

Spotlight on Ministry

MARCH SESSION MEETING NEWS

Administration

- "Safety Committee" has been formed and is scheduled to meet after Easter.
- Music Director Search Committee gave an update on its work.

Charleston Church Plant Oversight

- Finances for the new work are positive and received a report from Dr. Payne.

Christian Education

- Developing candidates for ministerial intern, Nursery Coordinator, Nursery Workers.

Facility Use

- Deacons approved renewing Classical Conversations Greenville for 2014-2015 school year.
- Discussions ongoing about extending Lanier Parking management lease into 2015.

General Assembly

- Session appointed TE Phillips and elected RE'S: Bragdon, Duncan, Safford to attend.
- "GA42" is in Houston, Texas.

Worship & Music

- All Choirs are staffed and proceeding under normal schedule.
- Covenant College Ensemble to sing on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014 at Morning Services.
- Mountain View Baptist invited to sing at Easter Sunrise Service.

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY

March 16, 2014

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 & 11:00 AM

THE GLORY OF CHRIST

Colossians 1:15-20

Hymns: 164, 300, 378

Anthem: Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me
Dr. Charles Barrett preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

MY FEAST

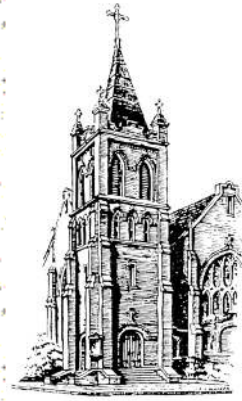
Haggai 1

Hymns: 25, 469, 585

Psalter: Psalm 44 (verses 9-16)

Rev. Robert E. Spears preaching

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The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

March 10, 2014

Letter from the Church Administrator Social Media and the Gospel

The other day I was waiting in a checkout line at a store and checked my phone for messages. My "smart-phone" is officially smarter than my computer and does all the functions of my watch, alarm clock, compass, weather report, calendar and informs me when my favorite college team has a new football commitment. Friends tell me that email is now old fashioned because many people choose to communicate in "real time" with social media, text or chat. So it was that I was scanning my social media and in real time I read on Facebook where an old friend is in a traffic jam on the highway and was asking for suggestions on where he should pull off the road for dinner. I happened to know exactly the place he was and a few seconds after he posted his query I made a suggestion. Though we were separated by thousands of miles and hadn't spoken in person with one another in a decade we were able to have instant virtual communication. We connected and I helped my old friend out virtually. To some of you this may not even be all that big news.

The Apostle Paul had Roman roads, a world class education and citizenship in the empire but think about what we have in our very hands - the ability to communicate with the world. Are we Gospel minded when we use social media? Are we Gospel minded with what we are putting into our minds online? Are we mindful of how we appear, what we choose to update our status with, how we are communicating our testimony? Are we Gospel minded when we read uncharitably what other friends choose to say?

The new era we live in is truly interconnected but I think the case can be made that in some cases *more* social media is truly *less helpful* in terms of lasting, healthy satisfying Christian conversation. There is ever increasing instantaneous communication but is there improved meaningful communication? The need for Christian people away from the distractions of the online world to listen, talk, show hospitality and concern has never been greater. With every advance in bandwidth and download speed our communication diminishes.

It strikes me that for some the way we behave online is also a matter of grave concern. The things we are saying or doing when we are cloaked behind anonymity and a username often removes (seemingly) the consequences of our actions. If we care to admit it's often time more fun to get caught up in other people's successes or tragedies than deal with our own, isn't it?

Almost 30 years ago the noted literary critic Neil Postman wrote *Amusing Ourselves to Death, Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* a criticism of popular uses of television. Postman famously said "television has gradually become culture...we rarely talk about television, only about what's on television... The world given to us by television seems natural, not bizarre."

How much infinitely greater is the Internet than television and through improved technology and affordability it is changing our discourse maybe for the worse. Why is this? Presbyterian Minister and Professor T. David Gordon has written several popular books of the impact of TV and internet on the Church. *Why Johnny Can't Sing Hymns* and *Why Johnny Can't Preach* are stinging indictments of the broader evangelical church detailing how popular culture has changed our expectations and has downgraded our mind in worship. Simply put we have allowed the short attention spans of television shows and the instantaneous results of a search engine to impact our modes of speech.

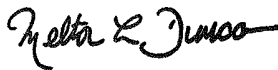
Last year in a Sunday School class I noted Dr. Sinclair Ferguson's helpful set of questions to ask when seeking God's Will. It seems like a good template for us to apply to use of new media.

- Is It Lawful?
- Is it Beneficial to me?
- Is it Enslaving?
- Is it Consistent with Christ's Lordship?

- Is it Helpful to Others?
- Is it consistent with Biblical Examples?
- Is it for the Glory of God?

Sinclair Ferguson says:
"Do you ever find yourself challenged on a course of action by a fellow-Christian, and automatically respond: 'what's wrong with it?'. It is the most natural form of self-defense. But it may well hide a guilty conscience. For, in our heart of hearts we know, as Paul so incisively teaches, that this is not the really important question. There may be 'nothing wrong with it'; but there may be nothing right with it; it may prove not to be beneficial to me."

Now don't misunderstand. By all means feel free to use, benefit and enjoy your smart phone, your Netflix, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Skype and all the "apps" you can download. But remember social media should be used for your connectivity with God's glory and that God is watching.

Your Friend,

 Church Administrator



CHURCH INFORMATION

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

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Social Media

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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

At the Corner of River and Rhett

FROM YESTERDAY'S SERMON
 What wonder it is "that I should be called not only to receive freely an infinite, sovereign, undeserved love, but that my reception of it should be the means of throwing light, to the angelic beings, during the eternal ages, on the glorious character and perfections of God?"

Hugh Martin, Christ for Us (Edinburgh; Banner of Truth, 1998), 212-213.

GUEST MINISTER
 We welcome Dr. Charles M. Barrett to the pulpit this Sunday. Dr. Barrett is the interim President of Greenville's Geneva Reformed Theological Seminary, a minister in The Free Presbyterian Church of North America, and a frequent guest minister at churches and conferences. He is married to Bridget and has 2 young children.

Geneva Reformed Seminary exists to train and prepare prospective preachers for the ministry of the gospel. GRS seeks to equip men to skillfully handle the Word of God and to sharpen their gifts to be more effective in ministry for the glory of God and the good of His people.

NEED SOME HELP
 The Church's Christian Education Committee is holding conversations with interested mature Christian women experienced and able to lead Nursery Ministry beginning in the summer of 2014 for a 2 year term. If you would like to be a Nursery Coordinator would you talk with Bill Wheeler or Mel Duncan.

There remains a variety of volunteer needs in the church right now. Here are two of them

- Kitchen Helpers on Wed. Night (Prep & Clean Up)
- Social Media Content Managers (Blog Management, Status Updating)

-The Editor 

Young At Heart

The monthly luncheon and program of Young At Heart will be Monday, March 17th at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The catered meal is \$7.00 per person, payable at the door. Jerry Step, organist at a local Greenville church, will entertain us with a special musical program.

Wednesday Night Speaker

Rick Brawner, who works at Clemson University with the RUF International Missions, will be coming to Second on Wednesday March 19th. He will meet with the children at 6:45 pm and then in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm to speak to the adults. Don't miss this time as Rick shares with us his work at Clemson.

Jr./Sr. High Fellowship

4th Friday Jr. and Sr. High
Combined Fellowship
March 28, 2014
6:30 pm
"Lighthouse" in the Gym
Pizza will be served.

Membership Class

MEMBERSHIP CLASS SCHEDULE

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 April 13	Elder interviews for membership New Members' Reception and Luncheon

Easter Services at Second

April 17	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 18	11:45 am	Good Friday Lunch in the Gym
	12:30 pm	Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary
April 20	7:00 am	Sunrise Service at Wyche Pavilion
	8:00 am	Breakfast at the church
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Easter Worship Service <i>(only one service)</i>
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship Service

There will be no Wednesday evening activities on April 16th.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter Lily to place in the church on Easter Sunday in memory or honor of someone special, please fill out the form below and place in the church office in Judy Grant's mail box along with \$8.00 for each lily.

