

# What's First

at  
Second Presbyterian Church  
September 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  
S. 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

##### Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

##### Witness & Service

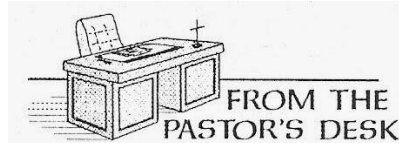
Joseph Chamberlain

##### Worship & Celebration

Alice Martin

##### Stewardship

Mark Stevens



Recently, a member asked what the term “Covenant Pastor” meant as it appears in our Bulletin each Sunday after my name. I explained that in the Presbyterian Tradition there are two types of

Ministers—those called by the Congregation after a Pulpit Nominating Committee has done its work and those chosen by the Session, where no congregational call is involved. The term Covenant is used because the arrangement is contractual and always must be for a defined period.

When I first came in October 2013 the Session and I agreed upon 90-day Covenant Agreements, meaning the arrangement had to be renewed each 90 days or it ended automatically. Each side had to agree to go on and each side could end the agreement upon 30 days’ notice. Since then, the Session has extended the Covenant to six months and then twelve months, where it is now.

Another aspect of a Covenant relationship is that it normally does not include benefits and may have specific terms one or the other party to the agreement may need. My initial Covenant only included mileage at the going rate beyond the agreed upon salary. I was working. I had health insurance and retirement benefits through my full- time employment, so it was not needed.

Another aspect of Covenant agreements is the specific number of hours included for each week and the priorities of the things to be done within those hours. Ten hours per week was our number for years and the priorities were 1-Worship; 2-Session; 3-Certain Committees and 4-Pastoral Care. While it appears ten hours ought to be enough, since Worship is only for an hour, the truth is far different from that assumption. My Homiletics professor in Seminary told us if we spent less than ten hours a week on the Worship experience, including preparation and delivery, we were shortchanging our congregation. I understand what he is saying, as a fully prepared, properly researched Worship experience often exceeds the ten hours just by itself. As to the time chosen, I have far exceeded the time scheduled year in and year out.

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

There simply is no way to care for this congregation, even minimally, in this short amount of time – never has been. There is one saving grace for this shortfall--- this church is blessed with so many able and willing lay leaders, who regularly give of their time and talent to keep this church functioning. If you only knew!

I came knowing the hours needed by you would never equal the time we contracted for, but that was OK because that's what being a minister is. You do what you have to do to meet the needs. I have enjoyed being your Covenant Pastor and I take joy in my knowledge of each of you. I wish I could do more, but it just isn't possible within the parameters of our arrangement. God has blessed me mightily by calling me here and keeping me here as your Covenant Pastor.

## **WHO AM I?**

I was a queen of a Persian King in the mid to late 400's BC. My King was known in Greece as Xerxes and was the one who invaded Greece in 481BC. The Greeks made a heroic stand at Thermopylae where a few hundred stopped the Persian Army. Later, I foiled an attempt by Xerxes' right-hand man – Haman, to kill all the Jews in the Empire. I took a great risk in speaking up and exposing Haman's brutality and his evil plan. Later, a Book was written of my heroics and it is in the Bible today. My Book does not mention God but it is apparent that God was at work throughout, saving the remnant of his people still in captivity. Who Am I?

**Rev. Arch Wallace**

## **Session Highlights:** Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

### **Stated Session Meeting June 27, 2021**

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting May 23, 2021.
- ❖ Approved the July Session meeting be canceled for summer break.
- ❖ Received the May Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved the updated COVID-19 guidelines.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds Movement Improvement Campaign to help offset the cost of repairing, priming, and painting the exterior of the church.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds request from Cockade City Garden Club to use McIlwaine Hall and parlor for the 2022 Petersburg HGW tour.

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



### **CIRCLES START IN SEPTEMBER!!**

#### **MORNING CIRCLE**

**Meets - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month**

**10:30 in church parlor**

**Bible study - Horizons – “What My Grandmothers Taught Me”**

#### **RUTH CIRCLE**

**\*\*Meets – 2nd Wednesday each month**

**6:00 at church**

**Bible Study – “Twelve Women of the Bible”**

**(Note that this is a new time and place for Ruth Circle.**

**If changes are needed, Liz Schoeb will let you know.)**

We welcome **Wendy Stevens** to our PWCT as our new secretary. She had agreed to join the CT months ago, but COVID has kept us from meeting. **Liz Schoeb** will be our Commitment Chairman taking over after the loss of our dear friend Barbara Mangum. Thanks to both of you ladies for taking on these jobs!

Our summer project – “Workcamp” went well. It was a one-day event this year, and Gloria Rose delivered a delicious lunch to our assigned work crew of 12 youths. To say that they were **thrilled** with the Chic-fil-A tenders plus all the other goodies she brought was an understatement! They thanked Gloria by giving her a Workcamp hat that all the crew had signed! Good job, Gloria!

