

Third, having considered our debt to the deacons and our need for new deacons, let me say a word to those who will be elected. No doubt, you will quickly realize that this is a serious commitment, but there are reasons for you to take up this obligation. First, it is no small thing for the church to set you forth to serve in such an important way. It is my view that one should be reverently open to callings to serve in the church. God calls us into service, and service as a deacon is one of the highest forms. Second, there are few more important things to which one could be called in this life. We are engaged together in work with eternal significance and that is of serious concern to the Lord God Almighty Himself. Should you not be willing to sacrifice in such a cause? Third, you will be greatly blessed through faithful service as a deacon. I believe that our deacons will tell you of a great satisfaction they receive through their work and of the valuable fellowship they experience within the Diaconate. Moreover, Paul concludes his description of deacons by writing this: "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 3:13). What a rich treasure is revealed in those words!

Please pray for God to provide for our church through new deacons who will join the ranks of those already serving. For those not called to this office, please consider how you might offer your own gifts and energies to the work of the gospel in this church. Every member of our church has an important role to play, according to the gifts and graces that Christ has given to each of us. May God meet all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, at 10:00 am to elect Deacons and to receive and support the 2013 budget.

The Ordination/Installation of New Deacons will be Sunday, Dec. 2, at the evening service followed by a Reception at the Churchwide Fellowship Supper.

2013 Mission Trips

REMINDER OF COSTS AND DEADLINES:

Trip 1: Hartsville, SC, June 9-13, \$50 per person by February 1
 Trip 2: Richmond Hill, GA, July 16-19, \$50 per person by February 1
 Trip 3: Trujillo & Cajamaraca, Peru, June 21-29, \$1,250 deposit due by January 6
 Trip 4: Dundee, Scotland, tentatively June 28-July 8, \$1,200 deposit due by January 6

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

Nov. 30	Middle School Fellowship <u>at the church</u>
Nov. 30	Sr. High Fellowship
Dec. 1	WIC Decorating Day
Dec. 2	Congregational Meeting to Elect Deacons/ receive and support 2013 budget
Dec. 2	Ordination/Installation of New Deacons at pm service
Dec. 2	Churchwide Fellowship Supper/Reception
Dec. 3	Diaconate Meeting
Dec. 3	Good Grief Meeting
Dec. 4	Jessamines Christmas Party at the home of Cindy Crunk
Dec. 5	WIC Council
Dec. 5	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Dec. 5	Gingerbread House Contest
Dec. 8	Messiah Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary (10am-12noon)
Dec. 8	Choir Lunch and Christmas party (12noon)
Dec. 9	Selections from Handel's oratorio, The Messiah, by the Adult Choir at the evening worship service
Dec. 9	Churchwide Reception for Choir
Dec. 10	Session Meeting
Dec. 11-12	WIC Circles
Dec. 12	Christmas Dinner
Dec. 12	Christmas Youth Program
Dec. 14	ACTS SS Class Christmas party at the Spears
Dec. 16	The Lord's Supper at the evening service
Dec. 17	Young At Heart
Dec. 18	Jr. High Christmas party at the Maralits
Dec. 19	NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
Dec. 20	College and 20s SS-Class Christmas party at the McCarthys
Dec. 21	Sr. High Christmas party at the Detmers
Dec. 24	Lessons and Carols
Dec. 24-27	Church Office Closed
Dec. 26	NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES
Dec. 30	Christmas Hymn Sing in the sanctuary
Dec. 31	Church Office Closed

Good Grief

Good Grief is a dinner fellowship for all those at Second Presbyterian who are in mourning or grief. The first fellowship will be Monday, December 3, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please make your reservations with: Pastor Spears (430-7389) Barnetta Stephens (438-1962) or Judy Pitts (228-2004)

Jessamines Christmas Party

The Jessamines Christmas Party will be Tuesday, Dec. 4th from 7:00-8:30 pm at the home of Cindy Crunk. The girls will create a Festive Holiday Gingerbread House with Mrs. Jessica LaBombard and decorate their very own Gingerbread-man cookies. Please bring a party appetizer to share. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Duncan at cind-yaduncan@gmail.com.

Gingerbread House Contest

Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 5:45 pm
 (Judging will begin at 6:30 pm)
 Categories: Difficulty, Most Creative, and Theme
 Age Groups: (18 yrs. & older) (13-17 yrs. old) (8-12 yrs. old) (3-7 yrs. old)
 Each contestant will need a GingerBread Packet which will include rules, recipes and other instructions. See Jessica LaBombard or Pat Shuford for packets.

The Middle School Fellowship will be this Friday, Nov., 28th from 5:30-7:30 pm at the church. Please bring \$3.00 for pizza.

Perry Correctional Christmas Outreach

Second Church is sponsoring a dorm for Christmas and will orchestrate a Christmas program at Perry Correctional where each inmate receives a Bible, hygiene bag, and a meal. The Gospel will be preached and hymns of praise sung. Please give generously to this outreach and mercy ministry. The actual Christmas program will be held at the prison on **Thursday, Dec. 6th**. If you are interested in singing in a small choir or otherwise participating in the distribution of the food and hygiene items, please see Bill Watkins (304-4737).

Join us for a special presentation of Selections from Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah" Sunday, December 9, 2012 at our 6:00 evening worship service. Please invite family and friends to share in this special service to the glory of God.

