

OCTOBER ISSUE

2011



Gladys Wiseman, Christine Belsches,
H.F. Scott and Katherine Tompkins.

GREGORY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS!

On Sunday, September 11, Gregory celebrated 60 years as a chartered Presbyterian Church. While the congregation had ministered in Prince George since 1887, it was on September 16, 1951 that the church severed its ties to 2nd Church Petersburg and called its first pastor, the Rev. Frank Lemmon (who also served Rosewood Presbyterian Church.)

Fifty-three members joined in 1951, some of whom had grown up at Gregory; others transferred from other churches. Of that number, five are still active at Gregory. Those five are Christine Belsches, Elizabeth and H.F. Scott, Katherine Tompkins, and Gladys Wiseman. At worship on the 11th, we celebrated the faithful service of those folks, and all were able to be present except for Elizabeth Scott.

During a recognition ceremony, Christine, H.F., Katherine and Gladys shared brief thoughts about the passing of those decades, and they renewed their membership vows. The congregation renewed its support of these longest-serving members with the words, "We promise to support and pray for these, our charter members, to listen to their wise counsel and to give thanks for their faithful service to this congregation and to their Lord!" and a standing ovation of thanksgiving. Verses from the familiar hymns, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and "The Church's One Foundation" were sung as they were at the original chartering ceremony.

BACK-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY MEANT FUN, IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE!

September 11 also marked, "Back to Church Sunday" for Sunday School participants. It began with a delicious brunch served up by members of the Christian Education Committee. Mark Sprowl then led singing "This Little Light of Mine" and other favorites followed by Bible-inspired games.



Based on the TV show, "Bible Jeopardy" tested knowledge of Bible "people," "places," "things," and "animals." We had four-way tie for winner. Several Sunday School students found their "inner" Kermit or Miss Piggy as they pantomimed movements of animal hand puppets for an interpretation of the last days on Noah's ark. The morning ended with a fast-and-furious construction of Duplo projects for the "Terrible, Teetering Tower of Babel Contest." In the picture, the game master measures the height of the winning entry, but all were congratulated for the building prowess and reminded that the actual winners in the Bible's "Tower of Babel" got to learn a new foreign language!

Special thanks for a fun morning to Mark Sprowl for musical leadership and games, to Tara Foster for securing the prizes and to Velma Allen, Dink Armstrong, Evelyn & Tara Foster, Pat and Sandy Hunter, Patsy Johnson and Mary Kay Schroeter for organizing the great breakfast!

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM NEEDS LEADERS

Beginning January, 2012, Gregory will be using a new children's Sunday School curriculum, *Rock Solid*. Chosen from among several possibilities, Rock Solid is biblical, engaging for children and has many helps for the teacher. It offers learning at several different levels making it possible for children of different age groups to be included in the same class. Those who've helped out with "Jr. Church" will recognize the quality of the program as it's a version of what we've been using with the younger children during the worship time.

In order to maintain some continuity in the program and make it easier for our teachers, we are asking teachers to teach only for one month at a time, 9:45 – 10:30 am on Sunday mornings. Class size varies from one to six on a given Sunday morning. Interpretative assistance for the teacher is also available. Some teachers have already volunteered but we need more to make good on that vow we make to support children and parents when the children are baptized.

Prayerfully consider whether you could help to nurture our children for one to two months a year, and call Evelyn Foster, CE Chairperson at 733-6499.



TAKE A CHOIR TEST DRIVE!

Although it may be hard to believe after having heard the dulcet tones of our choir... but there are no choir auditions... many choir members cannot "read" music... and most choir members came to choir practice without having someone in the pew in front of them on the previous Sunday turn around and say, "My you have a lovely voice! You ought to sing in the choir!"

What is true about the choir is that most folks who come to practice and sing with their friends find enjoyment if not fulfillment and stick around to sing the Lord's praise week after week! Give us a "test drive" and find this out for yourself! The choir is beginning to practice music for the Christmas season, and you are invited to join us for the first 30 minutes of rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm when we'll be practicing it. At that point, you're welcome to stay to practice the next Sunday's choir then or leave. Christmas music, not surprisingly, will be sung on Sundays in December.

