

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
September 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

S. 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

Office & Personnel

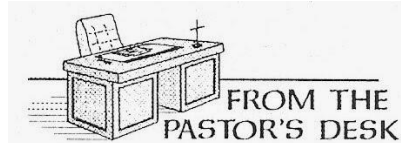
Patricia Bonham

Witness & Service

Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

Stewardship



The type of preaching a minister uses is usually apparent after a few Sundays. Some ministers preach from an agenda, that is, they are pushing for a point of view, trying to convince that Scripture supports their thesis. Others want to tell you how much they learned in Seminary (all in one sermon) or want to engage in a theological debate with some shadowy thinker from the past. There are others who push a social gospel and political paths and financial enhancements (for themselves). I think it important that you know the product your minister is trying to deliver on a recurring basis.

Since I have been with you, I have tried to follow what some call “expository preaching,” with a little added. Expository preaching lets the text breathe and come alive; expository preaching considers every word in the text of significance and seeks the layered meanings usually found in Scripture. This type of preaching requires the preacher to dig into the text, take it apart, study its structure, consider it in its context and as a whole, and see what the Holy Spirit is trying to get us to see in the text. Expository preaching has no preconceived agenda and does not seek personal gain. The text leads and informs; the text speaks. Often the text has a message for the current clamor in the world; often it does not. I do not bend Scripture to fit the news.

My goal in preaching is to inform you and me, to build us both up as Jude 20 describes life around us and to give us thoughts for living in God’s spiritual Kingdom and man’s secular kingdom. The twist I add to expository preaching is to point out where the teaching points and our lives intersect.

I enjoy preaching, not because of some immodestly claimed ability, but because it gives me opportunity week after week to study God’s revealed word. There is so much deliberately placed inside the word, each word, that it is pure joy to see it and hear the Holy Spirit suggest connections and meanings. I work hard each week. I study and I pray.

Then, I write and pray again. Often, on Saturday night, in the night, another thought or question comes that fills out the text or removes a misunderstanding. How blessed we are to have such a rich text available.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

I end this with my usual approach to each text. I read it 6-8 months ahead and choose it for a Sunday far in the future. I then read it again about two weeks before the Sunday it will be preached, looking for key words, considering the verbs and nouns, tenses and declensions, translating the Greek and sometime the Hebrew. Then, I ask, what is all that I have found trying to say? Perhaps there are multiple messages, perhaps only one. After this I outline the sermon and then write it. I don't need a three-point sermon, as we used to seek, but I simply let the text speak. Nor will the text speak in the same way each time it is considered.

As I said, I enjoy the time I get to spend weekly in God's word; I still find it exciting, and I can't wait to tell you of what I have found.

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.)

September

Sept. 6

Scriptures: Isaiah 1:16-20

Matthew 18:15-20*

Sermon: The Better Way

Sept. 20

Scriptures: Exodus 16:2-15

Matthew 20:1-16*

Sermon: Grumbling

Sept. 13

Scriptures: Micah 6:6-8

Matthew 18:21-35*

Sermon: Justice and Mercy

Sept. 27

Scriptures: Mark 15:16-26

1 Samuel 7:1-13*

Sermon: What Is Your Ebenezer Moment?

WHO AM I?

I once was a slave in Colossae and I stole from my master. I ran away because I knew my theft would mean death, just as my running away would mean a second death. I met the Apostle Paul in Rome and heard him preach the Good News. I was converted there and then by and through the Holy Spirit. I stayed with Paul after that, working for him and helping wherever I could. I knew that my running away was wrong as was my theft, so I confessed all to Paul and offered to go back to Colossae and answer for my crimes. Paul wrote my master, whom he knew, asking that I be spared the certain death that awaited my return and offering to pay my debt to my master. He wrote: "I appeal to you for my child, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment (meaning converted), who formerly was useless to you. But now is useful to both you and to me. . . . (He has become) a beloved brother to me." I went back with Paul's note. The rest is history. I was forgiven by my master and freed. Ultimately, I became a Minister and later Bishop at Ephesus. There, I collected a number of Paul's writings and saved them and they are now included in the New Testament. Among the letters I preserved are Romans, Corinthians (now in 2 Books), Galatians, Colossians, Ephesians, Thessalonians and of course Colossians. Who am I?

