

by all believers using the ordinary means of learning. Note as well that the Bereans were preoccupied with what was being said rather than who was saying it. Their enthusiasm was not for the preacher himself; it was what he said and more especially, the gospel that he proclaimed that captivated their attention. The Bereans searched the Scriptures in order to better understand the gospel rather than to sign up for a preacher fan-club."

"Third, the Bereans *responded to the Word*. "Many of them therefore believed" (Acts 17:12). Listening to sermons should result in a desire to put what we learn into practice. Good preaching always applies the Bible to daily life. Good sermons tell us what promises we are to lay hold of in our troubles, what sins we are to avoid when we are tempted, what attributes of God should elicit praise from our hearts, what virtues we ought to cultivate, what goals we should pursue, and what good works we should engage in. Paul was careful to tell Timothy that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:15-17)."

I hope that Dr. Thomas' teaching will be helpful to you as you engage in one of the most important activities in life: listening to the preaching of God's Word. As a hearer of preaching, I was helped as well. Here are concluding words from Dr. Thomas:

In the end, the question is this: will you submit to what is true if God teaches it? And how will you know that? The answer: by turning to the Bible and examining it. You have no excuse, my friend. You have a copy in your own hands, or at least in your own home. Will you be a hearer only? Or will you be both a hearer and a doer of the word? This is the only honest way to listen to a sermon!

May the Lord bless you all this week.
In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

Treasurer's Report

October 2011 & YTD Financial Status	Actual			Contributions in Oct., 2011, were \$106,993 versus budget of \$80,529. Contributions for 10 months ending Oct., 2011, were \$778,254 versus \$720,019 for the same period in 2010. YTD contributions are behind budget by \$27,038. Operating expenses for Oct., 2011, were \$51,505 versus the budget of \$58,265. Oct. contributions improved our cash situation greatly. To meet projected expenditures of \$990,000 for 2011, contributions need to average \$105,873 per month for Nov. and Dec. The average for the same period in 2010 was \$88,786. If you are behind in your contributions for 2011, we encourage you to catch up.
	Sept. 2011	YTD 2011	YTD Budget	
Offerings	106,993	778,254	805,292	
Outlays:				
Operating Expenses	51,505	696,841	681,193	
Mission Disbursements	-0-	83,616	107,884	
Total Outlays	51,505	780,457	789,077	
Net Offerings	55,488	(2,203)		

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 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

Nov. 12	WIC Shower for Rachel Berens
Nov. 13	New Members' Luncheon
Nov. 13	International Day of Prayer
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.

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)

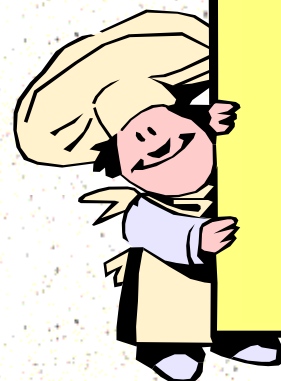
New Members' Luncheon

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.



Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 11/6/11

Pledges Received: \$55,319

Contributions Received: \$29,889

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child
"The Power of A Simple Gift"
Please bring your prepared box(es) to the church office
by Sunday, November 13th.

Deacon Work Day For Members

Saturday, November 19th

If anyone is interested in doing some light house work or yard work for members needing help, or would like to have their name added to the list of work to be done, please contact John Atwood (275-9821) or atwood.jm@gmail.com. The scheduled work day will be Saturday, November 19.

Nursery

Additional volunteers are needed for the nursery, especially during Sunday morning early church services. If you are willing would you please let Karen Gray know you will step in and help.

Men's Ministry Cookout and Fellowship

Clemson-USC Cookout and Fellowship
(for all men, fathers/sons, etc.)

Saturday, November 26 * Time: TBA

At the home of Jacob Gamble

6 Westminister Drive, Greenville, SC 29605

More details to follow shortly

If you are not going to the game, make plans to join us and watch it at the Gambles.

Thanksgiving Dinner & Service
Wednesday, November 23
Supper - 5:45 PM - Gymnasium
Service - 7:00 PM - Sanctuary

December Calendar

Please call the church office this coming week if you have a December date for the calendar. We encourage Sunday School classes and other church groups to be sure and let us know the date if you are planning a Christmas party. Due to the Thanksgiving holidays, and this busy time of year, we would like to have all dates on the church calendar before Thanksgiving Day. **The office will be closed Thursday and Friday of that week.**

International Day of Prayer

Sunday, November 13

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Join us at 5:30 pm in the Chapel as we intercede for our brothers and sisters under persecution.

