Welcome to our new staff members!

We are very excited to welcome two new members to our ministry team at Second! When Jen Evans was called here to serve as Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adult, and Young Family Ministries, the plan was that she would lead a team of staff working with each of these ministry areas. We are moving towards the completion of that team! We are thrilled to welcome Ashley Nipp as the Director of Young Adult Ministry, a 10-hour per week position, and Ruth Arnold as Director of Youth Ministry, a 20-hour per week position. The search for a Director of Young Family Ministry will begin soon. Jen will continue to work in a hands-on role with each of these ministries as well. Both Ashley and Ruth bring unique gifts and experience to Second Presbyterian, and we hope you will join us in welcoming them to their new roles!

Ruth Arnold  
Director of Youth Ministry

My name is Ruth Arnold. I’m 23 years old and I am so excited to become a part of Second Presbyterian! I’ve been sharing an apartment with my brother in Conway, Arkansas for about a year and a half now while working on getting my English degree. My love for literature and teaching has taken me from Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas to St. Gallen, Switzerland for a teaching job in 2016 and now to UCA to finish out my degree. In my free time, I enjoy reading, writing and photography. Taking photographs is a huge passion of mine that I tend to partner with my love for camping and travel.

If I’m not doing any of those things, I’m most likely on the road visiting my fiancée, Kyle, in Springfield, Missouri. He’ll be moving to Arkansas soon and is very excited to get to experience Second Presbyterian with me. I’m looking forward to really getting to know all of the youth and their families here at Second. I’ve never been a part of a church of this size so I’m excited to dive in and see what kind of love and fellowship we can all stir up together!

Ashley Nipp  
Director of Young Adult Ministry

My name is Ashley Elizabeth Nipp, and I am thrilled to be joining the Second Presbyterian team as the Director of Young Adult Ministry. In 2016, I came to Little Rock as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in partnership with the Presbyterian Church, USA and Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center. As the YAV program is a year long, I expected the move to be temporary but have come to call Little Rock home. A native of Oklahoma, I studied and lived in Washington, DC and Europe before moving to Arkansas.

I tend to describe myself as an innovative and energetic young professional, ready to learn and adapt. When I’m feeling less professional, you can likely find me watching a movie, reading a book, or exploring the outdoors. I like food in all forms and enjoy cooking almost as much as I enjoy eating. In all situations I cherish laughter and often share moderately entertaining puns.

As the new Director of Young Adult Ministry, I hope to foster friendships with people who want to join me in bettering our world and ourselves as we explore our faith. I am excited about creating an intentional, supportive community for young adults where we find space to grow as we each face the joys and challenges of life. We experience change every day in the celebration of marriages, births and careers while also being nervous about interviews, higher education, debt, and health concerns. In the midst of all of this, we can come together as active and engaged members of a compassionate community as we interact with one another and with God.
A Weather Reminder
Weekday church events are canceled and the church office is closed if Little Rock Public Schools are canceled or dismissed due to weather. The total trip is two hours, so we expect to be back to the church at 8:00 p.m. Please arrive by 5:45 p.m. Last year's trolley excursion was delightful, so you don't want to miss out! Limited seating and bring-your-own-libations aboard, tickets are $10 each and childcare is available by request. Reserve your seat now by calling the church office at (501) 227-0000.

Trolley Christmas Lights Tour
Join us December 8, 6:00 p.m. for a special tour of the city's prettiest lights! The Trolley will leave at 6:00 p.m. from the church and take us to the beautiful lobby of the Capital Hotel, then cruise by several well-decorated locations in North Little Rock and by the impressive State Capitol light display! During our tour enjoy Christmas music—singing along is encouraged! The total trip is two hours, so we expect to be back to the church at 8:00 p.m. Please arrive by 5:45 p.m. Last year's trolley excursion was delightful, so you don't want to miss out! Limited seating and bring-your-own-libations aboard, tickets are $10 each and childcare is available by request. Reserve your seat now by calling the church office at (501) 227-0000.

