



The Presbyview

From Pastor Smit's Desk –February 2018

Is Church REALLY Necessary?!

I propose that if church isn't necessary, we quit. I mean it. If it's not necessary let's cancel all of our services, board up the windows, lock the doors, and send everyone on their merry way. Sure, Christians have been gathering together to hear the Word read and preached, to sing with grace in their hearts, and observe the sacraments for over two thousand years. But if it's not necessary let's be the first generation to finally end the practice. Let's silence the pulpit, close up the song books, dry up the baptismal waters, and put away the bread and wine. If church isn't necessary, let's quit.

But is that really an option? Well, no it's not. Let me explain. There's a lot of confusion today as to what the "church" is. Often people will say the church is a body to which every believer belongs. That is true. The body metaphor was one of the Apostle Paul's favorite pictures of the church: "*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it*" (1 Corinthians 12:27, see also Romans 12:4-5). But the church isn't simply some undefined or invisible body. Rather, according to the Bible, it has a visible and outward organization. It has rules (1 Timothy 2:8-15, 1 Corinthians 11-14, and Titus 2), it has leadership (Matthew 16:19, Acts 6:1-7, 14:23, Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 13:17), it has recognized preachers (Romans 10:15, 1 Timothy 5:17), it has a defined membership (Acts 2:41, Romans 16:3-16), it needs to compensate its teachers (1 Timothy 5:18), and it has discipline for those who need correction (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-12). None of that would be possible if the church was only an invisible body and not also an organization.

And it was to this organized or visible church that Jesus gave the ministry of gathering and perfecting the saints. He said to his Apostles: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:19-20). Later, the Apostle Paul would also write: "*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:11-13). If I can put it this way, this visible church is the seedbed in which we are planted, nourished, rooted, protected, and grown. You cannot flourish without the church. It's for this reason that the earliest Christians were wholly committed to this church as though their spiritual lives depended on it (see Acts 2:42, 47). It's for this reason that Cyprian said: "He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the church for his mother." And it's for this reason the Westminster Confession of Faith rightly says: "[Outside of the visible church] there is no ordinary possibility of salvation." To neglect it, then, is to neglect the very means the Holy Spirit uses to gather and perfect his people.

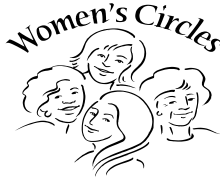
Have we outgrown the need? I don't think so. The church *is* necessary. Preaching is *necessary* (Romans 10:14-17 and 1 Timothy 4:13), singing Psalms is *necessary* (Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16), discipleship and discipline are *necessary* (Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 5:4-5), public prayer is *necessary* (1 Timothy 2:1-2), evangelism is *necessary* (Mark 16:15), and fellowship is *necessary* (Acts 2:42-47). The ministry of Word and sacrament is not a mere convention of human will and expediency, it is absolutely necessary. So I have another proposal. If the church is necessary, let's not quit. Let's devote and commit ourselves to it for our good and God's glory. As the author of Hebrews wrote: "*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

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Keenagers Luncheon Meeting

On Tuesday, February 20th we will meet at the O'Charleys on East West Connector @ 11:30 a.m. for a time of Bible study, food, and fellowship. Hope to see you all there!

February Circle Meetings



Tuesday, February 6th—10:00 A.M.

Love Circle - Will meet in the church parlor. Nursery is provided.

Tuesday, February 6th—7:15 P.M.

Gentleness Circle - Will meet at the home of Page Whitfield.

Thursday, February 1st—10:00 A.M.

Faithfulness Circle - Will meet in the church parlor.

Saturday, February 10th—8:45 A.M.

Kindness Circle - Will meet in the church fellowship hall.

WIC Council will meet Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

The cost for Wednesday night meal is \$4.00 per person with a \$12 cap per family. Please sign the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to make your reservation or call the church office by 3 P.M. on Monday.

February 7th ~ Regular Meal
February 14th ~ Regular Meal
February 21st ~ Regular Meal
February 28th ~ Regular Meal

FACT

Formally known as the PYF, FACT (Fellowship & Covenant Together) meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Lions' Den. We encourage all youth to come out and participate in these times of Bible study and fellowship. Please be on the lookout for upcoming events and engagement opportunities.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will meet Sunday, February 11th immediately following the evening worship service in the church conference room.

