

an oath-bond under penalty of death. And we can be certain that these promises are *for us* because we have entered into the Covenant of Grace through faith in Jesus.

- *To be in covenant with God is to have received obligations as His people.* A covenant relationship always involves both blessings and obligations. This same is true whenever we enter into a meaningful association: if we really belong somewhere we have obligations towards our people. The condition of entering God's saving covenant is faith in Jesus Christ. The obligation is that we would walk with Him in faith, obeying His Word and serving His kingdom. Peter summarized our calling with these memorable words: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9). What a privilege it is to be part of this covenant people and to take up this covenant duty!
- *To be in covenant with God is to enter an eternal relationship of love with God in Christ.* A covenant is a legal bond, securing rights, blessings, and obligations. But the covenant secures for us a relationship of love and devotion with the God who says to us: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you" (Jer. 31:3). Covenant salvation means that we give ourselves to God as He has given himself to us in love. John said, "We love because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19), and our covenant relationship with God is designed to lead us into an unending experience of giving and receiving in a love relationship with God Himself.

I hope that understanding even a little bit about covenant theology is a help to you in your faith, as it certainly is to mine. If you wish to explore the subject more deeply, I would suggest O. Palmer Robertson's *The Christ of the Covenants* or Peter Golding's *Covenant Theology*. What a blessing it is to be in covenant with so gracious a God as our Father in Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips



### Seminary Book Sale

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary will be holding their annual all-day book sale on April 28. Everyone is invited to attend and buy! If you have used books that you would like to contribute please leave them ASAP in the reception boxes by the church library.

### CHURCH INFORMATION

*The West End Herald Editor:* RE Melton L. Duncan, Sr.

**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

### Upcoming Events

March 22	Jessamines Group
March 23	Senior High Fellowship
March 25	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
March 25	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
March 28	CE Committee Meeting
March 28	WIC Nominating Committee Meeting
April 1	RE Al Wills' Fold Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
April 1	Churchwide Fellowship Supper
April 4	No Wednesday evening activities
April 5	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 6	Good Friday Lunch and Service
April 6	Church Office Closed
April 6	Senior High Fellowship
April 8	Sunrise Service and Breakfast (7:00 AM)
April 8	Sunday School (9:00 AM)
April 8	Easter Service (10:00 AM)
April 9	Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
April 10-11	WIC Circles
April 11	WIC Council
April 15	College/Career Group Luncheon in gym
April 15	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
April 16	Young At Heart
April 21	WIC Shower for Davis White (Matthew Evans)
April 22	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
April 25	CE Committee Meeting
April 26	Calvary Presbytery at Smyrna PCA
April 27-28	WIC Spring Retreat in Saluda
April 29	Hymn Sing in the gym after evening service

If you have a date for the April calendar please call the church office ASAP.

### Mark Your Calendars

Blood Drive	May 2
New Members' Luncheon	May 6
Graduation Banquet	May 9
Mother/Daughter Tea	May 11
CAT Kids Program	May 16
Hartsville, SC Missions Trip	June 10-14
General Assembly	June 18-22
Vacation Bible School	June 25-29
Senior High Trip	July 16-20
Richmond Hill, GA Missions Trip	July 17-20
Jr. High Ridge Haven Trip	July 23-27
Trujillo, Peru Missions Trip	August 3-11
Marriage Retreat at Bonclarken	August 17-18

### Good News Club's Annual Golf Classic

For nine years Second Pres. has been involved in Child Evangelism Fellowship by sponsoring and staffing Good News Clubs at Augusta Circle Elementary School and Hollis Academy. Each spring CEF sponsors a golf fundraiser. This year the dates are May 7 at The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards and June 5 at The Cliffs at Walnut Cove. Bill Knox is our church contact for these events. If you are interested in playing or sponsoring a team, please contact him at bill@fortknoxinc.com or (864) 233-9223. If you have any other questions about how you can be involved with CEF, please contact Cyndi Player at 963-8633.

### Holy Week Services

#### Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

April 5, 2012  
7:00 PM

#### Good Friday Lunch and Service

April 6, 2012  
Lunch—11:45 am \* Service—12:30-1:00 pm

### Community Easter Sunrise Service

Come join our celebration of  
**The Resurrection of Christ**

7:00 am

Sunday, April 8, 2012

Wyche Pavillion  
(behind the Peace Center)

### Easter Services at Second on April 8th

**Sunrise Service (Wyche Pavillion) and Breakfast: 7:00 am**

**Sunday School: 9:00 am**

**Easter Worship Service: 10:00 am (only one service)**

**Evening Worship Service: 6:00 pm**

### Jessamines' Group

The next Jessamines' Group (5th-8th grade girls and their moms) fellowship will be Thursday, March 22, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "A Servant's Heart in the Garden" led by Mrs. Judy Bishop. Dinner is Garden Party Pot Luck (finger sandwiches, chicken/fruit salads, etc.) Please bring a dish to share. This is the last fellowship meeting until the fall.

