

Second Edition

AUGUST 2020 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

Last month we began discussing the five points of what Presbyterians call the “doctrines of grace”. The first of these five points is that we human beings are Fallen. We fall short of the goal God has set for our lives in how we live and we cannot do anything to help in our own salvation. It is purely by God’s grace that we are saved.

The second point is that we are Adopted by God. Even as a human couple chooses to adopt a child into their family, God the Father makes a deliberate choice to adopt and welcome people as children into his family.

He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he has freely bestowed on us. – Ephesians 1:4-6

Notice that God chooses and destines even before the foundation of the world. Some people call this the doctrine of election, or predestination. This doctrine does not say that every good or bad thing that happens to us and in the world around us is predetermined or foreordained by God. This doctrine has specifically to do with the question of salvation. The doctrine of election says that when it comes to salvation it is God’s choice and God can choose whomever God pleases because God is God.

This notion of election appears throughout the Bible. The Israelites are God’s chosen people not because of their might, but simply because God loved them (Deut. 7:6-8). They are the people God chooses for his inheritance (Psalm 33:12) and those whose names were written in the book of life before they were even born (Psalm 139:16). Paul writes that we were chosen by God for salvation from the beginning (2 Thess. 2:13) and that all things work together for good for those whom God called and predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-30). Peter writes that we should be eager to confirm our call and election (2 Peter 1:10). Jesus, himself, says that the end of days will be shortened “for the sake of the elect” (Matt. 24:22).

The Bible clearly teaches that God has elected those who will be saved. What we want to know, however, is “On what basis does God elect people to be saved? Is it because we have faith? Or is it just some random, arbitrary selection?” The answer is, “We don’t know.” The doctrine of election isn’t meant to predict or explain who’s in and who’s out – in fact, it isn’t about us at all, it’s about God.



The doctrine of election says that God is God and God can do whatever God wants, choose whomever God wants to choose. If we try to make it about us – which we have throughout history – it isn’t a particularly helpful doctrine.

However, just because we don’t know on what basis God chooses doesn’t mean we don’t know anything. We do know that God’s choice is a result of God’s love and mercy. When Tuesday and I decided to adopt, it was because we had love to share and we knew that there were children out there who needed to be loved. It’s the same with God. God doesn’t make choices in order to punish people or make them suffer; God chooses in order to share his love with those who need it.

The Bible also teaches that God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2:4) and God doesn’t want to see anyone perish (2 Peter 3:9). We should assume that God’s choices when it comes to election will be consistent with the love, grace, and mercy God shows us in Christ Jesus, who sought out those who were lost and hurting and marginalized and excluded and loved them for who they were, not what they had done (or hadn’t done).

I think that perhaps instead of focusing on who is chosen and who isn’t, we should focus more on the reason God elects us in the first place. Paul says that God chooses people to do good works (Eph. 2:10). When we are elected it is not so that we can sit back and say, “Oh isn’t it wonderful that I’m one of the chosen?” This was the mistake of the ancient Israelites. When God chooses us it’s to serve the world in his name, which we should be glad to do because we who have been adopted realize how dead we were in our sins and how totally dependent upon God we are for salvation. Our gratitude should lead to our servitude.

So we are adopted by God entirely as a result of God’s love and mercy, made part of God’s family by God’s actions, not through any effort of our own. God doesn’t choose us because we are better than others but in order to serve others, so that others may be attracted to the living and true God and know the way of salvation.

Grace and peace...

A simple, stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

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Worship and Celebration

Upcoming Sermon Texts & Topics

We will conclude our lectionary-based series on Genesis this month. We will continue to follow the Revised Common Lectionary on into the fall. Here are the topics and Scriptures coming up in August:

Aug 2nd	Jacob Wrestles with God (Gen. 32:22-31)
Aug 9th	Jacob & Esau – Part II (Genesis 33:1-12)
August 16th	The Canaanite Woman (Matt 15:10-28)
August 23rd	Peter's Declaration (Matt 16:13-20)
August 30th	Marks of a True Christian (Exodus 3:1-5, Romans 12:9-21)

August Birthdays

Kathy Thomas 08/05	Charlsey Dunn 08/14	Aggie Bell 08/23
John Reynolds 08/07	Dean Turner 08/15	Betsy Foster 08/24
Kim Elrod 08/10	Sarah Morgan 08/16	Craig Hendrix 08/24
Charles White 08/11	Louise Josephson 08/18	Caroline Buckner 08/26
Rockne Ullrich 08/12	Kathryn Freeman 08/21	John Testerman 08/29
Patricia Kennedy 08/13	Taylor Jones 08/21	

CONFIRMATION UPDATE!

