

Third, long-time members should graciously respond to any inconveniences (like someone sitting in *your seat!*) and should do everything possible to serve and bless these dear brothers and sisters whom God has graciously brought to our fellowship.

How should new members think about their coming to Second? I would offer 3 pastoral exhortations to our new members: 1) Do your best to get involved in the life and ministry of our church. As possible, this includes Wednesday night dinners and activities, Sunday School classes, and some of the many ministry endeavors of our church (choir, youth ministry, WIC, Good New Clubs, VBS, Evangelism Explosion, etc.). Be patient in this and don't get discouraged by our failures. It usually takes some time to become part of a tight-knit body like ours, and we really do want you to join in! 2) Try not to interact only with people you may already know. It is only natural for new members to gravitate toward people they have previously known from other churches, school groups, etc., but both you and our church will be well served by an intentional effort to become involved with long-time members you may not already know. This is not always easy, but both new and old should work on this together! 3) Try to avoid imputing the problems of your former church to our church and be careful in expressing strong opinions about how we should be doing things differently. This is especially difficult, but also important. Just because you had bad experiences with a church youth group or activity, please do not assume that our youth ministry has the same problem. If you lost confidence in the elders of your former church, please do not be unfairly suspicious of our elders. Many other examples are fairly typical. You may have good insights and constructive criticisms that will be valuable to us, but it would be wise to participate open-mindedly before stating assumptions that may be unfair or offensive to those who have long been serving in this church. We want our new members to be full partners with long-time members of this church and we trust that God is adding valuable insights and experiences through our new members. Rapid numerical growth simply calls for wisdom and grace as new and old ideas are considered for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

What are the elders doing to respond to our rapid numerical growth? One answer is that our elders are busy doing what they always are doing: overseeing our ministries, praying, and pastoring the flock. There are, however, some specific actions taking place. First, we are renewing our commitment to shepherding, with a special emphasis on assisting in the assimilation of new members. I have asked all the elders especially to be watchful in helping new families enter fully into our community. Second, we are taking steps to expand the size of our Session over the next few years in order to meet the pastoral needs of a growing flock. Third, we are considering what additional ministry endeavors are needed in a growing church. An example is our need to minister more aggressively to adult men and young adults. Fourth, our long-range planning committee (led by one of our deacons), is working hard on plans to expand our facility while maintaining the historic identity of our church.

I give praise to God for adding to our numbers and I dearly long for new members to be spiritually blessed at Second Church. Still, my primary focus is and will be on spiritual growth and the expansion of usefulness to the kingdom of Christ. However our reigning King may choose to grow our numbers, let us resolve to be ready to serve Him humbly and with a bold faith, thankful above all for redeeming love that freed us from our sins.

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

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

Upcoming Events

- June 5 Ice Cream Social
- June 6 Diaconate Meeting
- June 6-10 General Assembly in Virginia Beach
- June 8 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- June 12 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- June 12 VBS Meeting
- June 13 Session Meeting
- June 14-15 WIC Circles
- June 18 Youth/Young At Heart Cookout
- June 19 The Lord's Supper at the evening service
- June 19 Ordination and Installation of Elders
- June 20-24 Vacation Bible School
- June 22 CE Committee Meeting
- June 23 WIC Book Club
- June 25-July2 Peru Mission Trip
- June 26 Evangelism/Church Growth Meeting

New Location for Lost and Found

Lost and Found articles can be placed and retrieved in the bathroom hallway beside the Gresham Conference Room. Items will be kept for no longer than 3 weeks and then given away. Parents, help us keep the gym clean by keeping track of clothes, books, glasses and phones. Use the green bookshelf in the hallway as the place to find and store lost and found items. Expensive items such as jewelry, keys, etc will be kept in the church office.

Youth/Young At Heart Cookout

Saturday, June 18, 2011

11:00 am in the gymnasium

The cookout is catered by Kitty Swillen.

There will not be a cost for lunch.

