

# What's First

at  
**Second Presbyterian Church**  
**December 2020**

## Our Vision

*As members of Second Presbyterian Church,  
We gather in worship;  
We grow in God's Word;  
We serve in Jesus' name.*

### Session:

#### Moderator

Rev. Arch Wallace

#### Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

#### Class of 2020

Susan Crew

Bettie Guthrie

Carl Guthrie

Gloria Rose

#### Class of 2021

Karen Graham

Lindsay Gray

Diana Hollars

Dorothy Riggan

#### Class of 2022

Patricia Bonham

Joseph Chamberlain

Dennis Harrison

Alice Martin

#### Committees:

##### Congregational Care

Dorothy Riggan

##### Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

##### Education

Gloria Rose

##### Finance

Karen Graham

##### Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

##### Witness & Service

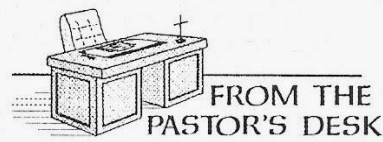
Joseph Chamberlain

##### Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

##### Stewardship

Bettie Guthrie



In a few days we will enter the Season of Advent and turn our thoughts once again to the wonderful gift God gave us Christmas morning – the gift of a Messiah. We use key

words to navigate the season, words like Faith, Hope, Joy, Love and Peace. Each of these words builds on the others to develop a full understanding of what God has done.

We remember that we are the people of a Faith that is based on believing intellectually that God is our Lord and Savior and then relying on and trusting in that belief in all that we do. Faith means we love our God and our neighbor with all that we are. This Faith then gives us Hope, hope that this world can change, hope that we can change, hope that Christ will come again. Hope means believing in something that is to come and then living expectantly, looking every day for God's promises to be fulfilled again.

When we think of our Faith and the Hope that it gives, we realize that all we know and have and worship came from God's Love for us, a love we are supposed to reach for and share. This word Love, in light of the Cross, means complete self-giving, a standard we are to strive for as we live our lives in God's kingdom. Once we realize the true meaning of Love, we erupt like heaven on Christmas morning, when all of heaven saw the birth of Christ and erupted into singing: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace toward all on who God's favor now rests. They were so full of Joy; they could not help it. And they sang of Peace, not the absence of war, but God's peace, a peace that means becoming one with God, so that no matter what, nothing can separate us from God's love---forever.

Advent has five stages, each building on the previous, each adding to our understanding of all that God has done. This year, think on these words, one a week, building on your understanding as you proceed through the season, sing a Carol that reminds you of the word, share a moment in prayer with God, asking for more understanding of each word. Then, armed with the season, find others and share it, not intellectually, but by some deed or devotion. May God bless us all richly in this season of remembrance!

## THE PREACHER'S CORNER

The schedule for Worship for the month follows. You are encouraged to read the scripture before coming to Worship and to meditate upon their meaning as you consider the title of the sermon. The Reading with the asterisk will be the one emphasized in the sermon. (N.B. The pastor advises there can be changes in the scheduling, as circumstances require.).

### December

Dec. 6

Scriptures: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Mark 1:1-8\*

Sermon: After Me, Comes The One

Dec. 20

Scriptures: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
John 1:1-5, 14-15\*

Sermon: The Word Became Flesh

Dec.13

Special Music Service

Dec. 27

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10, 62:3  
Luke 2:22-35\*

Sermon: My Eyes Have Seen God's Salvation

## WHO AM I?

I was born in Tishbe in Gilead.

I was a spokesman for God – one of God's prophets.

I am also in the New Testament where I appeared to Jesus to prepare him for his ministry and his death.

I once ran more than 50 miles in one day. I had to – I was scared and frustrated.

I defeated and ultimately slayed more than 400 priests of the cult of Baal at Mount Carmel.

I was detested by Queen Jezebel, who threatened to have me killed.

I ran again to the desert of Israel and hid, but God found me and asked, "What are you doing here?"

I taught others to follow and serve God as prophets.

I am one of the two men in the Bible who did not die.

Who Am I?

Rev. Archibald Wallace

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Church office will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 28 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

The Church office will be open from 9:00 – 12 noon, Dec. 29, 30, & 31.

The Church office will be closed January 1, 2021 for the New Year's holiday.

Please leave your messages on the church voice mail.

