

# Second Life

*The Life and Times of Second Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Virginia*

A Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2012

## BIG DEALS THIS MONTH

*"Learning to Love Leviticus" Study [begins 1/8]*

*"Mudhouse Sabbath" Study [begins 1/8]*

*Second Saturday [1/14]*

*Wednesday R&R [1/18]*

*Couples Retreat #1 [1/20 - 1/22]*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*Pastor Craig reflects on going to church.*



## NEW SERMON SERIES

*"Beyond the 11:00 Hour: How Worship Shapes Us" begins January 8.*

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

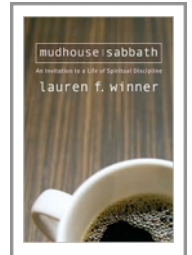
## WEDNESDAY R&R

*"Holy Days to Holidays: What our Celebrations Teach Us About Ourselves" with Dr. Bruce Forbes on January 18.*



## "MUDHOUSE SABBATH"

*A new Sunday morning study for adults with Pastor Billy begins January 8.*



F R O M T H E P A S T O R

## WHY GO TO CHURCH?



Thirty years ago, when I was in college, I embraced some pretty standard criticisms of the church: "It is boring;" "I don't need to go to church to have a relationship with God;" "People in church are hypocrites;" "I follow Jesus, not the church"; "I don't want to dress up"; "I don't believe what they believe."

Maybe I just wanted to sleep in on Sunday mornings, and those criticisms justified my absence from worship. Maybe they gave me some kind of moral high ground. Although I now smile at some of those criticisms, and although I still agree with some of them, they managed to take away any feelings of guilt I may have had about not attending worship.

Going to church increasingly is countercultural. At least it is not the norm. One of my favorite advertisements on the internet is for Central Christian Church in Henderson, Nevada (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUJpJyth3J4>). After listing a number of reasons why people don't go to church, church members say the following: "So please come to my church where nobody is perfect, where beginners are welcome, where socks are optional, but grace is required, where forgiveness is offered, where hope is alive, and where it's okay to not be okay."

Hopefully, the "one hour" we spend together each week prepares us for the other 167 by reminding us of our need for community, by showing how Christian rituals and symbols enrich our lives, and by acknowledging that we are both grounded in the past and focused on the future. Worship brings us to respond to needs in the world, it helps us see the importance of forgiveness and gratitude in our lives, and it puts sorrow, pain, and death in perspective. Worship should guide both how we live and how we understand our life.

"Why do you go to church?" If you have friends or relatives who might be open to thinking more about how the church might help them grow, please invite them to church in January and February, as we focus on how worship shapes us. I look forward to our thinking together about how we are called and why our presence makes a difference.

With blessings,  
Pastor Craig

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

LEARNING TO LOVE LEVITICUS: THINKING ABOUT  
HOLINESS THROUGH AN UNLIKELY BOOK

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? From January 8 through February 19, please bring your Bible and join Pastor Craig on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30.

"MUDHOUSE SABBATH" STUDY  
SUNDAY MORNINGS IN JANUARY

In November, Pastor Billy met with a small group as they studied spiritual practices (such as prayer, fasting, Sabbath keeping and more). The study was based on a video that featured a series of short conversations between Donald Miller, author of "Blue Like Jazz", and Lauren Winner, who wrote "Girl Meets God".

Starting on Sunday, January 8, we'll take a more in-depth look at spiritual practices through the filter of Lauren Winner's fabulous book "Mudhouse Sabbath". While those who attend are encouraged to read the book (hard or electronic copies are priced at around \$11 and \$7 respectively at Amazon), it's also fine to simply show up on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the upstairs TPCS office to join in conversation.

If your life seems overly hectic and focusing on God seems extraordinarily difficult, join this group on Sunday mornings as they find creative ways to make time for their faith.

## 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. From January 8-February 19 we will reflect on how worship shapes us and on ways in which our worship together should prepare us for daily life.

