Truly, the Psalms play an important role in my prayer life, apart from which I would be significantly impoverished spiritually.

*Q: What do you hope the people of God at Second will learn and experience as we begin studying the second 'book' of the Psalms this fall?*

A: The main value of studying the Psalms is to have our spiritual aspirations raised much higher than is normal. Perhaps because of our affluence, relative ease, and the entertainment bombardment we experience, ours is a this-world focused generation of Christians. So we need to be exhorted to "taste and see that the Lord is good." I confess a suspicion that our congregation can benefit from a challenge to our spirituality, and the Psalms are just the ticket. I began my ministry here with a long series on the Gospel of John, desiring that we would thus be rock-solid on the gospel and focused on our personal discipleship to Jesus as Lord and Savior. I hope and pray that our studies in John will have a life-long impact on our church members. Now I am hoping and praying for a similar life-long impact from the preaching of the Psalms. I fear that many of us are, as C. S. Lewis lamented, settling for far too little as Christians, and I am preaching the Psalms out of a pastoral desire that we will seek that which is highest and best, namely, God himself. We have been hearing a fair amount of Psalms preaching already, since Pastor Spears has been preaching through book 1 of the Psalms over the last year or so. Book 2 is especially focused on a passion for communion with God. These Psalms include some of the Bible's classic chapters on important matters of faith and life. This week, in Psalm 44, we will look the reality of suffering and trials right in the eye. In Psalm 51, we will study a classic text on true repentance. Psalm 56 will tell us how to handle our fears. Through the Psalms, God Himself pastors us and will apply His loving care to the hearts of our congregation.