Preschool Story Time
All preschool age children are invited to join Miss Jeannie in the Children's Library, December 13, 4:30 p.m. for Christmas stories, activities, and special snacks. Please contact Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000 for more information.

Something New for Advent 2017
All-Church Advent Festival
December 10 and 17, 9:50-10:50 a.m.
All children, youth and adults are invited to participate in this exciting opportunity for our church family to celebrate the season together! Each of these Sunday mornings there will be a variety of activities designed to explore and experience the Christmas story in some familiar and some creative ways. Following a brief "gathering time" in the Great Hall, folks will choose one activity each week through which to celebrate the season.

December 10
• The Best Christmas Pageant Ever movie will be shown (with popcorn) in the Bible Village movie room.
• “Stained Glass” Collage Christmas Candle Holder Craft and Advent Coloring Posters in the Great Hall
• “A Closer Look” (Part I) – intergenerational exploration of the Christmas stories in the Gospels led by Marie Mainard O’Connell
• Stories, Carols, and Cocoa around the Fire in the Youth Building
• Preschool Story Time option for little ones

December 17
• Birthday Party for Jesus in Bible Village
• “Stained Glass” Collage Christmas Candle Holder Craft and Advent Coloring Posters in the Great Hall
• “A Closer Look” (Part II) – intergenerational exploration of the Christmas stories in the Gospels led by Marie Mainard O’Connell
• Christmas Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune in Second Hall
• Preschool Story Time option for little ones

December 3-24: Advent Spirituality Center, Room 65/66
A variety of hands-on, self-directed prayer centers will be set up at the beginning of the Advent season and will be open to all throughout the season. This center can be visited as part of the Advent Festival and can be visited at any time the church is open during the month of December. All are invited to come for reflection and active prayer activities in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Help Support our Local Mission Partners this Christmas Season!

The Vera Lloyd Tree located in the North entry provides Christmas gifts for the youth who reside at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home in Monticello. Bring your gift in a gift bag, with the angel ornament attached to the handle, and place it in the box provided near the tree by Sunday, December 10.

The Warm Heart Tree provides items for residents at Women & Children First, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. This year, they need twin bedding, diapers, cleaning supplies, socks and underwear, trash cans and trash bags, children's pull-ups, and laundry detergent pods. Take an ornament off the tree. Bring the items back and place them in the box provided near the tree in the Narthex by Sunday, December 24.

The Art from the Heart Tree provides art supplies for the therapeutic programs at Youth Home. Select the ornament for the art supplies you wish to give. Bring the unwrapped supplies with ornament attached to the box near the tree in the Narthex by Sunday, December 24.

Children’s Choir Christmas Eve Rehearsals
The Children's Choir invites all 4 year olds through 5th graders to join the choir for the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Christmas Eve. We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and families are welcome to decide which day is best for their own schedule, attending at least one rehearsal each week. Sunday rehearsals are on 12/10, and 12/17 from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. Wednesday rehearsals are on 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Dress rehearsal for everyone participating is on Saturday, December 23 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Please contact Mary Ibis with any questions you might have, maryibis@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.
Evening Circles
Huldah Circle and Deborah Circle will have a joint meeting on December 10, 5:00 p.m. at the home of Catherine Allsbury, 32 Kanis Creek Place, 72223. The Bible Study will be “Lesson Four: In Community with God’s Messengers” led by Kim Truslow.

Please contact Catherine Allsbury with questions about the Evening Circles, catherineallsbury@secondpreslr.org.

Day Circles
All women are invited for our daytime PW Christmas Celebration on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. We will first meet in the Narthex for holiday cheer and festive refreshments. We will then move into Second Hall for a Bible Study led by Steve Hancock and special seasonal music. Lunch will be served in the Great Hall at noon. Please make a reservation with your Circle Leader or by calling the church office, (501) 227-0000 if you are not in a circle. For the December Local Mission Project we will collect hair brushes, combs, rubber gripper slippers, nail clippers, medium size shampoo, lotion and nail polish for female patients at UAMS.

Please contact Emily Hall, (501) 228-2203 or Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000 if you would like more information about the Day Circles.