Tablecloths

4 round tablecloths for the tables in the Fellowship Hall are missing. If you have forgotten to return these tablecloths please do so this week. They are needed for upcoming events. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 13

- 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 12:15 PM NEW MEMBERS' LUNCHEON
- 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 Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Monday, November 14

- 11:45 AM Young At Heart Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 4:45 PM I-Mites Basketball Practice
- 6:30 PM Session Meeting
- 7:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball game at 1st Pres.
- 8:00 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball game at Westminster Pres.

Tuesday, November 15

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
- 12:00 PM Men's Bible Luncheon at Tommy's Ham House
- 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

Wednesday, November 16

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 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
- 8:30 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball Practice

Thursday, November 17

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

Saturday, November 19

- 8:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at 4th Pres.
- 9:30 AM Midget Boys' Basketball game at OLR
- 11:30 AM I-Mites' Basketball game at W. Pres. II
- 12:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at AYMC
- 1:45 PM Mites' Basketball game at 2nd Pres.

Remembering One Another

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

Luella Henderson
Shepherd's Care #121
2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29609
244-2001

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2011**

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

AN APOSTOLIC PASTORAL PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Anthem:

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates

Hymns:

100, 8:30 am-5:29; 11:00 am-3:59, 549

Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Isaiah 45:14-19

Hymns: 38, 128, 401

Psalter: Psalm 119 (verses 79-80)

Rev. Seth T. Starkey preaching

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



The West End Herald

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

November 7, 2011

**Letter from the Senior Minister
How to Listen to a Sermon**

"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

I recently read a chapter in Dr. Derek Thomas' commentary on the book of *Acts*, titled, "How to Listen to a Sermon." The chapter was an exposition of Acts 17:10-15, Luke's description of Paul's preaching in the city of Berea. This passage is famous for the above quoted statement, which sets an example for us all. Dr. Thomas writes: "These words provide for us a paradigm as to how preaching ought to be heard at any time. They provide an answer to the question, "How should we listen to a sermon?" Thomas breaks down the Bereans' example in three points: they *received*, *researched*, and *responded* to the Word that was preached. Here is what he had to say:

"First, *they received the Word.*" Specifically, they received the Word "with eagerness." There was a sense of expectancy about their listening. This was no mere academic enterprise, to be engaged in with emotional detachment. Neither did they engage in it with routine familiarity, listening only half-heartedly and out of a sense of obligation rather than desire. To listen with eagerness to a sermon is not something that comes naturally; it is something that needs careful cultivation.

"In order to cultivate a sense of expectancy when it comes to preaching, we need to prepare ourselves for it. Our souls need to be prepared *beforehand*. It begins by faithful and earnest prayer for the preacher during the course of the week, and especially in the hours leading up to the worship service. We should ensure that time is set apart on Saturday evening and early Sunday morning to ask for the Lord's blessing on the reading and exposition of Scripture. The cure for sleepy heads on Sunday morning is to get to bed earlier on Saturday night. Preparation of the heart for worship is like putting on armor; we are powerless to resist idle thoughts in worship if we make no preparation to resist them beforehand."

"Second, the Bereans *researched the Word*. Luke tells us that they were "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11). For several days after the Sabbath, these Jews evidently came back to the synagogue and searched the scrolls (they being too expensive for private ownership), to check whether the things Paul said were true or not.

"Notice *the priesthood of all believers* revealed in the Bereans' response: they searched the Scriptures for themselves. They did not need the intermediary of some priest or academic to teach them what they needed to know about God and His Word. True, they undoubtedly asked for the help of the local rabbi and those who had a measure of maturity in their understanding. But the Scriptures were open to everyone to examine. At the very least, this should encourage us to bring our Bibles with us to the worship service and to open them and follow along as it is read and preached. The holiest sounds of a worship service are the frequent rustling of the leaves of Scripture being turned in the pews! Notice also *the perspicuity (clarity) of Scripture*. The essential truths of the Bible can be understood