



FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1324 Marion Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office (803) 799 9062 Fax (803) 799 9172
Vol. LXII, No. 5 February 5, 2012
www.firstprescolumbia.org info@firstprescolumbia.org
Worship Service – Broadcast WISW 1320 AM at 11:00 a.m.
audio streaming at www.firstprescolumbia.org

Sunday, February 5

8:30 a.m. Worship Service* - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Inquirers Class - Small Dining Room
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages - Thornwell, FLC, and Palmer
10:50 a.m. Fellowship Time* - Jackson Hall
11:15 a.m. Worship Service* - Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. Biblical Foundations Class Luncheon - Family Life Center
3:30 p.m. Junior Choir - Laurel Crest
4:00 p.m. Laurel Crest Service - Laurel Crest
4:30 p.m. Cate Memorial Handbell Choir Rehearsal - P202-A
4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group - P203
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Make-Up Rehearsal - P110
5:00 p.m. Church-Wide Prayer* - T305
5:00 p.m. Primary Choir Rehearsal - T102
5:00 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal - T203
5:45 p.m. Friendship Club - T209
6:00 p.m. Evening Service* - Sanctuary
6:15 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal - T103
6:15 p.m. The Club - 1st-5th grades - T213
7:15 p.m. Sunday Supper - Jackson Hall
7:15 p.m. Open Gym - FLC

Monday, February 6

9:00 a.m. Aerobics @ First - FLC
12:00 p.m. Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal - P202-A
5:00 p.m. Deacon Chairs - P105
5:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - P402
6:00 p.m. American Heritage Girls - Thornwell
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Tiger Cubs - Thornwell
6:15 p.m. Cub Scouts - Den 2 - Thornwell

Tuesday, February 7

6:30 a.m. High School Bible Study - Wee Hourse - Offsite
7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer - P402
7:45 a.m. Circuit Training @ First - FLC
8:30 a.m. Staff Prayer - P402
9:30 a.m. Ministry Staff Meeting - P402
9:30 a.m. WOC In Prayer - Thornwell
10:00 a.m. WOC Board Meeting - Thornwell
5:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee - P305
5:30 p.m. World Missions Meeting - P401
6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study - Daniel - P102
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Troop 2 - P202-B

Wednesday, February 8

7:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Greet the Dawn - P402
9:00 a.m. Aerobics @ First - FLC
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study* - A Praying Life - T309
10:15 a.m. Bible Moderators - T201
11:30 a.m. Wednesdays@First* - Jackson Hall
4:00 p.m. Youth Chorus Sight-Singing - P110
4:30 p.m. Youth Chorus Rehearsal - P110
5:30 p.m. Centerpoint: Supper - Jackson Hall
6:15 p.m. Middle School Girls Bible Study - Thornwell
6:15 p.m. Middle School Boys Bible Study - Thornwell
6:15 p.m. Centerpoint: Nursery - Thornwell
6:15 p.m. Centerpoint: Kids - Thornwell
6:30 p.m. Centerpoint: The Pilgrim's Progress, Part 2 - Jackson Hall
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - P110
7:15 p.m. Centerpoint: Prayer - Jackson Hall
8:00 p.m. Chamber Choir Rehearsal - P110

Thursday, February 9

6:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Men's Bible Fellowship - Offsite
5:30 p.m. CE Christian Growth & Nurture Committee - P305

Friday, February 10

Spiritual Life Conference
6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Offsite
7:15 a.m. Women's Prayer - P102
7:45 a.m. Circuit Training @ First - FLC
9:00 a.m. Aerobics @ First - Family Life Center

Saturday, February 11

Spiritual Life Conference

* Childcare is available from birth to four years.

WORSHIP AT FIRST
LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 & 11:15 a.m. Sanctuary

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN THE PSALMS OF DAVID

6. "Can This Be The Savior?"
Psalm 22:1-31

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson preaching

Children's Sermon (8:30)
"Be Near Me!"

