

Second Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

OCTOBER 27: NOT GOING TO THE RETREAT?



If you are unable to attend the all-church retreat, please attend worship at Second. Worship will be led by our good friends Jim Kosnik (whose organ skills are well known to us) and Rev. Nancy Rowland (a minister who retired to this area and—when not babysitting grandchildren—frequently joins us). Please come on out on **Sunday, October 27!**



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETREAT

Retreats provide time to pause, think, reflect, pray, and develop deeper relationships with God and others. Our all-church, intergenerational retreat this year is from **Friday, Oct. 25 (7 p.m.) to Sunday, Oct. 27 (11 a.m.)** at the Airfield Conference Center in Wakefield.

Our good friend, pastor, and counselor **Dr. Larry Toney** will be leading the adults in a study we are calling ***Crazy Kinfolk: Family Challenges, Dysfunction, the Bible, and Us***. Looking at the oddities of biblical figures like Abraham, Jacob, Naomi, and David, and also reading about their struggles, depression, fears, and poor communication, together we will focus on how our relationships with each other and with God can be stronger and more meaningful.

We are grateful to those who will be able to attend and hope that you begin to prepare yourself for a meaningful time. If you are unable to attend, please pray for a meaningful and safe retreat. And please attend worship at Second on Sunday, Oct. 27.



FALL CHURCH WORK DAY

You are invited to the Fall Church Cleanup taking place from **9am to 12pm on Saturday, October 5**. Volunteers are needed to continue the good work members young and old accomplished in May. Team Leaders will be appointed once again to facilitate the smooth flow of work. We'll work outside and inside. If you have a preference, please let Kathy Stark know. Those planning to work outside please bring gloves, pruning shears, and insect repellent. Drinks and snacks (healthy and not so much) will be provided by the Administration Committee to keep energy levels high. Let's make this a family event—the kids had just as much fun as the adults last time! **Raindate: Saturday, October 19, 9am-12pm.** Contact Kathy Stark at jstark25@cox.net to volunteer or provide input.



FROM THE PASTOR: BEING FUTURE-FOCUSED

In October we enter the second month of the sermon series based on Carey Nieuwhof's book, *Overcoming the 7 Greatest Challenges that No One Expects and Everyone Experiences*. The book shows us how we are caught off-guard at times. And it does so in such a way as to let us know that we do not go through these situations alone.

As I write this particular article in the newsletter, I am sitting on an airplane, thinking about the sermon this coming week on "irrelevance." That is coupled with my coming home from having spent the last three days at a board meeting in Iowa.

What stood out most about the board meeting was how much it focused on the constancy of change and the necessity of innovation, lest the college becomes irrelevant. Changes in higher education are not unique. There are comparable challenges in churches across the nation, and, more significantly, in each of our own lives.



Change is always painful and always disorienting. Sometimes we are dragged into change. Sometimes change drags us behind it, until we recognize that we need to get up and follow.

Our logo says that we are Christ-centered, joy-filled, future-focused, and mission-minded. What does it mean to have a future-focused congregation? More than anything else, it means that we rely on faith and hope, and sometimes—like Abraham—need to trust that God is with us, particularly in the midst of change.

Almost 145 years ago, William Reynolds, Sr.—the father of our famous missionary to Korea—led a group of people from First Presbyterian Church to form a new congregation at what is now known as Freemason Abbey. He was looking at a new mission. When the church moved from there to the Hague, it was looking to the future, as it was when it moved to our current location.

When the church decided to open its doors and office space to Tidewater Pastoral Counseling Services, and then FIN (the Faith Inclusion Network), and then the Park Place Child Life Center, that involved change in our understanding our facility.

And when the congregation experimented with new models of ministry in hiring me and Catherine, and in re-thinking Katie's and Isaac's responsibilities, that involved significant change in thinking about staffing.

Changes are always a part of life. This month we are talking in all sorts of ways about how we need to continue to grow in being faithful to God by being relevant to our community.

Thank you for all of the ways you invite people into the life of our church family, and share ways of how we increasingly can be future-focused, reaching out to people who desperately need to hear the good news.

With appreciation and blessings,

Pastor Craig

FALL SPC SOFTBALL



Please come out on Friday evenings and cheer (or play!).
Everyone is welcome and strongly encouraged to cheer for our wonderful team.

Friday, September 27 8:45/9:45PM at Northside
Friday, October 4 6:45/7:45PM at Tarrallton
Friday, October 11 8:45/8:45PM at Northside
Friday, October 18 Playoffs/Rain Date TBD

SERMON SERIES

Each of us anticipates our lives unfolding in particular ways. Yet, even with great intentionality, those plans become derailed and we find ourselves facing challenges much different than what we had anticipated. We are not alone. Paul, David, Esther, and Elijah are just four biblical figures whose experiences in life mirror our own. How they faced those challenges can shape our own journey. Join us as we think about how we can live with the unexpected.

Sept. 29 When You Feel Irrelevant: Queen Esther and the Embracing of Change
(*Esther 4:10-17*)

Oct. 6 When You Feel Pride: Jesus and Diligent Service
(*John 13:1-11; Philippians 2:4-11*)

Oct. 13 When You Feel Burnt Out: An Isolated Elijah and Leaning into God
(*1 Kings 19:1-3, 9-15, 18*)

Oct. 20 When You Feel Empty: An Aged Solomon and a Worthy Mission
(*Ecclesiastes 1:1-14 and 5:1-2*)



PLEASE DONATE YOUR OLD PAINT!

If you have partially used cans of paint hiding in a closet or in your garage, the youth group is looking for paint to use to paint a cross mural as part of their youth room renovation. **Please bring any old cans of paint by the office on or before Sunday, October 13th**—we will happily take them off of your hands! If you would like your paint back, please write your name on the can and we will return it to you once our project is completed. Bright or pastel colors are preferred, but all colors are welcome! Please contact Catherine (757-287-9897) with any questions.



DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES



DETOURS: AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY

(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., through October 20 in the fellowship hall)

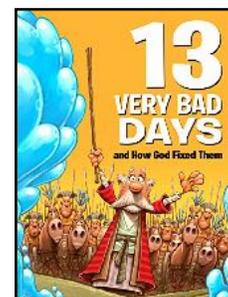
Frequently we think that things are in order or that we are on a predictable path. And then our life plans become absolutely derailed. That is the focus of this Bible study. In anticipation of 11:00 worship, join Marie Finch and Catherine Hart Monroe as they lead a study of scripture passages and a discussion of key figures who will be the focus of worship each week. How do figures like Elijah, Solomon, and Esther bring us to understand our own challenges in a helpful way? That is the focus of this study.

13 VERY BAD DAYS AND HOW GOD FIXED THEM

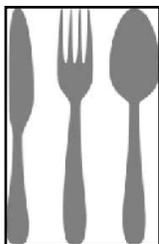
(5 YEAR OLDS THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL)

(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., through October 20 upstairs Sunday School room)

It will be fun: Bible stories that jump out, meaningful discussions, giggle-worthy games, and oh-wow activities. Each Sunday this fall join Pastor Craig and Suzy White—who are very excited—as we study and encounter stories of people in the Bible who faced the same kinds of challenges that kids do today. How they responded is meaningful for all of us.



PLEASE BRING IN SILVERWARE FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR



SPC is reducing its waste footprint! For Sunday morning fellowship time following the service, we will be using stainless steel flatware rather than the plastic we've been using. Flatware will be washed in the dishwasher, and thus well cleaned. **We need donations of stainless forks, spoons, and knives that you no longer need.** Please do not bring in any real silver or silver plated utensils, as these cannot be washed in the dishwasher. A collection box will be placed on the bench in the hall. It doesn't matter if the utensils match, so please bring anything you can part with. Please contact Sandy Simmermon (757-451-1748) if you have any questions.

FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN, & YOUTH

Middle/High Mission & Fellowship - Sunday, October 13 after worship 12:30PM to 2:30PM:

Middle & High youth are invited to **participate in the college care package assembly** after worship. After the package assembly, youth are encouraged to have some fun by **painting a cross mural** on the wall of the youth room. The day will finish up with an introduction to **the new youth faith formation class**—a monthly gathering offered on the 2nd Sunday for youth where the focus will be faith, current events, and Bible study.

Young Disciples Fellowship: Cullipher Farms Pumpkin Patch - Saturday, October 19 at 1PM:

Children aged 4 through the 5th grade are invited to come to the **Cullipher Farms in Virginia Beach** to pick out some pumpkins, wander around a maze, and take a wagon ride! The all-access wristband costs \$15/person. Let's meet at the church at 1PM.



Assist with Worship - Sunday, October 20 during worship:

On this day the children and youth are asked to help participate in worship by acting as the ushers and as the liturgist.

Parenting Group “Tough Conversations” - October date TBD:

A **new parenting group** in the church is starting in September. For this group parents will meet monthly and talk about the challenges and joys of parenting. In the first September gathering (on Sept. 29 at 6:30PM at the Monroe's house) we will talk about logistical details, so be on the lookout for details about the October meeting!

Young Disciples Mission: “Dinner in a Pumpkin” - Saturday, November 2 at 3PM:

Join Katie in the SPC kitchen **to make a meal** (that we literally cook in a pumpkin) and then we will deliver the meal to a person in need!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT R&R DINNER

CLAUSTROPHOBIC MONKS WITHOUT XEROX MACHINES: ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS AND THE BIBLE BEFORE THE PRINTING PRESS (a program—with dinner) WEDNESDAY, October 9, with Pastor Craig

*From 5:45 to 6:30, join us for an excellent dinner (\$5 per person, kids 6 & under FREE),
and then for a presentation from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.*

The Ruehlmanns have given our church family an ancient manuscript (over 500 years old), which had belonged to Lynn's father. On this evening we will present this ancient work (which happens to have been written on animal skin) and Craig will discuss how to look for clues in ancient manuscripts, share two of his own manuscripts, and highlight how the Bible was transmitted before the printing press.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



Fall is in the air! Trees are turning red and gold, cheers from football games fill the air, and it's time for Second to send a big hug to our college students, away from home but still dear in our hearts!

Sunday, October 13 after church, we will be assembling our care packages for 6 church members. In addition, we have an outreach opportunity for our mission partner, Presbyterian House at ODU 7 students, and Asia, the star graduate of Park Place Child Life Center, who is the first in her family to go to college. Cards will be available to sign, expressing your support for these students. Please bring small items, such as Halloween candy or trinkets, breakfast bars, instant hot chocolate, school supplies such as highlighters, pens, pencils, paper clips, or comfort supplies such as small tissue packs, cough drops, or small toiletries. Boxes will be mailed to our students who are away, and small gift bags will be prepared for the ODU crowd.

Contact Peggy Troyer with any questions or concerns. Our care packages should be arriving about the time the initial thrill of the new school year subsides and a little boost is so appreciated! You may recall the sweet thank you note we got from Clay Tinkham, when our package arrived as he was coming down with a cold. There was packaged soup, cough drops and snack food that he put right to good use!

MISSION AT SECOND



SPC NEST COORDINATOR FOR 2020:

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for a member interested in leading Second's NEST participation in 2020. If you have interest or questions, you may contact Philip Ndahi, Elisabeth Sawyer, or Rich Voter.

HUNGER AND HOMELESS MISSION PARTNER SPECIAL OFFERING:

The special offering for our Hunger and Homeless Mission partners will be held on **Sunday, October 20th**. This special offering is an opportunity to make a direct financial contribution to support two of our mission partners, St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries and ForKids.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

SPC will be hosting our annual blood drive on **Sunday, November 3, from 9AM to 1PM**. As in the past, we, along with Temple Israel will be offering the blood drive to members and neighbors. We will also need a couple of volunteers to help oversee the drive that Sunday. Signups are available now. To sign up in advance, you can go to redcrossblood.org. The event name is 'faithful neighbors.' You may also contact Alice Allen-Grimes (535-0934) and she will complete the on-line sign up for you.



AN SPC THURSDAY OUTING

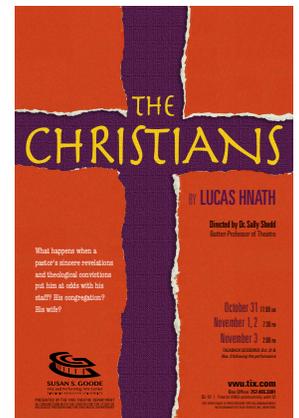
THE CHRISTIANS—A PLAY AT VWU—AND LUNCH AT SURF RIDER

Thursday, October 31 (Play 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.; lunch immediately after)

What happens when a pastor's sincere revelations and theological convictions put him at odds with his staff? His congregation? His wife? Lucas Hnath's play *The Christians* takes religious faith seriously and, in an evenhanded manner, invites the audience to reflect on what happens when people of good intent disagree on matters of ultimate importance.

