

# Second Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

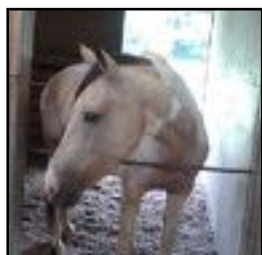
## SEPTEMBER 8 IS RALLY DAY!



On "Rally Day," summer ends and we rally back to the church from vacations and camps to dedicate our lives together. Please dress casually and come prepared for a fun and engaging time!

Worship starts at 11:00 on Sunday morning, September 8. Be ready for fun and unusual music, a lot of activity and involvement, and we will kick off our September focus on "Living with the Unexpected." *The Nursery will be open at 10:30, but Sunday School will NOT begin until the following week, on September 15.*

After worship, everyone is invited to join in a delicious potluck meal. The church will be providing beverages, chicken & BBQ. **PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT** (*ideally, please bring a dessert if your last name begins with the letters A through J, and a side dish or salad if K through Z . . . but please bring whatever works for you*).



After you've finished a great meal with good friends, you can enjoy pony rides, cornhole, an inflatable obstacle course, and Kona Ice for dessert.

This is a very special celebration for our church family. If you have a friend or relative that might be interested in joining you, **INVITE THEM TO COME ALONG!** We look forward to seeing you on Rally Day!



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, COMPUTERS, & TOOLS...



Many churches across the nation do a "Blessing of the Backpacks" ceremony during a worship service, typically in late August. But here at Second, we are turning this event into an intergenerational activity, where we can bless not only our children who are returning to school, but also the adults in our midst who serve our community in so many ways through a variety of vocations. On Rally Day, Sunday, September 8, the children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship where they will receive a special blessing at the start of the new school year, but we would also like to encourage everyone to participate. So bring in your briefcases, your stethoscopes, your diaper bags, your tool belts—anything that symbolizes the ways in which you spend your days working and serving others—so that you may receive a special blessing, too!

## FROM THE PASTOR: WHEN WE FACE CHALLENGES

This week I've been reflecting on our September sermon series on facing the unexpected in life, thinking about the new school year, and spending time in my father's hospital room, as he begins to come back after breaking his hip and kneecap. At one point in the hospital room, I took a break from work on my computer and briefly looked at Facebook.

There I saw a meaningful post from an English teacher in Oklahoma named Karen Loewe. The unique way she began this school year very much speaks to what has been on my mind this week. She wrote the following:

*Yesterday was quite possibly one of the most impactful days I have ever had.*

*I tried a new activity called "The Baggage Activity." I asked the kids what it meant to have baggage and they mostly said it was hurtful stuff you carry around on your shoulders.*

*I asked them to write down on a piece of paper what was bothering them, what was heavy on their heart, what was hurting them. No names were to be on a paper. They wadded the paper up, and threw it across the room.*

*They walked to the other side of the room, picked up a random piece of paper, and took turns reading out loud what their classmates wrote. After a student read a paper, I asked who wrote that and if they cared to share.*

*I'm hear to tell you, I have never been so moved to tears by what these kids opened up about and shared with the class.*

*Things like suicide, parents in prison, drugs in their family, being left by their parents, death, cancer, losing pets (one said their gerbil died cause it was fat, we giggled) and on and on.*

*The kids who read the papers would cry because what they were reading was tough. The person who shared (if they chose to tell us it was them) would cry sometimes too. It was an emotionally draining day, but I firmly believe my kids will judge a little less, love a little more, and forgive a little faster.*

*This bag hangs by my door to remind them that we all have baggage. We will leave it at the door. As they left I told them, they are not alone, they are loved, and we have each other's back.*

*I am honored to be their teacher.*

Each of us faces so many challenges. It is helpful to remember that we do not go through life alone, and that others face challenges—and need support—as well. But it also is particularly important not to try to face those challenges on our own.

When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in the city of Philippi, he was in prison. He was exhausted. Early in the letter he says that death would be so much more attractive than what he is experiencing. It is a very honest letter. But he finds strength in God. Later in the letter, in Philippians 4:13, he does not write, "I can do all things." He writes, "I can do all things *through him who strengthens me.*" Similarly, he never says to the Philippians, "Rejoice always." What he does say is, "Rejoice *in the Lord* always" (Philippians 4:4).

In worship during the next month and a half, we will be focusing on what happens when life takes us off guard and when we find ourselves on detours that we never would have imagined. The good news is that God is with us, even in our weakness, even during those many times in our lives when nobody else understands us or our lives. Even in the darkness we are called to turn to God in prayer and—in God—to find a peace that passes all understanding. That is what gives us hope. That is what gives us strength. And that's the good news.

With blessings,  
Craig



## FALL SPC SOFTBALL

Please come out on Friday evenings and cheer (or play!).

**Everyone** is welcome and strongly encouraged to cheer for our wonderful team.

**Friday, September 6 6:45/7:45PM at Tarrallton**  
**Friday, September 13 6:45/7:45PM at Tarrallton**  
**Friday, September 20 6:45/7:45PM at Northside**  
**Friday, September 27 8:45/9:45PM at Northside**



## SERMON SERIES

### LIVING WITH THE UNEXPECTED: LIFE ON ITS OWN TERMS *SEPTEMBER 8 – OCTOBER 20*

Each of us anticipates our lives unfolding in particular ways. Yet, even with great intentionality, those plans become derailed and we find ourselves facing challenges much different than what we had anticipated. We are not alone. Paul, David, Esther, and Elijah are just four biblical figures whose experiences in life mirror our own. How they faced those challenges can shape our own journey. Join us as we think about how we can live with the unexpected. (This series is a biblical complement to an excellent book by Carey Nieuwhof: *Overcoming the 7 Greatest Challenges that No One Expects and Everyone Experiences*.)



**Sept. 8** When You Feel Disconnected: The Imprisoned Paul and an Unhurried Life  
(*Philippians 1:12-26*)

**Sept. 15** When You Feel Cynical: An Angry Jonah and New Hope  
(*Jonah 4:1-11*)

**Sept. 22** When You Feel Compromised: A Lost David and the Struggle with Character  
(*2 Samuel 11:1-5; Psalm 51:1-5, 10-17*)

**Sept. 29** When You Feel Irrelevant: Queen Esther and the Embracing of Change  
(*Esther 4:10-17*)

**Oct. 6** When You Feel Pride: Jesus and Diligent Service  
(*John 13:1-11; Philippians 2:4-11*)

## DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

### DETOURS: AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 15 in the fellowship hall)**

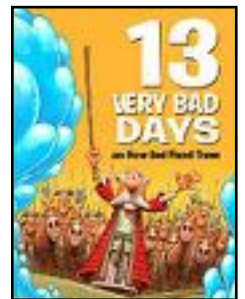
Frequently we think that things are in order or that we are on a predictable path. And then our life plans become absolutely derailed. That is the focus of this Bible study. In anticipation of 11:00 worship, join Marie Finch and Catherine Hart Monroe as they lead a study of scripture passages and a discussion of key figures who will be the focus of worship each week. How do figures like Elijah, Solomon, and Esther bring us to understand our own challenges in a helpful way? That is the focus of this study.



### 13 VERY BAD DAYS AND HOW GOD FIXED THEM (5 YEAR OLDS THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL)

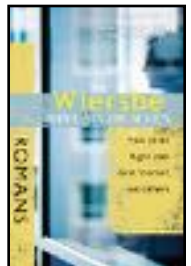
**(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 15, upstairs Sunday School room)**

It will be fun: Bible stories that jump out, meaningful discussions, giggle-worthy games, and oh-wow activities. Each Sunday this fall join Pastor Craig and Suzy White—who are very excited—as we study and encounter stories of people in the Bible who faced the same kinds of challenges that kids do today. How they responded is meaningful for all of us.



## A FALL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The book of Romans, written by the apostle Paul, addresses many fundamental concepts of Christian faith—the sinful nature of all humans and the righteousness of God, how we are justified by our faith alone, how grace and salvation are the greatest gifts from God, and how we can rejoice because those gifts can completely transform our lives in living for Christ. For this group study we will use the 12-week guide on Romans from Warren Wiersbe titled “How to be Right with God, Yourself, and Others.” The study will be on **Monday evenings at 6:30PM starting on September 30**. Ideally, people will volunteer to host a week or two in their home—please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you would like to participate in and/or host a week of the study. Please contact Katie White with any questions (615-8728).





