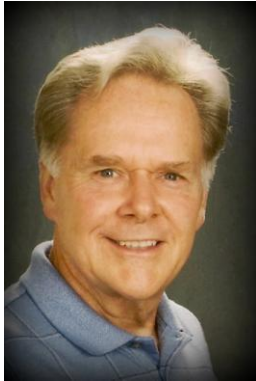


SAINT TO SAINT.... *The Christian Citizen*



July 4th ... On that day this year Americans celebrate 235 years as a free people. The Fourth today is an occasion to shoot off fireworks proclaiming, "Mission Accomplished!", yet the independence the Continental Congress "declared" that day marked just the beginning of a tumultuous history to forge and preserve those rights.

For many, if not most of those leaders who sought to form "a more perfect union," the desire for political freedom was coupled with a fervent desire also to be able to practice and live out one's faith without fear of constraint or persecution. Although historians suggest that the colonists collectively were far from being a "Christian Nation," it is also clear that for many of those Founding Fathers and Mothers, their Christian faith helped them to cast a vision of the new nation as much as their democratic ideals.

Today, as we celebrate the Fourth, as people of faith, we're reminded that we too hold a kind of "dual citizenship" – as both proud citizens of the "US of A" and humble servants in the Kingdom of God. While Scripture encourages us to honor and respect those who govern us (1 Peter 2, Romans 13:1-7), God's Word also lifts up the models of the prophets and Jesus who protested injustice and lifted up the cause of the defenseless. Loud voices from some sections of the Christian community suggest that this means taking sides on subjects like gay marriage, abortion rights and prayer in public schools.

These are important issues deserving our study and energy, but as followers of Jesus, we must concern ourselves too with questions like the fairness of health care and government budgets, preserving a healthy environment (for all citizens of the world, not just Americans), how our trade policies affect both Americans and citizens of developing countries and how young people of all races and socio-economic groups can share in the same opportunities to pursue "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

On this coming Sunday, July 3, in my message, *A Question of Dual Citizenship*, we'll consider the inspiring words of both Scripture and our great national documents as they continue to cast a vision of new life and opportunity that has yet to be fully realized. Whether you're able to be with us or not, however, I challenge you to think of yourself as a "Christian Citizen," staying informed, communicating with your elected representatives, voting in elections and, wherever you find yourself, continuing to ask and answer that toughest of questions, *What would Jesus do?*

I close with a quote from a recent article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (6/20/11) by Laura Lafayette, CEO of the Richmond Association of Realtors, reflecting on the intersection of faith and public life. Although it speaks specifically to business leaders, I believe its principle challenges us all: "The world of business is neither isolated nor insulated from the rest of the world. Because of this, business leaders possess ample opportunities to bring about transformative change, especially in the greater community that surrounds their company. In fact, I would suggest that people of faith who are leaders in the business world have a theological imperative to recognize that the world is not as it was created and intended to be, to identify the changes needed to bring about healing and wholeness, and to work without ceasing for change that transforms lives." If you and I seek to live this out, imagine what a different world it would be!

Together with you in ministry,

MARK S.

CLERK'S CORNER
JULY 2011

The session had their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, with the Rev. Mark Sprowl moderating. Items approved were:

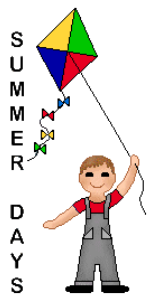
- The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church approves the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended in the PCUSA Book of Order as its transitional manual effective July 10, 2011. Current administrative procedures will apply, and where they don't, the old Book of Order will be used.
- Jennifer Hauser will receive a going away gift to show the church's appreciation for the fine job she has done.
- Julie Jacobs will be hired as our new church secretary effective July 5, 2011.
- Vacation (July 4-10, and August 7-20) and study leave (Oct. 23-29) for Rev. Sprowl.
- No Session Meeting in August.
- Create a line item for a New Sound System (sanctuary) in the Designated Gifts Fund.
- Rent a bucket truck (not to exceed \$250) to repair soffit and fascia boards.

