

learn and has many things to teach us today. Ryken writes of this book: "By the grace of God, we may avoid a tragic downfall of our own and learn how to use money, sex, and power for the glory of God."

Basics of the Faith series by P&R Publishing. These are booklets designed to give a concise but robust introduction to various doctrinal topics from a clearly Reformed point of view. I have published three booklets in this series and am due to write three more in the coming year. Among topics covered by booklets are: *How Our Children Come to Faith*, *What Is a True Calvinist?*, *What Is the Atonement?*, *What Is a Christian Worldview?*, *What Are Spiritual Gifts?* and *Why Do We Baptize Infants?* Any of these would make a great stocking stuffer and would introduce readers to this worthy series.

Diane Kleyn, *Taking Root: Conversion Stories for Children* (Reformation Heritage, 2006). These are great stories that we have used in our family devotions. Great for child readers to go through on their own or for Mom and Dad to read at the table.

A Message for You: Daily Devotionals for Teens (Reformation Heritage, 2009). Our teenagers should be in the practice of doing their own devotionals, including the Bible and supplemental reading. Here is a great, compact devotional that will fit into your teenager's stocking!

Let me encourage you all to make a habit of not only reading the Bible but also reading nourishing Christian books. Few endeavors will reward you so richly, and therefore a good Christian book is one of the best presents we can give or receive. May the Lord bless you all this week.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips



Visiting Minister

We welcome to the pulpit this Sunday morning, Rev. Dr. O. Palmer Robertson. Dr. Robertson serves as President of the African Bible Colleges with campuses located in Liberia, Malawi and Uganda. He is also a founding father of the PCA and beloved teacher of ministers including our own Richard D. Phillips. We welcome Palmer and his wife Joanna and children Murray, Elliot and Daniel.

Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 12/04/11
 Pledges Received: \$79,497
 Contributions Received: \$57,074

Christmas Cantata

*Join us for a special presentation of
 "The Story of Christmas" by H. A. Matthews
 Sunday, December 11, 2011 at our 6:00 evening worship service.
 Please invite family and friends to share in this
 special service to the glory of God.*

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

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. 20 Sr. High Christmas Party at the Worleys
 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

Jessamines "Cookie Exchange"

The Jessamine Group (5th-8th grade girls and their moms) will meet on Dec. 15th, at 6:30 pm at the home of Mrs. Leslie Martin for their "Christmas Cookie Exchange." Please bring 2 dozen cookies/Christmas goodies to share/exchange.

Music Notes

Attention Choir: Please have these dates and times on your calendar:
 Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:00 - 12:00 noon - Cantata Dress Rehearsal
 Saturday, Dec. 10, 12:00 - 2:00 pm - Choir Christmas Party
 (Please bring heavy hors d'oeuvres and a white elephant gift.)

Young At Heart

The Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon will be Monday, December 12, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. A special catered Christmas lunch will be \$7.00 per person payable at the door. Our Christmas program will feature a piano concert in the sanctuary by Mr. Rylan Brown. Make plans to join us as we enjoy good food, fellowship, and a wonderful program.

Rivertree Singers Concert

Rivertree Singers Concert
 Tuesday, December 13, 2011
 7:30 pm
 Second Presbyterian Church
 A free concert of sacred and secular Christmas Music

*Mrs. Jean Marie Pennington
 requests the honour of your presence
 at the marriage of her Daughter
 Maria Joyce
 to
 Spencer James Player
 Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Marshall Player
 Saturday, December Seventeenth,
 Two thousand and eleven
 at two o'clock
 Second Presbyterian Church
 and afterward at the reception*

COLLEGE SUNDAY
 SCHOOL CLASS
 will resume on
 Sunday, December 11th.
 Gresham Conference Room
 Mr. John Duncan, teacher

The Church Office
 will be closed:
 December 22 - 26, 2011
 and
 December 29 - 30, 2011

Congregational Meeting Report

- The following men were elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4th, by the congregation for the office of Deacon:
Mark Baxa, Randy Carter, Jim Leathers, Joseph Maralit, Kevin Mobley, Mike Morgan, Bill Turek, Martin Whigham, and Kevin Worley
- The 2012 budget was received and supported at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

Christmas Eve Service

LESSONS AND CAROLS
 Saturday, December 24th, 6:00 PM
*We will marvel with the heavenly host
 as we hear the good news of our Savior's birth
 retold in Scripture and song.*
There will not be a nursery at the Lessons and Carols service.

Christmas Day Services

10:30 AM Morning Worship Service
 6:00 PM Evening Worship Service
Sunday School on Christmas Day has been cancelled.

Sympathy

We offer our Christian love and sympathy to the family of Mrs. Judy Pitts in the death of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Linda Ellis, on Thursday, December 1, 2011. Please be in prayer for the Ellis and Pitts families.

Year-End Contributions

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2011 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 30.

