

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 7

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**  
**"Joy to the World"**  
 6:00 PM Wee Worship  
 7:30 PM Church-wide Choir Reception

### Monday, December 8

6:30 PM Session Meeting

### Tuesday, December 9

10:00 AM WIC Circle 1 at the church  
 10:00 AM WIC Circle 3 Christmas party at Grace Cooleys  
 12:00 PM WIC Circle 5 Christmas lunch at the church  
 5:00 PM I-Mites Basketball practice  
 6:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice  
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 at Tammy Loopers  
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 at the church

### Wednesday, December 10

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting  
 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**  
 5:45 PM Gingerbread House Contest  
 6:15 PM Children's Choir (1st-4th Grade)  
 6:15 PM Covenant Choir (5th-8th Grade)  
 6:15 PM Youth Ensemble (Sr. High & College)  
 6:55 PM CAT Kids  
 6:55 PM Covenant Kids  
 6:55 PM Sr. High Bible Study  
 6:55 PM WIC Circle 6 Christmas party in Fellowship Hall  
 6:55 PM **PRAYER MEETING FOR ALL ADULTS**  
 7:25 PM College & 20's Class  
 7:25 PM **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 7:30 PM Youth Caroling  
 8:00 PM Sr. High Boys Basketball practice

### Thursday, December 11

4:00 PM Jr. High Girls' Basketball practice  
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training  
 7:00 PM Good Grief Dinner in Fellowship Hall

### Friday, December 12

12:00 PM Men's Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study  
 7:00 PM Fellowship Class Christmas party at Gustafsons

### Saturday, December 13

2:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball practice

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 7 Chancel Choir Christmas music  
 Dec. 7 Church-wide Choir Reception  
 Dec. 8 Session Meeting  
 Dec. 9-10 WIC Circles Christmas parties  
 Dec. 10 Missions Committee Meeting  
 Dec. 10 Gingerbread House Contest  
 Dec. 10 Youth Caroling  
 Dec. 11 Good Grief Dinner  
 Dec. 12 Fellowship Class Christmas party  
 Dec. 14 Congregation & Corporation Meeting  
 Dec. 15 Young At Heart  
 Dec. 17 Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program  
 Dec. 19 College Christmas party  
 Dec. 19 Acts SS Class Christmas party  
 Dec. 20 Jr./Sr. High Christmas party  
 Dec. 21 Bill Watkins' Fold Lunch in Fellowship Hall  
 Dec. 21 The Lord's Supper at the evening service  
 Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols  
 Dec. 24 No regular Wednesday night activities  
 Dec. 24-26 Church Office Closed  
 Dec. 28 Christmas Hymn Sing  
 Dec. 28 Evangelism/Church Growth Committee  
 Dec. 31 No Wednesday night activities  
 Dec. 31 Church Office Closed

## Scripture Reading for the Week

Psalm 112:1-3

*Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. (ESV)*

## 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.

**Marian Wood**  
 5 Creekbend Road  
 Simpsonville, SC 29681  
 297-0783

## Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

**John and Mary McMillian**

**Steven Moore**

**Mike and Linda Morgan**  
**Michael and Katy**

## Missionary for the Week

**Rev Wes & Jami Baker**  
**Peru Missions**

### WHAT WES DOES:

Church Planting  
 Seminary Instruction  
 Vision and Strategic Planning

### ABOUT THE BAKERS:

Wes is a minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He and his wife Jami have seven children ranging in age from eleven to twenty-four. Wes serves as a pastor in the Cristo Rey Presbyterian Church in Trujillo, trains pastors and church planters in the seminary, and helps with the mission's strategic planning. The Bakers have been with Peru Mission in Cajamarca and Trujillo for almost fifteen years.

