

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 10

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 the 2018 budget  
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**  
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel  
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**  
**Messiah, Part One**  
 7:30 PM Reception following Messiah presentation

### Monday, December 11

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study  
 6:30 PM Session Meeting

### Tuesday, December 12

10:00 AM WIC Circle 3 meets at the church  
 12:00 PM WIC Circle 5 Christmas luncheon  
 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training  
 6:00 PM WIC Circle 2 meets at Tammy Loopers  
 (6:00 pm-dinner; 7:00 pm-meeting)  
 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 meets at Panera Bread

### Wednesday, December 13

5:30 PM **CHRISTMAS DINNER & PROGRAM**  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 14

5:00 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball practice  
 6:00 PM Mission to Main

### Friday, December 15

12:00 PM Men's Lunch & Bible Study  
 6:30 PM Watkins Fold & Home Group Christmas party  
 7:00 PM Mobley Fold & ACTS SS Class Christmas party

### Saturday, December 16

2:00 PM Wedding of Madison Linqvist & Daniel Grubbs  
 Reception following in the gym

## SAVE THE DATE

### SPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

January 26-28, 2018

Speakers:

Reid Jones, Clemson RUF

Rev. Jegar Chinnavan, First Asian/Indian PCA

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 WIC Council  
 Dec. 6 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting  
 Dec. 6 WIC Circle 1 Christmas Party  
 Dec. 7 LightBringers Christmas Party  
 Dec. 8 Middle School Christmas Party  
 Dec. 9 WIC Cookie Exchange  
 Dec. 10 Congregation Meeting to elect Deacons and receive and support 2018 budget  
 Dec. 10 Handel's Messiah (Part 1) Presentation  
 Dec. 10 Churchwide Reception following Messiah  
 Dec. 11 Session Meeting  
 Dec. 12 WIC Circles  
 Dec. 12 WIC Circle 5 Christmas Luncheon  
 Dec. 13 Christmas Dinner & Program  
 Dec. 15 Mobley Fold/ACTS SS Class Christmas Party  
 Dec. 15 Watkins Home Group & Fold Christmas Party  
 Dec. 16 Wedding of Madison Lindquist/Daniel Grubbs  
 Dec. 17 The Lord's Supper at the evening service  
 Dec. 18 Young At Heart Christmas Lunch & Program  
 Dec. 20 No Wednesday Night Activities  
 Dec. 20 Churchwide Christmas Caroling  
 Dec. 22-26 Church Office Closed  
 Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols  
 Dec. 27 No Wednesday Night Activities  
 Dec. 29 Church Office Closed  
 Dec. 31 Christmas Hymn Sing

## 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 member.  
 Also, send her a note of encouragement  
 and/or give her a call.

**Iris Dillard**  
 Westminster Independent Living  
 11 East Augusta Place, Apt. 222  
 Greenville, SC 29605  
 864-207-8331

## Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

**Kevin and Shannon Mobley**  
**Caroline, Mary Grace, Ellie, Samuel, Josiah,**  
**Providence, Levi, Anna Ruth**

**Henry Montgomery**

**Brian and Sarah Moore**

## 2017 Ministerial Relief Fund

RBI's Ministry of Relief has been providing financial assistance and encouragement to retired PCA pastors, missionaries, church servants and their families for 40 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](http://www.pcadonate.org). When you give, you give HOPE.



## Handel's Messiah (Part One) December 10, 2017

Presented by The Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra  
at the evening worship service.  
Invite your friends and family to join us.  
A Reception for the church will follow.

**There will be a Congregational Meeting on  
December 10th, at 10:00 am to elect Deacons  
and to receive and support the 2018 budget.**

### Soundroom Workers Needed

Additional soundroom workers are needed for each of our three Sunday services as well as our Wednesday evening service. Volunteers must be 16+ years old, dependable, responsible, and only slightly technical. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact Nate Johnson (njohnson@spcgreenville.org)



### Youth Christmas Parties

High School Christmas Party  
@ the Spinnenwebers  
Friday, Dec. 1st @ 6:30 pm

LightBringers Christmas Party @ the Grays  
Thursday, Dec. 7th @ 6:00 pm

Middle School Christmas Event  
The Greenville Chorale Concert  
Friday, Dec. 8th (meet in church parking lot at 6:30 pm)

*Family Night Christmas Dinner and Program  
Wednesday, December 13th @ 5:30 pm, Church Gym  
Dinner: 5:30 pm \* Program: 6:45 pm*

### Year-End Contributions

Just a reminder that in order to obtain a 2017 charitable contribution deduction for income tax purposes, contributions must be received by the church no later than December 31.

*Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Lindquist  
and  
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Grubbs  
invite you to witness the covenant marriage of  
**Daniel**  
and  
**Madison***

*December 16, 2017 at 2:00 pm  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Reception to follow*

*For registry information and rsvp visit:  
[www.danielandmadison2017.com](http://www.danielandmadison2017.com)*

### Treasurer's Report

#### NOVEMBER 2017 & YTD FINANCIAL STATUS

|                    | Actual    |           | YTD Budget |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                    | Nov. 2017 | YTD 2017  |            |
| Offerings          | 104,441   | 1,111,898 | 1,275,083  |
| Outlays:           |           |           |            |
| Operating Expenses | 86,639    | 970,175   | 1,110,789  |
| Mission            | 0         | 121,445   | 164,294    |
| Total Outlays      | 86,639    | 1,091,620 | 1,275,083  |
| Net Offerings      | 17,802    | 20,278    |            |

- Contributions in Nov. 2017 were \$104,441 versus budget of \$115,917.
- Contributions for Nov. 2016 were \$99,068.
- Contributions YTD Nov. 2017 were \$1,111,898 compared to YTD Nov. 2016 of \$1,144,081 or decrease of \$32,183.
- Actual contributions YTD are behind budget by \$163,185.
- Operating expenses for Nov. 2017 were \$86,639 versus the budget of \$100,981.
- For first 11 months of 2017, **cash inflows exceeded outflows by \$20,278.**
- Fourth quarter missionary and benevolence commitments are planned to be paid before year end.
- Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide the financial resources necessary for the programs and ministry of SPC.
- If you have any questions, please contact Doug McDaniel or David Rainey.

### 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 Wednesday, December 20th. Notify Mel Duncan (mduncan@spcgreenville.org, 232-7621 ext 102) 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.



### It's Cookie Swappin' Time

The WIC Cookie Swap will be Saturday, December 9 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am until 12 noon. Instructions for this event are posted throughout the church. Come with your best cookies and join in the fun, food, and fellowship!

### Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon Monday, December 18, 11:45 am Program: Youth Christmas Recital

### December Schedule

- ⇒ There will be no Wednesday night activities on:  
Wednesday, December 20  
Wednesday, December 27
- ⇒ The Church Office will be closed:  
December 22-26 and December 29
- ⇒ The West End Herald will not be mailed the week of:  
December 25th.

### Reading Through the Bible in 2017

|         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 11 | Zephaniah 1-3; Haggai 1-2 |
| Dec. 12 | Revelation 1-3            |
| Dec. 13 | Revelation 4-9            |
| Dec. 14 | Revelation 10-12          |
| Dec. 15 | Revelation 13-16          |
| Dec. 16 | Revelation 17-19          |



Richard Phillips' Revelation commentary is a good test of the approach. The book's drama is familiar not only to Bible readers but to fans of the Left Behind series (more than 65 million copies sold) as well as *The Book of Revelation for Dummies*: four horsemen of the apocalypse, seven seals, plagues and disasters, Antichrist, Armageddon, Christ's return, a new Jerusalem! But Phillips sees the visions of Revelation as more important than fodder for cable television specials or puzzles for scholars.

Instead, he illuminates John's vision, such as his examination of the dragon, the woman, and her child in Chapter 12: "A wife is never more beautiful and precious to her husband as when she is carrying his child. And nothing so stirs up manly protectiveness as the image of his pregnant wife. ... The church is the mother to God's covenant children, and we are to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. ... He is the strong, loving, and faithful Father who will keep the mother of all his children safe."

Phillips stands with the redemptive-historical and amillennial interpretation of Revelation, yet he appreciates the work of pre-millennial and postmillennial scholars. His practical application is clear: With "spreading, virtually worldwide opposition to biblical Christianity," Revelation is "the book especially designed by the Sovereign Christ to convey strength for perseverance unto spiritual victory."

Overall, REC is explicitly Reformed, but it pushes up from Scripture and not down from a systematic theology chart. Phillips concludes, concerning Revelation 12, "Everything in the world that is contrary to God and his Word—whether sexual immorality, secularist ideology, or consumer idolatry—is a weapon forged by Satan to afflict mankind and oppose Christ and his church. When pressed to conform to worldly ways, we should see the devil's hand at work and resolutely refuse to aid and abet the enemy of our King."

This review is part of WORLD's 2017 Books of the Year issue.

Marvin Olasky

*Marvin is editor in chief of WORLD News Group and the author of more than 20 books, including The Tragedy of American Compassion. Follow Marvin on Twitter @MarvinOlasky*



## FOUR REASONS YOU SHOULD VISIT THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

BY JOE CARTER, THE GOSPEL COALITION

### BIBLE & THEOLOGY

At the age of 10 I read E. L. Konigsburg beloved novel, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, a story in which two young siblings run away from home and hide away for several days at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Ever since, I've wondered what museum I'd choose to live in if I were to embark on such an adventure. Now that I'm too old and risk-adverse to try it, I've finally found my answer: the Museum of the Bible.

The Museum of the Bible (MOTB) is a new 430,000-square-foot museum located near the National Mall and the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. that officially opened to the public yesterday. Even if, like the kids in Konigsburg's novel, you could hide out in the museum for days you still wouldn't be able to see everything it has to offer; the museum's curators estimate it'd take nine days to explore every exhibit and artifact. But even if you only have a few hours to spare, here are four reasons why the MOTB is worth your time.

#### 1. THE MOTB SETS A NEW STANDARD FOR EVANGELICAL CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT.

There are two types of evangelicals in America: those who embrace the kitschy and cheesy artifacts of Christian culture—WWJD? bracelets, Testamints, prayer of Jabez scented candles—and those who smugly look down on those who enjoy such kitsch.

I've always been ashamed about being the second type—an evangelical who is embarrassed by his own religious culture (like a good Pharisee, I've been thankful that I'm not like *those people*). But buried beneath my sinful pride is a genuine yearning for Christians to be the preeminent champions of beauty and excellence. Too often in our past we've displayed a disregard for aesthetic quality, forgetting that truth and beauty are closely connected.

The MOTB is a refreshing shift in the right direction. Not only does this new museum hold its own against its nearby neighbors, like the Smithsonian and Hirshhorn, it sets a new standard in museum technology. As *The Washington Post's* art and architecture critic Philip Kennicott says, "Every resource of museum design and careful argumentation has been mustered to sweep up these unrelated ideas [that the Bible is enormously influential and that the stories it tells are fundamentally true] in one, big, overwhelming package."

"It tells this seductive story well, in many places with factual accuracy, and always with an eye to clarity and entertainment," Kennicott



adds. "It is an exciting idea, and an enormously powerful tool for making sense of the world. Unless, of course, you don't believe it."

#### 2. THE MOTB HAS SOMETHING FOR (ALMOST) EVERYONE.

Kennicott is right that atheists and adherents of the world's non-Judeo-Christian religions will have some objections to the MOTB's "master narrative." But even they are likely to be impressed with the story of how the Bible has changed the world.

Mahatma Gandhi once lamented, "You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature." The MOTB has numerous exhibits that show exactly how our "battle-torn planet" was changed when Christians (and Jews) treated the Bible as more than literature.

But it also has areas that will be of primary interest to believers. For example, there is a large exhibit that reproduces the village of Nazareth and shows what it would have been like to live there during the time of Jesus. There are also two theaters, one each for the Old and New Testaments, which show high-quality animations explaining how the content of the Bible was collected.

There's also a children's area, a theater (currently showing the musical *Amazing Grace*), a cafeteria serving biblical (and American) foods, and much more.

#### 3. THE MOTB IS A WORTHWHILE CULTURAL ARTIFACT.

Had the MOTB been nothing more than an exhibit hall for its nearly 4,000 Bible-related objects, it would have been enough to make it a world-class museum. But in its presentation of the world's most important cultural artifact—the Bible—the MOTB is an amazing cultural artifact in its own right.

