

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
May 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

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

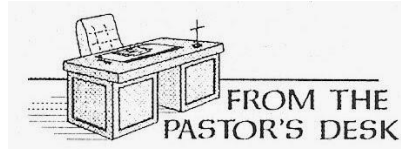
Joseph Chamberlain

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship

Mark Stevens



A time away is both a joy and a sadness, even for a Covenant Pastor limited by the hours of our contract. For the time and the refreshing, we thank you; for the absence and the worry that you would all be OK, the time has passed, and we are back.

This year I used some of the time to revisit a book read 25 years ago, but still fresh and important. The book is, "Invitation to Love," by Fra. Thomas Keating. Keating was a Trappist Monk, head of an abbey in Massachusetts, who called his readers to "live their ordinary lives with extraordinary love." He was an advocate of a spirit filled life who encouraged Christians to live their lives not "focused inwardly" but "focused outwardly." Among the approaches he has discovered to help reach this extraordinary way of life is the concept of "Centering Prayer," where he asks his readers to come face to face with our hidden motivations—those subconscious, pre-rational, emotional controls imbedded in our psyche from childhood. Once confronted, he urges us to pray that we might be freed to live Christ totally. It's a great book, a short read, and it can change the way you live your life.

One of the truths Keating shares is that our faith journey is different from all the other faiths of the world. We don't worship an idol; we don't have to unravel gods who are intertwined and capricious, and sometimes mean; and, we don't have a works driven faith, where we have to do something a certain number of times a day to be acceptable to God. We are acceptable to God, because God loves us and knows us.

Keating addressed this "known by God" concept in *Invitation to Love*. There he reminds us of these truths about that love:

- We are in a relationship with God, a relationship that God seeks.
- We are accepted by God, no matter what.
- God loves us, just as we are.
- We are under God's care.
- God knows us, even our deepest thoughts.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK - CONTINUED

- We are called to respond to God, to be faithful to God's lead.
- Each of us is special and unique in God's sight.
- God will never break the relationship, even if we do.

When we know we are loved, we can let go and let the Holy Spirit help us to fill our being with the model of Christ.

All of this came from one little book during a few days away. I thank you for giving me time to re-charge. Now, I offer Keating to you. You will be surprised!

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 2

Scriptures: Exodus 16:1-8; John 6:1-13*

Sermon "The Bread of Heaven-The Third Sign"

May 9, Mother's Day

Scriptures: Job 9:1-10; John 6:16-24*

Sermon "Peace in a Storm"

WHO AM I?

When I was 12, I became King of Israel. The Bible described me as one who "did evil in the sight of the Lord." I was awful. I rebuilt the high places and put false gods in them. I made images in wood that I worshipped. I even worshipped the stars and the moon and the signs in the heavens. God spoke to me, asking me to stop, but I would not listen. Finally, the Lord brought the Assyrian Army against me and I was taken captive and brought to Babylon. There, I recognized my failures and especially my rejection of God; it was then and there that I humbled myself before God and prayed for my forgiveness. There, God heard my prayers and forgave me. Soon, God returned me to Israel. When I got there, I destroyed all the false gods and idols I could find and asked Israel to return to God with me. They did and we were both blessed.

The point of the story is that even when we reject God, even when we follow false gods, we can still be saved, if we repent and give ourselves over to God. This is also the message Christ brought to us in his journey to the cross and when he was raised on Easter morning. May Easter continue in your hearts!

Who Am I?

Rev. Arch Wallace



PRESYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator

As eager as we are to get together again, we will plan to wait until September to start our monthly meetings. Our mission work continues, and we are grateful we can do that. Our **March** project to collect **food for our local needy citizens** was a great success! Unfortunately, Martha Merritt has had to give up her long-time charity work providing food to those in need, so **Susan Lobaugh** delivered the 18 bags of food contributed by **your wonderful church members**, to the DCU Hope Center!!

Our **April** project- **CHEMO CADDIES** -is in progress as I write this. Many items have been collected already, but please look on the table in the back hallway to see the **fabulous quilts Susan Andrews has made** to go in the "chemo caddies". Thank you, Susan, and all others who have contributed to this project. Feedback from the Cancer Center staff confirms that their patients are so grateful for the extra caring attention given to them. It puts a bright spot in their day.

PW SPRING GATHERING

MAY 1

ZOOM MEETING- here is the link to register before April 28

<https://bit.ly/pwpoj2021>

**The spring offering will be given to
CARES of Petersburg!**

**Please send your offering to your circle moderator or directly to the church.
Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Women* with "CARES" on memo line.**

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



PW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers

May 30- 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

Dear Rev. Wallace & My Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the prayers on my behalf, the cards, calls and flowers I received during my recent illness. I had the support of my family and friends both near and far and I thank God for all the hospital employees that looked after me. I feel much better as I recover at home. I am most grateful to be a part of this loving and caring church family.

God is good. Great is His faithfulness.

Bless you all.

Dorothy Riggan

PENTECOST OFFERING – MAY 23

“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 **May23**. 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*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Karen Graham and Susan Crew, Co-Chair.

