

Second Presbyterian Church
342 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403
p 843-723-9237
f 843-723-9244
www.secondpresbyterianchurch.org
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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN. THIRD CENTURY.

F a l l 2 0 1 1

Dear Second Family,

This past Sunday I acknowledged that for some the glory of autumn may be diminished by the dread of the *onslaught of fund drives*. It begins with the what used to be the Jerry Lewis Telethon, then Public Radio, then on *its* heels - the church! I asked the question that must be on some folk's minds, "Is this all they care about? 'Cause it feels like that's all they ever talk about?!?"

Well, if you mean that all we ever talk about is God's plan for God's created, if you mean that all we ever talk about is obedience to this plan, if you mean it seems that all we ever talk about is the high privilege of being stewards of God's mysteries and of God's resources - is this all we ever talk about here?

If you mean that it feels like all they ever talk about is, the purpose, the peace, the comfort, the joy we may know if we follow Jesus. Then go ahead and ask away. The answer? "I pray it is!"

You see, we would point to Jesus. Jesus God who knows us and claims us and chastens us, the Savior who loves us, forgives us and empowers us because *God trusts us* with the work of the Kingdom. Yes this is what we do - *this is what we get to do!*

From the first sentences of Genesis to the last sentence of the Revelation, the narrative sweep of the Bible tells the story of God's love and God's righteousness, God's yearning, God's pursuit and God's delight . . . in us.

God only asks that we be faithful. You see, once we are clothed in Christ it is not for us to decide if we will be stewards. One may be a poor steward or a good steward, *but we are stewards*. We have been entrusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ and have been given eternal life. It is our high calling to share!

This Sunday is Commitment Sunday. I cannot nor would I presume to tell you what you can pledge, but I ask that you do. See you in worship -

With great joy in being your pastor,

Cress

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

-1 John 3:18

Encouraged

Well, here we are two months into the 2011-2012 school year and God has certainly already moved amongst us in significant ways. We kicked off the year with Homecoming Sunday on Sept. 11th, complete with a skit, energizer and commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Support Staff. The energizer, (which, by definition, is an upbeat song with dance motions), was received well that morning in the Fellowship Hall, so we decided to do another one two weeks later on Montreat Youth Sunday. The vast majority of you seemed to be very into the energizer, despite the incorporation of movements very different from what we usually do in the sanctuary. This was encouraging! Even more encouraging was the youth participation in almost all of the elements of worship that Sunday. Laura Taylor preached a beautiful sermon that moved so many of us because it was centered on Christ and spoken courageously straight from her heart. *(If you were unable to come that Sunday and would like to listen to it, you can find it under the podcast section of our church website).*

Another great point of encouragement is the 40-week confirmation class that Craig Baumer and I began with eight middle school students on Sept. 25th. We all created a list of promises that morning that we want to share with one another throughout the year. This is what we came up with:

As the 2011-2012 Confirmation Class, we promise to:

- 1) Ask questions
- 2) Show up as often as we are able to
- 3) Pay attention
- 4) Respect each other
- 5) Journey together
- 6) Have Fun!

We spent a good deal of time talking about the importance of this first promise: asking questions. Craig and I so deeply desire for the climate of this class to be such that each student feels the complete freedom to be honest with doubts, uncertainties, and questions that he or she has so *growth* can be experienced!

Yet more encouragement: we have two new Sunday School teachers to be with our high schoolers! Fran Hughes and Gary Jaffe have prayerfully and joyously volunteered their time and energy to pour into this area of ministry at Second Church, and there has been such positive feedback already from the students. Amanda Burroughs, on the topic of forgiveness that Gary led the students in a few weeks ago, said: *"We were all very open with our thoughts on talking with our friends about God, and Gary taught very clearly and made it FUN!"*

There is so much to celebrate, so much to be thankful for, so much to be humbled by. As we gear up for Retreats, Operation Christmas Child, Youth Alliance events, and all the other exciting things that the holiday season brings, my prayer remains that we keep our eyes open for seeing God's hand in the small, day-to-day happenings. I look forward to watching the Holy Spirit continue to open our eyes to how much greater the Lord's ways are than our own and, (just as we focused on at the Pilgrimage Retreat at the beginning of October), how freeing it is to rest in the knowledge that everything that is meant to be will be...*in His time.*

May the Holy Spirit move powerfully in each of us, bringing us to a greater awareness of just how very great our God is, and how very worthy He is of our worship! Joyfully, Caitlin Binda.