Each time a child is baptized into the life of this congregation, members promise to guide and nurture them, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church. This congregation does a wonderful job of doing just that. There is no doubt that each of our children and youth feel the love and care that this congregation has for them.

During this program year members of the congregation will have another opportunity to uphold these baptismal vows. Beginning in January 2021, all of our 2nd Pres. youth – middle and high school students – will participate in confirmation and will join the church, if they so choose, on Easter Sunday.

The confirmation curriculum we'll use is called *Making Disciples* and relies heavily on a mentor/confirmand relationship. Each student is paired with a member of the congregation and the two will walk together through the Gospel of Luke as they learn together about different aspects of our faith. This is where the congregation and those baptismal vows come in. We will begin calling mentors, preparing them for their role, and pairing them with our students as we approach the end of the year. Whether you feel called to be a mentor or not, please be in prayer for our students (and their mentors) as they embark on this important journey in their life of faith.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES AUGUST 23RD

The Faith, Science & the Future Sunday School class, led by Dick Dodson, will resume meeting via telephone on Sunday, August 23rd. The class uses a curriculum called The Wired Word which looks at current events through the lens of faith. The topic for each week will be announced the Friday before in the Weekly E-News. Anyone who wishes to participate is welcome to join. Instructions for joining the class are below:

Start time: **9:30 a.m.**

Phone number to call: **(712) 775-8972**

Conference code: **179021**

Please be advised this is a long distance call for any who might be using a home phone with long distance charges.

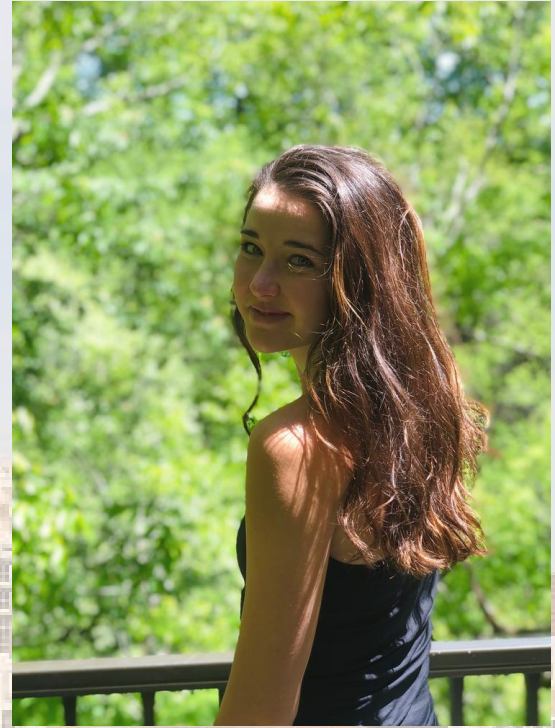
200TH ANNIVERSARY

Scholarship Recipients

Anya Dunn

I am currently going into my senior year at Maryville College as a Biochemistry major with a double minor in American Sign Language and Health & Wellness. I am, God willing, going to continue playing tennis with Maryville for my fourth and final year. I am pretty involved with FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) on campus, and I am also a Bonner Scholar. This means that I do roughly 300 hours of community service each semester (fall, spring, and summer). My service site (and one of my favorite places in the whole world) is East TN Children's Hospital. I currently intern in inpatient surgery, oncology, and in the NICU assisting the medical team to provide the best possible physical and emotional support for the patients and their families. My work at the children's hospital has affirmed my desire to continue my education after Maryville by pursuing a Medical Doctorate in pediatrics.

As of now, I'm hoping to enjoy my senior year and take in as much of East TN and the Smoky Mountains as I can! I truly can't tell you again how much I appreciate what 2nd Presbyterian Church has done for me. The congregation has given me the beautiful gift of hope, and a sweet community that I will cherish forever!



Mary Jensen



My name is Mary Jensen, and I am a third-year student studying psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Born and raised in Memphis, I feel truly blessed by the opportunity to discover, explore, and fall in love with a new region of Tennessee. Throughout high school, I discovered several passions that have stayed with me in college, such as running cross country, playing the piano, and volunteering. More than anything, though, my high school years helped me discover my love for learning and being a student. This appreciation has only grown and blossomed at UT--this might be reflected in the sheer number of sunrises, sunsets, and football games I've watched from the top floor of Hodges Library. Undoubtedly, I have immensely enjoyed my time being a Volunteer. The experiences I have had and the people I have met have all shaped my decision to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology, a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, and a lifelong career as a clinical psychologist. I am so grateful to receive the Second Presbyterian Church's 200th Anniversary scholarship, as it supports my education, future, and dreams.

BOOK LADY OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN

Contact Liz Peebles at
865-247-4503 or 865-660-9597.

Hello, church friends. I am Liz Peebles your traveling book lady during this social distancing period. I don't know about you, but I am tired of being at home. I am offering to fill book/media wants and deliver them to your homes (porch) and pick them back up when you are finished. I can social distance in my car. I will be wiping the books and media down with alcohol before you receive them and after I retrieve them.

Here is a taste of what our church library has to offer. In the DVD category I suggest the original PBS Anne of Green Gables, Faith Like Potatoes (a story of love and hope), I Can Only Imagine, Chariots of Fire, God's Not Dead, Woodlawn The True Story, The Hiding Place (the story of a family that fought the Nazi madness with the only weapon they had – love), Heaven is for Real, Where the Red Fern Grows I & II, Fireproof, the PBS production of Our Town, featuring Paul Newman, Won't You be my Neighbor, Grandma Gatewood's Walk, Christy, Luther starring Joseph Fiennes, Gospels of Matthew and John enacted using the exact words from our Bible, also Acts Parts 1&2 also enacted using the exact words of the Bible. I also have several Veggie Tales.

Some books of light interest: The Maisie Dobbs mysteries (9 books), Out to Pasture but Not Over the Hill by Effie Wilder, The Cherry Holler trilogy by Adrianna Trigiani (features Knoxville), Snapshot by Lis Wiehl based on real events and a photo taken by Lis' own German father, Saint Maybe by Anne Tyler, books by Patricia Sprinkle (highly recommended), Alexander McCall Smith's series centering around a dog (Corduroy) and other fun characters.

On a more serious note are The Collaborator of Bethlehem by former Middle East bureau chief Matt Rees and The Trial by Robert Whitlow. Becoming Mrs. Lewis is a novel about the wife of C. S. Lewis. There is a fun read about the Von Trapp family and also a devotional by Maria Von Trapp. If you have any other requests, I will try to fill it. The library has a wonderful selection of children's books. Just let me know a special interest.

In addition to books from the library, I have books not yet entered into the system. There is a complete set of Alan Furst's books about ordinary people in different parts of Europe during World War II. Neal has donated these and they are excellent reading for both men and women. Other donated books of interest are The Runaway Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini, Rainwater by Sandra Brown, Somebody Loves You by Helen Steiner Rice in an easy to read edition, two Sister Mary Helen mysteries, A Man Called Ove by Fredrik, Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts, and The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax by Dorothy Gilman. Neal and I watched again "Chariots of Fire," a movie about the 1924 Olympics and two outstanding runners from Britain, one a Christian and the other a Jew. The music by Vangelis, winner of the Academy Award for best sound track, is so exciting. The movie won Best Movie back in its day.

Children's Books Showing Diversity

Your church library has added some children's books showing more diversity. These books come to you from a donation from Betty McCollum. The titles are:

Think Big, Little One by Vashti Harrison, Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora, Kindness Makes us Strong by Sophie Beer, When God Made You by Matthew Paul Turner, and Woke Baby by Mahogany Browne.

There are other titles in our library.

Remember, I will keep these books clean. **Please contact Liz directly at 865-247-4503 or 865-660-9597.**

Fellowship



On Thursday, July 23rd, around 100 people came out to our first ever Physically (but not Socially) Distant Food Truck Fellowship! In addition to folks from 2nd Presbyterian, there were members of First Presbyterian, Fountain City Presbyterian, Erin Presbyterian, Graystone Presbyterian, Shiloh Presbyterian, Rocky Springs Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, and UKirk in attendance. A huge thanks to Big O's Famous BBQ and LB&S Snow Balls for the excellent food!



Reserve your photography session today.

Lifetouch.

IMPORTANT! Due to Covid-19, the photography dates for our new pictorial church directory have been **CHANGED** to November 12th - 14th. More information will follow at a later date.

West View Elementary School

Second Presbyterian Church supports West View Elementary School. This is a very important outreach for our church. Below are some facts concerning this school that illustrates the need and importance of this support.

West View Elementary School- Grades preK-5 with 213 students
1714 Mingle Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921

School diversity:
White-33.8%
African American-27.7%
Hispanic-26.8%
Asian-0.9%
Pacific Islander-0.5%
2 or more mixed races-10.3%

92.6% students qualify for free lunch based on income

There are 19.3 full time teachers.

There are 49 elementary schools in Knox County. West View ranks 46 out of 49 based on achievement measures in 2018-2019. Due to Covid-19 school closure, there is no data in 2019-2020.

There are 985 elementary schools in Tennessee. West View ranks 935 out of 985 based on achievement measures in 2018-2019.

34.9% of students are proficient in reading skills based on district scores.
37.7% of students are proficient in math skills based on district scores.
37% of students are proficient in math based on state scores.
34.9% of students are proficient in English Language Arts based on state scores.

Sources:
Reportcard.tnk12.gov
Greatschools.org
Niche.com
Schooldigger.com

Knox County students are returning to school on August 17th.
In preparation for the start of school, Second Presbyterian Church will hold the annual work day on [Saturday, August 8th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.](#)

This will be an opportunity to work outside to help prepare the school for a new academic year. This is one of the church's outreach missions and there is a need for many hands to help prepare the school for students. Please consider volunteering your time to this worthy endeavor. Thank you for your support!

Updates from the Session

As you are most likely aware, there has been a dramatic rise in active Knox County Covid-19 cases in recent weeks, including an increase in both hospitalizations and deaths. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution and in an effort to do our part in not contributing to the further spread of the novel coronavirus, the Session has taken the following actions:

Worship

We will no longer resume in-person worship on August 2nd and will continue to worship solely via streaming until further notice. We hope to resume in-person worship after Labor Day, but will reevaluate at the August 18th Stated Session meeting.

Committees/Groups

Effective immediately all group meetings in the church building will be cancelled for the remainder of July and the month of August. Groups and committees of the church may continue to meet via technology or in small groups away from the church building, but the church building itself will be closed to all groups except the Preschool through the end of August. We will reevaluate at the August 18th Stated Session meeting.

Church Office

The church staff will continue to work their normal hours at the church building in order to coordinate and facilitate the ministry of the congregation. The church office, however, will be closed except for deliveries, contractors, and other necessary business.

We appreciate that this may cause frustration for some while alleviating anxiety for others. We do not take this action lightly but we do feel this is the best way to safeguard the health of our members, our staff, and the community of Knoxville. Please stay home if you do not have to go out and please remember the Five Core Principles for health: practice [physical] distancing; wear face coverings when in public and when physical distancing cannot be achieved; wash hand properly and often; clean surfaces regularly; stay home when sick.

Stewardship

JUNE BUDGET REPORT

	June	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$38,353.98	\$393,592.58	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$62,708.92	\$328,206.64	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$24,354.94)	\$65,385.94	(\$6,075)

AUGUST

PLEASE NOTE: As of the printing of this newsletter, all in-person church activities are still suspended indefinitely. You will be notified when in-person activities resume. Please visit 2ndpres.org for the most recent updates!

1

2

In-person worship
suspended.
11a Worship **Live Stream**

3

4

9a Staff Meeting

5

6

7

Church Office Closed

8

9a West View Work Day

9

In-person worship
suspended.
11a Worship **Live Stream**

10

11

12

13

14

Church Office Closed

15

10a Presbytery of East
Tennessee Virtual
Meeting

16

In-person worship
suspended.
11a Worship **Live Stream**

17

18

9a Staff Meeting
6p Session Meeting

19

UTK Classes Resume

20

September 2nd Edition
Deadline!

21

Church Office Closed

22

23

In-person worship
suspended.
11a Worship **Live Stream**

24

25

26

27

28

Church Office Closed

29

30

In-person worship
suspended.
11a Worship **Live Stream**

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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
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*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Betsy Foster
Margie Gill

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Charles White

Stewardship

John Henley
Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones