

Spotlight on Ministry

“The Media Committee” (of the Session)

We are so appreciative of the Media Committee which is responsible all aspects of media ministry at Second Church. David Rainey is chairman of the committee for 2014. Listed below is the full membership.

MEDIA

*David M. Rainey
Al H. Wills, Jr.
Richard D. Phillips (Moderator of Session)
Melton L. Duncan *Ex Officio* (Editor)
Nate Johnson (Soundroom Coordinator)
Mike Carey (Deacon)
Jane Rainey (At Large)
Devin Smith (At Large)

Called meetings only

MAJOR MINISTRY PROJECTS

Email: Prayer List, THIS WEEK @ SPC
Internet Technology Support for SPC Staff
and Guest Services
Online: spcgreenville.org
“Church-Wide (Google) Calendar”
Print Media: *The West End Herald*, Sunday Bulletin,
Intercessor, Bulletin Boards
Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Blogs
Soundroom Media: Sunday Services & Wednesday
Bible Study & Prayer Meetings

Like us on  [SPCGreenville](https://www.facebook.com/SPCGreenville)
Follow us on  [@SPCGreenville](https://twitter.com/SPCGreenville)

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY February 16, 2014

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 & 11:00 AM

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU

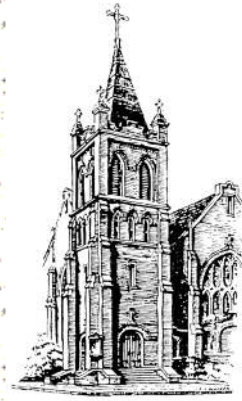
Ephesians 1:1-2
Hymns: 465, 691, 460
Anthem: My Eternal King
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

FAITH CONQUERING

Hebrews 11:30-40
Hymns: 345, 252, 420
Psalter: Psalm 42 (vs. 1-5)
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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The West End Herald

Vol. CXXII, Edition 6

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

February 10, 2014

Letter from Senior Minister

The Ken Ham vs. Bill Nye Creation Debate

“Because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (Jn. 15:19).

I was one of the thousands on whose internet browsers were humming on February 4 with the video feed coming from the Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky. I watched with affectionate support of an earnest brother seeking to promote biblical doctrine and with an ear open to the critique of an attractive secularist personality. I did not expect real ground to be gained in the debate between evolution and biblical creation. My interest was mainly devoted to insights that this debate would shed on the relationship of biblical Christianity to a culture dominated by hostile secularism. In this respect, I found the debate to be instructive, and would like to highlight three points that I thought were of interest.

1. *Competing Worldviews, not Science.* It was glaringly obvious that Ham and Nye view the data before them through the lenses of two differing worldviews. While this is obvious to Christians (Ken Ham freely admitted this), secularists are oblivious to the presuppositions which determine their doctrines. This is why the only approach that can be reasonably fruitful in debates like this is one that subjects the underlying assumptions to critique. Ken Ham did a little of this, but I would have liked much more. For instance, Nye admits that he believes that matter originated (apparently) from nothing. Ham might have pointed out that Nye and his supporters therefore claim to advance a rational position that is grounded on a blatant irrationality. Only the biblical doctrines of God and Creation provide the order in which the secularist's treasured reason can exist. As R. Albert Mohler commented: “the argument was never really about ice rods and sediment layers. It was about the most basic of all intellectual presuppositions: How do we know anything at all? On what basis do we grant intellectual authority?... Is there a Creator, and can we know him?”

SPC Social Media Highlights

Sunday past Dr. Phillips spoke in Charleston for Dr. Jon Payne. This note was left on the Christ Church Facebook page afterwards:

Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC graciously sent their senior minister, Rev. Richard Phillips, to preach God's Word to us today in both morning and evening worship. Pastor Phillips preached two excellent sermons. It was a blessed day of worship and fellowship, and great to have the entire Phillips family in the low country. The preaching was soul-nourishing and it was, as always, a joy and comfort to come to the Lord's Table. So thankful for the bonds of Christian fellowship and the power of biblical preaching!

From Facebook.com/SPCGreenville

"The great Master Gardener, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful providence, with his own hand, planted me here, where by his grace, in this part of the vineyard, I grow; and here I will abide till the great Master of the vineyard think fit to transplant me."

#LovelinessOfChrist #SamuelRutherford @Banner of Truth

"We think that Reformed worship is just what the church needs today: order without tedium, joy without frivolity, reverence without stuffiness." -Terry Johnson

"We welcome RUF: Reformed University Fellowship to 'our campus' today @SPCGreenville (and tomorrow) as National Leadership is holding assessment meetings for prospective campus ministers." #TheyAllSeemGood #ReachAndEquip

"Tuned in to the live feed from Second Pres in Greenville tonight...good to hear a sermon and worship in English" Elizabeth (Johnson) and Willy Madrid.

"Come and Worship with Second Presbyterian Church. We are a traditional Protestant church that is vibrant and welcoming. We are one block off South Main Street in downtown Greenville."

