

The word "catholic" means "universal." What we are confessing is that there is one Christian church consisting of all true believers in the Lord Jesus, along with their children, and thus our commitment to the spiritual unity of the visible church.

The second confusing statement that most churches include in the Apostles' Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell." This does not stipulate any particular theory regarding the period between the death and resurrection of Jesus, but simply makes the point that God's Son truly came under the power of death and lay in the realm of death (in Greek, hell = hades, the realm of the dead). This statement seems to have been inserted into the Apostles' Creed in response to heresies that denied that Jesus ever really experienced death. While the statement that Jesus "descended into hell" is true - His body and soul did abide in death for three days - this is also the item that has the least biblical support. Given that the New Testament has virtually no information to give us regarding the location of Jesus' spirit during the period while His body lay in death (1 Pet. 3:19 is the only direct reference, and its meaning is debatable, to say the least), I think the Southern Presbyterian tradition of omitting the statement from the Apostles' Creed is a prudent one. Therefore, we do not include this statement in our profession of the Apostles' Creed.

Some people might understandably wonder why we at Second retain the older language that seems archaic today. Why don't we use an updated version of the Apostles' Creed, referring to the "Holy Spirit" instead of the "Holy Ghost", and even replacing "catholic church" with "universal church"? First, there is nothing wrong with using a more up-to-date version of the Apostles' Creed. But there are also good reasons, I think, to retain the old language. One of the points of the Confession of Faith is to tangibly link us today with the Christians who have gone before us. I like the fact that we use the very words used by English-speaking Christians for hundreds of years. Moreover, it is important that we not surrender good and valuable words, like catholic, to those who would co-opt them in false teaching. If we surrender words, we surrender ideas, and that is greatly to be avoided. But doesn't our current practice of using old language require us to make explanations? Yes (hence this letter). But that is a good thing. It is important for us to understand what we are doing and the truths we are affirming. And the older language provokes us to ask and understand, and thus serve the purpose of the creed.

I know you will be blessed as you learn and proclaim this great statement of faith that unites all true Christians. As Christians, we are not just individuals. The Creed reminds us that we are part of something so much bigger than ourselves - one holy catholic and apostolic church, all over the world and from all centuries. As we proclaim our faith in our worship service, we join with all those other Christians in one voice. Imagine how much glory it gives to God when the whole church speaks in one voice, affirming our faith in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our Triune Savior God.

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

- Feb. 13 Missions Committee Meeting
- Feb. 14 Session meeting
- Feb. 15 PCRT Pastor's Luncheon
- Feb. 20 College Lunch
- Feb. 20 The Lord's Supper at the evening worship service
- Feb. 21 Young At Heart
- Feb. 23 CE Committee meeting
- Feb. 24 WIC Book Club
- Feb. 27 Evangelism/Church Growth meeting

Young At Heart

The February Valentine's Young At Heart Luncheon will be Monday, February 21, at 11:45 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. The catered meal is \$6.00 per person, payable at the door. Our guest this month is Mr. Tony Vincus, an accomplished musician and music director for a large local church. Mr. Vincus will present us with a selection of vocal arrangements. Don't miss out on this wonderful fellowship, great food, and special music presentation.

Annual Sports' Banquet

Wednesday, March 2, 2011
 Dinner: 5:45 pm * Program: 6:45 pm
 The entire church family is invited to this event as we honor our young people who participated in this year's sports events.

Offering Envelopes

Please do not use your 2010 envelopes for your 2011 contributions. Each year the envelope numbers are reassigned and you may not get the same number you were assigned the previous year. We are asking that you throw your old 2010 envelopes away and use the new 2011.

Lost & Found

There are a number of misplaced items that can be claimed in the Lost & Found box in the gymnasium. Clothes, Jerseys, Plates, Boxes, Glasses and Books are just a few of the items. Please look and see if you have left something and claim it. A general Lost & Found Giveaway will be scheduled for the end of February for unclaimed items.

Save the Date

Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology 2011
Children of God: Adopted into the Father's Love
 April 1-3, 2011
 Second Presbyterian Church
 Speakers:
Joel Beeke, Richard Phillips, Derek Thomas, David Wells

WIC Annual Meeting

CALVARY PRESBYTERY WOMEN IN THE CHURCH
 2011 ANNUAL MEETING
 Saturday, March 5, 2011
 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
 Fairview Presbyterian Church, Fountain Inn, SC
 Price to cover lunch: \$8.00 per person payable at the door.
 Free Babysitting will be provided.
 See Jill Mann (895-3351) if you have any questions.

New Members' Class

Begins Sunday, March 6, 2011
 10:00 AM in Room C-209 (on second floor)
 Taught by Pastor Phillips
 The class will meet each Sunday for 6 weeks.
 Attending the class does not obligate one to join the church, however, you are required to take the class before joining the church.

Communicants' Class

A Communicants' Class will be held for 5 weeks beginning Sunday, February 20. The class will meet at 10:00 on Sunday mornings in classroom S-307 (balcony level). Parents who judge their child ready to meet with the Session for communicant membership should bring their child to the class. Please see Pastor Starkey if you have any questions.

