

The third use of the law is to *guide the conduct of believers*. The law not only tells us what we must not do, but it also clarifies what we should do. When the law says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex. 20:3), we should realize that God should be first in all things. When we read, "You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13), we recognize the sanctity of human life. Where the law says, "You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness" (Ex. 20:14-16), we recognize our calling to be pure, to seek the blessing of others, and to speak the truth in all things. Therefore, I hope your increased awareness of the Ten Commandments will daily influence you towards godly conduct. As the Bible says, "The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Ps. 19:7-8).

But there are wrong uses of the law that we must vigorously avoid. One misuse is to *add human rules to God's law*. Many well-meaning Christians do this by forbidding actions that are not forbidden in the Bible, such as attending any movie or a proper use of alcoholic beverages. Christians are likely to have differing views on the wisdom and propriety of these and other actions, but we must not give the force of God's law to our own human prohibitions. (For wisdom on this matter, consider 1 Tim. 4:4, where Paul says that everything God has made is good if used properly and with thanksgiving; 1 Cor. 6:12, where Paul responds to those who are abusing Christian liberty by arguing that "not all things are helpful," and Romans chapter 14, where Paul urges that mature Christians should not allow their proper use of Christian liberty to distress those with less understanding).

A second misuse of the law is *an excessive focus on obedience, to the exclusion of a balanced Christian life of faith, love, and prayer*. Paul was combating this form of legalism when he wrote in Galatians, "neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6). Christians are to obey God's law, but we are to do so in a spirit of joy, love, and thanksgiving, while we rely always on God's wonderful grace for us in Christ.

The worst misuse of the law is *to seek to justify ourselves before God and man by our works*. Paul reminds us that "by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God's] sight" (Rom. 3:20). The reason is that none of us can or do keep the law sufficiently. This is why God offers us the gospel, which speaks the good news of a Savior for sinners like us. With this in mind, let us never boast or feel any sense of pride in our keeping of the law. The first and best use of the law is always to drive us to Jesus Christ to save us from our sin. And the best result of the law is achieved when we can say with the apostle Paul, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal. 6:14).

May the Lord bless you all this Lord's Day.

Yours in Christ,
Richard D. 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

Nov. 5	WIC Shower for Maria Pennington
Nov. 6	Daylight Savings Time ends
Nov. 6	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
Nov. 7	Diaconate Meeting
Nov. 8	Election Day
Nov. 8-9	WIC Circles
Nov. 9	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Nov. 12	WIC Shower for Rachel Berens
Nov. 13	New Members' Luncheon
Nov. 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Nov. 14	Young At Heart Thanksgiving Luncheon
Nov. 14	Session Meeting
Nov. 17	Jessamines Group
Nov. 20	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Dinner and Service
Nov. 24-25	Church Office Closed
Nov. 27	Evangelism/Church Growth Meeting
Nov. 30	CE Committee Meeting

Young At Heart

The next monthly Young At Heart luncheon will be Monday, November 14, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. **Please note change of date this month due to Thanksgiving.** The special catered Thanksgiving meal will be \$7.00 per person, payable at the door. Rev. Paul Settle will share with us a special Thanksgiving message. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss this special event.

WIC Jessamines

The WIC Jessamine Group (5th-8th grade girls and their moms) will meet Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program this month is "Serving Through Hospitality, Table of Thanksgiving" led by Mrs. Pat Shuford. The dinner is Thanksgiving Pot Luck. Please bring a dish to share.

Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 10/30/11

Pledges Received: \$36,070

Contributions Received: \$17,865

WIC Baby Shower



All ladies are invited to a
WIC wipes/diaper/formula baby shower for
Rachel Berens and new daughter Leanna Claire



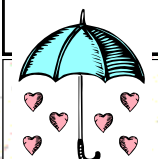
Saturday, November 12, 2011

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Church Fellowship Hall

(any brand wipes; size 2 diapers, Enfamil Infant formula; Walmart gift card)

WIC Shower



All ladies are invited to a WIC bridal shower for
Maria Pennington

Saturday, November 5, 2011

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Church Fellowship Hall

Maria is registered at Belk and Bed, Bath and Beyond.



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6th
Don't forget to turn your clocks back
1 hour Saturday Night.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child
"The Power of A Simple Gift"

Share God's love and the joy of Christmas by packing a gift-filled shoe box for a hurting child overseas. Your simple gift can make an eternal difference. Pamphlets on how to pack a shoe box and all other instructions are located throughout the church, on bulletin boards or in the church office. **Please plan on bringing your prepared box(es) to the church office by Sunday, November 13th.**

Meals for New Mothers

The WIC's program "Meals for New Mothers" is online at takethemameal.com. If you would like to get on the schedule to take the Johnsons a meal, the login is Johnson and the password is 1892. If you have any questions you can call Janice Leathers at 895-6646 or 616-5854.

MTW's 30 Days of Prayer

30 Days of Prayer is designed to encourage prayer for the work of the gospel and the growth of the Church, especially in restricted-access countries and among unreached people groups. MTW's goal is also to bring attention to the cries of persecuted believers around the world. MTW has scheduled a month of prayer for Global Missions—November, 2011. Brochures has been placed around the church as a guide for your prayer time. The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is November 13, 2011. Please be sure to pick up a brochure and participate in the 30 Days of Prayer. Mark your calendars for November 13 and join millions of people around the world who will be "Hearing their Cry" and praying for the Persecuted Church.