So catch the spirit of the season and join us in the choir!

INTERIM PASTOR ON STUDY LEAVE

Rev. Sprowl will be attending a continuing education event at Montreat, North Carolina, October 23 – 29. If you have an emergency pastoral concern during that time, please call the church office or members of the Congregational Care team, Glenda Mayhew, 458-7682, or Marguerite Bishop, 541-3101.

ALL THINGS PRESBYTERIAN!

Mark Sprowl continues his provocative *Presbyterian 101* class lifting the veil on the mysteries of the Presbyterian Church! Remaining class sessions are as follows: October 2 – *Presbyterian Worship and Understanding of the Sacraments*; October 9 – *Presbyterian Church Organization: A Connected and Ordered Church*; October 16 – *Are We Really Predestined? and Other Distinctly Presbyterian Questions of Faith*. Meets Sundays at 9:45 am in the Parlor.



"FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE GENERATIONS" 2010 STEWARDSHIP FOCUS

This year, as we both celebrate our 60th anniversary as a chartered Presbyterian congregation and anticipate giving thanks next year for 125 fruitful years since the church's inception in 1887, we would do well to recall the words of the Psalmist... *For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.* (Psalm 100:5)

Indeed, generations of Gregory members *can* attest to the Lord's faithfulness and blessing. And, importantly, we today benefit from their faithful response through the years to the Lord's blessing, giving generously of their time,

talent and treasure. The Stewardship and Finance Committee invites us to follow their example of "Faithfulness Through the Generations."

In the next few weeks, through the newsletter and worship, through fellowship events and special communications, the Committee will seek to lift up ways in which all of us can build upon the efforts of previous generations to minister in the Lord's name in Prince George and beyond.

We ask you to put on your calendar now the evening of Thursday, October 20. At 6:30 pm, we'll meet for dinner and have an opportunity to hear the Rev. Charlie Summers, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Richmond. Charlie has had a heart for helping others to become faithful stewards for many years, speaking before the Presbytery of the James and other groups, and is excited to share his insights with you.

Even now we ask your prayers for that event and for Rev. Summers and for all Gregory members and friends as we continue to seek to discern ways in which we can respond as faithful stewards to a loving God. – *Mark Sprowl* for the Stewardship and Finance Committee

CLERK'S CORNER OCTOBER 2011

The Session had their regular scheduled monthly meeting on September 20th. The following action items were approved:

1. The Church Information Form (CIF) to be sent for publication on the internet to start the search for a full-time minister for Gregory.
2. Matt McAllister to replace Tracy Pierce as a parent on the preschool board.
3. Organize and present to the congregation "Operation Christmas Child".
4. Distribute two Thanksgiving dinners to two families.
5. To have an Angel Tree for two families at Christmas.
6. Use the profits from Community Day (except for 50% of the bake sale) for a permanent church sign.
7. Replace the temporary church sign with a new one (donated by a member).
8. Visitors Sunday on November 13th.
9. Regular 11 o'clock service on Sunday, December 25th (Christmas day), but no Sunday School.
10. Christmas Eve service will be held at 6 PM.
11. Use Rock Solid curriculum for 2012 One Room Sunday School.
12. Mary Kay Schroeter for Sunday School Superintendent beginning January 2012.

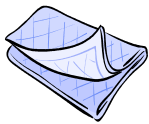
Verne Smith, Clerk

FACILITIES

The Facilities Committee would like to thank all those who lent a helping hand after hurricane Irene. You are all greatly appreciated! There will be a Church Workday on Oct 22, beginning with breakfast at 8:00 am. All willing to come and help are welcome! Facilities Committee is always looking for folks to volunteer to help or to join our committee. If interested in either, contact Bobby Allen, 458-5877.



MISSIONS



The **Blanket Project** - is on-going, but checks will be mailed periodically. If you would like to make a donation, please do so any time.

RED CROSS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS – Training has been scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2011 in the fellowship hall. The training will begin at 6:30pm. If you have not officially signed up and would like to volunteer, please feel free to come.



