

Expand Your Faith at Your Second Home

A summer of unusual and thought-provoking events kicks off in June

Second Saturday Summer Book Group: Our Work and Our Faith

Saturdays, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.



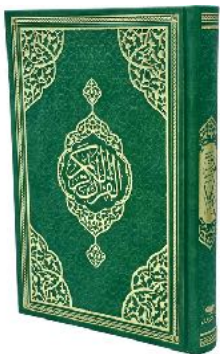
Explore bringing God's goodness and glory into the work you do with friends, fellowship, and food at the Byrds' home on second Saturdays this summer.

At our first meeting June 13, we'll select a book to help us explore how our daily work fulfills God's purpose. Meetings will continue in July, August, and September. This is open to adults who work in any field, job, career, or occupation.

RSVP to Emily Byrd by text or email: 650.868.2183 or ebyrd1223@gmail.com.

The Qur'an as Unique Scripture: What Christians Should Know

Sunday, June 14, 10 to 10:40 a.m. with Pastor Craig Robertson Family Deck at SPC



For over 20 weeks this year we've focused on why Christianity and the New Testament are so unique and distinctive. But what characterizes the Muslim holy book and why might that matter to Christians?

Gather with us for a quick introduction to the Qur'an, reading about Jesus and Mary in the process, and join in two case studies as we think more clearly about a fascinating book.



Faith of Our Neighbors: Buddhism and Christianity

Wednesday, June 17, 7 to 8 p.m.

*Dong Hung Temple, a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple
423 Davis Street, Virginia Beach (close to the
Salvation Army store on Virginia Beach Blvd.)*

We'll meet in the parking lot and then go on a tour of the temple and grounds, while hearing a brief overview of Buddhism. And Pastor Craig will reflect on his own experiences with Buddhism in Japan.

This temple is right in the middle of a residential neighborhood, there are huge statues on the ground, and the campus is very interesting visually. Children would find this fascinating to see. Adults, too.

Chuc Thanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist monk there, will welcome us all. He hopes that we find it "as comfortable as our own church."

Note: Before the tour at 5:45 p.m., some church members will eat a quick dinner at Margarita's, a Mexican restaurant at 649 Newtown Road, Suite 109. It's in the same shopping center as Grand Mart and an eight-minute drive from the temple.

From the Senior Pastor

One Thought from Commencement

I frequently feel like modern adults spend an unusual amount of time developing strong opinions about subjects we learned of roughly seven minutes earlier. A headline. A social media post. A conversation overheard in line at Harris Teeter. Suddenly we feel remarkably certain. Or we are expected to feel that way.



For reasons tied partly to vanity, I don't like admitting that I sometimes feel like I'm a slow thinker. I'm slow in the sense that I have difficulty forming confident opinions about complicated people or unfamiliar situations as quickly as others seem able to. Probably because I want to do more research or contextualize things.

Sometimes I take more time because I want to err on the side of grace, e.g. sometimes I think of people as fitting into two categories; people I like, and people whom I want to get to know better.

That may be why something at Teddy's graduation—two weeks ago at Georgetown—caught my attention.

The commencement speaker, Dr. Mary Beard of Cambridge University, didn't offer graduates a three-step plan for changing the world. Instead, she praised universities for defending complexity.

I appreciated that. Real life is complicated. Families, grief, aging parents, children's challenges, and forgiveness are very complicated. Dealing with loneliness, deciding how to love someone struggling with addiction, and understanding political issues that we heard about only 10 minutes earlier are complicated. To approach such issues with certainty seems overly confident.

Dr. Beard argued that education should help people imagine what it is like to think differently from themselves. That may sound academic, but it also sounds deeply Christian.

Jesus constantly disrupted easy categories. Outsiders became neighbors. Religious insiders misunderstood God. Saints had flaws. Enemies were to be loved.

Again and again, Jesus refused simplistic judgments and invited people to love God with heart, soul, and mind.

Increasingly, I wonder whether spiritual maturity looks less like accumulating correct answers and more like becoming patient enough to acknowledge complexity without losing hope. That doesn't mean truth disappears. It may mean humility grows and trust in Good deepens.

Paul writes, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly..." (1 Corinthians 13:12). Perhaps one sign of the Spirit at work is that we become slower to caricature people, quicker to listen, and more willing to admit, "I may not see the whole picture yet."

In a world that rewards certainty, that may be a surprisingly faithful way to live.

