It is an honor to celebrate Jesus’ birth with Second Presbyterian Church. One way we celebrate at Christmas is with the gifts we offer to God, symbolized by the magi’s gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Coincidentally, or providentially, I have a number of stories to tell of individuals who have offered, or are offering, their gifts to God in unique ways.

Lee Baker

When I first arrived at Second Presbyterian Church, I was delighted to discover so many artists in the congregation. Wanting their talents to be celebrated and put in service of the church, we asked artists to produce original pieces to complement the theme of the Edmunds Lectures. With the art collection growing, the session asked Lee Baker to serve as the church’s “Art Curator.”

Lee has served in that capacity for well over a decade. She has guided the placement of art, organized displays in the Fellowship Hall, and lined up artists for subsequent lecture series. She helped with overseeing the storage and protection of art during construction and then worked with the Design Task Force in the right placement of art within the new facilities. And through it all, her husband, Ralph, has been a steady supporter and help.

Lee has decided that it is time to retire from this position. Her responsibilities are being passed on to the Property Committee and its new Furniture and Design subcommittee chaired by Jack Dickerson. Thank you, Lee, for all that you have done to enliven the walls of our buildings and our spirits. You and Ralph both are a joy to work with and your love for, and dedication to, the congregation is an inspiration.

Deborah Vaughan

For the past year, Pat Houghton and Deborah Vaughan have co-chaired Congregational Life. As of the beginning of December, Deborah is taking over as the sole chair. Congregational Life is the result of the merger of two other sessional committees, Congregational Care and Congregational Development. First as chair and then as co-chair, Pat did a remarkable job in continuing the good work of past chairs and Congregational Life is highly organized with an outstanding team of leaders. Deborah joins me, the session, and, I am sure, all of you in gratitude for her remarkable work.

Ken Potter

At its November meeting, the session voted to endorse Ken Potter as a missionary of the church. Ken has secured an apartment in San Juan de la Maguana of the Dominican Republic to help oversee construction of a new clinic. On Sunday, December 21, he will be commissioned for this ministry during the 11:00 o’clock worship service. Ken felt called to
This work after multiple trips with mission teams from Second Presbyterian Church, and after working closely with Solid Rock International and our Dominican partners in planning for the hospital. His personal reasons for following this call are compelling, and some of them will be shared in that service.

Ann Henley Saunders

Ann Henley Saunders has been approved for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The ordination service will take place at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYC) on March 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Saunders will continue to serve in the Admissions Office at Princeton Theological Seminary.

A major reason for Ann Henley feeling called to serve the Presbyterian Church, USA, as a minister is because of the care and nurture she received from our congregation throughout her childhood. She will bring to her ministry many gifts and a personality that radiates hospitality. The church will be blessed.

You can write a note of congratulations to Ann Henley at 401 Emmons Drive, Apartment 212, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Mary Chandler Pruette

Another person who grew up in this church and felt called to at least temporarily serve the church in an official way is Mary Chandler Pruette. Mary Chandler went on multiple trips to the Dominican Republic which inspired a love for international missions. She has been on a yearlong mission adventure with an organization called The World Race where she was the leader of a team that was to spend 11 months in 11 different countries engaged in different kinds of outreach. Need for major ankle surgery and a long recuperation (frozen ankle expected) required Mary Chandler to return home halfway through the year. While unfortunate, it does not change the fact that the experience was rich with meaning and purpose.

To retrace her personal journey, read her blogs (http://marychandler.theworldrace.org/). Doing so will cause you to share in her disappointment that the year had to be cut short. Mary Chandler has a wonderful attitude about it all. She will be with us for at least a few months, so feel free to contact her to hear more.

Stewardship: My turn

Others have had their personal testimonies printed in the Second Sheet as to why they make a financial pledge to the work of the church. I will take a turn explaining why making a pledge is one of our highest priorities, though I know that our explanation is not that different from what so many of you would say.

Over the three decades of married life, there have been only two financially stressful years in which we simply held our pledge. Otherwise, we have found reasons to raise our pledge. Almost every time, the needs and plans of the church were not our primary consideration.

