

- *Christians are not nationalists who despise rival nations.* As a believer in Jesus, I look on Christians of all races, tongues, and nations as brothers in Christ, and I consider non-Christians of all nations as fellow sinners in need of my loving witness to the gospel. My chief desire as a believer is that stated in Psalm 67:3, "O God, let all the peoples praise you!"

Based on the above principles, there are some people who would say that Christians have abandoned patriotism altogether. This is not true, however. Christians should not turn a cold heart away from their nation. In fact, celebrations like those of Independence Day provide a good start for developing a Christian patriotism:

- *July 4 reminds us that we are part of a nation, with a great history, wonderful privileges, and important responsibilities.* We are all indebted under God's grace to the sacrifices of others and in God's providence we are part of a great historical legacy of freedom and blessing that is worth celebrating. Recognizing our debt to prior generations and the blessings we have received as Americans should produce gratitude to God – a gratitude that serves as a good basis for Christian patriotism.
- *July 4 reminds us that God has sovereignly placed us in this land and under this government.* I praise God to be an American, precisely because of what Independence Day represents. As I have traveled on other continents and had personal interactions with government tyranny and injustice, I have learned once more to bless the sight of an American flag. Yes, Christians should frankly admit and oppose the evils of our nation, but we should not fail to be grateful for the many good things our country does and represents. Moreover, when Romans 13:1-7 commands us to honor and obey civil authorities, Christians should do so from the heart, with love and fervor for the blessings of the land in which God has placed us and with sincere loyalty to all public servants who are seeking to do good.
- *July 4 reminds us to play our part today in the civil life of our nation.* When God addressed the Jewish exiles living in Babylon, he told them to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf" (Jer. 29:7). Christians rightly think of any earthly home as a sort of exile, longing to arrive in the kingdom of glory with God. But we should be involved in the society and life of the land in which we are living. This means that we should be civic-minded as a church and as believers, exercising all kinds of gifts and opportunities to be a blessing to the nation and city in which we are living. In America, this calling involves participation in the political process, opposing evil, and promoting truth and righteousness. Especially when there are political leaders who openly seek a biblical agenda of godliness and civil well-being, they deserve the special support and prayers of God's people.

So maybe Christians can be patriots after all! Indeed, we can be, and we should celebrate our national heritage with thanks to God and with prayers for renewed faith and needed repentance. In fact, the best kind of Christian patriotism is that which offers a loving witness to the Savior, the great King Jesus Christ, who alone can give true freedom to anyone.

May God bless you and may God bless America,  
Pastor Rick 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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| July 1     | Friday Playdate at Riverplace Fountains    |
| July 4     | Church Picnic                              |
| July 4     | Church Office Closed                       |
| July 5     | Summer College Ministry @ Second           |
| July 6     | <b>No Wednesday night activities</b>       |
| July 7     | WIC Shower for Julie Russell               |
| July 10    | Worship & Music Committee Meeting          |
| July 10    | Pastoral Care Committee Meeting            |
| July 11    | Joint Session & Diaconate Meeting          |
| July 11-16 | Senior High Summer Conference              |
| July 12-13 | WIC Circles                                |
| July 12    | Summer College Ministry @ Second           |
| July 15    | Friday Playdate @ Cleveland Park Zoo       |
| July 16    | WIC Shower for Christa Pomerlyan           |
| July 17    | The Lord's Supper at the morning services  |
| July 19    | WIC Bible Study                            |
| July 19-22 | Richmond Hill Mission Trip                 |
| July 19    | Summer College Ministry @ Second           |
| July 23    | Calvary Presbytery                         |
| July 24    | Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting |
| July 25-29 | Junior High Conference at Ridge Haven      |
| July 26    | WIC Bible Study                            |
| July 27    | CE Committee Meeting                       |
| July 29    | Friday Playdate @ Legacy Park              |
| July 31    | Hymn Sing                                  |



#### All VBS Teachers, Volunteers, and Staff

Thank you so much for all of your assistance in making our VBS Summer Sequest voyage successful this year. We had around 90 "sea explorers" each day. The gospel was clearly presented, the children heard the Word from our costumed story tellers, and we sang wonderful songs each day. The children enjoyed eating great sea fare, playing sea frolics, creating crafts and memorizing scripture from their Bibles. Our sea explorers also raised \$864.46 to support Elizabeth Johnson in her call to serve the Lord in Peru as a nurse. Also, a donor agreed to match the total that the children raised, therefore \$1,728.92 will be given toward Elizabeth's mission work. In Peru, medical costs are approximately \$2.00 per patient. Our children contributed enough money for 864 patients to be seen. It was a fun week, but would not have been possible without so many of you helping out and being willing to serve. We greatly appreciate all of your efforts to spread the love of Jesus to our covenant children and the children in our community.

In Christ's love, VBS Directors

#### Greenville Area Summer RUF

July 5th, 12th, and 19th

Second Presbyterian

7:00 pm

Seven Deadly Sins

*anger, envy, sloth, lust, greed, gluttony, pride*

### Church Picnic - July 4, 2011 - 6:00 pm until



Eating Good Food \* Enjoying great fellowship  
Old Fashioned Games for all  
(Stick around for fireworks from County Square.)

Deacons will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers.  
Every family is asked to bring a side dish  
and/or dessert.

