

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
June 2021

Celebrating 170 years of ministry for Christ

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

Joe Chamberlain

Dennis Harrison

Alice Martin

Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie, Sr.

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

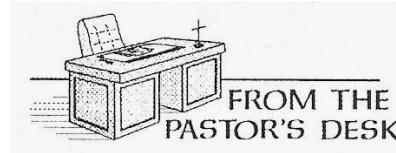
Joe Chamberlain

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship

Mark Stevens



In Psalm 137 is the well-known line, "By the waters of Babylon, we laid down our harps; there we sat and wept when we remembered our former home."

The words come from one of those who had been held in a foreign land against his will as a spoil of war, a man who had just recently returned to his ancestral home in Jerusalem and was remembering the awful time that had just ended. This could be our song today as we begin our return to a new normal following our own Covid-19 exile. We remember how tough these last 15 months have been, where we were confined and separated. We remember the times when we could not sing in joy, the times when we worried about life itself and the times we worried about the risk that waited around the next corner for us and our loved ones. We remember how sad this time was; but it is going. Life can resume; relationships can be restored; we can live and love again. We can see each other again.

The Psalmist remembered that even though 75 years of exile was beyond bad, he and his family had not forgotten their Lord, had not forgotten their home. As the doors open and the restrictions pass, my hope is that none of us has forgotten our Lord or the love of this church for its extended family. My hope is that we can sing out about the faithfulness of our God and the gift of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has never left us. We should all give thanks on our knees that we can return from this exile to the love that is Christ's Church here in Petersburg.

I have missed you dearly; I have prayed for you daily; I have remembered painfully the long time we could not sing our song together. Now, we can come home; let it be a time of rejoicing that we can come into the House of the Lord once more; let it be a time of thanks that we have been preserved, that the Virus did not get us; and let it be a time of hope knowing we can once again look to the future and ask, "Loving God, what do you want us to do here in your church?"

This last line is the best: I look forward to seeing you in the pews again.

THE PREACHER'S CORNER

The schedule for Worship for the month follows. You are encouraged to read the scriptures 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.)

June 6

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; John 7:14-24*
Sermon: "Stop Judging"

June 20, Father's Day

Scriptures: Zechariah 7:8-14*; John 9:35-41*
Sermon: "Hardened Hearts and Spiritual Blindness"

June 13

Scriptures: Matthew 1:1-8; John 8:48-59*
Sermon: "Jesus Declares About Himself"

June 27

Scriptures: Judges 6:11-23; John 11:17-37*
Sermon: "Believing Is Not Always Easy"

WHO AM I?

I am believed to have been one of Jesus' step-brothers. I doubted Jesus at first but ultimately became the Head of the Christian Church in Jerusalem after Jesus died and the Disciples went into the world. Jesus appeared to me personally after his resurrection. Paul spent time with me in Jerusalem after his conversion on the way to Damascus. I was one of the Leaders of the first Church Council in Jerusalem in about 50 AD. I left a book that is now in the New Testament and in it I offer wisdom and behavioral information for Christians, like "be quick to listen," the tongue is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body," and "be patient." Who am I?

Rev. Arch Wallace

Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering JUNE 20, 2021

The Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering supports the Sunnyside Communities Fellowship Fund and provides financial and personal resources for residents who can no longer fully pay their way. In many cases these residents have no other means of support and often no family. This Presbyterian Ministry serves more than 800 older adults in our three retirement communities: Sunnyside in Harrisonburg, Summit Square in Waynesboro and King's Grant in Martinsville. Please make your checks payable to Second Church and on the memo line write Mother's/Father's Day Offering.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSS JOHNSON!!

Ross graduated May 22 from The University of Virginia. He majored in History and the Classics, and is applying for an internship followed by Law School in the near future. Your church family is so proud of you!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator



Our April project “**Chemo Caddies**” was a great success and we hope these items will put a smile on the faces of the cancer patients. Thank you all for all your donations.

Gloria Summers and Susan Andrews holding the quilt that Susan made for “chemo caddies”.

Gloria Summers, PW Mission Chair., delivering 14 “chemo caddies” to the Cancer Center of SRMC.



The May project – **Nickels for Nets** – is a long-time favorite project and your continued good response is heartwarming indeed.

We are waiting to hear more news about **Tri-Cities Workcamp** for this summer. Wanting to be cautious, the current plan is to have one **BIG** day for Workcamp on July 10. More details on how we can help will be coming in the next few weeks, so stay tuned.....

