

WORSHIP AT FIRST
LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 4, 2018
MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

INSIDE OUT

"The Pleasure Garden"

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

Children's Sermon (8:30):
"I'm So Happy I Could Bounce!"
- Tigger



EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 p.m.

"Nothing in This Passage but

Despair" - Calvin

II Samuel 11:1-27

Dr. D. Ralph Davis

Children's Sermon:

Children's Catechism #4:

Q. *How can you glorify God?*

A. By loving Him and doing what
He commands.

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

Wednesday, February 7

"Home Sweet Home"

Rev. Josh Squires

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

Program begins at 12:15 p.m.

Jackson Hall



CENTERPOINT

Wednesday, February 7

ALWAYS PREPARED: Answering

Objections to Christianity

"Worldview Basics"

Dr. Gabe Fluhrer

Jackson Hall

Supper begins at 5:00 p.m.

Teaching begins at 6:10 p.m.



FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vol. LXVIII, No. 5

February 4, 2018

audio streaming at www.firstprescolumbia.org

info@firstprescolumbia.org

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

What Is Apologetics?

I hope your 2018 is off to a great start! This **Wednesday, February 7**, we will begin a new series on apologetics during our Centerpoint series. I wanted to outline briefly what we'll be studying and why this topic matters today.

First, what is apologetics? Well, as much as I need help in this area, it does not mean learning how to say you're sorry! Our English word *apologetics* comes from the Greek verb *apologia*, which means "to make a defense." So we could define apologetics as the study of giving a defense for why we believe Christianity is true.

Knowing what apologetics means raises a second question: why do we need to give a defense? There are many reasons, but let's focus on two. First, and foremost, the Bible commands us to give a defense of our faith. The apostle Peter instructs us, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15) According to the Scriptures then, part of what it means to follow Jesus is to give a *defense* of our hope in Christ without being defensive!

Second, we must give a defense for why we believe Christianity is true because we live in a world that increasingly denies and even despises evangelical Christianity. From our views on marriage, to our (Biblical) claim that Jesus is the only way to God, we find ourselves in a culture that perhaps is more opposed to the Christian worldview than previous generations.

There are three basic responses to this hostility. One is to run and hide, walled off from the world, refusing to have anything to do with it. Another response is to convince ourselves that, in order to reach the world, we need to become like them. This is the opposite attitude of "run and hide." This response says, "Go and do likewise." Or, put another way, "If you can't beat the world, join it!" But this won't do either.

The third, and I would argue Biblical response, is neither to *extract* ourselves from the culture nor *embrace* it uncritically but, following Peter's command, *engage* the culture with the gospel, joyfully and humbly. Gone are the times when we could simply tell others what Jesus has done for us and invite them to a Bible study and assume they will show up (as important as both of those are, and they are very important!). We need to steel ourselves to the fact that we can expect our views to appear outlandish or even deviant to the outside world. Hence, we must be ready to offer a defense.

But let's close by reminding ourselves of the great opportunity we have because of this opposition to the Biblical gospel. With the death of a merely outward, cultural Christianity, comes a rebirth of true gospel Christianity. Therefore, I am thrilled at the prospects the Lord has set before us. We need not look at the world around us with an "us versus them" mentality, but instead see the fields white for harvest (John 4:35). What a joy it is to participate in the work of reaping the harvest the Savior has sown! One of our reaping tools is the scythe of apologetics, done in the power of the Spirit, for the joy of all peoples, to the glory of God, in wonder of the love of the Savior. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights this Spring!

Gabe Fluhrer

Minister of Discipleship

World Missions Sunday School Class Visits

Mark your calendars for our upcoming guests in the World Missions Sunday School Class (Palmer 100) at 10:00 a.m.:

- February 4** - Tony Burk
- February 11** - Steve Auld - International Christian Schools
- February 18** - Bruce Williams - Haiti Under God
- February 25** - Barton Swaim - Missionary Biography

Basketball Banquet 2018

Please join us for our annual Basketball Banquet for participants in the CYBL, on **Tuesday, February 13**, where we will enjoy a meal together, hear a word from Dr. Gabe Fluhrer, and watch recap videos from the season.

Please RSVP to Jimmy Easterby jeasterby@firstprescolumbia.org by Tuesday, February 6, so that we can prepare for the meal. All family members are invited, and there is no cost for the meal.



Ecclesiastes

Our pastor, Dr. Derek Thomas, suggested that *Why Everything Matters: The Gospel in Ecclesiastes* written by Dr. Philip G. Ryken, President of Wheaton College, Chicago, will add to our sermon study of Ecclesiastes on Sunday mornings. You may purchase the book for \$10.00 with a payment envelope from the Book Service located in The Bridge of 1400 Lady Street as well as the Thornwell Atrium.

The Children's Library

Check out books and DVDs from The Word House located in Thornwell 101:

- The American Adventure Series*
- Bible Alive Series*
- Christian Biographies for Young Readers Series*
- Heroes of the Faith Series*
- Learn Our History DVDs*
- The Jungle Doctor Series*
- The Sowers Series*
- Trail Blazers Series*



Centerpoint Time Change

Note the new time schedule:

- Dinner begins 5:00 p.m.
- Centerpoint teaching begins 6:10 p.m.
- Centerpoint & Prayer end at 7:00 p.m.