-The Editor



On these matters, Ham and Nye are separated by a Christian worldview grounded on biblical authority versus a materialist worldview grounded on autonomous human reason. The true argument, therefore, is not over techniques of carbon dating (interesting though that discussion was during the debate), but over the basic issues of theology and philosophy. Can the secularist philosophy give a reasoned account of existence, let alone answer questions of meaning and identity? The answer is No, and Christians need to highlight the big issues that provide the worldview lenses through which we gaze upon the light of distant stars. In a generation where secular humanism occupies a virtual hegemony of culture, it is the failure of their worldview to give meaning and hope to actual people that truly frustrates people like Bill Nye in their attempts to eradicate the Christian intellectual remnant.

2. *The Secularist Strategy of Ridicule.* It was evident that Bill Nye knows very little about actual biblical Christianity, probably because of his cultural isolation from actual Bible-believing people. For instance, Nye ridiculed a Bible with which he is so unfamiliar that he criticized Ham for arguing from the Old Testament, apparently thinking that Christians should only accept the New Testament. While he acted cheerfully and respectfully, Nye's overall aim was to assert that a "reasonable" person simply cannot take the Christian position seriously.

The secularist strategy of demonization was especially evident in the atheist criticisms to which Nye was subjected after the debate. Michael Shulson of *The Daily Beast* excoriated Nye for even giving a Creationist the courtesy of a platform from which to speak. The point is that hardened secularists look upon biblical Christians with a contempt constructed in isolation from interactions with actual believers. Their position requires them not to give basic respect and courtesy, on the grounds that the Christian position is unreasonable and therefore unworthy of fair consideration.

In this light, Ham's most effective tactic was showing video clips of Creationist scientists who have made important contributions to society. It was hard for Nye to advance his central thesis that American scientific progress requires intolerance to Creationism when Ham had just shown a Creationist who helped invent the MRI machine. For Christians concerned with reaching the culture, this situation urges us to become more engaged with society at every level. The more that secularists interact with thoughtful, contributing Christians – at the workplace, in the university classroom, or on the Little League baseball diamond – the less secularist despisers will succeed in the strategy of demonization that insulates non-Christians from exposure to biblical truth and Christian love.

3. *The Christian Temptation of Accomodation.* While I was interested in the atheistic critique of Bill Nye, I found the evangelical Christian

response to Ken Ham to be even more informative. From evolutionist Peter Enns to fundamentalist Pat Robertson, Christians showed embarrassment over Ham's gall in publicly reading the biblical account of Creation as if it is literally true. There are legitimate questions that Christians might ask of Creationists like Ken Ham and there are disagreements that do not involve capitulation to secularist pressure. But the day-after evidence of the Christian response to Ham and Creationism suggests to me that the secularist strategy of ridicule and demonization is working. Evangelicals desperate to be lauded as "reasonable" by their secularist neighbors could not reach for their keyboards fast enough to throw Ken Ham under the rhetorical bus.

I have argued elsewhere that biblical doctrines like creation, man, sin, and ultimately salvation cannot survive in an evolutionary worldview. Other Christian voices disagree, urging that believers will never gain a hearing to speak about Jesus if we insist on arguing over evolution. I answer that as soon as we bring up Jesus we have to treat the first chapters of Genesis as if they are historically true. What Jesus will we declare and what was Jesus doing on the cross if there was no historical Adam who cast our race into sin in Genesis 3? To be sure, Christians should desire to be thoughtful and we naturally desire to be accepted as reasonable by our secularist neighbors. But the Bill Nye – Ken Ham debate, and the media commentary that followed, argues that in order to remain faithful to God's Word and bear a faithful testimony to the Jesus of the Bible, we have to stand courageously in the face of unfair ridicule, bearing the scandal of a Savior who was also unfairly despised by the world.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips



CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Telephone: 864.232.7621

Website: spcgreenville.org

Social Media

facebook.com/spcgreenville  twitter.com/spcgreenville 

Fax: (864) 232-7622 * **Email:** info@spcgreenville.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

Ladies of Second Presbyterian Church

You are cordially invited to attend the annual

WIC Prayer Breakfast

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful..." JAMES 5:16

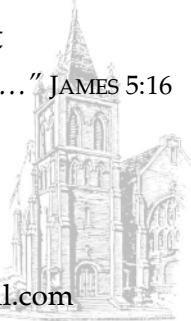
Saturday, February 22, 2014

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Church Fellowship Hall

R.S.V.P.

marjorieelizabethgustafson@gmail.com



COMMUNICANTS' CLASS BEGINS

A Communicants' Class will be held beginning Sunday, February 23. The class will meet at 10:00 on Sunday mornings on the third floor in Classroom S-307 and will be taught by RE Melton L., Duncan and Deacon Kevin Mobley. Parents who judge their child ready to meet with the Session for communicant membership should bring their child to the class.

Memorial Flowers

The 2014 Roster for memorial flowers has been compiled and there are still quite a few openings available throughout the year. If you would like to sign up to put memorial flowers in the sanctuary on a particular Sunday in honor or memory of someone please call the church office or see Judy Bishop.

Georgia Boy Choir

GBC will be singing in our church on Sunday morning, March 2, 2014 at both morning services. We need volunteer host families for Saturday night, March 1, 2014. Boys will be grouped (at least) into pairs and accommodations need not be lavish. If you can help please contact Shirley Duncan (864-230-5644) shirleyduncan@charter.net.