"I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2

Kindergarten News

Our Preschool and Kindergarten is off to another year of growth and development for the sixty-five children who participate in the weekday program at Second Presbyterian Church. We have had back to school activities for parents and training in CPR for teachers. The children loved our Health and Safety Week in October when we had visits from the Pediatrician, Dr. Joanna Gheghan, the dentist, Dr. James Thomas and the Nutritionist, Dr. Sherri Jacobs (all parents of students or former students of our school.) Police Officer Sossa gave us a tour of his patrol car and talked to us about bike safety. The friendly firefighters from the Meeting Street Station gave us a demonstration on Fire Safety and showed us their fire engine and equipment.

Pastor Cress and Caitlin help with our Chapel Worship on Wednesdays and our music teacher, Eszter Ablonczy is teaching us new songs like *"What a Mighty God We Serve!"* We learn The Disciples' Prayer and *"make a joyful noise"* each week. Come by at 9:30 a.m. and join us sometime!

The school family is preparing for Kindergarten Sunday on November 13 at Second Presbyterian. I hope that the Church Family will give our kindergarten families the best "Second Home" welcome ever! Caitlin Binda, Jodie Luhn and Eszter Ablonczy have put together a program of worship, music, fellowship and service for that special day. Plan to enjoy the day with these young guests and their parents, when we recognize this important ministry of our church.

Blessings, Sue Henderson, Director

Counseling Center

One of the local outreach projects of Second Presbyterian Church is a collaborative venture with Lowcountry Pastoral Counseling Center (LPCC).

LPCC is a non-profit, faith-based counseling practice, which serves the Charleston area at six locations. All LPCC staff members are licensed therapists who are also trained to integrate clients' religious beliefs into the counseling process.

The two LPCC counselors who provide services at Second Presbyterian are Allyson Carrington and E. Reeves Howard. Both are highly respected counselors in our community who are skilled in individual, couples, and family therapy.

Because of support from congregations like Second Presbyterian Church, LPCC is able to provide counseling to several thousand clients a year, including those normally unable to afford therapy.

In addition to providing counseling for individuals, couples, families, children, and addictions, LPCC staff members are available to present workshops on counseling-related topics.





Meet Maggie,

Maggie is a sophomore at the College of Charleston. A life-long Presbyterian, Maggie quit attending Presbyterian campus ministry shortly after coming to college. This is a bit of her story of how she has begun to renew her faith. (p.s. - Maggie's also really humble so she won't mention that she turned down a leadership position in her sorority so she could be involved with the Journey this year).

Freshman year is full of many changes. It is packed with new experiences between classes, friends, roommates, and making a new home away from home. Freshman year was my first year being away from my parents and the shelter of their rules. This also meant I was away from their encouraging words and motivation to do routine things. Going to church each week was one of those things. Finding that motivation each week to get up Sunday mornings, or attend the Presbyterian campus ministry on Wednesday nights was more difficult than I expected. Every week brought new challenges and I will be the first to admit that church and PSA (what the Journey used to be called) were frequently placed on the back burner.



I was not finding that internal motivation and call to attend regularly because I had friends elsewhere and felt like I had prior engagements to worry about.

Toward the end of second semester of freshman year Colin approached me and asked that we sit down so he could share some ideas with me about the campus ministry for the upcoming year. We met at Kudu Coffee one afternoon and I immediately became interested in all he had to say. I realized this was my opportunity to become involved and express my ideas so that the Presbyterian college group could become something I wanted to attend weekly and encourage my friends to attend as well. Meeting other people that felt the same way instantly helped me feel God's love and all He had in store for this year. After meeting with other students and various Charleston residents, I became more and more excited about the new and improved PSA program; the Journey.

