

Second Life

The life and times of Second Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Virginia

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

BIG DEALS THIS MONTH

NEST [2/8-15]
Second Saturday [2/11]
Couples Retreat 2
[2/17-19]
Ash Wednesday
Candlelight Service [2/22]
Lenten R&R Wednesdays
[2/22 - 4/4]
New Member Class [2/26]

FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Craig reflects on the deeper meaning of the name "Second".



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Second hosts NEST, a ministry to provide safe shelter and a warm supper to the homeless, February 8 - 15.

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

WEDNESDAYS R&R

Each Wednesday during Lent we will ask ourselves not WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?), but WDJM (Why Does Jesus Matter?)

SERMON SERIES

"Beyond the 11:00 Hour: How Worship Shapes Us" continues through February 19. The Lenten Sermon Series, "Jesus Incognito: Recognizing When God Surprises Us," begins February 26.

ON THE HORIZON

Women's Retreat [3/16-18]



NEST

From February 8 – 15, Second Pres. will host The Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST). NEST is a coalition of churches and synagogues whose mission is to provide warm meals and a safe overnight shelter for homeless men and women. The shelter is rotated weekly between Norfolk and Chesapeake churches from November through April.

SPC members and friends have supported the NEST program since 1994. The success of the program has been due to the dedicated efforts of volunteers from both the church and the community at large. In recent years, SPC has partnered with Temple Israel, Messiah Presbyterian Church, Freemason Baptist Church and the Joint Forces Staff College to make this important ministry happen.

Last year, during our week:

We hosted 100+ guests.

We provided 930 meals (including dinner, breakfast and bag lunches).

We averaged 45 guests each evening (with 51 on hand on Wednesday night).

Seventy-nine folks from SPC participated in this mission (including our PWSJC Youth Group on Saturday evening).

Sixty-six of our mission partners supported us.

Volunteers are needed to: serve dinner; work at the bus stop; greet guests as they arrive; stay overnight (our biggest need); serve on the breakfast shift; and deliver materials to the next church.

You can be a part of this important ministry by signing up to help. Contact any of the following folks for more information or to sign up to help:

Nancy Morgan [nancymorgan@megahits.com or 962-1028]

Erin Todd [ebtodd@gmail.com or 454-2438]

Joe Morgan [jnmorgan@pulaskicounty.org or 804-441-1646]

Jonathan Todd [jonathanmtodd@gmail.com or 454-2438]



IT'S GOOD TO BE SECOND

This last month when my former professor spoke at the church, he mentioned how peculiar it was for him to hear about a "Second" Presbyterian or "Second" Methodist Church. He noted that he was used to "First" Churches and that he saw those churches as doing the equivalent of staking the first claim in a city. Why someone would stake a second claim didn't make as much sense to him.

On the one hand, he was right that there are many more "First" than "Second" churches. Five years ago there were 2842 congregations in the United States named First Presbyterian, but only 64 named Second.

On the other hand, "Second" churches don't choose that name because they are trying to stake second claim. Generally they are outposts or outgrowths of the first church. I shared with my professor that if there already were a First Presbyterian in a city or community, and if another Presbyterian church were to develop independently, the members likely would not call their congregation "Second," but they might use a historical name, like "Calvin Presbyterian," "Knox," or "Westminster," or they might name the congregation after their neighborhood, like "King's Grant" or "Lynnhaven."

Sometimes the "First" church starts a second, because it wants to reach new people, it sees new opportunities or changed circumstances, or it recognizes that one kind of congregation can't address the needs of all people. In July 1872 members of First Presbyterian created Second in the building that now houses Freeman Abbey. The very first members at Second originally had been members at First. I've always been appreciative for what happened 140 years ago, when a group of Christians stepped out in faith into the future. Some of them had a second start.

The name "Second" is special: "Second Saturdays" are our mission days; "Second Life" refers to our newsletter; "Second Thoughts" is the name of our Monday column each week. Frequently we don't get things right the first time around, so we're grateful for second chances, second starts, and second opportunities.



Second chances help us redeem bad experiences. Second starts help us look through the mundane aspects of life and recognize the holiness present. Second opportunities look past our sin and help point us to a future in Christ.

When I was in school at Yale, for two years I worked at two different homeless shelters across the street from each other. To be self-critical, I probably did so initially, because I was trying to understand some aspects of life I hadn't experienced and didn't know well. What I quickly found, though, was that all of us face all kinds of challenges, and each of us needs others to give us second chances, just as we ourselves need them. I was deeply inspired by people who stumbled hard and were determined to get up, just as I was deeply inspired by those who—in the shelters—extended grace, kindness, conversation, and caring.

As part of NEST (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team), we will be hosting 40-50 homeless individuals each evening from February 8-15. The Morgans' leadership has been critical, but it really does take the entire church to take on a mission like this. Please look for opportunities to be a part of this event. Just as many of our guests need a second start, so do we.

