Corner of River and Rhett

New Websites and Mobile App

The Media Committee is excited to announce that Second Pres has three new systems - a new website at SPCGreenville.org, a new portal for members, and a mobile app for members and visitors! These three new systems will go live on Thursday and Friday of this week. These three new systems will help Second Pres achieve our mission of reaching out, folding in, and growing up for the glory of God as we work on our vision of impacting Greenville and the surrounding areas for the gospel. Here is some basic information about the three new systems:

New SPCGreenville.org website - the new website features a simplified look and navigation and is a fully responsive website (automatically adjusts and functions well on desktops, tablets, and mobile devices).

New portal for members - the new portal for members (hosted by Touchpoint) is an easy way to use the online church directory, look up your giving history, access the weekly prayer guide, and see your involvement with the various groups in the church (SS Communities, WIC, Bibles studies, etc).

New mobile app - this new app is for everyone! The new Second Pres mobile app is the new go to place on your mobile device for all things Second. The new app has the latest bulletins, newsletters, and sermons. It also is a great way to watch the live webcast, see upcoming events and important announcements, The new Second Pres app is in Android Google Play and the Apple App Store. Just search for Second Pres in your phone's app store.

More information about these three new systems and how to better use them will be available on the website and in upcoming newsletters. If you have questions about these items, please contact Nate Johnson:

(x107 or njohnson@spcgreenville.org).

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The Second Preshyterian Church

Phillips preaching SECOND Anthem: O How Amiable Richard D. Phillips preacl **EVENING WORSHIP** MORNING WORSHIF S DAY February 23, 2020 THE ETERNAL CHRIST 1, 215, 496Hymns: 157, 270, 37 THE EVERGREEN 8:30 & 11:00 am 1:16-1 Hosea 14:1-9 68A6:00 pm WORSHIP AT S THE LORD'S Colossians salm Hymns: Richard D. Dr. Dr.



The West End Herald

Vol. CXXVIII, Edition 7

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

February 16, 2020

Letter from the Senior Minister Questions Regarding Baptism

Since questions concerning the sacrament of baptism have dogged the church for centuries, it is no surprise that I receive a good number of questions regarding baptism. Therefore, I thought it would be good to provide answers to some questions that I frequently receive.

Q What do the words *baptize* and *baptism* mean?

A: The Greek word for "to baptize" (*baptizo*) means permanently identify with someone or something. Thus baptism is a way in which we are publicly identified as belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ. The word for "baptism" (*baptisma*) means to either wash by pouring or dipping in water. For this reason, the word itself does not determine whether sprinkling or dunking is the correct mode, since it can mean either.

Q: What does the sacrament of baptism represent?

A: The sacrament of baptism is not "an outward sign of an inward change," as is often said, but rather baptism is a "sign and seal of the covenant of grace." Baptism points to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ (most especially his atoning death and the sending of the Holy Spirit for spiritual renewal). Baptism also functions as an official seal, by which God officially marks someone who belongs to his covenant people (see Rom. 4:11).

Q: Why do we practice infant baptism?

A: Strictly speaking, we do not practice infant baptism. We practice covenant baptism. That is, we baptize Christian infants not because they are infants but because they are covenant children through their relationship with Christian parents.



- Q: What is the biblical basis for covenant baptism, as opposed to believer's baptism?
- A: Here are the basic biblical considerations that lead us to this practice:
- Infants were included in the covenant family and received the sign of the covenant (circumcision) in the Old Testament. This principle is never altered or revoked in the New Testament, whereas other Old Testament practices are revoked. The burden of proof lies not with those who continue what God ordained but with those who would cancel it.
- In general, the new covenant expands rather than contracts the scope of God's grace. We therefore should not expect to see children included in the Old Testament sacrament but excluded in the New.
- God's covenant promise explicitly includes children in the New Testament: "The promise is to you and to your children" (Acts 2:39). Since children receive God's salvation promise, they should receive the sign of God's promise, baptism.
- God's way of salvation has always embraced families. Not all believers' children are saved, but they are all comprehended within God's covenant community: "This is my covenant... between me and you and your offspring after you" (Gen. 17:9-10).
- Of the twelve baptisms recorded in the New Testament, three are household baptisms. In these cases, we are not told that children individually believed, but rather that the head of the household believed and the household was baptized.
- Conferring the covenant sign and seal upon our children is consistent with Jesus' exhortation and example: "Suffer the little children to come to me and do not forbid them... And he took them up in his arms and put his hands upon them and blessed them" (Mk. 10:14, 16).

Q: Why do we baptize by sprinkling, instead of immersion? A: Because the Bible consistently relates baptism to sprinkling. Consider the example of Exodus 24:6-8, the teaching of Hebrews 9:11-22, and the prophecy of Ezekiel 36:25-26, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean... I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."