I’m hoping many of you will be able to attend one of the circles this year. The Bible Studies will be rewarding and the fellowship is always great.

### **PW SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers 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 10 boxes this year. Listed below are items we need.

Toothbrushes      bars of soap      nail clippers      band aids      sunglasses  
brushes              washcloths      small games, card games, dominoes, checkers, etc.  
school supplies - pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, rulers, scissors, med. 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 5. The recipient for this month is Downtown Churches United Hope Center

## **THANK YOU**

To Rev. Wallace and My Church Family & Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, calls and kindnesses during my sickness (leg clot) and upon the death of my granddaughter, Alexis Nichols. It is such a blessing to be a part of this church family. Bless you all, Dorothy Riggan

Thank you to our church family for the many acts of kindness shown to Jerry and I during my recent unexpected surgery and recovery. Your cards, calls, food and especially your prayers were so appreciated. We are blessed to be a part of a caring and loving congregation.

Hugs, Carole Ellis

### **IMPROVEMENT MOVEMENT:** Carl Guthrie

*With progress there is change. Without change there is no progress.*

The Building and Grounds Committee and the Church Future Study Group, led by Rev. Wallace, moderator, have met several times in the past six years. The purpose of the meetings was to take a look at where we are as a congregation and church and where we want the church to go. We discussed the 2000 Planning Report, the strengths of the church, the weaknesses of the church, and what the church will look like in 5 years, 10 years, and how do we stay alive.

In addition we visited local churches (First Baptist, Trinity, Tabb Street) to see the number of members in attendance, whether there was full/part time minister/staff, endowment and choir members. The information was brought back to the Study Group and compiled. We were divided into three teams and asked to “determine 4 top priorities” out of 20 suggestions that were made by the committee.

Our congregation has given faithfully for years with their time, talent and financial gifts. We have been blessed to have a Reserve Fund for emergencies or immediate needs. As we age our needs change and it is time that our congregation have improvements to their church that will benefit them and hopefully attract new members.

Session has approved our Improvement Movement Campaign and we ask you to please consider a gift to the church towards our goal of \$50,000 for improvements that we hope will benefit everyone; stucco repair, painting the exterior of the church, replacing 6 rotted windows on the East side of the Education Wing, installing an elevator (\$14,247 funds raised to date in Reserve Fund), installing a bathroom on the West side of the church (McIlwaine Hall area.) Please give prayerful consideration to our campaign efforts and please note on the memo line of your check IMC.

## **I Remember: Patricia Bonham**

When I graduated in Chapel Hill in 1970 and was presented with my diploma and a Bible by the university, I had no way of knowing then that it would be over 35 years before I would return to living in Petersburg and attending Second Church on a regular basis. As a result, my most vivid memories of Second are rooted in my girlhood experiences here. Times and norms have changed greatly since then but my early years at Second have stood me in good stead over the years. I've married a Presbyterian minister, worked as a staff member for a presbytery and been in many churches over the years, and I know now I could never have received a better faith foundation anywhere than I did at Second Presbyterian Church here in Petersburg.

Recently I came across the certificates of enrollment for my brother and me in the church's Cradle Roll but of course have no personal recollection of that. The earliest memory I do have is of sitting in our family pew with my parents and brother (strategically separated to maintain decorum) and gazing out the adjoining open window at the summertime blooms of a pink-flowered crape myrtle. The open windows, along with pew rack hand fans, provided welcome air circulation in a crowded sanctuary but also the unwelcome roar of transfer trucks as they rolled through town on Washington Street before construction of the interstate highway. Preaching would have to cease when the noise was too loud. In the meantime, behind us Mr. Darcy Roper would be folding his bulletin into the shape of something interesting to present to my brother and me at the end of the service.

Still, it's the preaching and preachers at Second that I remember most vividly. Dr Dan Caldwell had departed by the time I was born but his name was mentioned so often at our dinner table that I feel I actually did know him at Second. He and his wife Cora were great friends with my parents and grandparents and stayed in touch with them as long as they lived. Dr. Caldwell officiated at my parents' wedding in North Carolina in 1947.

Dr. William B. McIlwaine was also a good friend of the family, especially of my grandfather who called him Willie when everyone else referred to him informally as Preach. I loved going to his ancestral home Sysonby as a child. I was enchanted by the view out the front door down the long cedar-lined avenue and the breezes that circulated through the sitting room as Dr. McIlwaine sat in his rocking chair equipped with a desk-like writing arm. He was a highly respected Virginia ornithologist with many books on birds in his library as well as extensive annotated notebooks of his birding observations both at Sysonby and elsewhere. He wrote a wonderful series of guest columns in the 1950's for the Progress-Index about birds entitled "*The Birds of Sysonby*" which were quite well received. During his years Second would host packed annual services of renewal with guest speakers from the seminary in Richmond where Dr. McIlwaine had family connections.

