

difficulty" (2 Tim. 3:1), describing problems that are rife throughout church history. The entire church age is "the last days" and the historicist position accounts for this reality well. The weakness of this approach, however, is wrongly to view prophecies of the end as being exhaustively fulfilled in our local circumstances.

The third approach to end-times prophecy is most familiar to evangelicals today. The futurist approach views the Great Rebellion, the Antichrist, and other prophecies as being fulfilled only during the final years of history prior to the return of Christ. The strength of this approach is that it accurately notes many statements in the Bible that do associate these events with the period immediately before Christ's Second Coming. The weakness is that it often fails to see the original context and how these prophecies were directed to their original audience, as well as the application to believers today, but instead makes the prophecies a source of speculation and curiosity.

All three approaches have their own merit and we will seek a balanced approach to the teaching of the apostle in this important chapter. Following the contours of the Bible's own teaching, we will note the way these prophecies spoke to concerns in the apostles' immediate context, both in the church and in the world around them. We will see how they describe patterns that recur throughout history and are present today. Finally, we will observe how these trends culminate in their ultimate expression in the climax of history before Jesus returns to save His Church. The problem of apostasy will yield to a Great Apostasy; the spirit of antichrist will be manifested in an ultimate Antichrist; wars and rumors of war will culminate in a great battle against Christ's people; and the spread of the gospel will culminate in a great harvest at the end of the age. The biblical intent of all these matters is not to fuel idle speculation among believers, but rather to make us wise as to the pattern and meaning of history and to present a vision of Christ's victory to Christians who are struggling in a hostile world today.

I plan to preach four sermons on the important material in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, starting this Lord's Day:

- May 20: End Times Dangers (2 Thess. 2:1-4)
- June 3: The Great Apostasy (2 Thess. 2:3)
- June 10: The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:3-10)
- June 17: The Mystery of Lawlessness at Work (2 Thess. 2:5-12)

I have personally been blessed by my study in advance of teaching these passages and I look forward to our study of them together. As we soberly consider these passages that are so often misunderstood in evangelical circles, and so often neglected in Reformed circles, may we be made all the more wise for salvation through faith in Christ, and may His coming victory be exalted in our hearts.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

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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

May 18	Drop-in for Pastor Phillips at the church
May 19	Men's Whitewater Rafting Trip, Nantahala River
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	Summer RUF Meeting

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

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)
Contact Bill Hedgpeth (414-4145) **ASAP** to sign-up



Young At Heart

The monthly Young At Heart Luncheon will be Monday, May 21, at 11:45 am in the Church Fellowship Hall. Cost of the catered meal is \$6.00 payable at the door. This month our own John Gray will update us on "Long Range Planning." Come join us for good fellowship, food, and a very informative program. This will be our last luncheon until the fall.

Special Mission Emphasis on May 27

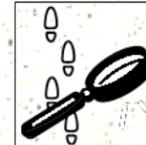
On May 27th, during the 11:00 am worship service, the church will have a special time of prayer for SPC Missionaries Elizabeth Johnson (Peru) and Ali Morgan (Bulgaria) and our 3 summer missions teams (Peru, Hartsville, and Savannah). During the Sunday School hour there will be a reception (light-breakfast style) to recognize and honor our short and long term missionaries (**Senior High age group and above.**) A retiring offering will be taken at the 11:00 am worship service for the Peru Mission trip. Please be in prayer for the missions program of Second Church. Contact Tim Crunk, Missions Chairman or Rev. Starkey for more information.

Reformed University Fellowship

Summer 2012 (May 29 - July 10)
Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church

Upcoming Men's Ministry Event

This men's event is open to families.
Greenville Drive v. Charleston RiverDogs (NYY)
Friday, June 1, 7:00 pm
Tickets are \$7.00 per person (advanced purchase)
Make check payable to Bill Hedgpeth no later than Sunday, May 27.



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**.

Music Notes

We will begin our annual Summer Musical CAT Kids on Wednesday, May 23. We will meet weekly from 6:45 until 8:00 pm and will sing, play instruments, study music history, music theory, as well as have weekly crafts. At the end of the summer we will present a program where we will demonstrate all that we have learned. If you have children or grandchildren age 3 through 6th grade, please allow them to come to Summer Musical CAT Kids each week. Also, if any of you are interested in teaching, helping with crafts, or assisting in any way, please let Elizabeth Guest know. (864-313-0193)

Treasurer's Report

April 2012 & YTD
Financial Status

	Actual		
	Apr. 2012	YTD 2012	YTD Budget
Offerings	102,027	329,808	332,591
Outlays:			
Operating Expenses	54,227	238,327	293,848
Mission Disbursements	0	21,483	38,743
Total Outlays	54,227	259,810	332,591
Net Offerings	47,800	69,998	