Verne Smith, Clerk

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

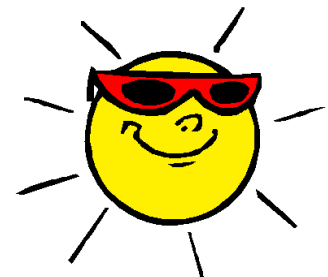
VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Members of the Camp Hanover staff will be leading our children in Vacation Bible Camp, July 5-8, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, at the church. Registration is now closed for the camp, but we ask that you pray for the counselors and their young charges as they have fun and learn about Jesus together. Special thanks to Tara Foster, event liaison, Evelyn Foster and Patsy Johnson who have helped to make this outreach to our community possible.



FACILITIES

Facilities would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer! Please remember that even though summer is a time for relaxation and vacations, Gregory's Facilities Committee will remain busy and as always we need your help to keep our facility in tip-top shape!



MISSIONS



Missions will be collecting during the month of July for our troops. Boxes will be provided to place your items in. The last day will be July 31st.

The **Blanket Project** - is on-going, but checks will be mailed periodically. If you would like to make a donation, please do so at any time. \$5.00 is a **Gift of Security** to those in need. When you **need** a gift for someone, please remember our cards sell for \$5.00 and you are giving a gift to someone telling them a blanket has been donated in their name. This is truly two special gifts in one.

PRAYER GROUP meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at GMPC at 3:30 pm. Prayer is a vital part of each of our lives and God expects us to pray for each other. If you have prayer concerns, please see Dianne, Marquita, or call the church office. You are welcome to join us any time.



RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to form a Disaster Team from Gregory. Training is free and would be beneficial to all. As soon as we get a team formed we will schedule the training dates. Be sure to see Sandy or Dianne to have your name added to the list. Thank You!

WORK CAMP – July 18-22, 2011. Our youth will be working at 1534 Halifax St. Petersburg this year. The following groups will be feeding lunch each day. Monday, Evening Circle; Tuesday, Facilities; Wednesday, Day Circle (11am); Thursday, Outreach; and Friday, Missions. Be sure to visit and see the work that they are doing. All are invited to the **Wrap-up Service** which will be Saturday morning the 24th at 8:30 am at the Colonial Heights Middle School.

Our **SPECIAL OFFERINGS** this month are Five Cents a meal – July 24th and the Emergency Aid - July 31st. These two offerings go towards helping those who are hungry.

OUTREACH

Your Outreach committee has been busy welcoming visitors with our protocol. Thank you to the congregation for your warm Gregory welcomes to them on Sunday mornings. We have heard favorable comments from visitors about how friendly our church family is. This is so very important as a first impression of our church.

Just a reminder for everyone to save October 1 from 10am-2pm for *Community Day*. Plans are well under way and Outreach welcomes any ideas or help from the congregation. Please share with any of our committee --- Brenda, Marquita, Donna, Lisa, Dick & Joan, and Judy. More information TBA.



Exciting News!!!!!! We are in the process of up-grading the Gregory website and seek the help of the congregation in accomplishing a first rate product. Committees, groups etc are asked to provide a write-up about their group focusing on agenda, purpose, upcoming events etc. Pictures are welcomed, too. The deadline for this information is July 15th. Any questions, call Judy at 458-3580. Larry Johnson has very kindly consented to overseeing this important up-grade. It has been proven how necessary it is to have an outstanding, informative website in attracting new people. This can be the deciding factor for many people in selecting a church to visit. Of course its success also will depend upon all of us keeping the information correct and current. Thanks to all, in advance, for your assistance.

Outreach asks for your prayers for Dick Mann as he recuperates from too many surgeries in too short of a time.

WORSHIP

NEW HOURS BEGINNING JULY 3. Worship will begin at 10:00 am and Sunday School will begin at 9:15 am. I hope you get to church on time. Man, I would be embarrassed if I forgot. Someone should probably call me in case I have a senior moment! We will have a very special time in our service for communion on July 3. The Worship Committee will not be meeting in July. Have a wonderful July with your vacations and time spent with family and friends. Love and thanks to all of you. Call me if anything comes up for our committee. Jerry Bond - 804-458-0287

WORSHIP IN JULY

SUNDAY, JULY 3 – On this Sunday where we celebrate both our national heritage and the impact faith can make upon our world, Rev. Sprowl considers the role of the “Christian Citizen” in his message, *A Question of Dual Citizenship*. To prepare, read Matt. 22:34-40, 1 Peter 2:17, Micah 6:6-8. We will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Note that the time for worship changes to 10:00 am through August.



