

Corner of River and Rhett

Scenes from VBS, 2021



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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

July 25, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 am

www.spcgreenville.org

NOTHING UNGLEAN

Leviticus 15

Hymns: 229, 458, 340

Anthem: For All the Saints

Rev. Chad T. Bailey preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 pm

www.spcgreenville.org

AT YOUR WORD

1 Kings 18:20-40

Hymns: 183, 342, 274

Psalm: 119M

Mr. Brendon Branigin preaching



The West End Herald

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

July 25, 2021

Courageous Christian Sexuality

By William Boekestein, July 16, 2021

Popular opinion concerning sexuality is changing rapidly. "It took more than a century for the homosexual movement to win cultural affirmation. Transgenderism's acceptance happened much more speedily, partly due to the path carved out by the homosexuality movement." [1] The traditional boundaries defining appropriate sexual activity are nearly obliterated. Of the manifold sins prohibited by the Seventh Commandment only a few are generally considered negative today. Even these—rape, incest, and polygamy—have their advocates. Before we can process what these cultural changes mean we are already being pulled onto the bandwagon.

On top of the ideological pressures placed on us by a changing culture we have our own sexuality to properly steward. We need Scripture's clear testimony to how God views sex and how we can honor his plan for our sexuality amidst changing sexual mores.

How Does Scripture Address Sex?

Our sexual ethic must be shaped by a standard more settled than shifting human opinions. Both nature and Scripture tell us that there is a God who created the universe and who tells us how his world works best. And he says a lot about sex.

Early in the Bible God assures us that he approves of sex. After crafting Adam and Eve with different but compatible sexual body parts he said, "This is very good" (Gen. 1:31). From the start he urged properly married couples to be sexually active (Gen. 1:28) while providing grace to single people to practice sexual purity (1 Cor. 7:7-8). Appropriate sex is good. But we must "flee sexual immorality" because sexual sin is uniquely destructive (1 Cor. 6:18).

Sexual integrity has always been challenging. But few sexual issues are currently troubling the church more than homosexuality and transgenderism.

How Does Scripture Address Homosexuality?

God recognizes as a legitimate conjugal union the committed, exclusive joining of one man and one woman. “From the beginning of creation,” Jesus said, “God ‘made them male and female ... For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh’” (Mark 10:7–8).

Homosexuality is a sin that violates God’s design. God judged Sodom because her people had “given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh.” They became an “example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7; Genesis 19). God forbids men to “lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Lev. 18:22; cf. 20:13). This is abiding moral law, an expression of the seventh commandment by which God forbids fornication and sodomy (1 Tim. 1:10). Those who express “vile passions” in homosexual acts contrary to nature have “suppress[ed] the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18, 26–27). Along with everyone who allows sin to define them, neither “adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality ... will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9–10).

How Does Scripture Address Transgenderism?

Every human has a biological identity in the possession of one of two genders which are equally precious in God’s sight. With extremely rare exceptions one’s biological identity is obvious because of anatomical features unique to their gender. Anatomy designates our gender which informs our callings. To compromise on gender identity undermines an essential component of our image bearing. Scripture’s clarity on gender identity doesn’t necessarily make it easy for us to flourish in our divinely assigned gender. Christians with a rigorous doctrine of depravity should expect gender confusion and be prepared to minister to such confusion with the gospel of grace.

How Should Christians Respond?

Four key words should guide Christians in engaging the new sexual ethic and stewarding their own sexuality.

Holiness

There has probably never been a better opportunity in American history for Christians to stand out sexually. The cultural bar of sexual decency is shamefully low.

The problem is that Christians often fail to be a contrast community sexually. Professing Christians commit adultery, fornicate, use pornography, and watch sexually charged movies. One survey suggests that eighty percent of young unmarried Christians have had sex. But God’s will is “your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4:3). Before you judge the world judge

yourself. Without holiness we have nothing to say to the world. And without it we will not see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).

Humility

Jesus once met a woman who was caught in the very act of sexual infidelity (John 8:4). Awkward! But to those who wanted to put her to death Jesus said, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first” (v. 7). Jesus didn’t dismiss her sin. He used her sin to urge soul-searching among the self-righteous.

Let those condemn sexual sinners who have never had impure thoughts or expressed their sexuality outside of biblical marriages, whose marriage stunningly reflects intra-trinitarian love. All of us are sexual sinners who desperately need the grace of a loving God. The powerful equalizer of sin should humble us.

