

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 13

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL** (6th grade and under)
 10:00 AM **Congregation Meeting to elect deacons and receive and support 2016 budget**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
"Sing the Songs of Bethlehem"
by The Chancel Choir
 7:30 PM Reception in the church gym

Monday, December 14

- 11:45 AM Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon
 6:30 PM Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 15

- 10:00 AM WIC Bible Study
 4:30 PM I Mites Basketball practice
 5:30 PM Mites Basketball practice
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training
 6:00 PM Churchwide Christmas Caroling followed by refreshments at the church
 6:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice

Wednesday, December 16

- 5:30 PM **FAMILY NIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER**
 7:00 PM **CHRISTMAS YOUTH PROGRAM**
 8:30 PM Sr. High Boys' Basketball practice

Friday, December 18

- 12:00 PM Men's Lunch & Bible Study
 6:30 PM College & 20's Class Christmas Party at the home of Robert & Jenny Spears
 6:30 PM Middle School Christmas Party at SPC

Saturday, December 19

- 6:30 AM Senior High Girls' Basketball practice
 Basketball games (see schedule in Herald)

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 9 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 Dec. 9 WIC Circle 6 Christmas Fellowship
 Dec. 9 Missions Committee Meeting
 Dec. 10 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 Dec. 11 ACTS SS Class Christmas Party
 Dec. 11 Sr. High Christmas Party
 Dec. 13 Congregation Meeting to elect Deacons and receive and support 2016 budget
 Dec. 13 "Sing the Songs of Bethlehem" by Chancel Choir
 Dec. 13 Reception following Choir Concert
 Dec. 14 Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon
 Dec. 14 Session Meeting
 Dec. 15 Churchwide Christmas Caroling followed by refreshments at the church
 Dec. 16 Family Night Christmas Dinner and Youth Program
 Dec. 18 College & 20's Christmas party
 Dec. 18 Middle School Christmas party
 Dec. 20 The Lord's Supper at the evening service
 Dec. 23 No Wednesday night activities
 Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols
 Dec. 24-28 Church Office Closed
 Dec. 27 Christmas Hymn Sing
 Dec. 30 Church Office Closed
 Dec. 30 No Wednesday night activities

Scripture Reading for the Week

Isaiah 9:6-7

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end, on the throne of David and over
 his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice
 and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (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.

Henry and Elizabeth Montgomery
 564 S. Buckhorn Road
 Greenville, SC 29609
 244-4542

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Shirley Duncan
Ryan and Emily Dunlop
Brynnley and Titus
Gordon and Lee Early
Brandon and Abigail Blue

2015 PCA Christmas Offering

RBI's Ministry of Relief has been providing financial assistance and encouragement to retired PCA pastors, missionaries, church servants and their families for 39 years. The predominant assistance we provide is to widows of PCA Teaching Elders. Without this financial assistance they struggle to afford the basic needs of life. In fact, many would live in near poverty without the assistance we provide.

The annual Ministerial Relief Christmas Offering is the principle source of funding to meet the needs of these widows and other PCA church servants. *We need your help more than ever.*

According to the recent PCA Retirement Readiness Survey conducted by RBI, the number of retiring PCA pastors will triple over the next 25 years. Since 82% of wives outlive their husbands by an average of 11 to 14 years, a large portion of those pastors retiring will leave widows who will outlive their retirement accounts resulting in incomes at or below the poverty level. Over the next 25 years, the number of families needing Ministerial Relief will quadruple.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please mark your check PCA Relief Offering and put it in the offering plate or you may donate online at www.pcadonate.org

 **Basketball Schedule for the Week** 

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------------|---------------|
| Dec. 14 | 6:00 pm | Sr. High Girls | Home |
| Dec. 14 | 7:00 pm | Sr. High Boys | Home |
| Dec. 17 | 7:00 PM | Women | ARP |
| Dec. 19 | 8:30 AM | Jr. High Boys | Christ Church |
| Dec. 19 | 9:30 AM | I-Mites | Finlay Hall |
| Dec. 19 | 11:30 AM | Midget Boys | ARP |
| Dec. 19 | 2:00 PM | Mites | W. Pres. II |

2016 Offering Envelopes

The 2016 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 2015 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

December Schedule

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:
Wednesday, December 23
Wednesday, December 30
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:
December 24-28
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of:
December 28.

*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program
Wednesday, December 16th @ 5:30 pm, Church Gym
Dinner: 5:30 pm * Program: 7:00 pm*

 **“Sing the Songs of Bethlehem”** 
December 13, 2015
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. There will be a reception in the church gym immediately following the service.

