

WORSHIP AT FIRST  
LORD'S DAY  
MARCH 4, 2018  
MORNING WORSHIP  
8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

INSIDE OUT  
"It is Not Good to Be Alone"  
Ecclesiastes 4:1-16  
Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

Children's Sermon (8:30):  
"Threefold Chord"

---

EVENING WORSHIP  
6:00 p.m.  
"Coming Up Empty"  
II Samuel 14  
Dr. D. Ralph Davis

Children's Sermon

Children's Catechism #7:  
Q. *In how many Persons does this  
one God exist?*  
A. In three Persons.

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST  
Wednesday, March 7  
Great Escapes  
"With A Scarlet Cord"  
Rev. David Lauten

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

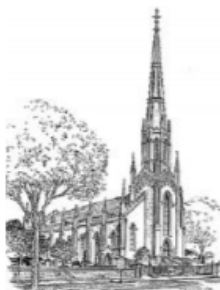
---

CENTERPOINT  
Wednesday, March 7

ALWAYS PREPARED: Answering  
Objections to Christianity  
"How Then Shall We Live?"  
Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

Jackson Hall

*Supper begins at 5:00 p.m.  
Teaching begins at 6:00 p.m.*



# FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Vol. LXVIII, No. 9 March 4, 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.

## LIVING EACH DAY AS IF IT WERE OUR LAST

Thomas Ken (1637-1711), whom Charles II appointed chaplain to the Princess Mary, wife of William of Orange, was a prolific hymn writer. One of his most well-known compositions is, "Awake my soul, and with the sun." The second verse contains these lines:

Thy precious time misspent, redeem,  
Each present day thy last esteem,  
Improve thy talent with due care;  
For the great day thyself prepare.

Living each day as if our last. It sounds somewhat morbid, perhaps. But Christians know where they are going. And since we don't know when that transition will be, preparing for it and holding out the possibility that it might be sooner rather than later, seems a wise way to live.

It is the perspective of Psalm 90. Moses (the author of the psalm) stares death in the face. He contemplates the meaning of life and death and everything in between. The psalm's main point is to teach us "to number our days," and to remember (for we are prone to forget) that we will not live forever in this world. If we make it to seventy or perhaps eighty, it will be tough going and aging is not for wimps. His point is *not* that we should wish this life over; rather, knowing this life's relative brevity, we should live our lives for God, and "get a heart of wisdom" (Psa. 90:12).

Should Christians "wish their lives away?" No, absolutely not! We have a mandate to live our lives on earth to the full, finding every opportunity to give glory to God in the tasks he has given us, small and great. Paul's advice is crystal clear: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). We are to be steadfast, "always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

Nevertheless, a tension exists. We have a calling from God to live our lives here and now to the full, finding every opportunity to serve him and enjoy the good things he gives us. But sometimes a desire for something more arises. And when this world becomes too painful to endure, that longing can be overwhelming. It is what Paul expressed to the Philippians: "My desire is to depart and be with Christ" (Phil. 1:23). Paul was homesick for heaven.

*An excerpt from my latest book, Heaven on Earth: What the Bible Teaches about Life to Come (Christian Focus, 2018).*

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

## 2018 WOC Jubilee Luncheon

Women of First Pres! Come join the celebration on **March 20!** The annual Jubilee luncheon will take place at 12 noon in Jackson Hall. Martha Margaret Cotten, World Witness candidate for MT3, will be our speaker, and it promises to be an interesting, festive occasion, celebrating the Lord's work in the world. Lunch is \$8.00.



You can register at your March circle meeting, on the First Pres app, online, or by calling the reservation line (799-9062, Ext. 295). The deadline is March 15. Nursery provided by reservation only. Please email Beth Grider at [bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bgrider@firstprescolumbia.org) to reserve. Parents, please bring a lunch for your child that does not contain any nuts.

An offering will be collected to support the World Witness' Jubilee Women for 2018 - Shelia Osborn and Rebecca Carson. Each luncheon participant will be registered for a drawing for a beautiful, delicious cake, according to birthday months. Share the love - bring a friend!!

Centerpieces of Alstroemerias, the Lily of the Incas, will be available for \$10.00 after the luncheon.

"And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you . . . ." (Leviticus 25:10)

### Easter Lilies

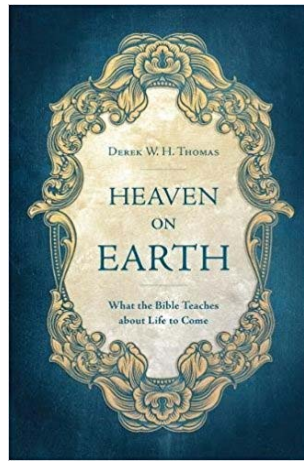
If you would like to place a lily in the Sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 1**, please complete the following, attach to your check made payable to *First Presbyterian Church* in the amount of \$12.50, and mail to the church office, *Attention: Campbell Johnson*. Please write "Easter Lilies" on the memo line.

