

and good relations with unbelievers. Along the way, Paul explains his own motives in ministry so that the believers can recognize an authentic servant of Christ. This upbeat message is why I am attracted to preaching 1-2 Thessalonians, since Paul provides a biblical definition of a good church and then writes about how a good church should grow spiritually. In my view, Second Presbyterian is also a good church, so Paul's exhortations for spiritual growth will be good for us to consider.

First Thessalonians is also noteworthy for its important teaching about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Paul wanted these Christians living in a hostile world to ground their hope in Christ's return, just as we need to be taught to do the same. In my view, studying this teaching in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:11 will make a constructive impression in many of our lives. In Second Thessalonians, written shortly after the first letter, Paul wants to correct errors about Christ's return. He wants to make sure the believers are not deceived into thinking that Christ has already returned and reveals that "the man of lawlessness" (2:3) must first appear. In this context, Paul gives important teaching regarding the Antichrist and spiritual warfare with Satan. Too often, Reformed Christians neglect the Bible's teaching on the return of Christ, but it is important that we understand what the Scriptures tell us. Paul also emphasizes the victory of Christ through the final judgment after his return in glory, another theme with which Christians are to be familiar, and gives vital counsel on how Christians should grieve for those we love who have died.

In summary, then, the main themes of 1-2 Thessalonians are: 1) what is a good church and what should a good church be doing? 2) what is a godly ministry and how should believers respond to it? and 3) what should we believe about the return of Christ and why is it (along with the final judgment) so important to our present lives? Sprinkled alongside these themes are some of the most valuable pastoral observations and instructions from Paul to a wide variety of issues in Christian living and church health.

I hope you are as excited as I am about our upcoming series on First and Second Thessalonians. I would suspect that many in our congregation have never studied these important books and I look forward sitting under the apostle Paul's ministry as the Holy Spirit brings the Bible to life among us today. Please be in prayer for me as I study and preach, and pray for God to grow our church while directing our hearts forward to the great day when Christ returns in victory to gather His church. "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17).

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. 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
Sept. 4	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
Sept. 5	Church Office will be closed
Sept. 7	WIC Council
Sept. 7	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Sept. 7	Evangelism Explosion Banquet
Sept. 11	Joint Corporation and Congregation Meeting
Sept. 11	Deacon Nominations Begin
Sept. 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Sept. 12	Session Meeting
Sept. 12	Diaconate Meeting
Sept. 13-14	WIC Circles
Sept. 18	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Sept. 18	New Members' Class begins
Sept. 19	Young At Heart
Sept. 25	Evangelism/Church Growth meeting
Sept. 28	CE Committee Meeting

Watch for Upcoming Events!

- Ministry Fair in gym on August 31st.
- Evangelism Explosion Banquet - September 7th.
- Corporation and Congregation meeting on September 11th.
- Deacon Nominations - Sept. 11th - 18th.
- New Members' Class begins on September 18th.
- Watch for Pastor Phillips new Sunday series on Thessalonians and his Wednesday night series on "Life After Death".

Join Us for our Ministry Fair

August 28th is Rally Day at Second church. This year after we promote our younger children to their next grade we will present a "ministry fair" - a special time of testimony about ministry for the entire congregation. 7th grade and up will stay in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour on the 28th and hear from ministry leaders about the basics of ministry and how to get involved in different ministries. On Wednesday night, August 31st, we will continue the ministry fair and have an opportunity to interact after Wednesday night supper with ministry representatives. Join us both times and plan on becoming a part of the ministry at Second.

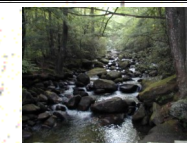
Boy Scout Troop 828

It is that time again! Boy Scout Troop 828 is getting ready to start our new year. We are looking for boys who are at least 11 years old, like camping, hiking, white water rafting, shooting, and learning to live off the land. We offer a positive Christian environment where you will learn to be a leader, volunteer in your community, and add to your resume for college entrance. This is a unique opportunity that is sure to change your life forever. If interested or have questions please call Duane Bargar, Scout Master, at 787-3299. Our first meeting is Sept. 6, 6pm at 2nd Presbyterian Church, Greenville. Hope to see you there.

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 26, 2011 @ 11:00 AM
 River Wading at Jones Gap State Park
 Meet at the Jones Gap State Park parking lot
 303 Jones Gap Road, Marietta, 29661
 (This is about a 40 minute drive from downtown)
 Pack a lunch, bring lots to drink, and dress to wade in the river.
 Admission fee is \$2.00 per adult, kids are free - *you must have exact cash.*
 Questions call Kelly Woodard @ 895-1241 or Rebekah Johnson @ 430-3408.