 **Basketball Schedule for 12-1-12-8** 

Dec. 4	6:00 pm	Women	Christ Church
Dec. 4	7:00 pm	Men	Christ Church
Dec. 6	8:30 am	Jr. High Girls	AYMC
Dec. 6	9:30 am	Jr. High Boys	AYMC
Dec. 6	10:30 am	Mites	W. Pres. II
Dec. 6	12:30 pm	I-Mites	Finlay Hall
Dec. 8	6:00 pm	Sr. High Girls	TLC
Dec. 8	7:00 pm	Sr. High Boys	OLR

**Young At Heart**

**DECEMBER 15, 2014 @ 11:45 AM**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
 Our Christmas luncheon will be extra special! We will have a delicious luncheon for \$8.00 per person payable at the door. After the luncheon we will go to the sanctuary for a musical piano concert given by Jerry Stepp, Music Director at Eastlan Baptist Church. What a way to go into the Christmas season!

*Lessons and Carols*  
*Wednesday, December 24, 2014*  
*6:00 pm*  
*We will marvel with the heavenly host*  
*as we hear the good news of our Savior's birth*  
*retold in Scripture and song.*

**December Schedule**

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:  
 Wednesday, December 24th  
 Wednesday, December 31st
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:  
 December 24-26
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of  
 December 29th.

**New Babies**

We rejoice with Holt and Katie Preston in the birth of their daughter, Harper Altman Preston on November 18, 2014. Harper weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces. We also rejoice with Stephen and Londa Scott in the birth of their daughter, Caroline Crawford Scott on November 25, 2015. Caroline weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces. Mothers and daughters are doing well.

**Congregational Meeting**

The Session has called a Congregation and Corporation Meeting **December 14th** at 10:00 am for the purposes of:  
 1) Electing up to 9 Deacons to the Board of Deacons.  
 2) Formally presenting the 2015 SPC Budget.  
 3) Elect a new Trustee for the SPC Corporation.

At the November Session meeting the Elders unanimously elected RE C. Douglas McDaniel to be its nominee for the open Trustee position.

**Deacon Nominees**

Please be in prayer for the following men as they stand for election to the Board of Deacons on December 14th. A bio of each of these nominees will be included in next week's Herald: Alan Farley, Leon Harmon, Marcus Laughner, Roger Lusk, Joe Martin, Steve Plating, Chad Scoggins



*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program*  
*Wednesday, December 17th @ 5:45 pm, Church Gym*

**2015 Offering Envelopes**



The 2015 offering envelopes are 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.

**Year-End Contributions**

Just a reminder that to obtain a 2014 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

 **"Joy to the World"**   
**December 7, 2014**  
 The Chancel Choir will present an evening of carols for choir and orchestra at the evening worship service. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and family and don't miss this Christmas celebration.

**Gingerbread House Contest**

 **Wednesday, December 10th**   
**3 Tutorials (easy, medium, difficult)**  
**available December 3rd**  
**in the Fellowship Hall @ 7:30 pm**  
 Contest packets available from Jessica L LaBombard

**Christmas Parties**

- WIC Circle 3: Dec. 9th, 10 am, home of Grace Cooley
- WIC Circle 5: Dec. 9th, 12 pm, Fellowship Hall
- WIC Circle 6: Dec. 10th, 6:55 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Fellowship Class: Dec. 12th, 7 pm, Rob & Beth Gustafsons'
- Young At Heart: Dec. 15th, 11:45 am, Fellowship Hall
- College/20's Class: Dec. 19, 6:30 pm, Joel and Alice Barnetts'
- Acts SS Class: Dec. 19, 6:30 pm, Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Jr. High Class: Dec. 20, 6 pm, Joe and Leslie Martins'
- Sr. High Class: Dec. 20, 6:30 pm, Mark and Beth Baxas'

**Christmas Poinsettias Deadline Dec. 10**

I would like to purchase \_\_\_ Poinsettia (s) at \$10.00 ea. Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Given by:  
 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_



Let me give some of the reasons why Jesus Christ took on our flesh through the womb of Mary. One reason is so that God could know us experientially and thus fully sympathize with us in our needs. Because Jesus became man, he is able to have compassion on us in our trials and he knows what it is to feel sorrow and joy as a human being. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." As such, Jesus also sets an example for us to follow, as he leads us through this life in the way that he has blazed for us.

