

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
May 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

Susan Crew

Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

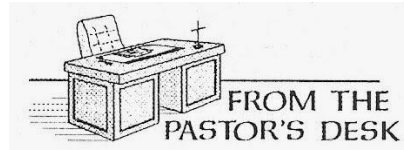
Witness & Service

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship

We have not been together for way too long, and I have missed our communion. My prayer each day is that none of us contracts the deadly disease that is circulating and that we all can meet again together in God's house.



To move us toward a new normal, we have started a process of Virtual

Worship by creating a new website and recording a new sermon there each week. We next plan to add *A Time for Children* using short vignettes with object lessons within a few days and we have begun the development of a week day Bible study of the Gospel of John. I hope all of you that can will access our new site: <https://secondprespetersburg.org/> I want to meet you there and I want you to tell your friends. Maybe, others will be helped in this difficult time by our witness.

In the meantime, I want to share with you a thought from the Easter Season that rarely gets attention because of the focus on Palm Sunday and Easter itself. In John 13 at the Feast of the Passover, or as we call it –The Last Supper, Jesus got up during supper, took a towel and a basin of water, and began washing his disciples' feet. They protested, but he continued. When he finished Jesus told His disciples, since I did this for you, then you ought to do it for one another. Foot-washing was the lowest of jobs. It was done by servants or slaves, not by the Lord of the house or the Lord of all.

But Jesus was saying to them, this is an example of what I want of you, that you serve each other!

This is a time when we need to remember all who serve, who reach out, who remember, who care for us. And, we ought to remember Christ's challenge to each of us to be servants for others -- not by taking risks, but by telephone, by notes, by the internet, by a remembrance. I saw two of you planting a new garden, another mowing the grass, another taking food, another checking on a sick member. The list is long and growing. On television we see the first responders and the health care workers. Thank God for their service, and, thank God for your service.

As Ecclesiastes 3 teaches, there is a time for everything under the sun, and this virus too shall pass, but our love for each other and our service must never end, just as God's love for each of you will never end.

THE PREACHER'S CORNER: Rev. Arch Wallace

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.)

May 3

Scriptures: Exodus 18:1, 6-9, 13-24; John 6:1-7*
Sermon: You Can't Do It All

May 10, Mother's Day

Scriptures: Psalm 119:1-8; John 14:1-14*
Sermon: The Way, The Truth, The Life

May 17

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-21; John 13:33-35*
Sermon: Jesus' New Commandment

May 24

Scriptures: Joshua 1:1-6, 10-11, 16-18; John 17:1-11*
Sermon: Finishing

May 31, Pentecost Sunday

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30*
Sermon: I Wish All Were Prophets



PW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers

May 24- Networker's "Nickels for Nets" is a malaria prevention program.

Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds making it the most common cause of death among children in Africa and the second leading cause of death among children in Asia. This year 700,000 children, most under age 5, will die from malaria. These children can be protected by sleeping under a mosquito net. **Every \$10 collected** provides a mosquito net and malaria prevention education for a family in sub-Saharan Africa. Make your checks payable to **Presbyterian Women** and on the Memo line add *Nickels for Nets*. PLEASE HELP!!!

THANK YOU

To: Second Church Family,

Words can't express our feeling toward you all. We never felt such love and compassion that you all showed when we lost our loved one, Moses. We do love you all so much. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Love, The Tucker, Gholson and Heath Families

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Recognizing that area churches would begin to experience some financial difficulties given the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presbytery of the James issued Inspire checks to its churches. Second was the recipient of a \$2,000 check for which we are extremely grateful and have acknowledged the same to Presbytery. This will certainly assist us in trying to meet our expenses which continue to come in. This \$2,000 donation was not received until April so it is not reflected in the March figures being reported here.

Additionally, the church applied for and just received notification that it has been awarded a SBA Payroll Protection Program loan/grant. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The program is designed to provide small employers, including non-profits and churches, with immediate access to cash to allow them to survive the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The loans convert into grants if certain criteria are met, which includes that at least 75 percent of the loan eligible for forgiveness must be used for payroll costs with other eligible costs being rent/mortgages and utilities.

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us. I hope you continue to be safe and healthy.

Karen Graham and Susan Crew, Co-Chair, Finance Committee

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

	DONATIONS	EXPENDITURES
March	\$ 9,387.00	\$11,092.95
YEAR TO DATE	\$34,510.52	\$35,487.43
Losses	(\$1,705.95)	(\$976.91)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan

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.

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of David Glass upon the death of his mother, Ruth Glass and to the family of Karen Wright upon the death of her sister, Donna Buckles.

IN MEMORIAM

RUTH CROOK GLASS

January 23, 1925 - April 4, 2020

OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Pattie Bonham
Church Staffing During the Shutdown

As all of you know we have been in shutdown mode since it was mandated by our governor and implemented by subsequent guidelines issued by our presbytery. What you probably don't know is what has really been going on with our church staff and office during this situation.

Although the church is officially closed to gatherings of 10 or more the office is open to those who need to stop by for quick drop-offs or other simple errands that do not involve a grouping of people. A number of faithful members have stopped by to leave their weekly offerings which is so appreciated. Also, collections of food and supplies continue as givers are able to respond to this increasing need in our community. Please feel free to stop by during normal office hours but be advised to call ahead to verify that someone will be here. Our staff, most of whom are in the vulnerable older adult category, must have the flexibility to see to their own needs which may require that they not be on hand exactly at normal office hours, so do call ahead before coming. Also, please remember to follow CDC guidelines and maintain appropriate social distancing and wear a face mask if possible.