I say this as someone who has plenty of data as to what our pledge supports. (continued)

Because of my position as Senior Minister, I am one of the most informed people about the past, present and future realities of the congregation. All year, I attend session and committee meetings and participate in the life of the church. Though my intimate knowledge of All-Things-Second-Presbyterian makes me quite comfortable in supporting its work, I honestly can say that we don’t talk about what the session is planning when we pledge. We pledge out of love for God. We pledge because we are grateful for all that the church has meant to us and our family. We pledge because we want to be a part of what Jesus lived and died for.

Finally, we pledge because for us it is an action of prayer, a means of therapy for our souls. Making and increasing a pledge with almost no regard to how the larger body of believers will use it is a discipline in which we practice submission and humility before the God we are convinced loves us. It helps save us from the pettiness that too easily degrades decisions about money. Again, this is a personal testimony. I simply share what motivates Millie and me now, and will continue to beyond my retirement as a church professional.

Preliminary Totals for the 2015 Pledge Campaign from the Stewardship Committee

Through Monday, December 8, 2014:
285 pledged $976,739.
285 of the 285
9 are new (7 are from new members)
136 are the same
118 are increased
22 are decreased.

151 pledged last year; no card so far.

Please pledge online at:

Year-End Notices on Contributions

Important Notice
To insure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2014 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions, if you file your tax return before receiving written acknowledgment.

Timing of Contributions
In order for your contributions to the church to be deductible in 2014, they must be brought to the church by Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked by December 31, 2014. If the office is closed, please put your contributions in Phil Boggs’ mailbox in the new Staff Workroom.

We dedicate our sixth annual MANGER OFFERING to help fight homelessness in the Roanoke Valley

Second Presbyterian Church invites you to join us at any or all of our three Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, December 24, 2014. The offerings collected at these services will be donated to benefit the programs of Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, a nonprofit which helps families struggling to overcome homelessness by providing them temporary housing and skills development.

Won’t you join us in worship on Christmas Eve, and in support of those who face the difficulties being homeless?

Communion Service (Chapel), 12:00 noon
Family Service with Christmas Story (Sanctuary), 5:00 p.m.
A Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion (Sanctuary), 10:00 a.m.

Second Presbyterian Church
214 Mountain Avenue, SW
Roanoke, VA 24016
• 540-343-3659 • www.spres.org
Senior Pastor: Dr. George C. Anderson

The Angel Tree - Your generosity to shop for winter clothing for children of the West End Center warms their Christmas season.

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas was scheduled to be the 2015 Edmunds Lecturer. He accepted an assignment to lead the Ethics Department at Aberdeen University in Scotland. He has had to withdraw as the Edmunds Lecturer this year.
Christian Education

Elizabeth Link

Advent Workshop

Many thanks go to those families and volunteers who helped make the annual Advent Family Workshop such a wonderful experience. Twenty families created a handmade nativity scene, and many participants helped to create our new compass mosaic. We are grateful to Fenton Childers for his creativity and work that went into preparing the mosaic.

These weeks of Advent are a time for preparation when we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate Christ’s birth. I hope that this season might be a time for you and your family to reflect on Christ’s presence in your life.

John Knox/Prism Series in January:

“Bad Religion: Early Church Heresies and What They Mean for Today?”

Beginning January 11, join the John/Knox Prism Class for a special three-week series on the history and theology behind three important arguments in the early church. Why do we believe what we believe? What makes an idea or understanding orthodox or anathema? Who decided what was “right” and what was “wrong”? Become acquainted with important figures in church history and explore how these roots affect Christian issues today. Join Christopher Greenwell for this special class:

January 11: The Doctrine/Heresy of Aposcatastasis:
This week will focus on Origen’s (2nd-3rd century CE) belief in the restoration of all things (Aposcatastasis) and its effect on the shaping of beliefs for 19th century Universalists in America.

