

# What's First

at  
Second Presbyterian Church  
January 2021

## 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 2021

Karen Graham  
Lindsay Gray  
Diana Hollars  
Dorothy Riggan

#### Class of 2022

Patricia Bonham  
Joseph Chamberlain  
Dennis Harrison  
Alice Martin

#### Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie  
Gloria Rose  
Mark Stevens  
Wendy Stevens

### Committees:

#### Congregational Care

Dorothy Riggan

#### Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

#### Education

Gloria Rose

#### Finance

Karen Graham  
Susan Crew

#### Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

#### Witness & Service

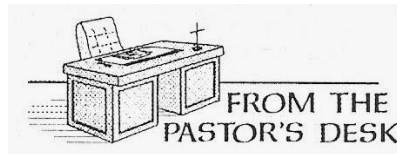
Joseph Chamberlain

#### Worship/Celebration

Alice Martin

#### Stewardship

Bettie Guthrie



As we begin a new year together, I want to answer a question some have asked: what is a Covenant Pastor, as that title is used in the Worship Bulletin. The Book of

Order of the Presbyterian Church –our Constitution—as interpreted by our Presbytery, governs the relationships between a pastor and the church the pastor is asked to serve. There are five types of relationships currently used by the Presbytery: Called Pastors, Covenant Pastors, Interim Pastors, Pulpit Supply Pastors and Parish Associates.

Called Pastors are usually full time and live in the parish. They are pastors called by the church's Pastor Nominating Committee, after a protracted self-study by the church and an extensive search. Called Pastors have to be examined and approved by the Presbytery and their total remuneration must meet or exceed the Presbytery's minimums. A call is for an indefinite period, usually lasting from 4-10 years. A Covenant Pastor is a part time pastor, hired by the Session and approved by the Presbytery. The hours and terms of the contract – the Covenant—are negotiated between the Session and the Pastor. Covenants may be for one month, three months, six months or a year. Either party to the covenant may end the arrangement when the covenant period ends. Covenants may be renewed for additional periods. Interim Supply Pastors are those chosen by Session and approved by the Presbytery. They are specially trained and serve as a bridge between a former pastor and the next. Often, interims are used when special issues need to be addressed. A Parrish Associate is a pastor hired by the Session for a particular purpose, usually to help with visitation. Lastly, Pulpit Supply Pastors are those hired by the Session for particular Sundays. Presbytery approval is not needed for a Pulpit Supply Pastor, provided the person chosen has been approved overall by the presbytery for preaching within the presbytery.

In our time together, I have served as a Covenant Pastor in which my contract has been for ten hours a week with certain priorities outlining how the ten hours are to be spent. The priorities are set by the Session and agreed to by the pastor.

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED**

The Session has repeatedly asked that Priority 1 be the pulpit. priority 2 -- Moderating the Session and working with some of Session's Committees. Priority 3 has been for some pastoral care. As you can imagine 10 hours a week is not enough to meet these priorities or care for the needs of the church. Session's Committees fill the gaps mightily, but there are still gaps. As an aside, my Homiletics Professor (Preaching) in Seminary thought the planning for worship, the sermon and worship itself should never be less than 20 hours a week. Over time Session has recognized that my usual week exceeds the ten hours and has asked the hours to be increased to 15. We will try it and see.

My pledge to you continues to be biblically based sermons, a diverse and full time of Worship, my availability when needed, oversight of the decisions and operations of the church, and the use of a collaborative approach as we proceed. As to the last item, I believe in a bottoms up approach to problems rather than a top down approach. This means I try not to tell you what to do, even if I see a need and a solution. The solutions and the initiatives to come from you, so that they are yours and will prove to be solutions that work. To that end I have asked the Futures Committee to resume its work in 2021, that we might return to where we were in early 2020 and see where we might go together.

**Rev Archibald Wallace**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

In the early days of the church the 12 Apostles became more and more involved with the day-to-day administration of the new church and realized they needed to spend more time in prayer and preaching. They decided to choose seven men to help them – men who became the first Deacons in the church. The credentials they announced for the job was that all candidates had to be “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” While no one ever really can meet that standard, I was fortunate to be chosen and I served as one of the church's first Deacons.

