

say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God'" (Zech. 13:9). Finally, Job spoke of the offering of a pure heart that God desires, saying, "when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold" (Job 23:10). Moreover, we can imagine how useful the gold given to Jesus' family must have been in their trying circumstances. We likewise honor Jesus by giving of our material wealth for the work of His church.

The second gift of the magi was *frankincense*. This was an aromatic resin that was made from the milky sap of the Boswellia tree. This tree grows in desert regions in Arabia, and the resin was used as a perfume and as incense for burning. Exodus 30:34-38 calls for this incense to be burned in the temple as a thank offering to the Lord, to make a sweet smell arising from the holy place. It reminds us of our calling to give Jesus our grateful worship and our thankful prayers. The tree from which frankincense comes grows in arid and desert places. This reminds us that Christ is especially praised when His people worship Him in times of difficulty and in barren places. Just as the priests placed the frankincense on the altar to make a sweet fragrance before the Lord, Christ desires us to lift up our hearts in grateful worship to Him.

The third gift of the wise men was *myrrh*. This was another aromatic spice, used in medicine, for perfumes, and in embalming the dead. Here we are reminded that Jesus gave us the gift of his atoning death, to forgive us of our sins. Like the disciples who honored him in caring for His body, the magi provided Jesus myrrh at his birth. Myrrh is reputed to have cost five times as much as frankincense, which is why its lavish use was a sign of royalty. The magi worshiped Jesus as the King of Kings, and offered him this royal spice to honor His death. We honor Jesus our King by trusting in His death for the forgiveness of our sins, and by joining Jesus in dying to sin and bearing our cross in the world.

We frequently observe that the true gift given to us by Jesus is the gift of Himself, including His perfect life, sin-atoning death, and glorious, saving reign from heaven. The gift our Lord desires from us is nothing less than the gift of ourselves in return. The gold, frankincense, and myrrh help us to understand what it means to give ourselves to Jesus. We offer him our hearts to be made pure like His own, cheerfully accepting the refining trials this requires. We offer him our grateful worship and prayers, which we know arise before Him like sweet perfume. And we offer our faith in Jesus' death for our sins, joyfully accepting the death of our sinful nature so that we might live to God in the newness of holy life. As the wise men worshiped Jesus when He was born long ago, let us worship Him as Savior and Lord through the gold, frankincense and myrrh of our lives.

Merry Christmas to you all from the Phillips family, as we rejoice with you in the birth of our Lord and Savior.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips

CHURCH INFORMATION

Website: www.secondpca.org

Telephone: Office (864) 232-7621

Fax: (864) 232-7622 * Email: 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

Dec. 23-27	Church Office Closed
Dec. 24	Lessons and Carols
Dec. 29	No Wednesday night activities
Dec. 30-31	Church Office Closed
Jan. 2	Installation of Deacons
Jan. 2	Churchwide Fellowship Supper and Reception for Ron and Kay Lindsay Sporrer
Jan. 5	WIC Council
Jan. 5	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Jan. 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Jan. 11	Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
Jan. 11-12	WIC Circles
Jan. 16	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Jan. 17	Young At Heart
Jan. 22	WIC Day of Prayer
Jan. 22	Calvary Presbytery
Jan. 23	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee meeting
Jan. 26	CE Committee meeting
Jan. 27	WIC Book Club
Jan. 30	Called Congregational meeting Nominations begin for Elder Election
Jan. 30	Hymn Sing

Circle 6 will not meet during December.

Music Notes

- ◆ Wee Worship and Covenant Choir will be singing on Christmas Eve at the Lessons & Carols service. Please have them arrive by 5:15 pm to rehearse. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Listen to Past Sermons

Did you know that over 300 Second Presbyterian Church sermons are archived on the sermonaudio.com website? You can search by Bible passage or topic from over 20 different speakers we have had preach and teach for us the last 3 years. Follow links from www.secondpca.org or search for "Second Presbyterian Church" on sermonaudio.com. Sermonaudio is an excellent source for many PCA churches of reformed Bible preaching.

Church Directory

We will begin working on a new church directory in January, 2011. If you need to make any changes to the existing directory, please email these changes to judy@secondpca.org. Also, if you would like to submit a new digital picture, you may do so as well. We will be scheduling a few sessions for people who need to have their picture taken for the new church directory. Please watch the Herald for further information.