*(Someone may want to bring  
a churn of homemade ice cream.)*

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the fireworks  
from County Square at 9:00 PM.

Don't miss this time together as we will enjoy  
great fellowship \* delicious food \* and fun games.  
Look forward to seeing you on Monday, July 4th, rain or shine!

**There will not be an ice cream social in July.  
The church office will be closed Monday, July 4.  
There will be no Wednesday evening  
activities on July 6.**

#### Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Judy Pitts and her family in the death of her father, Mr. Ellis, on June 23, 2011. We pray for Judy and her family during this time of grief and sadness.

#### New Baby

We rejoice with the Dalton family in the birth of Braylon Jesse Dalton, born to Storie Dalton on Friday, June 24, 2011. Braylon weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. Both mother and son are doing well. The proud grandparents are Spencer and Angela Dalton, who just recently joined our church.

**Senior High Summer Conference  
Edisto Island, SC  
July 10—16, 2011**

#### Mission Trip to Savannah, Georgia

We are finalizing our mission trip to assist a PCA church plant near Savannah, Georgia:

**Dates:** Tuesday, July 19 - Friday, July 22  
**Mission work:** Vacation Bible school, nursing home visitation, diaconal work, Adult Bible studies  
**Cost:** \$100/person  
**Ideal team size:** 10-15  
**Suitable for:** middle-schoolers and up, parents and children, singles

Please:

1) Pray for God's provision in members, finances, travel, blessing in teaching and ministry

2) Give to the summer mission program - any amounts are helpful

3) Sign up - If you and/or your family are interested, please contact Pastor Spears immediately - 430-7389 (cell) or 232-7621 x16 (study)

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, July 3

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

### Monday, July 4

Church Office Closed

6:00 PM Church Picnic

### Tuesday, July 5

7:00 PM Summer College Ministry @ Second

### Wednesday, July 6

6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

No Wednesday activities

### Thursday, July 7

7:00 PM WIC Shower for Julie Russell

### Friday, July 8

### Saturday, July 9

## WIC Shower

Wilson is in size 2 diapers

The WIC cordially invites all ladies to a Baby Shower for

**Julie Russell and Baby Wilson**

Tuesday, July 7, 2011

7:00 pm

Church Fellowship Hall

We hope you will join us in this time of fellowship and love!



Wilson's clothes size is 6 months



## Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members. 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

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
 U. S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Greenville, SC  
 Permit No. 559

## WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY JULY 3, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP  
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### AWESOME IN HIS SANCTUARY

Psalm 68:19-35

Anthem:

Sing Praise To God

Hymns: 44, 65, 361

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

### DAVID'S REIGN OF VICTORY

2 Samuel 8:1-18

Hymns: 103, 598, 2

Psalter: Psalm 111 (verses 5-10)

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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



# The West End Herald

Vol. LXIX, Edition 25

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

June 27, 2011

## Letter From The Senior Minister Christian Patriotism

On July 4, our nation celebrates its independence with waving flags, picnics, and parades. Some churches deck their sanctuary with red, white, and blue, and devote the worship service to the honor of the state. Other Christians virtually ignore this or any other national holiday. This raises the question, "How does Christianity tell us to think about patriotism?"

This question is quite personal for me, since I grew up in an intensely patriotic family. Patriotic holidays were solemn occasions and the national anthem and flag were regarded as holy objects of veneration. In many respects, my childhood was probably not typical of others', since I was raised on Army posts during a war. My childhood virtually coincides with the Vietnam War, a conflict which twice took my father away for a year and cast its shadow over our lives, both for good and for ill. My father returned from Vietnam, but many of my boyhood friends' dads did not. I would guess that I attended more funerals by the age of ten than most people do in a lifetime. As a result, these formative years instilled in me an intense patriotism, which played no small part in leading me into a military career like my father and grandfather before me. I was commissioned on Memorial Day, a time when I was always proud to be an American, and grateful for those who laid down their lives for us all.

Another way in which I am probably not typical is that my conversion to faith in Jesus Christ, which occurred when I was 30 years old, required me immediately to recast my ideas of patriotism. At first, I was tempted to reject the idea of patriotism altogether, since I had been transferred out of the world into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. However, even though my relationship with Jesus greatly altered my attitude towards flag and country, I soon realized that there is a Christian patriotism that believers should feel towards their country.

What are some guidelines based on biblical teaching that can help us to embrace a biblical idea of patriotism? First, let me point out patriotic views and attitudes that Christians must reject:

- *Christians must reject a longing for national preeminence and power.* How well I remember the fiery passion of my youth, determined that America would be first in all things. As a Christian, I no longer crave earthly glory for my nation, but rather God's blessing. As a Christian I embrace the principle of Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."
- *Christians do not accept the statement: "My Nation, Right or Wrong."* A disciple of Christ must be loyal to God and his commands, even if it means speaking against his or her nation. As a Christian, I am horrified by sins widely embraced in America and consider it my duty to oppose in lawful ways the wide range of evil that increasingly dominates our culture. As a servant of Christ I am appalled both by the empty materialistic idolatry that often attaches itself to the political right and even more so by the pagan evil espoused by the political left. In any case, my desire is for our political leaders to appeal to God's Word as our founding fathers so often did.