This year the Journey has become an incredible program that I look forward to attending each week. God has done great things through the Journey and in my life. It is something I can look forward to each week and it's a place where I can ask any questions about God and his love. Not only is the Journey a place of worship but it is also a place of fellowship and community and I can't wait to see everything God has in store.

-Maggie

Congratulations!

Garden & Gun named to national top 10 list for magazines

Advertising Age ranked *Garden & Gun* fourth on its annual A-list Wednesday, including the Charleston-based publication for the first time on its list of industry players.

Each year, *Advertising Age*, a weekly publication that covers advertising and marketing news, recognizes 10 publications that "have excelled on one front or many."

It cited *Garden & Gun* as an example of the potential for niche publishing, noting the magazine's growth in ad pages, circulation and the American Society of Magazine Editors Award for General Excellence.

Garden & Gun won 10 awards from the American Society of Magazine Editors in 2011.

"*Garden & Gun* practically begged urban Northerners to joke about its unusual name when it launched in 2007," according to *Advertising Age*. "But the magazine that styles itself the 'Soul of the South' looks like it will have the last laugh." *Garden & Gun* was founded by our own Rebecca Darwin.



Library Notes

Throughout the Summer of 2011, Victoria Bucher has continued to work at integrating two large gift book collections into the 2nd Presbyterian Church library's catalog of holdings.

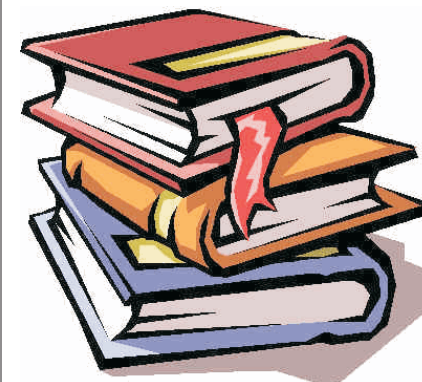
This year, Scott Pearson has donated some 100+ titles of wide theological and biblical interest from his own extensive collection. Most recently, Craig and Tressa Heinen have brought the library 50+ titles donated to 2nd Church from longtime member Arthur Heinen's collection: these are titles of solid religious and literary interest.

Both these large donations have come to us in good condition and these books make most appreciated additions, of recent vintage, to our library's stock!

Peggy Gale continued to gather materials for a "pamphlet and clipping file" collection devoted to saving information on topics concerning Second Presbyterian's presence and impact on Charleston history and the local scene.

The library has also begun a *swap basket*, in order to begin a "light reading"/paperback exchange. Feel free to visit the library. It is located on the second floor of Fellowship Building, Room 206. Select and swap a book or two, look around. Victoria Bucher is usually at work in the 2nd library on most Tuesday afternoons.

We are always most interested to receive donations of books of local interest, especially materials which might touch on Second Presbyterian Church and its impact on the Charleston scene.



Victoria Bucher

The First Gathering

Look at this picture. Over 40 students are gathered in the upper room of a bar on one of the most wild streets of Charleston. Yet instead of partying, they're worshipping, listening to a Biblical message, and discussing its application and meaning for their lives. Some even stayed late and cleaned the bathrooms after--so they could be a blessing to the bar staff.

Some students are mature believers looking to grow deeper in their faith. Others come from church backgrounds who thought they were leaving it behind until they were handed one of a 1000 invites we passed out on the street corner. "Okay," one confessed to me. "I guess I'll give this a chance." A few haven't been in church since they left home for college--not quite against Christianity so much as disinterested in it. And even still one girl I spoke with hadn't been inside a church in longer than she could remember.

Yet, here they all were, gathered in this upper room, considering whether to take a journey of spiritual exploration together and discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus. They were gathered because of this church's faithfulness to mission.



Thank you for what you're doing. It's already making the kind of difference that couldn't happen without you.

for the glory of God, Colin Kerr, Director of Campus Ministry

An Evening at the Citadel



An evening at the Citadel Monday large group.



We go acoustic!



Beach Party!

