

SECOND EDITION



August 2019

A SERMON SERIES

FAITH *and...*

On Second Thought...

One of the most frequent questions I get asked as a pastor is the one about prayer. You know...“If God is everywhere, knows everything, doesn’t change (the theological words are omniscient, omnipotent, and immutable) and has a plan and purpose for everyone and everything, then why do we pray for things like healing or jobs or patience? Why do we pray prayers of intercession for other people? It’s not like we’re going to change God’s mind or anything.” Good question.

I usually quote C.S. Lewis’ response to the question: “Prayer doesn’t change God, it changes me.” Which, I guess, is as good an answer as any. Then I usually point out examples in scripture of God changing God’s mind in response to the pleas of humans. Abraham convincing God not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if only one faithful person could be found; Moses convincing God not to destroy the Israelites after the Golden Calf incident; God relenting from destroying the Ninevites after they repented. “So what’s the harm in asking,” I say, “Who knows?”

However, I must confess that the question has often been one that I ask myself, too, so I don’t know how helpful I have been. Prayer of this sort has always been a bugaboo for me. I do believe in a Sovereign God who knows all, whose character doesn’t change, and who has a plan and purpose for the world. Yet here I am asking God to do what I want God to do – to step into life and redirect it. And God’s apparent failure to do so on many occasions makes me wonder just what Jesus meant when he said, “Ask, and you shall receive.” Hey – just because I’ve been to seminary doesn’t mean I don’t struggle with my faith just like everyone else!

Last month, I rearranged my office. That meant moving all my books, and I found a book that I hadn’t read in many years and didn’t really remember reading at all. The book is called *Praying for Friends and Enemies* and is written by Jane Vennard, an adjunct professor at Iliff School of Theology and a Spiritual Director who teaches classes and leads retreats around the country. I sat down and thumbed

through it and it deals with this question. So, I thought I’d share what I found helpful and see if it helps you, too. Vennard cites Douglas Steele, who uses the image of a wall to help us understand prayer:

[Steele] wrestles with the possibility that intercessory prayer could infringe upon the freedom of the people for whom we pray. He decides that it does not because “the effect of our prayers for them would be at most to lower the threshold in the person prayed for and to make the besieging love of God...slightly more visible and more inviting.” People still have the freedom to “accept or reject the invitation that is being forever offered.”

Vennard continues: *Lowering the threshold is an interesting image. Imagine a wall with the besieging love of God on one side and the person we are praying for on the other. Our prayers do not bring God’s love to the other, for God’s love is always present and God is always waiting for people to respond. Our prayers do not force God to do anything to another. Our prayers lower the wall, so that people can experience what is already there. As the wall comes down, people might become more aware of God’s love, more open to God’s love, more willing to receive God’s love. People for whom we pray have the choice to accept or reject God’s presence in their lives.*

I don’t know about you, but I find that extremely helpful! God doesn’t change in that image – his love and grace are constant. Turns out, C.S. Lewis was right – it’s *we* who need to be changed in order to fully receive God’s love and grace.

So I’m thinking that, first – I should ask if the wall that needs to be lowered is one that I helped to build. If so, then I’d darn well better take a jackhammer to that wall myself before I even *think* about asking God to do my dirty work for me. Second, once I’ve resolved



that issue, I not only need to be praying for the wall to be lowered, but asking God how *I* might be an instrument to help lower the wall – no matter how it got there – so that God's love and grace can shine in.

What about you? Got a third or fourth idea? I'd love to hear it!

Grace and Peace...



Pastor Tim



inside this edition

AUGUST

- 4 worship & celebration
- 6 discipleship
- 7 care & compassion
- 11 youth
- 12 service & outreach

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SERMON SERIES

FAITH *and...*

On August 4th we will conclude our *Seussical Spirituality* sermon series by looking at the story of *Green Eggs and Ham*. Then on August 11th, we will begin a new series entitled *Faith and...* Nothing is more central to the spiritual life than faith. During August and September, Pastors Tim and Sarah will help us think about how faith plays out in our daily life and just what kind of faith God wants us to have. We hope this series will enlighten your minds and touch your hearts as we move deeper in our spiritual journey of discipleship.

