

**What's First  
at  
Second Presbyterian Church  
May 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

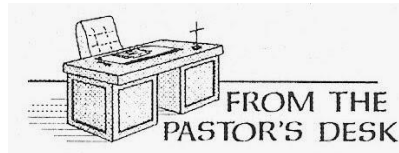
**Witness & Service**

Joseph Chamberlain

**Worship/Education**

Alice Martin

Venable Johnson



In today's world of Super Heroes we look for a hero we can idolize based on how fast or how quick or how strong they might be. And, when we find one we like, we go

all out to prove to any who might notice, that we have bought into our hero, and our hero is really our true alter ego. We wear their clothes, we talk like they do, we act tough when we really aren't, and we remember conversations in which we really stood our ground and told it like it was. Sadly, it never was and we are not the super heroes we pretend in our minds.

Just a few days ago, we took a look at a super hero on Palm Sunday, where the world had gone crazy worshipping him in a parade. We saw him again in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying that the cup might be taken from him, but willing, no matter what, to do what his Father asked. A final picture is presented on Easter morning – He was alive; He had conquered death. How could this be? He seemed so mild most of the time: he let himself be captured, he endured trials, and he let them nail him to a cross. He even died, so that on Sunday morning, in true super hero fashion, he could arise from the grave. No other caped hero ever did that. None ever died, really died, and came back to life. Christ did!

The reflection on how much we worship our man-created “super heroes” and how little we worship the greatest super hero of all time brought back to mind J. B. Phillips book, *Your God Is Too Small*, from 1952 in which Phillips challenged us to undo the “small god” we had made of the One True God and let God exist as the super hero of all time. In his book Phillips lists a number of labels we use to control God's intrusion into our lives.

Some say God is just a “Grand Old Man”? or, God is the “Resident Policeman,” who sorts out what's right and what's wrong, but makes no other demands on our lives. Some like to label God as “God In A Box,” someone we can pull out and put up when we need or don't need God. Then there's the Managing Director for those who want direction but not any demands.

Perhaps, the most useless category in Phillips' assortment is when we try to put God into the “Meek and Mild” box. We think to ourselves --- Jesus wasn't a fighter. He always demurred to others –turned the other cheek.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK - CONTINUED

And on we go, yet I can't see Jesus as meek or mild in the sense we understand those terms today. Jesus stood up to the authorities of the church and told them they were wrong and out of touch. He called them "vipers" to their faces. Once, He got really angry when he saw the money changers at the Temple gouging the pilgrims and He drove them out. There is even a story where Jesus walked through a crowd trying to stone him and not one stone hit him. And near the end, he turned his face to Jerusalem and could not be deterred from going there knowing it meant his death.

Jesus wasn't meek or mild in the traditional sense. Maybe he was in the sense that he refused to use his powers to destroy those who attacked, or in the sense that he turned the other cheek in forgiving! Maybe that's mild, but try it sometime; it takes more power to hold back than to let go and retaliate. Jesus wasn't meek or mild. Jesus was a super hero; no, I'm wrong, Jesus was THE Super Hero of all time, and he did it without a cape. So where are you? Is your God too small? Is Easter over and the candy eaten? Or, are you like the 12 who waited in Jerusalem until Christ gave them some of his super power, so they could turn the world upside down?

That power is still available. All it takes to get it is a bended knee and an acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior, and an ear willing to hear the rushing and roaring wind waiting to empower. Easter has come again. Will it make a difference this time?

## WHO AM I?

My father was Greek, my mother a Jewish Christian. I was taught the Old Testament from childhood on. I was a native of Lystra (Turkey today). I went with Paul on his second missionary journey and I worked with Paul as an assistant. He placed me in charge of the church at Ephesus when Paul went on his fourth missionary journey. I co-authored 6 of Paul's Letters: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Colossians, Philippians, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians and Philemon. I joined Paul in Rome in his end time for which I too was imprisoned, but I was released. What happened to me later is not in the Bible. It could be said, I was like a son to Paul. Who am I?

**Rev. Arch Wallace**

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Elizabeth Schoeb, Chair.