The museum combines technology and design in a way that helps to illuminate its impressive collection. For example, a small exhibit shows which languages the Bible has been translated into already and which languages still need a native translation of Scripture. Information that could be conveyed in an infographic is given more weight by being presented in a floor-to-ceiling, color-coded display containing the actual translations and the ones still in process. It's a simple, ingenious way of showing how much work we still have to do to share the Word of God with all nations (Matt. 28:18-19).

*Article continued on next column*

## Corner of River and Rhett

*Continued from previous column.*

### 4. THE MOTB WILL GIVE CHRISTIANS A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR THE BIBLE AS A TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ARTIFACT.

We evangelicals consider ourselves to be “people of the book,” yet we frequently take the book itself—as a *book*—for granted. Many of us have numerous types of Bibles (study Bibles, reader’s Bibles, children’s Bibles, etc.) in our homes and even carry Scripture on our smartphones. Because of this easy access we overlook the technological achievements required to preserve God’s Word throughout the ages, and how much effort people went through to read, learn, publish, and own Bibles.

The MOTB provides reminders of how much work was sometimes required (such as the pre-Braille Bible for the sight-impaired) and even of how much effort went into obscuring God’s teachings (for example, a Bible printed for American slaves that cut out the book of Exodus and other freedom-promoting passages).

The production of the Bible was the greatest, most ambitious joint project ever carried out between God and his creatures. So it’s surprising that it has taken thousands of years for a world-class museum to be dedicated to this most important of cultural artifacts. But now we have one, and it was worth the wait. MOTB captures the rich and glorious history of the Bible in a way that may not have been possible for a museum to do before now.

Although it’s only been open for one day, the Museum of the Bible has already been criticized both for being too evangelistic and for not focusing enough on Jesus. Rather than focusing on the shortcomings and flaws, though, we should be thankful we now have in our nation’s capital a magnificent new museum that can help us better appreciate God’s holy book.

*This article originally appeared on The Gospel Coalition website and is used with their permission.*

### CHURCH INFORMATION

**Telephone:** 864.232.7621

**Website:** [spcgreenville.org](http://spcgreenville.org)

#### Social Media

[facebook.com/spcgreenville](https://www.facebook.com/spcgreenville)  [twitter.com/spcgreenville](https://twitter.com/spcgreenville) 

**Fax:** (888) 511-1949 \* **Email:** [info@spcgreenville.org](mailto:info@spcgreenville.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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### WORSHIP AT SECOND

#### THE LORD’S DAY

December 10, 2017

#### MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 am & 11:00 am

#### COVENANT THEFT!

Genesis 27:1-40

Hymns: 199, 198, 521

Anthem: On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

#### EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 pm

#### Messiah, Part One

*The Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra*

#### THE VIRGIN WITH CHILD

Isaiah 7:4

Hymns: 162, 195

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



# The West End Herald

Vol. CXXV, Edition 49

## The Second Presbyterian Church

Corner of River and Rhett Streets  
Greenville, South Carolina

December 4, 2017

## Congratulations Dr. Phillips

This year for the first time we are recognizing a series, the publication of which requires great perseverance. Chartres Cathedral took 25 years to build, Salisbury Cathedral 45 (except for the spire), Notre Dame de Paris 100, and Cologne Cathedral 600. By those standards, P&R Publishing’s 30-year plan to publish a Reformed Expository Commentary (REC) series covering all 66 books of the Bible is not record-setting. By American publishing standards, though, it’s audacious.

The first REC publication was in 2005. Twelve years later, P&R has put out 26 volumes covering 29 Bible books. Editors Richard Phillips, Philip Ryken, Iain Duguid, and Daniel Doriani deserve congratulations: Both quantity and quality are impressive. The REC goal is not to be another heavy academic or light devotional series, but to exhibit strong expository preaching. Each commentary is made up of coherent units that work for sermons or Bible lessons, and all of the contributors are pastors or scholars who have preached through the books.

Good editing has removed some of the gas that can turn sermons into blimps, but they still have the feel of good preaching, not academic reaching. On weekdays my wife Susan and I walk and listen to WORLD’s podcast The World and Everything in It and follow that with Albert Mohler’s The Briefing. On weekends, though, we listen to excellent podcast sermons by Tim Keller and Kevin DeYoung—and REC commentaries have the same feel of a Keller or DeYoung delving into whole books of the Bible. That makes the series ideal for a church library where pastors and Bible study teachers can dig into it.