## **WITNESS AND SERVICE COMMITTEE: Joseph Chamberlain, Chair.**

**Christmas Joy Offering, White Gift & Special Christmas Service**  
**Sunday, Dec.13, 2020, 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Perfect Gift**  
*“God is with us.” Matthew 1:23*

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling. It helps families of active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 13 at the 11:00 a.m.** At this service we will bring our offerings of non-perishable food items for our White Gift program, which helps local families through the DCU Hope Center.

These items may be placed in the baskets in the back hall. Money donated to the White Gift will be used to augment the work of the White Gift program.

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to both the Joy Offering and White Gift Program at our **December 13** service. Offering envelopes will be provided in the bulletins.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

We were able to fill the 15 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes because of your generous donations. These boxes were delivered to a local church for the first part of a journey to a young boy or girl. We don't know the final destination. It could be anywhere in the world. Many thanks to the Presbyterian Women, especially Susan Lobaugh for her many hours of dedication and organization, keeping us on the right path. This is a joint effort between Witness and Service and Presbyterian Women.



**Salvation Army** stockings are available for you to pick up and fill. Suggestions are included with the stockings. Please return to church by **Dec. 1.**

### **Downtown Churches United Hope Center 2020 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award**

The Hope Center has received Governor Ralph Northam's 2020 Outstanding Community Service Award. This award recognizes the dedicated effort of all Hope Center Volunteers, the commitment of every member of DCU, the support of our grantors and all those who make financial commitments to the Hope Center. You are our heroes.

#### **OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION | The Hope Center (Petersburg)**

The Hope Center, which serves as the community outreach of Downtown Churches United, Inc. (DCU), contributes more than 14,000 hours of service to the Petersburg community annually. Providing hunger and financial relief services, The Hope Center operates the Daily Feeding Program, which includes a food pantry, help with paying utility bill payments, and regular blood pressure screenings. The food pantry operates approximately 20 hours a week and distributes groceries to an average of 175 households a week, and the Daily Feeding Program provides a hot lunch for more than 80 people a day.

## **WORSHIP & CELEBRATION: Alice Martin, Chair.**

The time of Advent and Christmas will soon be here, and there is always much excitement in the air as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth. We all look forward to seeing our beautiful Christmas Tree in the sanctuary and we heartily thank our wonderful Men's Group for helping to set it up. Susan Lobaugh will be happy to have volunteers to help decorate the tree so please give her a call if you would like to participate.



Memorial poinsettias will again fill our church and this year we are asking to give them “in honor of” as well as “in memory of”. When this idea was presented to the committee, we all thought it was a great idea and another wonderful way to honor someone special. Please let Becky know by Dec. 4 the “memorial” and “in honor” names to be listed in the bulletin. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Friday, Dec. 11.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas season,

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan, Chair.**

- ◇ Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card, call or visit. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- ◇ The Monthly Food Offering will be received weekly throughout the month of December. The recipient for this month is DCU Hope Center.

## **EDUCATION & NURTURE COMMITTEE: Gloria Rose, Chair.**

Although we are beginning to look at resuming Sunday School classes, at the current date the doors are still closed. In lieu of other positive news, I would like to share a small story with you.

When I was a child, my mother insisted we be seated in our pew before the Prelude began. My dad agreed because he loved to listen to the beautiful music of our organ. I assumed my mother wanted the time to catch her breath after getting herself, three kids (two boys who had to be checked to make sure shirts were tucked, ears were clean, and cow licks were plastered down), and my grandma fed, dressed, and delivered to church. My dad took care of himself. One day I asked her why the urgency when many people arrived later than we did. She told me that when she was a young girl growing up in Second, she was taught to take the Prelude as a time to settle herself and when she was calm, to offer a prayer: “Dear God, open my ears to hear the message you have for me today. Open my brain to understand what you are trying to say. Open my heart to accept your words. And, open my hands and feet to do what you want me to do. Amen.”

The calendar tells us that Advent starts on November 29 and we will begin to celebrate the birthday of our Lord. During the four weeks, we will prepare our hearts and minds to recognize the tremendous gift God has given us. Try this little prayer during the Prelude to see if the message becomes clearer to you.

**Who Am I? (Answer)**

**1Kings 18:15-46 and 2 Kings 2:1-12**

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** Alice Martin, Moderator



The Fall Gathering was a virtual event this year due to Covid-19. Several of our ladies participate online so that we stay up-to-date with our PW Presbytery. Kathy Peebles is now the PW Moderator POJ. We are very proud of her taking this position.

**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

December is a busy month for us all – especially our PW.