### Upcoming Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate (May or December) or you know someone in the church who is, please contact the church office (ext. 10 or judy@secondpca.org.) We want to recognize all our graduates at our upcoming banquet in May.

### Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter Lily to place in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of someone special, please call Judy Bishop (246-0951) by **Friday, March 30**. Also fill out the form below and place in the church office in Judy Grant's mail box along with \$8.00 for each lily.

I would like to place \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) Easter Lily(ies) in the church on Easter Sunday:

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Church Calendar

**Sunday, March 25**  
 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 9:45 AM New Members' Class  
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel  
 10:00 AM Communicants' Class  
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel  
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**  
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir  
 7:15 PM Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting  
 7:15 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, March 27**  
 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study  
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

**Wednesday, March 28**  
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 5:00 PM CE Committee Meeting  
 5:00 PM WIC Nominating 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**

**Thursday, March 29**  
 9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study  
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training

**Friday, March 30**  
 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study

### Great Escape 2012

SPC Women in the Church  
 Spring Retreat  
 April 27-28, 2012  
 Saluda, NC

Space is limited \* Sign up now

Contact Jill Mann (bjmhmann@att.net or 895-3351) if you have any questions.

### SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

Friday, March 23  
 6:30 pm

If you have any questions please call Pastor Starkey.

### Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.  
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.

Lila Riggins  
 205 Bud Nalley Drive  
 Easley, SC 29642

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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### WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY MARCH 25, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP  
 8:30 and 11:00 AM

#### THE BLESSED BENEFITS OF REDEMPTION

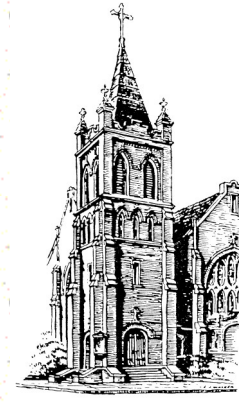
Isaiah 49:8-13  
 Anthem:  
 Cause Me To Hear Thy Lovingkindness  
 Hymns: 305, 498, 308  
 Rev. Seth T. Starkey preaching

EVENING WORSHIP  
 6:00 PM

#### PRAISE THE LORD WITH ME

Psalm 34  
 Hymns: 2, 80, 92  
 Psalter: Psalm 125  
 Rev. Robert E. Spears preaching

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



## The West End Herald

Vol. CXX, Edition 12

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

March 19, 2012

### Letter from the Senior Minister Covenant Theology

In last week's new members' class I gave a brief overview of covenant theology. I was so blessed to teach again on these great themes that I thought I would share them with you as a reminder of our great heritage as God's covenant people. One way to see the importance of covenants is to realize that the Bible's most basic division is based on this way of thinking. "Old Testament" and "New Testament" mean "Old Covenant" and "New Covenant." Moreover, the unfolding of the Bible's story of redemption is structured in terms of God's successive covenants with mankind, starting with Adam and concluding in Jesus Christ. God relates to man by way of covenant and He organizes human society in covenant relationships. Moreover, it is through the covenants that the Bible's commands and promises are connected to us, as we enter into those covenants through faith. Finally, God seals our assurance of salvation by binding himself in covenant with us, so that we have them as "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19).

To believe in Jesus Christ is to enter into a saving covenant with God the Father through His Son. I would suggest the follow list as keys to understanding this biblical approach to salvation:

- *To be in covenant with God is to benefit from the covenant (federal headship of another.)*

Just as mankind fell into sin and death when our first covenant head Adam sinned against God's commandment, believers are saved by the obedience and sacrificial death of our new covenant head, Jesus Christ (see Romans 5:12-21). This is why Jesus is called "the last Adam" by Paul (1 Cor. 15:45). Christ's people are saved by what *he did for us, acting as our covenant head.* This means that everything you need to do to be saved, Jesus did for you and now gives to you as Lord and Head of the Covenant of Grace. This is why Paul wrote: "you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord" (1 Cor. 1:30-31)

- *To be in covenant with God is to be the recipient of God's oath-bound promises.*

God has solemnly bound himself to his people with a covenant oath. Hebrews 6:17-19 says that God bound himself in this way not to ensure his own faithfulness – which He hardly needed – but so that "we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." We can be certain that God's salvation promises will be fulfilled because God bound Himself to