

Second Edition

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

When my son was born I was a senior in seminary, interviewing with different congregations, and thinking a great deal about the mission and calling of the Church, not to mention the mission and calling of disciples of Jesus. I had studied various parts of the book of Acts, both before and during seminary, particularly the travels of Paul. However, I had never just read the book of Acts all the way through as a story.

Since I had already determined that I wanted “story-time with Dad” to be a part of my relationship with my son, I thought it would be great to start off with *The Acts of the Apostles*. First, he would be too young to be bored by it! Second, the first story he would hear, even though he wouldn’t remember it, would be the words of Scripture describing the adventures of the followers of Jesus. Third, I thought it would help me to understand the Church better as I read these stories of how things were at the very beginning. My hope was that these stories would give me greater insight into the mission and calling of the Church, so that I would have a better understanding of how to serve the Church in my calling as a pastor and Teaching Elder. After all, God put this story in the bible for a good reason!

You’ll have to ask my son if he thinks hearing the entire book of *The Acts of the Apostles* during the first few weeks of his life made a difference in his life. I know it did in mine. Just reading it as a story, not to study it, dissect it, or preach on it, really gave me a sense of how the Holy Spirit worked in and through individuals to bring God’s dream to fruition. The early disciples truly acted as midwives in the birth process of the early Church. It also gave me great insight into the impact the early Church made in the world. And it really helped me to understand the counter-cultural nature of the Church, as story after story is told of the culture pushing back against the Gospel message Peter, Paul, and the others were proclaiming. One message consistently came through loud and clear as I read the story to my son – embracing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is going to put us at odds with the world around us.



However, a second message was also present. The Good News of Jesus Christ is a universal message, calling all kinds of people from all over the world into the family of God. We are called to live out the Gospel in community with one another, and this community is one where people with very different backgrounds and worldviews are held together by their belief in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I think that the Church has sometimes forgotten this. First, we forget that what we have to share with the world is good news. Second, we forget that the world is longing for that good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Third, we forget that we can’t live the Christian life alone; Christianity was never meant to be a thing just “between me and God.” Fourth, we forget that our identity isn’t found in our differences, but in Jesus Christ. It’s okay for us to see the world differently, to have different views and ideas and opinions on things, as long as we remember that we are one in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. In fact, regularly talking, praying, studying, and serving with people who are different from us is how God best reveals himself and his will to us. It’s almost as if he designed the Church to be that way...

We are going to spend this year studying *The Acts of the Apostles* together on Sunday mornings. Yes – that’s a long time to spend on one book of the bible. But our hope is that, as a community of faith, we will all gain greater insight into the mission, the calling, the purpose, and the nature of the Church that God calls into being, so that we can truly live out the Good News of Jesus Christ as a welcoming, faithful and hopeful community of disciples, following Jesus and serving him in the world.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.' or similar, enclosed within a simple, curved line.

IN THIS ISSUE

Worship & Celebration 4

Discipleship 6

Service & Outreach 7

Care & Compassion 8

Stewardship 9

Thank you so very much to everyone who remembered our family with cards, emails, and gifts during this past Christmas Season. We are so grateful to serve such a wonderfully loving congregation!

- Tim, Tuesday, Seth & Lily Grace Reynolds

Upcoming Sermon Texts & Topics

This month we begin our year-long sermon series on *The Acts of the Apostles*. (See *On Second Thought* for more information).

Here are the sermon texts and topics for January:

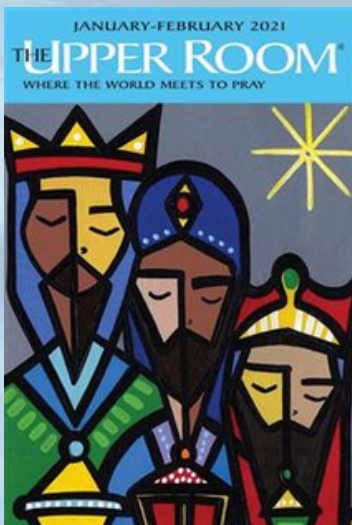
Jan 3 Matthew 2:1-12 *Those Who Dream...Persevere*

Jan 10 Acts 1:1-14 Waiting & Praying

Jan 17 Acts 1:15-26 Restoring the Twelve

Jan 24 Acts 2:1-13 The Day of Pentecost

Jan 31 Acts 2:14-41 What Does this Mean?



The January-February Upper Room is available!

