

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
November 2024

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

William C. Seay, Jr.

Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

Class of 2024

Bettie Guthrie
Garland Harrison

Class of 2025

Alice Martin
Kathleen Muller
Robert Muller

Class of 2026

Carl Guthrie
Beverley Coleman

Committees:

Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

Finance/Stewardship

Beverley Coleman
Mark Stevens

Office & Personnel

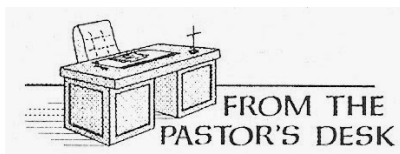
Garland Harrison

Outreach

Elizabeth Schoeb
Carole Ellis
Kimberly Jones

Worship/Education

Alice Martin



Eero Saarinen, a Finnish born engineer and architect, completed the world-famous St. Louis Arch in 1965. It remains a global reminder

that St. Louis, Missouri has always been regarded as "the Gateway to the West." The city once served as a "Jump Off" town for pioneer settlers heading West in the 1800's.

Jesus Christ himself taught about two gateways we must choose between in Life. Let us therefore pass through the gate our Loving Savior instructs us to choose. Challenges will visit us along the way. Yet the Lord will use this rigorous journey only to reveal the Blessings of His Never-Failing Love to us. And this will allow us to discover how He and the Good Shepherd who will be our Guide truly Love us and want to lead us Home to Glory. Therefore, let us embrace the challenge! It will be worth the journey!

"Enter through the Narrow Gate whose Path is rough yet leads to Eternal Life."(Matthew 7:13-14).

William C. Seay, Jr.
Commissioned Ruling Elder, Pastor

WORSHIP/EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Alice Martin, Chair.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

11:00 a.m.

Joint Service

Second Presbyterian Church

First Baptist Church

This year, we will gather at First Baptist with Rev. Rob Dawson giving the sermon. Please come join in this special service as we give thanks for the many blessings God has given us.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Moderator

November Mission Project: Gloria Summers

“SOCKS FOR SENIORS”



This is one of our favorite projects, and it is certainly appreciated by all that receive them. Please bring socks or slippers with grippers on the soles.

All sizes, all colors, for men & women are needed.

Please place them in the designated basket in the back hallway.



OUTREACH

Elizabeth Schoeb, Carole Ellis, Kimberly Jones

PRAY FOR:

Church Family and Friends - Our pastor-William Seay, Eva-Becky Lancaster's great niece, Dorothy Riggan and family, Keith & Kay Snavely, Organist & Choirmaster - John Michael and our choir, Davidina Tutwiler, Bill Ellis and Liam Clegg (grandson of Bettie and Carl Guthrie).

Our World/Community - Our nation that our leaders will be called by God, victims of recent hurricanes Helene and Milton (did you know the Morning Circle donated to PDA?), DCU/Hope Center as they meet the needs of our community.

FOOD OFFERING:

“If any has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in Him?” I John 3:17

Bring your items each Sunday. Need suggestions? Applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned meat, crackers, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes. (Pop-top cans are a plus) Did you know 1 in 5 kids live with hunger in America today?

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN T CHURCH

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there will be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts: see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Bring the full tithe” says the prophet Malachi speaking on behalf of the Lord. As most of us will recall a tithe is a tenth or 10%. Levitical law required one tenth of the agricultural harvest, be it grain, fruit or livestock, to be given to support the priestly tribe who owned no income-producing land. The tithe was generally expected to come from the first fruits of the harvest.

But, for us Christians, a tithe is a tenth of what? Is that 10% of gross income, before any deductions? Is it 10% of net income after deductions? Or is it 10% of “net net” which would be after all deductions and after paying for everything else that must be covered by our income? And is money all we’re talking about here?

There are many ways to tithe to the church. Certainly, financial contributions are a part of it. But then there are time and talent as well. How might we offer of ourselves in other ways that can benefit the church and God’s kingdom? We all know inspirational individuals who give a great deal in the way of time and talent to God’s community here at Second Church and beyond. Is there a way that we too could be a beacon to others in service to the church? Sometimes graphic reminders of what it means to tithe can bring the concept into clearer focus. The Rev. Paul Bonham tells the story of an experience which did just that for him. Perhaps it can help us as well.

While serving a pastorate in the low country of South Carolina Rev. Bonham made a trip to the up country along an unfamiliar byway. The drive was a pleasant one winding through rural countryside past vast cotton fields during harvest time. The heavy harvesting machines were out combining in fields littered with large cotton bales. As he rounded a curve in the road Rev. Bonham came face to face with a monumental brick church standing in expansive grounds surrounded by live oaks. The church, Salem Black River Presbyterian, was so impressive that he stopped to read the historical marker beside the road. It was then that he noticed that the side yard of the church was stacked high with bales of cotton.

