

Second Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 12: KONA ICE, A BABY ANIMAL PETTING ZOO, A WATER GAME, A POTLUCK, AND MUCH MORE

On "Rally Day," summer ends and we rally back to the church from vacations and camps to dedicate our lives together. Please dress casually and come prepared for a fun and meaningful time!

Worship starts at 11 a.m. Sunday, September 12. Be ready both for a new version of the Second Presbyterian anthem and for a time when we look to past challenges and look ahead to new possibilities.

The nursery will open at 10:30, but Sunday School will NOT begin until the following Sunday, September 19.



After worship, everyone is invited to join in a delicious potluck meal. The church will provide beverages, chicken, & BBQ. **PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT** (ideally, please bring a dessert if your last name begins with the letters A through J, and a side dish or salad if K through Z . . . but please bring whatever works for you).



After you've finished a great meal with good friends, you can enjoy a water "beat the bucket" game, a baby animal petting zoo, Kona Ice for dessert, and other fun! We encourage those who want to try the water game to wear a bathing suit or clothes they don't mind getting wet.

This is a very special celebration for our church family. If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in joining you, INVITE THEM TO COME ALONG! We look forward to seeing you on Rally Day!

UPCOMING SPC SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

- Friday, August 27: 7 & 8 p.m. @ Tarrallton
- Friday, September 10: 7 & 8 p.m. @ Northside
- Friday, September 17: 7 & 8 p.m. @ Tarrallton
- Friday, September 24: 7 & 8 p.m. @ Northside
- Friday, October 1: 7 & 8 p.m. @ Northside

Always make sure to check the weather hotline before you come out to the games at 664.6814.



FROM THE PASTOR

THE UNIQUE TESTAMENT

In seminary, Dr. Bob Boling was an Old Testament professor of mine who encouraged me to study archaeology in Jordan and who got me my first job teaching Hebrew. Once he mentioned to us that if we wanted to find the beginning of the New Testament in the Bible, we should divide the Bible in half and then divide the latter half in halves again, and the New Testament would be right there at the end. He jokingly referred to the New Testament as “the little pamphlet” at the end of the Bible.

I really appreciate the Old Testament, along with the challenges it creates, the stories it shares, and the vision of life it provides. As we will see in our adult Sunday School classes (starting September 19), we can't fully understand Jesus without being grounded in Judaism and the Old Testament.

A famous biblical scholar, Bernhard Anderson, emphasizes that the Old Testament needs to be seen as having a relative independence, “like a partner in any good marriage.” Four themes, for instance, stand out for me in the Old Testament in ways they don't within the New Testament.



Debate with God: Throughout the Old Testament, we see prophets, kings, heroes, and other characters shouting at God, protesting, raising questions, and doubting God. Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and, above all, Job question God, even arguing vehemently with God. What stands out is that they care about God even when they are very, very angry with God. The word “Israel” literally means “to wrestle with God.” That describes the relationship between many Old Testament figures and the one whom they both praised and questioned.

Justice and Peace: Decades ago, when Sammy Davis Jr. was asked why he had converted to Judaism, he emphasized the focus on justice within the Hebrew Bible. From Exodus, which emphasizes the deliverance of slaves from oppression, through the prophets, which emphasize “doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God” (Micah 6:8), the Old Testament emphasizes that God is involved in social and political struggles. Justice on earth should matter to us because it matters to God.

Creation and Stewardship: Books like Genesis and Psalms put both the miracle of our existence and the majesty of the cosmos in perspective. Humans are put in an important position as stewards in these writings.

The Goodness of Life: Over one-third of the Psalms are laments. This is no “Polyanna” optimism. In the midst of suffering, the Bible celebrates the goodness of life.

As we join in Sunday School or as you read the Old Testament by yourself, my hope is that you see how important its message is, whether we find ourself arguing with God, working toward peace, understanding ourselves as stewards, or recognizing the goodness of life through new eyes.

With blessings, Pastor Craig

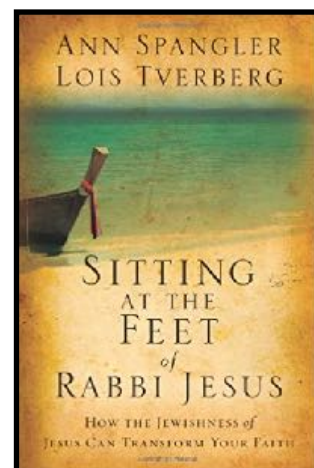
JOIN US FOR STUDY AT THE ROBERTSON FAMILY DECK

Sundays, September 19-October 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

SITTING AT THE FEET OF RABBI JESUS: HOW THE JEWISHNESS OF JESUS CAN TRANSFORM YOUR FAITH

How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you lived? *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*, by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg, takes us on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus. You are encouraged to read some of the material if possible—it is very engaging.

