

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



Only Ever Better

by *Tim Challies*

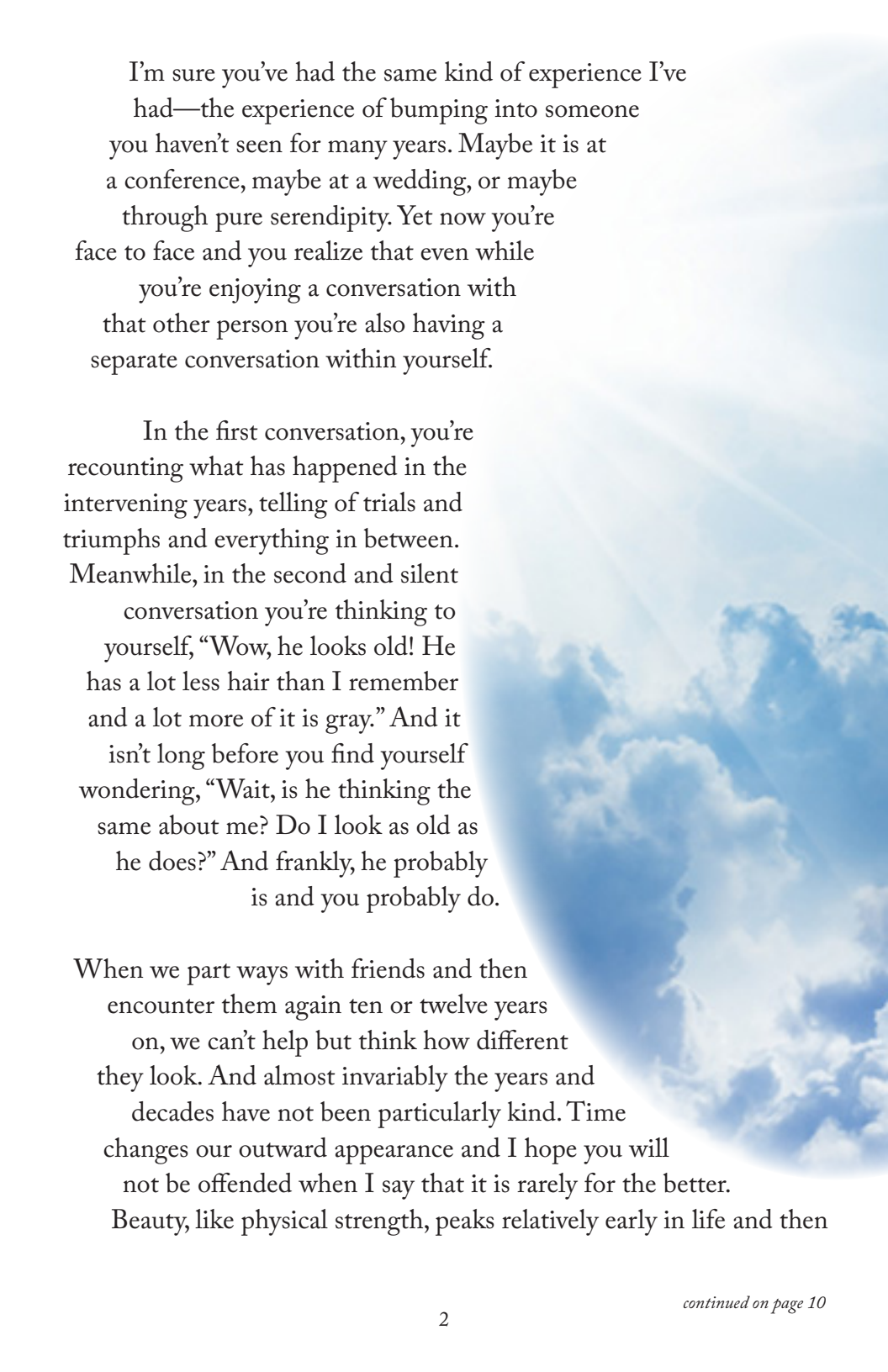
continued on page 2

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March 23, 2025

In This Issue

- 1** Only Ever Better
- 3** Missionary of the Week
- 4** Weekly Catechism
- 5** Corner of River/Rhett
- 6** Birthdays
- 7** Calendar
- 9** Announcements
- 12** The Intercessor



I'm sure you've had the same kind of experience I've had—the experience of bumping into someone you haven't seen for many years. Maybe it is at a conference, maybe at a wedding, or maybe through pure serendipity. Yet now you're face to face and you realize that even while you're enjoying a conversation with that other person you're also having a separate conversation within yourself.