Churchwide Fellowship Supper

Churchwide Fellowship Supper and Reception for Ron and Kay Lindsay Sporrer in celebration of their recent marriage. Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011
Immediately following the evening worship service.

2011 Offering Envelopes

The 2011 offering envelopes have been placed on the shelf outside the church library. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes. Everyone is encouraged to use offering envelopes. If you are your children need offering envelopes, please call the church office at ext. 18.

Year-End Contributions

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2010 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

All Wednesday night activities are cancelled for December 29.

Christmas Eve Service

LESSONS AND CAROLS

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.*

Boy Scout Troop 282

Dear Church Family,

My name is Joshua Duncan and I am a Boy Scout with troop 282. An Eagle Scout project is a way of serving the community. For my project, I am doing a backpack drive for the homeless. I need families to sponsor backpacks and fill them with supplies. In each backpack we need a blanket, two toothbrushes, a tube of toothpaste, a good rain poncho, a pack of large socks, a pack of large underwear, a knit cap, a pair of gloves, a Bible, and two sticks of deodorant. Sunday School classes can choose to sponsor one or more backpacks as a group project if a backpack per family is too much of a stretch. This is more than just an Eagle Scout project; it's an urgent need in our community as the weather has taken the lives of some of these unfortunate people. Let us give them the things they need to survive as a gift to start the New Year off right. Please have the completed backpacks at church on January 9th 2011, so we can give these poor men and women a chance at a new life. If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body what good is that? (James 2:15-16)

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 26

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 5:30 PM Prayer in the Chapel for the Congregation and Officers
- 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
- 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, December 27

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 28

Wednesday, December 29

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Thursday, December 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 31

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 1, 2011



FROM THE
CHURCH
STAFF

**Due to Christmas holidays the West End Herald
will not be mailed the week of 12/27/10.**

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement and concern during my daddy's illness. They have been a great source of comfort over the last 3 1/2 years. How blessed we are to be in a church that shows so much love for one another.

In Christ's love, Susan McDaniel

Remembering One Another

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

Mrs. Lila Riggins
205 Bud Nalley Drive
Easley, SC 29642

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY
DECEMBER 26, 2010**

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

PRAISE FOR ZION'S CITY

Psalm 48

Hymns: 225, 44, 345
Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

DEDICATED TO THE LORD

Luke 2:21-39

Hymns: 660, 196, 441

Rev. Robert E. Spears preaching

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



The West End Herald

Vol. LXVIII, Final 2010 Edition

The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

December 20, 2010

Letter From The Senior Minister Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

Last week, my wife Sharon had the opportunity to attend a reunion of ministry wives from Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA, where we ministered from 1995-2002. It was a special gathering, including ministry wives who have remained at Tenth, along with a number who like Sharon have moved on to do exciting things for the Lord elsewhere. The staff wives' ministry there is led by one of the ruling elders' wives, Arlita, an older woman who is steeped in the practice of grace from many years on the mission field (where she grew up) and in the church. It was an emotional and blessed time for Sharon, as these women were dear to her heart. One of them is drawing near to her death after a long struggle with cancer. Others are facing significant trials and some are enjoying extraordinary opportunities.

Sharon has told me about their meditations together, which I thought I would share with you. In keeping with the Christmas theme, the ladies reflected on the three gifts brought by the wise men to the baby Jesus. The three gifts (the Scripture does not say there were three wise men!) were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew records: "And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11). The idea of the ladies' devotions was to consider how these gifts speak to the gifts that we are to bring in faith as followers of Jesus.

The first of the wise men's gifts was *gold*. Gold is a precious mineral that must be mined at great difficulty. When gold comes out of the mine, it does not shine with a great luster. Gold has to be refined. The refining process mirrors the trials that Christians endure to grow in Christ-likeness. First the smith heats the ore with a burning fire, then plunges it into cold water. Then the dross is scraped away and the process is repeated over and over. The goldsmith knows that the ore has been purified when he can look upon it and see his own reflection. That is what God wants to do in our lives: refine us through trials until He can see His own reflection in us.

As the wise men offered gold to baby Jesus, Christ desires us to offer a godly character that has been refined and made pure through faith. Peter spoke this way of trials, saying that through them "the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:6-7). Zechariah also prophesied about the refined purity that Jesus desires to receive from His people, saying that he will put them "into the fire and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will