#### **Corner of River and Rhett**

# CAT Kids Program



CATECHISM Memorization Awards (1 to r): Providence Mobley, Julia Luttrell, Jair Barringer





Greenville,

The Second Preshyterian Church

Return Service Requested

Greenville,

THE LORD'S DAY

**WORSHIP AT** 

May 22, 2022

SC 559

Permit No.

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

6:00 P.M. Rev. Dr. Richard Phillips preaching

Who Among the Gods?
2 Chronicles 32:9–23



The West End Herald Vol. CXXX, Edition 20

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

**SECOND** May 22, 2022

APPLYING
the GRN National Conference's Proceedings

by Harrison Perkins

Belonging to Christ is fundamental to our Christian identity. shaping how we should consider our relationship with God but also then our new disposition toward the world. Christ is making a people for himself composed not simply of those who belong to him nondiscreetly but those whom he joins to himself for renewed life both in the legal sense in justification and the transformative sense in sanctification. In all things, we are Christ's, which is why one foundation—the he is the church's annual GRN (Gospel theme of this year's Conference. The purpose Reformation Network) detail every argument made of this post is, not so much to to try to draw connections of in the conference lectures, but from those proceedings to issues facing us in the PCA today.

Although the conference never focused for any overly extended period on side B gay Christianity, Revoice theology, or the overtures that recently circulated through our presbyteries, hoping to state new clarity about a minister's relationship to Christian identity and indwelling sin, those issues are certainly a context for this conference's lectures. The GRN began because of a concern to promote a robust doctrine of sanctification within the PCA when some were failing to include God's work of renewal to free us from the power of our sin alongside their proclamation of God's act of forgiving the penalty of our sin. Although taking somewhat different form as the debates and issues within the PCA have morphed in recent years, the GRN maintains essentially that same concern to see that we give proper emphasis – we should note that proper emphasis does not diminish God's justifying act, introduce our works into the foundation of our relationship with God, nor promote some version of perfectionism—to our understanding of Christian holiness. After all, one premise of Revoice theology is that we potentially have immutable characteristics that incline us toward particular sins, which not even God can remove from us in his renewing work. This post's look at the various lectures then, especially considering that those lectures are preserved to hear and watch again, seeks to draw more specific connections between the conference addresses and these issues facing the PCA.



Jonathan Master opened the conference by addressing the new birth, reminding us of its biblical foundations but also giving new exhortation to *preach* about the new birth. In the discussions about Revoice theology and its claim that homosexual desires are not only non-sinful as long as not acted upon but also are an immutable part of someone's constitution,

our progressive sanctification is understandably emphasized as we hope to see God increasingly mortify our old man, perhaps leaving the doctrine of regeneration somewhat overlooked. As Master skillfully reminded us of the new birth's contours, its relevance for the issues at hand became all the clearer. In regeneration, God remakes us so that we belong to Christ. Although there is always lingering sin, God's work of renewing us into the likeness of Christ – to be a bit circular – renews us. There is a different principle of life within us than when we were dead in our trespasses and sin. Those who argue that some inclinations toward sin are immutable seem to drift toward a rather pietistic view of holiness, built around our effort for certain practices, minimizing rather than truly forefronting the Reformed doctrine of the new birth.

Jonathan Gibson focused on the New Testament qualifications for pastors and elders from 1 Timothy 3, highlighting how the overseers are meant to be exemplary models of the Christian life for the Christian community. The standards for leadership are indeed strident but purposefully so in order to provide believers with shepherds who live a life worth



imitating. Gibson's critical point was about the interaction between life and doctrine, namely that, although poor doctrine often shapes a poor Christian life, ill-formed character just as easily fosters anemic doctrine. Bluntly stated, those who love their inclinations toward certain sins and think those sinful inclinations add something positive to God's kingdom

do not exemplify a love for Christ's character and reflecting him as those who belong to him over a contentedness with even aspects of our old man.



**Richard Phillips** lectured about the importance of public worship to be led by the church's ordained officers. Far from a tangent to the issues afflicting the PCA, ordinary means of grace ministry lies at the heart of our debates. The version of transformationalism espoused by some sets aside the importance of Word and sacrament ministry in favor of attaining a cultural prominence as the church's goal.

The proper mission of the church is reasserted when office bearers emphatically direct our means of grace ministry because it shows how God commissions men for this special kingdom task. The culture is not the task of the Kingdom of Christ because God has not instituted *ecclesiastical* officers devoted to its care. A flimsiness on leadership in worship blurs the church's commissioned mission with other ordinary vocations, suggesting that our true purpose is to affect something "out there" rather than to be faithful as God's gathered people.