The church office has a few copies available for purchase if you need one. The books are \$12 each.



WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER: FROM 11 AM TO NOON

Join us Sundays in September for the following special worship opportunities



THE GREATEST SERMON EVER

Sept. 5 *Foundations Matter (Matthew 7:21-29)*

For the last month we've focused on the Sermon on the Mount, a teaching for the first Christians comparable in influence to that of the Torah on the Jews. Join us as we complete the sermon series—and the Sermon on the Mount itself—with a story of rock and sand.

A TIME TO PAUSE: 20 YEARS AFTER 9/11

Sept. 12 *A Distant Shore and a Different Time: Spiritual Lessons from September 11, 2001*

Join us for a time of reflection, as well as renewal, as we remember dark days in our country's history and reflect on hard-won spiritual lessons from that time. (Those present will receive Stephen Skelton's booklet, "Ten Spiritual Lessons of 9/11: An Interview with a Ground Zero Pastor.")



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sept. 19 *"We Are Second": Inviting Others to a Greater Life (John 12:32)*

Worship outdoors with us at the Robertson Family Deck! Worship will be in person at 11 a.m. and webcast online at the same time. Please bring a comfortable chair (or borrow one of ours). *In case of inclement weather, we will move indoors.*

SECOND THOUGHTS, SECOND CHANCES, SECOND LIFE

Sermon Series: September 19-October 10

Why can church matter? Does being Presbyterian shape how I understand life? What does it mean to be "Second"? During these weeks, join us as we both reflect on our spiritual past and move into our calling for the future.

Sept. 19 *"We Are Second": Inviting Others to a Greater Life (John 12:32)*
John 12:27-36

Sept. 26 *"We Are Presbyterian": Chosen for a Reason (Jeremiah 1:5)*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 John 1:5-10

Oct. 3 *"We Are Church": For the Common Good (1 Corinthians 12:7)*
Genesis 2:18-25; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Oct. 10 *"For Such a Time as This": Second Thoughts, Second Chances, Second Life*
Esther 4:5-17; John 4:16-17



A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED FOR THE SOUND ROOM

Currently, Second is looking for a volunteer who would like to fill in for Jay Layne when he is not able to be at church. This role entails streaming the worship service to our webpage and Facebook on Sunday mornings, along with manipulating the cameras to best capture the service. Volunteers should be comfortable with computers and technology. Adults and youth are welcome to volunteer. Training will be provided! Please email **Jay Layne** (jlayne736@gmail.com) if you are interested in filling this volunteer role.

SECOND AT THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM “DRAGGING YOU INTO THE STORY”: BIBLICAL ART THAT EXPECTS YOUR RESPONSE

Saturday, September 11, 11 a.m. — Noon a Chrysler Museum Tour with Pastor Craig (make sure you bring a mask to the Chrysler, and bring a friend if you can.)

A surprising number of paintings at the Chrysler focus on Biblical stories where everyone finds themselves in awkward or challenging situations. In these particular paintings, however, one figure in the painting stares at those of us who are looking at the art. The purpose of these paintings is not simply to portray events from the past but to grab the viewers and pull them mentally into the story, so that they are challenged to think about how they would respond in the same situation. Join us on this walking tour through both the Chrysler and the Bible.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Some Christians jokingly refer to potluck dinners or fellowship hour as a third sacrament. To be fair to them, eating is discussed throughout the Bible. Peter Leithart says that Jesus “came teaching about the feast of the kingdom, and He came feasting in the kingdom. Jesus did not go around merely talking about eating and drinking; he went around eating and drinking. A lot.” Through food, he enacted grace, community, hope, and salvation.

As Christians we grow not just through worship and through study, but also through the kinds of sidebar conversations that happen during fellowship. For many of us, that is what we missed the most when we were not gathering.

This summer we’ve had some special Sundays with food, but we need your help. If you, or you with some friends, could sign up to provide food on a Sunday, we would be grateful. Something warm, or crunchy, or fruity, or cookie-like. We are sincerely grateful for any way you might help out in creating the opportunity for community. Thank you.



TRIPLE S CIRCLE RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

The Triple S Circle will start meeting again in September in the fellowship hall. Our first meeting will be held at **10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 14**. Please wear a mask so we will be in compliance with our COVID-19 transition team’s request. All women are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact **Wendy Horner at 757-355-0038**.