More information and a short video about the series can be found at: firstprescolumbia.org/centerpoint.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 4

Students will be at the doors of the Sanctuary following each service to collect money that will 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 where we will have marked collection boxes.



tacklehunger.org



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.

Officers' Dinner

We are making plans for our annual Officers' Dinner which will be held on Friday evening, **February 23, 2018**. All past and present officers of the church and their spouses are cordially invited to attend. More information including schedule and program will be forthcoming, but please put this on your calendar so that you don't miss this special event in the life of the church.

Sermon Audio



Did you know you can find archived sermons on www.sermonaudio.com?

Current and older sermon series are available on www.sermonaudio.com. To find these sermons, search for "fpcolumbia" and click on our church page. From there you can click on "sermons" under the top menu, then under the "filter" section, select "series," then select the series you wish to view in the drop-down menu. You can also listen to any of our podcasts on their site.



Next Step Class

The Next Step Class is offered to young people who, along with their parents, feel they are ready to make a public profession of their faith in Christ and join the church. The class begins **February 7** with a Parent/Student Meeting in the Smith Chapel. The class will take place Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. for seven weeks. Those interested in participating should register with Meredith Myers before the start date at mmyers@firstprescolumbia.org or 799-9062, Ext 545.



College Lunch

A lunch for College students will be held on **Sunday, February 18**, 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 or 799-9062, Ext. 232.



Parents' Night Out

Friday, February 9,
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
We are offering a Parents' Night Out for children who are

birth - 5th grade. Activities and snacks will be provided. Contact Beth Grider at 799-9062, Ext. 233, or bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org. Reservation deadline: **Tuesday, February 6.**



"Joy, that Near to Me Remains"

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 p.m. Jackson Hall

An evening of vocal music featuring Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes* as well as a variety of operatic and sacred works on the themes of love, joy, and wonder. Soloists are Kristine Biller, Holly Cole, Daniel Cole, and Gary Seydell. Accompanists are Luke Fang, Lenora Jeffcoat, and Thomas Russell. Instrumentalists are Julie Anne Russell, violin; Jenni Arthur, cello; Jason Ortiz, trumpet.



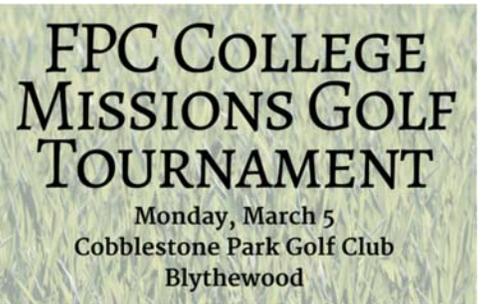
A Moment of Hope Banquet

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 - 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, and 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 or call 348-1984.



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

This golf tournament serves as a means to raise financial support for college world missions. This year, the College Ministry is sending 14 people to Wales to serve the local church, encourage Welsh believers, and build partnerships that we hope will last for years to come. We can't do this alone, so we are asking our church body to stand with us prayerfully and financially.

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

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



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.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Associate Reformed Synod

1324 Marion Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

(803) 799-9062

February 4, 2018

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday, February 4

- 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**
- 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, February 5

- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center
- 12:00 p.m. Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal - P107
- 4:45 p.m. American Heritage Girls - Thornwell
- 5:00 p.m. Deacon Chairs - BR001
- 5:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - BR201
- 5:30 p.m. Christian Growth & Nurture - BR327
- 5:45 p.m. Worship, Music, and Sacraments Committee - P402A
- 6:00 p.m. Trail Life USA Patrol Meeting - Thornwell 2nd floor

Tuesday, February 6

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer - P402A
- 7:30 a.m. College Prayer - BR125
- 8:30 a.m. Staff Prayer - BR001
- 9:00 a.m. Ministry Staff Meeting - BR001
- 10:00 a.m. WOC Board Meeting - BR201
- 5:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee - P402A

Wednesday, February 7

- 7:00 a.m. Greet the Dawn Bible Study - BR201

- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center
- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - T301*
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Moderators - T305
- 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays@First - Jackson Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Junior & Primary Children's Choir Rehearsal - T201/T203/T207/T210
- 4:30 p.m. Personnel Committee - BR327
- 5:00 p.m. Centerpoint Dinner - Jackson Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Nursery - T106/T109/T112
- 6:00 p.m. College Small Groups - The Bridge
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - P110
- 6:00 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal - P200
- 6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Youth - T206/T209/The Bridge Basement
- 6:00 p.m. Next Step Class - Smith Chapel
- 6:10 p.m. Centerpoint: Always Prepared - Jackson Hall
- 6:10 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Catechism - T102/T103/T107
- 6:10 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Mission Club - T203
- 7:30 p.m. College Leadership Meeting - BR125

Thursday, February 8

- 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

Friday, February 9

- High School Mystery Trip
- 6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study - 2920 Gervais St
- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out - Family Life Center

Saturday, February 10

- High School Mystery Trip

**Childcare is available from birth to four years.*

If, at any time, you have an emergency, please call 513-7931 to contact a pastor.