In time officials of the Jewish church challenged my work and engaged in arguments with me about Christ. In every argument the Holy Spirit enabled me to present Christ's case so that those challenging the truth of Christ could not stand up to my arguments. That hurt them in the eyes of the members of their church, so they stirred up their church folk to speak untruths about me, saying I did not believe in one God and I was against the church.

They wanted to get rid of me. In time they had me seized and tried by the Sanhedrin. False witnesses said I taught that the Temple would be destroyed and that the beliefs taught by Moses were no longer reliable. I was given a chance to respond and Luke has recorded the defense I presented in Acts 7. I ended by calling those who wouldn't believe in Christ, “stiff-necked” and not really true believers.

As they were pronouncing their sentence of guilt upon me, I saw heaven open and I saw Jesus standing there at God's throne. I knew then I was safe, no matter what they might do to my body. Unfortunately, I was stoned to death for my beliefs, beliefs I would not abandon. In time I was called the first martyr of the church. Who am I?

**Rev. Archibald Wallace**

## **JANUARY PW MISSION PROJECT**

Gloria Summers, Mission Chair.

**Blanket Sunday - January 17** is a special mission opportunity that can involve all ages. Blankets enable Church World Services (CWS) to respond to disasters at home and around the world. Please support this worthy cause and **purchase a blanket for \$10.00** in honor or memory of a parent, child, grandchild, friend, pet or what God moves you to do.

Please help us reach our goal of sending 30 blankets to those who need them. A special envelope will be in the bulletin. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women and note Blankets on the memo line.



**“Alone we work, Together we work miracles.”**

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

- ❖ Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers and with cards and calls. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- ❖ Hunger Corner: The Monthly Food Offering will be received on Sunday, January 3. Recipient: DCU Hope Center.

## **SYMPATHY**

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Peggy Baird upon the death of her husband, Donald P. Baird.

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IN MEMORIAM  
DONALD PLEASANTS BAIRD  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1926 - NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
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## **WITNESS AND SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Joseph Chamberlain, Chair.

I was so proud of our church when I delivered 42 Christmas stockings to Salvation Army. Job well done and thanks to all who participated in any way.

Your Witness and Service committee would like your suggestions on how we can be of “service” and “witness” to our congregation and community. Any ideas? Please pass them to me for our consideration. I wish each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Nominating Committee and session have given a great deal of prayer, thought, and research about the proposed reduction of the number of session members.

The action approved by the congregation on October 25, 2020 asked the Nominating Committee to recommend a plan for the reduction of the number of currently serving session members. The committee will recommend the number of elders be reduced from 12 to 9 Elders beginning with the class of 2024.

This decision is based on the reduction in the number of members in the past several years and the advanced age of our membership.

The reduction requires a Congregational Meeting, February 21, 2021. If the congregations approves the recommendation, the request will require the approval of Presbytery under the provisions of the Book of Order.

Please give careful consideration to the recommendations and please feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee if you have questions or concerns.

Blessings,

Bettie Guthrie, co chairman  
Joe Chamberlain  
Eleanor Garrison  
Gloria Summers

Diana Hollars, co-chair.  
Susan Crew  
Gloria Rose

## **January Birthdays**

1 Bill Kropp  
6 Reps Haskins  
12 Linnea Pittman  
15 William Graham, Sr.  
19 Ross Johnson



21 Donna C. Harrison  
23 Karen Graham  
26 Rev. Paul Bonham

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER CHURCH CLOSING REMINDER**

Turn to WTVR Channel 6 to hear if Second Church will be closed for inclement weather.

## **2020 FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>GAIN</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>\$ 18,104.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,069.36</b>	<b>\$ 6,034.64</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$144,978.57</b>	<b>\$124,570.66</b>	<b>\$20,407.91</b>

**Please remember to turn in your Pledge Card!!**

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### **ANNUAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE 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.