Love

Without specifying their sexual orientation or gender identity God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must denounce words and actions that “belittle, insult, [or] hate” others. We must “be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly, ... protect [others] from harm as much as we can, and ... do good even to our enemies.”[2] Christians must welcome sexual sinners “into our lives and worship services, love them, befriend them, listen to them, teach them, warn them, and serve them ... We must show them warmth, respect, and love in order to demonstrate that biblical Christianity is not a club for self-righteous, judgmental hypocrites, but a fellowship of repentant sinners who are growing saints. Church must be safe, not safe for sin, but safe for people who sin.”[3]

Jesus accepted and engaged his neighbors without approving of their lifestyle.[4] He was known as a friend of tax collectors and sinners (Matt. 11:19). Those who walk in his shoes will share his reputation. Those struggling with same-sex attraction need courageous Christian friends. “A person who experiences a self-perceived bent toward identification with the opposite gender ... should be encouraged to respond to those feelings biblically” and “recognize their gender as a calling to accept out of trust in God’s love.”[5]

Gospel

Sexual sin—like all sin—attacks God and corrodes human flourishing. But our view of the gospel is deficient if we denounce sexual deviancy without declaring the hope that God extends to all sinners. “God loves sinners, both immoral pagans (Rom. 1:18–32) and self-righteous religious hypocrites.”[6] The gospel is good news for homosexuals and heterosexuals, for transgender and cisgender people.

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9). “The death of the Son of God is the only and most perfect ... satisfaction for sin, and is of infinite worth and value, abundantly sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole world ... this promise, together with the command to repent and believe, ought to be declared and published to ... all persons promiscuously and without distinction.”[7]

All sexual sinners need this encouragement: As many as receive Christ, to them God gives the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

William Boekestein is pastor of Immanuel Fellowship Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Related Links

- Podcast: "At the First Puff of Wind"
- The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self by Carl Trueman
- "Identifying Our Identity" by Jared Nelson
- Revoiced Spirituality by Jonathan Master
- Biblical Personhood & Gender Confusion, with Derek Thomas, Richard Phillips, and Rosaria Butterfield.

Notes

[1] Gender as Calling: The Gospel and Gender Identity (Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant, 2017), 1

[2] Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 105, 107.

[3] Joel R. Beeke, Paul M. Smalley, One Man and One Woman: Marriage and Same-Sex Relations (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2016), 72, 65.

[4] Rosaria Butterfield, The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World (Wheaton: Crossway, 2018), 13.

[5] Gender as Calling, 39, 42.

[6] Beeke, One Man and One Woman, 56–57.

[7] Canons of Dort 2:3, 2:5.

This article was on the Ref21 website and used with their permission.

Rafiki Bible Study

A new Rafiki Bible Study will begin on July 26 and go through September 7, 2021 (skipping Labor Day). We will take a 3-week break and pick up again on October 4 and continue through December 6, 2021. This will be a 16-week study in 1 Corinthians. This study will be for the ones who want to grow in holiness and want a deeper understanding of who our great God is, so it will require discipline in study, in prayer, and attendance. There will be a sign-up for those interested. The cutoff date must be July 12th since materials need to be ordered. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, 9:30am-11:30am. If you have any questions please contact Sylvia Long.

Calvary Presbytery

The 150th Stated Meeting of Calvary Presbytery will be held on Sat., July 24th at Second. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am. Please be in prayer for God's blessing on this meeting and for the commissioners attending. Visitors are welcome.

Ice Cream Socials



Sunday, July 25
The Diaconate will furnish the Ice Cream and toppings.
Sunday, August 29
Members are asked to bring their favorite homemade churn of ice cream.

Save the Date

WIC Salad Luncheon
Saturday, September 4, 2021
Details to come soon



RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 5
10:00 am
Church Sanctuary



THE "SOUTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT RIDGEHAVEN"



July 26-30, 2021
LEADER: Mr. Jeff Early

New Baby

We rejoice with Brendon and Rose Branigin in the birth of their new son, Ezra James Branigin born on July 16, 2021. Ezra weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Holiness by J. C. Ryle

All-Adult Sunday School
Sunday, July 25, 2021
"Without Christ" taught by Jeremy Weaver

Take the Hoopes a Meal

If you would like to sign up to take the Hoopes a meal after the birth of their son, Trey, please go to:
www.mealtrain.com/trains/o178m1

Thank You

To My Beloved Church Family,
One of the greatest joys in my life has been serving my Lord and my cherished church family by being hostess of the church for so many years. It started in 1959 when Jack and I joined the church, being able to share my love by making things beautiful for my Lord and church family. I know the Lord has something else special for me to do here before I go to be with him. I love you and give all the praise and glory to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Thank you and God bless each of you.

