

WORSHIP AT FIRST  
LORD'S DAY  
JANUARY 21, 2018  
MORNING WORSHIP  
8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

INSIDE OUT  
"Is It Worth Getting Up Today?"  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11  
Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

Children's Sermon (8:30):  
"The Key to Wisdom"

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:15)

---

EVENING WORSHIP  
6:00 p.m.

"How Firm A Foundation!"  
II Samuel 9  
Dr. D. Ralph Davis

Children's Sermon:  
"And It was Very Good"

Children's Catechism #2:  
Q. *What else did God make?*  
A. God made all things.

## WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesday, January 24

A PSALM A DAY KEEPS THE DEVIL AWAY:  
MY FAVORITE PSALMS AND WHY  
"The BLUES Psalm"  
Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

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

---

## CENTERPOINT

Wednesday, January 24

No Centerpoint Gathering

Congregational Dinner & Meeting  
Family Life Center

*Supper begins at 5:15 p.m.  
Meeting begins at 6:15 p.m.*



# FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vol. LXVIII, No. 3

January 21, 2018

audio streaming at [www.firstprescolumbia.org](http://www.firstprescolumbia.org)

[info@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:info@firstprescolumbia.org)

Worship Service - Broadcast WISW 1320 AM at 11:00 a.m.

### Past and Future

"The future is as bright as the promises of God."

This statement is attributed to Adoniram Judson, friend and colleague of William Carey. Both Judson and Carey spent some years working together as missionaries in India before Judson moved to Burma (known today as Myanmar). In less than fourteen years, Judson buried his dear wife, Ann, and all their children. He remarried and buried a second wife and eventually seven of his thirteen children, but remained in India for almost four decades before dying at the age of 61. Sixty-three churches and some 7,000 converts are attributed to his ministry. (A marvelous biography of Adoniram Judson was written in 2013 by Vance Christie [Christian Focus Publications] and is for sale in the church bookstore.)

My point is that whatever the future holds, it is surrounded at every level by the promises of God. And looking to the future - the future of First Presbyterian Church - is what a great many people have been doing this past year. The Strategic Planning Committee has examined every area of church life, assessing strengths and noting weaknesses and omissions. And it is ready to report. We have asked the chairman, Dave Van De Water, to address the Annual Congregational Meeting this Wednesday, January 24, and provide us with some of the highlights.

Typically, our Congregational Meeting also provides an opportunity to reflect on giving, and this year's report will contain some very good news of increased giving, a healthy surplus (which will be used to further help areas of ministry, both in our church and the denomination) and, perhaps most encouragingly, of over a hundred new regular givers. There are some increased opportunities for further ministry available to us as a result of this extraordinarily generous giving. You will be asked to cast a vote on the proposed budget for 2018.

Particularly special will be a report from the chairman of the Search Committee for an Associate Minister, Tom Ryan. The Committee was assigned by the congregation the task to search for a pastor whose primary function will be to provide pastoral care for the aging members of our congregation. Technically, that description includes everyone, for we are all aging in some sense of the term! But we do recognize that the senior members require special attention. Members of the congregation will have an opportunity to cast a vote for this candidate, unanimously recommended by the Search Committee.

On the first Wednesday of February, we will launch the Spring Centerpoint season. I cannot tell you with sufficient enthusiasm how pleased I am that Dr. Fluhrer will be presenting a series of apologetic lectures addressing some of the challenges to faith at the present time. Dr. Fluhrer is more than qualified to speak on these issues, having a PhD in philosophical and apologetic issues. This is a unique opportunity for all ages, particularly for those being challenged by non-Christian worldviews in schools and universities. We have also been reflecting on the need to end a little earlier, and we will, therefore, end at 7:00 p.m. Supper will begin around 5:00 o'clock and Centerpoint will begin at 6:00 o'clock. We will be transitioning into a brief time of prayer around the tables without a break, so plan on staying for that.