January 18: The Question of Predestination/Free-Will:
Pelagius (c. 390-418 CE), a British-born ascetic, asserted a strong doctrine of free-will over and against predestination. His beliefs would help spur the Reformation period free-will debates of Martin Luther and Desiderius Erasmus.

January 25: Christian Pacifism and the Roman Empire:
Explore the foundations of modern Just War Theory through the ancient lens of Augustine of Hippo (354-450 CE) and Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 CE).

Class presenter Christopher Greenwell teaches at North Cross School and has been attending Second Presbyterian with his family during the past year. At North Cross, he leads courses for the Upper School on world history, philosophy, world religions, and United States government. We are grateful for his eagerness to share with us at Second Presbyterian, and look forward to what this course holds in store!

January 4 Pancake Breakfast:

Say “Thanks!” to a Sunday School Teacher and “Welcome!” to 2014’s New Members

On Sunday, January 4, members and visitors of all ages are invited to attend this very special pancake breakfast during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday school hour in Fellowship Hall. This breakfast is sponsored in partnership by the Christian Education Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. Let us take time to share a meal together, get to know recent members and confirmands from the 2014 year, and give thanks to those Sunday school teachers who work tirelessly all year long. Regularly scheduled Sunday school classes will not meet on January 4.

There will be plenty of hot pancakes, bacon, and other breakfast goodies. Make this Sunday an opportunity to join in fellowship and to reconnect to the 2014-2015 Sunday school year!

News & Notes

Flowers

On November 9, 2014, the flowers in the Sanctuary were given in loving memory of their parents, James Robertson and Nancy Robertson, and their brother, John Robertson, by Jim and Ruth Robertson and John and Mary Robertson Delaney. . . On November 16, 2014, the flowers were given to the glory of God in loving memory of Tom McCallie by his family. . . On November 23, 2014, the flowers were given to the glory of God in loving memory of James Revercomb by the family. . . On November 30, 2014, the harvest arrangement was given with Thanksgiving to God in loving memory of Charlie Loftin by his family.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Kathy and Vic Gilchrist on the loss of his mother, Mary Johnson Gilchrist of Williamsburg, VA, who died October 31, 2014. Sympathy also goes to her grandchildren Gray Gilchrist and Kate Gilchrist. . . . Sympathy is expressed to Debbie and Mike Flannagan on the loss of her mother, Helen Hall Paggett who died October 31, 2014, in Chesapeake, VA. . . . Sympathy is expressed to Heather and Russ Ellert and family on the loss of her grandmother, Helen Haddan of Ft. Myers, Fl, who died November 4, 2014.

New Arrivals

Marion and Bob Hody are delighted to announce the birth of their new great-grandson, Shane Hody, who was born October 14, 2014, in Raleigh, NC. His parents are Joanna and Andrew Hody, and he joins big brother Seth at the home. . . Congratulations to Shirley and Biv Fitzpatrick on the arrival of a new granddaughter, Emery Abbott Church, born November 20, 2014. She is the daughter of Abbi and Chris Church, and sibling of Harrison Church. Also delighted with the news is great-grandmother Helen Fitzpatrick, and extended Fitzpatrick family members.

Baptism

Dana and Paul Bryan presented their daughter Lydia Mae Bryan for the Sacrament of Infant Baptism at the November 30, 2014 service at 11:00 a.m. She was born on August 11, 2014. B.T. Fitzpatrick, III, served as the Presiding Elder.
Welcome the JohnSENS!

Second Presbyterian welcomed David and Robyn Johnsen and their son, Holden, as new members on November 2, 2014, by letter of transfer from Christiansburg Presbyterian Church. They moved to Roanoke this past summer. David is a radiologist with Carilion, and Robyn has a full-time job as mother to four boys: Harrison (27), Parker (25), Whitt (23) and Holden (17). Holden (pictured with his parents here) is a senior at North Cross School, and just recently learned that he was accepted early decision to Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

Robyn and David met when they were both students at MCV in Richmond where she was trained as a dental hygienist. In fact, she and Phyllis North were roommates at MCV. Robyn was raised in Charlottesville, and has been actively engaged in the Presbyterian Church as a past deacon and a member of the nurture committee, among others. She enjoys many hobbies, and lists the family’s dogs as favorite companions! David is from Montclair, NJ, and he comes from a long line of devoted Presbyterians. He has served as an elder and member of the nurture committee, among others. He enjoys singing in the choir while they were living in Lynchburg. He’s an avid fly fisherman and enjoys reading and competing in friendly but serious Jeopardy competitions with Robyn and the boys! As a family they have worked together on Habitat builds, and they are all looking forward to the Dominican mission trip in March.

