think it is important that every member of the church know me and the other pastors personally. You need to see my faith in action and have direct access to my manner of living. This will, no doubt, give you many reasons to pray for me! But we should notice how important it is to the message of 1-2 Thessalonians that Paul can say about his own life: "you yourselves know" (1 Th. 2:1); "you remember, brothers, our labor and toil" (1 Th. 2:9); "you are witnesses [of] our conduct" (1 Th. 2:10). How much easier it would be to preach God's Word without anyone actually knowing you! But that is not the model that God has given in Scripture.

Finally, I was excited to preach through the eschatology of 1-2 Thessalonians. The main thing that struck me was how different was the apostles' attitude towards Christ's return from the way most evangelicals think about it today. For Paul, Christ's return, the final judgment, and the end of this age was the greatest thought he could ever imagine. It was "our blessed hope" (Tit. 2:13). Christ's return was, for him, the day of victory, and vindication, and final justification and there was nothing for a Christian to fear about the Second Coming of Christ. Among so many of us, the Second Coming has become an object of dread that we would rather put off. This is in large part because of teaching that has made true believers in Christ feel unsure about how he will receive them on the day of his coming. Paul is crystal clear that to be joined to Christ in faith now is to be certain of a joyful reception with Christ then. Additionally, we tend to be so devoted to this present world, with our hopes, dreams, and delights bound up in worldly things. It is true that Christ's return threatens everything that is of the world. Yet if we have Paul's perspective, we will rejoice at the glories of the age to come and the special blessing of an eternal reunion with Jesus. As Paul saw it, the words "and so we will always be with the Lord" (1 Th. 4:17) were the most comforting and exciting message he could share with the struggling believers at Thessalonica.

I pray that you have individually been blessed by our studies of these Pauline epistles, and I trust that God will bless our church by this series from his Word. I am looking forward to a new book to study and preach, the book of Revelation, starting next week. I so rely on your prayers and am so grateful for the privilege of preaching God's Word to friends who are so ready to hear and receive God's Word. As Paul put it in his conclusion, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way… The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" (2 Th. 3:16 -18).

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Rick Phillips

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

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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

Aug. 2-11	Peru Mission Trip
Aug. 3	Fun-Friday at Legacy Park
Aug. 5	Ice Cream Social
Aug. 6	Diaconate Meeting
Aug. 8	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Aug. 8	WIC Circle 6
Aug. 8	Administration Committee Meeting
Aug. 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Aug. 13	Session Meeting
Aug. 14	WIC Circles 1-5
Aug. 15	Missions' Committee Meeting
Aug. 15	Musical CAT Kids Program
Aug. 17	Fun-Friday at Jones Gap State Park
Aug. 17-18	Second Pres. Marriage Retreat
Aug. 19	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
Aug. 21	WIC Bible Study resumes
Aug. 22	CE Committee Meeting
Aug. 22	Musical CAT Kids Fun Night
Aug. 23	WIC Annual Meeting
Aug. 24	Men's Ministry-Greenville Drive Game
Aug. 24	Sr. High Fellowship at the Barnetts'
Aug. 26	Rally Day
Aug. 26	WIC Installation of Officers
Aug. 26	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
Aug. 26	7th-12th grade Parents' Meeting
Aug. 29	Regular CAT Kids/Covenant Kids resumes

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming September Dates

Deacon Nominations	**September 2-16**
Informational Meeting about Website & Technology during SS hour:	**September 9**
New Member's Class begins:	**September 16**
Young At Heart resumes:	**September 17**

Fun Friday for Second Pres. Kids

Second Pres. Nursery Kids and Moms
August 3, 2012 * 10:00 AM
Legacy Park
336 Rocky Slope Road, Greenville, SC 29607
Meet near the covered areas and playground.
For questions call Rebekah Johnson @ 430-3408.

Ice Cream Social
Sunday, August 5th

WIC Circle 6 will meet August 8th instead of 15th.

Music Notes

Please mark your calendars with upcoming dates:

Musical CAT Kids Program	**Wednesday, August 15th**
Musical CAT Kids fun night	**Wednesday, August 22nd**
Regular CAT Kids/Covenant Kids resume	**Wednesday, August 29th**

RALLY DAY
Sunday, August 26th

"One Human Family: The Bible, Science, Race and Culture"

Come hear Carl Wieland, MD, present this informative program at the next Creation Study Group meeting in the sanctuary on Friday, August 10th. Dr. Wieland sidesteps "political correctness" to paint a truly fascinating "big picture," while highlighting the real-world trustworthiness of the Bible. He is Managing Director of Creation Ministries International in Brisbane, Australia and past president of the Christian Medical Fellowship of Australia. Book table opens at 6:30 PM and the program starts at 7:00 PM.

See www.creationstudygroup.org for further details.

WIC Annual Meeting

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH PCA

All women in the church are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

Thursday, August 23, 2012
Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Agenda:
Election of Officers
Recognition of New Members
Refreshments will be served.

The following slate of Officers have been nominated by the WIC Nominating Committee and approved by the WIC Council. The election will be at the Annual Meeting. The Officers will serve September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2014.

