

# What's First

at  
**Second Presbyterian Church**  
**November 2023**

## 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. Susie Atkinson

#### Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

#### Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie

Mark Stevens

Wendy Stevens

#### Class of 2024

Bettie Guthrie

Garland Harrison

Venable Johnson

#### Class of 2025

Alice Martin

Kathleen Muller

Robert Muller

#### Committees:

##### Congregational Care

Elizabeth Schoeb

##### Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

##### Finance/Stewardship

Mark Stevens

##### Office & Personnel

Garland Harrison

##### Outreach

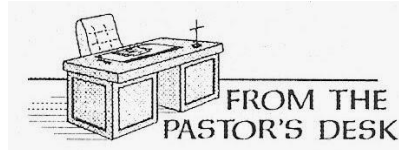
Elizabeth Schoeb

Wendy Stevens

##### Worship/Education

Alice Martin

Venable Johnson



**“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (1 Chronicles 16:34)**

Yes, this is the month American Christians celebrate Thanksgiving Day in appreciation of the bountiful harvest. Many claim the first Thanksgiving was shared by the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag tribe of native Americans. Others claim the Virginians celebrated the meal at Berkley Plantation with the then governor of the state and the native Americans with whom he was cultivating a relationship to share farming techniques. To be honest, many folks still disagree when the feast originated but Abraham Lincoln made it a national holiday; and, then, Franklin Roosevelt locked in the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November as the official date. AND, other “thanks”-givings are held in the month of November as well.

We celebrated All Saints Day on the first Sunday of November. The service remembers all of the members, family members, and friends who joined the Church Triumphant during the year. This year, our church celebrated Elder William T. Atkinson, III, Carolyn C. Cole, Anne G. Godfrey, Elizabeth L. Malone, Patricia A. Plymale, Elder Gloria B. Rose, and Nell C. Smith.

The first Sunday of November is also the day we “fall back” in time. Some wish for this change to be dropped but others find it helpful.

The first Tuesday of November is Election Day in America. We give thanks for the freedom of our people to vote for those who represent us in our federal government. The right to vote is indeed a blessing to our people and, as Christians, we should take advantage of that right to vote prayerfully with our hearts and minds. This ensures that democracy will continue in our land.

On November 11, we honor all those who have served our country in the armed forces.

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED**

We thank God that some are called to defend us around the world to protect those of us who for whatever reason cannot serve. Our country owes a great debt to all those who voluntarily serve in this way.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving Second Presbyterian will host a joint worship service with First Baptist Church of Petersburg. The Rev. Ron Dawson will present the sermon. Please be sure to come and help us give thanks for the family of Christians here in Petersburg.

Finally, the Sunday after Thanksgiving is "Christ the King" / "The Reign of Christ Sunday in honor of Jesus Christ as Lord of all Creation. Established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, it ends Ordinary time in the Christian calendar. Advent begins the following Sunday. We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper that Sunday during worship.

**"O give thanks to the Lord,** for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."  
(1 Chronicles 16:34)

Blessings,  
Rev. Susie

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** Alice Martin, Moderator

#### **November Mission Project: Gloria Summers**

##### **"SOCKS FOR SENIORS"**



This is one of our favorite projects, and it is certainly appreciated by all that 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.



### **WORSHIP/EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Alice Martin and Venable Johnson, Co-chairs.

#### **THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Joint Service with  
Second Presbyterian Church  
First Baptist Church**

This year, we will gather at Second Church with Rev. Rob Dawson giving the sermon. Please come join in this special service as we give thanks for the many blessings God has given us.

## OUTREACH

Elizabeth Schoeb and Wendy Stevens, Co-chairs.

### 2023 CHILDREN'S THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The Children's Thanksgiving Offering will be received on **Sunday, November 19**. 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. Please make your checks payable to Second Presbyterian Church and mark in the memo line Children's Thanksgiving Offering.

- \* 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 each Sunday in November. Recipient for this month is Downtown Churches United Hope Center.

## THANKSGIVING

**T**hanks and all praise be to God the great Father.

**H**arvest's abundance is garnered and stored.

**A**mericans gather for turkey and feasting,

**N**ational day to give thanks to our Lord

**K**neel then, and pray that we share with the needy

**S**elflessly giving time, money and love.

**G**od gives grace and gifts beyond all our deserving

**I**nspiring through Christ divine joy from above.

**V**irginia's settlers found land that was fertile,

**I**ts golden strands washed with the soft, drifting foam.

**N**ow we must pass on unsullied our heritage,

**G**od of our fathers, bless this land we call home.

Poem by Doris Vaughan, 1992

## 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*\*\*\*\*  
**November 5, 2023 Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**NOVEMBER 5**

**11:00 a.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*



**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** - The Church Office will be closed  
Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.