Meet Ted Ellis

The Worship and Music Committee would like you to become acquainted with each of Second Presbyterian’s Roanoke College scholarship students via The Second Sheet.

Meet Ted Ellis, a senior at Roanoke College, who previously attended Franklin High School in Franklin, TN. He is pursuing a double major in Spanish and Economics, with a concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. His plans for the future are to teach English or work in a Spanish-speaking country; for a year or so, then attend graduate school for Economics. He’s sung in the Second Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir for about a year now.

What being in Chancel Choir has meant to me: I really struggled during my freshman year to find a church home at college, but the Chancel Choir and 2nd Pres have been a beautiful and welcoming home away from home. The other singers, in addition to being truly talented, are funny and wonderful people with whom it’s a pleasure to praise the Lord. I really missed my fellow 2nd Pres singers while I was studying abroad in Spain last year, and it’s so great to be back! I know I’ll leave in May with a heavy heart, but with wonderful memories and a great experience.

Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Sandborg!

Submitted by Marianne Sandborg

SERRV Shop at Second - We will be open in the Lemon Library on Sundays - December 14 and 21, from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

SERRV - OUR MISSION is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. SERRV is recognized as a leader and pioneer in the fair trade movement. As a founding member of both the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Federation, SERRV has touched countless lives with opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

Come early, come often as items move quickly and we aren’t able to reorder. We will accept cash, check and hold items if you need to return with the funds at a later time.

Submitted by John Frank

Children’s Choirs rehearse for the Christmas Pageant on December 14
Youth and Young Adults

Elizabeth Smith

Hunger Busters Delivery and Sorting Day

This year parents were invited to join us. The total amount we raised from food donations was $3,438.12. The PCC received an additional check for $1,000 from one of our church members. Thanks, Second Pres, for your donations!

Young Adult Ministry Service Project

Some of the group pitched in to help decorate the Alpha Omega House for our Family Promise guests coming at the first of the year! This is Claire Pelligra adding sparkle to the tree!

Midweek Manna

Making Christmas cards for shut-ins.

Movie Premiere – Mockingjay

Youth Celebrate Friendsgiving!

Ann Sheehan carving the turkey for dinner.

GALS Gathering 2014

Another Successful Year

There were 56 GALS at the Thirteenth Annual GALS Gathering... an all-time high! The sun shone on a crisp and beautiful fall day as we gathered for fellowship and crafts. ‘Beaded’ bracelets made for clients in Bethany Hall and Family Promise programs were so popular last year, we made them again this year for clients of The Turning Point. There were also Butterfly Hugs made for some of those at the cancer center.

As we gathered, Polaroid photos of the GALS were taken. We had a wide selection of hats, boas, and accessories for those who wanted to ‘dress up’ for their photo. The pictures gave us a great opportunity to get to know each other especially as we had several first-time attendees, as well as many mothers/daughters and mothers/daughters-in-law there. Friday’s candlelight dinner... always a treat... gave us a chance to visit and enjoy a gourmet meal. Waiters (pictured above): Brooke Mallory, Pegram Johnson, Fred Gentheimer, Jerry Lusk, and Dick Hodges (Fred led them for the 13th year!) made sure our every need was met before they did all the dishes and headed home.

Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt, the retreat leader, guided us gently through Going Apart To Pray. As she said, her approach is ‘hearty... not ‘heady.’ In her quiet and humorous way, she inspired us through the message and table work with each other. Early Saturday morning, some gathered for a quiet time of reflective prayer while others went for an early morning hike or just sat in their PJs and had coffee and visited. Donna explored more deeply Going Apart to Pray doing the morning sessions. In response to input from previous GALS Gatherings, there was lots of music with familiar hymns and some taize songs interspersed with the sessions. Worship and Communion led by Elizabeth Smith, with Donna assisting, ended the morning time together. This service of communion by intinction always leaves us with a special bond to the GALS at the Gathering. The GALS Gathering is a highlight for many of us... those who have been before, the first-timers, those ages 27 to 96 who were in attendance this year, and those who come occasionally. Next time we hope you, a Second Pres GAL, will plan to share in this special and inspirational retreat providing fun, fellowship, and deepening of our

Mother/daughter and mother/daughter-in-law sets! Below: Nancy Hopkins and Donna Hopkins Britt; Catherine Prescott, Elizabeth Barbour; Nancy Barbour; Mary Stuart Van Metre; Bridget Battle and Jane Battle; Sue; Anholt and Mary Brown; Mary Phillips and Cindy Warren.

Rev. Elizabeth Smith, Rev. Elizabeth Link, Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt (retreat leader).

First-Timers (left to right): Karen Sarrer, Cheryl Cowdell, Betsy Johnson, Phyllis Nehr, Donna Hopkins Britt, Emily Cooney, CJ Swenson, Nancy Hopkins.
Contribute to Second Presbyterian Church – November 2014

Property, Maintenance and Repair Fund
In memory of Barbara Lemon by:
- Carlton and Mary Ann Waskey
- In memory of John Young by:
  - Stuart and Mary John Gilchrist; Williamsburg, VA
  - In memory of Barbara Lemon, Jack Airheart, Sally Crockett and Meesie Hutcheson by:
    - Patricia Vaughan
  - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rutherford Rosebro, Mrs. Frances Rosebro Garrett and Mrs. Mary Neely Rosebro Huddle by:
    - Connie and Bill Garrett; Timonium, MD

Organ Maintenance and Music Fund
In honor of Gerald Carter by:
- Jeff and Marianne Sandborg
In memory of John Young by:
- Sara Airheart

Chancel Choir and Special Music Programs Fund
In memory of Dixie Morris by:
- Nancy Holden

Help Fund
In memory of John Young, Barbara Lemon and Jack Airheart by:
- Lynda and John Star
Other funds are available for your contributions. Please contact Phil Boggs at 343-3659 for a complete list. Also please contact him if you are interested in making Second Presbyterian a beneficiary of your will or trust.

We sincerely regret any errors or omissions in this list. Please contact Phil Boggs in the church office at 343-3659 to help us get it corrected. Contributions received and/or recorded after month’s end will be included in next month’s list.

Got Extra Cash?
The session would like to end the year with a balanced budget. Your extra contributions during December could help to insure that. If you can help, now is the time!

Got Extra Cash AND a Special Interest?
Here are some of the Designated Gift accounts that congregation members frequently use to help special causes. Don’t see your favorite? Call Phil; we have more!

**Blanket Appeal, RAM, Presbyterian Community Center, Missionaries, Habitat, Youth Camps & Conferences, Summer Enrichment, West End Center, Mission Possible, DR Hospital, Bus, Youth Music, Medical or Youth Mission Trips, Flowers, Music, temporarily undesignated, and MORE!**
Second Presbyterian Church  
214 Mountain Avenue, SW  
Roanoke, Virginia  24016  
Address Service Requested

Merry Christmas, everyone, from Staff at Second Pres!

Special thanks to Maria Blackshaw and daughters who decorated the traditional Christmas Tree again for the Kirk Hall area.

The Second Sheet of Second Presbyterian Church  
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www.spres.org/#/whats-happening/newsletters.

To receive a full-color copy by email, send request to  sally@spres.org.

The church will be closed on Christmas Day, but reopens Friday, December 26.

We close again January 1 for the New Year’s Day holiday, then reopen on Friday, January 2.

The church occasionally uses photos of people and groups on the website and in publications. Those objecting to use of their photos (or photos of their minor children) should so inform the church.