As always, I am so grateful for all you do to make our PW projects a success.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

- ❖ Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card or call. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- ❖ The Monthly Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, June 6**. The recipient for this month is Downtown Churches Food Pantry.

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the families of Suzanne Groux and Denise King upon the death of their brother and Dorothy Riggan upon the death of her nephew, John F. Archer, on April 30, 2021.

Message from the Clerk of Session: Bettie Guthrie

Session is very encouraged by the recent announcement by the CDC and governor that COVID-19 restrictions are being relaxed. Certainly not our old normal but a beginning of our new normal.

We encourage everyone that has not been vaccinated to please get the vaccine. If you have been fully vaccinated, thank you for your effort to help keep everyone healthy.

Wearing a mask is optional (only for those that have been fully vaccinated.) Anyone that has not been fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask and socially distance.

Please be aware of your surroundings and continue to use your own judgement for what is best for you and your health.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

Cyber Session Meeting April 15, 2021

Stated Session Meeting April 25, 2021

Cyber Meeting May 3, 2021

Cyber Meeting April 15, 2021

- ❖ Approved a revised motion (from January 24, 2021) to pay for the boiler and condensation system repair (amount \$11,038.30) from the general fund.

Stated Session Meeting April 25, 2021

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Called Session Meeting March 21, 2021; Stated Session Meeting March 28, 2021 and the Cyber Meeting April 15, 2021.
- ❖ Received the March Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Failed motion from the Finance Committee to invest \$75,000 from the reserve fund with Milestone Financial Services which partners with Mariner Wealth Advisors.
- ❖ Approved the 4th revised motion from Office and Personnel for a contract with Comcast.

Cyber Meeting May 3, 2021

- ❖ Approved Men's Group request to resume their alternate monthly Men's Breakfast and the Pot Luck Lunches.

170th ANNIVERSARY SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND WW2

The years of 1941-1945 were turbulent in America. Second Church was caught up in its own problems. Our pastor, Dr. Daniel Caldwell, resigned on June 30, 1941. For the next 39 Sundays a variety of men filled the pulpit. They included our assistant pastor, student assistants, missionaries on furlough, chaplains from Camp Lee, and pastors from Union Theological Seminary. The bulletin provided warnings, I mean information, on each one to allow members to plan accordingly.

On Mar. 29, 1942, Dr. William McIlwaine (Dr. Mc) was installed as our 10th pastor. Using our bulletins and surviving documents for the war years, I'll describe some of what was happening here. Looking at the bulletins, one would not know of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. It was business as usual until Feb. 8, when a list of 6 more men was included as joining the Defense Service. The bulletin of June 14 declares that the Wed. night prayer service would be "short and sweet" (whatever that means to Presbyterians) to allow members to get home before the blackout.

At the request of the Session, Dr. Mc sent the first letter we have "To our Men in the Service", dated Jan. 21, 1943. At that time 68 men had joined the armed forces, ranging from raw recruits to a Lieutenant Colonel. A Session member had joined up as had sons of four other Session members, including his own son, Robert.

The next letter, dated April 13, 1943 was addressed to "Dear Boys (and Girl) in the Service". There were now 79 men and one girl (Janet Roth, Nurses' Naval Corps) enlisted. He spoke of a reception hosted by the ladies Bible Classes to celebrate his first year as pastor and I quote "Yes, church receptions can be deadly; but they can be delightful too". It makes you wonder what they were up to.

Nov. 10, 1943 is the date of his next letter. It is filled with general news of vacation bible school, Family night carousing, evening services, the weather and letters from two servicemen. Sinclair Womack in Australia is quoted as saying that "T-bone steaks could be had at any time ("Dr. Mc responds "Say, boy, what is a T-Bone steak? "). Joe Best wrote of church services in New Guinea.

Second's Defense Service Committee (DSC), composed of one man and 5 women, wrote the next letter on Feb. 4, 1944. Their count of serving members was 106 men and 4 girls. Mention is made of Miss Margaret Severs (Related to Alice Martin) being hired on Jan. 1 as Director of Religious Education and of the pledges and War bonds totaling over ten thousand dollars to be used to build a Sunday school building. The back of the letter has 110 names of our servicemen and women, in alphabetical order, their rank and branch of service.

March 28, 1944 brings Dr. Mc describing an incident in his back yard to the 112 service members. He and his daughter were in their orchard when 5 of the Navy's newest planes appeared flying low, when one of them wiggled wagged its wings. That was the signal from his son Robert, who was stationed at Norfolk.