Young At Heart

December 14, 2015 @ 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. Our own Rev. Paul Settle will bless us with a Christmas meditation. What a way to go into the Christmas season!

Christmas Caroling

There will be an opportunity for church members to go caroling this year to shut-ins within the congregation. Mark your calendars for the night of Tuesday, December 15th. Notify Mel Duncan (mduncan@spcgreenville.org, 232-7621 ext 14) if you would like to participate. Let Mel know if you would be willing to drive. Groups will be organized by geography and then meet at the church afterwards for refreshments.

Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 24, 2015
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.

Christmas Parties

- WIC Circle 6 Christmas Fellowship**
Dec. 9 @ 7:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall
- ACTS Sunday School Class Christmas Party**
Dec. 11 @ 6:30 PM at Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Sr. High Christmas Party**
Dec. 11 @ 6:00 PM at Scott and Christina Cooks'
- College & 20's Class Christmas Party**
Dec. 18 @ 6:30 PM at Robert and Jenny Spears'
- Middle School Christmas Party**
Dec. 18 @ 6:30 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall

Middle School Christmas Party

Friday, December 18, 6:30-8:30 pm
If you are a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader please come join us in the SPC Fellowship Hall for pizza, snacks, games and a white elephant gift exchange. Be sure to bring a nominal gift to exchange and a snack to share (boys, salty; girls, sweet). Pizza and drinks will be provided. Call Lori Schvaneveldt (404-6072) or Karen Gray (414-1130) with any questions.

 **Christmas Poinsettias** 

WE NEED MORE ORDERS!
If you would like to help beautify the church you may purchase a white Poinsettia for \$10.00 in memory or honor of someone special. Orders will need to be in by **Dec. 13th**. Please fill out the form below and leave it in the church office.

I would like to purchase __ Poinsettia (s) at \$10.00 ea. Total: _____
 In honor of:

 In memory of:

 Given by:
 (Name) _____ Telephone # _____

From the *The Gospel Coalition (TGC) Website* by Bernard N. Howard

“Nobody knows who the four evangelists were, but they almost certainly never met Jesus personally. Much of what they wrote was in no sense an honest attempt at history. . . . The gospels are ancient fiction.”
– Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

(TGC) If Dawkins is correct, one might imagine the following conversation . . .

Luke: Let’s have another round of drinks. I’ve an idea I want to run past you.

John: Sure. What’s on your mind?

Luke: You probably heard about the Nazarene named Jesus who was crucified yesterday. I think he could be the perfect candidate for our fake Messiah project.

Mark: One tiny problem: he’s dead!

Luke: Yes, but that means we’ll control the narrative. We’ll be in charge of his reputation.

Matthew: Who would follow a dead Messiah?

Luke: Nobody, so we’ll begin with a resurrection myth. We’ll hire some thugs to fight off the soldiers guarding his tomb so we can get rid of the corpse.

John: But a missing corpse isn’t the same as a resurrection.

Luke: You’re right, so we’ll have to persuade Jesus’s friends to spend the next 30 years telling everyone he’s risen from the dead, even if sticking to that story means they’ll be imprisoned or killed.

Mark: Okay, then what?

Luke: Well, to make a conspiracy credible you need precise details. So we’ll invent stories where Jesus interacts with people in specific locations.

Matthew: Won’t people just disprove the stories by visiting those places and asking around?

Luke: There’s no need to worry about that. We could invent a story about a synagogue ruler’s terminally ill daughter being healed, give the synagogue ruler a name, set it all in a particular place, and still no one—absolutely no one, not even the people living in that place—would trouble to fact-check. Everyone would simply swallow the story whole!

Mark: It sounds like we’re on safe ground there. But if we want people to follow Jesus, he’ll need a message. People have been waiting for the Messiah for centuries. He’s got to be worth listening to when he finally appears.

John: Good point. I’ll cook up some deep quotes.

Luke: Thanks, John. Mark’s right: you’ll need to put profound wisdom on Jesus’s lips that theological scholars can happily study for their entire careers.

John: Not a problem.

Luke: Guys, it will take us a while to put these documents together. We need to get communities of people worshiping Jesus in the meantime so that when our books come out they’ll get a good reception.

Mark: There’s a guy I know called Saul, he could help with that.

Luke: Saul the Pharisee? I can’t imagine him getting involved with this kind of thing.

Mark: Trust me, he’s our man. I see him leaving behind everything he’s been trained to do and planting congregations of Jesus worshipers throughout the Roman Empire, whatever it costs him personally—beatings, shipwrecks, and the like.

Matthew: Awesome. But Luke, can you just remind me, what’s the point of all this? I mean, what exactly do we get out of this?

