

The Second Presbyterian Church (USA)

***1125 Old Pocalla Road
Sumter, South Carolina 29150***

Theme: "Praying and Living by Faith"

Lamentations 3: 22-26 and Hebrews 11: 1-3, 6



145 Church Anniversary/2025 Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, October 26, 2025

2:00 PM

Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby, Pastor

Elder Dorothy McBride, Clerk of Session

Mr. Sean Jones, Ministry of Music

Deacon Alfred Humes, Homecoming Chairperson

Reverend Dr. Franklin D. Colclough, Guest Preacher

History of the Second Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Second Presbyterian Church of Sumter has served the City of Sumter and the surrounding rural areas for more than 145 years, with a ministry of Christian worship, education and fellowship. The land which initially consisted of more than five acres was given by Mr. Monaghan of Sumter. Under the auspices of the Board of National Mission of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., the church was organized in 1880 under the pastoral administration of the Reverend James Lawton. Reverend Lawton was a graduate of Lincoln University, Lincoln, PA. Fifty charter members comprised the founding congregation.

The first edifice, a rectangular frame building, measuring 20 x 40 feet was demolished and replaced by a new building constructed from brick made of white sand by students of Kendall Institute. The new sanctuary had a capacity of 300. The new structure included a basement area which covered the same amount of space as the main sanctuary. The basement served the Sunday School and other religious activities. The plant was valued at \$14,000. The construction was completed in 1911 under the Reverend A. U. Frierson. A manse was erected on the grounds valued at \$3,000.

Kendall Institute was founded 1891 and was sustained by the Board for Freedmen. The school was named for Mrs. Julia B. Kendall, Wife of Reverend Henry Kendall, Secretary of the Board of Missions from 1870 to 1892. Reverend J. C. Watkins, the second pastor of the church built the school from its foundation to a recognized center of training for Christian education from first grade through high school. His pastorate lasted for eleven years.

Dr. A. U. Frierson, a product of the Goodwill Parochial School Mayesville, South Carolina, succeeded Reverend Watkins as pastor and principal of the school. During his administration, Kendall Institute attracted students from all over the state. A girl's dormitory was proposed in 1908 and later built at a cost of five thousand (\$5,000). By 1912 the school's enrollment reached its highest peak of 436 for boarding and day students. During the thirteen years Reverend Frierson was at Kendall, eleven classes with an average of eleven girls and boys per class were graduated.

The Reverend John P. Foster succeeded Dr. Frierson. Under the administration of Reverend Foster the academic building was rearranged and a dedicatory service held.

Reverend Foster's first year at Kendall was completely gratifying to the board and the community as one of the brightest chapters in the school's recorded history. The academic program was expanded and enriched. The curriculum added practical arts and crafts and athletics became a part of the extracurricular program.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, a Scotia Seminary alumna, was one of earliest instructors at Kendall Institute.

Reverend Foster remained at Kendall twelve years and relinquished the principalship to Reverend I. P. Pogue in 1928. Despite the fact that the Board of National Missions was considering a serious cutback in its educational activities, motivated by an imminent depression and the slump in the national economy, a cottage was built for boys in 1928 and athletics continued with robust competitions.

As state supported schools were improved, the secular endeavors of the church were discontinued. The black community was sorely distressed when necessity forced the closure of the school, along with 38 other day schools in 1932.

The Reverend Thomas E. Wilson was Reverend Pogue's successor. Under his leadership the numerical strength of the church increased.

The Reverend James A. Martin was the next ordinant to serve the church. His tenure and leadership marked the purchase of a four-acre tract on Old Pocalla Road in 1967, the current site of the church.

The Reverend Robert E. Bligen, who first served as supply, was installed in 1970, and his leadership resulted in the erection of a new edifice and educational wing. The groundbreaking ceremonies for the new structure took place on February 24, 1974.

The erection of the new structure, which Reverend Bligen designed, was an act of stewardship for many of the men who used their talents to complete in-kind labor for a building valued at nearly \$250,000. Dedicatory service, April 23, 1976, featured Dr. Clinton Marsh, the 185th Moderator of the General Assembly as the speaker.

Under the direction of Reverend Bligen and the Session, the church operated a very successful five day weekly senior citizens program. Meals on wheels served seniors who were physically disabled. His establishment of the Willing Workers, a service-oriented group and the Shepherd Leaders program that paired deacons and elders as ministry partners to the congregation are likely the products of his thesis.

Reverend Bligen completed a three-year service-study course at McCormick Theological Seminary in 1982 earning a Doctoral Degree (D. Min). Dr. Bligen honorably retired September 30, 1998 after 28 years of service.

Following the retirement of Dr. Bligen, Reverend Emma W. Thompson whose membership had a lengthy history in the church was elected as Interim Pastor in 1998. Reverend served admirably for three years and resigned in 2001.