Your sister in Christ,
Pat Shuford

Vacation Bible School Report



Missions: Faith in Motion

The children "traveled" all over the world and learned how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We averaged 84 in attendance. Our church is blessed with many gifted people who willingly and joyfully use their talents in the work of God's Kingdom. We send a heartfelt THANK YOU to each one of the following who made our VBS possible. Thank you also to the WIC Circles for providing delicious refreshments for our workers all week.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Mott Altman | Margaret Holman | Ellie Mobley |
| Afton Babington | Jan Hu | Mary Grace Mobley |
| Jenny-Lynn Babington | Nate Johnson | Shannon Mobley |
| Ponder Babington | Nathaniel Johnson | Sue O'Brien |
| Andrew Bailey | Andrew Johnson | Jenny Perez |
| Rebecca Bailey | Rebekah Johnson | Lydia Phillips |
| Hannah Bailey | Helen Kee | Spencer Player |
| Samuel Bailey | Fitz King | Darby Preston |
| Anya Barringer | Grace King | Gibson Preston |
| Tabitha Barringer | Linda Kirk | Katie Preston |
| Elisha Bombaro | Wayne Kirk | James Schvaneveldt |
| Hanniel Bombaro | James Leathers | Josiah Schvaneveldt |
| Brendon Branigin | Janice Leathers | Lori Schvaneveldt |
| Beverly Burch | Christina Love | Sophie Scott |
| Ethan Cancino | Eve Luttrell | Kylie Spell |
| Josh Canicino | Jessica Luttrell | Providence Spell |
| Nancy Clay | Jill Mann | Hope Strevel |
| Ford Duncan | Isaac Maralit | Cassie Therrell |
| Frances Duncan | Opal Maralit | Duncan Therrell |
| Lindsay Duncan | Leslie Martin | Prarie Thompson |
| Jeff Early | Lory Master | Chase Trautner |
| Carrie Gamble | Andrew McGaughran | Wanda Walton |
| Jack Gamble | Audrey McKee | Jonah Windt |
| Bethany Gearhart | Eugenia McKee | Arlene Wright |
| | Caroline Mobley | |

The VBS project this year highlighted Catherine Upton, a daughter of Second Presbyterian, in her mission with the Rafiki Foundation in Africa. The children raised money for books to be used in the schools there. The children brought in \$2,558.19! We praise God for this generous offering to be used in Africa.

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 25

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**
 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**
 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Fellowship Hall
 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**
 7:30 PM Evangelism Committee Meeting
 7:30 PM Ice Cream Social

Monday, July 26

- Middle School Ridge Haven Conference
 (July 26-30)
 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
 9:30 AM Rafiki Bible Study

Tuesday, July 27

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

Wednesday, July 28

- 5:00 PM CE Committee Meeting
 5:30 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 PM Musical CAT Kids
 6:45 PM Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL ADULTS**
 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 29

- 7:00 PM Mission to Main Street

Friday, July 30

- 12:00 PM Men's Lunch and Bible Study

Upcoming Events

- July 21 Administration Committee
 July 24 Calvary Presbytery @ Second
 July 25 Evangelism Committee
 July 25 Ice Cream Social
 July 26-30 Middle School Conf. @ Ridge Haven
 July 26 Rafiki Bible Study begins
 July 28 CE Committee Meeting
 Aug. 2 Diaconate Meeting
 Aug. 4 WIC Council
 Aug. 4 Pastoral Care Committee
 Aug. 8 Worship & Music Committee
 Aug. 9 Session Meeting
 Aug. 11 Missions Committee
 Aug. 15 The Lord's Supper @ the evening service
 Aug. 18 Administration Committee
 Aug. 18 Musical CAT Kids Fun Night
 Aug. 22 Evangelism Committee
 Aug. 25 CE Committee Meeting
 Aug. 25 Regular Children's Choirs resume
 Aug. 25 Regular CAT/Covenant Kids resume
 Aug. 29 Ice Cream Social (bring you own churn)

Mark Your Calendars

- WIC Luncheon Sept. 4
 Rally Day Sept. 5
 WIC Annual Meeting Sept. 5
 GCRT Oct. 8-10

*Mark your calendars and plan early!!
www.spcgreenville.org*

*The flowers are placed in the sanctuary
 this Lord's Day, July 25, to the glory of God with
 thanks for another year to draw nearer to and for more
 knowledge and hope in our Lord Jesus,
 by Sam and Jingle Robinson.*

Remembering Our Shut-ins

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

Lynne Ouzts
 1024 Briarwood Drive
 Easley, SC 29642

Scripture Reading for the Week

Psalm 46:4-5 (ESV)
*There is a river whose streams
 make glad the city of God,
 the holy habitation of the Most High.
 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
 God will help her when morning dawns.*

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Telephone: 864.232.7621

Website: spcgreenville.org

Email: info@spcgreenville.org

Social Media

facebook.com/spcgreenville  twitter.com/spcgreenville 

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