Rev. Arch Wallace



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - Alice Martin, Moderator

Our circles will not meet in September, but we hope that by October we will be able to gather together. This year both circles will be studying the *Women of the Bible* series of lessons and we are very much looking forward to that. In the meantime, our mission projects continue.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



PW has joined the Witness and Service Committee for several years now working together on this project. We are hoping to fill 12 boxes this year. Listed below are items we need.

Toothbrushes small tissue packets bars of soap nail clippers
combs & brushes washcloths small games, card games, dominoes, checkers, etc.
school supplies - pens, rulers, scissors, med. size notebooks, markers, crayons

Please place items in the marked basket in the back hallway. These special boxes bring so much joy at Christmas time to children in need, so we are so grateful for your help again making this project a success.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

- ❖ Sick and Shut-ins – Please remember them with cards and calls.
- ❖ The Monthly Food Offering will be received on Sunday, September 6. The recipient for this month is Downtown Churches United Hope Center

OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Pattie Bonham, Chair.

Everything's Up To Date In Second City... (with apologies to "Rodgers & Hammerstein")

Did you know that the church office has been the recipient of an anonymous gift of a new computer system? We are tremendously grateful to our benefactors who were kind enough to provide the church with a new desktop computer and monitor. The installation and conversion from the old system has allowed us to move all of our vital information and software to the new platform as well as provided a more convenient means of uploading the recorded Sunday service to the church website. Many thanks to those who saw a need and responded with generosity!

**THANK
YOU**

Dear Friends at Seconds,
Thank you for the cards, calls and well wishes following my surgery and recuperation time at my daughter's home in Hampton.
Joe Chamberlain

FOND FAREWELL TO THE BARRAS FAMILY



Sunday, August 2 we bid a fond farewell to the Barras family. John, Vicky and Colene have been a bright spot in our Second Church family, and we will miss them very much.



John has been assigned to a post in South Korea- Vicky's home country! So, we know they will have the love and support of her family. We plan to keep in touch through Face Book!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Vicky Barras
Rudy Rowland
- 5 Susan Lobaugh
- 6 Marlon Dance
- 10 Brandon C. Martin
- 11 McKenna Dance
- 13 Kelley M. Baird
- 15 Gerald Ellis
- 17 Sarah Smith
Robert Fitts
Carl Guthrie, Sr.



- 18 Dennis W. Hathaway
- 19 Robert Kropp
- 25 Samuel Mattocks
- 26 Ryan L. Fitts
Patricia Plymale
- 29 Donald P. Baird
Edward Iselin
- 30 Pattie Bonham
Theresa Moore

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

	DONATIONS	EXPENDITURES
JUNE	\$12,424.00	\$10,654.30
YEAR TO DATE	\$84,589.57	\$65,307.89
JULY	\$11,297.00	\$10,531.73
YEAR TO DATE	\$95,886.57	\$75,839.62

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Deloise T. Atkins upon her death.

 IN MEMORIAM
 Deloise T. Atkins
 December 4, 1927 - June 4, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11:00 Worship	7 Church Office Closed Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 11:00 Worship	14	15	16 12 noon "What's First" Deadline for October	17	18	19
20 11:00 Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	28	30	<h1>September 2020</h1>			

WHO AM I? Answer: Onesimus (See Philemon)

Second Presbyterian Church
419 West Washington Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

Address Correction Requested

“School,
Effort, and
Play.
Trying your best
Each hour of the day,
Making new friends,
Being good as you can
Exciting discoveries,
Reading books with a friend.”
- Boni Fulgham