**Derek W.H. Thomas**  
Senior Minister



## World Missions Sunday School Class Visits

Mark your calendars for our upcoming guests in the World Missions Sunday School Class (Palmer 100):

**January 21** - Joice & Kelly Smith, missionaries to the Unreached Malay People

**January 28** - Ali Mitchell of ARP Connect

**February 4** - Tony Burk



## FPC College Missions Golf Tournament

- **Monday, March 5**
- Lunch at 11:00 a.m.
- Shotgun start at 12:00 p.m.
- Cobblestone Park Golf Club, Blythewood.

Join us for a round of golf in support of our 2018 College Missions Trip to Wales. Please register at [firstprescolumbia.org/collegegolf](http://firstprescolumbia.org/collegegolf).

You can support by sponsoring a hole, a driving range, or in registering your foursome. Hats given to all participants.

### People for Prayer

<i>Mrs. Susi Bagrow</i>	<i>Ms. Francee Levin</i>
<i>Mrs. Vera Bajenski</i>	<i>Mrs. Debbie Maner</i>
<i>Mrs. Emma Boyd</i>	<i>Mrs. Molly Matthews</i>
<i>Mrs. Arthur Brown</i>	<i>Rev. Gentry McCole</i>
<i>Master Andrew Taylor Bryan</i>	<i>Mr. Micah McCoy</i>
<i>Miss Reese Burdette</i>	<i>Mrs. Ann McDowell</i>
<i>Mr. Andy Byars</i>	<i>Mr. Jack McDowell</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Cassells</i>	<i>Mr. Britt McDowell</i>
<i>Mrs. Lauren Choate</i>	<i>Miss Laura Michelle Merwin</i>
<i>Mrs. Lucy Claiborne</i>	<i>Miss Debbie Mielke</i>
<i>Mr. John Collins</i>	<i>Mr. Bryan Miller</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Connelly</i>	<i>Master A.J. Monte</i>
<i>Mrs. Michale Connelly</i>	<i>Dr. Michael Montgomery</i>
<i>Mr. John Milton Cooper III</i>	<i>Mrs. Lydia Newell</i>
<i>Mr. Frank Cureton</i>	<i>Mr. Allen Pettigrew</i>
<i>Mrs. Jeanie Dynarski</i>	<i>Mrs. Betty Petty</i>
<i>Mr. Jon Evans</i>	<i>Miss Anna Holden Price</i>
<i>Master Gabriel Fleming</i>	<i>Mrs. Ruthie Fowles Rush</i>
<i>Mr. Elmer Frick</i>	<i>Mrs. Mary Russell</i>
<i>Mrs. Mary Frick</i>	<i>Mrs. Ursula Slimp</i>
<i>Ms. Natalie Gibson</i>	<i>Mr. Cleve Smith</i>
<i>Mrs. Carol Glass</i>	<i>Mr. John Thompson</i>
<i>Mr. Frank Godfrey</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. David Tidwell</i>
<i>Mrs. Carla Graf</i>	<i>Mrs. Nell West</i>
<i>Ms. Mary Green</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard West</i>
<i>Master Charlie Haselden</i>	<i>Mrs. Sharon Wickstrom</i>
<i>Mr. Jack Haynes</i>	<i>Mrs. Rachel P. Wiggins</i>
<i>Mrs. Holly Herro</i>	<i>Mr. Burns Windley</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Craig Hewitt</i>	<i>Ms. Kathryn Wulfing</i>
<i>Mrs. Shannon Hopper</i>	<i>Italics = Non-member</i>
<i>Ms. Louisa Huebel</i>	<i>* New addition</i>
<i>Mrs. Zina Kaplan</i>	

If you have put someone on this list and their need has passed, or for any additions, please contact Lisa Eargle at 799-9062, Ext. 244, or [leargle@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:leargle@firstprescolumbia.org).



Join us **February 16 - 17** at Bonclarken Conference Center. Cost is \$95.00 per couple.

Registration is open now! Please register by **January 26** at [firstprescolumbia.org/marriage](http://firstprescolumbia.org/marriage).