ANNUAL VALENTINE'S BANQUET



"The Memory of Love"

Friday, February 14, 2014

Church Gymnasium

**Cost: \$10 per person
(12 years old and up)**

Nursery provided for children under 12.

Please make reservations by Wednesday, February 12, with Ken Safford or Robert Spears.

You may also bring a check to the church office or pay online. Make checks payable to Second Presbyterian Church.

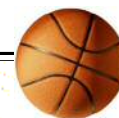
Membership Class

MEMBERSHIP CLASS SCHEDULE

February 16	Law and the Gospel
February 23	Covenant Theology
March 2	Finding Your Place at Second <i>(taught by RE Melton L. Duncan)</i>
March 9	Reformed Worship
March 16	Membership Vows <i>(taught by TE Robert E. Spears)</i>
March 23	Presbyterian History <i>(taught by Dr. Barry Waugh)</i>
March 30/ April 6	Elder interviews for membership
April 13	New Members' Reception and Luncheon



Annual Sports' Banquet



Wednesday, February 26th, 5:45pm

Speaker:

Mr. Rob Gustafson

Mark your calendars and join us as we honor our athletes and teams for their 2013-14 sports participation.

Nursery Schedules

A new nursery schedule began Sunday, February 2. All nursery workers and monitors need to pick up their schedules at the nursery desk ASAP.

Young At Heart

The Valentine's Young At Heart Luncheon will be Monday, February 17, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The catered meal is \$7.00 per person, payable at the door. Our guest speaker this month is Dr. Barry Waugh, back by popular demand.

Jr./Sr. High Fellowship

Friday, February 28th
Combined Jr. and Sr. High Fellowship Activity
Lighthouse in the Gymnasium
6-9 pm
Dinner will be provided.
Questions-see Jim McCarthy

Mark Your Calendars

May 7	Graduation Banquet
May 14	CAT Kids Program
June 6-13	Mission Trip to Peru
June 7-14	Mission Trip-MTW Cherokee
June 17-20	General Assembly—Houston, TX
June 23-27	Vacation Bible School
July 4	Church Picnic
July 7-12	Sr. High trip to Edisto Island
July 14-18	Mission Trip-Calvary Home
July 21-25	Jr. High trip to Ridge Haven

Mark your calendars and plan early!
www.spcgreenville.org

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 16

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 9:45 AM Membership Class
- 9:50 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**
- 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, February 17

- 11:45 AM Young At Heart

Tuesday, February 18

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
- 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion

Wednesday, February 19

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
- 6:15 PM Administration Committee Meeting
- 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
- 6:20 PM Youth Choir
- 6:45 PM CAT Kids and Covenant Kids
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM WIC Circle 6
- 7:00 PM Elder Training
- 7:00 PM **PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday, February 20

- 9:30 AM WIC Precepts

Friday, February 21

- 12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study

Saturday, February 23

- 10:00 AM WIC Prayer Breakfast
- 2:30 PM Senior High Girls' B'ball practice

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 12 Missions' Committee Meeting
- Feb. 12 Elder Training Begins
- Feb. 12 WIC Circle 6
- Feb. 14 VALENTINE BANQUET
- Feb. 16 The Lord's Supper at the Evening Service
- Feb. 17 Young At Heart
- Feb. 19 Administration Committee Meeting
- Feb. 22 WIC Prayer Breakfast
- Feb. 23 Communicants' Class begins
- Feb. 23 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
- Feb. 26 CE Committee Meeting
- Feb. 26 SPORTS' BANQUET
- Feb. 28 Jr. High Fellowship
- Feb. 28 Sr. High Fellowship
- March 2 Georgia Boy Choir singing-AM services
- March 3 Diaconate Meeting
- March 5 WIC Council
- March 5 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- March 9 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- March 10 Session Meeting
- March 11-12 WIC Circles
- March 12 Missions' Committee Meeting
- March 16 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
- March 17 Young At Heart
- March 19 Administration Committee Meeting
- March 23 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
- March 26 CE Committee Meeting
- March 28 Jr. High Fellowship
- March 28 Sr. High Fellowship
- March 30 Called Session Meeting

If you have a date for the March calendar please call the church office this week. 232-7621, ext. 10

Scripture Reading for the Week

Psalm 9:1-2

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name,
O Most High. (ESV)*

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in 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

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Rubye Benchoff
Shane and Rachel Berens
Leanna
Lee Bereza

Missionary of the Week

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary is a biblically grounded institution committed to the doctrines of historic Presbyterianism and the Reformed Faith. If you are considering an advanced education to train you for the Gospel ministry and service in the church or mission field, or if you have an interest in supporting an educational institution that refuses to compromise with the theological trends of the day, we hope you will explore the information offered on this web site. Here you will find full information about our distinctives and our program, as well as numerous Christian resources to enhance your spiritual life.

Spring Theology Conference March 11-13
O. Palmer Robertson, Joel Beeke, Ben Shaw,
Jim McGoldrick, Derek Thomas, Joseph Pipa