I would like to place _____ (how many) Easter Lily(ies) in the church on Easter Sunday:
In Honor of: _____
In Memory of: _____
Name: _____ Telephone # _____
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with prep and cleanup for our Wednesday night meals. If you would be willing to help in this area of service please contact Kip Altman by email (ckaltman@yahoo.com) or calling (864-292-3353).

Calvary Home For Children

You are invited to join friends and supporters of Calvary Home in a celebration of ministry to children and families in the Upstate. **Let's Grow! Plant, Grow, Fruit, Repeat!**...for over a decade we have seen this theme as the very heart of Calvary Home.

Thursday, May 1, 2014 @ 6pm
Zen Restaurant, 924 South Main St., Greenville
RSVP: 864-296-5437

Peru Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Peru this summer (June 6-13, 2014) please contact Pastor Spears (430-7389) as soon as possible. **Deadline for signing up is March 23rd.**

Upcoming Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate (May or December) or you know someone in the church who is, please contact the church office (ext. 10 or jgrant@spcgreenville.org). We want to be sure we recognize all our graduates at our upcoming banquet in May.

April Calendar

If you have an April event that needs to be put on the church calendar please contact the church office this week. (232-7621, ext. 10 or jgrant@spcgreenville.org) We need to know what the event is, what time, and where you will meet. Since Easter is in April this year there is a lot of extra services and activities taking place and we want to be sure there are no conflicts.

Showering with Love

WIC
cordially invites you to a
Wedding Shower
for

Nicole Wilson Laughter
Saturday, March 29, 2014
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Fellowship Hall

Nicole is registered at Belk and Bed, Bath and Beyond

Church Calendar

Sunday, March 16

8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:45 AM Membership Class
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM Communicants' Class
 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
 7:30 PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17

11:45 AM Young At Heart

Tuesday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

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

Thursday, March 20

9:30 AM WIC Precepts

Friday, March 21

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

Scripture Reading for the Week

Psalm 20:6-8

Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. (ESV)

Upcoming Events

March 12 Missions' Committee Meeting
 March 16 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
 March 16 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
 March 17 Young At Heart
 March 19 Administration Committee Meeting
 March 19 Rick Brawner speaking
 March 20 Spring begins
 March 23 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee
 March 26 CE Committee Meeting
 March 28 Jr. & Sr. High Combined Fellowship
 March 29 WIC Shower for Nicole Wilson Laughter
 March 30 Called Session Meeting

Mark Your Calendars

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service
 April 18 Good Friday Lunch and Service
 April 20 Easter Sunrise Service
 May 7 Graduation Banquet
 May 14 CAT Kids Program
 June 6-13 Mission Trip to Peru
 June 7-14 Mission Trip-MTW Cherokee, NC
 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*

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in member. Also, send her a note of encouragement.

Luella Henderson
 The Haven, Room 414
 355 Berkman's Lane
 Greenville, SC 29605

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Ed and Margaret Butler
Wilma Cagle
David and Hilary Caldwell
Dillon, Hayden, Ethan

Missionary of the Week

Stephen & Rebekah Speaks
RUF Clemson

- Pray for Clemson Students.
- Pray for Speaks Family.
- Pray for Clemson Presbyterian Church.
- Pray for Upcoming Spring Events within the ministry.

Testimony: A Clemson student recently converted to Christ from Roman Catholicism.

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me, I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see."

...But this sermon had hit me to my deepest core. It dawned on me, how great of a sinner I am. I used to think generally speaking, I was pretty good. But, I am a sinner through and through. Not only that, but I am broken. That is not a fun reality to face. I had always convinced myself that I had it together. That I was strong and could make it through anything. But, I am just now finding my strength, not in myself, but in Someone much greater than me.