CCHASM THANKSGIVING PROGRAM 2011 – Volunteers needed to package dinners



CCHASM
ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY

- All volunteers must be at least 12 years of age. Each child under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who will stay with the child throughout the Volunteer process (1 adult per child).
- Individuals wishing to Volunteer should come to the Hopewell VFW on:
 - Saturday November 12th from 9 am to 4 pm (sorting and packing food items)
 - Sunday November 13th from 9 am to 4 pm (sorting and packing food items)
 - Monday November 14th from 8 am to 7 pm (package distribution and distribution to Homebound.
- Volunteers need to go to the CCHASM volunteer Desk when they arrive and will be asked to sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement prior to Volunteering (agreement will be available at the desk during the event)
- Please keep your belongings with you at all times. CCHASM is not responsible for any lost or stolen property
- Any question, please call Sharon or Helen at CCHASM 804-796-3715 or e-mail at: Sharon@cchasm.org or Helen@cchasm.org

BULL HILL ROAD BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: Come One – Come All! Our service to the Community with our helping hands. OCTOBER 15TH at 8:45 am. Bring gloves and a grabber.



Special Offerings for October:

Peacemaking Offering – Oct. 2nd - supports peacemaking ministries at GMPC and throughout the world
Five Cents a Meal – Oct. 23rd - to feed the hungry
Emergency Aid – October 30th – This money is given to CCHASM to serve families in need who are residents of Prince George County.

THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS

OUTREACH



Thanks to all those who are participating in NIFTY FIFTIES! Since I am writing this note before the event, I can only generalize about it. Much publicity has gone out. There will be something for everyone. There are community agencies, SRMC mini health fair, bake sale, white elephant sale, Brunswick stew sale, Gregory's Steppin' Out line dancers, petting zoo, food & drink, root beer floats, PG Fire Dept. Safety House, the Bloodmobile, classic cars, vendors and crafters. Highlighting our event will be the appearance of Elvis impersonator extraordinaire, Sterling Riggs. You do not want to miss this performance at 1pm. Come and participate in the best dressed 50's contest with your poodle skirt, ducks and bucks. Fun for one and all!!



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Think about giving the gift of life and be a blood donor. Please remember your non-perishable food donation for the PG Food Bank. And most of all, come and enjoy yourself on October 1st!



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The Church Information Form (CIF) is complete and was approved by session at their meeting September 20th. Your committee is now ready to move on to the next phase of the process in seeking a new pastor for GMPC. The CIF now goes to the Committee on Ministry at Presbytery for approval. After that, it will be posted online for prospective candidates to view.

There is a matching process done by the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) matching our CIF with the Pastor Information Forms (PIF) from the prospective candidates. It is at this point that we begin receiving applications to review.



How can you help our committee in this task? Continue to pray for God's guidance of the PNC, that he will give us insight, vision, and wisdom to evaluate the candidates whose applications we receive. We firmly believe that God has chosen our next pastor, and that we only need to "weed through the garden" to find the one he has chosen. Proverbs 3:5 says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

WORSHIP

WORSHIP WANTS TO REMIND EVERYONE TO COME OUT TO COMMUNITY DAY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1! BRING YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR GREGORY MEMORIAL. PLEASE DO FEEL FREE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AS WELL IF YOU ARE ABLE, INCLUDING SAVING A LIFE BY GIVING BLOOD! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE!

