

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
July/August 2022

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 2022

Patricia Bonham
Joseph Chamberlain
Dennis Harrison
Alice Martin

Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie
Mark Stevens
Wendy Stevens

Class of 2024

Bettie Guthrie
Garland Harrison
Venable Johnson

Committees:

Congregational Care

Elizabeth Schoeb

Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

Finance/Stewardship

Patricia Bonham
Mark Stevens

Office & Personnel

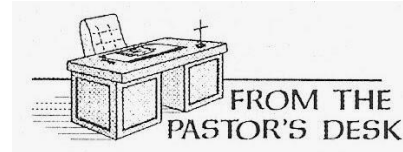
Patricia Bonham

Witness & Service

Joseph Chamberlain

Worship/Education

Alice Martin
Venable Johnson



The typical denominational church in America is losing members and aging in its membership. Young people and children don't come or if they do, they come sporadically. The reasons have been studied and the results published. Among the more prevalent reasons for the decline are:

1. The irrelevancy of the church in a complex and competing world.
2. The inability of the church to communicate effectively.
3. The expectations members have of clergy and staff that are believed to be unmet.
4. The failure to clearly preach and teach the Bible.

There are studies and guides giving practical steps we can take to overcome these defects and at least give hope for growth. I have been studying the suggestions and offer a few we can try.

Good Preaching -I work hard to preach from the Bible and to be true to the Word. I am amazed how every text has layers and insights often missed with surface reading. I believe in "peeling the onion" to see what God wants us to hear and how God wants us to use it today. I know from experience that each time I study a passage, new truths emerge and new applications arise. I also believe in concrete examples. Our "Time at the Steps" is an example of how we can take something simple and use it to let God's word reveal a new way to see God's word. This example of preaching is memorable; you'll talk about it and you will remember it. I'm sure some will remember the use of airplanes and balloons and broom sticks and running. More is coming.

Improved Communications -We need to be sure we can reach every person. I have asked the Session to upgrade our electronics and our "in church" systems so we can present everything we do live to the world in an effective and interesting manner. For those not technically savvy, I want us to invest in devices that can be "loaned" to those in need so

that all may be on the same page. For those who live by technology, I want to be able to communicate with them daily and in their language.

THE PREACHER'S CORNER

Intentionality Toward Visitors—Here, I want us to have a packet available for any who might come. The packet will have information and gifts. I want us to follow up each of the first three visits with an immediate, same day, personal response.

Special Attendance Sundays—Here, I want us to set aside three or four Sundays a year when we invite a friend to come with us. And here's a real deal. I will give half of a \$10 Dollar Bill to each guest who comes, and if they come back, I will give them the other half or I will exchange it for half a \$20 and will give the other half, if they will come a third time ---this time on their own, I will give them the other half or we can put the \$20 in the collection plate, or they can keep the half of the \$20 as a token of their membership in the \$20 Club. Now I know there will be some negative "ooooos" on this one but just try it. You might be surprised!

Prayer Mondays—Every other Monday beginning in September I will hold a mid-morning prayer time for any who wants to come. It will last up to an hour. We will study prayer and we will pray for those in need of prayer, for situations needing prayer, for our church, for our community, and for each other.

There is more to come.

WHO AM I?

I accompanied Paul when he went to Crete and helped him there as we brought the Good News. When Paul left to go on another missionary journey, he left me to organize the converts on Crete and to get the church going there. I was to catch up with him in Necropolis, but I didn't get there in time. Later I went to the area called Dalmatia, today called Croatia and once called Yugoslavia, at Paul's direction to take the Gospel. Paul and I were close and he called me his "true son." He wrote me a Letter which is in the New Testament; it was intended as instructions for the church in Crete. After Dalmatia I returned to Crete and remained there working with the church Paul and I had established. Who am I?

Rev. Arch Wallace

COMMUNITY GARDEN: Lindsay Gray

The Second Presbyterian Church Community Garden is well underway with kale, lettuce, onions, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes. The best time to interact with people in our community is when I work the garden in the morning. In April and May I spoke to several people who live nearby who harvest in our garden and they are welcome. I keep plastic bags available for vegetables and people are welcome to harvest on their own.

