

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



Continuing Faithfulness Requires Clear Language

The recent PCA General
Assembly's historic actions

by Melton Duncan

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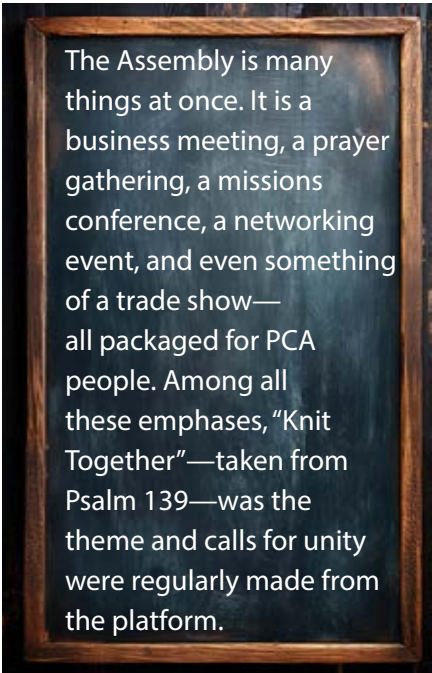


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The PCA General Assembly met last week in Richmond, Va., where more than 2,000 commissioners deliberated and celebrated God’s work in the largest Bible believing Presbyterian church in North America. The very use of the name *commissioner* is a reminder that the PCA is represented by elders whose mission is primarily spiritual, serving in a body that has as its stated purpose the work of the Great Commission.



As always, the Assembly attracted visitors from around the world, including fraternal delegates from sister denominations such as the Free Church of Scotland, Korean Presbyterian bodies, and the Orthodox Presbyterian

Church. Visitors also came from Christian networks such as the World Reformed Fellowship, an organization formed (largely) by members of the PCA in 1994. While these visitors are welcomed and given a platform, their presence is often overshadowed by the main business at hand.

And that business included matters of real importance. The need for theological clarity led the General Assembly to change our rules as found in the beloved Book of Church Order (BCO), a process that comes to the body through overtures. This year, the PCA significantly strengthened its commitment to complementarianism, avoiding the pitfalls of other denominations, by starting the process to clarify the Book of Church Order by adding the language: *Furthermore, unordained people shall not be referred to as, or given the titles of, the ordained offices of pastor/elder, or deacon.* In addition, the denomination continued a trend of tightening the requirements for ordained officeholders by adding the following descriptions of elders and deacons: *He should conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in his descriptions of himself, and in his convictions, character, and conduct.*

There is more to that language than some might recognize. With that act the PCA took a stand and rejected the errors of the Revoice conference and its affirmation of so-called “Side B” LBTBQ identity.

Steve Jessen

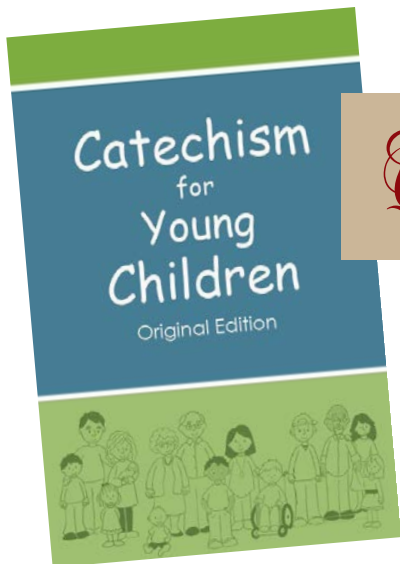
Steve is the Mission to North America (MNA) Disaster Response Ministry Regional Specialist for the Carolinas since late 2022. Calvary Presbytery has a ministry called Word & Deed which provides disaster response services within Calvary Presbytery and partners with the regional MNA Disaster Response Ministry.



When disaster strikes an area, communities find themselves vulnerable, fearful, and in need of hope. MNA is on the front lines of disaster relief, being the hands and feet of Jesus and equipping the church to serve their people well in the wake of disaster. The team to:

- Train NC and SC churches and presbyteries in disaster response preparedness and provide disaster relief assistance to them.
- Coordinate volunteers and key leaders across NC and SC presbyteries.
- Raise awareness of MNA's work through communication and education.
- Bring the message of Jesus to those affected by disaster.

Steve and his wife Julie live in Stanley, NC and attend First Presbyterian Church of Stanley. Steve is a TE in the PCA and has experience in ministry as well as a General Contractor. ♦



Question 86:

What is the fourth commandment?

Answer:

The fourth commandment is, *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, or thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and hallowed it.*

In keeping the Sabbath holy, we are imitating God. Do you think that God was tired after making the earth? Do you think He needed a rest? No, of course not. God is all-powerful. When the text says that God rested, it just means that He stopped doing the work of creating. God set a day apart so that we could think about what God had done. It is a special day to think about God and His work in our lives. ♦



From the Lips of Little Ones, Jeff Kingswood



at the corner of

River & Rhett



**PCA Commissioners to General Assembly
from Second Presbyterian Church:**

front, left to right:

Ron McNeely, Richard Phillips, Jeff Early, Kevin Mobley

back, left to right:

