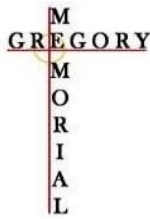


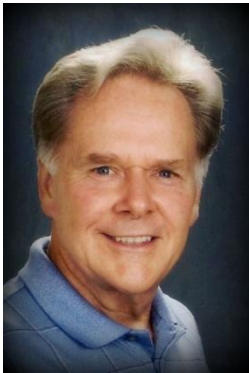
THE HERALD

May - 2012



Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
6300 Courthouse Road ~ P.O. Box 182
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gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net
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SAINT TO SAINT...

Well, our time to partner in ministry now comes to an end. As you'll read elsewhere, I leave you in the good hands of the Rev. Beverly Bullock, who many of you know and who will bridge the gap until the arrival of your new pastor sometime late summer or early fall (Join the Gregory pastoral arrival date pool! I understand a number of prime Sundays are still available!)

I believe I shared with you most of what was on my heart in my recent letter. I personally feel good about the ministry we have done together, and I hope that you may also have a sense of blessing in our relationship of these one-and-a-half years. But with minister types there always seems to be a little something more to say (you ever heard the old joke about the definition of an *optimist*: a man who puts on his hat to leave when the preacher announces, "And now for my final point...").

I promise, just a couple things... *Number One: Be very open to the minister who the Lord will call to Gregory through the discernment of your Pastor Nominating Committee.* The man or woman the Lord will be sending your way will be either freshly graduated from seminary or with some experience in ministry. He or she may be gifted in preaching and communication, in relating to children and youth, in administering the church, in reaching out to the community, in spiritual leadership or in possessing a great sense of humor... but not necessarily all at the same time!

None of us has it all, but hopefully he or she will find joy in the same kinds of ministry you and the Pastor Nominating Committee have discerned as being important for the spiritual and numerical growth of this congregation in the coming years. You likely hope your new pastor will be open to and accepting of you as a brother or sister in Christian; please return the favor by seeking to be open to and accepting of him or her as your new shepherd, and trust the Holy Spirit to do the rest!

Number Two: Give your relationship with your new pastor a chance to lay down roots and grow! As I contemplate foot surgery on May 8, I've been amazed at how my foot surgeon is doing all he can to optimize the healing of my foot through monitoring my vital signs and levels of growth hormones and having me eat the right foods to promote bone and muscle growth. Such proactive planning also forms the thrust of interim ministry: clearing the path of any impediment for the new pastor so that the relationship between new shepherd and flock will blossom and bear sweet fruit!

In order to ensure this new growth takes place, congregational relationships with former pastors and interim pastors must cease. To this end, I will not be available to make hospital visits or perform weddings or memorial services. This cessation of a vital relationship is difficult but necessary, and is required by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry so that the tender, new pastoral relationship may grow strong.

Still, as I leave I find I can do so with confidence believing the members and friends of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church to be in a good and healthy place to make a difference for our Lord in Prince George and beyond! Rest assured, both you and your new pastor will be in my prayers, and I look forward in the not-so-distant future to pointing to your accomplishments and exclaiming with pride, "Look, what those folks at Gregory are doing! You know, I was once interim pastor there!"

Continuing to be together with you in ministry... from afar!

Mark S.

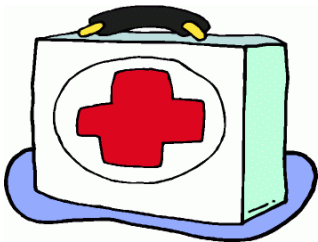
CLERK'S CORNER

May 2012

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 and the following items were approved...

- The hiring of Sarah Hanbury as church secretary.
- A change to the rules governing the election of the Congregational Nominating Committee to be recommended to the congregation.
- Permission was granted for the use of the kitchen and the fellowship hall by the Prince George Social Services Dept. for 6 one-hour classes for low-income adults during May and June.
- The hiring of Rev. Beverly Bullock as our temporary supply pastor beginning on May 7, 2012.