If you would like one, Sandra Butler has copies that she would like to hand deliver to you! Please contact Sandra directly by phone (659-4416 or 584-4397) or email sandyb446@comcast.net! There are also copies available in the atrium.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Betty McCollum	01/01	Morton Rose	01/15
Dana Hendrix	01/04	Leslie Testerman	01/16
Fay Carr	01/05	Gerry Turner	01/17
Cathy Gray	01/05	Peter Ullrich	01/20
Seth Reynolds	01/05	Fran McLean	01/21
Jeannie Ullrich	01/06	Frieda Sims	01/21
Nancy Weigel	01/06	Susanne White	01/21
Amy Cross	01/09	Monica Casey	01/22
Tim Wright	01/09	Arleen Reilly	01/22
Marjorie Reynolds	01/10	Jean Frazier	01/26

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN THE NEW YEAR

As the new year begins and we must continue to refrain from meeting together in person, the Discipleship Ministry Unit would like to take a new approach to weekly Bible study and spiritual formation. Beginning in mid-January, Pastor Tim will post a lesson on the website and YouTube channel each week. We will notify you via the email distribution list that the lesson is ready and you will have the chance to review the lesson at your leisure. Then on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Feb 10, March 10, Apr 14, May 12) at 7:00 p.m., we will meet on Zoom to discuss the lessons from the previous month. This will be a time to bring your questions, comments, and insights and share them with the group. We think this will allow you to complete the studies according to your own schedule and will only require you to set one time aside each month for a Zoom meeting. Hopefully this will increase participation when we get together to discuss on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The first topic Pastor Tim will cover will be *The Great Ends of the Church*. Our Presbyterian Book of Order identifies six “great ends” to guide the vision and mission of the Presbyterian Church. These are our guiding principles, if you will, and serve as a framework for the church’s understanding of its ministry and mission. We will study each of these purposes of the church to see how they are relevant to our lives today.

The Great Ends of the Church are:

- the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness;
- and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

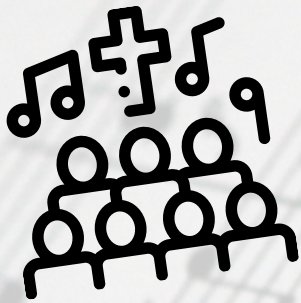
Second Presbyterian Church is excited to share the news about an opportunity to work alongside others in the community to build a Habitat House this coming spring in Knoxville. There will be more information to come about this hopeful endeavor, but how good it will be to help a family secure sustainable housing in our area. Knoxville Habitat has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1985.

Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and then pay an affordable mortgage. With housing, parents can provide stability for their children while their sense of dignity and pride grow. Studies show that health, physical safety, and security improve while education and job prospects increase. Habitat for Humanity is a global, nonprofit housing organization working in local communities in all 50 states and in 70 countries. There will be many ways Second Presbyterian can help with this new house, so stay tuned!





**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO
CAME OUT AND SANG AND TO ALL
WHO DROVE THROUGH FOR THE
CAROLING. IT WAS GREAT
TO SEE EVERYONE!**



**SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARLES
WHITE, MARTY MCLEAN, AND
JAN BARBER
FOR THE HOT CHOCOLATE, CANDY
CANES, WARM FIRE, AND
CHRISTMAS TREE!**



Photos from our Work Day on December 5, 2020



We had a successful work day last month working to ensure the grounds of the church stay beautiful!

Thank you to the volunteers who were able to come out and help.

Keep an eye out for future work days to be announced!

Annual Congregation Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting usually takes place after worship on the first Sunday of February, in conjunction with the Souper Bowl luncheon. As of the December newsletter deadline, we do not yet know exactly how or when the Annual meeting will take place. The Session will discuss the matter at its January meeting. We will communicate via email, newsletter, worship announcement, and social media once a determination has been made as to the time, date, and manner of the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Book of Order requires two weeks' notice for any congregational meeting and you can be assured we will adhere to that guideline.

NOVEMBER BUDGET REPORT

	November	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$59,628.02	\$700,249.40	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$59,838.12	\$621,229.64	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$210.10)	\$79,019.76	(\$6,075)

JANUARY

					1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2
3 Communion Sunday 11a Worship (Live Stream)	4	5 5p Facilities (Zoom) 6p Care & Compassion (Zoom) 7p Service & Outreach (Zoom)	6	7	8 Church Office Closed	9
10 11a Worship (Live Stream)	11 6p Discipleship (Zoom)	12 6p Worship Ministry (Zoom)	13 7p Stewardship (Zoom)	14	15 Church Office Closed	16
17 11a Worship (Live Stream)	18 12p Preschool Board (Zoom)	19 9a Staff Meeting (Zoom) 6p Session Meeting (Zoom)	20 February 2 nd Edition Deadline!	21	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 11a Worship (Live Stream)	25	26	27	28	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 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