Mel Duncan's lecture reflected upon the work of Samuel Miller, one of Old Princeton's earliest illuminaries, concerning ruling elders. As valuable as this historical study is in itself to remind us of some of our fundamental principles as a committedly two-office denomination, recent years have demonstrated our need to reassert ruling elders' nonnegotiable importance in the church's life.



Presbyteries and assemblies too easily let ourselves become ministers clubs, put another way echo chambers for teaching elders, sidelining our ruling elders who hold crucial ecclesiastical authority. Whereas teaching elders can easily become swept into the dance of nuancing positions with academic precision, at times qualifying something so extensively as to change the premises entirely (arguably a feature of Revoice doctrine), ruling elders frequently provide a necessary balancing effect to keep our discussions grounded in how they affect congregation life and Christian living. Last year's general assembly had the highest turnout of ruling elders in the PCA's history and also included some of the most encouraging voting trends. This lecture on the role of the ruling elder, therefore, far surpasses merely historical interest, shining light on one of our

most important Presbyterian principles that warrants our renewed focus.

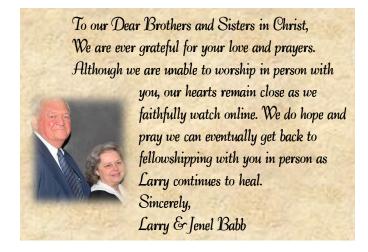
TO BE CONTINUED in the next edition of the West End Herald



The GRN "Applying" article originally appeared at gospelreformation.net and is used with their permission.

## **May Birthdays**

May 18	Margaret Butler, Adam Enggasser, Ronda May, Heidi Upton
May 19	Mary Duncan, Caleb Nguyen, Liz Nowak, Faith Raper
May 20	Marsha Briggs, Claire Brown, Tim Owens
May 21	Matthew Barbier
May 24	Eliana Barbier
May 25	Edward Enggasser, Lydia Phillips, Ethan Russell
May 26	David Janssen, John King, Josh Seawright
May 27	Noah McConnell, Jack Van Steenburgh
May 28	Carl Hu
May 29	Monique Al-Rawi, Amanda Van Steenburgh
May 30	Roger Lusk, Mike Uhall
May 31	Laura Lizak



### **Discover SPC Ministry**

## SUMMER **All Adult Sunday School** 10:00 A.M. in the Gym

Welcome to a Reformed Church: A Guide for Pilgrims by Danny Hyde



#### Cost

Paperback: \$10 (pay online or use envelope at SPC Bookstore)

#### Introduction

In layman's terms, Rev. Hyde sketches the historical roots of the Reformed churches, their scriptural and confessional basis, their key beliefs, and the ways in which those beliefs are put into practice. The result is a roadmap for those encountering the Reformed world for the first time and a primer for those who want to know more about their Reformed heritage.

#### Schedule

8/7

8/14

8/21

Date	Chapter Title	
5/25 Wednesday	An Introduction to All Adult Study	
5/29 Sunday ↓	Confessions: Doctrinal Foundations	
6/5	Scripture: The Final Authority	
6/12	Covenant: God's Story	
6/19	Justification: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone	
6/26	Sanctification: The Christian Life	
7/3	Church: Distinguishing Marks	
7/10	Worship: Of God, by God, for God	
7/17	Preaching and Sacraments: Means of Grace	
Fall Sunday School Previews:		
7/24	Westminster Sunday School Class	
7/31	College & Young Adults Sunday School Class	

**ACTS Sunday School Class** 

Chapel Sunday School Class

Fellowship Sunday School Class

#### **Missionary of the Week**

MARC & Ministering to French speakers

in Haiti, Florida, France, and

ALINE

**West Africa** 

SPRING 2022

**MAILLOUX** 

A recent trip to Togo included the transportation of some precious French study Bibles, indispensable for the spiritual growth of the African church.



We continue teaching at our local S. Florida Bible school and recently completed a course in apologetics. In the Western world, that often means defending the Bible vs. neo-Darwinian evolutionism with its naturalistic presuppositions. Though most of our Haitian students aren't preoccupied with that issue, their children-now 'educated' in the U.S. public school system-surely will be.

In addition to a detailed analysis of D. J. Kennedy's "Pourquoi je crois" (Why I Believe), the course included a viewing of some of Lee Strobel's excellent videos. It's a constant effort to find the best pedagogical ways for communicating truth to peoples (Haitians and Africans) from essentially oral cultures for whom the written word is less prevalent than it is for Westerners. We've changed our teaching style somewhat since we've been working with them, as they retain more from what they hear than what they read. This trimester we'll be doing a course on the prophets.

I continue to make weekly 5–7-minute teaching videos in French, posted on YouTube per request of Aline's brother, a pastor in France. These videos can be viewed even by our students in Africa. Go to YouTube and type in my name!

PRAISES: Generous gift from two West Coast supporters

allowing us to go to France again this summer. Significant spiritual progress among some of our French and Quebecois 'pétanque' contacts.

**REQUESTS:** Pastor Michel Gomé pastoring in western Ivory

Coast in a Muslim area is in need of a building. I have a teaching trip planned to that church in Nov.



#### **Details**

DESTINATIONS

TRAVEL DETAILS

Deluxe Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation Services of a Good News Travels Tour Manage 3 Nights Hotel Accommodations 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

ACTIVITY LEVEL

1 2 🕙 4 5

#### Highlights

TICKETS TO "THE ARK ENCOUNTER" DINNER CRUISE ON THE OHIO RIVER

**DINNER AT THE FARM RESTAURANT** 

#### Rates

PRICING

\$775 /pp Triple \$825 /pp Double \$1045 /pp Single

PAYMENT DETAILS

#### **Group Leader**

FELICIA LIDDELL





Beginning Wednesday evening. May 25. 6:45 P.M.

children (K4 to sixth grade) of Second Church throughout the summer months, with a break for Vacation Bible School on July 13. This will be the only activity for the children of our church offered on Wednesday evenings this summer so if your children are not involved, they will need to accompany you to the prayer meeting. If you have any questions, please see Verlyn Smoker.

#### **Church Calendar**

spcgreenville.org/calendar

#### Sunday, May 22

8:30 a.m.	MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M.	Children's Chapel
10:00 A.M.	SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.	MORNING WORSHIP
5:30 P.M.	Season of Prayer (Chapel)
6:00 P.M.	EVENING WORSHIP
7:30 p.m.	Evangelism Committee (Conference Room)

#### Monday, May 23

6:30 A.M.	Men's Weekly Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 A.M.	WIC Rafiki Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

#### Tuesday, May 24

10:00 A.M.	WIC Bible Study: ENCOURAGEMENT, the ROMANS WAY
	(Fellowship Hall)

#### 7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 4 (Martin Home)

#### Wednesday, May 25

5:30 р.м.	Christian Education Committee (Conference Room)
6:45 P.M.	Musical CAT Kids/Covenant Kids
6:45 P.M.	Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
6:45 P.M.	Missions Moment
7:00 p.m.	ADULT PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY
7:30 P.M.	Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, May 26

6:30 P.M. Mission to Main Street

#### Friday, May 27

Men's Bible Study Lunch (Fellowship Hall) Noon

#### Saturday, May 28

9:00 A.M. Sr. High Boys Bible Study (Scout Hut)

#### The Church Office will be closed

Monday, May 30, 2022 for

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### spcgreenville.org/calendar

May 25	Summer Musical CAT Kids begins
May 29	All Adult Summer Sunday School begins
June 4	Grace Schvaneveldt bridal shower
June 13–18	Sr. High Beach Trip
June 21-24	PCA General Assembly (Birmingham, AL)
July 4	Church Picnic
July 11–15	Vacation Bible School
July 25–29	Jr. High Ridge Haven Trip
August 28	Rally Day
August 31	CAT Kids begins
September 11	Membership Class begins

The parent is the link between God and the child. The father gives life to the child; the heavenly father gives life to His children. Man is created in the image of God; the child is the image of his parents.  ${\it Man}$  is dependent on  ${\it God};$  the child is dependent on his parents. We are to love, respect, and obey those whom God has set over us.

#### **Bible Study Announcements**

	,
Tuesday, May 10	WIC Circle 5 last day (resuming in August)
Monday, May 23	Rafiki Bible Study last day (resuming in Fall)
Tuesday, May $24$	WIC Bible Study/ROMANS last day (resuming in Fall)
Tuesday, June 14	WIC Circle 3 last day (resuming in Fall)
C.E.	ξþ



The flowers are placed in our sanctuary this Lord's Day to the glory of God.

#### **Remembering Our Shut-ins**

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in, sending a note of encouragement:

#### Pat Wheeler

Spring Park Assisted Living-Memory Care Room 415 925 North Main Street, Travelers Rest, SC 29690



who were married on Saturday, May 14. Grace is the daughter of Steve and Lori Schvaneveldt.

#### **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

Instagram.com/spcgreenville YouTube.com/spcgreenville

Vimeo.com/spcgreenville

Office Hours: Mon-Thur: 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. Fri: 9 A.M. – Noon

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday: Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship 8:30/11:00 A.M. Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Supper 5:30 P.M. Prayer Meeting 7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study 7:25 P.M.

Email: info@spcgreenville.org