Luke: Come on, Matt, it will be so much fun. We’ll watch people being brutally martyred, and we’ll know they’ve been deceived by our dishonest fiction! What’s not to like about that?

John: I agree with Luke. This is definitely worth years of effort on our part. Count me in.

Mark: Me too.

Matthew: I’ll do it if my name comes first in all the promotional material.

Luke: Deal. Let’s get to work.



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

Deacon Nomination and Election Procedure

The Session calls all communing members of Second Presbyterian Church in good standing to give prayerful consideration in preparation for participation in the important responsibility given to the church of electing godly men to the office of deacon. You may vote for up to 8 men.

All deacon nominees must meet the requirements of Holy Scripture, the PCA Book of Church Order, and Second Presbyterian Church (SPC). Deacons must be men who are:

- believers who hold the deep truths of the faith with clear conscience (1 Tim. 3: 9)
- worthy of respect (1 Tim. 3:8)
- temperate in consumption (1 Tim 3:8)
- sincere (1 Tim. 3:8)
- honest (1 Tim. 3:8, BCO 9-3)
- of spiritual character (BCO 9-3)
- exemplary in life (BCO 9-3)
- brotherly in spirit (BCO 9-3)
- warm towards other members (BCO 9-3)
- of sound judgment (BCO 9-3)
- member of Second Presbyterian Church for at least 2 years at the time of election (SPC)

Each member should carefully and prayerfully evaluate all potential nominees against the above list of requirements.

The top vote-getters will be elected (provided they receive a majority of the eligible voters present). There will be a run-off if 8 men are not elected on the first ballot.

**Congregational Meeting for Election
Dec. 13 @ 10:00 am**

**Ordination/Installation of Deacons
at the evening worship service
Jan. 3, 2016 @ 6:00 pm**

AT THE CORNER OF RIVER AND RHETT

.MINISTRIES NEEDING VOLUNTEERS

Looking to get involved?
Help out with a SPC ministry.

Ushering

Contact Kip Altman #1-828-773-7841
ckaltman@yahoo.com

Nursery

Contact Lori Schvaneveldt #1-864-404-6072
lorischvaneveldt@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Food Service & Hospitality

Contact Tim Johnson #1-864-567-9621
tim.johnson@afrna.com

“Koinonia” Service Ministry

Contact Barnetta Stephens #1-864-414-7313
barnettastephens@gmail.com

Host a Youth Fellowship in Your Home

Contact Scott Cook #1-864-901-8320
scottcookiiii@gmail.com



**COFFEE, FOOD, CELL PHONES
IN THE SANCTUARY**

A friendly reminder that Second Presbyterian requests that food and coffee not be brought into the sanctuary and cell phones be turned off during the duration of the worship services. Help create a God-honoring worship space that is free from world distractions-sights, sounds, and smells-that inevitably draw our mind away from the most important hour of our week.



~The Editor

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WORSHIP AT SECOND

THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2015

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Genesis 1:5

Hymns: 195, 219, 511

Anthem: A Virgin Unspotted

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 PM

“SING THE SONGS OF BETHLEHEM”

An evening of carols for choir and orchestra

presented by

The Chancel Choir and

The Chamber Ensemble



The West End Herald

Vol. CXXIII, Edition 49

The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

December 7, 2015

**Letter from the Senior Minister
An Imaginary Conversation**

From Richard D. Phillips

The Gospel Coalition website recently ran an imaginary conversation among the four Evangelists who wrote the Gospels of the New Testament. The purpose was to show the absurdity of the claims made by supposed intellectuals who oppose the Bible and Christianity. In this case, the fictionalized drama is a response to atheist Richard Dawkins' claim that the apostles never met Jesus and wrote a form of ancient fiction -- the kind of statement that passes today for a devastating critique of Christian faith. It is, however, both ludicrous and woefully ill-informed. The purpose of this imagined conversation among the Gospel-writers is therefore to imagine what it would have been like if Dawkins was right. It is in some senses irreverent, in keeping with Dawkins' charge, but the point is to show the absurdity of the anti-biblical claims today that are widely accepted as reasonable. Contrary to the view of Dawkins, the only rational explanation for the New Testament is the truth of its claim that Jesus is Lord, having died for sin and risen from the grave in triumphant life. I hope this clever drama will help you to see that the atheist version of the New Testament is not only irreverent but also ludicrous. Thank the Lord that the following conversation never took place. It does, however, remind us to be confident in the truthfulness of the biblical testimony to Jesus Christ, which alone can explain both the existence of the Gospels and the living faith in Jesus Christ that continues in us today.