August 4th *Seussical Spirituality: Green Eggs and Ham*

August 11th *Faith and...What Faith Is*

August 18th *Faith and...What Faith Isn't*

Sept. 1st *Faith and...Doubt*

Sept. 8th *Faith and...Difficulty*

Let's Keep Second Pres. Online!

Now that we've gotten your attention, Paul Sexauer is looking for interested volunteers for the online service video streaming and sound system. Do you like having digital copies of the audio and livestream readily available online? This is only made possible by our audio and video volunteers. Paul needs additional volunteers to be a part of this unique ministry!

For the video streaming, Paul is looking for those interested primarily in handling the video camera. Volunteers need to be high school age or older and adults are encouraged to volunteer. This operates on a rotating schedule depending on how many volunteer for the position. With several volunteers, the schedule can be quite flexible.

For the sound system, Paul is looking for adult volunteer(s) interested in learning the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall sound systems from the "ground up." That includes both sys-

tem operation and a basic understanding of how the system is configured. There is no need to be a "techie" for this position, just have reasonably good hearing!

In both cases, hands-on training will be provided outside of normal service times and there will always be backup support for any issues arising during a service. If interested, see Paul before or after any service or call/text him at (865)850-7328.

Leave a message if you reach his voice mail.



Glory to God Hymnals

At its April meeting, the session approved the recommendation of the Worship and Celebration Ministry Team to purchase the "new" Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, which was published in 2013. You can support the cost of our new hymnals by purchasing one or more bookplates for \$20 per hymnal. The bookplate can be in honor or in memory of someone, or simply given to the glory of God. The bookplate sale will end on August 30th and we plan to have the new hymnals purchased and in the pews by Advent. If you would like to purchase a bookplate, you can find the order forms in the Narthex, Atrium or in the weekly bulletin.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals begin again in August! Join us Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for rehearsals. If you love to sing, then you can be part of the music ministry at Second Presbyterian Church!

Second Sunday in Aug.

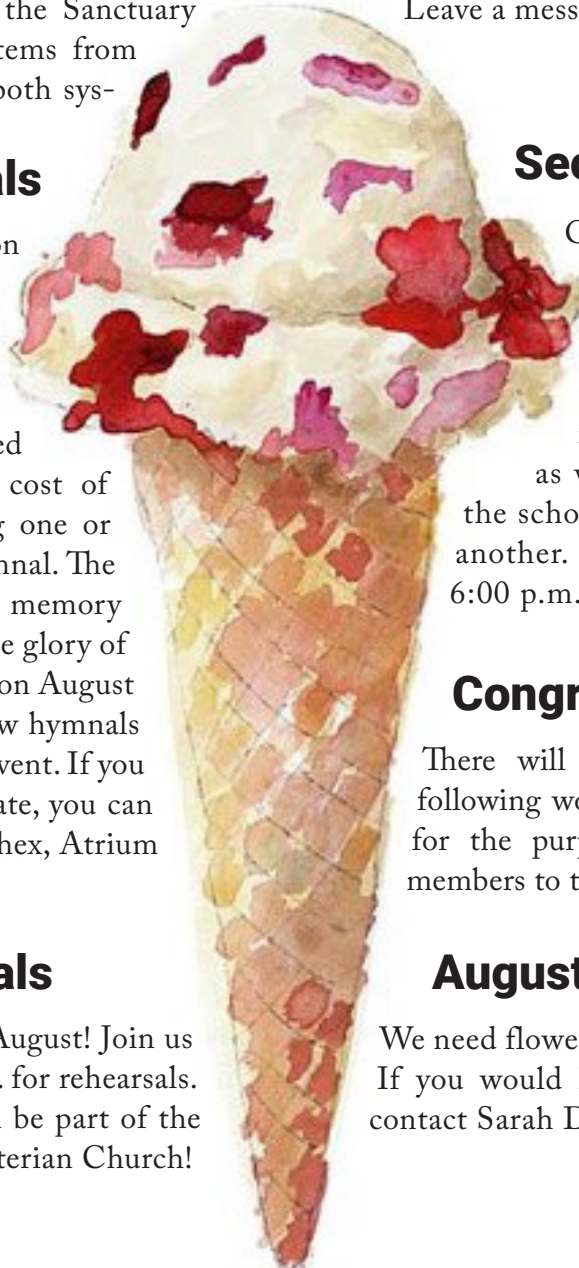
On Sunday, August 11th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a *Bluegrass and Back-to-School Bash*. This will include worship, bluegrass music, and an ice cream social as we celebrate the beginning of the school year in fellowship with one another. We hope you will join us at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 11th.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, August 11th, for the purpose of electing two at-large members to the Nominating Committee.