The Session hired Reverend Julia A. Prince as Temporary Supply Pastor in 2001. The temporary status of her service and others gave way to several ministers sharing their gifts with the congregation to fill the spiritual leadership void until a pastor could be contractually secured. Second was blessed to embrace messages from visiting pastors Othan Franklin Sharp, Omar Hilton and Daryl Cunningham.

Reverend Gloria Jones Williams became the ninth pastor of Second Presbyterian Church on March 25, 2007. A Floridian by birth, she received an undergraduate degree in Management from Vermont College, Montpelier, VT and graduated from the Johnson C. Smith Seminary of the Interdenominational Center, Atlanta, GA. She came to Second P C having served five years as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro, SC. Reverend Williams concentrated her studies in Pastoral Care and Counseling. This was very evident in her ministry at Second. She presided as an able and competent leader. Reverend Williams resigned in 2014.

Second Church was once again seeking pastoral leadership. The church called upon its elders, deacons and visiting ministers to keep the flock spiritually nourished and engaged. The search concluded with a familiar voice and face, the vibrant and spiritually gifted Dr. Ella Franklin Busby. The Session hired the honorably retired Dr. Busby in 2016. Dr. Busby's credentials are impeccable. She received her Master of Divinity from Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA and Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. She continues the church's history of outreach to the community; she guides the flock with care and is dedicated to the service of God and God's people.

Her inspiration and faith, the leadership of the session and the dedicated members produced new roofing; sound system; water system connected to the city line; lightings installed on the inside and outside; the renovation of the church fellowship hall and dining facility with a zero-balance owed at completion; and an amazing, dedicated Ministry of Music, Mr. Sean Jones.

Second Presbyterian Church has a rich, distinctive and impactful history of Christian service to the Sumter community. Kendall Institute enhanced the academic lives of black children and left an indelible cultural imprint. The Sumter County Historical Commission erected a historical marker at the original site on the corner of Watkins and Harvin Streets.

The boys and girls whose lives were enriched through the scouting programs directed by Mr. E. H. Roman, Sr. and Mr. K. D. Singleton for boys and Reverend Emma Thompson and her associates organized an ecumenical activity for girls. The beneficiaries of both groups undoubtedly retained unforgettable and cherished memories of the skills learned and the shared experiences of harmony and camaraderie. Dr. Bligen's senior citizens program enlivened the daily routine for so many residents in the Sumter community. Dr. Busby's imagination, determination, and faith continue to forge a path toward the fulfillment of the Church mission of "To know God's will and to do it" as we continue to be about "Praying and Living by Faith".

Words of Thanks and Encouragement ***from Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby, Pastor***

My motto: "For it is by grace... it is a gift of God... so no one can boast." -Ephesians 2:8-9

I am the Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby a retired minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). For 30 plus years, I have strived to serve faithfully as pastor to several churches within the denomination. Currently, I am joyfully serving as the Supply Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Sumter. Oh, what an amazing joy! I wish to say **THANKS** to Second for their unconditional love, faithful support, and fervent prayers always.

On behalf of the Second Presbyterian Church Officers, members, and many friends, I welcome you to our 145th Church Anniversary/2025 Homecoming Celebration. We are happy and blessed to have you celebrate with us on this glorious day. We, at Second, are striving daily, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be about the business of "Praying and Living by Faith."

Hebrews 11:1... "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

On November 01, 2022, Leah Hall penned/spoke these words: "Sometimes it can be tough to be thankful for the little things, especially in hard times. But here's the funny thing about thankfulness. Once we begin counting our blessings, we often discover that we have a glorious plenty after all. It's simply the change in perspective from dwelling on what we lack to focusing on what we have."

Praying and Living by Faith, I wholeheartedly agree with these simple but pondering words. We are living in challenging and soul-searching time. In other words, we are living in hard times. I don't have to give a litany of the many things that have moved us to tears of despair and laments of anguish. Even though we are facing adversity on every side and our (God's) people are suffering on every hand, we must remember that we are a people of resilience. According to 1 Peter 2:9, we are a "chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." Therefore, let us keep "praying and living by faith."

Throughout the Bible, we are told that "the faithful are called to give thanks to God for everything", the good and the not so good. Why? Because we believe and trust that God is working things out for our good and God's glory (Romans 8:28). While not denying that we are facing harsh realities at this time, I invite you to take another look around. Look! Not only should we look, but let us listen to Jesus' message to John when he asked, "Are you the One"?

According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus' response was to tell the disciples to go back and report to John what they had seen and heard—the blind seeing, the lame walking, the deaf hearing, and the dead being raised (Matthew 11:2-6; Luke 7:18-23). Look around! What do you see? Listen! What do you hear Jesus saying to you?