-David Johnson, Clerk of Session

**THEY CAME TO OUR (FIRST) AID!**

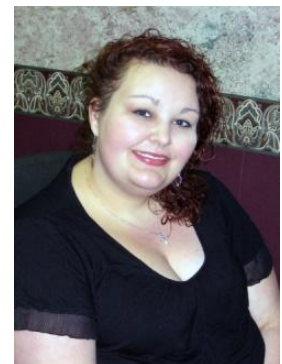
We're pleased to report that the First Aid Kit in the kitchen is up to date and full of supplies thanks to the concern and help of Facilities Chair Bobby Allen and Ruby Spain. Bobby tried to consult several sources as to what we have on hand, but it was Ruby with her medical background who procured "the right stuff" for Gregory! Thanks Bobby and Ruby!

WE WELCOME NEW SECRETARY!

Sarah Hanbury is our new secretary. Sarah is a Virginia native, born in Norfolk and raised in Amelia. She brings with her both experience as secretary/receptionist and as lead teacher in a daycare center. She is close to completing a Small Business Management AAS.

Sarah also has a daughter, Emileigh, 6, a son, Daniel, 3, and a cat named Little Bear. The Hanburys (minus Little Bear) were in worship with us on Sunday, April 22.

Sarah enjoys making jewelry and spending time with her family. Her hours are Wednesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Stop by and say, "Hi!"

**SPECIAL "CHILDREN'S CHURCH" FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

Each Sunday of the year, our Christian Education team offers "Children's Church" for our youngest worshippers to give them an opportunity to learn about faith in a setting appropriate for their age and interests. Once a month "Children's Church" is expanded to include all elementary age children.

In May, Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day, we will once again expand the program to have a special learning and crafts activity for ages 3-12. We hope the whole family will come to worship on May 13!

WELCOMING REV. BEVERLY BULLOCK!

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the Rev. Beverly Bullock who will serve as our temporary supply pastor beginning Monday, May 7. Hers is a familiar face around GMPC as she served here from May, 1999 through July, 2001. She is best remembered for her beaming personality and her dynamic sermons. When she said, "My mama said..." we perked up our ears to hear the words of wisdom!

Rev. Bullock's husband, Rev. Sylvester Bullock, is also a Presbyterian minister. Hopefully, we will see and hear him on occasion as he has a beautiful voice as well as a being a great speaker. They have two daughters, Cary and Sylvia, and four grandchildren. She is known as "Grandma BB" to the grandchildren.

Rev. Bullock commented that she has wonderful memories of serving at Gregory and feels blessed to return to serve our congregation at this time. She says it is a privilege to lead us into this new phase as we prepare to welcome a new installed pastor.

GOOD-BYE POTLUCK FOR REV. SPROWL – MAY 6

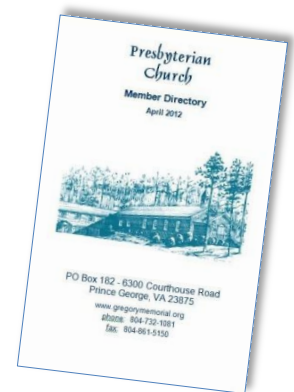
All are invited to a potluck immediately following worship on Sunday, May 6 to say farewell to Rev. Sprowl who leaves Gregory to have foot surgery. Please bring a casserole, side dish or dessert to share!

DRAFT OF NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

We are about to issue a new church membership directory, but we want it to be up-to-date with any last-minute changes. So... on Sundays, May 6 and 13, draft copies will be available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall so that you may check that your information is correct.

Please feel free to add mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses if you would like the church office or other members to know them. The directory is for the personal use of Gregory Church members and friends and the information in it is not distributed beyond the church or electronically.

If your phone or address has changed recently, you may want to contact the church office by phone or e-mail to ensure we have the latest information. With our assistance, we will be able to issue an accurate directory at the end of May.



UP TO DATE ON YOUR PLEDGE?

Gregory has made financial commitments to our staff, the maintenance of the church campus and the support of ministries beyond our walls based on the pledges turned in last year. Please make sure you're up to date on your pledge or planned giving, especially as we come to the season of vacations when worship attendance and the opportunity to put an offering envelope in the plate may not be as regular.

WONDERING WHAT'S UP AT THE CHURCH? CHECK OUT...