August Chancel Flowers

We need flowers during the month of August. If you would like to donate flowers, please contact Sarah Doyle in the front office!





Summer Sunday School – *Faithful Citizenship*

Our summer Sunday school continues in August with our study, *Faithful Citizenship*. Developed by a team of pastors and seminary professors, *Faithful Citizenship* is a six-session adult study that explores two views of current American life – individualism and the common good. The study asks how Christians should faithfully respond to

the interlocking global challenges of economics, ecology, security, and health.

Instead of a book, participants will receive handouts to read for the following week. The handouts will also be available on our website and through a link in the weekly email blast.

Aug. 4th	Session 3: Global Ecology	“I’ve changed my light bulbs. Now what?”
Aug. 11th	Session 4: Global Security	“Why don’t I feel safe? And why do they hate us?”
Aug. 18th	Session 5: Global Health	“Why risk getting shots if plenty of other people refuse to be immunized?”
Aug. 25th	Session 6: Civic Virtue	“How can we teach citizenship? We don’t even have time to eat together!”

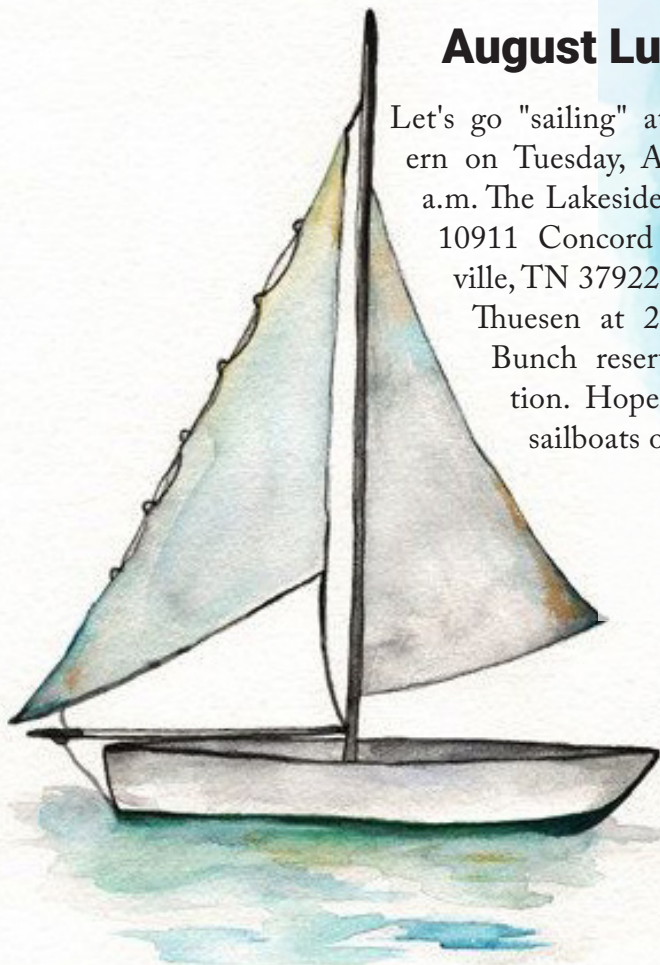
August Presbytery Meeting



The 140th Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of East Tennessee will meet at First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville on Saturday, August 17th. Cleston Jones and Clara Hardin will be our Ruling Elder Commissioners. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