The youth will be presenting a special program for the Young At Heart.

Don't miss out on this special fellowship time in our church family.

Master Flute Camp

The Master Flute Camp, taught by Tadeu (Portugese for Thaddeus) Coelho, world-renowned flute teacher and master clinician is June 13-17. He comes to Second Church with other faculty and Amanda Barrett, program coordinator and Professor of Flute at BJU. Mr. Coelho teaches music and flute techniques through a Christian perspective. His Christian testimony is reflected in the beginning of each morning class with devotions. Participant places are filled, but auditors may call Amanda Barrett for information. (704-3976)

You shall have a song . . . And gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel.
Isaiah 30:29 NKJV

Summer Missions Opportunities

- Peru Mission Trip - June 25-July 2 - Trip to Trujillo Peru - construction, evangelism and medical ministries - Approx Cost \$2000/person
- Richmond Hills (near Savannah), GA - July 18-23 (approx. dates) -- neighborhood VBS and diaconal work - Approx Cost \$200/ person
If you are interested in either trip, please contact Pastor Spears as soon as possible. (430-7389 cell)

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24 * 8:45-12:00

Prepare for the sea voyage! Vacation Bible School begins soon! Second Presbyterian Church will be gearing up sea explorers for a voyage on the deep sea with Jonah. Every sea explorer should register so that we can put you on a crew for your adventure! Go to www.secondpca.org and click on:
Helpful Resources
VBS Registration (at the bottom)
Fill out form and send!

Ice Cream Social



Come join us for a Second Pres. tradition...
Our first ice cream social of the season will be Sunday night June 5, after the evening service. Come enjoy some refreshing ice cream and wonderful fellowship. The church will provide the ice cream and toppings.

General Assembly

The 39th PCA General Assembly will be June 6-10 in Virginia Beach. Pastor Starkey, Pastor Spears, RE Melton L. Duncan, and RE Ken Safford will be attending from our church. You can log on live to the meetings and worship services from the floor of the Assembly by going to www.pcaga.com.

Baptism

Josiah Calvin Mobley, covenant child of Kevin and Shannon Mobley, received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, May 29, 2011. We are thankful for the Mobley family and pray that Josiah, Caroline, Mary Grace, Virginia, and Samuel will love and serve the Lord all the days of their lives.

Elder Election

The congregation elected the following two men to the office of Elder on Sunday, May 29, 2011: **Mr. Tim Crunk and Mr. David Rainey**

These men will be ordained and installed into the office of Elder on Sunday, June 19, at the evening worship service.

Summer Sunday School Class

Summer Joint Sunday School Class

7th grade—adults

10:00 am—Sanctuary

June 5—August 28, 2011

Mr. Settle will teach us in June and August through the "order of salvation" using some of our favorite Christian hymns. In July, Rev. Robert Spears, Dr. Ben Shaw, and Dr. Jim McGoldrick will survey prayers of the Old Testament.

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|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| June 5 | (Mr. Settle) | "Sin" |
| June 12 | (Mr. Settle) | "Grace/Redemption" |
| June 19 | (Mr. Settle) | "Calling/Regeneration" |
| June 26 | (Mr. Settle) | "Conversion" |
| July 3 | (Rev. Spears) | "The Prayer of Moses" |
| July 10 | (Rev. Spears) | "The Prayer of Abraham" |
| July 17 | (Dr. Shaw) | "The Prayer of Daniel" |
| July 24 | (Dr. McGoldrick) | "The Prayer of Solomon" |
| July 31 | (Dr. McGoldrick) | "The Prayer of Elijah" |
| August 7 | (Mr. Settle) | "Justification" |
| August 14 | (Mr. Settle) | "Adoption" |
| August 21 | (Mr. Settle) | "Sanctification/Perseverance" |
| August 28 | (Mr. Settle) | "Glorification" |

Church Calendar

Sunday, June 5

- 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM Prayer in the Chapel for the Congregation and Officers
- 6:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:15 PM Ice Cream Social

