

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
March 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

Joseph 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

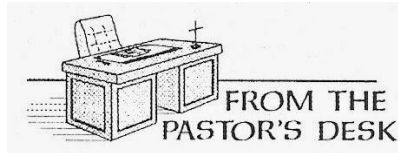
Joseph Chamberlain

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship

Mark Stevens



There is one advantage to these times when we are forced to isolate. There is more time for study and contemplation.

Recently in reading Galatians

1:11-20 as part of a study of Paul, Paul gave a brief review of his Damascus Road experience and the times immediately after.

From Damascus he writes he went immediately into Arabia. I wondered why? Sure, it was safer, especially because the Jews in Damascus were unhappy with this zealot for orthodoxy and his new zeal for Jesus. But a better answer seems to be that Paul

needed time to sift through what the coming of Jesus really

meant for a people waiting for the Messiah. The Messianic

expectation of the Jews was that heaven and earth would

somehow continue to be joined through the Torah (the first five

books of the Bible) and the Temple. The Messiah who was to

come would re-emphasize both, and to do that a national leader

was envisioned. Among the Jews there were differing versions of

how this might be accomplished. In the Damascus Road event

Paul saw for the first time that heaven and earth would be joined

together by the living Christ, not in a place, and not by a book.

This revolutionary idea, this concept of Emmanuel—of God with

us, was so far from where Paul had been, that he needed the time

to reflect and sort out his views. The safe time in Arabia gave

him that opportunity.

We too are in a timeout, like Paul's Arabian experience. We have

time to think, we have time to read, to seek answers, to distill the

wheat from the chaff, to dig to new depths. Maybe, just maybe,

this is the lemonade this lemon of a virus has given us. As

Christians committed to the One true God as revealed in Christ,

we have promised to study and to think, to grow and to build up,

to seek and to find. Soon, this time will be over, and hopefully, if

we have used the time wisely as Paul did, we will return to the

Damascus of our lives, armed and ready to share the Christ we

follow, as he has commanded.

SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP

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.)

March 7, Lenten Series

The Last Eight Days – The Monday Before

Scriptures: Isaiah 56:1-2, 7-8

Matthew 21:12-17*

Sermon: A House of Prayer

March 21, Lenten Series

The Last Eight Days - The Thursday Before

Scriptures: Mark 14:27-41

John 13:24-38*

Sermon: I Would Never Do That

March 14, Lenten Series

The Last Eight Days – The Tuesday Before

Scriptures: Luke 20:27-40

Luke 20:1-8*

Sermon: A Day of Controversy

March 28, Palm Sunday

The Last Eight Days - The Sunday Before

Scriptures: Revelation 7:9-15

John 12:12-19*

Sermon: Still Coming?

WHO AM I?

I wrote two books that are now part of the New Testament, although when I wrote them, they were one long book. When divided, one of the books explains who Christ was and is, while the other is a description of what the disciples of Christ were doing, how they were not a threat to Rome. Some believe my writings served as an apology for Paul, a pre-trial brief written when he was in prison awaiting trial in Rome. I was a companion of Paul and a close friend. I traveled with him on some of his journeys. You will find in my writings the only reports of the stories of the Rich Fool, the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep, and the Pharisee and the Publican. I was often acknowledged to be a doctor because of my careful descriptions of the illnesses people had. My writings today encourage evangelism and they contain the universal message of salvation. Who Am I?

Rev. Archibald Wallace

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

- * Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a cards and calls. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- * The Monthly Food Offering received Sunday, March 7. Recipient: DCU Hope Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MEMORIAL LILIES



Lilies will be used to decorate McIlwaine Hall for Easter. Call the church office by **Friday, March 26** to notify Becky of your memorial listing.

Please have your lilies at the church by **10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 2.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Easter Sunday, April 4.**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator

It seems the weather and COVID have conspired to put a damper on Blanket Sunday this year forcing us to close the church week after week. However, our wonderful congregation knows what an important project this is, and has sent in contributions over \$330 so far. The cold days and nights we have had help remind us how important a warm blanket is to people – young and old- all around the world. Thank you all for caring and contributing!



COOKIES FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



This year we have been so thankful for all those men and women who come quickly to our aid when we need them.

A special Valentine thank-you was certainly in order for these wonderful EMS men and women. The cookies were a great hit and as you can see, brought lots of SMILES.