Q: Why does the Nicene Creed say, "We believe in one baptism for the remission of sins?"

A: People sometimes object to these words as unbiblical. In fact, they are practically a quotation from the Bible: "Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). Does this mean that we are confessing that forgiveness comes through the ritual of baptism? The answer is *No*. The Bible is clear that forgiveness comes only through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Baptism is a symbol of the washing of our sins as we call on his name. Speaking the words of the Nicene Creed, we thus believe that baptism is a symbol of the remission of our sins. The word for ("one baptism *for* the remission of our sins") should thus be taken and spoken to mean "corresponding to".

Baptism, like the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, is meant to be a picture, not a textbook. Therefore, perhaps the most important thing whenever we witness the baptism of a child or a new converted adult is for us to marvel, saying, "Christ washed away my sins and now he calls me to walk in purity and spiritual power as I bear His name in the world."

May the Lord bless you all this week.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Rick Phillips



Bite Size Biographies



Jan Hus c. 1369–1415 The Goosefather

BY GREG MORSE

On December 17, 1999, the pope issued the ceremonial equivalent of a modern apology: "Our bad."

John Paul II addressed a crowd in the Czech Republic, expressing "deep

regret for the cruel death" inflicted upon their hero. "Deep regrets" were the very least the Catholic Church could offer.

Sealed with Blood

Lured to the Council of Constance under the promise of safety, Jan Hus was immediately thrown into prison for six months, given a mock trial, and ordered to recant — which he refused. In July 1415, he was stripped, adorned with a dunce hat painted with devils and labeled "Arch-Heretic" — all as he prayed for his enemies.

They then led him past a burning pile of his books and chained him to the stake. In response to being chained up like a dog, he said, "My Lord Jesus Christ was bound with a harder chain than this one for my sake, so why should I be ashamed of this rusty chain?" They told him once more to recant, but he refused, proclaiming, "What I taught with my lips I will now seal with my blood." And that he did.

As the flames climbed higher, he sang. The secretary of the council pronounced, "O curse'd Judas, because thou hast abandoned the pathways of peace, and hast counselled with the Jews, we take away from thee the cup of redemption." Thankfully, the Catholic Church did not have the authority to take the cup of redemption that day.

After his death, outrage filled Bohemia. In his name, followers revolted against Rome in violent protest that lasted for over a decade. Jan Hus was a preacher, a political figure, a prophet, a proto-Reformer, and a martyr of the first class.

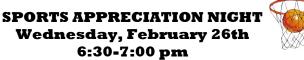
> *This article originally appeared on DesiringGod.org and is used with their permission.*



February Play Date

February 21 10:30 am - 12:00 pm At the home of Amy Plourde. Please let Amy Plourde (864-787-6017) know if you plan to attend.





Come join us as we honor the participants of the 2019-2020 sports season.

Youth Fellowship Events



Senior High February 28

6:00-8:30 PM Taco/Game Night/Campfire at the Smokers

Middle School February 28 5:30-8:30 PM Movie Night @ SPC Fellowship Hall





Mark Your Calendars

MEMBERSHIP CLASS begins March 1, 2020 taught by Dr. Richard D. Phillips and Rev. Chad T. Bailey.

COMMUNICANTS CLASS begins March 15, 2020 taught by RE Kevin Mobley and Rev. Jeffrey J. Windt

Rafiki Women's Bible Study

The next Rafiki Bible Study will begin on March 16 at 9:30 am and will last until May 11th. We will be studying 1 Samuel. The deadline to sign up for this Bible Study has been extended until March 1st. If you have questions or would like to sign up please contact Sylvia Long. (sdlong1016@gmail.com)

Precepts Bible Study

Ladies: Precepts Bible Study, part 2 in the gospel of John, begins Thursday, April 9 for 8 weeks. It is not necessary to have studied Part 1 to participate in Part 2. Please contact Mary Settle by March 16 if you plan to attend as books need to be ordered. Call or text 864-918-2269 or call 864-329-1670.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Call to all bakers! Bill Watkins and the Kairos Prison Ministry team need cookies for the upcoming 4-day class on basic Christianity that will be held at Perry Correctional. While only 30 inmates are in the class, all 1000 inmates during the weekend receive bags of cookies with Bible verses and visits from the Kairos ministry team. Please bake as many dozens as you feel led to do and bring them to the kitchen at Second Church on Sunday March 8, 2020. Please package them in disposable containers such as shoe boxes. Please avoid using aluminum foil or zip lock bags. If you have any questions, call Bill Watkins at 304-4737.

Upcoming Graduates

If you are an upcoming graduate (May or December) or you know someone in the church who is, please contact the church office (ext. 101 or jgrant@spcgreenville.org). We want to be sure we recognize all our graduates at our upcoming banquet in May.