This form is also available on the church app under "Church Life"



**Deadline: Friday, March 9**

|                     |  |                |
|---------------------|--|----------------|
| Given by:           |  |                |
| Daytime Phone:      |  | No. of Plants: |
| In Honor of         |  |                |
| and/or In Memory of |  |                |
| In Honor of         |  |                |
| and/or In Memory of |  |                |
| In Honor of         |  |                |
| and/or In Memory of |  |                |

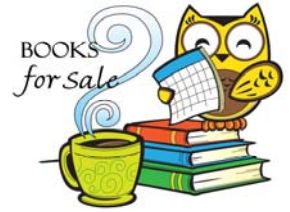


## Heaven On Earth

Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas wrote the book *Heaven on Earth: What the Bible Teaches about Life to Come*. Heaven is a physical reality which can give us joy and hope even now as we look toward it. Purchase the book with the stunning cover for \$10.00 with an enclosed payment envelope from the Book Service.

## Palmer Book Service

An additional Book Service is located in the Palmer reception area with books that contain payment envelopes. Other books for sale are located in The Bridge beside the coffee bar and in the Thornwell Atrium.



## Churchyard Columbarium

Spaces are available in the columbarium located in our churchyard. Please contact Barbara Shealy at 799-9062, Ext. 261, or [bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org) for an information packet, or you may pick one up in the entry of Thornwell.

## New Inquirers Class

A new seven-week Inquirers Class will begin **Sunday, March 25**, 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 by email at [leargle@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:leargle@firstprescolumbia.org).



## Sermon Audio



Did you know you can find archived sermons on [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com)? Current and older sermon series are available on [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com). To find these sermons, search for "fpccolumbia" 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.



## VBS 2018

This summer we are setting sail for another wild adventure at Shipwrecked VBS 2018.

We hope to see you there!  
Put it on your calendar today!

**June 18-22, 2018**



## Special Needs March Madness

Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Family Life Center

Activities including bean bag toss, bowling, soccer, basketball, and volleyball, plus a devotion and lunch.

No cost for this event for the whole family and new friends!

Kindly RSVP through the church app or to Jimmy Easterby at [jeasterby@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:jeasterby@firstprescolumbia.org).



## Blood Drive This Week!

If you haven't made an appointment for our blood drive which takes place this coming Wednesday, March 7, 2018, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center, please contact Barbara Shealy ([bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:bshealy@firstprescolumbia.org) or 799-9062, ext. 261). Please help us to help those in need of blood by participating!



## Middle School Spring Retreat

April 13 - 15

Location: Bonclarken

Cost: \$75.00

Deadline to register is March 25. Visit [firstprescolumbia.org/youthevents](http://firstprescolumbia.org/youthevents) to register.

## Church Family

### Congratulations to:

Haley and Joe Walker III on the birth of their daughter, Smith Elizabeth Walker, on February 21. Grateful grandparents are Tracie and Joe Walker II.

### Christian Sympathy is extended to:

Nancy Neely and family on the death of her brother, Tom Goforth, on February 27.

Debra Hudson and family on the death of her brother, Donny Cantey, on February 27.

Dana McLaughlin and family on the death of her father, Rev. Dan Kilgore, on February 28.

### Items for Church Family?

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

## Let us know...

If you have moved, changed phone numbers (home, work, or mobile), changed employers, or have a new email address, please let us know so that we can update our records.

This is especially helpful for those members who are on committees or need to be contacted by the staff from time to time.

Please send your changes by email to Lisa Eargle at [leargle@firstprescolumbia.org](mailto:leargle@firstprescolumbia.org) or call 799-9062, Ext. 244.



## Financial Peace University

Do you know someone who would like to become debt-free? Grace Presbyterian Church is offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University beginning Saturday morning, March 17, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. It is a ten-week course that will end on Saturday, May 26 (there will not be a class on Saturday, March 31). If you have any questions, please call the Grace Presbyterian Church office at 741-5186.

Grace Presbyterian Church is located at 445 Spears Creek Church Road, Elgin.



## Lunch & Learn

Friday, March 16

Lunch at 12 noon in the Small Dining Room

Followed by a churchyard tour led by Tom Gottshall

To make reservations, please call the reservation line at 799-9062, Ext 455 or email Lisa Eargle 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

March 4, 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, March 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, March 5

- 9:00 a.m. Aerobics@First - Family Life Center  
11:00 a.m. College Missions Golf Tournament -  
Cobblestone Park Golf Club, Blythewood  
12:00 p.m. Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal - P107  
5:00 p.m. Deacon Chairs - BR001  
5:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - BR201  
5:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls - Thornwell  
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, March 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

- 4:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Committee - P402A  
5:45 p.m. Men's Basketball (40 & over) - Family Life Center

### Wednesday, March 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  
5:00 p.m. Centerpoint Dinner - Jackson Hall  
6:00 p.m. Centerpoint: Always Prepared - Jackson Hall  
6:00 p.m. College Small Groups - The Bridge  
6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Nursery - T106/T109/T112  
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - P110  
6:00 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal - P200  
6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Youth - T206/T209  
6:00 p.m. Next Step Class - T303  
6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Catechism - T102/T103/T107  
6:00 p.m. Centerpoint Kids: Mission Club - T203  
7:30 p.m. College Leadership Meeting - BR125

### Thursday, March 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  
5:30 p.m. American Heritage Girls Fun & Games Night -  
Family Life Center

### Friday, March 9

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

### Saturday, March 10

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