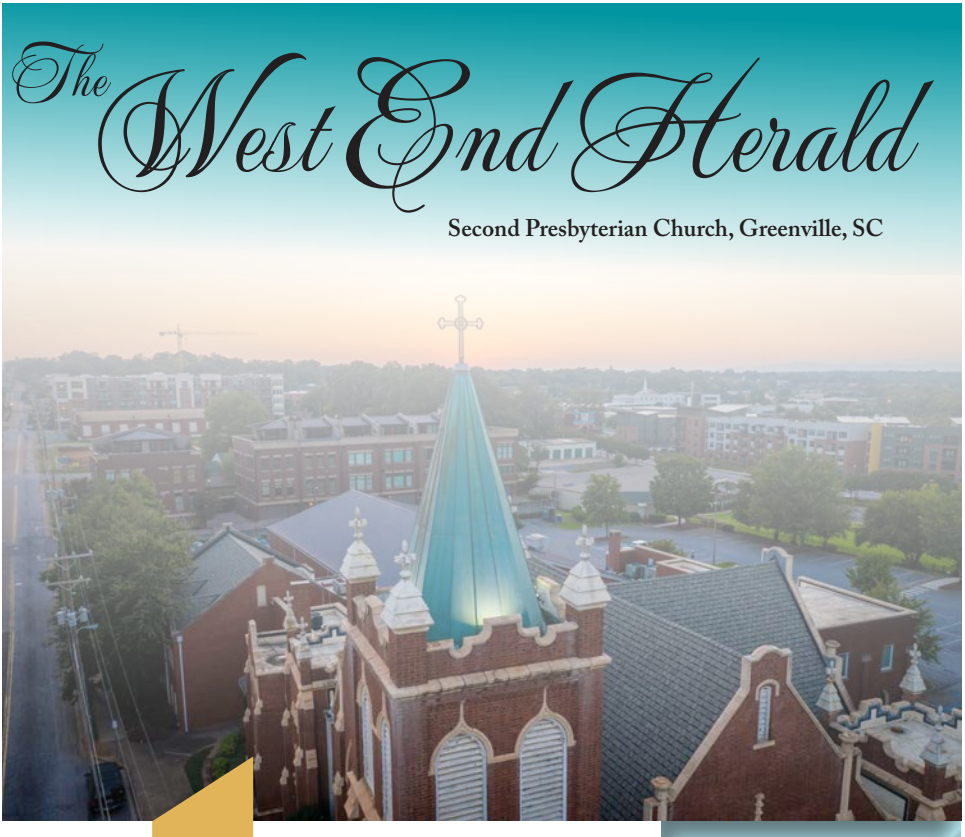
The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



Five Ways Men Can Serve the Church



by Christopher Gordon

continued on page 2

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In This Issue

1 Five Ways Men Can Serve the Church

3 Ministry of the Week

4 The Valley of Vision

5 Corner of River/Rhett

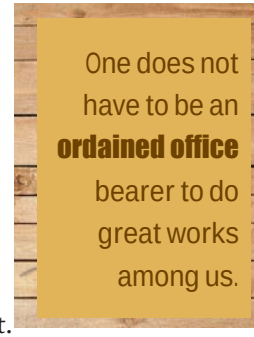
6 Birthdays

7 Calendar

9 Announcements

12 *The Intercessor*

Pastors are often asked about how to encourage men to be more involved in the life of the church. For a variety of reasons, the perception among men is that the church is not a place for doing manly things. Unless men take active leadership roles, the involvement of men in the church is often limited to attending a single service on Sunday. The absence of male service in the church is detrimental to the progress and health of the entire body. Perhaps the proverbial question, "Adam, where are you?" continues to be asked most often regarding men serving in the kingdom of God.



There appears to be a significant disconnect for men between certain activities that provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment—such as work, sports, and other recreational activities—and active service the church. Great encouragement is needed for men to view serving in the church as a critical component of their calling in this life. Such service is not merely personally fulfilling, but it builds up and strengthens the entire body of Christ. There is nothing more Christlike than a man laying down his life for his friends. This, according to Jesus, is true greatness.

There are many ways to encourage men to serve in the church. Sometimes, however, we think too highly about this question. It's always important to begin with those things that seem insignificant to us. One does not have to be an ordained office bearer to do great works among us. In a word: Think smaller. It is in the little things that great things are achieved, even if it is taking a cup of cold water to someone in need. With these things in mind, what follows are five simple encouragements for men regarding how they might serve well in the local church.

Pursue Growth in the Scriptures.