August Lunch Bunch

Let's go "sailing" at the Lakeside Tavern on Tuesday, August 6th, at 11:30 a.m. The Lakeside Tavern is located at 10911 Concord Park Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922. Please call Mariann Thuesen at 253-7653 for Lunch Bunch reservations or information. Hopefully we'll see some sailboats on the lake!



Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who came to the graduate luncheon and to those who showed your love to me with cards and gifts. I know I haven't been here long, but I'm glad this congregation was my high school home. You all welcomed our family with open arms and made me feel loved and supported. Thank you for everything.

— Seth Reynolds

UT Sorority Village Parking

On August 8-21, excluding Sundays, the UT Sorority Village will be utilizing our parking lot for rush activities. We have been happy to offer them our space in the past and are glad to do so again this year. Please be advised that if you come to the church on one of those days, parking may be a little more crowded than it usually is during the week.



School Coupon Books



We will support West View Elementary School again this year by selling School Coupon Books for \$10 during the month of September. \$8.00 of this amount goes directly to the school. Initially, orders will be taken and deliveries will be made once books are made available. To reserve, please contact Sandra Butler: 584-4397 or sandyb446@comcast.net. Coupons expire August 21, 2020.

july visitors

Kevves White
Gary & Sara Pressel
Zachary Burch
Virginia Willis
Matthew Lowe
Kim Hudgens
Karen Vance
Joanne Mounger
Mark Reynolds
Ruthann Froberg

Alex Cooper
Rion Steele
Ann Papa
Jim & Sonja Anderson
David Horne
Betty Reynolds
Daniel Mounger
Chad Seaver
Evan Seaver

august birthdays

Kathy Thomas 8/5
John Reynolds 8/7
Kim Elrod 8/10
Charles White 8/11
Rockne Ullrich 8/12
Patricia Kennedy 8/13
Charlsey Dunn 8/14
Dean Turner 8/15
Sarah Morgan 8/16

Louise Josephson 6/18
Bea Corbitt 8/19
Kathryn Freeman 8/21
Aggie Bell 8/23
Betsy Foster 8/24
Caroline Buckner 8/26
John Testerman 8/29

WELCOME OWEN PRESTON!



Baby Shower at the Peebles

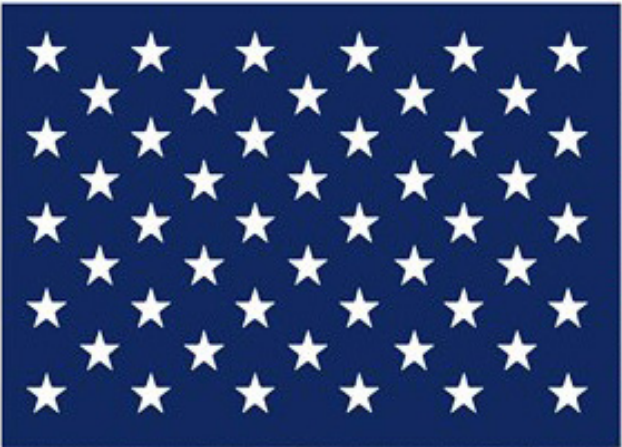
The Presbyterian Women of Second Presbyterian Church sponsored a baby shower for Drew and Haley Wall on the evening of June 26, 2019. Liz and Neal Peebles hosted the event in their home with a great turnout with Haley, her mother, and Second Presbyterian Church ladies in attendance.

The evening was filled with much laughter, delicious food from a beautifully decorated table laden with goodies, and much fun examining the many shower gifts which included an array of books for the little one.

