

# The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



## PARENTS: Discipline Your Little Children

Perhaps there was a time when parents generally over-disciplined. Today too we must believe that “correcting [children] unduly” is a sin against the fifth commandment. [i] But the more common modern problem seems to be insufficient discipline. Couple our cultural moment of permissiveness with the unpleasantness of administering discipline and we understand why parents err on the side of lenience. But lenience, like severity, is still an error.

We need to recover the biblical paradigm of loving but firm physical discipline, especially for little children. “The Lord disciplines the one he loves” (Heb. 12:6). So must we.

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**January 28, 2024**

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## **The Need for Discipline**

The fifth commandment requires parents to “instruct, counsel, and admonish” their children, “reproving and chastising such as do ill.”[ii] The reason for this is plain: You get more of what you subsidize, less of what you penalize. And God wants less sin. Penalizing sin even in very young children conveys the crucial point that sin brings pain. Punishing sin is one of the most important callings of parents. Yes, parents must train their children in the doctrines of God; they must “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). But if children aren’t receptive to parental authority your spiritual teaching will be impotent.

Your children need discipline. They do not know what is best for them. Scripture puts it more firmly: Folly is bound up in their heart. That folly will not dissipate with time or be suppressed by gentle reasoning. “The rod of discipline drives it far from him” (Prov. 22:15). Our children are not merely childish, they are conceived and born in sin (Ps. 51:5). In Psalm 51 David confessed that God was disciplining him for his sin. God had, figuratively, broken his bones and suppressed his gladness. But that is exactly what David needed to regain a willing spirit. He wasn’t listening to the more gentle counsel of his conscience. He needed stronger discipline. And he believed

that strong discipline is consistent with love. The God who chastened David is also steadfast in love and abundant in mercy. Likewise, “whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him” (Prov. 13:24).

Being born in sin our children need physical discipline almost from the start. J.C. Ryle admits that it is hard for a parent to inflict pain on a young child. But, he warns, “If you do not take the trouble with your children when they are young they will give you trouble when they are old. Choose which you prefer.” “A child left to himself brings shame to his mother ... Discipline your son, and he will give ... delight to your heart” (Prov. 29:15, 17).

Physical discipline is a bitter medicine that loving parents loathe to administer. But it is God’s medicine so we must. Unless we would be accessories to our children’s sins we must punish them. And discipline works. The fruit of biblical chastening is often evident in the lives of children who have benefited from it.

So how should we do it?

## **The Way to Discipline**

Proverbs 13:24 isn’t saying that physical discipline is the only way. And surely there will be a cut-off age for spanking your children, perhaps somewhere between age six and ten.

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# GOOD NEWS CLUBS

*Missionary of the Week*

Would you pray about bringing the gospel message to schools in Greenville County? Contact Cyndi Player for more information about Good News Clubs (GNC) and how you can help. ♦



## ***County Schools with no adopting church***

### **ANDERSON**

Honea Path  
Marshall  
Primary

### **GREENVILLE**

Blythe  
Duncan Chapel  
Fork Shoals  
Gateway  
Plain  
Rudolph Gordon  
Slater-Marietta  
Sterling  
Stone  
Sue Cleveland  
Summit Drive  
Tigerville  
Welcome

### **PICKENS**

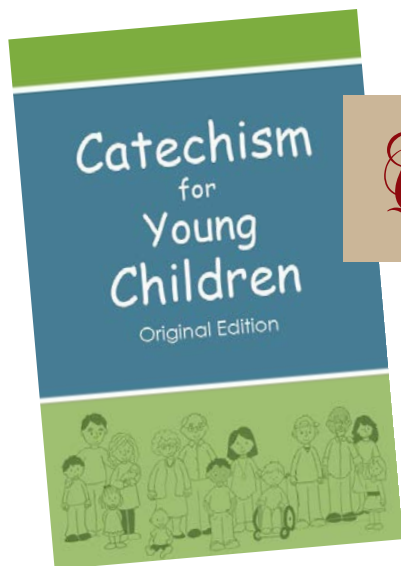
Clemson  
Crosswell  
Dacusville

## ***Schools in Greenville County with principals not allowing GNC***

Buena Vista  
Sara Collins

Mitchell Road  
Crestview

Cherrydale  
Westcliffe



## Question 64:

What offices has Christ?

## Answer:

Christ has three offices.