Please join members of Second Presbyterian as we attend a meaningful play at Virginia Wesleyan and then eat together afterward at the Surf Rider restaurant at Cypress Point.

For free tickets to the play, please contact Craig (cwansink@vwu.edu or 412-7467) by Oct. 29. We will meet in the lobby of the Goode Fine Arts Center at 10:45, and then afterward go together to lunch.



REPORT FROM THE LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

As always with outdoor plantings there is good news and bad news to report.

Bad news: 1) Some of the soaking hoses were cut when the crawl space drainage system was installed. 2) Two crepe myrtles will have to be removed due to Chinese blight. 3) Seven azaleas and five potted plants died after the church was power washed.

Good news: 1) The church has been compensated by the power washing company. 2) Dave and Wendy Horner donated many Rose-of-Sharon bushes. 3) Other than the crepe myrtles, all plantings on the dry, sunny corner of the parking lot have survived.



Thank you for your encouragement and support. We welcome recommendations and donations.

Nell Armstrong & Mary Buckelew

There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!

OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday, October 1

Ava Libbey's Birthday

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, October 2

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, October 3

Elisabeth Sawyer & Maryann Stampfli's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM
[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, October 4

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

SPC Softball - 6:45/7:45PM [Tarrallton]

Saturday, October 5

Scott White's Birthday

Fall Church Work Day - 9:00AM [SPC]

Sunday, October 6

Anna Ndahi & Tex Badkins' Birthday

Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [SPC]

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, October 7

Roman's Bible Study - 6:30PM [TBD]

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, October 8

Triple S Circle - 10:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, October 9

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday Night R&R - 5:45PM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, October 10

Jasmin Seidl's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM
[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, October 11

Ben Ndahi's Birthday

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

SPC Softball - 8:45/9:45PM [Northside]

Saturday, October 12

Second Saturday - 9:00AM [PPCLC, SPC, & St. Mary's]

PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

Sunday, October 13

Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [SPC]

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

College Care Package Assembly - 12:15PM [Fellowship Hall]

Youth Paint Day - 1:00PM [Youth Room]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, October 14

Anne Jenkins & Sam Grimes' Birthday

Roman's Bible Study - 6:30PM [TBD]

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, October 15

Bayleigh White's Birthday

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, October 16

Tami Ndahi, & Bill Horner Birthday

Sentara Singers - 8:30AM [SPC, Sentara Village]

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, October 17

David Sawyer, Mitch Todd, & Nick Stampfli's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM
[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, October 18

Tara Franklin & Jamie Stearns' Birthday

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

SPC Softball - Playoffs/Raindate [TBD]

Saturday, October 19

PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

Young Disciples Cullipher Farms Trip - 1:00PM [Cullipher Farms]

Sunday, October 20

Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [SPC]

Choir Rehearsal - 10:30AM [Choir Room]

Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

Hunger & Homelessness Special Offering - 11:30AM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, October 21

Brandon Crouch's Birthday

Men's Fellowship Dinner - 6:00PM [Dirty Buffalo]

Roman's Bible Study - 6:30PM [TBD]

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, October 22

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, October 23

Lynn Ruehlmann's Birthday

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, October 24

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM
[Fellowship Hall]

Friday, October 25

Jeff Tinkham's Birthday

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM

SPC All-Church Retreat - 7:00PM [Airfield Conference Center]

Saturday, October 26

Jairus Twine's Birthday

PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]

SPC All-Church Retreat [Airfield Conference Center]

Sunday, October 27

SPC All-Church Retreat [Airfield Conference Center]

Worship with Rev. Nancy Rowland & Dr. Kosnik - 11:00AM [Sanctuary]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, October 28

John Wansink's Birthday

Roman's Bible Study - 6:30PM [TBD]

Women's Fellowship Dinner - 6:00PM [Rajput]

Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]

Tuesday, October 29

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, October 30

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, October 31

The Christians Play and SPC Outing - 11:00AM [VWU & Surf Rider]

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM
[Fellowship Hall]

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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