The Walls, attending Second Church since 2017, are native Knoxvilleans. Baby Owen Preston Wall was born June 28—just two days after the baby shower! Haley had explained during the shower that they were looking forward to Owen Preston's infant baptism in the church and that the event was already scheduled on the church calendar for Sunday, October 20, 2019. ❤️







Presbyterian Women Luncheon - Patriotic Program

The Presbyterian Women are hosting a special patriotic program and luncheon on September 10th at 11:15 a.m. The program will be presented by Rochelle Clayton-Cordova and will focus on the 9/11 Flag of Honor. Lunch is catered and is \$10/person. Everyone is invited to attend. Please call Mariann Thuesen for reservations at (865) 253-7653 by Thursday, September 5th.

Massanetta Middle School Conference

Our middle school youth and their chaperones had a wonderful time at the Massanetta Middle School Conference. We made new friends, caught up with old ones, did energizers, went down the slip-n-slide, danced, and ate a lot of snacks! We

also enjoyed exploring our theme for the week, "At The Door," through workshops, keynote, conversation, worship and study on Matthew 7:7-12. A huge thank you to all who helped make this experience possible!



“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

-Matthew 7:7-12



Emerald Youth Foundation Builds New Complex

On July 18, 2019, **Clara Hardin** and **Helen Grant** attended a very special prayer/praise session on site of the construction of the new Lonsdale Area Ministry Complex (nearing completion) at 1740 Texas Avenue. This complex is the latest of the Emerald Youth Foundation's expansion of service and outreach to youth in its more than 25 years of service in urban and suburban Knoxville neighborhoods. For most of those 25 years Second Presbyterian Church has included Emerald Youth Foundation in its mission budget.

The new Lonsdale community building and grounds contain a 30,000 square foot multi-purpose facility featuring a learning center, two full-size gymnasiums with basketball courts, locker rooms, concessions and kitchen, fitness area with weight room, dance/aerobics room with cardio theater, assembly room for gatherings, and a worship and performing arts area with practice rooms. There is space for the Cherokee Health Systems, in cooperation with the University of Tennessee, for the operation of a health center for the community. Outside there are two multipurpose synthetic turf fields for soccer, flag football and other sports.

Although there is much construction work to complete, EYF planned a prayer/praise ceremony for the community and local leaders to come together on a very hot July day for prayer and praise for this unique endeavor in an underserved intercity neighborhood. EYF staff planned well—helping hundred of attendees safely negotiating entry over uneven, rough grounds and through a maze of unfinished rooms to the large gym area where the group sang and prayed together for the success of this project. To culminate the program many knelt on the uncovered concrete gym floor to write personal and group prayers for the future of this awesome facility.

As the faith-based Emerald Youth Foundation continues its mission of working with Knoxville's youth to instill, encourage, and support learning, good human relationships, and good health habits, the organization requests Second Church's prayers and interest in its success.

Emerald Youth
FOUNDATION





 Go Student Tours

2019 Knox Safety Patrol Trip
Washington DC

A Letter from West View Teacher - Patrick Pollock

To the members of Second Presbyterian Church,
I just want to thank you again for your generous donation that provided many of my Safety Patrol students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. as part of the Knox County Schools contingent. For many of those students, it was their first time being away from their parents and possibly their home.

Even though much of our 4-day trip would be on the road, the excitement in the air was like no other feeling. Friday morning, May 31, we met at Chilhowee Park around 6 am. It literally was a zoo of parents, teachers, chaperones, buses, and more. The students came dressed in their Wildcat Safety Patrol shirts ready to trek north to our nation's capital. During the trip up the students took naps, played on their phones, sang, laughed or watched movies. I might have even heard the occasional, "Are we there yet?"

Finally, we reached the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia. The students departed the bus and got a whirlwind tour of the battlegrounds with historical information from the escorts. Then we headed to our hotel for dinner and rest.