First and most important is the personal growth of the man himself. A great servant is not created by merely doing. It begins with the mind and the heart. A servant is formed, not coerced by guilt. The mind must be renewed by understanding the love of Christ for us, then our love for others becomes properly motivated. Becoming a servant happens by pursuing growth in the Scriptures. Yes, this requires heartfelt attendance to the means of grace in worship on Sunday. This is a top priority. But it also requires the weekly pursuit of our own development spiritually toward the end of helping others grow in the faith. Active involvement in Bible studies and other groups

continued on page 8

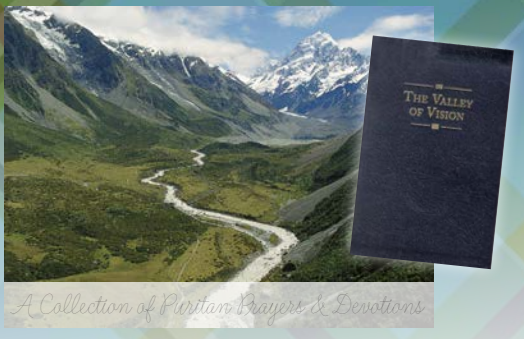
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Ministry of the Week



Find out how you can fill a shoebox on page 9 of this newsletter!

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in Eastern Europe. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts. Franklin asked his friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways. Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Through these gifts, we communicated to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10, ESV). Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. Tens of thousands of volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.



The prayers in this book are drawn from the largely forgotten deposit of Puritan spiritual exercises, meditations, and aspirations. They testify to the richness and colour of evangelical thought and language that animated vital piety in an important stream of English religious life. ~Arthur Bennett

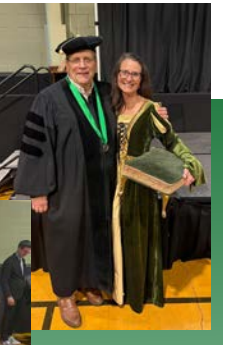
O Thou That Hearest Prayer,

Teach me to pray.
I confess that in religious exercises
the language of my lips and the feelings
of my heart have not always agreed,
that I have frequently taken carelessly upon
my tongue a name never pronounced above
without reverence and humility,
that I have often desired things which would
have injured me,
that I have depreciated some of my chief mercies,
and also of my fears,
that I am unfit to choose for myself,
for it is not in me to direct my steps.
Let thy Spirit help my infirmities,
for I know not what to pray for as I ought.
Let him produce in me wise desires by which
I may ask right things,
then I shall know thou hearest me.



at the corner of

River & Rhett



REFORMATION PARTY

OCTOBER 28























November Birthdays

9 Josiah Mobley, Hope Strevel

10 Seth Joiner

11 Carolyn Fields

12 Lauren Laughter, Ellie Phillips, Sarah Madison Roy

13 Hudson Kinnear, Jeffrey Spell

14 Charlie Roy

This Week

MORNING SERMON
Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III
Show Me Your Glory!
Exodus 34:5–8

EVENING SERMON
Dr. David P. Barry
Restore our Fortunes
Psalm 126:1–6

Sunday, November 8

8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel *(Sanctuary)*
10:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adult 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. Worship/Music Committee *(Conference Room)*

Monday, November 9

6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study *(Conference Room)*
9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study *(Conference Room)*
6:30 P.M. Session Meeting *(Conference Room)*

Tuesday, November 10

10:00 A.M. WIC Circle 3 *(Fellowship Hall)*
1:30 P.M. WIC Circle 5 *(Fellowship Hall)*
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 2 *(T. Looper Home)*
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 4 *(L. Martin Home)*
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 6 *(A. Hanson Home)*

Wednesday, November 11

5:30 P.M. Missions 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)
6:30 P.M. Deacon Training *(Room C-211)*
6:45 P.M. WIC Circle 1 *(Conference Room)*
6:45 P.M. Ministry 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, November 12

9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study *(Conference Room)*
6:00 P.M. LightBringers *(Fellowship Hall)*

Friday, November 13

9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers *(Fellowship Hall)*
12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon/Bible Study *(Gym)*
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main *(Conference Room)*
6:00 P.M. Friday Night Alive *(R. Phillips Home)*

Saturday, November 14

8:00 A.M. Men of the Covenant *(Gym)*

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

November 9	Session Meeting
November 15	New Member Introduction & Luncheon
November 22	Communion in the Morning Services
November 25	Thanksgiving Service
November 27	Church Offices Closed

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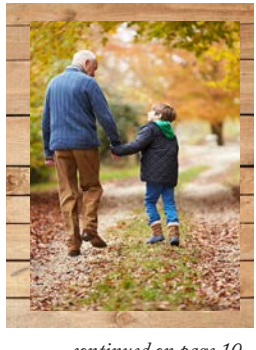
centered around the Word and prayer will help shape us to have the mind of Christ. Growing together with other men in study is an equipping type of service in the body that will result in cultivating fellowship, making us effective in serving the needs of others. Make use of these opportunities for growth. Becoming a servant happens by pursuing growth in the Scriptures.

Pursue the qualities of an office bearer.

Most men reading this article may feel unequipped or uncalled to ordained service in the church. The result is that men think they do not have the gifts for this high calling and so service in the body is often left to ordained men. This is certainly a wrong view of the basic calling of the Christian man. While the requirements for office bearers are described in passages such as 1 Timothy 3, this does not mean that these qualities should only be pursued by ordained men. All men should think about the use of these gifts even if they do not serve in an official capacity. In general, men ought to aspire to practice them. Opportunities abound such as reading the Scriptures to encourage the afflicted, visiting the sick, helping those in need, and praying for the body. Recognizing that these duties belong to all men is an important first step, then knowing the body and serving them is what follows.

Help the widow and orphan.

That our Lord loves the needy among us and values helping them should be a great encouragement toward this pursuit. In any given congregation there may be widows or a variety of those in need. Asking a widow about work needed around her home, or encouraging a distressed young person, or providing help to a sick



continued on page 10

Announcements

LightBringers

LightBringers is a discipleship ministry, modeled after Titus 2, for the young ladies of Second Presbyterian Church. All girls in grades 5 through 8 as well as their mothers are welcome. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Rose Branigin with any questions.

Friday Night Alive

The next fellowship/teaching time will be on November 13, beginning with supper at 6:00 P.M. at the Phillips' Home. Pray for God's blessing on this important time for our young adults.

Men of the Covenant

Men (9th grade and above) will be having a breakfast and teaching time on Saturday, November 14, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in the Gym. Meat will be provided. Men are asked to bring breakfast items to share.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are available on the counter outside the Church Library. Fill a box for a needy child! Gift suggestions are posted there also. Shoeboxes should be turned in at the same location by November 18.

New Member Sunday



The Fall 2026 New Members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service on Sunday, November 15.

The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon in our New Members' honor.

DATE:	**Sunday, November 15**
TIME:	**Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service**
PLACE:	**Gymnasium**
FOOD:	**Meat/drinks will be provided. Please bring generous portions of sides and desserts.**

continued from page 8

person, all are opportunities for men to serve. A father and a son together, for instance, serving a person in need in the congregation is the kind of pure and undefiled religion the Lord loves (James 1:27).

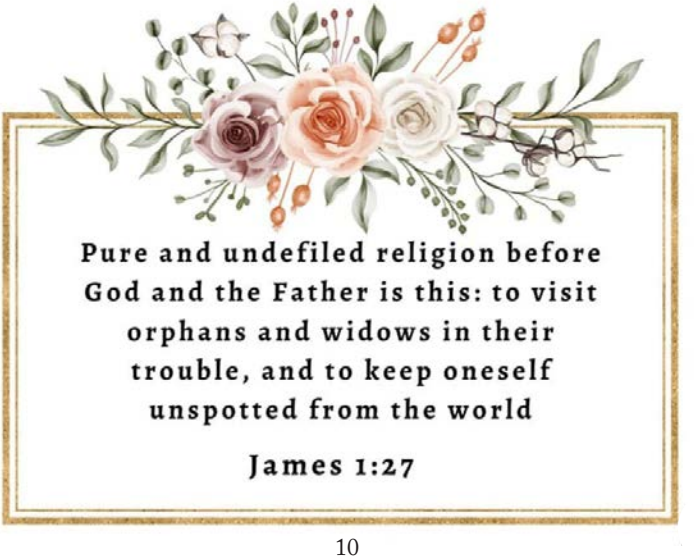
Mentor a young man in the faith.

This is a great need but often a neglected practice in the church. The Scriptures exhort men to be good examples in the faith, especially to the next generation. In our days of youth crisis, one of the most helpful ways for men to serve is to shepherd an often confused and directionless new generation facing the unique challenges of life. Men who know the Lord's deliverance and guidance in their own lives can be a great help to another young man in need.

Be present and engage the flock.

Too many men are disconnected from the body. Greeting the visitor on Sunday, showing interest in the lives of the saints, or making effort with other people in the church is how the fellowship of the church grows. Be involved. Pass out bulletins. Do not dash for the door. Showing interest in your brethren and serving them in the small ways made available to you promotes the growth of the whole body. Those servants who have been most effective in our lives are those who were present, interested in us, and ready to serve us. These kinds of servants make a massive difference in the life of the church. ◆

Rev. Christopher J. Gordon is senior minister of Escondido United Reformed Church in Escondido, California.



Report from Church Treasurer, *Ron Babington*



This summer we asked you to prioritize giving toward the annual budget, and you responded in a big way: third quarter giving (July–September) was the second-largest quarter total on record at Second Church.

Further, it appears that this surge was largely net-new giving and not just the typically large December giving pulled forward, which means—Lord willing—we could still see a characteristically strong fourth quarter to end the year. (Nine of Second's fifteen largest quarters were Q4s.)

You've contributed $1.51m through October and we've spent $1.55m, for a year-to-date operating deficit of $40k.

Please be watching your mailboxes for the proposed 2027 budget and prepare to attend the informational meeting following evening worship on Sunday, November 22.