Advent Meditation Resources Available
Written Advent devotional materials for personal use will be available on a table in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 26:

• Moving Toward the Manger: Reflections on the writings of Frederick Buechner
• Advent Journey Coloring Pages Devotional: This resource includes 8 ½ x 11 coloring pages for each week of Advent with reflections and questions appropriate for adults and children.

If you would like to receive daily Advent meditations on-line, please visit the following websites:

• Daily Readings from the PC(USA) website www.d365.org/todaysdevotion/
• Union Presbyterian Seminary upsemdevotions.upsem.edu
• Luther Seminary: Joy to the World www.lutherseminary.edu/advent

A packet of devotional materials and Advent activities appropriate for children and families will be mailed to families with children 2 years-5th grade. If you have not received your packet by December 1, or if you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive a packet, please contact Jeannie Ford, jeannieford@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.

Young Family Ministry
The Young Family Ministry in coordination with the Fellowship Ministry had a wonderful time on their Trolley tour December 1! The evening began on a ride to the Capital Hotel for the first stop where everyone got into the Christmas Spirit seeing the beautiful decorations and Christmas tree. The next stop was at the delicious restaurant, Soul Fish. Lots of great fellowship and laughs were enjoyed! (Thank you Jeffery Williams and Taylor Jacks for your hospitality at Soul Fish!). The last stop was at the lovely home of Kathryn and Brian McMillian (thank you McMillians!). We had a quick stop there for a bite of dessert. The evening was full of spirit and fun!

Young Adult Christmas Celebration
Saturday, December 16, 3:00 p.m.
Join us for some Escape Room fun with dessert afterwards! Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Mystery Mansion on Broadway to (attempt to!) solve The Game Room. Our game time is 3:30-4:30 p.m., then we will head over to Stacey Hammons’ home for dessert afterwards. Cost is $10, collected the day of the event. Space in the Game Room is limited, so please sign up on the church website by Wednesday, December 13. A wait list will be kept if needed.
**Christmas Joy Offering**

December 17, 2017

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provides critical financial and housing assistance to qualifying retired members of the Benefits Plan, and financial and vocational assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Rooted in a 300-year-old tradition, the Assistance Program embodies the connectional Church at its best. As the Assistance Program relies for its funding not on dues but on voluntary gifts, legacies, endowments, and one-half of the Christmas Joy Offering, it provides a way for caring Presbyterians to support those who serve the Church during their times of need. Assistance is granted for needs that lie beyond the scope of the Benefits Plan.

The importance of the racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is demonstrated in the continuing partnership between the two entities. The institutions have provided quality education to people who have contributed immeasurably to the church at large and to the world. Students are educated for the professions of their choice in an environment which supports and nurtures racial and ethnic heritage.

In Racial Ethnic Leadership Development, we help plan, coordinate and promote racial ethnic and women's leadership institutes. Leadership institutes identify, equip and connect racial ethnic women and men, who are teaching and ruling elders, with leadership opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This ministry also strengthens and nurtures the gifts of racial ethnic leaders, and inspires them to greater leadership roles in congregations, mid councils and in General Assembly agencies.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families. Our congregation will be receiving this offering in worship on December 17, 2017.

**Newest Members**

Dennis & Kristen Hoover

Kristen is a preschool teacher at Second Presbyterian and Dennis is a Field Service Engineer at Thermofisher Scientific. They have two young children, Aria and Grayson. Kristen enjoys art, graphic design, painting and equestrian evening. Dennis enjoys fantasy football, jogging and watching movies. Dennis & Kristen joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

**SPY Progressive Dinner**

Youth enjoyed a progressive dinner on November 26 with 36 attending. Special thanks to the Vaught and Gardner families for hosting, and to Soul Fish Café for a wonderful dinner.