The following two days can only be described as a crash course in tourism. We started with the House of Representatives in the Capitol Building

where we met with our own U.S. Representative, Tim Burchett, and had a photo with him. Then we were on to a multitude of other venues including the Smithsonian Museums, National Mall, National Zoo, Lincoln, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., WW2, and Korean memorials, as well as George Washington's home. The students were immersed in a wealth of knowledge that will stick with them as long as they live.

The last day of our journey was spent on the bus travelling back to Knoxville. The students enjoyed the same luxuries as on the way up to D.C., but as much as the trip home lacked a bit of luster, nothing could prepare them for the fanfare that ensued upon our arrival back into town. We were met by a multitude of police officers on motor bikes, in police cars, and even a Knox County Sheriff's helicopter, all of which escorted us back into the comfort of our families who were waiting for us.

Not only was this trip of a historical and educational nature, it was also a wonderful experience for our students and one they will not soon forget. Thank you again for your generosity. It was definitely a trip for the books.

Thank You,
Patrick Pollock
5th Grade, West View Elementary

2019

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 4 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Communion	29 5 Exercise Class 9:00 The Cross Ministry Meeting 4:30	30 6 Lunch Bunch 11:30 Facilities Ministry 5:00 Stewardship Ministry 6:00 Boy Scout Cookout 6:00 Service & Outreach Ministry 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	31 7 Exercise Class 9:00 PET Lunch 12:00 Handbells 4:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	1 8 15 PW Arts & Crafts 10:00	2 Church office closed Preschool Luncheon 10:00 TIPS 3:00 9 Church office closed Women's Retreat - Montreat	3 National Watermelon Day 10 Women's Retreat - Montreat
11 Women's Retreat - Montreat Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Second Sunday & Icecream 6:00	12 Exercise Class 9:00	13 Worship Ministry 6:00 Discipleship Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	14 Exercise Class 9:00 Handbells 4:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	16 Church office closed		17
18 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	19 Exercise Class 9:00 Preschool Board Meeting 12:30	20 Session Meeting 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30 Newsletter Submissions Due!	21 Exercise Class 9:00 2nd Readers - Seasons 12:00 Handbells 4:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	22 29	23 Church office closed	24
25 Sunday School Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	26 Exercise Class 9:00	27 FISH Ministry 9:00 PW House & Garden 10:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	28 Exercise Class 9:00 Handbells 4:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	30 31		



Second Presbyterian Church
2829 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
Office.865.523.2189
Fax.865.637.2617
Preschool.865.523.9997
www.2ndpres.org

CLERGY STAFF

Pastor Tim Reynolds
Pastor and Head of Staff
treynolds@2ndpres.org

Pastor Sarah Morgan
Transitional Associate Pastor
smorgan@2ndpres.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Mimbs
Director of Music & Arts
mmimbs@2ndpres.org

David Stultz
Asst. Director of Music & Organist
davidstultz12@gmail.com

Holly Grimm
Children's Ministry Coordinator
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

Jan Barber
Visitation Minister
jbarber@2ndpres.org

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Rachel Carlson
Director of Communications
Financial Administrator
rcarlson@2ndpres.org

Sarah Doyle
Office Manager
sdoyle@2ndpres.org

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Linda Sue Byrd
Director
lsbyrd@2ndpres.org

Holly Grimm
Assistant Director
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

ELDERS

2020 CLASS

Jimmy Cheek
Clara Hardin
Doug Matthews
Margaret Walther

2021 CLASS

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

2022 CLASS

Margie Gill
Dean Farmer
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

Rev. Tim Reynolds, Moderator
Nancy Montgomery, Clerk

"Ruling elders, together with teaching elders (pastors), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."

PC(USA) Book of Order G-2.0301

PC(USA) Book of Order G-2.0201

MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Worship & Celebration

Doug Matthews &
Betsy Foster

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Clara Hardin

Stewardship

Jimmy Cheek &
John Henley

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean &
Margaret Walther

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones