

sisters in prayer. Begin praying for God to protect the blessings that we enjoy: sound doctrine, reverent worship, faithful shepherds, loving fellowship, joyful spiritual vitality and more. These things should not be taken for granted, but should be preserved and promoted in word, speech, and prayer. Then begin praying for God to extend these blessings into more and more lives. Pray that the young people in our church would be inspired with a passion for Christ. Pray that what takes place on Sundays here would extend into our homes during the week. Pray for weary mothers, who are expending their energies in sacrificial love for their families. Pray for burdened fathers, who so often feel the weight of the world on their shoulders. Finally, having prayed for God to protect and extend our current blessings, pray for God to give us new blessings. Pray for a renewing of evangelistic fervor and for new converts in and through our church. Pray for new opportunities of service and gospel outreach. Pray for the resources to expand the potential of our church for ministry in the generation to come. In a church like ours, there is so much to do – but there is nothing more important than for us to pray to God for protection, strength, and blessing.

Like us, Elijah lived in a time when people did not know the Lord. So he prayed, "Answer me, O LORD; answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God" (1 Ki. 18:37). After he had prayed this way, the fire of the Lord descended and consumed the sacrifice Elijah had prepared. When the people saw this, "they fell on their faces and said, 'The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God'" (1 Ki. 18:39). Our historical setting is different from Elijah's, but it remains true that if we will commit ourselves to prayer, we may expect to see God's power at work among us so that people believe that Christ is Lord. In my view, all of us in this church have many reasons to thank the fire-keepers among us and who have gone before us – their prayers are the source in God's grace for our present blessings. Let's learn the lesson and be fire-keepers in our families, keeping the home-fires of faith burning on our knees. Let's be fire-keepers in our church. And as a church, let us be those whose prayers are used by God to shine his light so brightly that many see it and that God's power will overcome unbelief and lead many to know the Lord in saving faith.

May the Lord bless you all this week.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

The Second Presbyterian Church is pleased to invite you to join in celebrating the conferring of a

Doctor of Divinity Degree

upon our senior minister

The Reverend Mr. Richard Davis Phillips

by Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Friday, May 18, 2012

Drop In for Greetings and hors d'oeuvres

*4:30 pm - 6:30 pm * Church Fellowship Hall*

Awarding of Degree at Graduation Program

7:00 pm at the Seminary

200 East Main Street, Taylors, South Carolina

Church Phone: (864) 232-7621, Ext. 10

Email: info@secondpca.org

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

May 2	WIC Council
May 2	Blood Drive
May 3	National Day of Prayer
May 6	New Members' Luncheon
May 6	Elder Renewal of Vows at evening service
May 7	Diaconate Meeting
May 8	WIC Circles
May 9	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
May 9	Graduation Banquet
May 11	Mother/Daughter Fun Night
May 13	Mother's Day
May 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
May 14	Session Meeting
May 16	Missions' Committee Meeting
May 16	CAT Kids Program
May 18-19	Men's Whitewater Rafting Trip, Nantahala River
May 18	Drop-in for Pastor Phillips
May 20	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
May 21	Young At Heart
May 23	CE Committee Meeting
May 23	Musical CAT Kids Begins
May 23	WIC Circle 6
May 25	Jr. High Get Together
May 25	Sr. High Supper and Game Night
May 27	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
May 28	Church Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 29	RUF Summer Fellowship

Graduation Banquet

Wednesday, May 9, 2012 * 5:45 pm in the gymnasium

Don't miss this time of fellowship as we honor our 2012 graduates.

Carly Atwood	Clemson University
Storie Dalton	Pickens High School
Jordan Ecarna	North Greenville University
Andrew Evans	Davidson University
Matthew Evans	Clemson University
Scott Farley	Bob Jones Academy
Elaine Hammett	Home School
Nathanael Hammett	Home School
Benjamin Howard	North Greenville University
Peter Howard	Howard Home School
Timothy Johnson	Clemson University
Lauren Mahon	Eastside High School
Ben Rainey	Clemson University
Reed Rogers, Jr.	Wren High School
Seth Russell	Eastman School of Music
Leah Shreve	Lifelong Learning
Sarah Upton	Home School
Tyler Upton	Western Carolina University
Laura Whigham	Home School
Deanna Worley	Home School/Fine Arts Center

Mother-Daughter Fun Night

Don't miss the WIC Mother-Daughter Fun Night

What kind of cupcake are you?

For ALL Women and Girls

Friday, May 11 * 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Supper will be provided (donations will be accepted).

Watch for upcoming sign-up sheets. (See Jenny Spears with questions).

All Hartsville team members need to attend a training session on Saturday, May 12 from 9-12 at Woodruff Road Pres.



THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

AND
THE CASE OF THE PUZZLING PARABLES

Vacation Bible School

June 25-29, 2012

If you would like to minister to the children during VBS this year, please contact **Fran Turek** at **299-6034** or **franturek@bellsouth.net**.

New Members' Luncheon

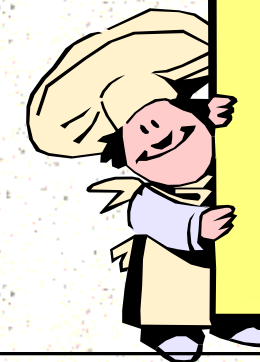
All members and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon honoring our new members,

Sunday, May 6, 2012

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.



New Members will be introduced at the 11:00 am worship service on May 6, 2012.

CAT Kids Program

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

7:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary

(Immediately following the Family Night Fellowship Supper.)