**Enneagram Journey Class**

January 8 – March 12

Join us Monday, January 8 as we begin a 10-week DVD journey with Suzanne. Once a week from 9:00-10:30 a.m. or 6:30-8:00 p.m., you can explore this ancient and fascinating system of self-discovery. You will learn to understand the Enneagram—what it is, how it works, and what it has to offer you. Suzanne is an Enneagram master teacher who guides this journey with humor and insight. If you have questions about this program, call Catherine Lowry, (501) 960-7676 for more information. The cost for materials is $40 and you can register by calling the church office, (501) 227-0000.
Upcoming Events

All events are at Second Presbyterian Church unless otherwise noted
600 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Little Rock, Arkansas

PRAECLARA RINGERS
Holiday Bells
December 16, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a delightful evening of special Christmas music arranged for handbells and vocalists, featuring “O Holy Night,” “Now the Green Blade Riseth,” and “All I Want for Christmas is You.” It will be an entertaining evening of secular and sacred holiday music.

KELLY SINGER & ANDREW IRVIN
December 18, 7:00 p.m.

Guest artists Andrew Irvin, violin and Julie Cheek, piano and featuring the students of Andrew Irvin’s studio.

LITTLE ROCK WIND SYMPHONY
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year
December 7, 7:30 p.m.

RIVER CITY MEN’S CHORUS
Holiday! 2017
December 10, 3:00 p.m.
December 11 & 14, 7:00 p.m.
Commitment Sunday

Commitment Sunday for financial pledges to the 2018 annual budget and to the Second Vision Capital Campaign will take place on February 11, 2018.

New Hearing Assistance Device Experiment for December

We would like to offer our thanks to LifeQuest for allowing us to borrow their new hearing assistance devices for the month of December. We encourage those who benefit from enhanced listening assistance to check out a device during 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. worship. Please indicate your experience on the nearby tablet and help us plan for future improvements to our hearing assistance technology.

Are you going through a difficult time? Or know someone who is?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The Christian one to one care you'll receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn how you—or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative—can receive care, please contact one of us on the leadership team.

Marie Mainard O'Connell, pastor
Kay Combs
Cathy Crass
Rich Evans
Susan Marsh
Jo Ann McQuade
Laurie Stueart
Jana Villemez
Rita Wooley

Prayer request:
Please pray for our current Stephen Ministry Training Class of twelve, as they prepare to become Stephen Ministers. After completing 50 hours of training, they will be commissioned and will serve with the Stephen Ministry team providing Christian caregiving.

Save the date for a special Faith & Grief workshop, “Grief in the Holidays,” December 19, 1:15-3:00 p.m. in Second Hall.

Immediately following our monthly Luncheon Gathering is a very special event for those living through grief and loss during the holidays.

- Is it your first holiday without your loved one?
- Do you have special traditions that can't be the same?
- Would you like suggestions and tips on weathering the holidays and honoring their memory?

This special workshop will introduce practical advice on surviving the holidays, recapturing joy, and living in the tension of feeling blue amid the jingle bells. All are invited, regardless of whether this is your first or twentieth season of loss. Our workshop leader will be Kathy Kaczmer, former Hospice and Presbyterian Village Chaplain, current chaplain to the St. Michael Episcopal Church Parish.

Get your tickets now to save the date!

Join Youth and Adults for a matinee of fun on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. for Argenta Community Theater’s classic holiday play A Christmas Carol—starring our very own Ben Barham as the Ghost of Christmas Present!

Tickets are available at the church office, only $30 each. HURRY—limited seating available!

Contact the church office at (501) 227-0000 for reservations and information.
In Harm’s Way