Good News Clubs

Volunteers are needed to continue our ministry to two local elementary schools. Good News Clubs will start the second week of September, and continue through March. If you are available on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 pm, please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you serve Him as we teach and encourage children at Augusta Circle and Hollis Academy. Volunteers can teach, be a grade shepherd (sit with the children during club and be a friend), provide snacks, and pray. You will be trained to do any job you are willing to try. Training will be Saturday, August 27, 9:00 am—12:00 noon at Brushy Creek Baptist Church. All workers need to attend this training. Contact Cyndi Player (963-8633) to volunteer or for more information.

Young At Heart Resumes

The Young At Heart monthly luncheon will resume September 19, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall with a catered lunch. The lunch will be \$6.00 per person, payable at the door. Mark your calendars now and don't miss out on this special time of good food, fun, and fellowship as we look forward to everyone coming back to our monthly meetings.

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.

Our New Church Family,

We would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness to us these past months in the death of Mom and Dad. Your calls, visits, phone calls and especially your prayers have truly sustained us during this time of grief. We have truly felt loved. The Lord is near to us. (Ps. 34:18)

—Blessings, Larry and Judy Pitts

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 21

- 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 Season of Prayer in the Chapel
- 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**

Tuesday, August 23

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study

Wednesday, August 24

- 5:00 PM CE Committee Meeting
- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 5:45 PM **Family Night Fellowship Supper**
- 6:45 PM Regular CAT Kids resume
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM **Prayer Meeting and Bible Study**

Thursday, August 25

- 7:00 PM WIC Annual Meeting

Friday, August 26

- 11:00 AM Fun Friday Playdate at Jones Gap State Park

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.

Church Parking on Sundays

Our church is growing and sometimes on Sundays it is hard to find a parking space in the lot. There is additional parking on the streets of River and Rhett and also in the Innovate parking lot. For those that are able and without small children please consider parking with the pastors in the lower lot on Camper-down. Thanks for your help.

Music Notes

Reminder:

- End-of-year Musical CAT Kids celebration: Wednesday, Aug. 17; 6:45 pm.
- Regular CAT Kids resume Wednesday, August 24; 6:45 pm
- Covenant Choir (3rd-8th grade) resumes Wednesday, September 7; 6:15 pm
- Wee Worship Choir (K4-2nd grade) resumes Sunday, September 4; 6:00 pm

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
AUGUST 21, 2011**

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

TO THE THESSALONIANS
1 Thessalonians 1:1

Anthem:

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
Hymns: 53, 347, 473

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

A CLICHÉ IMPERATIVE
Isaiah 43:1-7

Hymns: 94, 546, 420

Psalter: Psalm 118 (verses 1-16)
Rev. Seth t. Starkey preaching

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The West End Herald

Vol. LXIX, Edition 32

The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

August 15, 2011

Letter From The Senior Minister To the Thessalonians

Starting this coming Sunday (August 21), I will begin preaching through the letters from the apostle Paul to the church in Thessalonians. I believe that God blessed our studies in the Psalms (which will continue in the evening services after finishing 2 Samuel), but it is time to get back to the New Testament. Having preached through the Gospel of John from 2007-2010, I thought it good for us to study some Pauline writings and 1-2 Thessalonians is one of my favorite sections of Paul's letters.

The Thessalonian letters are among the oldest of the New Testament documents, with only Galatians likely having been written earlier. We are able to date 1-2 Thessalonians with a high degree of accuracy, since we know that Paul wrote them after his short stay in Athens (1 Thess. 3:1), which means the Thessalonian letters were penned in A.D. 50 or 51 (dates extracted from Acts 18:12's reference to Gallio as proconsul in Corinth). Most scholars believe that Paul had been disheartened by a succession of difficulties and apparent failures in Greece. Beginning with a good start in Philippi, where Lydia and others came to faith, Paul soon had to depart because of violent opposition to his ministry. Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica, where Paul preached in the synagogue and gathered some Jewish converts. The unbelieving Jews responded by forming a mob which put the city in an uproar and forced Paul to leave after only a short stay. Next, Paul preached in Berea, where the Jews from Thessalonica followed him and forced him to keep moving. In the great city of Athens, Paul preached his powerful Mars Hill sermon, yet only a few believed (Acts 17:34). We read in 1 Thessalonians 3:1; Paul sent his protégé Timothy back to Thessalonica to check on the small church he had left in that city, while Paul moved on to Corinth. Before long, Timothy rejoined Paul and Silas with the joyous news that the believers in Thessalonica were doing well. Paul writes that he is encouraged "because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" (1 Thess. 1:5).

How greatly it would have lifted Paul's heart during such a trying time to learn that his labors had resulted in a strong and growing church! It was in order to express his thanks and offer his encouragement that Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians. Given this purpose, this is one of Paul's more upbeat letters, in contrast to letters like Galatians and 1-2 Corinthians where Paul is writing to rebuke and correct error. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul writes to a church that is off to a good start and urges them to take the next steps, which consist of moral purity, brotherly love,