Jen Wilkin, internationally known speaker and author of *Women of the Word* and *None Like Him*, will be the speaker this year for our annual Women's Conference. You do not want to miss this event! Invite your friends and make plans now to attend.

### Friday, March 2

6:00 p.m. Appetizer and Dessert Reception

7:00 p.m. Session 1

### Saturday, March 3

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Session 2

10:15 a.m. Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. Session 3

Register at [firstprescolumbia.org/womensconference](http://firstprescolumbia.org/womensconference)



## WOC Presents the Ladies' Prayer Dinner: "Coping with Unanswered Prayer"

- **Tuesday, January 30, at 6:00 p.m.**
- Jackson Hall
- Cost is \$8.00 per person.

Reservations can be made online at [firstprescolumbia.org/wocprayer2018](http://firstprescolumbia.org/wocprayer2018), on our church app, or by calling the church office at 799-9062, Ext. 295.

*If childcare from birth through 5th grade is needed in order to attend the event, please make reservations by contacting Beth Grider by Tuesday, January 23, at 799-9062, Ext. 233, or [bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org). We will be unable to accept any childcare reservations after the deadline.*



## College Lunch

A lunch for College students will be held on **Sunday, January 21**, in the Family Life Center following the 11:15 a.m. service. You do not need to bring anything but yourself! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rebecca Milford at [rmilford@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:rmilford@firstprescolumbia.org) or 799-9062, Ext. 232.



## Save the Date - Blood Drive

Our first 2018 blood drive will take place on **Wednesday, March 7**, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We really need your help! To make a reservation, please contact Barbara Shealy at 799-9062, Ext. 261 or [bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org).

## Church Family

### Congratulations to:

Celeste and Luke Mellon on the birth of their son, Lochlan Draper Mellon, on January 4. Grateful grandparents are Alice and John Caskey.

Alicia and Jake Creece on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Lynn Creece, on Thursday, January 11.

Beth and Tim Eich on the birth of their granddaughter, Clara Noelle Jones, on Thursday, January 11. Grateful parents are Rebecca and Stephen Jones. Grateful great-grandparents are Caroline and Bob Hellams.

Kelley and Brad Anderson on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Allyn "Lena" Anderson, on Sunday, January 14. Proud grandmother is Sandy Tribble. Proud great-grandparents are David and Dot Tribble.

Allana and Bennett Weigle on the birth of their daughter, Clara Nell Weigle, on January 15. Grateful grandparents are Ginger and Gordon Weigle.

### Items for Church Family?

Contact Lisa Eargle at 799-9062, Ext. 244, or [leargle@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:leargle@firstprescolumbia.org).

### In Memoriam

THOMAS E. McCUTCHEM, JR.  
JUNE 20, 1919 -  
JANUARY 15, 2018

## Congregational Dinner and Meeting

The annual dinner and congregational meeting for the adoption of the 2018 budget, election of the 2018 Church Officer Nominating Committee, election of the church treasurer, to hear and act on the report, from the Committee, on the Associate Minister for Pastoral Care for the Aging, and any other matters will be held on **Wednesday, January 24**, in the Family Life Center. There is no charge for the dinner which will begin at 5:30 p.m. The serving line will open at 5:15 p.m., and the congregational meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m.

The Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church will meet immediately following the congregational meeting to elect officers, and act on any other business that may come before the corporation.

Nurseries for infants through three years old will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. Children's activities for K4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be offered beginning at 6:15 p.m. Classrooms will be open at 6:00 p.m. for drop-off. Parents, please feed your children prior to the nursery and/or children's program.



## A Moment of Hope Banquet

You are cordially invited to attend the upcoming informational and fundraising banquet for the local outreach ministry of A Moment of Hope on **Thursday, February 8**, in Jackson Hall from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Rev. Matt Miller, former senior minister of Greenville ARP and now director of Erskine Theological Seminary's Greenville campus, will serve as emcee for the evening. The keynote address will be given by Rev. Doug Merkey, founder and past president of Churches for Life.