... *Gregory's website* at gregorymemorial.org! In addition to general information about ministry at the church, the site hosts an up-to-date calendar and a list of coming events. Also, the most recent copies of our worship bulletin and newsletter are available in Adobe Acrobat files. Many thanks to Larry Johnson for his careful shepherding of our site!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO MEET IN PITTSBURGH



The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the highest decision-making body of our denomination. Every two years representatives from all of the 173 presbyteries gather together to elect a moderator, bless missionaries, install seminary presidents, and act upon the many ideas that are brought from the presbyteries, often originating in congregations like ours.

This year the "GA" will meet in Pittsburgh, a region once identified by a former Princeton Seminary president, as "that place where Presbyterians are thickest," presumably referring to the large number of Presbyterians in Pennsylvania. Two years ago, the GA made big changes to the church's Constitution, the *Book of Order*, and some folks are trying to re-do the re-do. The weeklong session beginning June 30 promises to be an interesting discussion.

You can tune in to all the pomp and pageantry at our denomination's website, www.pcusa.org. Please keep those folks in your prayers. We Presbies need all the divine guidance we can get!

GREGORY SUPPORTS DIVERSE POJ MINISTRIES

A recent letter from General Presbyter Rev. Carson Rhyne, Jr. thanks our congregation for our support of the Presbytery of the James (unrestricted gift of \$4,400 for 2012 plus \$1,250 for specific ministries within the Presbytery) and highlights some priorities for the Presbytery for the current year. These include:



- Subsidizing Camp Hanover's 900 campers and several thousand retreaters in 2012.
- Helping 12-15 seminary students to pay for the seminary education.
- Purchasing the current Presbytery office building from Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Purchasing property for a new church development in Essex County.
- Packing 10,000 meals for the hungry at the June Presbytery meeting.
- Support of the new African Immigrant Fellowship at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

A diverse group of ministries reaching out with the love of Jesus that you support!

A THANK YOU FOR GREGORY MEMBERS

Christine Belsches wishes to thank her friends at Gregory for being so kind to her. She very much appreciates the cards, visits, love & prayers and delicious home cooked meals! Christine hopes to come to church soon.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS



In the last few months, the sanctuary roof has been replaced and leaky walls in the Fellowship Hall have been water-proofed which required the rebuilding of one set of stairs in the Education Building. These improvements are possible largely through the special gifts and bequests of Gregory members like you!

Many thanks to Facilities chairperson Bobby Allen and to other members of the Facilities committee for their shepherding of these special projects.



TWO NEW ELDERS TO BE ORDAINED

[Note: As of “press time” the ordination and installation was scheduled to take place Sunday, April 29]

Jennifer Smyth and Joan Mann will join Gregory’s Session in May as newly ordained and installed elders. They were elected by the congregation at a meeting in March and were trained in things Presbyterian in a special session Rev. Sprowl in April.

The two are scheduled to be “examined” by the Session as to their “personal faith, knowledge of the doctrine, government and discipline of the church, and duties of ministry” on April 29. They will be ordained (“set aside for special ministry”) and installed in a service of public worship. Within the rite of ordination, there is the “laying on of hands” where elders and ministers in attendance are invited to physically touch the candidates for ordination as a sign of the continuing blessing of the Holy Spirit

The Presbyterian Church takes its name from the Greek word for “elder.” “Ruling elders” compose the church’s Session along with the pastor who is called the “teaching elder.” The Session makes decisions about virtually all ministry at the church (except it can’t tell the minister what to preach on or what hymns to pick... so you know who to blame!)

At every level of government beyond the local church, the number of ruling and teaching elders is balanced pointing to the emphasis within the Presbyterian church that professional and lay leaders are equally called of God to lead the Church. Like all other Presbyterian elders, Joan and Jennifer will remain elders (even when not serving on the Session) until they meet their Maker or change denominations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

The holy day of Pentecost is often called the “birthday” of the Christian Church as it was on that occasion that the Holy Spirit caused Jesus’ disciples to leave the room where they’d been gathered and go into the streets and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

According to the Book of Acts, the Spirit came like “wind and fire.” The Apostle Peter preached his first sermon on Pentecost calling people to repentance and faith, and thousands confessed Jesus as Lord. On Sunday, May 27, Gregory will join millions of Christians around the world recalling that mighty day and seeking the renewal of the Spirit for the present moment... in the words of the hymn, “Spirit of the Living God... fall afresh on me!”