**PWSJC Fellowship - Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks on September 8:**

On this day during worship all will receive a blessing on their items for work and for school, and then after we will rally back from summer together as a church. Rally day is such an energetic and meaningful day in the life of Second, so please come and invite family and friends! Full details of each event are listed on the first page of the newsletter.

**Assist with Worship - Sunday, September 15 during worship**

On this day the children and youth are asked to help participate in worship by acting as the ushers and as the liturgist.

**Young Disciples Mission - Sunday, September 15 after worship:**

All nursery and elementary-aged children are invited to join Katie White after worship to make a craft and card for people in our congregation who could use some support and love from their Second family!

**Parenting Group Kick-off! - Sunday, September 29 at 6PM:**

Please join us on Sunday 9/29 at 6:00PM at Chuck and Catherine Monroe's home, 960 Jamestown Crescent, as we begin our series on Tough Conversations with Other Parents. This is a parents only potluck. Childcare will be provided at the church. Please join us!



**Middle/High Mission - "Praise & Potatoes" Saturday, September 28 8:00AM-12:00PM:**

All middle and high youth are invited to volunteer at the "Praise & Potatoes" event at Oakdale Presbyterian Church in Norfolk. This event will host a praise service & prayer tent, produce unloading and distribution to the community, music, and more! Volunteers are needed to help distribute produce to those in need in our community.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT R&R DINNERS**

**"TALKING ABOUT THE UNPLEASANT: THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS"  
WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS AND PROGRAMS (R&Rs)**

In this series, we're focusing on topics like dementia, end-of-life issues, addiction, and depression and anxiety. We all would be helped by thinking through how Christians can best support or respond to these sorts of situations or issues. What should Christians know? Please join us at 5:45 p.m. for a meal from Parish Chef Helen Pribesh (\$5 per person) and then for the program.



*Wednesday, September 11*

**WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11?** with Dr. Bob Gunn (Dr. Gunn—who recently moved to this area—is a counselor with Tidewater Pastoral Counseling Services. Before that he was a professor of counseling at the New York Theological Seminary and was Larry Toney's teacher).

Where were you on 9/11? What does 9/11 mean to us today, 18 years later? How has it shaped our personal lives, our life as a country in the world, our moral and ethical landscape of day to day life? Come, let us learn together, as we recall this crucial part of our history together.



*Wednesday, September 25*

**A SPECIAL PROGRAM** . . .with a special friend of the church . . . who will talk about . . . something unpleasant and important. More news soon!

## MISSION AT SECOND

### SPC NEST COORDINATOR for 2020:

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for a member interested in leading Second's NEST participation in 2020. If you have interest or questions, you may contact Philip Ndahi, Elisabeth Sawyer, or Rich Voter.

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNER SPECIAL OFFERING:

The special offering for our International Mission partners will be held on Sunday, September 15. This special offering is an opportunity to make a direct financial contribution to support our international mission partners in the Netherlands, Germany, Jordan, and East Asia. During the special offering, you can designate your contribution for all or just one of the mission partners.



### ODU GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP VENTURES:

Global Friendship Ventures (GFV) is a ministry to support international students at ODU and other local colleges. Over 1,200 international students and their families come to study at Old Dominion University each year. Global Friendship Ventures welcomes and orients international students to their new surroundings, provides practical assistance, and offers community events connecting them with American families. If you are interested in getting involved with ODU Global Friendship Ventures, or hosting ODU international students for dinner in your home, you may contact John Klein; 589-2353; email: johnklein1@cox.net; or any member of the Mission and Outreach committee for more details.

## TRIPLE S CIRCLE: A PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GROUP

All women are invited to join with other Presbyterian women who study, serve and share together once a month. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, in the church fellowship hall at 10:30, September through May. The first meeting is **September 10th**. Marie Finch leads the Bible study and Pam Reed conducts the administrative side of things. The study for 2019-20 is *Questions God Asks*.

