

# What's First

at  
Second Presbyterian Church  
March 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, Sr.  
Mark Stevens  
Wendy Stevens

#### Class of 2024

Bettie Guthrie  
Garland Harrison  
Venable Johnson, Jr.

#### Committees:

##### Congregational Care

Elizabeth Schoeb

##### Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

##### Finance/Stewardship

Karen Graham  
(Interim)

##### Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

##### Witness & Service

Joseph Chamberlain

##### Worship/Education

Alice Martin  
Venable Johnson, Jr.



At a reception near Christmas, a friend of fifty years announced in a private conversation that he was an atheist and I shouldn't try to talk him out of his belief. What do you say to a person who declares they don't believe in God? What are the right words for the moment? I told my friend that no matter what he felt or believed about God, I still loved him and so did God. I told him God is used to being rejected and has tried repeatedly through history to overcome our running away, even resorting to sending his Son, that we might be able to come home to God, our father. I also told him that in our tradition, it wasn't my job to convince him of God, but to show him God in my life and to tell him what God had done for all of us. So, I proclaimed the great change God had brought to my life and the joy the rescue and redemption has meant to me.

I then shared with him how being a trial lawyer made me seek the evidence and study it. I accept as convincing the good news of four different Gospel writers, sharing the information they had been given (Mark and Luke) or had experienced first-hand (Matthew and John). I told him the fact that more than 500 people had seen the resurrected Christ was also convincing. I then remembered the promises and the prophecies of the coming Messiah and how the promises were fulfilled one by one in the testimony of the New Testament.

I then remembered so many secular writings, like the current best seller, *Is Atheism Dead?* By Eric Metaxas, which lays out the case for creation, saying it could not have just happened, but that an intelligent designer began it all. He accepts science's Big Bang theory of beginning, noting that creation had a beginning, meaning someone had to start it. His second premise is where did all the stuff come from that Banged? Again, an intelligent design, again creation, again proof for the God of Scripture.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK - CONTINUED

I told my friend of Metaxas' book and even left a copy at his door. I haven't heard from him yet, but his wife called to tell me he is reading it. As a Christian I pray for the Holy Spirit to convince him and take away his disbelief. I hope you can join in that prayer for so many who either reject God or limit God to a maybe. Christ has told us to tell the world and to show the world about the Good News.

Last word: I recommend the book to all. Your faith will grow as you read it.

## WHO AM I?

I was one of the bright young men of Judah and was taken against my will to Babylon and held there to serve the King. I could interpret dreams and sometimes could tell what the dream was before the person who had it related the dream to me. I also had visions of the future and prophesied about the coming world powers of Persia and Xerxes, of Greece and Alexander, and of Rome, and its Emperors. I was imprisoned because I would not worship the imagery of foreign gods and I was challenged by many for the same thing as the years passed. I loved my Lord and stayed faithful to my God through it all. Three of my friends believed as I did, and they were thrown into a fiery furnace. But they lived, because the Holy Spirit was with them. My greatest prophecy, one God gave me to share, was the promise of the coming Messiah and the exact time He was coming. Who am I?

**Rev. Archibald Wallace**

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Schoeb, Chair.

- \* Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with cards and calls. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- \* The Monthly Food Offering received Sunday, March 6. Recipient: DCU Hope Center.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE: Karen Graham, Interim Chair.

### JANUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

	January	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,185.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,185.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$13,469.57</b>	<b>\$ 13,469.57</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>\$ 7,284.57</b>	<b>\$ 7,284.57</b>



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** Alice Martin, Moderator

**COMBINED RUTH & MORNING CIRCLES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1 at 10:30 a.m.**

**In the church parlor**

**Horizon Bible Study - Lesson 6 – “Bathsheba”**

**BLANKET SUNDAY DONATIONS TOTAL**

**\$540**

**WOW!! Thank you all so much for your generosity!  
This means there are 54 more people keeping warm and dry  
because YOU cared!! You are a blessing.**



**PW MARCH MISSION PROJECT:** Gloria Summers, PW Missions

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD FOR DCU HOPE CENTER**



Please place food items in the basket in the back hallway. As this is being written mid-Feb., cookies are pouring in for our first responders. Many thanks for your donations. You will be putting smiles on the faces of a lot of brave men and women who do so much to keep our city safe.



### **SYMPATHY**

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Gary Groux upon the death of his father, Arthur Groux on February 3, 2022.

*“Today is the day when bold kites fly,  
When cumulus clouds roar across the sky.  
When robins return, when children cheer,  
When light rain beckons spring to appear.”  
— Robert McCracken, Spring*

## WORSHIP/EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Venable Johnson & Alice Martin



The newly combined Worship & Celebration and Education Committees will meet on Monday, March 7, at 10:30 am

### ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2

This will begin the 40-day season of LENT. Special booklets will be provided for you to use during this time for your daily devotions and prayers. They can be picked up in the back hallway, or call the church office to have one mailed to you.