Our circles are planning to remember our home-bound members and students, and of course, our mission project is collecting food for those of our community that are in need. Please deposit canned and non-perishable foods in the baskets in the back hallway.



Our wonderful “White Gift” tradition continues. I'm not sure how many years it has been a part of PW Christmas, but it certainly goes back several generations. What a joy it is to be able to give to others!

We hope our circles will meet in January. It all depends on Covid-19. It is never too late to join one!

A joyous Christmas to all!

## **PW DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:** Gloria Summers, Mission Chair.

In December, PW is asking you to help with the “White Gift” project (bringing canned or packaged foods to give to the Hope Center), and COOKIES! We will add packaged cookies to the goodie bags we are making to take to our home members, and we will also take packaged cookies to our local first responders to thank them for their service to our community. The joy of giving is in the air, and we thank you for your continued support of our PW projects!

## **PRESBYTERIAN MEN:** Carl Guthrie, Moderator

### **MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

It has been quite a while since we have been together so mark your calendar. The Men's Group Christmas Breakfast will be held on **Thursday, December 17 at 8:00 a.m.** in McIlwaine Hall. Please come join us! We will play it safe, yes; masks, gloves and social distancing.

## *December Birthdays*

3 Janet Haskins  
Linda Pittman  
Jon Shaffner  
5 Suzanne Groux  
Dorothy Riggan  
6 Peggy Baird  
10 Mona Ellis



12 John Barras  
Beth Iselin  
Carroll Hathaway  
17 William McCray  
22 Margaret Graham  
23 Grace Eloise Fitts  
24 Brian Dean Moore  
26 Marian Kropp  
28 Mark Stevens

# **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**October 25, 2020 - Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session**

Approved the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of October 25, 2020 and the Stated Session Meeting October 25, 2020.

## **Congregational Meeting motions approved:**

- Re-establish a number for a quorum for Meetings of the Congregation for Second Presbyterian Church to 20% of the membership.
- Extend the tenure of Elder Carl C. Guthrie as Chairman of Building and Grounds Committee, in accordance with the Book of Order Section G-1.0503 a.
- Approved the slate of Elders for the Class of 2023: Carl C. Guthrie, tenured, Gloria B. Rose, Mark H. Stevens, and Wendy H. Stevens.
- Approved the Nominating Committee be comprised of representatives from each of the major areas within the church: Choir/Hand Bells, Congregation, Congregational Care, Men's Group, Presbyterian Women, and Youth according to the Book of Order G-2.04.
- Approved the Nominating Committee begin the process of reducing the number of Elders from 12 to 9 beginning with the Class of 2024 according to the Book of Order G-1.0503 e.

## **Stated Session Meeting motions approved:**

- Received the September Treasurer's report.
- Approved the 2021 budget.
- Approved a request from the Stewardship Committee to have an on-line and electronic giving account with the Presbyterian Foundation for the church.
- Approved the Stewardship Committee members: Bettie Guthrie, Chairman, Susan Crew, Gloria Rose, Mark Stevens, Wendy Stevens and Gloria Summers.
- Approved November 22, 2020 as Stewardship Sunday.
- Approved the Worship and Celebration request to add a name to the Elder Emeritus status.

## **THANK YOU**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Ed and Linda Iselin for their *Guideposts* subscription for the library.

## **SYMPATHY**

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Nell Smith upon the death of her grandson, Phillip Howell and to the family of Marjorie Woody upon her death on November 9, 2020.

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IN MEMORIAM  
MARJORIE ARLENE WOODY  
MARCH 27, 1925 - NOVEMBER 9, 2020

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Karen Graham & Susan Crew

**2020 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	DONATIONS	EXPENDITURES
October	\$ 11,479.00	\$ 10,131.56
Year To Date	\$126,874.57	\$112,501.30
Net Gain	\$ 1,347.44	14,373.27

**Reminder: Don't forget to turn in your Pledge Cards.**

**Second Presbyterian Church  
2021 Budget**

1. WORSHIP & CELEBRATION	\$4,460
2. EDUCATION & NURTURE	\$1,375
3. WITNESS & SERVICE	\$1,000
4. CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP	\$175
5. BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP	\$170
6. OFFICE & PERSONNEL	\$9,700
7. BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$51,893
8. MISCELLANEOUS	\$50
9. PRESBYTERY/SYNOD/GENERAL ASSEMBLY	\$1,200
10. SALARIES/ALLOWANCES/BENEFITS	\$84,532
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$154,555</b>
Session Approved on 10/25/20 Contact Karen Graham or Susan Crew, Finance Committee Co-Chairs, if you have questions.	