MEN OF THE COVENANT

The men of Smyrna Presbyterian Church will gather for our Bible study & a season of prayer on Saturday, February 17th at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, February 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. We hope to see you there. Contact Donna Hall with any questions.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's Bible study will be held Monday, February 12th & Monday, February 26th at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Matt Hammond.

Greeter Schedule

February 4th

Church Wing— Rose Zang

School Wing— Jim & Janice Pitts

February 11th

Church Wing— Dan & Donna Hall

School Wing— David & Gail Stallings

February 18th

Church Wing— Smadja Hart

School Wing— Crystal & Lucy Katrek

February 25th

Church Wing— Tom & Maxine Miller

School Wing— Ralph & Evelyn Canup

March 4th

Church Wing— Julie Ramsey

School Wing— Howard & Jean Campbell

March 11th

Church Wing— Wayne & Patty Ramsey

School Wing— Jill, Gina & Stella Fogarty

March 18th

Church Wing— Samdja Hart

School Wing— Chip & Sis Howell

March 25th

Church Wing— Dervon Douglas

School Wing— Randy & Page Whitfield

Nursery Schedule

We ask that all assigned nursery workers report at 10:30 a.m. to relieve choir members. Sign up sheets will be placed in the Narthex for volunteers for SS and Night Nursery coverage.

February 4th

Infant— Crystal Katrek/Margaret MacGregor
 Toddler— Amanda Stevenson/Max Thelen
 2's & 3's—Tansy Ridings/Danny Powell
 Extra—Josh Stevenson
 Floater—Gina Fogarty
 Children's Church—Ella Becker

February 11th

Infant— Hortense Bediam/Ruth O'Neal
 Toddler— Ellen Milberger/Jamie Hughes
 2's & 3's—Roze Zang/Dwight Thomas
 Extra—James Wesley
 Floater—Mary MacGregor
 Children's Church—Emma Hovey

February 18th

Infant— Anh Ton/Evelyn Canup
 Toddler— Gail Stallings/Michele Crooks
 2's & 3's—Stefanie Smit/Andy Fogarty
 Extra—Scott Crooks
 Floater—Lily Becker
 Children's Church—Adam Crooks

February 25th

Infant— Page Whitfield/ Leslie Boyd
 Toddler— Caroline Wesley/Scott Holland
 2's & 3's—Leah Thomas/Wayne Hughes
 Extra— Buddy Kelly
 Floater—Ella Becker
 Children's Church—Paige Crooks

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 14th

Missions Yard Sale

You can have your own table or contribute items to the SPC table - no linens or clothes, please. Details to follow.

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Joel Smit	4
Rob Hines	7
Scott Crooks.....	8
Eric Gleason.....	11
Amanda Stevenson.....	14
Mark Gleason.....	15
Paul Smit.....	18
Caden Hughes.....	19
Kelly Becker	24
Bowen Thomas	28



NEW ORGANIST

Let us praise God for His provision of a new organist here at SPC. Caleb Houck will join our Music Ministry to assist in worship using the gifts God has given him in playing the piano and the organ. Caleb comes to us with a Bachelor of Music from Bob Jones University (2011), and a Master of Music from the University of South Carolina (2013). Please plan to welcome him as he joins us Sunday, February 4th!

WEDDING DIRECTORS NEEDED

The Deacons are looking for SPC members who are willing to serve as wedding directors in accordance with SPC's new Wedding Policy. The wedding director will assist in organizing wedding ceremonies at the church and will also help ensure that the wedding party adheres to the Wedding Policy. The wedding director will be paid by the wedding party on a per-wedding basis. Please see Matt Ramsey if you are interested.

February

2018

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 10:00 a.m. Faithfulness Circle	2	3
4  11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	5	6 10:00 a.m. Love Circle 7:15 p.m. Gentleness Circle	7 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	8	9	10 8:45 a.m. Kindness Circle
11 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting	12 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	13 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	14 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	15 6:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting	16	17 8:30 a.m. Men of the Covenant
18 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship & Communion	19	20 11:30 a.m. Keenagers Luncheon	21 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities	22 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl meeting	23	24
Winter Break—No School						
25 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	26 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	27	28 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal 6:00 p.m. WIC council 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Activities			
29	30	31				