With blessings,
Pastor Craig

*Increasingly, I wonder
whether spiritual maturity
looks less like accumulating
correct answers and more
like becoming patient enough
to acknowledge complexity
without losing hope.*

Current Sermon Series

Holy Envy: Spiritual Practices We Didn't Know We Needed

Christians aren't the only people who take spiritual practices seriously, and sometimes others do it better than we do. This series is about seeing our own faith more clearly by paying attention to what our faith neighbors do. Not envy as jealousy but a recognition of what our life would be like if we took these parts of our own faith as seriously as they do.

June 7 **"On Your Knees: The Rhythm of Surrender": A Look at Islam**

Psalm 55:16–17; Luke 5:15–16; Matthew 6:9–13

June 14 **"More Than Words: Loving God with Your Senses": A Look at Hinduism**

Psalm 27:4; John 12:1–8

June 21 **"Be Still: The Courage to Sit with Your Soul": A Look at Buddhism**

Psalm 46:10; Mark 1:35



The Problem with Freedom: A Journey Through Exodus



We talk about freedom like it's simple, like it's obviously good and desirable. But as we mark 250 years of American independence, it's worth asking whether we actually understand what we've been celebrating all this time, and whether Exodus can help us see more clearly how visions of freedom in the United States create challenges.

Exodus says that freedom disrupts, demands, and sometimes even makes life harder before it makes it better. Leaving slavery is one thing; learning how to live as free people is something else entirely.

June 28 **"Freedom Starts When Things Get Bad Enough"** Exodus 1:8–14; 2:23–25

July 5 **"Don't Call Me—Call Someone Else"** Exodus 3:1–12; 4:10–17

July 12 **"We Tried Freedom. It Made Things Worse"** Exodus 5:1–9; 5:19–23

July 19 **"You Want Freedom—Until It Traps You"** Exodus 14:10–14; 14:21–31

July 26 **"At Least Slavery Had Dinner"** Exodus 16:2–8; 17:1–7

Aug. 2 **"Turns Out Freedom Has Rules"** Exodus 19:3–6; 20:1–17

Worship Without a Ceiling

*Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m.,
Robertson Family Deck at SPC*

Before the too-hot days of summer, we'll gather (weather permitting, of course) to worship together beneath the great tree.

Bring your lawn chairs, and worship the Creator in the midst of the creation!



From the Director of Music

New Fun Feature: Weird Organ-Stop Names!

If you've never looked at the stop drawknobs on an organ, you may not know that many of the names may seem, well, weird.

They often reflect names from European languages as well as instruments that were originally conceived centuries ago. So, as we anticipate the arrival of our new organ next year, we'll take a look at some of these unusually named instruments that will be included on our new Walker Digital Organ! Here is the first:



“What in the world is a zimbelstern?”

German for “cymbal star,” the zimbelstern is a rotating set of small bells that make a “twinkling” bell effect. Because it involves spinning the bells around, when the zimbelstern stops spinning, the bells continue to ring lightly as they gradually stop swinging.



It's fascinating to play on an organ, because it's one of the only sounds that keeps going for a few moments even after the key is released. The zimbelstern dates to the 1500s in northern Europe and is particularly useful for celebratory occasions or texts that reference the stars.

We are excited that our new organ will indeed include a fantastic digitally sampled zimbelstern!

Seeking Tenors and Sopranos for SPC Choir

Consider inviting someone you know to join our choir.

Looking ahead to a reconfiguration of the chancel area associated with the new organ, one happy result will be increased space for the Choir. As we anticipate new opportunities for participation and musical projects that can result, we are eager to grow the numbers in all sections, but particularly in the soprano and tenor sections. Because life is hectic, the Choir only meets every other week from September through May and a handful of Sundays in the summer—so the commitment is not weekly.



While our overall participation may appear robust (it is!), our reality is that it only takes a few life-interrupting occurrences (illness, work conflict, travel, etc.) to whittle one of our sections down to a precarious level. We would love to add to each of our sections so this doesn't happen, as well as to position us to consider new and creative projects that the Choir might present, particularly after the arrival of the organ.

So—please invite someone to come sing with us! Perhaps it's a neighbor or a coworker, or a friend or relative. The Choir is a really great way for someone to find their way into our wonderful church family.

Feel free to put such a person in touch with me directly: robertshoup@mac.com

Summer Music at SPC

While the summer schedule may be less densely packed than the rest of the year, we continue to engage our Choir and Worship Band in pursuit of vibrant, meaningful worship music experiences.

The Choir will sing three times through the summer, and the band will play on four different weeks. Thank you to our devoted participants for their work in service of worship at SPC.