Brendon Branigin, Jeremy Weaver, Jeff Windt, Melton Duncan



1 Christina Bianchi,
Chip Johnson,
Trystan Scoggins

2 Ed Butler

3 James Angell,
Janice Leathers

5 Seth Johnson,
Elizabeth Master,
Sean Moss,
John Mark Phillips,
Eleanor Strickland

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

THE WICKED TENANTS

Mark 11:27–12:12

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Acts 9:1–7

Sunday, June 30

- 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
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:30 P.M. Ice Cream Social (*Gym*)

Monday, July 1

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

Wednesday, July 3

No Meal, Choirs, Activities, or Service

Thursday, July 4

- Church Offices Closed
- 5:00 P.M. July Fourth Church Picnic (*SPC Grounds & Gym*)

Friday, July 5

Peru Mission Team Leaves

Saturday, July 6

- 9:00 A.M. VBS Work Day (*Gym*)

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

July 8–12

Vacation Bible School

July 22–26

Jr. High Conference (Ridge Haven, NC)

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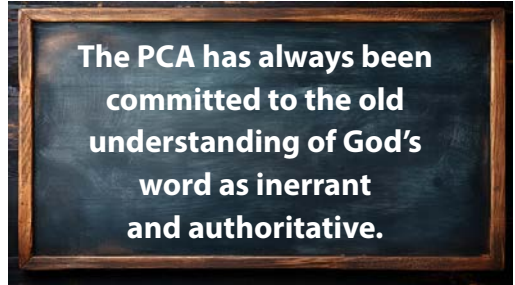
The Side B advocates call for the inclusion and affirmation of some form of LGBTQ identity within the church. This language takes a decided stand against such confusion, particularly with reference to ordained officeholders.

The PCA also encouraged (but did not mandate) the use of background checks for officers by approving this statement: *Be it resolved that Presbyteries and Sessions are encouraged to adopt policies for conducting background checks on every candidate for office.*

A letter written last year by a special commission condemning gender reassignment surgery and genital mutilation was approved and commended to the church. Interestingly, theological concerns were raised by an individual minister about a bestselling book, *Jesus Calling*, written by a Covenant Theological Seminary grad and PCA missionary, Sarah Young, who died in 2023. After considerable debate—including a dramatic statement of disapproval from Mrs. Young’s husband—the matter was sent to two different PCA agencies for assessment and response to the concern.

By any measure, the General Assembly was not boring. As denominations go, the PCA is rather young. Her history began in 1973, with a meeting held at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Ala. Only a few hundred churches were represented at that historic meeting, just over a half century

ago. Fifty years is a very short time in the sweep of church history, but the PCA’s history is rooted in the



Bible, in Reformation Scotland, and in the old Presbyterianism of early America. The denomination has always been committed to the old understanding of God’s word as inerrant and authoritative.

By God’s grace, the General Assembly in Richmond reminded us that the PCA is one of the few evangelical denominations still growing. Furthermore, the PCA now includes almost 2,000 congregations, unapologetically affirming their commitment to a high view of Scripture and reformed theology along with a robust commitment to missions and evangelism. The PCA is not going to compromise on issues involving human sexuality. Indeed, in many ways it has renewed its original vision of remaining “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.” This year’s General Assembly continued that commitment, but faithfulness requires that we arrive at every annual assembly with the same commitment and firm conviction. ♦

CHURCH PICNIC

Thursday

JULY 4, 2024



Church Gym & Grounds

5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

BBQ and Beverages provided.

Please bring generous portions of sides and desserts.

Bring lawn chairs and towels.

Enjoy Inflatables (with water)!



CITY FIREWORKS 9:30 P.M.

Announcements

Baptism Sunday

The next Baptism Sunday will be July 28. If you would like to schedule your child's baptism, please contact the church office.

Open Gym

The gym will be open every Monday and Tuesday for indoor activities. The Sports and Fellowship Committee purchased equipment (paddles, pickleballs, and nets) for four indoor pickleball courts which will be setup each week for anyone to use. No reservations are required.

Due to July 4th setup and Vacation Bible School, there will be no open gym again until July 15.

A Time to Build Update

The membership has been asked to prayerfully consider pledging and giving to *A Time To Build* Campaign this summer. A summary of the information about our new building plans are available at spcgreenville.org/A Time To Build. The officers of this church are asking you to give an offering beyond your regular tithe. The asking that has been suggested is that for some of you to double your giving for each of the next three years. Some are able to give beyond that. One-time gifts may be made at any time. Pledges are due by the end of the summer. Both can be done in-person or online.



SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

To Date: June 25, 2024

Number of Pledges	Amount Pledged	Amount Given
57	\$1,275,690	\$171,914
Total Amount for Phase I:		\$14,000,000



Covenant Baptism

Margaret (Margot) Joy Hughes was baptized on Sunday, June 23. We rejoice with her parents, Tyler and Kate, and siblings Walker, Nora, and Addison.

Seminary Volunteer Opportunity

If you can help box up books for moving into the renovated GPTS Library the weeks of July 8 and July 15, contact Andy Wortman (awortman@gpts.edu).



Vacation Bible School



Hear Ye, Hear Ye, it's time to embark on a Medieval Adventure and discover who we are as Kingdom Kids. Join us July 8–12 from 9:00 A.M.–noon in the Royal Castle as we learn about our Identity in Christ. All princes and princesses who have completed K4 through Grade 6 are invited on this Royal Adventure. Please register at spcgreenville.org/signup. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Mobley at (864) 775-0487. Please register by June 30 at spcgreenville.org/signup. ♦