The (DSC) penned the next letter on July 22, 1944. They report the bad news received by the pastor from the Navy that his son Robert (Bobby) Dunn McIlwaine was lost in the Battle of Saipan. Judge and Mrs. J.J. Temple were notified by the War Dept. that their son Robert was

missing in action in Western France. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Mayes were also notified that their son John was missing. The number of our service members was now 119 men and 4 girls.

February 5, 1945 is the date of the last letter we have. It is also from the Defense Service Committee. The first paragraph describes a motion picture playing at the Century theatre.

It was called “Winged Victory” and was welcomed with Camp Lee bands and organizations like the American Legion staging a parade on Sycamore Street, really jamming traffic, to quote the writer. It appears Petersburg was experiencing a “Brownout” as temperatures dropped to 10 degrees and all unnecessary lights were to be turned off to conserve coal. The good news was that Judge and Mrs. J.J. Temple received a letter from their son Robert, who was a prisoner of the Germans.

On a sheet of Dr. McIlwaine’s undated stationery is a list of four young men killed in the war.

John Burns Mayes - Navy/ on a submarine in the S. Pacific/ Missing since July 1, 1944.

Ensign Robert Dunn McIlwaine – Navy Air Corps/ Killed in action June 12, 1944, over Saipan in the South Pacific.

Staff Sgt. Elmer Lewis McKesson – Killed in action while serving with the 83rd Infantry in France, July 12, 1944.

Radio Gunner John A. Mann – Army Air Corps/Missing since Jan. 2, 1945 after a flight over Germany.

October 1, 1944’s bulletin includes an “In Memory of” entry which includes Robert Dunn McIlwaine and Elmer Lewis McKesson.

In the May 13, 1945 bulletin, the deaths of Elmer McKesson and John Mann are listed as are Grant C. Crumpler, Robert M. Friend Jr. , William W. Lawhon, R. Duncan Mann, John W. Moore and Woodrow W. Moore, wounded in action.

The Sept. 9, 1945 bulletin reports word was received that John Albert Mann, reported missing for many months was killed Jan. 2, 1945.

If you would like copies of the letters let me know.

Susan Lobaugh, Historian

WHO’S IN THE NEWS



Martha Epes Johnson, known to all as **Mepes**, was recently celebrated in the *InsideNOVA* newspaper for her many years of coaching. “Mepes is in a league of her own as Prince William’s longest serving high school coach”. In her first week as a teacher in 1971, she was chosen to be the new JV girls basketball coach. From there, she went on to coach the varsity team. Then, on to golf, tennis – boys & girls, swimming- boys & girls, volleyball, and girls’ soccer. 8 is enough! she decided. Mepes has coached at Unity Reed School (formerly Stonewall Jackson) for forty-nine years with only one year off to help care for her dear mother, Martha, a long-time member of Second. “To stay at the same school so long is a rarity these days”. Both staff and students joined in to say how valuable she has been to the school. Congratulations, Mepes!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Alice Martin, Chair.

170th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are looking forward to celebrating our 170th Anniversary on November 14, 2021. The Worship Committee would like to invite our former members and friends to share in this special occasion with us. Please submit names and addresses of people you would like to receive an invitation to the church office. Our phone number 804-732-6531 and our email is secondpres1851@comcast.net as soon as possible.

I REMEMBER: Gloria Rose

Hope everyone has enjoyed reading the “I Remember” columns in the past few months. It has been a *memory booster* to look back as we prepare for our 170th anniversary in November. By looking back as we look forward, we have decided to publish a new edition of our **Advent Devotional** and distribute it on November 14 when so many of our friends, family, and familiar faces from the past join with us to celebrate. This devotional guide has proven so popular and inspirational that we know you will be eagerly awaiting our call to share your thoughts and seasonal messages.

EDUCATION & NURTURE COMMITTEE: Gloria Rose, Chair.

DASH for Camp Hanover. No, don’t get your running shoes, it’s not that kind of **DASH**. Camp Hanover will welcome campers back on June 20. How can you embrace your inner camper and be a part of the Camp Hanover spirit?

Donate to make sure this is a safe, fun and amazing summer for the kids. Why is money needed? Added equipment and materials, PPE and specialized health camp supplies, extra canoe paddles, balls, outdoor cooking gear, touch less faucets, and hand sanitizer stations.