WIC Annual Spring Retreat



The Great Escape 2020 Theme: Biblical Hospitality Speaker: Barbaranne Kelly Christ Presbyterian Church, New Braunfels, Texas

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 21 The Unicoi State Park & Lodge, Helen, GA

Country Dance Group

Carolina English Country Dance Group will be holding dance groups at Second on the first and third Fridays of each month from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. No partner or experience needed. A \$5 per person donation is suggested but no one will be turned away.

CarolinaEnglishCountryDance.com for more information.

Solo Cello Recital

On Friday evening, Feb. 21, at 6:00 p.m., professional cellist and friend of SPC, Dr. Yuriy Leonovich will present a recital of solo cello works in the sanctuary. Dr. Leonovich is professor of cello at Bob Jones University and also plays in the Greenville and Charleston symphony orchestras. This recital will feature several modern pieces for solo cello one of which Dr. Leonovich recently premiered. There is no charge for admission and you are encouraged to bring music loving friends. A reception will follow the recital. Please contact Verlyn Smoker (864) 979-9378, with any questions.

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 23

Sunday, February 23				
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE				
Children's Chapel				
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE				
Season of Prayer in the Chapel				
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE				
Evangelism Committee Meeting				
Monday, February 24				
Men's Bible Study				
Wednesday, February 26				
CE Committee Meeting				
FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER				
Hope/Covenant Choirs/Youth Ensemble				
Sports Appreciation Event				
CAT/Covenant Kids				
Jr. and Sr. High Bible Studies				
PRAYER MEETING FOR ALL ADULTS				
BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL ADULTS				
Chancel Choir Rehearsal				
Thursday, February 27				
Precepts Women's Bible Study				
Friday, February 28				
Men's Lunch & Bible Study				
Mission to Main Street				
Jr. High Movie Night @ church				
Sr. High Taco/Game Night @ Smokers				
Saturday, February 29				
WIC Shower for Sarah Martin				

Scripture Reading for the Week

Psalm 20:6-8 Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. (ESV)

Feb. 19	Administration Committee Meeting
Feb. 21	Cello Recital-Yuriy Leonovich
Feb. 23	Evangelism Committee Meeting
Feb. 26	CE Committee Meeting
Feb. 26	Sports Appreciation Night
Feb. 28	Sr. High Fellowship Night @ Smokers
Feb. 28	Jr. High Movie Night in Fellowship Hall
Feb. 29	WIC Shower for Sarah Martin
Mar. 1	Membership Class begins
Mar. 2	Diaconate Meeting
Mar. 4	WIC Council
Mar. 4	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
Mar. 8	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mar. 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Mar. 9	Session Meeting
Mar. 10-11	WIC Circles
Mar. 11	Missions Committee Meeting
Mar. 11	Missionary Alonzo Ramirez visiting
Mar. 15	Communicants Class begins
Mar. 15	The Lord's Supper at the morning services
Mar. 16	New Rafiki Bible Study begins
Mar. 17	LightBringers
Mar. 18	Administration Committee Meeting
Mar. 20-21	WIC Spring Retreat in Helen GA
Mar. 20	Jr. High March Madness tournament
Mar. 21	Sr. High hiking and picnic at Caesars Head
Mar. 22	Evangelism Committee Meeting
Mar. 25	CE Committee Meeting
Mar. 27-29	SPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

May 1-11	Mission Trip to England
May 2	WIC Spring Luncheon
May 6	Graduation Banquet
May 13	CAT Kids Program
May 27	Musical CAT Kids begin
June 16-19	General Assembly in Birmingham
June 22-27	Sr. High Trip to Pawleys Island
July 4	Church Picnic
July 13-17	Vacation Bible School
July 20-24	Jr. High Trip to Ridgehaven
July 24-31	Mission Trip to Peru

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in members. Also, send them a note of encouragement.

Stan and Barbara Woodward 1815 Cleveland Street Ext. Greenville, SC 29607

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

Aaron and Kaitlyn Bouchillon Dempsey David and Linda Bragdon Ann Brand

Missionary of the Week



John and Cheryl Boyte RUF, Anderson University

John Boyte is a graduate of Clemson University where he earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering. John has worked with youth as a lay minister directing and teaching

the Junior High Youth at Peoples Bible Church in Greenville, SC and the Senior High at the Evangelical Church of Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand. He was involved with teaching Sunday School and assisting with the youth at New Covenant before joining the staff in 1996. He finished the MDiv at Erskine Seminary and is ordained as a Teaching Elder in the PCA Church. He married his wife, Cheryl in 1987. They have three children, J.J., Casey, and Caleb. John served as Associate Pastor of New Covenant Church for twelve years while also serving as the campus minister at Anderson University. He has served as campus minister at Anderson for over 20 years. He has also served the church as an interim pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Easley, SC.