FALL MEDITATION EVENT
“ORISON: LISTENING AND BEHOLDING”
7 p.m. Sunday, September 26, SPC Sanctuary

Join us for a quiet, meditative prayer experience to experience orison (prayer) through the hearing of reflective songs. As you listen to contemplative music, you will journey through prayers for healing, peace, community, hope, and thanksgiving. Join us for, and invite friends to, a candlelit encounter of silent devotion.

SEPTEMBER 1 — COME TO CHOIR!

On **Wednesday, September 1**, our choir will return to regular rehearsals... since this really is a re-start of the choir's activities, **this is a perfect time to get involved!** We are eager to welcome new members as we start rehearsals for music in the fall. If you're interested in singing, please contact Music director **Robert Shoup** (robertshoup@mac.com) who can fill you in on details, including schedule, expectations, and current COVID-19 protocols.

THINGS ARE “LOOKING UP”!

Among the changes that COVID-19 brought to our worship experience was the removal of items we typically pass between each other physically, a response to the risks of passing the virus to one another through physical contact.

The coming weeks may see the return of some of these items, signs of our ability to resume some practices we have paused since last March. One of the items we have not been utilizing is our hymnal as we have sung together from projected words on the sanctuary screen. From the front of the sanctuary, it has been quite an experience to hear everyone singing in this way. I don't know if it can be appreciated from the congregation, but the act of everyone looking up at the front while singing has created an energy in the room that has been palpable. There is something about everyone singing up and out into the room that creates a vitality and spirit much greater than when looking down at the pages of a book. When hymnals are able to be reintroduced, it is my hope that we will retain the practice of “singing up” together as a body—whether holding a book or singing projected words. Perhaps this is one of the “silver linings” of the pandemic...the discovery of how we can raise our voices in audible community, just by looking up!

—Bob Shoup

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

All nursery and elementary-aged children are welcome to join Katrina Wansink via a closed Zoom meeting **Sundays at noon** for Sunday school! Please note, on **September 19, Sunday school will resume in person** at the church **starting at 9:45 a.m.** We will gather each week and learn different Bible lessons. For more information, please contact **Katrina** at katwansink@gmail.com or 757-802-1536.



CHILDREN'S MISSION & FELLOWSHIP

This month, the children of the church can look forward to many fun activities. All children are invited to **Rally Day, September 12**, when there will be baby animals to pet, Kona Ice, a water game, and much more. All children are also invited to join the adults for a tour at the Chrysler Museum of Art **Saturday, September 11, from 11 a.m. to noon**, where there will be child-friendly activities. In addition, the children will make cards for long-term members of the church as we focus on the history and the mission of the church over the past 149 years.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP & MISSION

For fellowship, all youth are invited to stay **after worship on Rally Day, September 12**, an important celebration in the life of the church. Activities include a water game, baby animals to pet, fun food, and Kona Ice. Let's see who can win in the beat-the-bucket game! We encourage those who want to try this water game to wear a bathing suit or clothes they don't mind getting wet. For mission, we will have "take two" on the mission project from July, which was postponed due to rain. Youth are asked to help with a few outdoor projects at church; Mrs. Katie will reach out to parents to plan the best day for this project. Please contact youth director **Katie White** with any questions at kkerr12@spcnorfolk.org or 757-615-8728.



MISSION AT SECOND

St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries continue to need sandwiches to distribute to individuals in need. Please contact Larry Hull if you're interested in assisting with making sandwiches at **noon Friday, September 10**.

In addition to sandwiches, St. Columba needs the following items, which may be placed in the container in the hallway. Please contact Alice Allen-Grimes if you have questions.

- **Spray deodorant**
- **Bleach**
- **Bathroom cleaner**
- **Baby powder**
- **Washcloths**
- **Travel-sized lotion**
- **Razors**

LAUNCH hosted three successful mini-fairs in Park Place over the summer. Monthly food distribution will continue on the third Thursday of the month during the fall. Be on the lookout for information regarding continued volunteer opportunities. You can reach out to Alice Allen-Grimes or Joe Morgan if you have questions.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of our mission partners!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stained glass as an art form can be traced to ancient times. Early examples in the form of household items and other decorative arts have been excavated from sites in Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