In the first conversation, you're recounting what has happened in the intervening years, telling of trials and triumphs and everything in between. Meanwhile, in the second and silent conversation you're thinking to yourself, "Wow, he looks old! He has a lot less hair than I remember and a lot more of it is gray." And it isn't long before you find yourself wondering, "Wait, is he thinking the same about me? Do I look as old as he does?" And frankly, he probably is and you probably do.

When we part ways with friends and then encounter them again ten or twelve years on, we can't help but think how different they look. And almost invariably the years and decades have not been particularly kind. Time changes our outward appearance and I hope you will not be offended when I say that it is rarely for the better. Beauty, like physical strength, peaks relatively early in life and then

GREENVILLE RESCUE MISSION

Missionary of the Week



Greenville Rescue Mission is a safe emergency shelter for men. It provides food, shelter, clothing and compassion for those experiencing homelessness. Our Crisis program provides short-term services for guest who desire only temporary shelter.

In-depth services are provided through the New Life Program for those who seek more comprehensive care. With the help of our counselors and case managers, we aim to move guests toward stability and healthy relationships. In partnership with New Horizon Family Health Services, we provide respite care beds for those experiencing homelessness who have been released from the hospital with special medical needs and have no other place to recover safely. ♦

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Provide Supplies

People in our shelters usually arrive with very few personal possessions—if any at all. You can help meet their basic needs by donating items like soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and other similar items directly to a shelter. Before you donate, we ask that you contact the shelter directly to determine our most current needs.

Volunteer Your Time

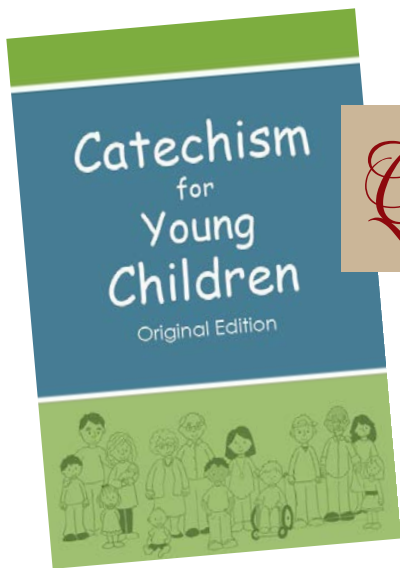
If you would like to share your God-given talents with those in our care, we invite you to volunteer at the Greenville Rescue Mission. We welcome both individuals and groups, and we offer all different types of opportunities. Whether you want to lend professional expertise or participate in a recreational activity, we can find a place for you.

Become a Mentor

Mentors help our program participants strengthen their relationships with Jesus Christ while also providing friendship and spiritual guidance along the way. If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and exhibit a consistent, Christ-like testimony to those your life would impact, we invite you to become a Miracle Hill Ministries mentor.

575 W. Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29601

864.242.6933



Question 123:

What are they (sacraments)?

Answer:

Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Each sacrament has two parts. There is the physical part, which we see or feel or taste. Then there is the true, spiritual thing of which it is a picture. This part of the sacrament is invisible. When a person is baptized, he or she sees and feels the water. Those who are watching also see the water. They see the baptized person get wet. But what baptism represents cannot be seen. It represents being united to Christ. Jesus' death for sin counts as though the person baptized by faith has died himself or herself. As Jesus rose from the dead and became alive again, so the baptized believer has new life by being united to Christ and has the power to live for God.



When believers take the Lord's Supper, they eat and drink ordinary bread and wine. These are things people depend on for everyday life. The believer taking these in the Lord's Supper sees, feels, and tastes real bread and wine. These things represent something that cannot be seen, felt, or tasted. The person eating the Lord's Supper depends on Christ's broken body and poured-out blood to give eternal life. ◆





at the corner of

*River &
Rhett*

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON

The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon honoring our new members.