Simple ways you can pray for us:

- We're trying to launch a Citadel small group. It's tough with the cadets' schedules!
- For Saye Simpson, Citadel alum and small group leader.
- That our joint project with the Jewish Student Union would be spiritually and relationally fruitful.
- That our statewide service weekend would be a blessing to the other Presbyterian groups in attendance and to the people we serve.

November & December Birthdays!

November

1 Cathy Oyer
 4 Fran Hughes
 8 Eleanor Smythe
 10 Pamela D. Luhn
 11 Ethel Nepeux
 13 Katherine Accardo
 13 Terry Roddey
 14 Vince Hicks
 16 Ani Lees
 18 Jeremy Jones
 18 Robena Medbery
 19 Austin Smythe, Jr.
 19 Harry Townsend
 20 Susan McDonald

20 Daniel McKnight
 20 Barry Waldrop
 25 Christina Smith
 26 Caroline Hunter
 30 Edwin Smythe

December

4 David Feath
 4 William Hawkins
 10 Nick Thompson
 12 Malcom Erwin
 15 Erin Kerr
 18 Ervene Hiers
 19 Keith Bell
 19 Virginia Street

20 Nancy Brooks
 23 Edward Cedar
 23 Carter H. Leslie
 26 Mabel Hughes
 26 Evelyn King
 26 Ashley Thompson
 27 Sarah Forsyth
 27 Chris Renz
 28 Llewellyn Clarke
 28 Robbie Luhn, Jr.
 29 Gracie Smythe
 30 Jessica Bell
 30 Clyde Mizzel
 31 Amy Roddey

Stewardship Time - Online

As the stewardship committee looks to new ways to raise money for Second Presbyterian we are excited to announce that we now allow online-giving!

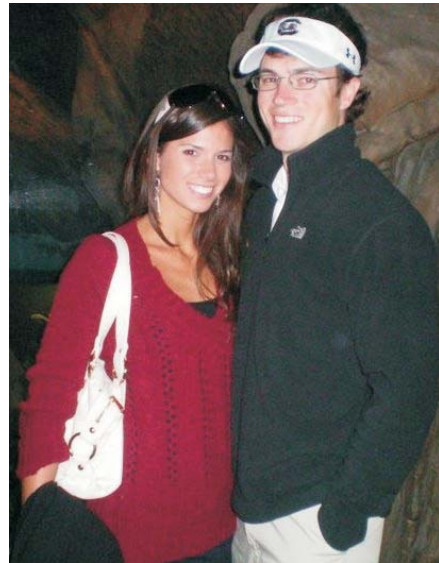
Over the past few years many people have asked if they can make a contribution to the church on their credit card, or on a recurring basis. Hearing those requests the stewardship committee looked into several options to make sure that we had the most secure and easy to use system available. Here are some advantages to making your contribution online

- You can use a credit card, or have it wired directly from your bank account;
- Never forget! Ensure the church receives their contribution even if you miss a week or lost a pledge envelope;
- Ease of mind – Know that you can make a one-time contribution or monthly and don't have to worry about following up to see if the church received it.
- Go to www.secondpresbyterianchurch.org and select online giving at the bottom of the first page.

We feel that this a great opportunity for all Second Presbyterian donors no matter their level of giving. If you've never given or pledged before we'd encourage you to take that first step and try it. You'd be amazed how quickly it adds up if each person in the church contributed.

Respectfully submitted,
 Brady Quirk-Garvan

New Members!



Trey & Ashley Elizabeth Burke



Brandy, Randy, Bella Mae & Eli Snyder



Terry & Dolly Hamlin



Jonathan Van Duyne



Caitlin Binda

Deacons

At a called meeting of the congregation on October 2, 2011 a page was turned and a new chapter begun as Second Church reestablished a Board of Deacons. Within our denomination we believe that some within the community of the church are called to particular service. There are those who have a gift and a claim on their hearts for caring and compassion. In the Bible these people are referred to as Deacons.

The people on this page who have responded in faith are to be congratulated on the recognition of their gifts. And they are to be prayed for and joined in the sweet work of caring for God's people.



Charlie Watts



Cathy Hinson



David Hinson



Debbie Smith



Margaret Baumer