1

Before Christ came to earth, God's people took animals to the temple to be sacrificed. But the people themselves couldn't sacrifice the animals. Someone had to do it for them. Who killed the animals and sacrificed them for the people? The PRIEST was one kind of leader God gave to the Israelites, his Old Testament people. He also gave them two other kinds of leaders: prophets and kings. When Jesus Christ came, he filled all three of those jobs, which are sometimes called offices. ♦

2

3



at the corner of

# River & Rhett

## Second Presbyterian Church SESSION



Not pictured:  
Joel Barnett  
Bobby Mann  
Walter Russell  
Bill Wheeler

## Second Presbyterian Church DIACONATE



Not pictured:  
Spencer Player  
Garison Plourde  
Remington Siemen  
Chuck Swope



# **JANUARY / FEBRUARY**

## *Birthdays*

**30**

**CINDY OLSEN, CHERYL TRAYNHAM**

**31**

**KATEY MCGUIRT**

**1**

**PRISCILLA CARMICHAEL, DUNCAN THERRELL**

**2**

**RORY MOSS, BRIE WALDSCHMIDT**

**3**

**JILL MANN**

# This Week

## MORNING SERMON

Dr. William E. VanDoodewaard

I AM SENDING YOU OUT

Luke 10:1-24

## EVENING SERMON

Rev. Roland S. Barnes

FORBIDDEN TO FOLLOW JESUS

Mark 5:18-20

## Sunday, January 28

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School—*Adults in Gym*
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:00 P.M. Missionary Prayer Band (*Chapel*)
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:30 P.M. Evangelism Committee (*Fellowship Hall*)

## Monday, January 29

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

## Tuesday, January 30

- 10:00 A.M. WIC Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)

## Wednesday, January 31

- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 5:30 P.M. Christian Education Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4-K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1-6); Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)
- 6:45 P.M. Missions Moment (*Gym*)
- 7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3-Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5-8)
- 7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
- 7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

## Friday, February 2

- 9:00 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main

## Saturday, January 3

- 10:00 A.M. WIC Ladies Prayer Breakfast (*Fellowship Hall*)

# Upcoming Events

[spcgreenville.org/calendar](http://spcgreenville.org/calendar)

<b>January 26–28</b>	Missions Conference
<b>January 27</b>	Calvary Presbytery
<b>January 27</b>	Missions Conference Ladies Tea
<b>February 2</b>	Raising Up Mothers Class Begins
<b>February 3</b>	WIC Ladies Prayer Breakfast
<b>February 4</b>	Membership Class Begins
<b>February 4</b>	Baptism Sunday
<b>February 4, 18</b>	Usher Training
<b>February 21</b>	Peru Summer Mission Team Interest Meeting
<b>February 22</b>	Precepts Bible Study Begins

## SAVE THE DATE!

<b>July 8–12</b>	Vacation Bible School
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As children grow the discipline they receive should become more nuanced, and better matched to their changing situations. If older children fail to do a chore, make them do it with added penalties.

But for young children physical discipline is vital. Toddlers cannot be reasoned with. They have not yet developed abstract cognitive abilities. They simply can't process the sentence, "Mommy doesn't appreciate that behavior." It doesn't register. Spankings register. Physical discipline seems crude to modern parents. It is crude. By design. Little children aren't sophisticated. Their correction must be as concrete as their minds.

The tool that Scripture frequently promotes is the rod. And the rod isn't a euphemism for generic discipline. Using just the book of Proverbs it should be clear to an honest interpreter that the rod is presented as an instrument for inflicting measured pain as a penalty for disobedience.[iii] Here's why Scripture commends the rod: "Defiance starts in the heart and works its way out into behaviors of the body (tantrums, disobedience, mouthiness, rebellious facial expressions), so spanking works in the opposite direction: it moves toward the heart by first gaining the attention of the body, commonly

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via the well-padded buttocks.”[iv] Obviously the rod should not be used alone; verbal reproof must be given alongside physical discipline (Prov. 29:15). In connection with the rod even little children can start to understand the word “no.” And isn’t that one of life’s most important lessons? God’s grace “teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age” (Titus 2:12 NIV). We must help our little children put to death their old nature; depravity cannot be appeased. Little children who obey their passions need stronger medicine. “By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond” (Prov. 29:19).

To be effective the rod of discipline must also be prompt. Little children do not have the maturity to be trained by delayed consequences. If your child rejects verbal instruction during a meal, on a car ride, or in the middle of a worship service, take

them to an appropriate place and correct them.

Discipline must also administered lovingly. It isn’t enough to defend discipline as a loving method. Your love should be evident in your discipline. Emotions “distorted with anger ... put a fog in the mind” so that a parent cannot discipline moderately. “When emotions are strong, correction must be delayed.”[v] And no form of discipline should be administered without prayer. We can expend energy but only God can provide the increase.