The church applied for and just received notification that it has been awarded a second SBA Paycheck Protection Program loan/grant in the amount of \$15,500. 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. As with the first loan, we anticipate that it will convert into a grant, if certain criteria are met. This requires that at least 75 percent of the loan eligible for forgiveness is used for payroll costs with other eligible costs being rent/mortgages and utilities.

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

MARCH FINANCE REPORT

	March	Year to Date
Donations	\$25,935.02	\$52,876.02
Expenditures	\$12,333.56	\$37,464.32
Gain/Loss	\$13,601.46	\$15,411.70



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, May 2**. Recipient: DCU Food Pantry.

“I REMEMBER”

As we continue to celebrate our upcoming 170th anniversary, we have more memories to share. This month, longtime member **Peggy Baird** “remembers.”

Little did I know when I joined the adult choir in 1946 at age 16, that my journey would last for 70 years. Miss Mary Gray Harrison was choir director at that time, and Mrs. James Graves was our organist. Mildred Georgel and Mildred Squires were soprano soloists. Following Mrs. Graves’s retirement, Miss Fannie Kerr, a local piano teacher became our organist. In 1958 Mildred Squires became choir director, and for the next 25 years led a choir of 20-25 members. Both directors volunteered their time and effort to lead the choir, encouraging and challenging me to better use my God- given talents. Later, I began leading the children’s choirs and directing music for Vacation Bible School each summer.

When our new organ was installed in 1965, Miss Fannie Kerr retired. Some of the organists that followed her included Art Meinhardt, David Gulick, Kathy Ritchie, and Kay Ellen Jones. Bruce Leys and Ben McIlwaine, both choir members, were always ready to substitute when able.

When Mrs. Squires retired, the Session decided to hire one person to be organist and choir director. Helen Luthman was hired for that position. Shortly thereafter, Jack Temple, an Elder of the church, expressed an interest in having a handbell choir. He asked church members for contributions towards purchasing a bell. Soon we had 49 brass bells. Two bell choirs were formed - one met in the daytime, and the other at night before choir practice. What fun we had learning and making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

When Mrs. Luthman moved, Donald Anderson, an accomplished musician from Richmond was hired. Donald stayed with us for 8 years, and what a joy it was to sing under his direction. A number of fine musicians followed him: Joan Mills, Fred Clements, Tim Gay and Tom Flynn who was hired as an interim for 3 months. Donald Traser who had to work with few in numbers in both choir and handbells, did a fine job and stayed 8 years until his retirement.

In April 2017, John Michael Jones became our current organist-choir director. He is an excellent organist and pianist and has a special affinity for handbells. It was a special blessing to work under his leadership before I ended my choir journey in 2019. And what an honor it was to sing with his wife Kim on Easter Sunday 2021.

“O SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG. ALLELUIA”

WHO AM I? ANSWER

Manasseh, 2 Chronicles 33

EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE: Gloria Rose, Chair.

The next time you take the shortcut from the Back Hall to the Office, otherwise known as the Library, take a few minutes to look around at this treasure. Have you ever considered reading about the Christian faith as it compares to other major religions? If so, there is a series of books you should check out. Do you need something uplifting, try one of the many faith journeys on the shelf. Need a book to help you quiet and center? The picture book “Wood Churches” will help you chill and calm down. Don’t forget about the latest editions of “Outlook” and “Horizon” on the magazine rack in the hallway or the Children’s Library upstairs. A big thank you to Susan Lobaugh for organizing the Library and its upkeep.

Camp Hanover Summer Camp registration is open! Now that Governor Northam has allowed overnight summer camps to re-open in May, Camp Hanover is preparing an amazing schedule for overnight and onsite day camps. There will necessarily be some reduced capacities and changes to daily camp life in order to provide a safe experience for campers and staff. To learn more, visit camphanover.org.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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





Session Highlights: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session **Called Session Meeting March 21, 2021** **Stated Session Meeting March 28, 2021**

Called Meeting March 21, 2021:

- Approved receiving new members Kim and John Michael Jones by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Approved the Nominating Committee members: Wendy Stevens and Diana Hollars, co-chairmen, Cameron Crew-Youth, Joe Chamberlain-Presbyterian Men, Jeanne Johnson-Presbyterian Women, Gloria Summers-Choir/Hand Bells, Alice Kropp-Congregational Care.

Stated Session Meeting March 28, 2021:

- Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting February 28, 2021 and Cyber and March 3, 2021.
- Received the February Treasurer’s report.
- Approved the revised contract with Comcast for internet and telephone services.
- Approved Elder Dennis Harrison to serve as Commissioner for the Presbytery of the James meeting June 15, 2021.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2021						1 PW Spring Gathering (By Zoom)
2 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering Rec.	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day 11:00 a.m. Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 11:00 a.m. Worship	17	18	19 12:00 "What's First" Articles for June due	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Pentecost Offering Received 12:15 p.m. Session	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 11:00 a.m. Worship Nickels for Nets Due	31 Memorial Day Church Office Closed					

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*