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 p.m. Sanctuary

"Glimpses of Extravagant Love"
Hosea 3:1-5
Rev. David Lauten preaching

Children's Sermon
"Mercy and Forgiveness—Even for This"

It's Almost Here!

By this time next week our Spiritual Life Conference will be underway. We hear of people planning to come from near and far, from Savannah to Chicago. We are all conscious that the "draw" is the opportunity to hear Dr. R.C. Sproul in a local church setting. That is now a virtually unique event, and one of the reasons we feel privileged that "R.C." is willing to spend a weekend away from the congregation he loves in order to minister to us here.

We do not know how many will come, but since we expect numbers of visitors, overflow seating will be provided in the Family Life Center; in this way, we will be able to accommodate 1500 people.

Doubtless many visitors will *come* chiefly, if not exclusively, because of the preacher. But we want them to *leave* chiefly conscious of the presence of the Lord and the blessing of Christ in our midst. So, while we have the privilege of having R.C. with us, we also have a special opportunity to *savour, show, and share* the Lord's presence in our church family.

Think of the passage on which Dr. Thomas preached the other Sunday evening: God's multi-faceted wisdom is displayed in the church (Ephesians 3:10). Think of it this way: without using audible words, the Lord wants to point to our fellowship over February 10-12, and say to visitors who may come hurting, or discouraged, or feeling isolated: "See what I can do in my wisdom; see the grace, the love, the open-hearted love in this church family—and see how happy they are to welcome you. Where else in all the world can you see that? That's my wisdom. The world counts it folly, but it can never reproduce it! I am all sufficient for all of your needs. Come and receive my blessing!"

So, as we look forward to coming for the conference sessions on February 10-11, and then on the Lord's Day, here are three things (yes, 3!) we can do:

- Let us remember the conference in prayer.
- Let us share the blessings the Lord is giving us here.
- Let us express the love we have for our church family, and share it with joy.

Then, surely, everyone who comes will feel they have not only "tasted" but also "seen" that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).

And throughout the weekend—not least on Sunday when we plan to sing our beloved "Saints of Zion" with the choir—let's pray that this weekend will be an unusual blessing to Dr. and Mrs. Sproul. You may know that their young daughter-in-law recently went to be with the Lord, leaving her husband R.C., Jr. and their large family bereft of wife, mother, and friend. Only the word and presence of the Lord are sufficient for us in such times. And that is, surely, a timely reminder to us that together we bring into our Sanctuary a vast amount of grief, pain, disappointment, and loss. What we pray for over the conference weekend we need every weekend. So may the Lord open the windows of heaven and pour out his blessing on us!

Sinclair B. Ferguson

Sunday, February 5



Students will be at the doors following each service to collect money to be distributed to local charities. The challenge is for each person to give at least \$1.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line. You may also bring canned goods to the Atrium.

From the Music Ministry

An **Organ Recital** featuring Dr. Bill Bates will be held **Friday, February 24.** Dr. Bates will play works by Bach, Franck, and Mulet, as well as some of his own compositions. 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

From the Congregational Nurse

Health Notes
Wednesday, February 29
1:15 - 2:30 p.m.
"Hormonal Changes"
Speaker: Dr. Jimmy Stands

Care Team Training
Saturday, March 24
8:30 a.m. - 1200 p.m.

Right Start Pre-Marital Seminar

Are you engaged? Are you considering engagement? Then the *Right Start Pre-Marital Seminar*, co-hosted by *First Presbyterian Church* and the *Christian Counseling Center*, could be of great value to your future. Right Start will be held on **March 2 and 3** and will feature the Rev. David Lauten and Dr. Tom Barbian. The cost of the seminar is \$150 per couple. Registration is due Monday, February 27.

For more information, contact Eric Wenger (799-9062, Ext. 601; ewenger@firstprescolumbia.org).