**January 8**

"Beyond Independence: Created for Community"  
Genesis 2: 18 - 25; 1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 7, 14 - 26

**January 15**

"Beyond Selfishness: Encouraging Practical Thankfulness"  
1 Thessalonians 5: 17 - 18; Luke 17: 11 - 19

**January 22**

"Beyond Bitterness: Finding Health in Forgiveness"  
Matthew 18: 15 - 22; Luke 23: 32 - 34

**January 29**

"Beyond the Present: Embracing the Past in Claiming the Future"  
Deuteronomy 6: 6 - 9; Luke 4: 1 - 13

**February 5**

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

**February 12**

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

**February 19**

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



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

*Ashley Warren's Birthday*

*New Year's Day*

11:00A Worship

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

7:30P AI-Anon

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**

*Fred Simmermon's Birthday*

9:15A Women's Exercise Group

7:00P Women's Needlework Group

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6**

7:00A Men's Breakfast

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

*Norma Eley's Birthday*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love

Leviticus

9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"

9:45A Faith Through Imagination

11:00A Worship

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9**

7:30P AI-Anon

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**

*Marie Finch's Birthday*

9:15A Women's Exercise Group

**10:30A Triple S Circle**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11**

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**

9:15A Community Bible Study

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**

7:00A Men's Breakfast

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

**9:30A Second Saturday**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love

Leviticus

9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"

9:45A Faith Through Imagination

11:00A Worship

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16**

**6:00P Men's Evening Fellowship**

7:30P AI-Anon

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17**

9:15A Women's Exercise Group

6:00P Session Meeting

7:00P Women's Needlework Group

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18**

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

**5:45P Wednesday R&R**

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**

9:15A Community Bible Study

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**

*Jess Grimes' Birthday*

*Andrea Phelps' Birthday*

**Couples Retreat #1 to the Outer Banks**

7:00A Men's Breakfast

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

**Couples Retreat #1 to the Outer Banks**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**

**Couples Retreat #1 to the Outer Banks**

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love

Leviticus

9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"

9:45A Faith Through Imagination

11:00A Worship

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23**

**6:00P Women's Evening Fellowship**

7:30P AI-Anon

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24**

9:15A Women's Exercise Group



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

*Loretta Ricketts' Birthday*

*Phoebe Murrell's Birthday*

*Pam Reed's Birthday*

6:30A Men's Bible Study

12:00P Noon Bible Study

7:30P Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26**

9:15A Community Bible Study

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

*Marvin Cheek's Birthday*

7:00A Men's Breakfast

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

9:45A Adult Study: Learning to Love

Leviticus

9:45A Adult Study: "Mudhouse Sabbath"

9:45A Faith Through Imagination

11:00A Worship

**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**

7:30P AI-Anon

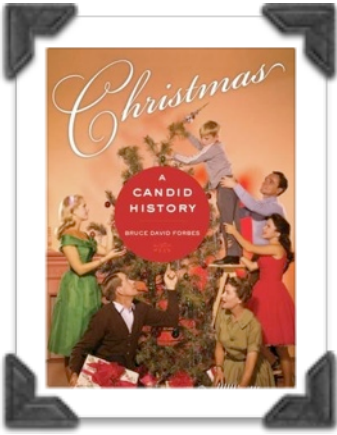
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**

9:15A Women's Exercise Group

**ON THE HORIZON**

Couples Retreat #2 [2/17-19]

Women's Retreat [3/16-18]



**Wednesday R&R**  
 “Holy Days and  
 Holidays: What Our  
 Celebrations Teach Us  
 About Ourselves”  
 with Dr. Bruce Forbes  
 January 18

*Please join us at 5:45 p.m. for a healthy dinner. At 6:30, Dr. Bruce Forbes—Professor of Religious Studies at Morningside College, a United Methodist minister, and Craig’s former professor—will talk about how holy days like Christmas and Valentine’s Day shifted to become holidays. Specifically he will show how these celebrations help us understand ourselves, as individuals and as a society.*

**Second Saturday**

**January 14, 2012**

Help Needed: Park Place Child  
 Life Center; Bakers; Visitors;  
 PPMC Soup Kitchen

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**Couples Retreat # 1**

**January 20 – 22, 2012**

**Couples Retreat # 2**

**February 17 – 19, 2012**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**OBX Women’s Retreat**

**March 16 – 18, 2012**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**