Come see what our children have learned this year in CAT Kids.

Reformed University Fellowship

Summer 2012 (May 29 - July 10)

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church

I AM

Good Shepherd, True Vine, Gate, Bread, Way, Light, Resurrection, Life, Truth

Music Notes from Elizabeth Guest

Attention Covenant Choir Parents: On Sunday, May 13, the Covenant Choir (3rd through 8th grade) will be singing the offertory anthem for the 11:00 am service. Please have them in the choir room at 10:30 am so we can get robes on and rehearse. They will return to you so they can sit with your during the sermon. Thank you so much for your help and I hope this will be a blessing for you all on Mothers' Day. **There will be NO adult choir rehearsal on Mothers' Day.**

Men's Whitewater Rafting Trip



Nantahala River

Saturday, May 19th (one day trip)

\$32.00 per person

(includes lunch and guide-assisted rafting—bring extra money for breakfast and gas)



Mark Your Calendars

Hartsville, SC Missions Trip	June 10-14
General Assembly	June 18-22
Vacation Bible School	June 25-29
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

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 6
 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 12:30 PM NEW MEMBERS' LUNCHEON
 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 (Elders will renew their vows at the evening service)
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, May 7
 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

Tuesday, May 8
 10:00 AM WIC Circles 1 & 3 meet at the church
 2:30 PM WIC Circle 5 meets at the church
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 meets at the home of Tammy Looper
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 meets a Panera Bread on Augusta Street

Wednesday, May 9
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 5:45 PM **2012 ANNUAL GRADUATION BANQUET**

Friday, May 11
 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch and Bible Study
 6:00 PM Mother/Daughter Fun Night in the Fellowship Hall

**The Elders will renew their vows at
 the evening worship service on May 6, 2012.**

You Are Invited....

Installation Service for
Gabriel Fluhrer
 as Organizing Pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church
 at St. David's School Chapel in Raleigh, North Carolina
 Friday, May 11 at 7:00 PM
 Speakers: Dr. Lane Tipton, Rev. Richard D. Phillips, Rev. R. Carlton Wynne

You Are Invited....

BACH GREENVILLE - SPRING CONCERT
 Thursday, May 19, 2012, 6:00 pm
 Second Presbyterian Church Sanctuary
 This year's concert theme:
 Peace, Joy, Adoration
 Features works by Forrester, Rutter, and Clausen

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.
 Also, send them a note of encouragement and/or give them a call.
 John and Wilma Crawford
 4 Richbourg Court
 Greenville, SC 29615
 244-1571

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY MAY 6, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF HELL

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
 Anthem:
 Fanfare with Alleluias
 Hymns: 44, 359, 520
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

DAVID'S CENSUS

2 Samuel 24:1-14
 Hymns: 9, 181, 57
 Psalter: Psalm 131
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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

Letter from the Senior Minister God's Fire Keepers

In the Iroquois tribe of Native Americans, community life revolved around the log house situated in the center of the camp. Extended families would live there, as well as sleep, work, and play around the great fire kept always burning. In order for the log house's fire to keep burning there needed always to be a fire-keeper. His job was to make sure the flame was never extinguished. When others went out to gather, hunt, or fight, the fire-keeper stayed in the log house keeping the home fires burning.

The church needs fire-keepers, too: those who devote themselves when others may be too busy or distracted and who keep the spiritual fires lit. Christian fire-keepers are otherwise known as prayer-warriors. It is through devoted and disciplined prayer that fire-keepers uphold the church. In the Old Testament, Elijah was a fire-keeper. In a time of idolatry and sin, we read, "Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down to the earth and put his face between his knees" (1 Ki. 18:42). According to the Bible, the faithful prayers of this one godly man made a vital difference in his generation. In the New Testament, James reminds us of Elijah's prayers: "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." He then points out that "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours" (Ja. 5:16-17). Notice the emphasis: Elijah was just a person no different from us. But he prayed devotedly in faith and his prayers were used by God to keep faith alive in Israel. The prophets of Baal were trying to stamp out the true worship of God, but Elijah's prayer kept the flame for Israel. When the people were gathered back to the Lord, it was Elijah's prayer that reignited their hearts to trust in God once more. We need today the kind of fire-keepers that Elijah was then.

One reason why fire-keepers are so valuable is that most of us lead weak and inconsistent prayer lives. If we are honest, most will admit that we find prayer difficult and even unsatisfying. This is because prayer is a purely spiritual work, and we are not particularly spiritual people. Have you ever noticed how easy it is to find a reason not to join in prayer? There is always someone to talk to or some time-consuming task; how easy it therefore is to stay out of the prayer meeting or skip your personal time of prayer. But, as Philip Ryken writes, "There is no other way to receive the blessings of God. All of the spiritual blessings that God has to give come through a life of prayer. Wisdom for life's decisions come through prayer. The awesome presence of God in worship comes through prayer. Conversions come through prayer. The revival fire of the Holy Spirit comes through prayer."

It is because of this truth that we should be so thankful to God for the fire-keepers among us who have kept up the demanding discipline of prayer. How many blessings we presently enjoy as a church are the result of faithful prayers lifted up for God's work in this place? If you know someone who is fervent and devoted in prayer for you, for our church, and for Christ's work, make sure to thank them for tending the fires for us all. Even better, we should consider joining them. Ask an older member who has learned the discipline of prayer about how they have kept faithful in prayer. Come to the weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday night and learn how to spend a half-hour or so with your brothers



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