

**Answer:** The Nicene Creed is the oldest recorded confession of the church, arising out of the Council of Nicaea and its aftermath, and is a great statement of faith of the early church. We should try to interpret it correctly before we presume to revise it. The statement relating baptism to the washing of our sins is a direct quotation from the Bible (Acts 22:16). We should note, however, the creed relates baptism to the remission of sins by a preposition ("for") that is general in nature. We teach that baptism is a symbol of the washing of our sins, and declares this by confessing our belief in "baptism for the remission of our sins."

**Question:** Is the benediction biblical? Doesn't the benediction make the minister out to be a sort of priest invoking God's blessing on the congregation?

**Answer:** Yes, the benediction is biblical, but, no, it does not involve the priestly invocation of blessing. The biblical precedent for benedictions is found in the apostolic letters (in fact, our benedictions are taken from these letters), which often end in words of pastoral blessing (*benediction* means "word of blessing"). Our benedictions are not *invocational* – that is, the minister does not have authority to make the blessing so. Rather, the benediction is declarative: God's blessing is declared upon the believing congregation from the Word of God. The benediction also takes the form of a prayer by the minister for the congregation, as is evident with the words that I always use in my benedictions: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

**Question:** Why do we confess our sins as a congregation? Isn't the use of a prayer of confession just rote repetition?

**Answer:** Again, it is not rote repetition for me. Worship always requires us to invest our hearts, and this is especially true of the prayer of confession. This is a most important part of our corporate worship, because we as a church are coming into the presence of the holy God for the sacred ordinance of gathered worship, and we can only be accepted through the atoning blood of Christ. The confession of sin preaches the good news that however bad we know we are, through the blood of Christ even such wretched and wicked sinners as you and me are received into God's love and can expect God's blessing in our time of worship.

May the Lord bless you all this week.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips

### Noah's Ark...A Deluge of Evidence

Was Noah's Flood *really* worldwide? How could all those animals, including dinosaurs, fit in that little boat? God specified Noah's Ark to be 300 x 50 x 30 cubits in size. . . . What in the world is a cubit? The Creation Study Group invites you to come see a large-scale model of Noah's Ark and hear the "Ark Man," Mr. Rod Walsh, answer your questions about Noah's Flood on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. See yellow CSG Card for details. Bring a doubting friend!

### A Word About Safety and Security

The Officers are aware of the safety and security needs of the congregation. An active and thorough review of all existing procedures and emergency response plans is ongoing and any extra measures will be implemented as necessary. It is our intent to make Second Presbyterian a place where any and all can safely gather. Please talk with your Fold Elder or the church administrator with questions or concerns.

#### 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

### Upcoming Events

Sept. 18	Congregation Informational Meeting
Sept. 18	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Sept. 18	New Members' Class begins
Sept. 19	Young At Heart
Sept. 21	Shepherd's Meeting in Choir Room
Sept. 22	WIC Precepts Bible Study begins
Sept. 25	Joint Corporation and Congregation Meeting
Sept. 25	Patterson Fold Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
Sept. 25	Evangelism/Church Growth meeting
Oct. 2	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
Oct. 5	WIC Council
Oct. 5	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Oct. 6	Evangelism Explosion Training begins
Oct. 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Oct. 10	Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
Oct. 11-12	WIC Circles
Oct. 12	Blood Drive
Oct. 15	Church Fall Picnic
Oct. 16	The Lord's Supper - evening service
Oct. 17	Young At Heart
Oct. 19	CE Committee Meeting
Oct. 22	WIC Fall Retreat
Oct. 26	Reformation Party
Oct. 27	Calvary Presbytery
Oct. 30	Reformation Sunday
Oct. 30	Hymn Sing

**If you have a date for the October calendar please contact the church office this week.**

### New Members' Class

Begins Sunday, September 18, 2011  
9:50 am in Classroom C-209  
**Membership Vows**  
Taught by Rev. Robert E. Spears

### 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. Mrs. Linda Francis will be our speaker.

### Fall Church Picnic

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
Saturday, October 15, 2011 \* 9:30 - 2:00 pm  
HerdKlotz Park, 126 Beverly Road, Greenville  
The Deacons will be smoking BBQ.

Everyone please bring salads, side dishes, and desserts.

**There will be a dessert contest!**

Lunch will be about 11:30 am but come early and enjoy the park.

### Music Notes

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 18, the adult choir will hold its regular rehearsals at 4:00 pm and the Christmas Cantata rehearsals will be at 4:45 pm. If you are interested in joining the choir for the Christmas Cantata, please come!

**Note: All Shepherds meet with Elizabeth in the Choir Room on Wednesday, September 21, at 6:45 pm.**

### Diaconate Election

It is time for the congregation to prayerfully consider spiritually qualified men to serve as Deacons for the Class of 2015. The following schedule has been approved by the Session:

Nominations:	September 4-18
Called Session Meeting:	September 21
Training:	September 25 - November 6
Congregation Election:	December 4
Ordination/Installation:	December 18

**NOTE: September 18th is the last Sunday for nominations.**

### Men's Ministry

#### Chili Cook-off and Kickoff Fellowship

Friday, September 30 \* 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Second Pres Gym

**Pastor Phillips will be speaking on "The Masculine Mandate".**

We need brave "chefs" to sign up to bring their very best chili concoction.

Our judges will award the best chili a first place prize.