As our church staff continue to work throughout the shutdown here's a sample of what they've been up to:

Pastor Arch has been providing us with a weekly online worship opportunity that shares scripture, prayer and a sermon for the week. In addition, he stays well ahead of the worship schedule by selecting texts and preparing sermons for worship services in future weeks. He has been called upon to officiate at funerals and remains in touch remotely with those in need of pastoral care. His duties as moderator of session continue with session's online cyber meetings several of which have taken place during the shutdown.

Music Director, John Michael, has been planning music selections for our choir and handbells into the next few months and conducting his own practicing in the meantime. This has to be done in co-ordination with the texts and sermons planned by Arch so John Michael has been moving forward in step with that.

Our Administrative Assistant, Becky, has been very busy with the church's new membership database system. The recent conversion from the old software system allowed the new system to be populated with the names of all of our members but didn't format that data, so Becky has to manually identify each member, link that with a family unit, and verify and update all related information for that member. Happily, she has been assisted by Kay Snavely who attended the database training session with her. Also during the shutdown Becky and Susan Lobaugh have been temporarily deputized by the Finance Committee to serve as counters to handle our weekly contributions which are deposited at the bank and then recorded in the new database. Lastly, Becky and Susan are also updating the church register book with manual entries that record births, deaths, marriages, baptisms, confirmations and ordinations for our members.

Sexton, William Spencer, always has opportunities beyond his weekly cleaning routines. Just like our own houses the church building has deep cleaning needs that may not be tended to on a weekly basis but have to be seen to as time permits. The shutdown affords just that opportunity.

-Continued on Back-

OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – CONTINUED

Church Staffing During the Shutdown

Treasurer, Susan Crew, continues to keep our bank accounts current and handles all payroll and bill paying obligations. She stops by the office weekly at least and continues to update and produce the reports that the Finance Committee requires for monitoring our church's fiscal situation, a critical function during this period of financial uncertainty.

Although the church isn't the buzzing beehive that it normally is, you can see our staff remain committed to critical work and their continued efforts during this time of uncertainty and potential peril are greatly appreciated. A big thank you to them all!

DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?: Bettie Guthrie

In an effort to reach out to our congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic an email was sent out to our What's First group email members asking if there was anyone willing to help make face masks. Dee Hargrave was the first to respond and she offered to help and delivered 12 to me in the church parking lot (we maintained social distancing) within two days...amazing! Congregational Care chairman, Dorothy Riggan and I went through the pictorial to try and come up with a triage list of folks we felt were the most vulnerable and then phoned each person to ask if they had a mask. Several did and several did not. Those without a mask were most grateful to receive the gift of love from Dee. Gloria Summers is in the process of making 12 more...still have a few folks on the waiting list. If you need a mask please contact me (861.8490) and we will arrange to send/deliver a face mask to you.

We have provided a face mask for the staff and those that frequent the church for their safety.

Please stay healthy and safe.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

6	Carolyn Cole	18	Jenna Autrey Zufelt
10	Eleanor Garrison		Reeves A. Dance
	Margaret Smith	21	John W. Spence
	Ron Jones	23	William Spencer
11	Marlee A. Dance	27	Kathy Traylor
	Mary Tucker	28	Heather Gill
13	Dorothy W. Holmes	31	Jeanne Johnson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Address as of May 1: Jerry & Carole Ellis
6216 Great Swan Lane
Chester, VA 23831

WEB-SITE UPDATE

Our world was turned upside down in March with the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic in Virginia. March, 2020. With our church services cancelled through June 1 (subject to change) it was necessary to have a platform that will help our church family stay connected. We now have an interim web-site that will make the weekly sermons available each Sunday morning. In addition, we have several families that do not have a computer but do have a video player. We deliver a CD with Arch's sermon to these families weekly. Please let us know how we can help you stay connected to your church family and if there is anything you need during this "new normal."

Blessings,
Carl Guthrie
861.8490

CLERK OF SESSION UPDATE: Bettie Guthrie

My goodness what a creative group of session members we have. Who knew it would take the announcement from our governor that COVID-19 was in Virginia and all places of worship should shutter their church doors indefinitely. The first question was how do we stay connected to our church families? How can we help with their safety? How do we have session meetings? How do we carry on the business of the church when we are required to have social distancing and no more than 10 people in a group? So here is the answer FAITH.

We stay connected through the web-site with weekly sermons, phone calls, emails.
We are providing face masks to those without.
Our business meetings are now cyber meetings.

Your church is functioning extremely well under the circumstances and we are grateful to each of you for your prayers and support. Please continue to keep your church and session in your prayers.

PENTECOST OFFERING – MAY 31

“God, from my youth you have taught me.” Psalm 71:17

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is about helping young people begin life with a strong start - a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. It gives Second Church the opportunity to use 40% of the offering to minister to our own community.

Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering on **May 31**. Your gifts will have an impact now and in the future! Make your checks payable to **Second Presbyterian Church** and on the Memo line add *Pentecost Offering*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2020					1	2
3 Worship: See web page https://secondprespetersburg.org/	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day Worship: See web page https://secondprespetersburg.org/	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship: See web page https://secondprespetersburg.org/	18	19	20 12:00 "What's First" Articles for June due	21	22	23
24 Worship: See web page https://secondprespetersburg.org/	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pentecost Sunday Worship: See web page https://secondprespetersburg.org/ Pentecost Offering Received						

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

Address Service Requested

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

Written in Flanders on May 3, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



*All we have of freedom,
All we use or know,
This our fathers bought for us
Long, long ago.
-- Rudyard Kipling*