THANK YOU

A SPECIAL THANK YOU from our first responders at the Southside Virginia Emergency Crew for the delicious cookies.

PW MARCH MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers

Now we move on to the March mission which is food collection for Martha Merritt. Mrs. Merritt is a Petersburg saint who has been helping provide food for the poor of our city for many years. We have recently added her outreach to our list of PW mission projects as she does a wonderful job of helping those who need it most. Please place non-perishable foods in the baskets in the back hallway. As always, I thank each one of you for helping to make our mission work a success.

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Gloria Dance upon the death of her husband, Walter Dance, to the family of Wayne Tucker upon the death of his brother, Larry Tucker, and to the family of Martha Churn upon the death of her son-in-law, Phillip Brown.

IN MEMORIAM
WALTER FORREST DANCE, III
JUNE 27, 1931 - FEBRUARY 1, 2021

WHO AM I? Answer: Luke

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Alice Martin, Chair.



The liturgical season of Lent began on Feb. 17 this year, so we will be several weeks into it by the time you receive this issue of *What's First*. For the past **60 years**, (can you believe it?!) we have depended on our Wednesday Lenten services and our Maundy Thursday service to help us focus on the weeks leading up to Easter. However, the pandemic and the restrictions it has brought, prevents us having these special services this year.

It is still important to prepare ourselves for the glorious Easter Sunday we will celebrate on April 4. The Worship Committee encourages each of you especially to take note of the scriptures Rev. Wallace sets out for us each week. They are listed in *What's First* and in the weekly church bulletins. Read those passages over several times, then take a moment to quietly pray for understanding. It is wonderful to have the weekly sermons on the church's website to give us further insight to God's word. Scripture verses that are read at the Maundy Thursday service are listed below:

1. The Shadow of Betrayal - Mark 14:10-13, 16-21
2. The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit and the Arrest – Luke 22: 39-51
3. The Shadow of Denial – Luke 22: 54-62
4. The Shadow of Accusation – Mark 15:1-15
5. The Shadow of Mockery – Matthew 27:27-31
6. The Shadow of Crucifixion – Luke 23: 32-43
7. The Shadow of Death and Burial – Mark 15:33-39, John 19:38-42

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Our Easter Sunday Service will probably be held in McIlwaine Hall while repairs on the heating system continue. However, we will continue our tradition of having memorial lilies, and bringing fresh flowers for the “flower cross”. Lilies should be sent to the church by Friday, **April 2**. Names of those to be listed “IN MEMORIAM” in the bulletin should be given to Becky by **March 26, (tel.732-6531)**. Please bring fresh flowers for the cross when you come Easter Sunday morning.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Alice Martin
Savannah Crew
10 Gloria Dance
Anne Wright
14 Caleb Gill
Janet Campbell
18 Allison S. Lewis



21 Shirley Laffoon
Dianne Hack
22 Allison S. Autrey
23 John Schoeb, Jr.
Malcolm Squires, Jr.
25 Susan W. Crew
Kim Jones
26 Nona Wartella

I REMEMBER...by Gloria Rose

I remember Second Presbyterian Church in the 1950s through the eyes of a child.

I remember the two-story Manse that stood on the south side of the church where the garden ends. I remember Dr. Vaughan's and Mrs. Cozzens's office and the nursery in the back. I remember the parlor where Sue Vaughan, Kay Temple, Win Winston, Patsy Sneed, and I spent Saturday mornings in Confirmation classes with Dr. Vaughan. And, I remember the narrow staircase to the second floor where Miss Margaret had her office. I can still close my eyes and hear the sound of her voice and of her laugh.

I remember entering the back hall through the Lafayette Street door and feeling the coolness of that dark hallway with the beautiful split staircase to the upstairs. I remember the small church library tucked into what is now the Audio room. I remember the smell of floor polish and furniture polish that Mr. Sydney used to keep everything shiny and bright.

I remember the original McIlwaine Hall with the curved outer wall and the small kitchen off the great room. I remember all of the many dinners we used to have, some potluck, but there were also the Sunday night dinners before evening service. One week there would be toasted cheese sandwiches and cups of tomato soup; the next week would be Presbyterian hotdogs (boiled until done), and hot chocolate. Either night you would have a scalded tongue, but we were all together as family preparing for worship.