By the time Dr. Robert C. Vaughan arrived here I was old enough to really listen and absorb the sermons each Sunday. His were scholarly, and so well prepared and delivered that it's no wonder he was here for such a long time. Several of his sermons were bound for publication and our home library still retains those volumes. Dr. Vaughan presided over my preparation to join the church. Our communicant's classes took place on Saturdays in his study in the old manse and we were received into membership on Easter Sunday.

Along with the preaching there was our weekly Sunday School instruction, a responsibility that was taken very seriously by a host of dedicated members and our Director of Christian Education, Margaret Severs. There were many faithful teachers, Ruth Rogers, Grace Brockwell, Bernice Cox, George Anne Hart, Russell Garrison, John Cozzens and Wellington Winston to name just a few.

## **I Remember Continued: Patricia Bonham**

And Dr. Billy McIlwaine provided a very generous monetary reward to any young person who could recite the catechism (a challenge yours truly did not undertake).

All this Biblical instruction didn't come without a good deal of fun along the way. There was our senior high group exchange trip with a Reformed Presbyterian Church in New Jersey involving an excursion to New York City where we visited the United Nations, Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and having lunch at an automat. Outings to the Jones family cabin near Rawlings, Virginia were also a regular enjoyable occurrence as well as local picnics and swimming at Wilcox Lake. Our youth group was large, and the boys especially were daring and boisterous. It's no wonder then that when one was emancipated from sitting in the parental pew on Sundays and escaped to the balcony that it was a requirement to sit where Mother and Daddy could observe.

One memorable event for me involved going to Hampden-Sydney College for a weekend of church sponsored vocational testing and counseling. I was with Mac Squires and Mimi Jones, and her parents, Liz and Strib, were our chaperones. While there we were to meet up with Claiborne Jones, a student there, and Jones' cousin whose family also belonged to Second. We three teenagers arrived at Claiborne's dorm much ahead of Mimi's parents and not knowing otherwise promptly proceeded down the hall with Claiborne to visit his room. Well! When Liz arrived on scene, she was practically apoplectic. We had violated a cardinal college rule against girls going into the rooms of boys in their dorms. Who knew?

Which brings me back to my last semester in college so long ago. With an already demanding course load in my major and needing one last elective to graduate I frantically searched the course catalog for something I could do well in without a struggle. Salvation arrived in the form of a class on the Bible in the religion department. I signed up, read the syllabus, and after attending the first couple of classes realized I already knew this stuff. So I didn't go to any more of those classes except to take scheduled tests and the final exam. I got an A in the course. Hallelujah and thank you Second Church!

### **Nomination Form for Session Class of 2024**

2021	2022	2023
Karen Graham	Patricia Bonham	Carl Guthrie
Lindsay Graham	Joe Chamberlain	Gloria Rose
Diana Hollars	Dennis Harrison	Mark Stevens
Dorothy Riggan	Alice Martin	Wendy Stevens



The Nominating Committee is compiling a list of names for the Session Class of 2024. We would like your help. Please submit the names of individuals you feel would support the mission of the Church. Return by September 26, 2021. (Form may be left in the offering plate or return to the Church Office.) We are searching for three candidates for the 2024 class. The class reduction was voted in Feb. 2021.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 Edward Iselin
- 30 Pattie Bonham
- Theresa Moore

## JUNE/JULY FINANCE REPORT: Karen Graham, Chair.

	June	Year to Date
Donations	\$10,418.00	\$98,827.52
Expenditures	\$ 9,523.27	\$80,292.98
Gains/Loss	\$ 894.73	\$18,534.54



	July	Year to Date
Donations	\$ 9,032.00	\$108,309.52
Expenditures	\$13,110.07	\$ 93,403.05
Gains/Loss	\$ 4,078.07	\$ 14,906.47


## SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dorothy Riggan upon the death of granddaughter, Alexis N. Nichols on June 24, 2021 and to the family of Reps and Robert Haskins upon the death of their mother, Janet M. Haskins on July 24, 2021.

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IN MEMORIAM  
 JANET MANN HASKINS  
 DECEMBER 3, 1924 - JULY 24, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11:00 Worship Monthly Food Offering Received	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed Labor Day	<b>7</b> 10:30 Morning Circle	<b>8</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze 6:00 Ruth Circle	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>13</b> 10:30 Worship Committee	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12 noon "What's First" Deadline for October 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	<b>27</b> 11:00 PWCT Mtg.	<b>28</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Meeting	<b>29</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>30</b>	<b>September 2021</b>	

**WHO AM I? Answer: Esther**



Second Presbyterian Church  
419 West Washington Street  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

Address Correction Requested

**“School,**  
**E**ffort, and  
**P**lay.  
**T**rying your best  
**E**ach hour of the day,  
**M**aking new friends,  
**B**eing good as you can  
**E**xciting discoveries,  
**R**eading books with a friend.”  
- Boni Fulgham

