

hasty shelters. It soon became clear, however, that they were unprepared for the danger of starvation during the winter that soon began. Many were afflicted by sickness and almost half of the original Pilgrims died before spring arrived. How, then, did any of them survive? The answer reveals *God's sovereignty*.

The Pilgrims, it turned out, had landed in the midst of a great nation of Native Americans. The habitable land on which they had begun building had been the Indian village of Patuxet, which had been completely wiped out by a disease brought to the New World by Europeans. Therefore, not only were the Pilgrims facing death by starvation but they also would have to fear potentially hostile natives on whose land they had stumbled. How could God deliver them from such deadly danger so far from any source of help or support? The answer arrived one December day when two Native Americans strolled into their village. As Pilgrims scrambled for their muskets, one of the Indians astonished them by speaking clearly in their own language. His name was Squanto, and he introduced his friend as Samoset. Squanto had grown up on this very land and had only recently returned after having been enslaved by English traders, from whom he had learned to speak our language. After a period of slavery, he had been purchased and set free by Spanish monks who had taught him about Jesus Christ. Into the midst of the Pilgrims had emerged the last thing anyone could ever have expected: a friendly, English-speaking, Christian native who possessed a detailed knowledge of the area! Even the Pilgrims, with their great faith, were astonished.

Squanto stayed with the Pilgrims and provided the help that enabled the community to survive. He showed them where herring had begun their migration. He taught them to fish with traps and to stalk game in the forest. He showed them which berries could be picked and taught them to plant corn with natives seeds purchased from a local tribe. He interceded for the Pilgrims among nearby Native Americans so as to avoid hostile attacks.

If there was ever a display of God's sovereignty, it occurred right in the founding days of our nation, among heroic Christians who risked all for the worship of the Lord. But, above all, in addition to God's holiness, power, and sovereignty, the Pilgrim story reminds us today of *God's faithfulness*. He does not forget His people and He makes provision for our needs. God's greatest provision was the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. No wonder that when the Pilgrims had survived their first year in the New World and had taken in their first year's harvest, that they invited guests from the surrounding tribes and gave a special thanksgiving feast to the Lord. We repeat that tradition this week. As we do so, let us as Christians endeavor that our nation would not forget the faithful God to whom we give thanks. And let us pray that there would be a renewal of that Pilgrim spirit as we trust God to meet all our needs as we seek to live before Him and worship Him according to His Word.

May the Lord bless you all this Thanksgiving!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 11/20/11
Pledges Received: \$70,234
Contributions Received: \$45,754

Upcoming Events

Nov. 24-25	Church Office Closed
Nov. 27	Informational Congregational Meeting for Budget/A Joint Sunday School Class will follow in the sanctuary
Nov. 30	CE Committee Meeting
Dec. 1	WIC Wreath-Making Party
Dec. 4	Congregational Meeting to elect Deacons and receive and support the 2012 budget
Dec. 4	Missionary Speaker - David Cross
Dec. 4	Deacon Ordination/Installation
Dec. 4	Fellowship Supper and Reception for new Deacons
Dec. 5	Diaconate Meeting
Dec. 7	WIC Council
Dec. 7	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Dec. 10	Choir Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal and party
Dec. 10	Young Adult SS Christmas Party at the Crunks
Dec. 11	Christmas Cantata at the Evening Worship Service
Dec. 12	Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 12	Session Meeting
Dec. 13-14	WIC Circles
Dec. 15	Jessamines "Christmas Cookie Exchange"
Dec. 16	Jr. High Christmas Party at the Sparkmans
Dec. 18	The Lord's Supper at the Evening Service
Dec. 19	College Class Christmas Party at the Gambles
Dec. 21	No Wednesday activities
Dec. 22-26	Church Office Closed
Dec. 24	Lessons and Carols
Dec. 28	No Wednesday activities
Dec. 30	Church Office Closed

Congregational Meetings

- The Session has called an Informational Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 27th, at 9:55 am in the sanctuary. David Rainey, Church Treasurer will present the 2012 budget. A joint Sunday School class will follow.
- The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 4th, at 9:55 am to elect Deacons and to receive and support the 2012 budget.

Men's Ministry Cookout and Fellowship

Clemson-USC Cookout and Fellowship
(for all men, fathers/sons, etc.)
Saturday, November 26 * Time: 6:00 PM
At the home of Jacob Gamble
6 Westminster Drive, Greenville, SC 29605
If you are not going to the game,
make plans to join us and watch it at the Gambles.

Baptism

Eleanor Anderson Pomerlyan, covenant child of Serge and Christa Pomerlyan, received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 20, 2011. We are thankful for the Pomerlyan family and pray that Eleanor will love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ all the days of her life.

Many Thanks

Many thanks to all who assembled shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child project. We delivered over 60 shoe boxes to the collection point. May God bless you for your participation in this ministry, and may the recipients come to know the love of Christ Jesus.

Church Office closed November 24th and 25th.

WIC Wreath-Making Party

WIC invites women and girls of all ages to our Annual Wreath-Making Party on Thursday, December 1, 6:00 PM, in the church gymnasium. An evening of fellowship and fun will be had by all as we make Christmas wreaths. Please bring a simple dessert (cookies, etc.) to add to our festive party. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Cost is \$7.00 if you bring your own PVC wreath from a previous wreath-making party. **Please sign up** on the church bulletin boards or in your Sunday School Class. Also, bring enough greenery/berries, etc. to fill your wreath and share with others. Also, please bring your own clippers/gloves. If you have any questions please call Leslie Martin at 271-2022.