I remember two-week Vacation Bible School. There was a delivery of ice cream every day from Shorty's, but it was the dry ice that drew the boy's attention. At the conclusion of each VBS there was a Commencement Ceremony and each age group, from the Kindergarten to the Pioneers provided entertainment. Kindergarten children sang songs accompanied by instruments they had made: drums from oatmeal boxes, rattles from cups filled with beans, or bells tied to shoe strings, whatever Mrs. Peebles could engineer. Pioneers usually had a one act play.

I remember the Junior Choir. How grown up we felt in our white robes and allowed to sit in the corner of the balcony. Sometimes we had the echo part to the adult choir and sometimes we had our own piece. We knew we had to behave, however, because not only could our parents see us, but so could every member of the choir. In those days, I knew I was just as subject to being called down by Mrs. Pritchett, Mrs. Dillinger, Mrs. Lewis, or any number of my mama's friends. Worse yet was to be caught by Dr. Billy McIlwaine. We may all have been children of God, but there was an entire congregation of mothers and fathers to set us straight.

I remember all of the dedicated people who accepted the responsibility of teaching Sunday School. The weeks of memorizing children's hymns and Bible verses. The stars received for being able to name all the books of the Bible and all of the disciples. So many years have passed but I can still remember some of Junior Catechism; I definitely can recite the 23rd and 100th Psalm, but only the King James Version.

I remember the people, the smells, the pictures in my mind, the foundation I received for the rest of my life. I hope these strong walls, old floors and memories of people who have inhabited them, will continue to stand for another 170 years and that many more children will have the opportunity to know our Lord and His love for us through the wonderful people who worship here today. I thank all of you who were part of my memories and helped me form my relationship with the Son, the Father, and the Holy Ghost.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session
Stated Session Meeting January 24, 2021.
Called Session Meetings February 8 and February 12, 2021


- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting December 20, 2020 and Cyber Meetings January 7, 2021, January 13, 2021 (1), January 13, 2021 (2).
- ❖ Received the December Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved Clerk of Session, Bettie Guthrie, for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved Church Treasurer, Susan Crew, for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved 2020 Statistical Report.
- ❖ Approved Wendy Stevens to audit the 2021 church accounting records.
- ❖ Approved Finance to apply for a second round of funding through the SBA, pending eligibility.
- ❖ Approved Commissioner, Alice Martin to attend the virtual POJ meeting Feb. 20, 2021.
- ❖ Approved Congregational Care Committee members.
- ❖ Approved Finance Committee members.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel members.
- ❖ Approved Witness and Service Committee members.
- ❖ Approved Worship and Celebration Committee members.
- ❖ Approved February 7 as Boy Scout Sunday.
- ❖ Approved Communion dates for 2021.
- ❖ Approved Southern Air proposal for new boiler.
- ❖ Approved Sunday School Curriculum.
- ❖ Approved Mark Stevens as chairman of 2021 Stewardship Committee.
- ❖ Approved the additional monthly expense associated with the lease of the office copy machine.
- ❖ Approved Wendy Stevens as co-chairman of the 2021 Nominating Committee.
- ❖ Approved May 9 for the Installation of the Elder Class of 2023.
- ❖ Approved the unison reading of the Blessing at the close of Sunday Worship.
- ❖ Approved the date change of Communion and Boy Scout Sunday from February 7, 2021 to February 14, 2021.
- ❖ Approved the new contract with Comcast for the office telephone and internet service.

JANUARY 2021 FINANCE REPORT

	January	Year to Date
Donations	\$13,349.00	\$13,349.00
Expenditures	\$13,474.01	\$13,474.01
Gain/Loss	\$-125.01	\$-125.01



I am pleased to report that the Small Business Administration has approved the church's application for forgiveness of the \$15,500 Paycheck Protection Program loan. These funds helped us to end 2020 in the black. Karen Graham, Co-Chair, Finance Committee

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13 Turn Clocks forward 1 hour
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	15	16	17  12 noon <i>What's First</i> Articles due for <u>April</u>	18	19	20
21 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	29	30	31	March 2021		



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night. Spring Forward!!

Second Presbyterian Church
419 W. Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803

Address Service Requested

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28 - Begin Holy Week with Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Good Friday, April 2

10:00 a.m. Lilies delivered to the church to be placed in McIlwaine Hall for worship.

Easter Sunday, April 4 - We continue celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.

9:45 a.m. Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received

Reminder: Bring fresh flowers for cross in McIlwaine Hall.