Wednesday Night Price Increase

At the Feb 6, 2011 meeting of the Diaconate a decision to increase the price of the Wednesday night supper was approved. This decision was made with much prayer and discussion. In the past we have been losing money on Wednesday night and felt a price increase would help us to break even. It is not our intent to make a profit or keep people from coming. Wednesday night suppers are a great time of fellowship and good food at a reasonable price. No family will pay more than \$18 for supper. We feel the increase is necessary to continue with the excellent meals and still be budget friendly to our church families.

The increases are as follow and will begin Wednesday, March 2, 2011:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Children 12 and under | \$3 |
| Adults and children over 12 | \$5 |
| Family 4 or more | \$18 |

These are modest increases and hopefully budget friendly. Wednesday night supper is an excellent time of fellowship and good food.

—The Diaconate and the Fellowship and Athletic Committee

Please return all church tablecloths to the church ASAP. Thank You.

Treasurer's Report

JANUARY 2011 & YTD Financial Status

| | Actual | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| | Jan. 2011 | YTD 2011 | YTD Budget |
| Offerings | 75,408 | 75,408 | 80,529 |
| Outlays: | | | |
| Operating Expenses | 63,429 | 63,429 | 65,948 |
| Mission Disbursements | 0 | 0 | 12,348 |
| Total Outlays | 63,429 | 63,429 | 78,296 |
| Net Offerings | 11,979 | 11,979 | |

Contributions in January 2011 were \$75,408 versus budget of \$80,529. Contributions for January 2010 were \$60,111. Operating expenses for January 2011 were \$63,429 versus the budget of \$65,948. Missions and Benevolences were not paid in January. We plan to pay 3 months in February.

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 Pat Holbrook or David Rainey.

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 13

- 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 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, February 14

- 6:30 PM Session Meeting

Tuesday, February 15

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
- 12:00 PM PCRT Pastor's Luncheon
- 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
- 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, February 16

- 5:45 PM Family Night Fellowship Supper
- 6:15 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

Thursday, February 17

- 9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study

Friday, February 18

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday, February 19

- 9:30 AM JB Girls' B'ball game at 4th Pres.
- 9:30 AM Midget Boys' B'ball game at J. Knox
- 10:30 AM JC Girls' B'ball game at TLC
- 10:30 AM JC Boys' B'ball game at St. George

Memorial Flowers

There are still openings for Memorial Flowers in 2011. If you would like to place Memorial flowers in the church sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office (ext. 10) or Judy Bishop (246-0951). Also, there are sign-up sheets posted throughout the church.

**February 20, 27; April 3; May 1, 22, 29;
July 17, 24; August 21; Oct. 2, 9, 16**

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. Kathleen Cleveland
109 Blakely Road
Piedmont, SC 29673
277-5572

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY FEBRUARY 13, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

A SHELTER IN THE STORM

Psalm 55
Anthem:
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Hymns: 44, 676, 673
Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

COVENANTAL COMFORT

Isaiah 40:1-5
Hymns: 457, 699, 175
Rev. Seth T. Starkey preaching



The West End Herald

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The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

February 7, 2011

Letter From The Senior Minister Apostles' Creed

Every week in our morning worship service, we profess our faith together. This is an important part of our worship and is most appropriate for us to do. In some respects, this is my favorite portion of the worship service. In this dark world that suppresses the knowledge of God, we the people of God have the privilege of standing together and with one voice sounding forth the truth of God and salvation. We are just one congregation, but in my mind's eye I see us standing together with all the Christians throughout the world. We are not silent, but we confess the faith that has been handed down to us. Moreover, I see us standing together with all Christians of all times. When we profess the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, we should be conscious that we are making public solidarity with the early church, faithful Christians in the middle ages, the Protestant Reformers, and our forebears the Puritans and the American pioneers. To confess the creed is to take a stand for God, Christ, and the gospel publicly. We do not "recite the creeds" but we sound them forth with one voice and full hearts.

Most frequently, Second Church confesses the Apostles' Creed. This confession of faith was developed in the early church to teach and safeguard the core truths of Christianity. It is apostolic not in that it was written by the apostles themselves - it was not - but in that it summarizes the main teachings of the apostles as acknowledged by the Church from its earliest days. In ancient times, many people were unable to read, and so a brief confession that they could memorize was a help. The Creed was also used as a form of baptismal examination. These were the truths you had to affirm to be accepted as a Christian. Similarly, knowing the Apostles' Creed is an aid to our witness of the gospel. These are the core truths that we believe about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So make sure you know what it all means and use the Apostles' Creed to share your faith.

One main function of the creed was to combat heresy. In the early church there was particularly a tendency for people to deny that Jesus was fully a human being. From time to time the heresy appeared that God the Son merely occupied the man Jesus, rather than the Bible's teaching that the man Jesus is God the Son. In response, the Apostles' Creed emphasizes that God's eternally existing Son "was born of the virgin Mary." As the angel assured Mary, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit so that her child would properly be called "the Son of the Most High" (Lk. 1:32). Therefore, just as we confess that God's Son was "conceived by the Holy Ghost" and "born of the virgin Mary," we also insist that it was God the Son who "suffered under Pontius Pilate" and was crucified, died, and was buried. Thus the Apostles' Creed confesses the essential truth that Jesus Christ our Savior is God's only Son and our Lord.

There are two phrases in the Apostles' Creed that sometimes confuse Christians. One is the confession that we believe in the "holy catholic church." This does not entail a recognition of the Roman Catholic Church as the one true church.