Churchwide Reception for Choir

On Dec. 9th, following the Messiah, the WIC will be hosting a reception for the choir. WIC is asking our circles and any interested parties to donate Christmas cookies. Please contact your circle chair or Judy Bishop (246-0951) for details.

The Chapel Sunday School Class

The adult Sunday School class meeting in the Chapel will begin a study of the New Testament book of Colossians on December 9th. The theme of Colossians is the pre-eminence of Christ. Please come and join us as we begin this new study.

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers while I did Bible Bee. It really helped me finish knowing you were praying for me. God answered your prayers through helping me meet my goals. Thanks again for all your prayers. Like one of the verses I learned says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 ESV)
 Sincerely, Rhys Woodard

2013 Offering Envelopes

The 2013 offering envelopes are in the process of being prepared. If you do not have offering envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. If any of your children need a box of envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18.

Christmas Poinsettias

This year you may purchase a white Poinsettia for \$10.00. Orders will need to be in by Dec. 2nd. 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.)

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 2
 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **Congregational Meeting to Elect Deacons and Receive and Support the 2013 Budget**
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL** (6th grade and under)
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 4:00 PM Regular Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Christmas Adult Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
Deacon Ordination and Installation
 6:30 PM Wee Worship Choir
 7:15 PM **Fellowship Supper and Reception for New Deacons**
 A-J Main Course * K-Z Side Dishes
Everyone please bring one 2-liter drink.

Monday, December 3
 6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting
 6:00 PM Good Grief Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 6:00 PM Sr. High Girls' Team 2 Basketball game at home
 7:00 PM Sr. High Girls' Team 1 Basketball game at home
 8:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball game at home

Tuesday, December 4
 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
 4:30 PM I-Mites and Mites Basketball practice
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828
 7:00 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice
 7:00 PM Jessamines Christmas party at Cindy Crunk's

Wednesday, December 5
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 5:00 PM WIC Council
 5:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
Gingerbread House Contest
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
 6:15 PM Youth Choir
 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids
 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**
 8:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball practice

Thursday, December 6
 9:30 AM WIC Precepts Bible Study
 5:30 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball practice
 6:00 PM Christmas party at Perry Correctional
 9:00 PM Men's Basketball game at W. Pres.

Friday, December 7
 3:00 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball practice

Saturday, December 8
 8:30 AM I-Mites Basketball game at W. Pres. II
 10:00 AM Messiah Dress Rehearsal followed by Christmas party lunch at noon
 10:30 AM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at St. George
 10:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at John Knox
 11:30 AM Mites Basketball game at W. Pres. II

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in member.
 Also, send her a note of encouragement.
Sara Cater
 11 Colgate Ave. Greenville, SC 29617

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.
Catherine Elrod
Gloria Elrod Abate
Bill and Faye Evans

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY DECEMBER 2, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

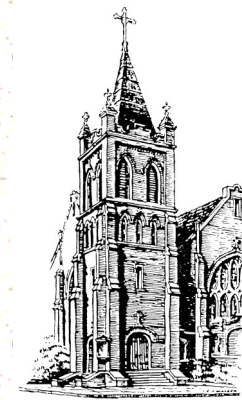
THE THRONE IN HEAVEN
 Revelation 4:1-8

Anthem:
 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 Hymns: 194, 35, 549
 Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

SALVATION LOST
 Hebrews 3:12-19
 Hymns: 221, 457, 459
 Psalter: Psalm 7 (verses 1-8)
 Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
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The West End Herald

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

November 26, 2012

Letter from the Senior Minister The Ministry of Our Deacons

At our congregational meeting this Lord's Day, we will be electing men to serve our church in the office of deacons. The Bible clearly lays out two classes of office in the church: elders to oversee and shepherd, and deacons to serve and lead in the ministry of good deeds. Our *Book of Church Order* describes the diaconal ministry as "one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need." In this ministry, the deacons minister to those in need, promote the grace of liberality in giving, collect and distribute gifts to those in need of benevolence, care for the property of the congregation, and make arrangements to facilitate the gatherings of the church congregation.

Our first response to this description of the deacons' ministry ought to be to express our collective gratitude for the labors of these faithful men. As pastor, I am especially aware of our debt to the work of the deacons; I can hardly imagine how we could conduct our services without their faithful service. I can assure you that our deacons make significant sacrifices of time and energy on behalf of our church. This inevitably means that their wives and children also make sacrifices. So let's make sure that they know how much they are appreciated. As you have opportunity, could you express your appreciation for the faithfulness and ability with which our deacons and their families serve our church?

My second reflection is to observe what an important thing it is for the Lord to provide us with new deacons. We believe, following the example of the early church in Acts 6, that the Holy Spirit calls deacons to service through the acclamation of the church congregation. This week, we will continue this practice through the election of deacons. All these men have been nominated by the congregation, approved by the elders, completed an extensive training program designed to ensure their competence in both doctrine and the duties of this office, and then have each been interviewed by the Session. Most important for us this week are the biblical qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13: deacons should be reverent and honest, self-controlled, not self-serving, and sound in their faith. The godliness of their wives, if they are married, should commend them to the church, as well as the good order of their households. In sum, deacons who will oversee the people and property of the church should have demonstrated such ability in their sphere of their private lives. None of these men are perfect and all have areas for Christian growth, like the rest of us. But their election should signify the congregation's confidence in their commitment to Christ, their maturity as believers, and their established reputation for godliness.