**CONGRATULATIONS !** to the five gentlemen who were presented with the honorary title *Elder Emeritus* on Nov. 15 as Second Church celebrated its 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary-  
**Donald Baird, Jerry Ellis, Bill Ellis, Russell Garrison, and Rudy Rowland.**  
Sincere thanks from a grateful congregation for your many years of service and devotion to our church.  
Resolutions for each are posted in the back hallway.

**OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Pattie Bonham, Chair.

**Celebrating Arch's 20th Anniversary of Ordination**

It has become a tradition in our presbytery to recognize the ordination anniversary of ministers on the occurrence of each 5-year increment of service. And while the anniversary is recognized on the floor of a presbytery meeting once a year, each minister's church is encouraged to commemorate it as well. And so, on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrated and congratulated Arch on his having attained 20 years of ordained ministry.

Most of our church's members and friends have never seen Arch's impressive resume but do recognize that he has been first a talented and accomplished attorney and then a compassionate, caring and inspiring minister whose extensive work and experience have greatly benefitted Second Church through going on 8 years of pastoral care and leadership. You may well ask what could motivate and animate this second career after the acknowledged success of his former profession. Fortunately, there is a readily available witness to answer that query.

Each minister in the presbytery is encouraged to develop and present his or her own individual statement of faith. And although these statements cover a good deal of similar ground one cannot help but hear and be inspired by the singular and personal voice that permeates each individual's statement. So, it is with pleasure that I share with you Arch Wallace's statement of faith.



Recipient of the Henry V. Langford Lifetime Service Award  
March 25, 2011  
Richmond, Virginia

I believe in One God in whom I live and serve and have my being. I know God in three personages – father, son and sustaining and empowering Spirit. I know God created all from nothing, sustains all because of love, and has rescued us from our rejection of God, through Jesus, the Christ, the most perfect gift ever given in God's grace. I accept the Bible as God's inspired Word and rely on it daily to guide my life. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe He is the way, and the truth and the light of God, our only hope for salvation. I believe in the sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit, with me always, guiding and enlightening me as to the mysteries of our faith. I believe God has called me to serve as Christ served, to love as Christ loved, to preach and teach as Christ preached and taught. I believe in the Covenants God has made through history and of the New Covenant made for me through Christ. I realize without Christ I am nothing. I believe in the eternal life Christ promised and I recognize that

it begins now, in this place and lasts forever. I acknowledge that I am a sinner, without hope except for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him my sin has been removed. I cannot believe God can love each of us so much to give Jesus to stand in our place at the time of judgment. I am so unworthy but so loved.

Hearty congratulations to Arch on achieving this milestone!



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>December</i>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Names in the Bulletin for Memorial Poinsettias	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12 noon. "What's First" Deadline for <u>January</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Poinsettias Delivered Sanctuary Decorated	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 11:00 Joy/White Gift Special Music Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Christmas Breakfast	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 11:00 Worship  12:15 Session	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>25</b> <b>Merry</b> <b>Christmas</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed Christmas Holiday	<b>29</b> 9:00 – 12 noon Church Office Open	<b>30</b> 9:00 – 12 noon Church Office Open	<b>31</b> 9:00 – 12 noon Church Office Open	<b>2020</b>	

**Second Presbyterian Church  
419 W. Washington Street  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803**

**Address Change Requested**

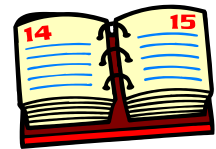
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### **MEMORIAL and IN HONOR OF POINSETTIAS**

Those who wish to provide poinsettias for our sanctuary during the advent season are to call the church office by Friday, December 4. Plants must be at the church by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 11.

**FLOWER CALENDAR** – Now is the time to reserve a special Sunday for worship services. The Flower Calendar will be posted in December on the bulletin board near the restrooms. Please call the church office early in the week for information to be included in the bulletin.



**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – Offering envelopes will be available in the back hall during December. We encourage you to pick these up before Christmas so that you will be ready for January 2021. It will be helpful if you can deliver envelopes to neighbors and family members who are not present during December.

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS BY REQUEST** – Annual statements on giving will not be mailed except by special request. If you desire a statement, let Becky know by January 10, 2021.