Spiritual Life Conference

The Needs of the Hour
with Dr. R.C. Sproul

Friday, February 10
7:00 p.m. Session 1: ***A Famine of the Word***

Saturday, February 11
9:00 a.m. Session 2: ***The Prayerlessness of the Church***
10:45 a.m. Session 3: ***Bridges to the World***

All sessions will be held in the Sanctuary.

Registration is not required;
admission is free and open to the public;
an offering will be taken to defray expenses.

www.firstprescolumbia.org/spirituallife

Childcare for infants to K-5 is available by reservation for the Saturday sessions for members of First Presbyterian Church. Space is limited; contact Hannah Lampman by Tuesday, February 7 (799-9062, Ext. 237; hlampman@firstprescolumbia.org).

Wednesdays@First

February 8

MEMORABLE MEALS
"The Final Bill"
Dr. Sinclair Ferguson teaching

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.
Program begins at 12:15 p.m.
Jackson Hall

Centerpoint

February 8

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, PART 2:
The Story of Christiana and Her Four Children
"Leaving the City of Destruction"
Dr. Derek Thomas teaching

Supper begins at 5:30 p.m.
Program begins at 6:30 p.m.
Jackson Hall

Sunday, February 5

Middle School Youth Group
will meet at its regular time.

High School Youth Group
will not meet.



Thank you for your prayers! Our first worship service this past week was such an encouraging time. I could not have imagined a better start for us. Through it all, I was reminded that God is at work launching us and that he is using the prayers of his people. Please keep praying for us as we settle into the rhythm of weekly worship, as we begin our Life Group meetings this month, and as we reach out to the Northeast!

Rev. Brandon Barrett

brandon@gracepresarp.org
(803) 360-6946

Church Family

Christian sympathy is extended to:
Elena and Bill Lackland in the death of her sister, Mary E. D'Arezzo, on Monday, January 23.

Sandra Zimmerman, Lee Zimmerman, and Lindsay Zimmerman in the death of Myrtle Hope Zimmerman on Sunday, January 29.

Circle 8
will meet on
Wednesday, February 8,
at 10:15 a.m.
in Laffitte Parlor.
All other Circles
will meet on
February 13, 14, & 15.

Lost & Found

Please check the Security Office
in the Palmer Building for items
(Bibles, glasses, scarves, etc.)
you may have misplaced.



Breakfast

Saturday, February 4
9:00 a.m.

Clarion Hotel Downtown
\$7.00 per person at the door
Reservation Not Required

Valentine's Day Dinner

Tuesday, February 14
6:00 p.m.

Jackson Hall
\$10.00 per person at the door
Reservation Required:
799-9062, Ext. 293
Deadline:
Friday, February 10, 12:00 p.m.



The Newly Revised and Improved Edition

A seven-week series based on the Gospel of Mark, *Christianity Explored* is designed to answer these questions:

- "Who is Jesus?"
- "Why did he come?"
- "What does this mean for my life?"

We long for new people to join us;
do you have a friend you can invite
to explore the identity and mission of Jesus?

You don't need to know anything about the Bible.
You won't be asked to read aloud, pray, or sing.
You can ask any question you want.

Thursdays
February 16 to March 29
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Small Dining Room

There is no cost to attend;
box lunches will be available for a small fee.

Contact David Lauten to find out more:
799-9062, Ext. 225; dlauten@firstprescolumbia.org.

Columbia-Area Hispanic Ministry

Catawba Presbytery's Hispanic church plant, Iglesia Biblica Latinoamerica, is hosting an informational dinner on **Saturday, February 18**, at 6:00 p.m. at Centennial ARP (Laurel at Bull). If you would like to hear more about this ministry to the Hispanic community in the Columbia area, you are cordially invited to attend.

For additional information, contact Neal Mathias (799-9062, Ext. 227).

Parenting Seminars

The Christian Family

Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Jackson Hall

February 25 "Leading It" Dr. Sinclair Ferguson
March 24 "Loving It" Dr. Derek Thomas
April 21 "Lasting In It" David Lauten