Ask your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors if there are any children who need the opportunity to practice being the person God created them to be; who need the chance to be loved and practice sharing God’s love with others.

Serve by volunteering to take care of the 620 acres and 40 buildings that make up Camp Hanover. Trails need to be cleared and maintained. The recreation fields have to be mowed; wood chips have to be spread. A couple of hours, a couple of days—how much could you pitch in?

Help in any way you can. You can help by going to Camp Hanover’s Amazon Wish List, select an item and have it delivered straight to Camp Hanover. You can help by spreading the word or you can help by sponsoring a child’s camp experience.

Want to know more about Camp Hanover, check out info@CampHanover.org or call 804-779-2811. Camp Hanover is located at 3163 Parsley’s Mill Road, Mechanicsville, VA. 23111.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRADUATE INFORMATION If your child or you will graduate from College, Technical School, Graduate School or any other school, please call the church office and let Becky know what school your child or you will graduate from and what degree you will receive. Thank you for your help!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, June 6.

JUNE LITURGISTS

June 6 Karen Wright
June 13 Gloria Rose

June 20 Mike Wright
June 27 Ven Johnson

FELLOWSHIP POT-LUCK LUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

12 NOON

SPONSORED BY: PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP



BIRTHDAYS – June 2021

1	Wayne Tucker	11	Michael Wright	25	Bill Ellis
3	W. Dale Nichols		Harry D. Baird, IV	26	Pat Shaffner
4	Lindsay Gray	15	Derek Groux	29	Jay Peterson
5	Emily Martin	16	Katharine Snavely		

APRIL FINANCE REPORT

	April	Year to Date
Donations	\$25,041.50*	\$77,917.52
Expenditures	\$20,263.51	\$57,727.83
Gain/Loss	\$ 4,777.99	\$20,189.69



***Includes \$15,500 received from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan.**

Who Am I? Answer: James

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATES

- Masks are optional, if fully vaccinated, to enter and/or remain in the building.
- Entry will be only through the parking lot door, which will be controlled by an elder.
- 6 feet distancing will be required for individuals or families.
- Liturgists may participate from the Pulpit. Minute for Missions may be done from the floor with the hand-held microphone.
- Bulletins will be available at the beginning of worship at the back sanctuary entrance.
- Hymns, creeds, and confessions may be undertaken without masks on. Standing when singing and creeds is permitted without masks on. (Masks are optional)
- Hymn books may not be shared.
- Offering plates will not be passed, but members will be encouraged to put their gifts in the offering plate before or after worship.
- No touching, hugging, or handshaking is permitted.
- The choir will not practice or sing, but soloists may perform from the balcony. Hand Bells will be allowed to perform at the discretion of the Choir Master, John Michael Jones.
- Updated 05.23.21

MEN'S GROUP SAVE THE DATES

Carl Guthrie

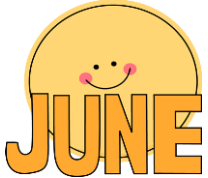
Because of the recent relaxing of the COVID-19 restrictions by the CDC and the governor, Session has approved our bi-monthly breakfast and Pot Luck lunch schedule. Please save the dates for the following:

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Tuesday, May 25	Sunday, June 20
Tuesday, July 27	Sunday, August 15
Tuesday, September 28	Sunday, October 17
Tuesday, November 23	Sunday, December 12

Men's Group will furnish the meat, beverage and dessert. Now all you have to bring is your favorite dish, your charming self, and enjoy our church family reunion...feel free to bring a friend!

Please be aware of your surroundings and continue to use your own judgement for what is best for you and your health. Anyone that has not been vaccinated must continue to wear a mask and social distance.

Please plan to join us and help our church return to some degree of normal. Thanking God for our many blessings during these trying times.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June</h1>		1	2	3	4	5
		6 Communion Sunday 11:00 Worship: Monthly Food Offering Received	7	8	9	10
13 11:00 Worship	14	15 Presbytery of the James Meeting <i>Virtual</i>	16 12 noon “ <i>What’s First</i> ” Articles for July/August due.	17	18	19
20 Father’s Day 11:00 Worship Mother’s/Father’s Day Offering Received 12:15 Fellowship Lunch	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	28	29	30	<h1>2021</h1> 		

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
419 W. WASHINGTON STREET
PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23803**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A father is neither an anchor to hold us
back, nor a sail to take us there, but a
guiding light whose love shows us the way.

June 20, 2021

