

Corner of River and Rhett

Some American Presbyterian History

The U.S. Presbyterian Church traces its beginnings to the earliest Presbyterian churches in the American colonies. These were established in the 17th century by those New England Puritans who preferred the presbyterian system of church polity (government) to that of New England Congregationalism. Also in the 17th century, Scotch-Irish, English, and other settlers formed Presbyterian churches in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. In 1706 some of these churches joined in a loosely organized presbytery (assembly of the ordained members of several churches), which in 1716 was expanded to a synod of several presbyteries.

The church was a blend of New England Puritan Presbyterians, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, plus Welsh and some other Presbyterians. The Scotch-Irish regarded doctrine as the basis of the church and strove for unqualified acceptance of the Westminster Confession (1648), now the standard declaration of Calvinist theology in the United Kingdom. The New England Puritans regarded the Christian life as the basis of the church, accepted creeds as expressions of the faith held by the church, and wished the superior church courts to have only limited and fixed powers. The church suffered a schism from 1741 to 1758 because of the religious revivals of the 18th century. The New England (pro-revival) group, called the New Side, trebled during the schism, while the Scotch-Irish (anti-revival), called the Old Side, declined. The two groups reunited in 1758, and the church experienced growth because many of the several hundred thousand Scotch-Irish immigrants who went to the American colonies after 1760 became members.

Presbyterians were active participants in the American Revolution, and after the war the church expanded westward. The need for a more definite organization led to the first General Assembly, held in Philadelphia in 1789.

From an article in the Encyclopedia Britannica

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The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND

THE LORD'S DAY

October 25, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 am

www.spcgreenville.org

TO ALL THINGS GIVEN

2 Peter 1:3

Hymns: 244, 271, 214

Anthem: The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 pm

www.spcgreenville.org

THE TRUE CHURCH

2 Chronicles 13:1-22

Hymns: 425, 75, 405

Psalm 46B

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching



The West End Herald

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

October 19, 2020

**Letter from the Senior Minister
From Wittenburg to Greenville**

Why do we celebrate Reformation Sunday? Out of all the church holidays that we might observe, why do we take time to observe this one? This is not a bad question, and there is a good answer. We celebrate Reformation Sunday out of gratitude to God for His great work in history to restore the gospel to His church, and because we know ourselves to be direct beneficiaries of what happened almost five hundred years ago. We will observe Reformation Sunday this Lord's Day by singing great Reformation hymns – and hymns are such an important part of the Reformation heritage!

This Sunday marks the revival in God's church that brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ from Martin Luther's Wittenburg to us in the upcountry of South Carolina. We give praise to God for his faithfulness to us and for the faith of those who enabled us to learn about Jesus Christ.

God used a monk named Martin Luther to recover the gospel and shine its light into a dark generation. The Medieval church of Luther's time was almost completely ignorant of the Bible. Even most priests could not read the Bible, but instead gave moral exhortations and urged the people to be loyal to the pope. Christian religion mainly consisted of a superstitious reliance on the sacraments, with little or no understanding of the gospel. Common Christian people did not so much relate to Jesus as they related to the Roman Catholic Church. To remain in good standing with the church was to have at least some hope of eternal life.

Also, the people were preyed upon whenever the church needed money to build another grand cathedral in Rome. The pope sold indulgences that promised that for the right price, all your sins would be remitted in the pope's name (this practice continues today). Moreover, indulgences were sold to the common people to lessen the torments of their deceased loved ones in purgatory.

In launching the Reformation, Martin Luther was motivated by two issues. First, he was concerned for his own soul. He felt his sin deeply and he feared God's righteousness. So how could he be saved? He tried all the moralistic and mystical approaches offered to him by Roman Catholicism, but he could not find peace in his soul. He finally found it in the Bible and its gospel: "For in it [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'" (Rom. 1:17).

Luther was also angered by the corruption of the Church and the exploitation of the common people. So on Oct. 31, 1517, he nailed his *Ninety-Five Theses* to the Wittenburg chapel door, challenging the church doctors to debate. The *Theses* were quickly copied and spread far and wide by means of the new-fangled printing press. As Luther defended his views and gained increased understanding of the gospel, he wrote more books that rocked the world of medieval Catholicism (books such as *The Freedom of a Christian*, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, *An Address to the German Nobility*, and *The Bondage of the Will*).

His writings spread throughout Europe. In England, the ladies of King Henry VIII's court smuggled Luther's writings to the evangelical preachers, so that many heard the gospel and turned in faith to Jesus. When persecution broke against them, the English leaders fled to Switzerland where they came under the influence of John Calvin, who was himself strongly influenced by Luther and who went even further in explaining the whole breadth of biblical teaching. When these exiles returned to England they gave birth to the Puritan movement, those pious believers who refused to compromise with secularized religion and who, along with the Scottish Presbyterians, wrote the doctrinal standard we use today, the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

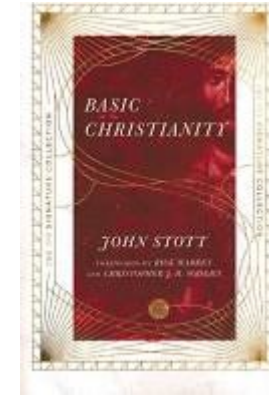
When persecution broke out against the Reformed Churches in England and Scotland, they fled to America in search of religious freedom. In 1706, the first Presbyterian denomination was founded in Philadelphia, under the leadership of Francis Makemie. As more Presbyterians immigrated from Scotland, land became scarce in Pennsylvania and many migrated south over the mountains to the foothills and mountains of the Carolinas. In this way, the Reformation took roots in our little corner of the world. In 1892, a group of Christians in the West End of Greenville planted Second Presbyterian Church. In 1909 they began building the sanctuary in which we now worship.