Friends, on this 2025 Homecoming Celebration, "Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (Psalm 95:2). Let us continue to be about the business of "Praying and Living by Faith" trusting God to work things out for our good and God's glory. God is faithful! Be thankful! Be encouraged! Amen.

Our Homecoming Preacher for 2025

Reverend Dr. Franklin D. Colclough, Sr.

Dr. Colclough is the son of the late Elder Harry P. Colclough, Sr., and Pauline Tomlin Colclough. He was raised in the faith at Westminster Presbyterian Church near Alcolu, S.C. While in high school, he felt called to the ministry and prepared himself for full-time service immediately after graduation.

He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and at age 25, he was called to serve as senior pastor of Carmel Presbyterian Church in Chester, SC. He was later called to serve as senior pastor of the Goodwill Presbyterian Church in Mayesville, SC, where he served for sixteen and a half years. For 23 years, he served as Associate Executive Presbyter of New Harmony Presbytery. During his years of ministry with the Presbytery, he also served as Head of Staff and Stated Clerk, the administrative head and spiritual leader for 70 churches with over 10,000 members. He was honorably retired after 42 years of service to the church. He continues to serve the church as a preacher, counselor, and consultant. Currently, he serves as the Supply Pastor at Harmony Presbyterian Church in Alcolu, SC, and Cousar Memorial Presbyterian Church in Bishopville, SC.

Dr. Colclough served as a Military Chaplain in the United States Army Reserve for 26 years and retired with the rank of Colonel after a distinguished career. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was the first African American to serve as Staff Chaplain for the 120th Army Reserve Command at Ft. Jackson, SC, where he supervised 12 junior chaplains and served as the senior chaplain for more than 5,000 Army Reserve Soldiers in North and South Carolina. Dr. Colclough is a member of the Military Officers Association and a lifetime member of the Reserve Officers Association.

Dr. Colclough graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in French and minoring in Psychology. He also earned a Master of Divinity from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at ITC, Atlanta, GA, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. Additionally, he completed military training at the Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Honors include the Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary Distinguished Preacher Award, the Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Man of the Year Award. He has traveled to share the gospel in Northern India, Zimbabwe, and Israel/Palestine.

He was married to the late Edelle Segars Colclough, and together they have four children, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

His favorite scripture: *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain."* 2 Cor. 15:10.

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Order of Service
Deacon Sharon B. McQuiller, Liturgist

Musical Prelude Mr. Sean Jones

Gathering and Welcome Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby
Lighting of the Memorial Candle

Call to Worship (Responsively) Deacon Sharon McQuiller

L: On this day, our 145 Homecoming Celebration, we gather as a community of faith.

P: Here we are, praying and living by faith. What a wonderful day to worship!

L: Each of us brings something to worship – we bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be. We remember our past, embrace our present and look to the future by faith.

P: Praying and living by faith, we bring prayers of hope, and laments of anguish. We bring our voices, our offerings, our questions, and ourselves. Here we are to worship!

ALL: We bring all this to God who is faithful. Friends, God is here mighty and merciful, gracious, and just, trustworthy, and true, loving and kind. Since we have gathered let us, experience God's faithfulness, and God's gift of forgiveness. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

L: Hear and believe the good news! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Amen! Let us worship the Triune God who is faithful.

Hymn of Praise The Congregation
"Great Thy Faithfulness"

Morning Prayer Elder Leroy Copeland

History of Second Presbyterian Church Elder Thelma McBride

Special Music Second Inspirational Choir

Special Greetings:

Presbytery of New Harmony (Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk) Rev. Gavin Meek

Synod of South Atlantic (Past Moderator) Elder Jackie Rembert

Special Music Melina Combined Choir

The Scripture Readings:

Lamentations 3:22-26 Mr. Alfred Humes

Romans 5:1-5 Dyanna Toney

Hebrews 11: 1-3 & 6 Deacon Alesia Gregory Smith

Introduction of Speaker Elder David Singleton

Special Music Harmony Presbyterian Choir

Message Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Colclough
"An Infinite Hope"

Prayer for the People Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Colclough

Ministry of Tithes and Offerings The Ushers

Music From Other Churches
(One Selection)

Financial Report and Prayer Elder Rosetta Moses
Elder Dorothy McBride

***Doxology** The Congregation

Remarks Deacon Alfred Humes
Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby

The Affirmation of Faith (Unison) Excerpts from "Confession of 1967"

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

Gloria Patri

Closing Hymn Mr. Sean Jones
"Let the Church Say Amen"

Benediction and Blessing of the Meal Rev. Dr. Ella F. Busby

Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

If you must leave before the end of the service, please go by and get a meal.

Thanks for your presence, prayers, and support.

2025 Homecoming Committee

Deacon Alfred Humes, Chairperson Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby, Ex=officio
Deacon Willie Bradley Elder Thelma McBride Ruth Williams Ola M. Young
All Members and YOU

Notes