President:	Margaret Holman
Treasurer:	Margaret Butler
Historian:	Rosie Hedgpeth
Chair Christian Growth	Cindy Crunk
Chair MTW:	Lynda Duncan
Circle #1 Chairman	Vicky Rogers
Circle #2 Chairman	Tammy Looper
Circle #3 Chairman	Grace Cooley

WIC Precepts

Ladies in the church, you are invited to join us for Precepts Bible Study as we begin a 12 week study, Spiritual Gifts. We will meet each Thursday from 9:30 - 11:30 am starting September 13th. Each lesson requires approximately 5 hours of homework per week. If you plan to participate, please let Mary Russell (329-1670) know by August 24th as books need to be ordered.

The Honour of Your Presence
is requested at the marriage of
Miss Kaitlyn Christina Lyons
to
Mr. Aaron Lee Bouchillon
Saturday, the fourth of August at two o'clock
Second Presbyterian Church
Reception is to follow
Bride and groom are registered at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Belk

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 5

8:30 AM	**MORNING WORSHIP**
9:45 AM	Children's Chapel
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**
7:15 PM	ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Monday, August 6

6:00 PM	Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, August 8

6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study
5:00 PM	Pastoral Care 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, August 10

12:00 PM	Men's Fellowship Lunch and Bible Study
7:00 PM	Creation Study Group Presentation

All Adult Summer Sunday School Class
Sunday, August 5, 10:00 am, sanctuary
Keith Pratt - "He Leads Me"

Lost and Found

If you have left an item at church it may be located on the lost and found bookshelf which is located in the bathroom hallway of the gym building. The first week of August items not picked up will be given away or taken to the Rescue Mission. Please retrieve your lost item today. For more questions ask Mike Carey, Chairman of Sympathy & Service.

NOTE: A Samsung Galaxy smartphone was left in the nursery area last Wednesday night. Please see Mel Duncan or call the church office (ext. 10) to identify and pick up.

Remembering One Another

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

Rubye Benchoff
304 Dupont Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
235-9958

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Mark and Beth Baxa
Aryn, Daniel, Gran, Joshua

Bill and Judy Bechtel

Brian and Daphine Bechtel
Ruth, John Calvin, Miriam, William, Hannah

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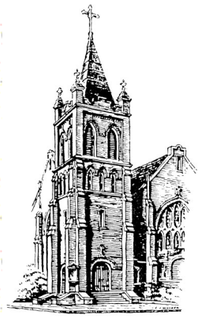
WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY
AUGUST 5, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 & 11:00 AM

WITH HIS OWN HAND
2 Thessalonians 3:16–18
Anthem:
Eternal Love
Hymns: 699, 691/131, 689
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

PAY ATTENTION!
Hebrews 2:1–4
Hymns: 139, 303, 149
Psalter: Psalm 141
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



The West End Herald

Vol. CXX, Edition 31

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

July 30, 2012

Letter from the Senior Minister

Things I Learned Preaching 1-2 Thessalonians

Often when I have finished preaching a sermon, I want to say to the congregation, "I don't know how much you got out of that, but I got a lot out of that sermon!" All of this is to say that in preaching God's Word I am greatly impacted by God's Word. So it has been in our studies through the apostle Paul's two letters to the Thessalonian church. I preached my first sermon in this series on Aug. 21, 2011 and we now finish it almost exactly a year later. I am grateful to God for the rich teaching He has given us through these books and look forward to seeing the fruit of God's Word in our collective lives.

One of the reasons I wanted to preach 1-2 Thessalonians is that Paul was writing to a pretty good church. These letters have a different tone than Galatians, where there was doctrinal heresy, or 1 Corinthians, where Paul addressed serious moral failure. Paul writes 1 Thessalonians out of his joy and relief, when he heard how well they were doing in their faith. I think ours is also a pretty healthy church, so I thought these books would be helpful in teaching what a good church should seek to be doing.

Along these lines, Paul emphasizes the decisive difference it makes when people receive biblical teaching as God's very own Word. The Thessalonians accepted Paul's teaching "as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers" (1 Thess. 2:13). What this means is that we must continue to honor God's Word, to give attention and effort to learning God's Word, and to trust God's Word to mold our church and lives. We often say that ours is "an ordinary means of grace" church. Chief among the means of grace is the ministry of God's Word. How important it is that we continue to desire God's teaching in our lives, willing to receive correction, desiring God's priorities to change our own priorities, and above all focusing our faith and hope on the great things God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Another matter that has impressed me in preaching Thessalonians is the strong personal relationship between Paul and his readers. The apostle was no longer present – he was writing from the city of Corinth – yet he wrote as if they knew him personally and had personal familiarity with his manner of living. This is a good model for ministry, in my view. The tendency today is to evaluate a church strictly on its size – the bigger the better. Numerical growth is a good thing, of course, and we rejoice at the increase in our own numbers. Yet, I am struck that a church cannot become infinitely large and retain the dynamics that Paul reveals in this letter. Frankly, my desire never to pastor a so-called "mega-church," with thousands in attendance, was reinforced by Paul's letters. While it will always be true that I know some church members better than others, I