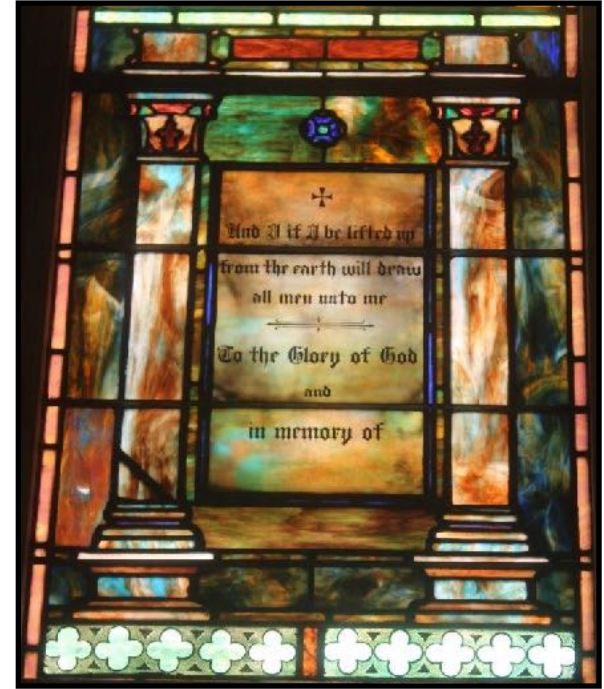
The word steward is an ancient job title. It describes a person who takes care of or manages something for someone else. In the New Testament books, the word “steward” is rooted in the Greek word “oikonomos,” which means household manager.

The purpose of stained glass windows in a church is both to enhance the beauty of their setting and to inform the viewer through narrative or symbolism.

The beautiful double memorial stained glass window over the sanctuary entrance to Second Presbyterian Church interprets John 12:32, in which Jesus promises, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Later this month, we will announce an opportunity to enhance and preserve the beauty and, therefore, the history of the stained glass windows that have been entrusted to our care at Second. Good stewards take care of the gifts God has given them to manage. We hope you will join us in doing so.

—Peggy McPhillips and Kathy Stark



A CHURCH LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As we approach fall, you will see the following landscape changes.

- The plants at the Hampton Boulevard parking-lot exit will be replaced to allow for better visibility.
- A number of trees will be planted on three sides of the church: North Shore Road, Hampton Boulevard, and Norfolk Yacht and Country Club.
- The back wall grass will be removed to create a larger, more diverse area.
- The weeds, vines, and other debris will be removed from the back property and along the parking lot.
- A plan is being developed to place plants around the new deck.

Please contact Pam Reed, Nell Armstrong, or Kathy Stark with questions.

FROM THE PAST OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN INTO THE FUTURE

Jay Layne and Pastor Craig are gathering information about the history of the church. They are looking for stories of events at the church, photos of people, or even details about rooms that have been remodeled or removed. They also are looking for bulletins or any documents that help tell the history of our church. You can send them copies to borrow, or you can donate items to the church history archives. If you have any questions, please email Jay Layne (jlayne736@gmail.com) or Pastor Craig (cwansink@vwu.edu).



There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!

SPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 1

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Paul West & Anna Baragona's Birthday

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

Choir Rehearsal Resumes - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 2

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, September 3

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, September 4

Sunday, September 5

Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/In-person]

Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom]

Monday, September 6

Tuesday, September 7

Robin Hoff's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Upstairs Classroom]

Wednesday, September 8

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Mary Franklin & Dean Troyer's Birthday

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

Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 9

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, September 10

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]

Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Softball Games - 7:00 & 8:00PM

[Northside]

Saturday, September 11

Second Saturday - 9:00AM [St. Mary's]

Paintings & Faith - 11AM [Chrysler Museum]

Sunday, September 12 RALLY DAY

Sam Bull's Birthday

Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/In-person]

Rally Day Potluck - 12:00PM [SPC]

Rally Day Celebration - 12:30PM [SPC]

Monday, September 13

Phyllis Layne's Birthday

Tuesday, September 14

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

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, September 15

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Emma Jean Apodaca's Birthday

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

Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 16

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Park Place Meal Prep - 2:00PM [SPC Kitchen]

Park Place Community Meal - 4:30PM [Park Place]

BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, September 17

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]

Softball Games - 7:00 & 8:00PM

[Tarrallton]

Saturday, September 18

Roz Klein's Birthday

Sunday, September 19

Outdoor Worship - 11:00AM

[Livestream/SPC Outdoors]

Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM

[Zoom]

Monday, September 20

Tuesday, September 21

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Zoom]

Wednesday, September 22

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Amanda Besso's Birthday

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

Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 23

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Rob Courtois' Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, September 24

Dan Magee & Jason Kittredge's Birthday

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]

Softball Games - 7:00 & 8:00PM

[Northside]

Saturday, September 25

Sunday, September 26

Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/In-person]

Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom]

Orisong - 7:00PM [Sanctuary]

Monday, September 27

Tuesday, September 28

Cecil Chapman's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & SPC]

Wednesday, September 29

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Tom Morrisette's Birthday

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

Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, September 30

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Brenna Stack's Birthday

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM

[Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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