

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 17

- 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**

Monday, December 18

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
11:45 AM Young At Heart

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

NO REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Churchwide Christmas Caroling to our Shut-ins

- 7:30 PM Cancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

- 6:00 PM Mission to Main

Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed

Scripture Reading for the Week

Matthew 1:20-23

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (ESV)

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 13 Missions Committee Meeting
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
Jan. 1 Church Office Closed
Jan. 3 WIC Council
Jan. 3 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Jan. 7 Finance Committee Meeting
Jan. 7 Deacon Ordination and Installation
Jan. 7 Reception for New Deacons
Jan. 7 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Jan. 8 Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
Jan. 9-10 WIC Circles
Jan. 10 Missions Committee Meeting
Jan. 13 WIC Shower for Daniel and Madison Grubbs
Jan. 15 Young At Heart
Jan. 17 Administration Committee Meeting
Jan. 21 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Jan. 24 CE Committee Meeting
Jan. 26-28 SPC Missions Conference
Jan. 27 Calvary Presbytery at Woodruff Road PCA

SAVE THE DATE

SPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

January 26-28, 2018

Speakers:

Reid Jones, Clemson RUF

Rev. Jegar Chinnavan, First Asian/Indian PCA

Remembering One Another

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

Vera Lane Griffin
Shepherd's Care, Room 115
2100 N. Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29609

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Robert Moore
Steven Moore
Barry and Liz Myers

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. When you give, you give HOPE.

2018 Offering Envelopes

The 2018 offering envelopes are on a table outside the church library. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes this week. If you do not have offering envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 104. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. Please use the 2018 envelopes beginning the first Sunday in January. Your 2018 envelope number may be different from the 2017 number.

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.

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)

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.

Sunday Morning Services

The Session has voted to have only one worship service on December 24th and 31st. This service will be at 11:00 am on both Sundays. There will not be any Sunday School on either of those Sundays as well.

*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*

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

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

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.

Thank You

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers and all expressions of love since my recent surgeries. You have helped me so much during the last years. I thank our Lord for you as you serve Him faithfully.
I love you. Margaret Hook*

Congregational Meeting

- ⇒ At the Congregation Meeting December 10th the following Deacons were elected:
Scott Grubbs
Rainey Hoopes
Ron Mahon
Todd Walton
- ⇒ The 2018 SPC Budget was received and adopted by the congregation.

The new Deacons will be ordained and installed at the evening worship service on January 7, 2018. There will be a Reception in the gym for the new Deacons following the evening worship service.

*Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 24, 2017
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 Hymn Sing
Sunday, December 31, 2017
Immediately following
the evening service.**



**2018 Greenville Seminary
Theology Conference**
*"The Person and Work of Jesus Christ:
the Lord of Glory"*
March 13-15, 2018

Registration is now open
GPTS Spring Theology Conference Registration Page
Members of supporting churches receive a 20% discount
Choose Registration (Early Bird Rate); at the bottom of
the page, check the box for "I have a discount code."
Discount Code is: gsdonorchurch



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 worshipping 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



CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Telephone: 864.232.7621

Website: spcgreenville.org

Social Media

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

Fax: (888) 511-1949 * **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 * Wednesday Night Menu 4

Church Directory 5 * Upcoming Weekly Events 6

Upcoming Monthly Events 7

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



Reading Through the Bible in 2017

Dec. 18	Revelation 20-22
Dec. 19	Zechariah 1-8
Dec. 20	Zechariah 9-14
Dec. 21	Malachi 1-4
Dec. 22	Luke 1-2
Dec. 23	Luke 3-5



To my SPC family,

As I begin the next phase of my journey toward the gospel ministry, I would like to thank you for the blessing you have been to me and my family these past two years. Second Presbyterian Church is a special church. At Second Church the gospel is faithfully preached, the Christian fellowship is warm, and there is a tremendous hunger for the Word that extends from the youngest child to the eldest church member. I have so enjoyed serving the youth of this church and in so doing, cultivating a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the Word of God. Among my fondest memories will be preaching my first sermon and the encouragement you were to me as I undertook that weighty task. Your prayers and encouragement mean more to me than you know. By God's grace, I hope to one day pastor a congregation that supports me as well as you all have. Sarah, Reid, and I will continue to pray for you and would you please continue to pray for us. We love you and will miss you all very much!

In Christ,
Stephen Spinnenweber

John Wesley's Rules for Singing (1761)

1. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.
2. Sing lustily, and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of it being heard, then when you sing the songs of Satan.
3. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, as to be heard above, or distinct from, the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
4. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before, not stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
5. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh.

~The Editor



The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
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**WORSHIP AT SECOND
THE LORD'S DAY
December 17, 2017**

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 am & 11:00 am

SIBLING RIVALRY
Genesis 27:41-28:9
Hymns: 208, 200, 699

Anthem: And the Glory of the Lord
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 pm

THE GOOD SOLDIER
2 Timothy 2:9-10
Hymns: 221, 571, 420
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



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

December 11, 2017

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.