During a later phone conversation with a knowledgeable friend a remarkable story emerged. Salem Black River Church indeed was old and one of note in South Carolina’s Presbyterian history. While it no longer held weekly services it did retain a devoted congregation determined to carry on. Twice monthly services were held and the building and grounds had been restored and kept up to maintain its historical designation. But in keeping with tradition, the farming community it served still tithed in the long-held manner of delivering the first and every tenth bale of cotton to the church to be sold for the coming year’s operating budget. The side yard stacked high with cotton bales was a sign to the community of the concept of tithing and a visible reminder to others to do likewise.

While Second Church would probably prefer that givers not leave cotton bales or bushels of wheat in the parking lot, it might not be a bad idea to have some outward visible signs of what a tithe means to each of us. As you ponder your stewardship commitment for the coming year please ask not only how much financial tithe, time and talent you can offer, but also consider how your actions might become a beacon to others to “bring the full tithe into the storehouse.” Our Commitment Sunday will be November 17.

In Christ’s love,
Your Stewardship Committee

Mark Stevens Beverley Coleman
Carl Guthrie Alice Martin

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session
Stated Session Meeting September 22, 2024 and
Congregational Meeting October 6, 2024

Stated Session Meeting:

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting August 25, 2024; ratified the Electronic Vote of August 28, 2024 and September 8, 2024.
- ❖ Received the August Treasurer’s report.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation from Building and Grounds Committee for the United Daughters of the Confederacy to use the sanctuary and McIlwaine Hall on March 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for their 160th anniversary.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation from Building and Grounds Committee to pay legal fees of \$1,500 to Hill and Rainy Attorney’s from the sale of three lots on Hinton Street.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation from Finance Committee for Mark Stevens to chair the Stewardship Committee and his committee members; Beverley Coleman, Carl Guthrie, Alice Martin, Mark Stevens, chairman.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation from Finance Committee to approve two Minute for Mission dates: October 6, 2024 and November 10, 2024.
- ❖ Approved the recommendation from Worship Committee for Bonnie Snyder, Genito Presbyterian Church to lead the Bible Study Class.

- ❖ **Congregational Meeting:**
- ❖ Approved the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to reduce the congregation quorum from 20% to 10%.
- ❖ Approved the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to reduce the number of Elders from 9 to 6 beginning with the Class of 2025.
- ❖ Approved the Nominating Committee’s slate for the Elder Class of 2027 – Bettie Guthrie.

2025 PLEDGE CARD

Second Presbyterian Church

Confidential NO. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Financial Stewardship Commitment 2025

Grateful for God’s love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church.

\$ _____ per - week - month - annual - other (circle one)

Your gift is fully deductible in accordance with rules issued by the IRS.

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year 2025.

My (our) financial commitment
\$ _____

Per – week -- month – annual -- other
(Circle one)

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Eph. 4:7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 3, 2024 Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!

Set your clock back one-hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3

11:30 a.m.



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving.

“WHAT’S FIRST” DEADLINES

✧ November 13 for December Articles

✧ December 11 for January 2025 Articles

These new dates are due to Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 17

Don't Forget To Turn In Your Pledge Card.

November Birthdays

2 Gary L. Groux

5 Mrs. Bettie Guthrie

6 Rev. Arch Wallace

9 Richard E. Peterson

10 Mrs. Linda Iselin



16 Mrs. Janet Hodges

18 William Jason Nichols

23 David Glass

24 John Charles Martin

26 Billie Graham

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Beverley Coleman, Chair.

SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

	September	Year to Date
Income	\$11,250.00	\$107,962.39
Expenditures	\$15,765.82	\$135,578.23
Loss	-\$ 4, 515.82	-\$ 27,615.84



THANKSGIVING

Thanks and all praise be to God the great Father.

Harvest's abundance is garnered and stored.

Americans gather for turkey and feasting,

National day to give thanks to our Lord

Kneel then, and pray that we share with the needy

Selflessly giving time, money and love.

God gives grace and gifts beyond all our deserving

Inspiring through Christ divine joy from above.

Virginia's settlers found land that was fertile,

Its golden strands washed with the soft, drifting foam.

Now we must pass on unsullied our heritage,

God of our fathers, bless this land we call home.

Poem by Doris Vaughan, 1992

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
NOVEMBER 2024					1	2 Reminder: Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night.
3 All Saints' Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends 11:30 a.m. Worship Monthly Food Offering	4 10:30 Worship Committee	5 10:30 Morning Circle	6	7	8	9
10 11:30 a.m. Worship	11	12	13 12 noon "What's First" Deadline for <u>December</u> <u>Note: Change in Date</u>	14	15	16
17 Stewardship Sunday 11:30 p.m. Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 11:00 Thanksgiving Joint Service at First Baptist Church with Second Church	25 10:30 PWCT Mtg	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast Meeting	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 	29 Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed	30

Second Presbyterian Church
419 West Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803

Address Service Requested