A second reason why Jesus became man was to show us the glory of God in a form that we could receive. God is spirit and is invisible in his true nature (1 Tim. 6:16). Therefore, God the Son clothed himself in human form so that men and women could see and understand the character of God. We can know God's holiness and love by seeing it in the human life of Jesus as he is revealed in the Bible. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9).

Most importantly, Jesus became a man in order to die for our sins. Since it was men and women who broke God's law and fell under God's wrath, the true atonement could only be made by one who was a man. Jesus became a human being so that he could offer himself for the sins of his people, since he alone was able to suffer the penalty of death in his human nature and yet conquer through life in his deity.

In the ancient world there were many myths about gods who came down to earth for a little while, until they got tired and returned to the clouds. But nowhere in the ancient world was there ever an idea of God becoming man, the Word taking up flesh, out of his desire to save us. But this is our joyful Christmas message: "Lo, within a manger lies / He who built the starry skies... / Thus to come from highest bliss / Down to such a world as this!" What does this say about God's desire for our salvation – that he actually stepped into our world and became one of us! How great is God's love for each of his people, that he would send his Son to die for us and thus to enable us to live with God forever in glory! This is the gift we celebrate with thanks to God at Christmas.

John says that Jesus not only dwelt among us, like God's tabernacle in the midst of the exodus tribes of Israel, but that he showed us his glory. There is so much glory associated with Christmas, and I



hope you all – especially our children – can sense some of the glory, of which the angels sang in the fields of Bethlehem – during your Christmas celebrations. But, according to Jesus, the true glory for which he came was revealed at the cross. On the brink of his entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion, Jesus declared, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (Jn. 12:23). Jesus was not talking about the Hosannas of Palm Sunday but about the agonies of his atoning death. On the cross, God showed us the true shame of our sin, since even one so perfect as Jesus had to suffer death for it. But on the cross, God also showed us the true glory of his love, since he was willing to give even his own Son if that is what it took for us to be saved. Now, it is by seeing the glory of God's grace on the cross that sinners like us are saved. Is Jesus, who was born in the manger to die on the cross, your glory?

Today, the glory of Jesus, "the Word", shines into our hearts through the writings of the Bible (2 Pet. 1:19). So we hold in a book the truth of God in all its glory, provided for us through the ancient prophets and apostles of Jesus Christ. If we have received God's grace at the cross of Christ, then let us love and desire the knowledge of God's truth in his Word. Let's make sure that this Christmas season we celebrate God's gift by spending some time in the Bible. Then let our Christmas gift to him be our trusting devotion to Jesus and our delight in worshiping God with thanks in our church and together with our families. In this way, may the Lord give you all his richest blessings this Christmas season.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Rick Phillips



## State of Theology in America: A Survey

Here's what Americans think. Less than half, only 47%, think that God is the author of Scripture. About the same amount think Scripture is true. And the same amount, 48%, agree with the statement, "The Bible alone is the written word of God." If we press even further we find that only 43% agree that the Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches. More disagree with that statement than agree. To be exact, 46% disagree. The Bible has had and continues to have a place, quite literally, in American homes. But the Bible does not have the place it deserves.

C. S. Lewis made the memorable observation that Jesus is either Lord, liar, or lunatic. One thing He can't be, though, is a good man or a good teacher. He's either delusional or deceptive; or, He is exactly who He claims to be. The same is true of Scripture. It's either God's authoritative and true Word, or it is a dangerously deceptive book, or it is a book of tales by deluded madmen. It cannot be one thing, however. It cannot be a good book.

To a certain extent, it is good that the Bible has a place in American culture. The Bible provides a solid ethical base for a civil society. The Bible is the means by which God's grand plan of redemption is revealed. The Bible is powerful and life-changing. Its presence in homes should be encouraged and applauded.

It was said of Calvin's Geneva that as domestic issues reached the ruling body of the City, known as the Consistory, one of the first questions asked was if there was a Bible in the home. If not, the first thing the Consistory did was to order that a Bible be secured. For those without means, the Consistory readily provided one.