(New members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service.)

DATE: Sunday, April 6, 2025

TIME: Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service

PLACE: Gymnasium

FOOD: Meat and drinks will be provided. Church members are asked to bring generous portions of sides and desserts.



march birthdays



Have a
great
day!

23 Allie Lyon

24 Joel Barnett, Mike Carey, Emma Smoker

25 Bethany Early, Gabby Shiou

26 Rose Branigin, Sarah Grubbs

27 Flynn Preston, Dale Savidge

28 Ethan Caldwell, Hayden Caldwell

29 Ross Martin, Jack Szrama

*The best course to prevent falling into the pit—
is to keep at the greatest distance. He who will
be so bold as to attempt to dance upon the brink
of the pit—may find by woeful experience, that it
is a righteous thing with God that he should fall
into the pit! Sin is a plague, yes, the greatest and
most infectious plague in the world; and yet, ah!
how few are there that tremble at it, that keep
at a distance from it!*

Thomas Brooks

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

WE WILL NOT BOW

Daniel 3:1-18

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Alonzo Ramirez

BUILDING OUR LIVES ON

A SOLID FOUNDATION

Matthew 7:24-29

Sunday, March 23

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
10:00 A.M. Membership Class (*Room C-209*)
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, March 24

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

Tuesday, March 25

- 6:00 P.M. Everyday Evangelism Interest Meeting (*Conference Room*)
7:00 P.M. Men's Basketball (*Gym*)

Wednesday, March 26

- 5:30 P.M. Christian Education Committee (*Conference Room*)
5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4-K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1-6);
Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)
6:45 P.M. WIC Circle 1 (*Conference Room*)
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

Thursday, March 27

- 5:30 P.M. Media Committee (*Zoom*)

Friday, March 28

- 9:15 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

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| April 6 | New Member Luncheon |
| April 13 | Baptism Sunday |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday |
| April 24 | Calvary Presbytery (Downtown Presbyterian) |
| May 14 | Graduation Banquet |
| May 21 | CAT Kids Program |
| June 1 | All Adult Summer Sunday School Begins |
| June 16-21 | Sr. High Summer Conference (Pawleys Island, SC) |
| June 23-27 | PCA General Assembly (Chattanooga, TN) |
| July 21-25 | Jr. High Summer Conference (Ridge Haven, NC) |

2025 **EASTER WEEK** Services

SUNDAY April 13 Palm Sunday / Evening Choral Presentation, 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY April 16 No Wednesday Night Activities

THURSDAY April 17 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 P.M. (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY April 18 Good Friday Luncheon, 11:45 A.M. (Gym)
Good Friday Service, 12:30 P.M. (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY April 20 Sunrise Service, 7:00 A.M. (Mountain View Baptist Church)

Mountain View Baptist Church, 111 Cagle Street, Greenville
Breakfast, 8:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church Gym)
Sunday School, 9:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church)
One Worship Service, 10:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church)
Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 P.M. (Second Presbyterian Church)



Announcements

Youth Summer Conferences

Please ask the Lord to bless these upcoming important youth events:

Sr. High @ Pawleys Island **June 16–21**

Jr. High @ Ridge Haven **July 21–25**

Sign up on the SPC website: spcgreenville.org/signup

Everyday Evangelism Interest Meeting

On Tuesday, March 25, at 6:00 P.M., meet in the Conference Room to hear about an upcoming course on how to effectively share your faith.

In Appreciation

Pat Tyner would like to thank everybody for their visits, friendship, food, flowers, encouragement, and most of all for prayers. She is grateful to the Lord for His precious promises.

Death of a Church Member

Mary Jones died in Christ on March 19. Remember in prayer her son Bruce Ostrom and his family.



A Prayer for the Children of Second Presbyterian Church:

O Lord, clothe them with your full armor so that they can take a stand against the devil's schemes. Help them stand firm, with the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness in place. Fit their feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Give them the shield of faith, with which to extinguish all the evil one's flaming arrows. Place the helmet of salvation on their head and the sword of the Spirit, which is your Word, in their hands. Finally, teach them to pray and to be alert.