Wednesday Fellowship

Park Yourself Here:

An Intergenerational Progressive Dinner (without Cars)

Wednesday, June 3, 6 to 7:15 p.m. SPC fellowship hall

Get to know your Second family in new ways at a Progressive Dinner in the fellowship hall. Three members of the church will provide each of three courses: salads, main course, and dessert.

You'll savor each course with a different, random group of people, during which time you'll reflect together on fun and meaningful questions. RSVP on the sign-up sheets near the sanctuary doors or call Jo Kolb in the church office. We need an accurate head count to arrange the seating.



Intergenerational Kickball!

Sunday, June 7

After outdoor worship, SPC lawn

After our outdoor worship service, bring your feet to the large oak tree—also known as home base—for a spirited game of kickball. All ages are invited from 3 to 103!

Sunday Fellowship

Around the World Potluck

(Jewish, Mediterranean, East Asian, Indian Foods)

Sunday, June 14, noon, SPC fellowship hall

Some of us grew up thinking of goulash, pizza, and chop suey as the epitome of international cuisine. Which, to be fair, was more adventurous than boiled carrots and potatoes.



Because our June sermon series explores religions and traditions from around the world, this seemed like a fitting excuse to make our fellowship hour a little more global, too. Consider bringing something inspired by Jewish, Mediterranean, East Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern, African, Latin American, or other cuisines—falafel, hummus, curry, samosas, naan, baklava, sushi rolls, dumplings, shakshuka, tabbouleh, arroz dishes, or something tied to your own family history.

And if your specialty is macaroni and cheese or brownies rather than international cuisine, bring those, too; hospitality matters more than passports.

Monthly Monday Fellowship

Dine Out with Your Second Family

Monday June 22, 6 p.m., Mike's Pizza and Oro Azteca

SPC men will meet at Mike's Pizza, 8218 Hampton Blvd.; our women will dine at Oro Azteca, 8001 Hampton Blvd. Please join us, and consider bringing a friend. RSVP to Jonathan Doyle or Peggy Troyer.





The Norfolk Street Choir
Returns to Second Presbyterian!

June SING!

Saturday, June 27
at 3 p.m.

Music by
Stevie Wonder
Michael Jackson
Stephen Schwartz
Leonard Cohen
Tracy Chapman
Rachel Platten
and
Members of the
Norfolk Street Choir!

Affected by
homelessness,
persistent
in hope.

SPC Mission Partner

Sing with Our Neighbors: Norfolk Street Choir Returns to SPC

Saturday, June 27, 3 p.m., SPC sanctuary

Join the Norfolk Street Choir for an inspiring and joyful afternoon of celebrating community at its June Sing. As some of you know, that can mean singing along with the Street Choir members on meaningful songs such as "Heaven Help Us All" by Stevie Wonder, "Beautiful City" from the musical "Godspell," "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)," and Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Established in 2016, the Norfolk Street Choir Project provides a safe and nurturing environment to inspire and support people affected by homelessness. Along with attending weekly choir rehearsals, participants can create artwork during weekly Expressive Arts sessions, a collaboration with the Counseling and Art Therapy program of Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University. The organization also serves as a consistent and reliable point of connection where our neighbors in need can access essential services that support daily life.



Sunday Fellowship

Iron Chef SPC: Land of Milk & Honey Edition

Sunday, June 28, noon, SPC fellowship hall

As our summer sermon series on Exodus begins, we'll travel with Israel through wilderness and uncertainty, toward a place repeatedly described as "a land flowing with milk and honey." (*Exodus* 3:8) What exactly can one do with honey besides put it in tea?

For this year's Iron Chef SPC Competition, your challenge is simple: Create an appetizer, side dish, main course, or dessert featuring honey as an ingredient. Sweet or savory. Traditional or unusual. Elegant or reckless. We encourage you to experiment!

SPC Mission Partner

Rising Demand Depletes St. Columba's Shelves

Place donations in the orange bin in SPC's main hallway.

Needs for the Food Pantry:

Nonperishable food items, such as canned fruit or vegetables, canned meat, dry milk, peanut butter, pasta, boxed dry cereal, etc. | Plastic and paper grocery bags

Needs for the Day Center:

Snacks (individually wrapped chips, cookies, jerky, etc. | Bottled water | Gently used adult casual clothing



SPC Mission Partner

LAUNCH's Summer Bridge Camp Starts in June

LAUNCH'S 10th annual Summer Bridge Camp will be held mid-June through July. SPC members and friends can help with career guidance by communicating how we've navigated the educational and financial requirements for a vocation that shares the Gospel, as all meaningful work can do.