Join Us In Honoring Veterans Honor Flight to Washington DC on November 8th

Our congregation will have three members on the next Veterans Flight to Washington, Tuesday, November 8: WWI Marine Corp. Veteran Harrison R. King, accompanied by his son, John H. King, and Nurse/Guardian for these flights, Gloria C. Elrod. Friends are invited to go to the GSP Airport on November 8th at 7:30 pm to greet these and other veterans on their return and express appreciation for their service to our country.

Thanksgiving Dinner & Service Wednesday, November 23, 5:45 pm

New Members' Luncheon

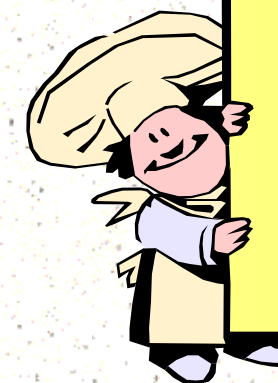
All members and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon honoring our new members,

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Immediately following the 11:00 morning worship service in the church gymnasium.

Meat and drinks will be provided by the church.

Church members are asked to bring generous portions of side dishes (vegetables, salads, breads) and desserts.



Church Calendar

Sunday, November 6

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM New Members' Class
 9:55 AM Deacon Training
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 4:00 PM Regular Adult Choir Rehearsal
 4:45 PM Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir
 7:15 PM **CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
 A - J Side Dishes
 K - Z Main Course
Everyone please bring one 2-liter drink.

Monday, November 7

4:45 PM I-Mites Basketball Practice
 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting
 6:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball game at John Knox
 8:00 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball game at 2nd Pres.

Tuesday, November 8

10:00 AM WIC Circles 1 & 3 meet at the church
 12:00 PM Men's Bible Luncheon at Tommy's Ham House
 2:30 PM WIC Circle 5 meets at the church
 6:00 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball Practice
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828
 7:00 PM 5th and 6th grade Boys' Basketball Practice
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 meets at the home of Tammy Looper
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 meets at Panera Bread on Augusta Street

Wednesday, November 9

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**
 6:45 PM WIC Circle 6 meets in the Conference Room
 6:55 PM Deacon Training
 8:30 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball Practice

Thursday, November 10

9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training

Saturday, November 12

9:30 AM Midget Boys' Basketball game at St. Matthews
 10:30 AM WIC Shower for Rachel Berens
 10:45 AM I-Mites Basketball game at Westminster Pres. II
 11:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at All Saints
 12:15 PM Mites Basketball game at 2nd Pres.
 12:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at St. Mary

Remembering One Another

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

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

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY NOVEMBER 6, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

NOW WE LIVE!

1 Thesalonians 3:6-10

Anthem:

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Hymns: 346, 604, 345

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

SING, CHRISTIANS, FULL OF JOY

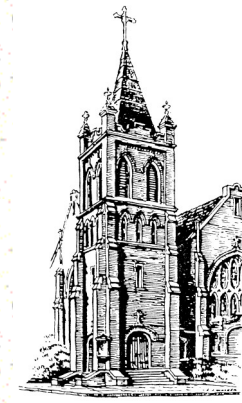
Psalm 33

Hymns: 2, 4, 478

Psalter: Psalm 119 (verses 65-72)

Rev. Robert E. Spears preaching

«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
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The Second Presbyterian Church
 Corner of River and Rhett Streets
 Greenville, South Carolina

October 31, 2011

Letter from the Senior Minister How to Use God's Law

“We know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully” (1 Tim. 1:8).

Every Sunday we read God's law in the morning worship service. God's law includes all the commands and precepts of the Bible, but its chief summary is found in the Ten Commandments. Some Christians wrongly believe that since Christ has come, we have nothing to do with God's law. But how wrong and harmful this is! I believe the reading of the Ten Commandments, one per week, benefits us in a number of ways, but only if we use God's law as intended by God.

God's law is a multi-use tool, much like a multi-bladed pocketknife. Reformed theology understands three principle “uses” of God's law. The classic treatment of this subject was given by John Calvin in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559). Calvin very helpfully (and biblically) identifies three uses of the law of God.

The first use of the law is to *convict us of our guilt*. Calvin writes, “It warns, informs, convicts, and lastly condemns, every man of his own unrighteousness.” This is why we will read the law before the confession of sin: to make clear to us the commandments we have transgressed. Paul writes, “Through the law comes knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20). Calvin compares the law to a mirror that shows us what we really look like. A mirror does not clean your face, but it shows you that your face is dirty. In this manner, the law drives us to the gospel, which is able to cleanse us from our sin. Let me encourage you, then, to make good use of this first use of the law: look into this mirror and see that you are a sinner, and then turn your heart in faith to the forgiveness offered by God in the gospel. It is my hope that our reading of the law will not merely convict you of sin, but will make the assurance of pardon that follows our confession of sin come alive with power and joy.

The second use of the law is to *restrain sin*. In other words, the law helps to keep people from sinning. Paul wrote this way about the law of Moses: “Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions” (Gal. 3:19). Paul's point was that God wanted to preserve the nation of Israel until the coming of Christ, so he gave the law to push back the influence of sin in their society. Calvin points out that even unsaved people are restrained in their sin by the law. But it is also true among believers. Therefore, it is important for the well-being of the church and of every Christian family that its members be impressed with the Ten Commandments, which remind us that it is wrong to blaspheme, to rebel against God-ordained authority, to injure others, to be unfaithful to covenants, to take what is not ours, to speak falsely or loosely, and to covet the blessings that others have.