Contact Bill Hedgpeth at billhedge@bellsouth.net

#### Men's Lunch Fellowship

Tuesday, September 13th \* 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Tommy's Ham House on Poinsett

**The church history room will be closed until Sunday, November 6, for repairs and the installation of new displays.**

### Thank You

Dear Friends,

*Thank you so much for the many cards, calls, prayers, and other ways of kindness shown to me during the past few months. I am finally pain free thanks to God. I am so happy to be a part of the Second Church family.*

*Love in Christ, Judy Brigman*

### Treasurer's Report

#### AUGUST 2011 & YTD Financial Status

	Actual		
	Aug. 2011	YTD 2011	YTD Budget
Offerings	71,187	608,986	644,233
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	55,804	588,710	564,964
Mission Disbursements	22,870	83,616	85,987
Total Outlays	78,674	672,326	650,951
Net Offerings	(7,487)	(63,340)	

Contributions in August, 2011, were \$71,187 versus budget of \$80,529. Contributions for 8 months ending August, 2011, were \$608,986 versus \$563,342 for the same period in 2010. YTD contributions are behind budget by \$35,247. Operating expenses for August, 2011, were \$55,804 versus the budget of \$57,864. The 3rd quarter missionary support was paid in August. The missionaries are paid up through Sept. If you are behind in your contributions for 2011, we encourage you to catch up. Offerings were less in August, 2011 versus August, 2010 by \$7,884. 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, September 18

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 9:50 AM New Members' Class  
 10:00 AM **Congregation Informational Meeting**  
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL** (6th grade and under)  
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 4:00 PM Regular Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 4:45 PM Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
 5:00 PM Missions Committee Meeting  
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel  
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**  
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

### Monday, September 19

11:45 AM Young At Heart

### Tuesday, September 20

10:00 AM WIC Bible Study  
 6:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 828

### Wednesday, September 21

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**  
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir  
 6:45 PM Shepherds' meeting in Choir Room  
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids  
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study  
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**

### Thursday, September 22

9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study  
 7:00 PM Creation Study Group Presentation

## Congregation Meetings

- There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, September 18, at 10:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) presented by the Long Range Planning Committee. The meeting will be to explain and answer questions concerning the information inserted in this week's Herald.
- The Session has called a joint corporation and congregation meeting for Sunday, September 25, 2011, at 10:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) to vote on the recommendation made by the Long Range Planning Committee.

## Evangelism Explosion Training

Have you ever wanted to tell a friend or relative about Jesus, but did not know how to start or what to say? Evangelism Explosion is an evangelistic training program designed to equip you to tell others the good news about Jesus Christ. The fall semester will begin Thursday, October 6, at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Please call or see Ken Safford (419-8267) to sign up, or if you have any questions.

## Remembering One Another

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

**Miss Sara Cater**  
 11 Colgate Ave.  
 Greenville, SC 29617  
 246-3292

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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## WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

<sup>1</sup>Thessalonians 1:5-7

Anthem:

We Lift Up Our Hearts and Voices

Hymns: 32, 679, 378

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

### EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

### YOU ARE THE MAN!

<sup>2</sup>Samuel 12:1-15

Hymns: 253, 499, 486

Psalter: Psalm 119 (verses 41-48)

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 36

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

September 12, 2011

## Letter From The Senior Minister Questions About Worship At Second Church

Occasionally I am asked questions about our worship service, and I am always happy to give an answer. (Let me say, in general, that I never mind being asked honest questions about the church, theology, or Christian living. Please don't ask me about South Carolina college football, however, as I'm trying to maintain a pastoral relationship with Clemson and Carolina supporters alike!). Here are some common questions about worship; I hope my answers are a help to those who have been wondering:

**Question:** Why do our ministers wear robes?

**Answer:** Our ministers wear robes during worship services because they are exercising a formal office in the Church. Policemen, soldiers, and even doctors and nurses wear uniforms when on duty, and our ministers are likewise officers on duty, having been set apart for the ministry of Word and sacrament as they lead the church in sacred worship. The Puritan Thomas Watson wrote: "As a king speaks by his ambassadors, know that in every sermon preached, God calls to you; and to refuse the message we bring is to refuse God himself." In keeping with the long tradition of Reformed churches, the robes serve to remind church members of this divinely-given authority, rather than an authority based on the preacher's personality, charisma, or public stature.

**Question:** Isn't the reciting of creeds merely an exercise in tradition? How is this relevant today?

**Answer:** I don't know about you, but I never "recite" the creed. Instead, I stand shoulder to shoulder with the saints of all ages as we join our voices in *proclaiming* the great Christian faith. By confessing our faith together we glorify God, we implant important truths in our minds, and we make a point of standing together with the one, universal Christian Church of all ages, joined by the faith we confess. The creed is therefore a highlight of worship for me, and I hope it will be for you, too.

**Question:** Speaking of creeds, why do we omit the phrase, "He descended into hell," from the Apostles' Creed?

**Answer:** It is true that we use a form of the Apostles' Creed that omits this phrase, an omission that is common in Southern Presbyterian church history. The reason is that this item was a late addition to the Apostles' Creed and, while we would affirm a correct understanding of it, this phrase has some unhelpful ambiguity as to its meaning. Moreover, unlike all the other events of Jesus' life in the creed – born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died and was buried, and rose from the grave – the Bible provides no clear teaching on the experience of Jesus' soul during his three days in death. It thus has seemed best to us, along with many others, to omit this phrase from the Apostles' Creed. (While I'm on the Apostles' Creed, *catholic* means *universal*, not *Roman Catholic*).

**Question:** What about the phrase, "We believe in one baptism for the remission of sins?" Does that suggest baptismal regeneration or some similar error?