

Jesus' second priority is God's rule on earth: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt. 9:10). Praying for God's kingdom to come is praying for the ways of God to be known, believed, and practiced. We pray for God's kingdom when we ask God to send forth His Word in power for the conversion of sinners and the strengthening of believers. We pray for God's kingdom when we ask God to increase our faith and grant us a passion for holiness. We pray for God's kingdom when we weep in prayer over the broken, asking for them to seek comfort in Him. We pray for God's kingdom when we pray against the wicked advance of pagan godlessness in our culture. We are certainly praying in God's will, therefore, when we ask God to bring our children up to a mature faith, to strengthen mothers and fathers for their duties, to grant wisdom and grace to the elders and deacons in their leadership, and when we ask God to bind our church together in a holy bond of truth and love through Jesus Christ. Aren't these the truly important things? Of them, Jesus said, "Ask, and you will receive."

Praying with a kingdom purpose does not mean that we cannot or should not pray for our own practical affairs. It does mean that our perspective on our affairs ought to be molded by God's perspective as revealed in the Bible. We tend to be concerned with circumstances, whereas God is concerned with character. We tend to care about finding answers to our problems, whereas God sees the indwelling effects of sin and unbelief as our real problems. Therefore, when we pray for ourselves we should prioritize God's spiritual agenda in our lives. In his important parable on prayer, Jesus concluded "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk. 11:13). This says that God is eagerly willing to give us what we need, and also that the best things God has for us are the result of the Holy Spirit's work! Therefore, while I must say, "If it is your will," when it comes to outward matters of my circumstances (for which I do not know what God's will is), I can be certain of God's will when I am praying for the work of His Holy Spirit in my life.

Realizing that God is certain to answer prayers about the Spirit's work has revolutionized my prayer life. I can look at the Beatitudes with which Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount and pray knowing that God desires these things for me, wants me to pray for them, and in His own way is certain to answer these prayers. I can pray, "Make me poor in spirit so that I may receive your kingdom," knowing that He will send the Spirit to do that. I can pray, "Father, make me pure in heart, so that I can see your face," confident that the Spirit will come to cleanse and purify. I can pray the same way about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, which contains numerous graces that I know God wants me to exhibit. I can pray for my growth in grace, my passion for Christ, my need for strength against sin, my boldness as a witness, God's blessing on my spiritual gifts for service, my faithfulness as a husband and father, my courage as a leader and compassion as a shepherd, along with many other items that I know are God's agenda for me, and I can do so knowing that these are in God's will and that He will send the Spirit in answer to my prayer. Aren't these the important things? Jesus says of them, "The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk. 11:13). Let's therefore pray with a kingdom purpose and with a spiritual purpose in our own lives. Then James will be able to say of us, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (Ja. 5:16).

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

Aug. 12	Fun Friday Playdate @ Riverplace Fountains
Aug. 14	Hugh Player Fold Dinner (12:15 pm-Fellowship Hall)
Aug. 17	Musical CAT Kids end-of-summer celebration
Aug. 17	WIC Circle 6
Aug. 21	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
Aug. 24	CE Committee Meeting
Aug. 24	Regular CAT Kids resumes
Aug. 25	WIC Annual Meeting
Aug. 26	Fun Friday Playdate @ Jones Gap State Park
Aug. 28	Rally Day/Ministry Testimonies
Aug. 28	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
Aug. 28	WIC Installation of Officers
Aug. 31	Ministry Fair in Gym

Watch for Upcoming Events!

- Ministry Fair in gym on August 31st.
- Congregational meeting on September 11th.
- New Members' Class begins on September 18th.
- Deacon Nominations - Sept. 11th-18th.
- Evangelism Explosion Banquet on September 14th.
- Watch for Pastor Phillips new Sunday series on Thessalonians and his Wednesday night series on "Life After Death".

Thank You

Rick and Sharon Phillips express their sincere gratitude for the love and prayers of our church after Rick's mother's death. We so appreciated all the cards and kind expressions of support.

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how loved and cared for we have been by you, our family, since Jeffrey's death. Thank you for all the visits, phone calls, cards, meals and especially prayers. As sheep, we all have a mortal enemy who would love to destroy us, but we have a mightier Shepherd and Savior who loves us and who directs our steps and will meet all our needs. With Job, who lost 10 children, we say: "The LORD gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

—Scott, Sarah, Jonathan, Beth and Daniel Grubbs

Our Beloved Second Church Family,

*"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:3
Your many acts of kindness are so appreciated...O' the blessed assurance of this journey we share.*

—John and Marylouise Kozma

My Dear Church Family,

Once again I am indebted to you for the way in which you have showered me with your love. I had hoped never to be in the hospital again, much less have surgery. But there I have been. And you have shown your love in many ways. Your prayers have meant more than my feeble vocabulary can express. The Lord has been gracious and at last I feel that I am "on the mend" and trust I will be back to worship with you soon. I appreciated every card, phone call and visit, and am especially appreciative of those who came to sit with me in the hospital and those who transported me to doctors, labs, etc.

—Lovingly in our Savior's Name, Bobbie Houser

Attention: Women in the Church

Precepts Bible Study begins September 22, from 9:30-11:00 am and will continue each Thursday for 11 weeks. We will be studying Covenant: Knowing God's Covenant. Precepts requires approximately 5 hours of homework per week. Join us as we grow in God's Word together. Please let Mary Russell (329-1670) know as soon as possible if you plan to attend as books need to be ordered.