- ❖ Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card or call. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.
- ❖ The Monthly Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, May 1**. Recipient: DCU Food Pantry.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING

**TUESDAY, MAY 24**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Don't forget to sign up in the church office.**



**PRESYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator**

**The Morning Circle will meet**

**Tuesday, May 3, at 10:30**

**in the church parlor**

This will be our last meeting as we take a summer break, so please come and join the fellowship, Bible lesson and mission project information!

In May, we focus on the **Birthday Offering**. This year we celebrate 100 years ---“A Century of Giving and Receiving”.

This year there are two offering recipients. First, is McCleary House Transitional Housing in Maine. This will help people experiencing homelessness.

Second, is Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico. Still trying to recover from a hurricane in 2017 and an earthquake in 2020, the Presbyterian Church in Lares is in need of upgrading its kitchen in order to continue feeding the many in the area who depend on them for food.

Please make your checks to: Presbyterian Women with “Birthday Offering” on memo line.



### **PW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers**

**May 24- Networker's "Nickels for Nets"** is a malaria prevention program.

Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds making it the most common cause of death for a family in sub-Saharan Africa. Make your checks payable to **Presbyterian Women** and on the memo line add *Nickels for Nets*. PLEASE HELP!!!

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS KATHLEEN & ROBERT MULLER !**

Bob and Kathy Muller joined Second last month after worshipping with us for several months. They moved from upper state New York last year to be closer to their children and grandchildren living in this area. Both Bob and Kathy are talented singers and have joined the Chancel Choir and also the PW Circle and Men's Group. We are delighted to have them be a part of the Second Church family!



### **MOTHER'S DAY/FATHER'S DAY OFFERING May 8, 2022**

The Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering supports the Sunnyside Communities Fellowship Fund and provides financial and personal resources for residents who can no longer fully pay their way. This Presbyterian Ministry serves more than 800 older adults in our three retirement communities: Sunnyside in Harrisonburg, Summit Square in Waynesboro and King's Grant in Martinsville.

**Please make your checks payable to Second Church and on the memo line write Mother's/Father's Day Offering.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Karen Graham and Susan Crew, Co-Chair.**

**APRIL FINANCE REPORT**

	<b>April</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 9,814.00</b>	<b>\$37,250.76</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$11,266.28</b>	<b>\$37,655.76</b>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>\$ 1,452.28</b>	<b>\$ 405.00</b>



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**


6	Carolyn Cole		Reeves A. Dance
10	Eleanor Garrison		John W. Spence
	Margaret Smith		William Spencer
11	Marlee A. Dance		Kathy Traylor
	Mary Tucker		Heather Gill
13	Dorothy W. Holmes		Eli Iselin
18	Jenna Autrey Zufelt		Jeanne Johnson



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

**Stated Session Meeting March 27, 2022**

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting February 27, 2022 and the Cyber Meeting of March 8, 2022; Called Session Meeting March 13, 2022.
- ❖ Received the February Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Received a letter of resignation from Eugene R. Rowland "Rudy" as Trustee due to health issues.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds motion from The Women's Ministry of Shining Light Pentecostal Church to use McIlwaine Hall on May 7, 10-4.
- ❖ Approved Building and Grounds motion from The Gospel Inheritance to use McIlwaine Hall on June 12, 2022, 3-8.
- ❖ Approved Nominating Committee members.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel co-chairmen.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel's request to hang a portrait of The Rev. Wallace in the back hallway.
- ❖ Received an oral announcement that the Diana Hollars estate will donate her Teddy Bear Collection to the church.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 2022</b>						
<b>1</b> 11:00 Worship Monthly Food Offering Rec.	<b>2</b> 10:30 Worship/ Education Committee	<b>3</b> 10:30 Morning Circle	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day 11:00 Worship Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering Received.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12:00 noon "What's First" Articles for June due	<b>19</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	<b>23</b> 11:00 a.m. PWCT Meeting	<b>24</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4:30 Voices in Bronze 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 11:00 Worship Nickels for Nets Due	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Church Office Closed	<b>31</b>			<b>WHO AM I? ANSWER: Timothy</b>	

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

Address Service Requested

### **In Flanders Fields**

*by John McCrae*

*Written in Flanders on May 3, 1915*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



*All we have of freedom,  
All we use or know,  
This our fathers bought for us  
Long, long ago.  
-- Rudyard Kipling*