Exposure to God's Word is a good thing. But good things can become problematic things. So it is with the Bible in America. The State of Theology survey shows that Americans prefer a tamed and domesticated God. The State of Theology survey also shows they prefer a tamed and domesticated Word of God. Just as a tamed God is really not God at all, so, too, a tamed Bible is really not the Bible at all.

From Ligonier Ministries  
"State of Theology in America" survey

### 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 - 6:55 PM

Adult Bible Study - 7:25 PM

## At the Corner of River and Rhett

### 1892, The year SPC begun

The "town of Greenville" had become a city and was thriving in the Post-Reconstruction era and Greenville began to grow. An African American church, Springfield Baptist, was built, the Southern Railroad began operations through Greenville, a large cotton seed oil mill was built on Augusta Street, a horse drawn street railway began operations and the first real bridge was built for people on Main Street to cross the Reedy River. It was in this era that our first daily newspaper begun, *The Greenville Daily News*, and a large textile mill, Camperdown, was built on the river in downtown Greenville.

A few years before a second mill, the Huguenot Mill, was built within the City, telephone service was inaugurated, home mail delivery had begun and the City School District was created. Greenville Senior would be the first "public high school" in the city. By 1890, a second City Hall had to be built along with a City Hospital. In the late 1890s, Greenville hosted a U. S. Army training camp called Camp Wetherill where soldiers were trained to serve in Spanish-American War.

During the decade of the 1890's all of the historic downtown Protestant churches were planting new churches in the West End. First Baptist, Pendleton Street Baptist, Buncombe Street Methodist, St Paul's Methodist, Christ Church Episcopal, St Andrews Episcopal began, and a Daughter Church of First Presbyterian was planted in the West End of Greenville- The Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Greenville.

### Noteworthy in 1892

- ◆ Only 27 years since American Civil War ended.
- ◆ Charles Spurgeon's last year preaching at Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.
- ◆ Queen Victoria was in her 7<sup>th</sup> decade of reign.
- ◆ Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States.
- ◆ "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman was Governor of South Carolina.
- ◆ Author JRR Tolkien was born.

*In 2017 Second Presbyterian will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.*

The Editor



## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

### WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY

December 7, 2014

#### MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 AM

#### A HOLY TEMPLE

Ephesians 2:20-22

Hymns: 218, 94, 347

Anthem: The Glory of the Father  
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

#### EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

#### JOY TO THE WORLD

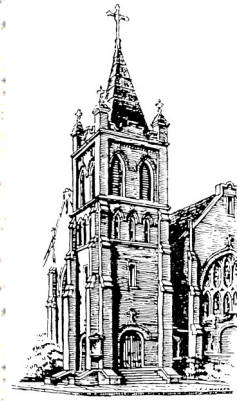
Presented by The Chancel Choir

#### O BETHLEHEM EPHRATHAH!

Micah 5:2-6

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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## The West End Herald

Vol. CXXII, Edition 48

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

December 1, 2014

### Letter from the Senior Minister The Word Became Flesh

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory" (Jn. 1:14).

Our Christmas celebrations are like Israel's exodus from Egypt. This great migration took on a beautiful splendor, as Israel was laden with the treasures of the Nile, just as our Advent season glitters in red and gold. But the true glory of the exodus was not the shimmering colors of Egyptian riches, nor even the uplifted faces of the people following Moses to the Promised Land. Rather, the true glory of Israel was the glory of God in their midst through the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. So it is for us with Christmas: our true glory is that of Christ himself, as he is proclaimed, trusted, and praised in the midst of his people. This was the apostle John's teaching in his Gospel as he spoke of the meaning of Christmas: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).

Unlike the other Gospels that tell the events of Jesus' birth, John's Gospel tells the story of Christmas in theological terms. John 1:14 states the doctrine of the incarnation of Christ. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, yet the second person of the Trinity did not come into being at this birth. Rather, John says, "the Word," that is, God the Son, took up a human form and nature to add to his eternally divine nature. Christ's incarnation means that God's Son became human in the fullest sense, without losing any of his divinity. Being sinless, his is uncorrupted, true humanity, as God had originally designed it.