2012 Offering Envelopes

The 2012 offering envelopes have been placed on a table outside the church library. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. If you or any of your children need a box of envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18.

Christmas Poinsettias

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.)** Cost is \$10.00 each. Deadline is December 14th.

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, December 11

8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP
 9:55 AM Children's Chapel
 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
 Christmas Cantata - "The Story of Christmas"

Monday, December 12

11:45 AM Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon
 4:45 PM I-Mites Basketball Practice
 6:30 PM Session Meeting
 6:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball game at ARP
 7:00 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball game at St. George

Tuesday, December 13

10:00 AM WIC Circles 1 & 3 meet at the church
 11:30 AM WIC Circle 5 Christmas Luncheon at Pat Shuford's
 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
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 at the home of Tammy Looper
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 at Panera Bread on Augusta Street

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:45 PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS 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
 7:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball Practice
 8:30 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball Practice

Thursday, December 15

6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:30 PM Jessamines "Christmas Cookie Exchange"

Friday, December 16

6:30 PM Jr. High Christmas Party at the Sparkmans

Saturday, December 17

9:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at 4th Pres.
 9:30 AM Midget Boys' Basketball game at St. George
 11:30 AM I-Mites' Basketball game at W. Pres. II
 12:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at First Baptist
 1:45 PM Mites' Basketball game 1st Pres. II
 2:00 PM Maria Pennington/Spencer Player wedding

All Wednesday evening activities have been cancelled for:
 December 21st and December 28th.

Remembering One Another

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

Maryland Nelson
 The Gardens of Eastside, Room G-14
 275 Commonwealth Drive
 Greenville, SC 29615
 675-0548

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND
 THE LORD'S DAY
 DECEMBER 11, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Anthem:
 What Sweeter Music

Dr. O. Palmer Robertson preaching

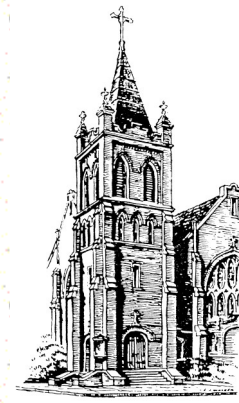
EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

GLORY TO THE KING
 Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas Cantata
 Hymns: 208 and 203

Rev. Richard D. Phillips 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

December 5, 2011

Letter from the Senior Minister Stocking Stuffer Books

In previous years I have recommended small books that can fit into Christmas stockings but will deliver a big blessing to those who receive them. What a gift to believers are strong, biblical devotional writings. All of us should get into the habit of reading good Christian literature, remembering that how much the Bible emphasizes mind renewal as key to our growth in grace (Rom. 12:1-2). Here are my suggestions for this year, and I hope some of them find their way into the Christmas stockings of our congregation.

James Montgomery Boice, *The Christ of Christmas* (P&R, 2009). This book contains 16 fairly short devotions working through the Gospel passages that record the birth of Jesus. Classic, meaty, warm, and doctrinally rich, these chapters beat with the joyful heart of my old pastor and mentor as He rejoices in the Savior who has come.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Walking with God Day by Day* (Crossway, 2003). If you have never read Lloyd-Jones, O what you are missing! He has had a huge influence in my life and I would love to read everything he has ever published before I die. Here is a great introduction that will fit into a stocking: a devotional that Crossway put together from Lloyd-Jones' writings. These would bless you day by day as you supplement your reading of God's Word.

Richard Sibbes, *Josiah's Reformation* (Banner of Truth, 2011). Sibbes was probably the sweetest and warmest of all the Puritan devotional writers, yet he is as compelling and challenging as any of them. This reprint of material first published in 1629 hones in on one of the more interesting portions of the Old Testament: King Josiah's reformation in Jerusalem after the recovery of God's Word. Sibbes guides into the holy activity of humbling ourselves before God's Word, mourning for our sin, and enjoying the "saint's refreshing" that God gives to His tender hearted people. This is part of the *Puritan Paperbacks* series by Banner of Truth, almost any of which would make a great Christmas gift.

R. C. Sproul, *A Taste of Heaven* (Reformation Trust, 2006). A riveting study of "worship in the light of eternity." Sproul sets forth worship as an encounter between God and His people, "a joyous experience engaging the worshiper's entire being." This is not a technical book working through controversies about worship, but a devotional intended to lead believers into a more biblically informed enjoyment of God in our worship.

Sean Michael Lucas, *God's Grand Design: The Theological Vision of Jonathan Edwards* (Crossway, 2011). This is a more challenging book best suited for those who are fairly well read in Reformed literature. But it is a great read, unfolding the glorious view of God that drove the theology and ministry of Jonathan Edwards. I am currently reading this book and have been greatly inspired and helped by Sean Lucas' lucid presentation of Edwards' writings.

Philip Ryken, *King Solomon: The Temptations of Money, Sex, and Power* (Crossway, 2011). An eye-opening biblical look at wise old Solomon, who had things to