Parents, discipline your young children. Help them to understand early that God disciplines those he loves. Jesus’s death and resurrection cancels the worst part of the curse of sin. Hallelujah! But we still need chastening. Believe it: If received with faith and submission God’s discipline will yield “the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Heb. 12:11). ♦

[i] Westminster Larger Catechism, Q/A 130.

[ii] Westminster Larger Catechism, Q/A 129.

[iii] See Paul D. Wegner, “Discipline in the Book of Proverbs: ‘To Spank or Not to Spank?’” JETS 48/4 (December 2005).

[iv] Sam Crabtree, “Should Parents Spank their Children?” Desiring God. September 5, 2020. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/should-parents-spank-their-children>

[v] William Gouge, *Building a Godly Home: A Holy Vision for Raising Children* (Grand Rapids, RHB, 2014), 143.

William Boekestein pastors Immanuel Fellowship Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

He has authored numerous books including, with Jonathan Landry Cruse and

Andrew Miller, *Glorifying and Enjoying God: 52 Devotions through the Westminster Shorter Catechism*.



# Announcements

## Missions Conference Starts Friday

It's not too late to join in the after-Banquet Service on Friday night. The program will start around 6:45 P.M.

## Missionary Prayer Band

This Sunday night, come a little earlier to the Evening Service. Meet with other believers at 5:00 P.M. in the Chapel to hear updates about our missionaries and pray specifically for them.

## WIC (Women in the Church) Prayer Breakfast

All ladies are invited to the annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 3 at 10:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Spring Membership Class

This no-obligation class begins on February 4 and continues for eight weeks. It is open to anyone interested in learning more about our beliefs or joining our church. Gather with Dr. Richard Phillips as we explore together what makes us uniquely PCA. **Register: [spcgreenville.org/signup](https://spcgreenville.org/signup)**

- ◆ The “Solas” of the Reformation
- ◆ The Doctrines of Grace
- ◆ Law and the Gospel
- ◆ Membership Vows
- ◆ Covenant Theology
- ◆ Reformed Worship (*Membership Interviews*)
- ◆ Church History with RE Melton Duncan (*Membership Interviews*)

**Welcome Luncheon &  
Reception for New Members**

**April 7, 2024**

## Ladies Precepts Bible Study

Precepts Bible Study of the Psalms begins February 22 from 9:30–11:30 A.M. in the conference room at the church and will continue each Thursday through April 25. If you plan to attend, please text Mary Settle by February 29 because books will need to be ordered.

## Bridal Shower

All ladies and daughters are invited to a bridal shower for Rachel Enggasser on Saturday, February 17, at 10:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Rachel is registered at TheKnot.com.

## **WIC Spring Retreat**

Registration is now open for the Women in the Church (WIC) Spring Retreat at Bonclarken in Flat Rock, NC. Dates are March 8–9, Friday evening through Saturday early afternoon. The cost is \$75, and the deadline for registration is February 22. The cost for Saturday only (includes two meals) is \$50. Register at [spcgreenville.org/signup](http://spcgreenville.org/signup).

## **Communicants Class**

Second Presbyterian Church will be offering a communicants class for children who are ready to become communing members of SPC upon their own profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. The class will meet Sunday evenings beginning February 18 from 5:00–5:45 P.M. immediately before the evening worship service. It will be taught by RE Dr. Kevin Mobley and Reverend Jeffrey Early. The class is six weeks long and will focus on questions such as who is Jesus, what is a Christian, and what does it mean to be a communing church member. There is no age requirement but standard age for this class is late elementary school through middle school. If you have any additional questions please contact Dr. Mobley or Rev. Early

## **Can You Help?**

**There are service opportunities in our church where members are sorely needed.**

Wednesday Night meals are a staple of Second's fellowship and require volunteers to serve and clean up afterwards. Right now, we are very low on volunteers and only at a 2 or 3-week rotation. Sports and Fellowship needs another 6 servers and 6 dishwashers to get us to a 6-week rotation so that those who volunteer are still able to enjoy fellowship around the table on their off-weeks. If you are able to help with either position, please contact Tim Johnson or Sean McGaughan.

Ushers are needed to help during Sunday Worship services, and male members of the church are encouraged to participate. Usher Training, for current and prospective ushers, will be held in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour on February 4th and 18th. If you are interested, please contact Luke Hoopes and attend the training. Male minors 14 and up are welcome to usher, but we request a parent participate in the training.

## **Flowers**

If you would like to provide flowers for our Sunday services this year, please contact Judy Bishop. She maintains a weekly schedule of our flower providers and will work with you in planning the arrangement you desire.