Another way to help is by supporting one of the 50 campers with the \$150 per camper registration fee. There also may be opportunities for SPC Feed My Sheep volunteers to help prepare lunch for the campers. LAUNCH is an acronym for Learning, Access, Unity, Nutrition, Career, and Health. Contact Joe Morgan for details: jnmorgan18@gmail.com.

From the Administration Committee

Two Section of Sidewalks Installed

Two short sidewalk sections were installed in May. One connects the parking lot to the North Shore entrance, the other extends the playground sidewalk to the Robertson Family Deck at SPC. No more muddy paths!



Serving at Second

Help Us Match You with Ways You'd Like to Serve

"Serving at Second" volunteer interest forms are coming to a pew near you. By completing this form, you can help our church better serve our community.

Just share your contact information and areas of interest, and place your completed form in the offering plates located in the sanctuary windows or return it to the church office. A digital version of the form will also be available. SPC leaders and committee chairs can then connect you with opportunities, ministries, and support that match your gifts and availability.



As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."



Drumroll, Please

In addition to paper products for ForKids and a huge canned-food pyramid for St. Columba, the women of Triple S Circle gave \$1,602 in charitable donations in 2025-26. Thank you, ladies, for your generosity!

SPC June Calendar

Monday, June 1

No activities

Tuesday, June 2

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, June 3

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Progressive Dinner: 6PM [FH]

Thursday, June 4

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Friday, June 5

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, June 6

No activities

Sunday, June 7

The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Worship Band Rehearsal: 9:30PM [Deck]

Outdoor Worship: 11AM [Robertson Deck/webcast]

Fellowship Time: Noon [Deck]

Intergenerational Kickball: 12:15PM [Lawn]

Monday, June 8

No activities

Tuesday, June 9

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, June 10

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Thursday, June 11

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Friday, June 12

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, June 13

Summer Book Group: 11AM [Byrd home]

Sunday, June 14

The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Choir Rehearsal: 9AM [Sanctuary]

The Qur'an as Scripture: What Christians Should Know: 10AM [Robertson Deck]

Worship Service: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]

Around the World Potluck: Noon [FH]

Monday, June 15

LAUNCH Summer Bridge Camp begins

[See Joe Morgan]

Tuesday, June 16

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Session Meeting: 6PM [FH]

Wednesday, June 17

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Faith of Our Neighbors: 7PM [Dong Hung Temple, Virginia Beach]

Thursday, June 18

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

LAUNCH Distribution: Various times and activities [See Joe Morgan]

Let's Talk About Music with Robert Shoup: 11AM [for SPC residents of Harbor's Edge]

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Friday, June 19

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, June 20

No activities

Sunday, June 21

The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Worship Service 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]

Fellowship Time: Noon [FH]

Monday, June 22

Fellowship Dinners: 6PM [Men: Mike's Pizza; Women: Oro Azteca]

Tuesday, June 23

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, June 24

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Thursday, June 25

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Friday, June 26

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, June 27

Norfolk Street Choir Sing: 3PM

[Sanctuary]

Sunday, June 28

The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Worship Band Rehearsal: 9:30AM

[Sanctuary]

Worship Service: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]

Iron Chef SPC: Land of Milk & Honey Noon [FH]

Monday, June 29

No activities

Tuesday, June 30

The office is open 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Save the Date SPC Art Show

Saturday, July 25
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Space is still available for artists, and there's no fee involved to participate. If you have friends who might consider showing, have them call the church office or Peggy Troyer: 210.240.2628. Lunch will be available for purchase during the art show from Keland's Louisiana Seafood Kitchen.

FH = SPC fellowship hall

About Second Presbyterian Church

7305 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23505 | 757.423.2822 | spcnorfolk.org | facebook.com/secondpresbyteriannorfolk
Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Dr. Craig Wansink, Senior Pastor: 757.412.7467, cwansink@vwwu.edu
- Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, Covenant Associate Pastor: 757.287.9897, revcat@spcnorfolk.org
- Rev. Nancy Rowland, Parish Associate: 302.354.5880, rowlandnancy73@gmail.com
- Robert Shoup, Director of Music: 757.739.9444, robertshoup@mac.com
- Jo Ridout Kolb, Director of Administration & Family Ministry: 757.406.0879, jokolb@spcnorfolk.org
- Tom Libbey, Facility Manager
- Joe Morgan, Maintenance Specialist
- Heather Libbey, Hostess