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – In Jesus' day, many thought God's blessing was reserved for the rich and the righteous. That's why Jesus' pronouncement of blessing at the beginning of his "Sermon on the Mount" caused such a disturbance... and blessing the poor in spirit, the meek, those grieving, and ones seeking to make peace continues to raise eyebrows. Join Mark for his message, *Unexpected Blessings*, and read Matthew 4:23-5:12 to prepare. We will also join Christian churches around the world celebrating the Lord's Supper.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 – The words of Psalm 139 have been treasured by believers for their depiction of the Lord's intimate, loving connection with us... but they come with a purpose: to help us change! Hear God's promise of new possibilities in Mark's message, *The God Who Knows Us Grows Us*. Read Psalm 139 and John 1:43-51 to prepare.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 – We call Jesus a model for our lives, but sometimes his actions were a model of how to upset the powers-that-be. Spend a day with Jesus and see how leads us into unconventional behavior is Mark's message, *A Page from the Diary of God*. Read Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 to prepare.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 – Rev. Ann Cherry will be our guest preacher.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 – WORKCAMP SUNDAY – The adults and youth from this summer's Workcamp share their moving witness of the Spirit moving among the back streets of Petersburg and Colonial Heights.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Dick Mann	Katherine Tompkins
Christine Belsches	Marie Allen (<i>Dennis Allen's mother</i>)
Aida Faries	Tammy Pelter (<i>Gladys Vtipil's niece</i>)
June Hawks	Mary Chadwick (<i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i>)
Marian McDonald	Virginia Mika (<i>Sister of Grace & Helen Cibula</i>)
Peggy Surfield	Mathew Mauger
Helen Cibula	Donald Cousins (<i>friend of Glenda Mayhew's father</i>)



Double Puzzles

Unscramble the words, then transfer the numbered letters to the spaces below for each puzzle!

KESAH
9 14 6

ISNEO
15 4 10

WSRO
7 1 11

DFRO
16 18 13 5

NIDGO
19 12 2 17

SOLT
3 8

SEBTA
1 9 4 19

DARME
7 21

ESEY
3 18 12 5

LGDO
23 14 13 16

ROHNE
11 6 15 22

ROTCH
10 20 24

BMLA
2 17 8

C
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 4 19 20 21 22 23 10 24

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OCTOBER



CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

“Teaching Christian Values for Life”

Date	Nursery	Junior Sermon	Junior Church
Oct 2	Ruby Spain	Lisa Hartsell	Jennifer Smyth Jared Smyth
Oct 9	Robbi Foster	Rev. Sprowl	Rose Scott Pamela Harsh
Oct 16	Glenda Mayhew	Valerie Harsh	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Oct 23	Debra Bailey	Susan Walker	Mary Kay Schroeter Madison Foster
Oct 30	Ruby Spain	Pat Hunter	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter

OTHER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
USHERS	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Mary Holc Doug Holc	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie (Sissy) Smith	Wayne Powers Rose Scott Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond
ANNOUNCMENTS	Mary K. Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram David Johnson	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Ron Recher	Verne Smith Rose Scott	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter



FLOWERS

2-Volunteer Needed
9-The Hunters
16-Rose Scott
23-Volunteer Needed
30-Jean Waymack