Pentecost Word Search

R E W O P C S M P M T F E S S
 B V S E L P I C S I D I C E Y
 T O N G U E S I G N S F N G M
 D N I W Z F I L L E D T E A B
 P E N T E C O S T X B I S U O
 F I R S T F R U I T S E E G L
 G N I R E F F O B U S T R N I
 H C R U H C N E V A E H P A Z
 Y R A N I D R O A R T X E L E
 D N U O S P I R I T F I R E D

church
 disciples
 extraordinary
 fiftieth
 filled
 fire
 firstfruits
 heaven
 languages



offering
 Pentecost
 power
 presence
 signs
 sound
 Spirit
 symbolized
 tongues
 wind



Those Who Serve - May 2012

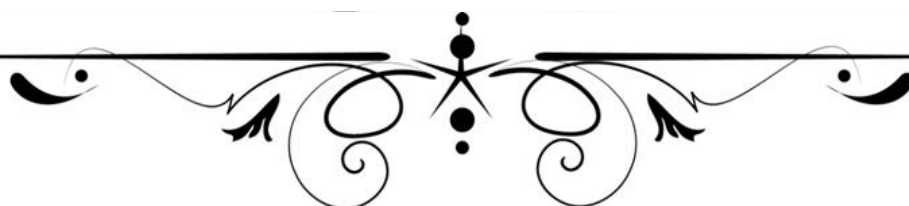
	MAY 6	MAY 13	MAY 20	MAY 27
Nursery	Debra Bailey	Ruby Spain	Robbi Foster	Glenda Mayhew
Junior Church	Kris Holliday, Max Holliday	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter	Susan Walker Jamie Meurer	Jessica Mauger Kevin Foster
Junior Sermon	Mary Kay Schroeter	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter	Lisa Hartsell	Valerie Harsh
Ushers	Valerie Harsh, Pamela Harsh, Jerry Bond, Debbie Smith	Wayne Powers, Glenda Mayhew, Marguerite Bishop, Dianne Overstreet	Keith Spain, Ruby Spain, Jacob Spain, Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen, Donna Allen, Velma Allen, Brenda Bond
Announcements	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter
Counting	David Johnson, Rose Scott	Donald Hunter, Glenda Mayhew	Ron Recher, Verne Smith	David Johnson, Evelyn Lichvar

Flowers for May
 20 - Bobby Allen
 27 - Rose Scott



Gatekeeper:

Keith Spain - 731-7770



PRAYER CONCERNS

Ruby Hasky
 Christine Belsches
 Aida Faries
 June Hawks
 Marian McDonald
 Helen Cibula
 Harry Johns

Ed Smiley (*Friend of Doug Holc*)
 Katherine Tompkins
 Mary Chadwick (*Dink Armstrong's sister*)
 Virginia Mika (*sister of Grace and Helen Cibula*)
 Matt Mauger
 Amy Harte (*David Johnson's cousin*)
 Gladys Wiseman
 Barbara Houchins Hatch



May 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		12:30pm Day Circle 6:00pm Cong. Care @ Kay A's. 7:00pm Facilities & Worship	7:00pm Choir	6:00 pm Stew. and Fin.		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Communion</i> Rev. Sprowls <i>Last day</i>	2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Outreach, Preschool, & Missions	7:30pm Evening Circle	Committee Reports Due 7:00pm Choir	Preschool Mother's Day Tea		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	Noon Widows Group 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed	7:00pm Session Meeting	7:00pm Choir			8:45am Bull Hill Rd. Clean-Up 2:00pm Eagle Court of Honor
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Minute for Missions</i>	2:00pm Line Dancing 4-9pm Boy Scouts Awards Dinner		Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Choir	Preschool Graduation, 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning		
27	28	29	30	31		
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>5-Cents-A-Meal Pentecost Offering</i>	Memorial Day Office is closed!		7:00pm Choir			

Let the Glory of our Lord, rise above us!

Pentecost Offering
Sunday, May 27
Help At-Risk Children,
Youth & Young Adults



JOIN US!

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