Should you wish to participate and need childcare, please call Pam Reed or Marie Finch and we will make sure a sitter is available (Pam Reed at 373-4249 or Marie Finch at 692-1689). Your friends are welcome. We hope to see you on September 10!

## FELLOWSHIP DINNERS AT SECOND



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Come on out at 6PM to share a meal, conversation, and an opportunity to grow.

**Monday, September 16: Baker's Crust**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

All women are invited to join together at 6PM to relax, dine, and share in conversation and prayer concerns. **Monday, September 23: Baker's Crust**

## FALL CHURCH WORK DAY

You are invited to the Fall Church Cleanup taking place **9am to 12pm on Saturday, October 5**. Volunteers are needed to continue the good work members young and older accomplished in May. Team Leaders will be appointed once again to facilitate the smooth flow of work. We'll work outside and inside. If you have a preference, please let Kathy Stark know. Those planning to work outside please bring gloves, pruning shears and insect repellent. Drinks and snacks (healthy and not so much) will be provided by the Administration Committee to keep energy levels high. Let's make this a family event—the kids had just as much fun as the adults last time!

**Raindate: Saturday, October 19, 9am-12pm.** Contact Kathy Stark at jstark25@cox.net to volunteer or provide input.



*There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!*

# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday, September 1

***Paul West & Anna Baragona's Birthday***

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, September 2

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, September 3

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, September 4

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA - 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 5

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Friday, September 6

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

**SPC Softball - 6:45/7:45PM [Tarrallton]**

Saturday, September 7

***Robin Hoff's Birthday***

Sunday, September 8 RALLY DAY

***Mary Franklin & Dean Troyer's Birthday***

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

**Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks & Work Items - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]**

**Rally Day Luncheon & Activities - 12:15PM [SPC]**

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, September 9

***Wendy Horner's Birthday***

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, September 10

**Triple S Circle - 10:30AM [Fellowship Hall]**

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, September 11

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

**Wednesday Night R&R - 5:45PM [Fellowship Hall]**

SAA - 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 12

***Samantha Bull's Birthday***

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, September 13

***Phyllis Layne's Birthday***

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

**Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]**

**SPC Softball - 6:45/7:45PM [Tarrallton]**

Saturday, September 14

**Second Saturday - 9:00AM [PPCLC, SPC, & St. Mary's]**

PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

Sunday, September 15

***Emma Jean Apodaca's Birthday***

**Discipleship Classes Resumes - 9:45AM [SPC]**

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

**International Mission Partner Offering - 11:30AM [Sanctuary]**

**Young Disciples Mission Project - 12:15PM [Children's Classroom]**

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, September 16

**Men's Fellowship Dinner - 6:00PM [Baker's Crust]**

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, September 17

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

**Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Fellowship Hall]**

Wednesday, September 18

***Roz Klein's Birthday***

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, September 19

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, September 20

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

**SPC Softball - 6:45/7:45PM [Northside]**

Saturday, September 21

PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

Sunday, September 22

***Amanda Besso's Birthday***

Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [SPC]

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, September 23

***Rob Courtois Birthday***

**Women's Fellowship Dinner - 6:00PM [Baker's Crust]**

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, September 24

***Dan Magee' & Jason Kittredge's Birthday***

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, September 25

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

**Wednesday Night R&R - 5:45PM [Fellowship Hall]**

SAA - 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 26

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Friday, September 27

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

**SPC Softball - 8:45/9:45PM [Northside]**

Saturday, September 28

***Cecil Chapman's Birthday***

**Youth Mission Project - 8:00AM**

[Oakdale Presbyterian]  
PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

Sunday, September 29

***Tom Morrisette's Birthday***

Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [SPC]

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

**Parent's Group Kickoff! - 6:00PM [Monroe's House]**

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, September 30

***Brenna Stacks' Birthday***

**Roman's Bible Study Starts - 6:30PM [TBD]**

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7305 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23505

(757) 423-2822

Church Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 10:00A to 2:00P

[www.spcnorfolk.org](http://www.spcnorfolk.org)

**Dr. Craig Wansink**

(757) 412-7467 [cell]

[cwansink@vwu.edu](mailto:cwansink@vwu.edu)

**Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe**

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[revcat@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:revcat@spcnorfolk.org)