- ⇒ Contributions in April 2012 were \$102,027 versus budget of \$83,148.
- ⇒ YTD contributions are \$329,808 versus \$303,139 for the same period in 2011.
- ⇒ Through April 2012, actual contributions are behind budget by \$2,783.
- ⇒ Operating expenses for April 2012, were \$54,227 versus the budget of \$73,462.
- ⇒ Three months of missionary commitments will be made in May 2012.
- ⇒ 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
Bobby Mann or David Rainey

*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
4:30pm - 6:30pm * Church Fellowship Hall
Awarding of Degree at Graduation Program
7:00pm at the Seminary
200 East Main Street, Taylors, South Carolina*

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 20
 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, May 21
 11:45 AM Young At Heart

Tuesday, May 22
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, May 23
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:00 PM CE Committee Meeting
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
 6:45 PM Musical CAT Kids
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM WIC Circle 6
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**

Friday, May 25
 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch and Bible Study

Church Property

PLEASE do not remove any church property items from the premises unless approved by the appropriate committee chairman. To borrow items from the church such as table, chairs, etc. you need to get approval from our Property Chairman, Ed Butler. To borrow any items from the kitchens or any WIC items you need to get approval from the Church Hostess, Pat Shuford. At present there are several items missing from the kitchens. If you have borrowed these items, please return as soon as possible to prevent the church from having to purchase new items. Thank You.

Congratulations Graduates!

Second Presbyterian extends its best wishes to our 2012 graduates. We thank Dr. Jim McGoldrick, who spoke at our Graduation Banquet last Wednesday night. Parents/Grads: If you missed the banquet, please stop by the church office to pick up the church's gift to our grads. Thanks.

Second Presbyterian Marriage Retreat

Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC
August 17-18, 2012
Guest Speaker: Dr. Derek Thomas
 Minister of Preaching and Teaching, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC
 \$189.00 per couple
(includes lodging, Friday evening dinner and Saturday morning breakfast)
Limited availability
 Please contact Bill Hedgpeth for details and to reserve your room.

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.
 Sara Edwards
 3 Ila Court
 Greenville, SC 29611

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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**WORSHIP AT SECOND
 THE LORD'S DAY
 MAY 20, 2012**

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

END TIMES DANGERS
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Anthem:
 Seek Ye the Lord
 Hymns: 175, 156, 378
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

THE PROBLEM IS SIN, NOT GOD
 Isaiah 50:1-3

Hymns: 4, 100, 481
 Psalter: Psalm 132 (verses 11-18)
 Rev. Seth Starkey preaching

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The West End Herald

Vol. CXX, Edition 20

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

May 14, 2012

Letter from the Senior Minister

The Great Rebellion, the Antichrist, and the Return of Christ

“Let no one deceive you, in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction” (2 Thess. 2:3).

This week we begin to study a chapter in the Bible that provides some of the most essential teaching on the events that precede the return of Christ. In the aftermath of his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul learned that a false report had circulated in his name to the effect that Christ had already returned. He corrects this report by repeating the teaching of Jesus in the Olivet Discourse (Mt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21) as to the signs that precede the Second Coming. As we would expect, Paul's teaching on the great rebellion, the appearance of the Antichrist, and the victory of Christ in his return fits together with the teaching of Christ and of the book of Revelation. In fact, Paul's teaching here is particularly valuable because of its straightforward doctrinal form, which makes it an ideal aid in understanding the more symbolic teaching in Revelation and the book of Daniel.

There are, in general, three approaches to interpreting the Bible's prophecies of the events that precede Christ's coming, each of which has strengths and weaknesses. First is the *preterist* approach, which sees all (or virtually all) of these events as having taken place in the past. This view particularly emphasizes the events of AD 70, when the Romans conquered and destroyed Jerusalem. There is no doubt that much of what Jesus prophesied in the Olivet Discourse was fulfilled in this great event. The preterist approach thus has the advantage of taking the original setting of the apostolic church into account in interpreting the Bible's teaching on the Antichrist and the signs of the times. A full preterist approach observes that both Jesus' teaching in the Gospels and Paul's letters were written before AD 70, and also asserts that the book of Revelation was also written before that vital date. The problem with this approach is that much of what the Bible says about the end seems to involve far more than just the destruction of Jerusalem. Moreover, the argument that Revelation was written before that event is weak and improbable. Still, there is merit to keeping AD 70 in view, especially in light of Jesus' clear references to that event, as well as to noting how the evil reigns of the emperors Nero and Domitian provide us at least models of what the Antichrist will do.

A second approach to the end-times passages is the *historicist* approach, which emphasizes how these passages relate to events and trends that take place in church history. It was under this approach that the Reformers (and the Puritans) declared that the Antichrist of Scripture is the pope (as the original Westminster Confession stated). The strength of this approach is to realize that the activities associated with the Great Rebellion and the Antichrist are consistent with the pattern of Satanic opposition all through church history. John wrote that “many antichrists have come” (1 Jn. 2:18), showing that this is a recurrent pattern. Paul warned Timothy that “in the last days there will come times of