Expect a fabulous meal by Chef Rich including music by Thomas and Julie Russell and Campbell Johnson. Mark Baumgartner will share how God has been at work saving the lives of the pre-born and offer opportunities for involvement.

There is no cost to attend but an appeal for donations will be made. To register, please contact [mark@amoh.org](mailto:mark@amoh.org) or call 348-1984.

## 2018 Women's Bible Studies

Wednesday Studies will be a study of 1, 2, and 3 John using "Abide" by our Women's Conference speaker, Jen Wilkin, **beginning January 31**:

- 7:00 a.m. "Greet the Dawn", The Bridge 201; breakfast provided
- 10:00 a.m., Thornwell 301, nursery through 4k provided by reservation to Beth Grider, [bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org) or 799-9062, Ext 233

Thursday Evening Study will be using *Ichthus* by Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson and Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

- 6:00 p.m., The Bridge 201, **beginning January 25**

For questions, please contact Emily Woodard, [ewoodard@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:ewoodard@firstprescolumbia.org), or 799-9062, Ext 242.

## New Inquirers Class

A new seven-week Inquirers Class will begin **Sunday, January 21**, for those wanting to find out more about First Presbyterian Church or desiring to join. The class meets during the Sunday School hour (10:00 - 10:50 a.m.) in the Small Dining Room in Jackson Hall. For more information, contact Lisa Eargle at 799-9062, Ext. 244, or email at [leargle@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:leargle@firstprescolumbia.org).

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Associate Reformed Synod

1324 Marion Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

(803) 799-9062

January 21, 2018

Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
at  
Columbia, SC

**FIRST THINGS (USPS 198-100):** Published each week except Christmas week by First Presbyterian Church. Periodical postage paid at Columbia, SC.  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to First Things, First Presbyterian Church, 1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC, 29201.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Sunday, January 21

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service\* - Sanctuary**
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages\* - Church Campus
- 10:00 a.m. Inquirers Class - Small Dining Room
- 10:50 a.m. Fellowship - Jackson Hall
- 11:15 a.m. **Worship Service\* - Sanctuary**
- 12:30 p.m. College Student Lunch - Family Life Center
- 4:30 p.m. Cate Memorial Handbell Choir Rehearsal - P107
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group - Family Life Center
- 5:00 p.m. Church-Wide Prayer \* - Laffitte Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. **Evening Service\* - Sanctuary**
- 6:00 p.m. Friendship Club - T201/T202
- 6:15 p.m. Cherub Choir - T103/T107
- 6:15 p.m. Club (1st - 5th Grades) - T213
- 7:15 p.m. Sunday Supper - Jackson Hall
- 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group - BR001

### Monday, January 22

- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center
- 12:00 p.m. Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal - P107
- 5:00 p.m. Deacon Chairs - BR001
- 5:30 p.m. Joint Elder/Deacon Meeting - Jackson Hall
- 5:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls - Thornwell
- 6:00 p.m. Trail Life USA Troop Meeting - Thornwell 2nd floor

### Tuesday, January 23

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer - P402A
- 8:30 a.m. Staff Prayer - BR201
- 9:00 a.m. Ministry Staff Meeting - BR201
- 5:30 p.m. Congregational Outreach Committee - BR327

*\*Childcare is available from birth to four years.*  
If, at any time, you have an emergency, please call 513-7931 to contact a pastor.

### Wednesday, January 24

- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center
- 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays@First - Jackson Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Junior & Primary Children's Choir Rehearsal - T201/T203/T207/T210
- 5:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting - Family Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Nursery - T106/T109/T112
- 6:15 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Catechism - T102/T103/T107/T214
- 6:15 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Mission Club - T202

### Thursday, January 25

- 6:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Men's Bible Fellowship - Happy Café
- 7:15 a.m. Men's Discipleship Bible Study - Blue Marlin - Vista Room
- 6:00 p.m. Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study - BR201

### Friday, January 26

- 6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study - 2920 Gervais St
- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center

### Saturday, January 27