

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
November 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

Dianna 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

Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

Witness & Service

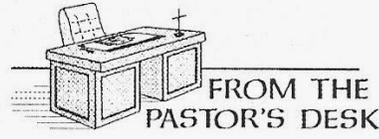
Joseph Chamberlain

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship

Bettie Guthrie



We live in the midst of an epidemic of historic proportions and we cry out, How Long, God, and Where Are You, God? We look beyond us and wonder

where is our help. We are not unique in this feeling. In Psalm 89 God's people in exile cried out 600 years before Christ, God, where are you? What about the promises you made to David and Solomon, why has this happened? I am sure God's people also cried out in the Europe of the 1930's, as they were systematically being removed and exterminated, God, where are you? The answer is, we are a people of hope; we have been given Christ and the promise of being with God forever, if we but believe. Believing is more than just saying, I agree with what is being presented. Believing means knowing and relying on what we know. Then, from that faith comes hope – the believing that something is coming, then living expectantly looking for it to come. So, in the midst of this epidemic that has changed our daily lives, we live in hope for a prevention of and a cure for the disease. Both are being worked on; both are coming. A second part of this hope is that no matter what might happen in this life to our flesh, God has not and will not abandon us. In fact, God has done just the opposite. God has said, I will never abandon you, and I will always be with you, even to the end of this age. Jesus gave us these comforting words from John 14.

Let not your hearts be troubled; if you believe in God, believe also in me in what I am saying.

In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back for you.

A day is coming when this too shall pass. Until it does, talk daily with our Lord, read from God's word, sing of your faith, and reach out as best you can to each other, and remember that God's love for us will never end. We are God's chosen, members of God's family, sisters and brothers of Christ, and we shall see Christ now in a thousand faces and then, face to face.

Rev. Archibald Wallace

THE PREACHER'S CORNER

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.).

November

Nov. 1

Scriptures: Ezekiel 36:24-32
Colossians 3:1-3, 8-14*

Sermon: Put On Love

Nov. 22

Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:7-17
Matthew 25:31-46*

Sermon: The Day Is Coming!

Nov. 8

Scriptures: Psalm 37:3-6, 23-28
Philippians 3:10-16*

Sermon: Are You Growing?

Nov. 29

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-4
Mark 13:24-37*

Sermon: He Is Coming Again

Nov. 15

Scriptures: Revelation 5:1-13
Zechariah 14:1-9*

Sermon: On That Day

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Karen Graham, Chair.

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

	DONATIONS	EXPENDITURES
September	\$ 7,066.00	\$ 11,324.37
Year to Date	\$115,395.57	\$102,369.74

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

November Mission Project: Gloria Summers

“SOCKS FOR SENIORS”



This is one of our favorite projects, and it is certainly appreciated by all who receive them. Please bring socks or slippers with grippers on the soles.

All sizes, all colors, for men & women are needed.

Please place them in the designated basket in the back hallway.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

- * Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card, call or visit.
- * Hunger Corner: The Monthly Food Offering will be received on Sunday, November 1. Recipient for this month is Downtown Churches United Hope Center.

OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Patricia Bonham, Chair.

Remembering Our Church Staff, Property Committee and Volunteers in a Time Of Covid

As we all struggle with the unexpected and unwelcome burdens of the Covid virus let's not forget the extra burdens this has placed on our church staff, the Building and Grounds Committee and faithful volunteers. We are grateful for all the extra cleaning and disinfecting that William performs before and after the church facilities are used for every service. Becky's work in the church office requires adapting to each day's needs as they arise no matter the inconvenience especially when complicated by Covid restrictions, and her volunteer helpers provide invaluable support. John Michael weekly prepares beautiful musical arrangements without the normal accompaniment of the choir. And our wonderful Building and Grounds Committee and key volunteers step up each time there is the need to prepare for a weekly service or for a special service at the church including recording the services for those who cannot attend. Hats off to *all* of these unheralded individuals!

Many of us may not appreciate the extra burdens placed on a pastor during times such as these. It is very hard for a minister to be cut off physically from those he is expected to minister to. Not being able to freely visit with those in need of pastoral care or to not see so many members of the normal worshiping community places a strain that only a pastor understands. Our small but faithful group that currently assembles each Sunday for worship provides a core of support but those who cannot attend as they used to are very much missed, not just by their fellow parishioners but especially by the minister. Let's be extra vigilant in praying for Arch and make an effort to show him our love and concern as he helps the session and congregation navigate trying times. The end of Covid may not be in sight but our chief end in glorifying God never ends and as we move daily toward that goal, we can lend *our* support whether in person or with our prayers to so many who labor on our behalf.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Alice Martin, Chair.

**All Saints' Day Remembrance Service
Sunday, November 1**

On Sunday, **November 1**, as a part of our worship service, we will remember those members of our congregation who have gone to be with our Lord during the past year. Members of their families will be invited to attend the service that day. Those being remembered will be: Bonny Harrison, Lucy Davis, Frances Lingerfelt, George Grutchfield, Erma Rae Nichols, Ruth Glass, Evelyn Peebles, Deloise Atkins, Bill Rose and Dr. Beecher Watson. We hope many will be able to be at church for this time of remembrance, reflection and thanksgiving for the lives of these departed Saints of Second.

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Beecher Watson, Sr. upon his death and to the family of Ethel Peterson upon the death of her brother, David Childress.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. BEECHER HARTLEY WATSON, SR.

DECEMBER 22, 1929 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

THANK YOU

Dear Second Church Family,

Thank you for all the calls, cards and especially the prayers following my automobile accident. I'm still recovering, but am getting better each day. I am so grateful for my Second Church family.