## OFFICE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Pattie Bonham, Chair.

### Happy Anniversary Becky!

The approach of March in the calendar heralds not only the arrival of Daylight-Saving Time, St. Patrick's Day and the first day of spring but also the anniversary of our long-time administrative assistant Becky Lancaster. This March will mark her 36<sup>th</sup> year here at Second Church. So sometime during this month of in-like-a-lion-out-like-a-lamb please take time to give her a call, a card, or a hug - or all three, and let her know just how much we love and appreciate her. Thank you, Becky, for all your years of dedication to Second!

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Alice Martin  
Savannah Crew  
10 Gloria Dance  
Anne Wright  
14 Caleb Gill  
Janet Campbell  
18 Allison S. Lewis



21 Shirley Laffoon  
Dianne Hack  
22 Allison S. Autrey  
23 John Schoeb, Jr.  
Malcolm Squires, Jr.  
25 Susan W. Crew  
Kim Jones  
26 Nona Wartella

### WHO AM I?

**Answer:** The prophet was Daniel and Rev. Wallace will be preaching from the book of Daniel in March and April.

**“Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.” – A.A. Milne**

**I KNOW**  
**A POEM BY PAT SHAFFNER**

A number of our church members are in far-flung places – Texas, South Korea, Ohio, California, Michigan, North Carolina- and it is always a treat to hear from them. Pat Shaffner who is living in Michigan with family on their farm has sent us greetings. She is in a busy household with 5 dogs, chickens, a goose, and many horses and is coping with COPD. She included a lovely poem she had written that needs to be shared with all of us! Thank you, Pat! We miss you.

I Know

I know of all the suppositions and uncertainties of this world.  
I know that my Savior lives.  
I see Him, in the visions He presents before my eyes.  
I hear Him in the words of wisdom and guidance He imparts to my ears.  
I feel Him in the touch of His hand in mine.  
I taste and smell Him in all the blessings He has bestowed upon me  
throughout our natural world.  
I know Him with all my being.  
I know He has my heart and soul, and He will be yours as  
well, if you surrender to His everlasting love.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b>New Address</b>	<b>Russell and Eleanor Garrison</b>	<b>Russell (Room 111) Eleanor (Room 114)</b>
	<b>Heritage Green</b>	<b>Eleanor's Cell Phone: (804) 363-7311</b>
	<b>7080 Brooks Farm Rd.</b>	
	<b>Mechanicsville, VA 23111</b>	

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Don't forget to sign up in the church office.**

**“Springtime is the land awakening.**  
**The March winds are the morning yawn.”**  
**— Lewis Grizzard**

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session**  
**Cyber Meetings: January 1, January 4, January 8, 2022**  
**Stated Session Meeting January 30 2022.**

**Cyber Meeting January 1, 2022**

- ❖ Approved the Finance Committee's request to move funds in the Peacemaking Offering and Pentecost Offering into the Mission and Memorials restricted fund.

**Cyber Meeting January 4, 2022**


- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds request from the Kinker family to use the Sanctuary and McIlwaine Hall for their son's Troop 175 Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, January 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

**Cyber Meeting January 8, 2022**

- ❖ Approved to cancel church service on January 9, 2022, due to a possible COVID infection.

**Stated Session Meeting January 30, 2022**

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting December 19, 2021.
- ❖ Received the December Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved the Adult Sunday School Curriculum.
- ❖ Approved the Clerk of Session, Bettie Guthrie for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved the Treasurer, Susan Crew for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved the Church Auditor, Wendy Sevens for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved the annual 2021 Clerk Index.
- ❖ Approved the annual 2021 Clerk Statistical Report.
- ❖ Approved Commissioner, Bettie Guthrie to attend the virtual Stated POJ meeting on February 19, 2022.
- ❖ Approved combining the Finance and Stewardship Committees.
- ❖ Approved combining the Worship Committee and the Education Committees.
- ❖ Approved the 2022 committee chairmen.
- ❖ Approved February 6 as Scout Sunday.
- ❖ Approved Venable Johnson as a member of the Building and Grounds Committee.
- ❖ Approved Guide Right organization to use McIlwaine Hall on February 12, 2022.
- ❖ Approved replacing all of the Federal Pacific electrical panels in the church as required by GuideOne Insurance.
- ❖ Approved to keep the Elder Class of 2023 with three members rather than four members.
- ❖ Approved 2022 Communion dates.
- ❖ Approved Worship/Education Committee members.
- ❖ Approved the funds raised from Souper Bowl Sunday be used to pay for the Work Camp lunches.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>March</b>		<b>1</b> 10:30 Morning Circle	<b>2</b> Ash Wednesday 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>6</b> 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship Monthly Food Offering	<b>7</b> 10:30 Worship/ Education Committee	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 12 noon <i>What's First</i> Articles due for <u>April</u> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast Meeting	<b>23</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	<b>28</b> 11:00 PWCT Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze	<b>31</b>	<b>2022</b>	



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 13**

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night. Spring Forward!!



Second Presbyterian Church  
419 W. Washington Street  
Petersburg, VA 23803

Address Service Requested