### “WHAT’S FIRST” DEADLINES

❄ November 13 for December Articles

❄ December 6 for January 2024 Articles

These new dates are due to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

**November 12**

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

**November 26 – Christ the King Sunday**

### **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:** Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

**Stated Session Meeting: September 24, 2023**

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting August 27, 2023.
- ❖ Received the August Treasurer’s report.
- ❖ Carl Guthrie was approved to be Commissioner representing Second Church at the Saturday POJ meeting on October 21, 2023.
- ❖ Session approved the annual Clerk Index Report which included 10 Electronic Vote meetings, 1 Congregational Meeting, and 10 Stated meetings for a total of 21 sets of minutes.

# SECOND PRESBYTERIAN T CHURCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

*“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*  
Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)

It can't have escaped anyone's notice that we live in transactional times, and this shouldn't be surprising given that ours is a capitalistic economy. Capitalism encourages us to engage in negotiations for the best price whether we find ourselves shopping for groceries or bargaining for better wages and benefits. It expects us to seek a profit in the marketplace and to maximize that profit wherever possible, leaving us immersed in transactional activity at almost every turn of daily life.

So what does Jesus mean when he says “Freely you have received, freely give.” in the above passage from Matthew? This seems contrary to the self-interested individual transactions that inundate us every day. Transactions that count the cost of obtaining what we are selling, whether it be for the education that equips us to earn a living, or for the development and production costs of a product we want to market, against the price we expect in return from those on the receiving end.

When Jesus uttered these words he was addressing the disciples as he prepared to send them out to preach the gospel. He spoke of the unique gifts and talents that they had been given by God through the Spirit and wanted the disciples to understand that as they had not developed these skills on their own they therefore were to share them with the world unstintingly. It was the first among several instructions on how to go about sharing the news that “The kingdom of heaven is near.”

We as modern day disciples are thus reminded that all of our blessings, gifts and talents have likewise come from God through the Spirit and that we too are expected to share these freely. This applies to every aspect of our lives including what we share with God's church here at Second. It is here that our gifts and talents in combination with those of our fellow disciples are multiplied in their effectiveness for the spreading of Jesus' message that “The kingdom of heaven is near.”

This stewardship season as you ponder what you are able to commit to Second Church in the way of talent, time and tithe please remember that Jesus' instruction in the first century remains just as applicable in our time as we too seek to spread the gospel. “Freely you have received, freely give.”

In joy and peace,

Your Stewardship Team

Mark Stevens, Chair., Pattie Bonham, Kim Jones, Susan Lobaugh, Venable Johnson

## Stewardship Season 2023

Stewardship season at Second Church is now well underway. Your stewardship team has set a goal of \$115,000 for this year's campaign and will be providing updates as we move forward through November and beyond.

The campaign kicked off on September 24<sup>th</sup> with an introduction by Mark Stevens, chairman of the Stewardship Committee, announcing the theme of "Freely you have received, freely give." This will be followed on October 22<sup>nd</sup> by an amazing skit from the creative duo of John Michael and Kim Jones and will continue on November 5<sup>th</sup> with a minute for mission by Venable Johnson, and then conclude on Dedication Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> with the presentation of our pledges.

In recognition of the pledges received each one will be acknowledged with a monetary contribution from the Stewardship Committee to the DCU Feeding Program in honor of the respective pledger(s). You will find this year's stewardship letter and a pledge form included here and are encouraged to prayerfully consider what you might freely contribute to enable Second Church in its efforts to spread the gospel to the world.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mark Stevens, Chair.

#### SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

	September	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$14,106.14</b>	<b>\$ 98,589.15</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$10,288.04</b>	<b>\$107,291.19</b>
<b>Gains/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 3, 818.10</b>	<b>\$ 8,702.04</b>



#### Second Presbyterian Church

Confidential NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Financial Stewardship Commitment 2023**

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per - week - month - annual - other (circle one)

*Your gift is fully deductible in accordance with rules issued by the IRS.*

*I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning.*

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 2024.

My (our) financial commitment  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Per - week -- month - annual -- other  
(Circle one)

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Eph. 4:7

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b> 			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Reminder: Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night.
<b>5</b> <b>All Saints' Sunday</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30 Morning Circle	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 11:00 a.m. Worship	<b>13</b> 12 noon "What's First" Deadline for <b><u>December</u></b> <b><u>Note: Change in Date</u></b> 10:30 Worship Committee	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11:00 Thanksgiving Joint Service at Second with First Baptist Ch. Children's Thanksgiving Off. Rec.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Christ the King Sunday 11:00 a.m. Communion 12:15 p.m. Session	<b>27</b> 10:30 PWCT Mtg	<b>28</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

Second Presbyterian Church  
419 West Washington Street  
Petersburg, VA 23803

Address Service Requested