What I hope to show is that our church is a direct descendant of the Protestant Reformation, the greatest revival since Pentecost. What a blessing. Let us celebrate the gospel God has passed to us through the lives of so many others. And let's ensure that we pass it on so that future generations may know that through faith alone in Jesus Christ, God offers salvation to a dying world.

May the Lord bless you all this Reformation Sunday.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

**ALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
BASIC CHRISTIANITY BY JOHN STOTT
(Gymnasium)**



Books may be purchased online for \$10.00 at www.spcgreenville.org

10/25	Dennis Zimmerman	The Fact and Nature of Sin
11/1	Chad Bailey	The Consequences of Sin
11/8	Ezekiel Dean	The Death of Christ
11/15	Brendon Branigin	The Salvation of Christ
11/22	Jeff Early	Counting the Cost
11/29	Jim McGoldrick	Reaching a Decision
12/6	Congregational Meeting-	The State of the Church
12/13	Richard Phillips	Being a Christian



**Evangelism Explosion
Training**

Have you ever wanted to tell a friend or relative about Jesus, but did not know how to start or what to say? Evangelism Explosion is an evangelistic training program designed to equip you to tell others the good news about Jesus Christ. The fall semester will begin soon. Please call or see Ken Safford (419-8267) to sign up, or if you have any questions.



**Daylight Saving Time ends
November 1st.
Don't forget to turn your clocks
back 1 hour Saturday Night.**



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: (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 * Weekly Activities 6 * Monthly Activities 7

Church Services: Sunday: Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Morning Worship - 8:30/11:00 AM * Evening Worship - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: Supper - 5:30 PM * Prayer Meeting - 6:55 PM

Adult Bible Study - 7:25 PM

October Events

Oct. 22	Calvary Presbytery @ Friendship PCA
Oct. 23	Sr. High Bonfire @ Smokers
Oct. 24	WIC Shower for Danielle Bradford
Oct. 25	REFORMATION SUNDAY
Oct. 25	Evangelism Committee Meeting
Oct. 28	CE Committee Meeting
Oct. 30	Middle School Fellowship @ Gambles

Widow's Fund

The Church established a Widows' fund for the substantial (and often on-going) needs that come upon some of those who are widowed and live to an old age. (This is different from the Sympathy and Service fund which meets the short-term needs of all of our members.) The reserve balance in this fund has been slowly but steadily declining over the past months. If you are able, above your tithe and other giving to the church, to give to rebuild this fund, please consider making a monthly gift to the widows' fund. We praise our God for His provision for those that look to Him.

Operation Shoebox



Operation Christmas Child

Share God's love and the joy of Christmas by packing a gift-filled shoe box for a hurting child overseas. Your simple gift can make an eternal difference. Shoe boxes with instructions on how to pack a shoe box are located throughout the church. If you have any questions contact Pat Tyner or Attee Leigh.

Return filled boxes to church office by November 16th.



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2020



*The flowers are placed in the sanctuary
this Lord's Day, October 25, to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Mrs. Opal Holbrook
by Mark and Linda Holbrook.*

Church Calendar

Sunday, October 25 REFORMATION SUNDAY

8:30 AM	MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM	Deacon Training
11:00 AM	MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
5:30 PM	Season of Prayer in the Chapel
6:00 PM	EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE
7:30 PM	Evangelism Committee Meeting

Monday, October 26

6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study
9:30 AM	Rafiki Bible Study

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 AM	Ladies Bible Study
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Wednesday, October 28

5:00 PM	CE Committee Meeting
5:30 PM	FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER
6:15 PM	Covenant Choirs/Youth Ensemble
6:45 PM	CAT/Covenant Kids
6:45 PM	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Studies
6:45 PM	PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL ADULTS
6:45 PM	Deacon Training
7:00 PM	Men's Marriage Study

Thursday, October 29

9:30 AM	Precepts Women's Bible Study
6:00 PM	Mission to Main Street

Friday, October 30

12:00 PM	Men's Lunch & Bible Study
5:30 PM	Middle School Fellowship @ Gambles



Showering with Love

WIC
cordially invites all ladies to a
Bridal Shower for

Danielle Bradford (Noah McConnell)

Saturday, October 24, 2020

10:30 am

Church Gymnasium

Registry: <https://theknot.com/us/danielleandnoahm>



Senior High Bonfire



Friday, October 23rd

6:00-8:00 pm

@ The Smokers

Hot Dogs and S'mores

Middle School Fellowship



Friday, October 30th

5:30-8:00 pm

@ The Gambles

"Grilling Out" (Bring drinks & snacks)

Calvary Presbytery

The 147th Stated Meeting of Calvary Presbytery will be Thursday, October 22, at Friendship PCA beginning at 9:00 am. Visitors are welcome. Please be in prayer for the Commissioners who will be attending from Second Church.

LADIES:

Mark your calendars and save the date:

2nd annual

"International Thanksgiving Dinner"

Friday, November 20, 2020