Perry Correctional Christmas Outreach

Following the morning services on Sunday, Dec. 4th, the deacons will be taking up a special offering for the support of an outreach at Perry Correctional. Second Church is sponsoring a dorm for Christmas and will orchestrate a Christmas program where each inmate receives a Bible, hygiene bag, and a meal. The Gospel will be preached and hymns of praise sung. Please give generously to this outreach and mercy ministry. The actual Christmas program will be held at the prison on Tuesday, Dec. 6th. If you are interested in singing in a small choir or otherwise participating in the distribution of the food and hygiene items, please see Bill Watkins (304-4737).

Missionary Speaker

Bill Cross, one of our support missionaries, will join us at the evening worship service on Sunday, December 4, to give us a report on his work in England.

New in the Library

Two books from Voice of the Martyrs now in the library are: *Tortured for Christ* by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned in communist Romania for his fervent belief in Jesus Christ and his public witness for his faith and *The Pastor's Wife*, by Sabina Wurmbrand, which tells of her imprisonment for efforts to release her husband. It led to her unceasing efforts to establish Christian Underground Churches. In daily devotions, refer to the Nov./Dec. Missionary Calendar which has a page about the Voice of the Martyrs. Our prayers are coveted by these persecuted brethren, and by our missionaries, some serving under such danger that they cannot be identified and published. May all these brethren know they are not forgotten, and may they feel the comfort of our daily prayers.

Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order the Christmas Poinsettias for the sanctuary. This year you may purchase a Poinsettia for \$10.00. **Please consider being a part of making our church beautiful for Christmas.** If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the form below and leave it in the church office. **(Please do not put in the offering plate.)**

I would like to purchase _____ Poinsettia (s) at \$10.00 ea. Total: _____
In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____
(Name) _____ Telephone # _____

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 27

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:55 AM **Informational Congregational Meeting for 2012 Budget**
A Joint Sunday School class will follow
 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
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, November 28

4:45 PM I-Mites Basketball Practice
 6:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball game at ARP
 7:00 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball game at St. George

Tuesday, November 29

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 30

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:00 PM CE 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**
 7:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball Practice
 8:30 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball Practice

Thursday, December 1

9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:00 PM WIC Wreath-Making Party

Saturday, December 3

8:30 AM Midget Boys' Basketball game at St. George
 9:00 AM WIC Decorating Church for Christmas
 10:30 AM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at AYMC
 12:15 PM I-Mites' Basketball game at W. Pres. I
 12:30 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at John Knox
 1:45 PM Mites' Basketball game at TLC II

Thank You

Dear Second Church family,

We wanted to take this time to warmly thank you all for your generosity, kindness and prayers during the adoption of our daughter, Grace. We are so grateful to have this spiritual family and to witness God's love through all of you. So, we wanted to take time during this Thanksgiving season to say how humbled and thankful we are for you. Many blessings, Erik, Frankie and Grace Casey

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.
Bobbie Houser
Rolling Green Comfort Care, Room 34
3 Hoke Smith Blvd.
Greenville, SC 29615

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY NOVEMBER 27, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

GOSPEL COMMANDS

Colossians 3:12-15

Anthem:

Hallelujah, Amen

Hymns: 457, 342, 32

Rev. Seth T. Starkey preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

THE MESSIANIC SHEPHERD

Mark 6:30-44

Hymns: 1, 87

Psalter: Psalm 119 (verses 89-96)

Mr. Joshua Sparkman preaching



The West End Herald

Vol. LXIX, Edition 46

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

November 21, 2011

Letter from the Senior Minister

Learning the Attributes of God through Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the distinctly American holiday that we celebrate as a nation, continuing a tradition of giving thanks to God that goes back literally to our earliest days as a country. It says much about the wonderful heritage of our nation that we look back to our founding to see so many instances of God's marvelous saving help, for which our forebears gladly gave praise to him and offered him thanks. As Christians, we believe that it is through the Holy Scriptures that we gain our primary and authoritative understanding of God. But, guided by the Bible, we can also learn of Him through His wonderful acts in history, including the history of America. So what does Thanksgiving tell us about the attributes of our God?

The people who celebrated the first Thanksgiving were Christian "pilgrims" who endured unimaginable sufferings in order to worship God as they believed he should be worshiped. It is hard to imagine any such people today who would literally give up everything because they refused to offer corrupted worship to the Lord. Part of a broader Puritan movement that opposed the compromises of the Anglican Church under the rule of Elizabeth I, the Pilgrims fled to Holland when her successor, King James I (of the King James Bible), whose intolerance of true religion had prompted their mistreatment. In time, the opportunity of a fresh start in the New World prompted the Pilgrims to take up the incredibly difficult proposition of moving to and settling in the wilderness of what is now America. In this way, the Pilgrims remind us of *God's holiness*. Hebrews 12:28 says, "let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

In our thanksgiving celebrations, we retell the story of the sacrifices made by these intrepid believers. On September 6, 1620, the Pilgrim ship *The Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth, England, striking land off Cape Cod on November 11. Cramped in wet and cold quarters, many of the people were sick. Included in the passengers were three pregnant women, one of whom gave birth during the stormy voyage and another of which had a son while the passengers were waiting to disembark in America (and one of whose descendants is my own wife!). The Pilgrims sustained themselves during this exceedingly dangerous voyage by praying to the Lord for his help, reminding us of *God's power* to deliver His people through every kind of trial.

After landing in their new home, dubbed Plymouth, New England, the Pilgrims faced the immediate danger of fiercely cold winter. They began life in their new home with a prayer service and then began building