This garden was brought about in Spring 2019 in memory of Carl Guthrie, Jr. who was the son of Carl and Bettie Guthrie.

Our little garden is in the tradition of Petersburg's many Victory Gardens of World War II. I fly a small American flag when I work the garden. Working in the garden is good outreach. I hope I can put more time into this garden in 2022.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator



Our circle meetings are put on hold for the summer, but our mission projects and planning for the next year keep going. The food ministry continues all year and we are grateful for your contributions of non-perishable food. Please place them in the baskets in the back hallway.

JULY PROJECT - "WORKCAMP"

We just got the good news from the WorkCamp director that this wonderful event is going to happen – July 14-23. The program is for teens with adults working with them to help older adults repair their homes to make them safer and more comfortable. The Men's Group and PW help provide lunches and those hungry teens are very grateful!!

Looking forward to September, there is much to be excited about. Our two circles, Ruth and Morning, have officially joined to meet as one circle. **Gloria Summers** will be the Moderator, and we look forward to her inspiring leadership. **Mona Ellis** will continue as circle Treasurer. The Bible study will be "Celebrating Sabbath- Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight". More on that in the Sept. "What's First".

Mark your calendars for our first meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 10:30 in the church parlor.
Come join us – you'll be glad you did!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Church Office will be closed on Monday, **July 4** to celebrate the July 4 holiday.
- ❖ Worship/Education Committee Meeting will be held on **Monday, August 1, 10:30 a.m.**
- ❖ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, August 7, 11:00 a.m.**

July Liturgists

July 3 Pattie Bonham
10 Karen Graham
17 Venable Johnson
24 Alice Martin
31 Mark Stevens

August Liturgists

August 7 Pattie Bonham
14 Wayne Tucker
21 Karen Graham
28 Mark Stevens

PICTURE THIS

Our neighbors across the street at Joyner Paint and Frame are offering church members and friends the limited-edition print of the Beverly Hawkins pen and ink drawing of Second Church for \$5. And if desired they will give us a 10% discount on framing of the print. You may purchase the print in the church office and view the church's framed copy hanging in the fellowship hall.

MAY FINANCE REPORT: Pattie Bonham & Mark Stevens

	May	Year to Date
Donations	\$13,441.02	\$58,317.78
Expenditures	\$12,871.92	\$61,991.24
Gain/Loss	\$ 569.10	\$ 3,673.46



CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Schoeb, Chair.

Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card or call.

Hunger Corner - The Monthly Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, July 3** and Sunday, **August 7**. Recipient for these months is Downtown Churches United Hope Center.

WHO AM I? ANSWER: Titus

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

5 Martha Churn
10 Timothy Pittman
11 Albert L. West
12 Harry D. Baird, III
13 Elizabeth Schoeb
14 Sharon Allgood
16 John W. Schoeb
Wendy Stevens
21 Cameron L. Crew
22 Timothy C. Smith



23 Nancy Fitts
30 Dennis Harrison

AUGUST

- 7 Cherie Autrey
- 9 Colene Barras
- 15 Madison D. Gill
- 17 Anne Godfrey
- 22 Gloria Rose
- 31 Sammy Kirkland, III
Kathleen Muller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2022					1	2
3 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering Received.	4  July 4 Holiday Church Office Closed	5	6	7 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir	8	9
10 11:00 a.m. Worship	11	12	13	14 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir	15	16
17 11:00 a.m. Worship	18	19	20	21 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir	22	23
24 11:00 a.m. Worship	25	26	27	28 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir	29	30
31 11:00 a.m. Worship Hymn Sing						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2022	1 10:30 Worship/ Education/ Committee	2	3	4 4:30 Handbells 5:30 Choir	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Off. Rec.	8	9	10	11 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 Choir	12	13
14 11:00 a.m. Worship	15	16	17 12 noon "What's First" Articles for Sept. Due.	18 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 Choir	19	20
21 11:00 a.m. Worship	22	23	24	25 4:30 p.m. Handbells 5:30 Choir	26	27
28 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Session	29	30	31			

Second Presbyterian Church
419 West Washington Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

Address Service Requested

Second Presbyterian Church



Community
Outreach
Garden



**“Growing a healthy community
through the nourishment of our
body, mind and spirit.”**

All are welcome !