SUNDAY, JULY 10 – Rev. Beverly Bullock will be our guest preacher.

SUNDAY, JULY 17 – We commission the youth and adults who will represent us as Workcamp this year. Rev. Sprowl offers words of encouragement in his message, *For Youth and Other Travelers*. Read Philippians 4:4-9 to prepare.

SUNDAY, JULY 24 – Anyone here with friends or family who seem to have taken a wrong turn in life and might even, in a sense, be “lost.” The Lord yearns that those far away and lost might return. In his message, *Good News for the Lost*, Rev. Sprowl reflects on the story of “The Prodigal Son” and the grace of God for each of us. Read Luke 15:1-32 to prepare.

SUNDAY, JULY 31 – It’s foundational to our faith that Jesus was crucified on a cross for our sin, but what does he mean that we too have a “cross” to take up. Rev. Sprowl considers this next phase of Christian discipleship in his message, *Christianity 201*. Read Mark 8:27-38 to prepare. The Men’s Summer Choir will sing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORKCAMP 2011

Workcamp is the annual opportunity for Gregory youth and adults to join teams from other churches in the Tri-Cities area to help make a difference in the lives of those in need. The dates Gregory will participate this year are Sunday, July 17 – Saturday, July 23.

Each weekday of Workcamp the youth and adults will travel to specific sites and work to renovate and restore homes. While the main task is “work,” the team benefits also from getting to know the residents they are helping. Evenings include times for fellowship, Bible study and de-briefing about the day’s experience. The week culminates with the “Re-Entry Celebration” at Colonial Heights Middle School at 8:30 am Saturday morning.

Gregory members and friends can support our Workcamp team in a number of ways: (1) pray for their safety and personal fulfillment during the week; (2) help to prepare lunches through the various groups within the church who are doing this (see “Missions” article); send a letter to individual youth at Workcamp 2011, P.O. Box 1761, Petersburg, VA 23805; (3) visit the Workcamp site by first checking in at the Workcamp Base, Colonial Heights Middle School, 500 Conduit Road, Colonial Heights (individuals under the age of 21 must be accompanied by a member of the Workcamper’s family or a church member over 21); and (4) attend the “Re-Entry Celebration” at Colonial Heights Middle School at 8:30 am Saturday morning.

We will “commission” our Workcamp group during worship on Sunday, July 17. The Workcamp team will share about their work and how it has touched them in a worship service later in the year. In a letter from the Workcamp director, Connie Romaine, she writes, “Thank you so much for sharing your teens and adults with us... It is our vision that through hammering and sweating... listening and celebrating, that your folks will return to you with full hearts and many new expressions of God’s goodness.” Lord, may it be so!

INTERIM PASTOR ON VACATION

Rev. Sprowl will be on vacation July 4-10. He actually will also be taking off July 11 that week and working on Friday which is usual day off. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office or a member of our Congregational Care Committee, Glenda Mayhew, 458-7682 or Marguerite Bishop, 541-3101.

NEW SECRETARY BEGINS JULY 5

Jennifer Hauser will be leaving as our church secretary effective June 30. She and her family are moving to Southampton County so that her husband might take advantage of employment opportunities there. Please keep Jennifer and her family in your prayers during this time of transition. While we will miss Jennifer, we are pleased that Julie Jacobs will be joining our staff as secretary beginning Tuesday, July 5.



Julie and her family are new to the area. Her husband is an instructor at Fort Lee, and they have two teenage children. While Julie has not worked for a church before, she has considerable experience in insurance, finance and retail offices. Like Jennifer, she will work Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. She is excited about her opportunity to work at Gregory and looks forward to meet you.

PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES MEETS

Well over 200 Presbyterians from many congregations met at the Brandermill Church on June 21 at one of the three meetings of the Presbytery of the James held each year. At the meeting, three candidates were examined and approved for ordination (after hearing their sermons). Also, a proposed change to the Presbyterian Book of Confessions was considered: the addition of the Belhar Confession, a statement from the church in South Africa against racial division. After much debate, its inclusion was voted down by the Presbytery. (Nationally, it was approved by a majority of presbyteries, but it did not receive the necessary 2/3 vote required to change the Book of Confessions.) Mark Sprowl and Jerry Bond attended from Gregory.

SCHEDULE CHANGE – Beginning next Sunday, July 3, worship will begin at 10:00 am and Sunday School will begin at 9:15 am.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – The church office will be closed this Friday, July 1 as we transition secretaries and Monday, July 4 in observance of the holiday.

MEN'S CHOIR - Gregory men are invited to sing some fun traditional tunes in worship on Sunday, July 31. We'll have a brief practice each Sunday at 10:30 am in the choir room.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Dick Mann
Christine Belsches
Helen Cibula
Aida Faries
Alan Foster
June Hawks
Marian McDonald
Peggy Surfield

Mathew Mauger
Katherine Tompkins
Agnes Bauer (*Riverview*)
Marie Allen (*Dennis Allen's mother*)
Tammy Pelter (*Gladys Vtipil's niece*)
Mary Chadwick (*Dink Armstrong's sister*)
Mila Campen (*Ronnie Hartsell's grandmother*)
Virginia Mika (*Sister of Grace and Helen Cibula*)



THOSE WHO SERVE IN JULY

CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

“Teaching Christian Values for Life”



DATE	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>JUNIOR SERMON</u>	<u>JUNIOR CHURCH</u>
7-03-11	Debra Bailey	Pat Hunter	Patsy Johnson
7-10-11	Ruby Spain	Rev. Mark Sprowl	Valerie Harsh / Pam Harsh
7-17-11	Robbi Foster	Mary Kay Schroeter	Susan Walker / Madison Foster
7-24-11	Glenda Mayhew	Valerie Harsh	Morgan Ingram / Josh Ingram
7-31-11	Debra Bailey	Susan Walker	Jennifer Smyth / Jared Smyth

JULY	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
USHERS	Gladys Wiseman Verne Smith Debra Bailey Rose Scott	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Mary Holc Doug Holc	Valerie Harsh Pam Harsh Jerry Bond Sissy Smith	Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter
ANNOUNCMENTS	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
COUNTING	Donald Hunter Evelyn Lichvar	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Verne Smith Rose Scott

Flowers

03- Volunteer needed
10- Volunteer needed
17- Rose Scott
24- Bobby Allen
31- Volunteer needed



JULY GATEKEEPER

Bobby Allen
691-3337





JULY 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				7pm-Choir	Office Closed 1	2
3 Communion 9:15am Sun.School 10am Worship	4 Office Closed 	5 9am-3pm Day Camp 12:30pm Day Circle 6pm Cong. Care 7pm Facilities	6 9am-3pm Day Camp	7 9am-3pm Day Camp 2-8pm Volunteer Cleaning 6:30pm-S&F	8 9am-3pm Day Camp	9
10 9:15am Sun.School 10am Worship	11 Noon Widows 2pm Line Dance 6pm Christian Ed. 6:30pm Missions	12 6:30pm P&O 7:30pm Evening Circle	13 Committee Reports Due	14 6pm Line Dance	15	16
17 9:15am Sun.School 10am Worship Minute for Missions Work Camp	18 2pm Line Dance Work Camp	19 7pm Session Meeting Work Camp	20 Work Camp	21 2-8pm Volunteer Cleaning Work Camp	22 Work Camp	23 8:30am Closing Work Camp
24 9:15am Sun.School 10am Worship 5 cents A Meal	25 2pm Line Dance 3:30pm Prayer Group	26	27 Newsletter Articles Due	28 6pm Line Dance	29	30
31 9:15am Sun.School 10am Worship Emergency Aid Offering	<p><i>My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!</i></p> <p><i>~ Thomas Jefferson</i></p> 					



**Beginning Sunday, July 3,
we will worship at 10:00 am.**

Sunday School will begin at 9:15 am.

We return to our regular schedule on Sunday, September 11.

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182
Prince George, VA 23875-0182



COME JOIN US!!