Isaac Arnold, Sage & Joe Arnold’s nephew – Air Force, stationed at Offutt AFB, NE
Andrew Delo, Jeanne Lloyd’s grandson – stationed in Norfolk, VA
Martyn Delo, Jeanne Lloyd’s grandson – stationed in San Diego at Naval Base (on USS Boxer in dry dock)
Taylor Douglas, son of Susan & Kevin Douglas – Camp Pendleton, San Diego, CA
David Henry, son of Mary Helen & Joe Henry – at the Pentagon, Washington, DC
Jonathan Johnson, grandson of Helen Scott, nephew of Clarke & Cindy Scott Huisman – stationed at Warner Robbins, GA
Daniel Jones, Marjorie Watkins’ nephew, Sarah Ceja’s cousin – stationed in Augusta, GA
Susan Lynch, sister of Beth Rule, aunt of Samuel & Thomas Rule – deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar
Jonathan Miller, son of Patrice & Stan Miller – stationed in Virginia Beach, VA
Matthew Powell, grandson of Dorothy Powell, stationed in Afghanistan
Chris Rookey, son of Hallie & Craig Rookey, grandson of Hallie & Kirk Simmins – stationed at Fort Carson, CO
Kyle Rought, Mary Ibis’ cousin – stationed in Wahiawa, HI
Stuart Rubio, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS
John Matthew Solomon, son of Mary Margaret & Alan Solomon – stationed at Fort Meade, MD

Missed a Sermon?
Did you miss one of the sermons? If so, you can listen to recent sermons on the church website at secondpreslr.org. Click on “Worship and Music,” then click on “Listen to Recent Sermons.” To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, karinhowze@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the Narthex and the church office.

Poinsettia Order Form
Poinsettias are used to decorate the Sanctuary and Second Hall during Advent. You are invited to place a poinsettia in honor and/or memory of a loved one. Funds received in excess of those purchased will be used in benevolent ways to help others during the holidays. A list of those being honored and remembered and their donors will be printed as a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The deadline to order a poinsettia is December 11. The cost is $13.00. You may either fill out the form below and return to the church office or fill out the form online at www.secondpreslr.org.

I/We would like to purchase _______ poinsettia(s).
Enclosed is a check for $_______.
PLEASE PRINT
In memory of: __________________________
In honor of: __________________________
Name(s) of donor(s): __________________________

Usher/Greeter Volunteers
Always Appreciated

Those who serve as ushers and greeters for our worship service are providing a ministry of hospitality for members and visitors to our church. Along with providing an important leadership role for worship, those who serve as ushers and greeters are also afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside other members of the congregation. You may contact the following deacons who serve as usher captains to volunteer as ushers or greeters:

December Worship Usher Captains

     8:30 a.m.       9:00 a.m.       11:00 a.m.
Tracy Johnson   Bob McCarley   Terri Cross  Laura Connor
tljohnson@ualr.edu  remccarley@gmail.com  terri.cross@lrsd.org  Lconnor78@gmail.com

Outreach Ministry

December 2017

STEWPO
Cook team: 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Servers: 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
Friday: December 8, 15, 22

OUR HOUSE
Second Friday of each month, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Worship Ministry delivers and serves
Friday: December 8

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .
Stewpot      Our House
Campbell McLaurin    Linda Humphries
campbellsclaurin@gmail.com  LCHumphries@comcast.net
Bulletin Board


We rejoice with Steve and Ruth Shepherd on the birth of a granddaughter, Isobel Marie Prater. Parents are Brad and Stephanie Prater of Auburn, AL.

Our sympathy goes to
- The family of Guy Delaney
- Henry Goodspeed on the death of his brother, Joe Bayne Goodspeed
- Valerie Wells on the death of her cousin, Rita Kaye Pitkin

We would appreciate your help . . . in keeping the church office informed when there is a sickness in your family, when someone is in the hospital, or a death has occurred. Please also keep us updated on the sickness or concern so that the information we have on our Care and Concern Line is accurate. Members and friends can call the Care and Concern Line, (501) 227-6117, on weekdays to receive information about prayer concerns in our church family. We will honor all requests for confidentiality, but in order for us to offer pastoral care we need to be aware of your situation. We also want to know about the joys, accomplishments and achievements of members of the church. Please call Marie Mainard O’Connell or Sharon Hughes in the church office with information, (501) 227-0000, or e-mail mariemo@secondpreslr.org or sharohn Hughes@secondpreslr.org. Thanks for your help!

Heritage Committee Seeks Second Presbyterian Memorabilia
Do you have old certificates, bulletins, newsletters, programs, or other documents for earlier days of our church? Our Heritage Committee would like to copy such to help fill in some of the gaps in our church records. Please contact Pam Luther, (501) 690-5203.