Monday, June 6

- 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, June 7

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
- 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
- 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, June 8

- 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- 5:45 PM FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
- 6:45 PM Musical CAT Kids
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday, June 9

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday, June 11

*You are cordially invited
to the graduation ceremony of*

Aryn Baxa

John Compton

Tanya Mann

Rebekah Evans

Friday, June 3, 2011

Rock Springs Baptist Church

201 Rock Springs Road

Easley, SC 29642

(on highway 123 in Easley)

The graduation speaker will be our own

Rev. Gabriel Fluhrer

Remembering One Another

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

Rev. and Mrs. John Crawford
4 Richbourg Court
Greenville, SC 29615
244-1571

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY JUNE 5, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

TELLING WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Psalm 66

Anthem:

Go, Make of All Disciples

Hymns: 76, 416, 478

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

TRINITARIAN SALVATION

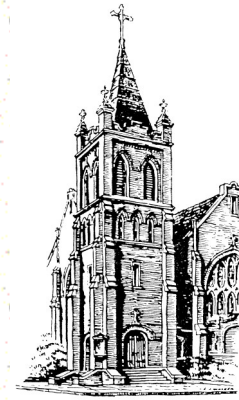
2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Hymns: 296, 111, 699

Psalter: Psalm 109 (verses 13-20)

Rev. Gabriel Fluhrer preaching

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



The West End Herald

Vol. LXIX, Edition 21

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

May 31, 2011

Letter From The Senior Minister Reflections on (Numerical) Church Growth

One of the most obvious things happening in our church is a significant increase in our membership. We rejoice in the blessing of God on the gospel at Second Church and are humbled to believe that God is using our church to bless increasing numbers of people. Such rapid growth is bound to raise questions, however, and I thought it would be good to address questions that may be on our members' minds.

Is numerical growth a goal of the pastor and of the Session? No, our goal is faithfulness and a spiritually healthy congregation. However, spiritual health often leads to numerical growth. My concern is not the size of our congregation, or any other statistic. Instead, our success should be measured in biblical and spiritual terms. Are we proclaiming God's Word faithfully? Is there spiritual growth among our members? Are we growing in our commitment to evangelism and missions? Can our leaders be trusted to act and govern in a loving, biblical way? Is there peace, unity, and a community spirit of love in our congregation? These are the important things for our church and they will tend to lead to numerical growth due to God's blessing and the desire of serious Christians to join. Both I and the Session are committed, however, *not* to embrace faddish measures that are designed to lead to rapid numerical growth, especially as they pertain to the style of worship or sub-biblical approaches to ministry. Our goal is to serve and glorify God through a biblical ministry, trusting Him to determine the size of our church.

Why is our church growing numerically at such a rapid rate? It is true that we are growing at a rate that is unusual. First, I would explain this by the sovereign grace of God apart from any merit of our own. Second, we are sadly living in a time when convulsions of various kinds are upsetting many churches, so that many of our new members are joining after prayerfully and tearfully leaving former churches. Third, by God's grace, Second is a relatively healthy church that is attracting Christians for a variety of good reasons, including our serious approach to preaching, our reverent worship, our commitment to biblical leadership, and our loving church community. Knowing that some of our growth is resulting from problems in other churches should cause all of us prayerfully to resolve to protect our church from sin, worldliness, and disunity.

How should long-time members think about all this numerical growth? First, we should humbly praise God for his mercy in allowing us to be a healthy church that people desire to join. Realizing this blessing should make us intentional about our personal godliness, promotion of peace and unity, joyful service to others in our community, and prayer for God's protection and blessing through the Holy Spirit. Our new members are adding spiritual gifts, resources, and vitality to our congregation. Many long-time members have prayed for this to happen and I know they rejoice in it. Second, long-time members should go out of their way to greet, serve, and accept new members into our church community. Second is a famously friendly church, but it is just as important that we invite new members into our social circles as it is to speak to visitors on Sundays.