Ephesians 6:11–18

begins a long decline. Thankfully, beauty matters far less than wisdom and character which peak late and never go into decline. Hence it is far better to value inner beauty than outer, to value the “hidden person of the heart” and the kind of imperishable beauty that is precious to God and to those who love him (1 Peter 3:4).

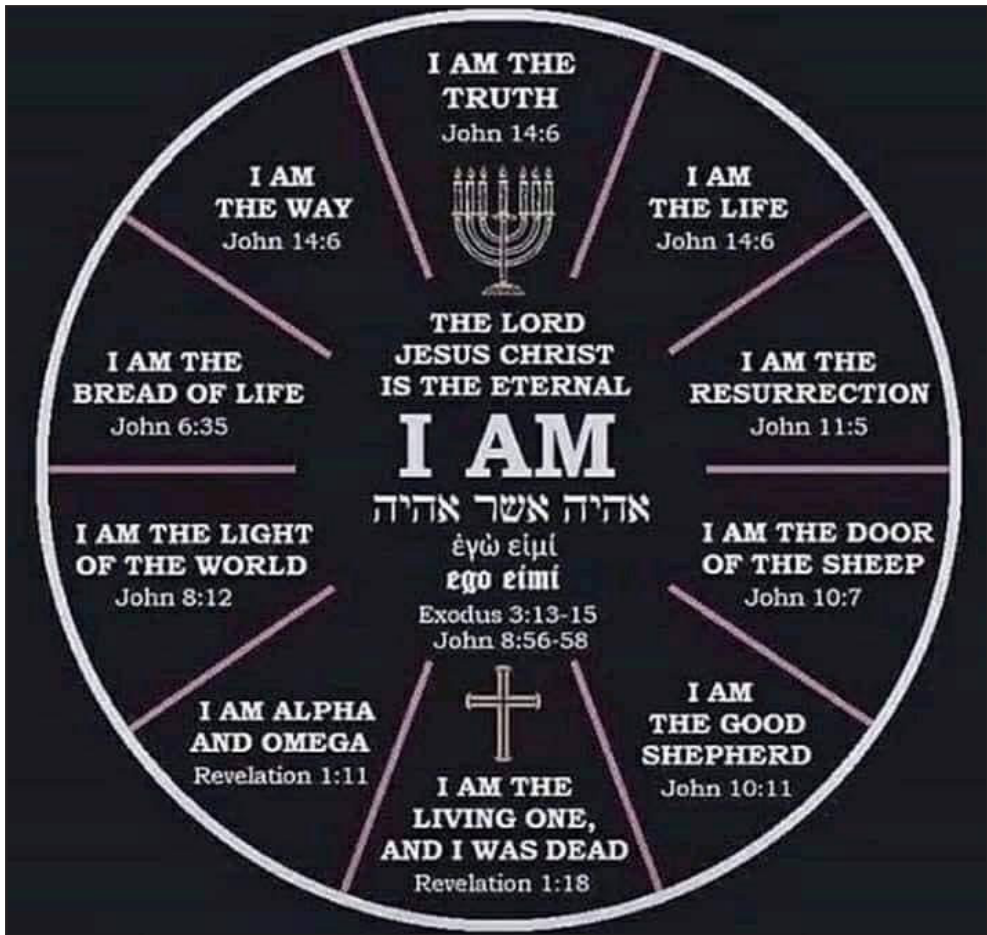
What a joy it is, then, to consider that when our time here has come to an end and we go to be with the Lord, we will see our loved ones not as they were but as they are and as they forever will be.

The weight of cares will have been lifted from their shoulders, the hollow-eyed sorrow of loss will have been removed from their countenance. Weakness of mind will have given way to strength, frailty of body will have been replaced by fortitude. All will be well.

All will be better than we have ever known or even imagined. ♦



Tim Challies is a blogger and author. He also reviews books and writes about theology and culture. He worships and serves as an elder at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario.



Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday
and today
and forever.

Hebrews 13:8