

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
January 2024

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. Susie Atkinson

Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie

Mark Stevens

Wendy Stevens

Class of 2024

Bettie Guthrie

Garland Harrison

Venable Johnson

Class of 2025

Alice S. Martin

Kathleen R. Muller

Robert B. Muller

Committees:

Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

Finance/Stewardship

Mark Stevens

Office & Personnel

Garland Harrison

Outreach

Elizabeth Schoeb

Wendy Stevens

Worship/Education

Alice Martin

Venable Johnson



So many people now a days ask the question, "Why should I come to church?" or say things like, "Church is irrelevant." I believe that now, more than ever, we need to be in company of believers. We live in anxious times. No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, you can feel the stress and contention in this country. As Patrick Henry once cried, "[we] cry peace! peace! but there is no peace!" Many are still feeling the pinch of the recession following the pandemic while others are having to retrain for new jobs they never thought about before. As the world shifts from brick and mortar and person to person businesses to online and electronic media, we find ourselves more and more isolated. It's easy to read a report or listen to the news and feel the anxiety rising within every fiber of our bodies and minds. But God has a solution.

Jeremiah, chapter 17, verse 8 states: They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious; and it does not cease to bear fruit. The prophet is reminding us that throughout history the world has experienced good times and bad. However, if we are planted and rooted by the living water, we will not only survive but thrive!

The living water is the Word of God revealed through Jesus Christ. God's word created the heavens and earth and all the creatures in it - including us. Sometimes we forget that we are loved by a gracious and caring God. A God that wants us to thrive, not just survive.

We need others who share our beliefs to remind us that we are not alone - that we do not have to face our struggles by ourselves. We can turn to each other in the dry times for that refreshing drink of water.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: Continued

We can be reassured that God is in the struggle with us. As Christians, we come together to share our burdens and our strengths. The popular song "Lean on Me" says, "We all need somebody to lean on." Sometimes we are the strong ones for others to lean on; sometimes we are the ones who need to lean upon someone else. God reveals God's self through the actions of believers (among many other ways). We come together to "practice" our faith, taking turns being givers and receivers of God's grace.

Let us begin the New Year by returning to the practice of meeting together here at Second Presbyterian and let us thrive under God's love and mercy!

Blessings!
Pastor Susie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INCLEMENT WEATHER CHURCH CLOSING REMINDER: Turn to WTVR Channel 6 to hear if Second Church will be closed for inclement weather.

Thank You!

Thank You!

The church is beautiful but even more so during the Christmas holidays. Sunday, December 3 was the first Sunday of Advent and we had the Chrismon Tree up and decorated thanks to Bettie Guthrie, Susan Lobaugh, Gloria Summers and Alice Martin. Carl Guthrie, Brandy Martin, William Spencer and several members of the Roundtable Group did a fantastic job of getting the tree in place.

Poinsettias and fresh greens were used to decorate the sanctuary on Friday, December 8. Thank you to Pattie Bonham, Alice Kropp, Susan Lobaugh, and Alice Martin and for their talent to help make the church welcoming and beautiful. Let us never forget Jesus is the reason for the season.

Thank You!

JANUARY PW MISSION PROJECT

Gloria Summers, Mission Chair.

Blanket Sunday - January 14 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.**



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.

OUTREACH

Elizabeth Schoeb and Wendy Stevens, Co-Chairs.

- ❖ 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 each Sunday during the month. Recipient: DCU Hope Center.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mark Stevens, Chair.



OCTOBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

	October	Year to Date
Income	\$13,327.00	\$111,916.15
Expenditures	\$10,840.46	\$118,131.65
Gain/Loss	\$ 2,486.54	\$ 6,215.50

2023 Financial Report

	November	Year to Date
Income	\$ 9,397.00	\$121,313.15.
Expenditures	\$25,288.68	\$143,420.33
Loss	\$15,891.68	\$ 22,107.18

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

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 15.

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

Stated Session Meeting November 26, 2023

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting October 22, 2023.
- ❖ Received the October Treasurer's report.
- ❖ **Stated Session Meeting:**
 - ❖ Approved Clerk of Session, Bettie Guthrie for a term of one year.
 - ❖ Postponed Church Treasurer to December.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds request for a heart defibrillator training by Savannah Crew and Kimberly Ann Jones on Saturday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. in McIlwaine Hall.
- ❖ Approved the amended Office and Personnel motion to provide mileage reimbursement for the Choir Director.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel motion to pay Christmas bonuses to Staff.
- ❖ Approved Finance Committee recommendation to send \$1,000 to support covenant with POJ.
- ❖ Approved the Finance Committee 2024 budget.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
JANUARY 2024						
	1 Happy New Year Church Office Closed New Year Holiday	2 10:30 Morning Circle	3	4	5	6
7 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering	8 10:30 Worship Committee	9	10	11	12	13
14 Blanket Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Installation Service for Elders	15	16 “What’s First” Articles for Feb. due 12 noon	17	18	19	20
21 11:00 a.m. Worship	22 11:00 a.m. PWCT Meeting	23 8:00 Men’s Breakfast Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Session	29	30	31			

*Second Presbyterian Church
419 West Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803*

Address Correction Requested