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# *Thank You!*

Dear Second Church,

The Family of Phillip Howell is thankful for the calls, cards, prayers, and concern that you showed us upon his tragic death. A heartfelt thank you to each of you.

The Nell Smith Family

The church is beautiful but even more so during the Christmas holidays. Sunday, November 29 was the first Sunday of Advent and we had the Chrismon Tree up and decorated thanks to Susan

*Thank You!*

Lobaugh and Alice Martin. The Men's Group did a fantastic job of getting the tree in place thanks to Carl Guthrie, Mike Campbell and William Spencer.

The windows and fresh greens were decorated Friday, December 11. Thank you to Pattie Bonham, Bettie Guthrie, Susan Lobaugh, Alice Martin and Gloria Summers for their talent to help make the church welcoming and beautiful. Let us never forget Jesus is the reason for the season.

*Thank You!*

## **WHO AM I?**

**Answer: See Acts 7**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIVE RECIPIENTS OF ELDER EMERITUS**

**Alice Martin**

On Nov. 15, as part of our church's 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we honored five gentlemen as Elder Emeritus recipients. Since many of you may not be able to get to church to read the entire resolutions, here are brief sketches about each recipient.

**Rudy Rowland** joined the church in 1945 and served on the Board of Deacons from 1967 to his ordination as Elder in 1985. Rudy was elected Trustee in 2010 and continues to serve in that capacity. He remains a faithful member of the Men's Group. Many will recall his generosity and caring nature by bringing baskets of fresh vegetables from his garden for church members.

**Jerry Ellis** was the youngest church member to serve on the Board of Deacons. He was ordained Elder in 1999 and has chaired several church committees. He also served as Trustee from 2003-2009. Jerry served as Assistant Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 175 and restarted The Men's Group which is still going strong.

**Bill Ellis** ordained as Elder in 2005, has served on several committees until 2016. He is a faithful supporter of The Men's Group, preparing breakfast for their meetings, and is a dutiful helper in the kitchen for the Lenten Luncheons. His work on Witness & Service, especially helping the Salvation Army causes, was exemplary.

**Russell Garrison** was ordained Elder in 1960 – the youngest one at that time. Over the years, he taught Sunday School classes for all ages, and chaired several committees.

Lately, he has delighted our congregation with his Children's Messages sharing his knowledge of road building and his love of nature.

**Donald Baird** joined Second in 1936, was ordained Elder in 1952 and served until 1988. He taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and played on the church's softball team. His love of missions was evident as a founding member of the Men's Mission Group, and in his compelling interest in worldwide, national and local missions. Sadly, we lost this Saint of Second only one week after he was given the special recognition.

All five of these gentlemen have been models of integrity and support for their families, community and this church. We are blessed to have such servants of Christ in our midst.

## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

**Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session**

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Congregational Meeting October 25, 2020 and the Stated Session Meeting October 25, 2020.
- ❖ Received the October Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved the Building and Grounds request for William McCray to serve on the B-G Committee.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds request to have a Men's Group Breakfast on Dec. 17, 2020.
- ❖ Approved the Finance Committee request for the annual Christmas bonus for the church staff.
- ❖ Approved the Worship and Celebration request to have the 2020 Christmas Eve service.
- ❖ Approved the Office and Personnel request to increase the salary for Rev. Wallace.
- ❖ Approved the Clerk of Session request to extend the Covenant Agreement with Rev. Wallace for one year.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>					<b>1</b> Church Office Closed Happy New Year	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering Rec.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship Installation Service for Elder Class 2023	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Blanket Sunday  11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> “What’s First” Articles for Feb. due 12 noon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Session	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship						

“No, this is not the beginning of a new chapter in my life; this is the beginning of a new book! That first book is already closed, ended, and tossed into the seas; this new book is newly opened, has just begun! Look, it is the first page! And it is a beautiful one!”

C. JoyBell C., Author and Poet

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*Address Correction Requested*



*Happy New Year*

TRD BY LAURA

***2021***