With blessings,
Pastor Craig

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

LEARNING TO LOVE LEVITICUS:
THINKING ABOUT HOLINESS THROUGH AN UNLIKELY BOOK
(THROUGH FEBRUARY 19)

Christians' most typical New Year's Resolution can be summed up in the statement, "This year I will read the entire Bible." After finishing the engaging stories of Genesis and the excitement of Exodus, well-intentioned readers frequently fail to move beyond the book of Leviticus. That book consists of extensive discussions of burnt animal offerings, priestly duties, unclean animals and diseases, rules of the Tabernacle, and very peculiar rituals.

How is Leviticus applicable to us today? Why does it matter? What do ancient laws have to do with the modern world? Through February 19, please bring your Bible and join us on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30.

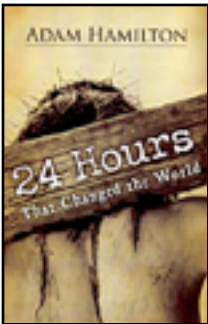
PHILIPPIANS AND FAITH
(FROM FEBRUARY 26)

Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of the most beautiful writings in the New Testament. From his imprisonment, the apostle Paul writes to a church community for whom he is sincerely appreciative. He is grateful for their friendship and—in this letter—we read the sort of advice that one friend offers another in the faith. It is advice that should strengthen each of us as well.

Starting February 26, from 9:45-10:30, please bring your Bible and join Pastor Craig as he leads us in a study of his favorite books of the Bible.



24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD:
A LENTEN SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION
(FEBRUARY 26 - APRIL 8)



No single event in history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. A few years ago, Adam Hamilton, wrote a book called "24 Hours That Changed the World". Each chapter was designed to help readers better understand the last 24 hours of Christ's life. Chapter titles range from "The Last Supper" through "Easter: V is for Victorious".

Starting on the first Sunday of Lent (February 26) and continuing through Easter morning (April 8), we'll gather in the upstairs TPCS room at 9:45 to take a look at this event that is so foundational to us, as Christians.

Folks are welcomed to participate in Sunday's discussions through a variety of ways including simply reading the book (print, e-version, audio, etc.); following the separate 40-day devotional (also available in multiple formats) or just showing up for the gathering where we'll watch a short video focused on the places where these earth shattering events took place before discussing the event.

If you've ever wondered about these "24 Hours That Changed the World", here's your chance to dig deeper into the relevance of Jesus in our lives.

SERMON SERIES

BEYOND THE 11:00 HOUR: HOW WORSHIP SHAPES US

When we gather together on Sunday mornings, through prayer, music, images, words, the Bible, and liturgy, part of what we are doing is trying to put our lives in perspective. Join us as we reflect on how our worship together should prepare us for daily life.

February 5

"Beyond Superficial Meaning:
Using Christian Symbols to Shape Life"
(John 3: 1 - 8; 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 31)

February 12

"Beyond this Life: Preparing for What We Can Only Imagine"
(Psalm 23; Revelation 7: 14 - 17, 21: 4)

February 19

"Beyond Our Self-Preoccupations:
Helping Others in Meaningful Ways"
(Isaiah 1: 10 - 17; 1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 3)



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

JESUS INCOGNITO: RECOGNIZING WHEN GOD SURPRISES US

Sometimes we misunderstand Jesus. That isn't necessarily surprising, since throughout the Bible—and particularly in the passages we see during Lent—Jesus is repeatedly misunderstood not only by strangers, but also by his disciples and those following him most closely. How we misunderstand Jesus shapes how we understand our own call. Join us this Lent as we journey towards knowing Jesus in new ways.

February 26

"Tempted by Satan" (Mark 1: 13): The First Temptation of Christ
(Genesis 9: 8 - 17; Mark 1: 9 - 15)



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:30A Men's Bible Study
12:00P Noon Bible Study
7:30P Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Bob Baird's Birthday

9:15A Community Bible Study

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Jeff Garris' Birthday

7:00A Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love
Leviticus
9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"
9:45A Faith Through Imagination
11:00A Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30P Al-Anon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:15A Women's Exercise Group
7:00P Women's Needlework Group

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

NEST

6:30A Men's Bible Study
12:00P Noon Bible Study
7:30P Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Matheu Murray's Birthday

Sam Stearns' Birthday

NEST

9:15A Community Bible Study

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Sean Franklin's Birthday

Alice Allen Grimes' Birthday

NEST

7:00A Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Mildred Berryman's Birthday

Linda West's Birthday

NEST

9:30A Second Saturday

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

NEST

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love
Leviticus
9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"
9:45A Faith Through Imagination
11:00A Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEST

7:30P Al-Anon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

NEST

9:15A Women's Exercise Group
10:30A Triple S Circle

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Anne Baylor's Birthday

Michael Finchs Birthday

NEST

6:30A Men's Bible Study
7:30P Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:15A Community Bible Study

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Couples Retreat # 2

7:00A Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Couples Retreat # 2

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Phil Lingamfelter's Birthday

Couples Retreat # 2

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love
Leviticus
9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"
9:45A Faith Through Imagination
11:00A Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:00P Men's Evening Fellowship

7:30P Al-Anon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:15A Women's Exercise Group
6:00P Session Meeting
7:00P Women's Needlework Group

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Ashley Libbey's Birthday

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:15A Community Bible Study

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Bill Wooldridge's Birthday

7:00A Men's Breakfast

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Alice Yang's Birthday

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love
Leviticus
9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"
9:45A Faith Through Imagination
11:00A Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:00P Women's Evening Fellowship

7:30P Al-Anon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:15A Women's Exercise Group

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

ON THE HORIZON

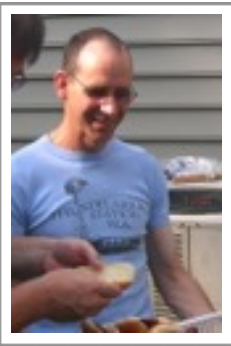
Women's Retreat 3/16-18

What's Happening at SPC?

*February brings a new season of exciting opportunities for this family of faith.
Mark your calendar so that you can join us...*



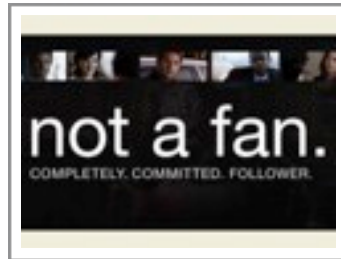
Rob Courtois



Lynn Franklin



Wendy Horner



NEW ELDERS

The Book of Order (part of our denomination's constitution) states that "as there were in Old Testament times, elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit."

Our congregation recently elected Rob Courtois, Lynn Franklin, Wendy Horner, Nancy Morgan and Stuart Shippey to serve as active elders on the Session (our church's governing body). Our community of faith is grateful for their willingness to serve. These new elders will be officially installed on Sunday, February 5, during worship.

We are equally as thankful for the elders who have completed their time of service: David Ferraro, Jess Grimes, John Sawyer and John Klein. Please keep all of these committed leaders on your prayer list as they seek God's will for SPC's future.



Nancy Morgan



Stuart Shippey

WOMEN'S RETREAT

From Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18, the women of SPC will enjoy a weekend of relaxation and reflection on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The retreat will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Corolla. Breakfast each day and Saturday lunch will be served at the hotel. The Hulls and Kleins will host Saturday night supper.

Donna Rae Barrow will lead this year's retreat, focusing on Kyle Idleman's book, "Not A Fan". She's the publications girl at Second, and also the Director of Christian Education at Providence Presbyterian. She's a completely. committed. follower. of Jesus, despite tell-tale signs of being just a fan (fish emblem on the back of her Jeep right next to the scripture license plates).

Registration continues through March 11. Contact Billy Ricketts at 423-2822 or billy@spcnorfolk.org for additional information.

COUPLES RETREAT #2

Five couples from our congregation embarked on the church's first-ever Couples Retreat over the weekend of January 20. The group spent a wonderful weekend at Corolla's Hampton Inn & Suites. While the weekend was focused on rest and relaxation, the group also spent time in fellowship, organized discussion, even a little homework and worship.

If your life is especially busy & relaxation, join Pastor Craig for the SPC Couple's Retreat #2 over the weekend of February 17 (pretty close to Valentine's Day). Contact Pastor Billy Ricketts (423-2822 or billy@spcnorfolk.org) if you have questions.

Ash Wednesday Candlelight Service



Our season of Lent begins February 22, with an Ash Wednesday Service, as we think about what it means to spiritually be in the wilderness. Each of us carries burdens, some of which are clear to others, most of which are clear only to God. Sometimes our burdens are related to health, to finances, to our purpose, or to losses in our life. Sometimes we want more from life, but we just aren't finding what we need. Sometimes we are discontent, angry, frustrated, tired, or sad. Our Ash Wednesday service both acknowledges our needs and our griefs, and points to our future. Please join us at 5:45pm for a light meal of soup and bread and stay for a quiet, meditative, candlelight service at 6:30pm.

Why Jesus Matters: From Teacher / Prophet to Son of God

Lenten R&R Wednesdays

Each Wednesday during Lent we will focus both on specific biblical texts and on the center of Christianity, asking ourselves not WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?), but WDJM (Why Does Jesus Matter?).

When we gather for worship, Jesus is at the core. At the same time, as Kathleen Norris writes, "One of the most difficult things about believing in Christ is to resist the temptation to dis-incarnate him, to not accept him as both fully human and fully divine."

What difference does it make if you believe in the trinity or the incarnation? Do you have to believe that God would come at one time in some remote part of the world? Why not see Jesus—like Muslims—as just a great prophet, or—like Thomas Jefferson—as just a great teacher? Is salvation only through Jesus? How is grace unique? As 21st century Americans, how do we understand the language about blood and Jesus?

**jesus
matters**

Please join us each Wednesday from February 22-March 28, for both a light meal (soup and bread) and for a study/discussion (note: Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday Service, Feb. 29, "The Incarnation").