Pat Plymale

Dear Church Family,

Kind gestures last a lifetime. Our family wants to thank you for your prayers, cards, and call while Todd was recovering from the Covid-19-virus. He is doing very well and back to work. God is good. He listens and answers prayers.

Sincerely, Mona & Bill Ellis

Dear Family at Second,

During the last several months, I and my family have been the recipients of your thoughts and prayers. As Bill's health declined, as I struggled with his care, and as my brother, Tommy, dealt with his near fatal heart attack and recovery, you have petitioned Our Heavenly Father for our health, comfort and peace. Our church may be small in numbers, but we are large in faith and love for each other.

With Bill's passing, you have once again wrapped me in the blanket of your care and strength. Your prayers, cards, calls and visits have sustained me and reminded me that it may be your voice I hear but its God saying I am loved and cherished and that I do not stand alone. I am most grateful to be a part of this family.

Sincerely. Gloria Rose

Dear Friends at Second,

I thank you for your prayers, during my brother, David's surgeries and also the cards, calls, prayers, and concerns since his death.

Dick & Ethel Peterson

Dear Friends at Second.

Thank you for your cards, calls and prayers following my kidney stone surgery and recuperating at home. I am feeling much better and have returned to work. I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.

Becky Lancaster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 1, 2020 Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!

Set your clock back one-hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

November 15, our beloved Second will be **169 years old!** We're looking pretty good to be that age. Please mark your calendars to make a special effort to be at church that Sunday to celebrate our remarkable history.

Next Communion Service November 22 – Christ the King Sunday



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you ever wonder why Stewardship Season is in November each year? Oh, there are budget specialists who would argue that they must have pledges in order to determine spending ceilings for the coming year. Pragmatists would suggest we complete this task before the start of Advent. Your Stewardship Committee thinks this season was selected for a very specific reason. Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26 and Stewardship Sunday is November 22. What better time to reflect on the gifts God has given to you—talents, time, resources, and the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, our Lord. This is also the time to question if we are being good stewards of all these gifts. As you plan your Thanksgiving this year, ask yourself if you have responded to God's great gifts by putting God first in your life and can you commit to return to our Lord on a consistent basis, a portion of the gifts He has given to you? If you have not pledged before, consider pledging this year. If you always pledge, consider raising your pledge amount for the coming year. Remember, your pledge is a confidential commitment between you and our Lord. He knows what is in your heart and what goes on in your life.

2020 has been a time together apart. We no longer greet each other with a handshake or a hug, we can't gather for a meal of fellowship, we social distance from those we have known for years and we wear masks that hide our faces. However, we still gather to worship, we raise our collective voices in prayer and praise, and we smile with our eyes. Where there is our love of our Lord and each other, there will be a way.

Look for the pledge packet in the mail and give it prayerful consideration. God has been good to us; let us return to Him our best.

Blessings,

Gloria Rose, Susan Crew, Bettie Guthrie, Mark Stevens, Wendy Stevens, Gloria Summers

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 11:00 a.m. All Saints' Day Monthly Food Offering Rec.	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8 11:00 a.m. Worship	9	10	11 12 noon "What's First" Deadline for Dec.	12	13	14	
15 Anniversary Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 11:00 Christ the King Sunday/Communion Stewardship Sunday Children's Thanksgiving Off. Rec. 12:15 p.m. Session	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 	27 Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed	28	
29 1 st Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Worship	30	NOVEMBER 2020					

"WHAT'S FIRST" DEADLINES

* **November 11** for December Articles

* **December 9** for January 2021 Articles

These new dates are due to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

November Birthdays

2 Gary L. Groux

5 Mrs. Bettie Guthrie

6 Rev. Arch Wallace

9 Richard E. Peterson

10 Mrs. Linda Iselin



16 Mrs. Janet Hodges

18 William Jason Nichols

23 David Glass

24 John Charles Martin

26 Billie Graham

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: September 27, 2020: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

- ✓ Approved the minutes of Stated Session Meeting of August 23, 2020.
- ✓ Received the August treasurer's report.
- ✓ Approved adding two members to the Finance Committee; Garland Harrison and Mark Stevens.
- ✓ Received the Elder Class of 2023 names from the Nominating Committee: Carl Guthrie-tenured, Gloria Rose, Mark Stevens, and Wendy Stevens.
- ✓ Approved Nominating Committee's dates of October 11, and 18 to announce in the bulletin there will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2020 to present the Elder Class of 2023.
- ✓ Authorized the Nominating Committee to continue the discussion of reducing the number of Elders from 12 to 9 beginning with the Elder Class of 2024. Book of Order G-1.0503.
- ✓ Approved Witness and Service Committee members: Joe Chamberlain, chairman, Carole Ellis, Carl Guthrie, Dennis Harrison and Nona Wartella.
- ✓ Approved Witness and Service Committee request to order 30 Salvation Army Christmas stockings.
- ✓ Approved Worship Committee request to honor individuals as Elder Emeritus.

WITNESS & SERVICE COMMITTEE: Joseph Chamberlain, Chair.

Thanks to Presbyterian Women for your work to make our "together project", Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes a success. Also, thanks to each of you that have donated items and/or contributed financially. Sunday, November 15 is the last day for you to bring your items. If you wish to donate, make check payable to Second Presbyterian Church and designate OCC.

Salvation Army Christmas stockings will be available for you to fill again this year. This has been a difficult year for many and it's a way we can bring a little happiness into a child's life here in our own community. Suggestions for each age will be included with the stocking.

2020 CHILDREN'S THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The Children's Thanksgiving Offering will be received on **Sunday, November 22**. This offering has supported four agencies in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for over 50 years:

Edmarc Hospice for Children, Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Presbyterian Home & Family Services and Volunteer Families for Children.

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Address Service Requested