Fun Friday Playdate



ATTENTION:
Second Pres. Nursery Kids and Moms
Our next Fun Friday Playdate
August 12, 2011 @ 10:00 AM



Riverplace Fountains
Meet at the water area,
which is just outside the lower portion of the Hampton Inn.
For questions call Kelly Woodard @ 895-1241
or Rebekah Johnson @ 430-3408.

Treasurer's Report

JULY 2011 & YTD Financial Status

	Actual		
	July 2011	YTD 2011	YTD Budget
Offerings	83,171	537,799	563,704
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	73,019	532,905	507,100
Mission Disbursements	-0-	60,746	75,238
Total Outlays	73,019	593,651	582,338
Net Offerings	10,152	(55,852)	

If you have any questions, please contact
Pat Holbrook or David Rainey.

Contributions in July, 2011, were \$83,171 versus budget of \$80,529. Contributions for 7 months ending July, 2011, were \$537,799 versus \$484,291 for the same period in 2010. YTD contributions are behind budget by \$25,905. Operating expenses for July, 2011, were \$73,019 versus the budget of \$58,640. 6 months of Missions and Benevolences have been paid through July, 2011. If you are behind in your contributions for 2011, we encourage you to catch up. As we are in the summer months, please be faithful in your giving so we can reduce the cash flow deficit of \$55,852 for 2011. Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide the financial resources necessary for the programs and ministry of SPC.

Rally Day - August 28, 2011

WIC Annual Meeting



All women in the church are invited and encouraged to attend the WIC Annual Meeting.

Thursday, August 25, 2011
Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM

Agenda:
Election of Officers
Recognition of New Members
Refreshments will be served.

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 14

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 12:15 PM Hugh Player Fold Dinner - Fellowship Hall
 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**

Tuesday, August 16

10:00 AM WIC Bible Study

Wednesday, August 17

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:45 PM **Family Night Fellowship Supper**
 6:45 PM Musical CAT Kids' end of summer celebration party
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
 6:45 PM WIC Circle 6

Baptism

Braylon Jessie Dalton, covenant child of Storie Dalton received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 7, 2011. We are thankful for the Dalton family and pray for Braylon that he will love and serve the Lord all the days of his life.

Music Notes

Attention Parents: The 3rd-5th graders will be singing with the choir this Sunday, August 14, at the 11:00 am service. Please have your children in the choir room by 10:30 am so we can get robes on and rehearse.
 Thank you, Elizabeth Guest

Will You Help Make Space for Others?

Have you ever thought about switching your weekly attendance to the 8:30 am service? If asked, would you be willing? We are enjoying our large Sunday crowds, but anticipate this fall that it will become more difficult with families to find a place to sit at the 11:00 am service. If you are able, would you help our church grow our outreach to new families and visitors by making the switch to the 8:30 am service.

**WIC Circle 6 will meet Wednesday,
 August 17 at 6:45 pm instead of August 10th.**

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. Dot Porter
 416 Grove Road
 Greenville, SC 29605
 235-1028

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY AUGUST 14, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

A BENEDICTION FOR THE KING

Psalm 72
 Anthem:
 Sing Alleluia Forth
 Hymns: 165, 441, 311
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

SPIRITUAL RECOVERY

Psalm 73
 Hymns: 657, 600, 658
 Psalter: Psalm 117 (*First Version*)
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching



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

August 8, 2011

Letter From The Senior Minister Praying with a Kingdom Purpose

I am occasionally asked whether or not we should always add the words "if it is Your will" to our prayers. This is a good question, since the apostle James taught us to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that" (Ja. 4:15). James was concerned that Christians not pray boastfully or presumptuously, but humbly leave our affairs in God's sovereign hands. For this reason, when we pray for practical needs in our lives – jobs, health, relationships, etc. – we should indeed pray, "If it is Your will."

There are, however, important prayer concerns for which we should not pray, "if it is Your will." The reason is that we know from Scripture that they are God's will. In fact, these are the most important prayer matters and, since we know they are God's will, they should occupy the primary place in our prayers. In my experience, most of us can greatly improve our prayer lives by focusing on these things that we know are God's will and which He has promised to answer if only we will pray. In these matters, the problem is not that God may not grant what we pray for but simply that we will fail to ask Him. James, again, states the situation best when it comes to these divinely-willed matters: "You do not have, because you do not ask" (Ja. 4:2).

What are these matters that we know God wills, and which He promises to grant if we ask? To put it differently, to what was Jesus referring when he taught His disciples: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Lk. 11:9). Again, Jesus taught, "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (Jn. 14:13). Praying in Jesus' name is praying in line with His agenda. So what is this divine agenda that Jesus has promised to bless if only we will pray for it?

The answer is that *God wills the purposes of His kingdom*. God has His agenda and has published it in the Holy Scriptures. God's kingdom purposes are His will, and when we pray for them we need not add, "if it is Your will," since we know it is. Shouldn't this agenda – God's kingdom purposes – form the basis of our prayers? If our prayers reflect God's known will, the result can only be a more confident, more expectant, and more fruitful prayer life.

What are God's kingdom purposes? The answer is found throughout the Bible, but the Lord's Prayer is a good place to start. How did Jesus begin? Did He teach, "When you pray, go straight to your worldly needs and concerns, which may or may not be God's will for you?" Far from it! Jesus said, "Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name'" (Mt. 6:9). This means, "Father, may your name be holy!" May your name be exalted above all other names! May your name receive the praise it deserves! May the glory of who and what you are – a glory far above all other glories – be known and exalted everywhere! Jesus is telling us that the top priority of God's kingdom is God's glory. For this reason, in normal situations the priority of our prayers should be the praise of God, coupled with petitions for His glory to be advanced in our own lives, in the church, and in the world. These are prayers that are in God's will and are certain to be answered by our glory-revealing God.