OCTOBER
GATEKEEPER
Bobby Allen
691-3337



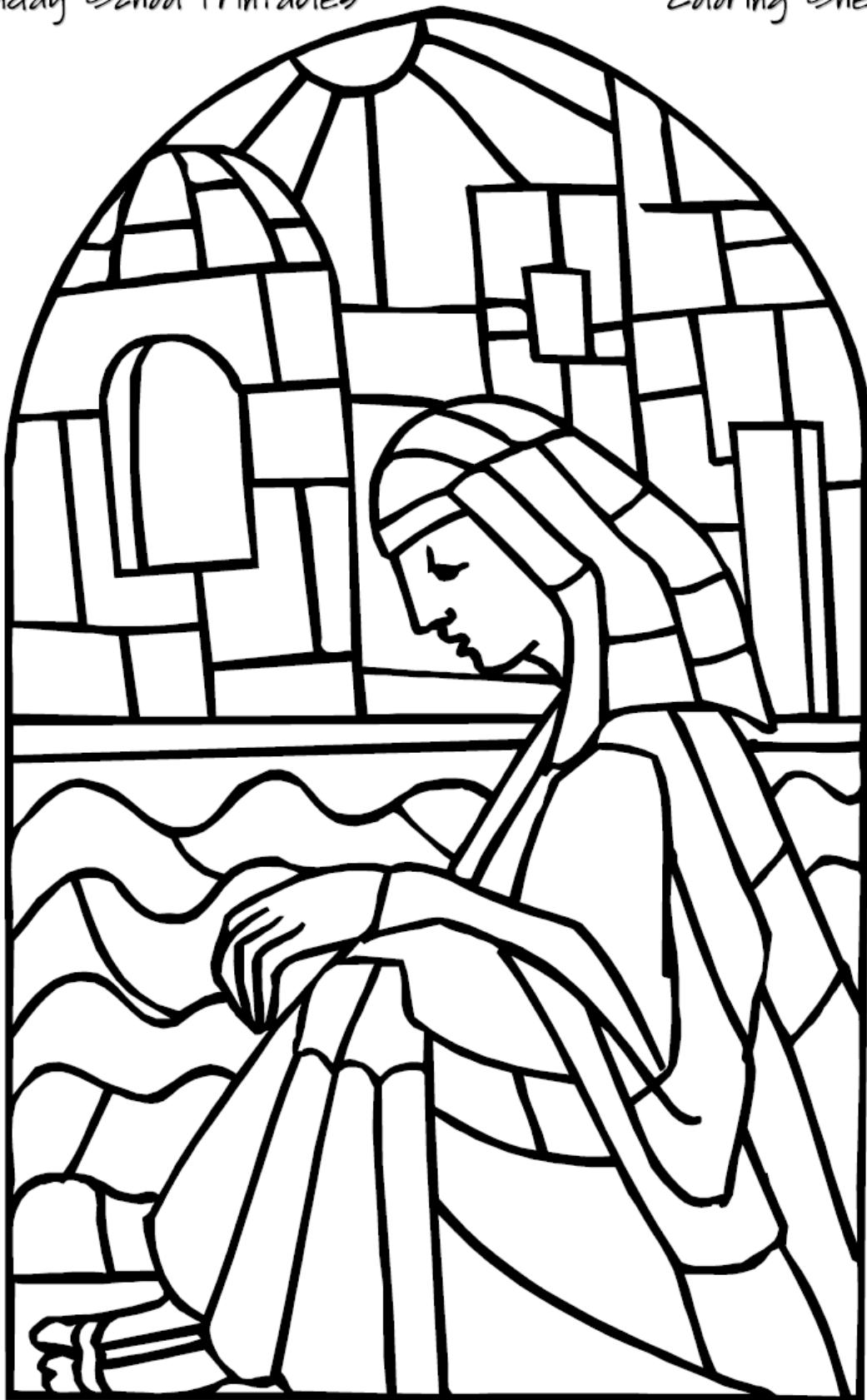
Volunteers
do not necessarily
have the time;
they just have the heart.



~Elizabeth Andrew

OCTOBER ~ 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						10am-3pm Community Day, Nifty 50's!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Peacemaking Offering	2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Missions & Outreach	12:30pm Day Circle 7:00pm Worship & Facilities	7:00pm Choir	6:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm S&F	Evening Wedding Rehearsal	Wedding Ceremony & Reception Turner/ Pillsbury
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	Noon Widows 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed 6:30pm Red Cross Training	7:30pm Evening Circle 6:30pm P&O	Committee Reports Due 7:00pm Choir	2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning		8:45am Bull Hill Rd. Clean-Up
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Minute for Missions	2:00pm Line Dancing	7:00pm Session Meeting	7:00pm Choir	6:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Stewardship Dinner		Workday Kitchen & Fellowship Hall Reserved for Valerie Harsh
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Guest Preacher 5 Cents-a- Meal	2:00pm Line Dancing		Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Choir	2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning Pre-School Fall Festival		
30	31					
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Emergency Aid Offering	2:00pm Line Dancing					



DON'T MISS

NIFTY 50'S!

Community Day

Saturday, October 1, 2011

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

White Elephant Sale - SRMC Mini Health Fair - Bloodmobile

Petting Zoo - Children's Fingerprinting - Bake Sale

Brunswick Stew Sale - PG Fire Department Safety House

Prizes for Best Dressed 50's Guy 'n' Gal & Hula Hoopin'

Bring non-perishable food items for PG Food Bank

Soft Drinks - and Other Good Eats at Mel's Diner

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



COME JOIN US!!