

THE HERALD

December - 2012

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Dear Gregory Memorial,
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent and Christmas Time

By Reverend Beverly Bullock



"In the sixth month, **God** sent the angel **Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in **Galilee**, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named **Joseph**, a descendant of **David**. The virgin's name was **Mary**. The angel went to her and said, "**Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.**" (Luke 1:26-28, NIV)

Emmanuel translates into "God is with us." In faithful response, God the Father (creator), God the Son (savior), and God the Holy Spirit (sustainer) asks that each one of us "be with God." Amidst all of the rush of the holiday season, and in spite of the joy and anxiety that fills many a human heart, followers of the Christ are being called to an inner journey: a journey imbued with its own rhythm and cadence – its own unique spirit and faith.

Such a journey begins with the Season of Advent (Sunday, December 2, 2012) - as we begin a new Christian year in preparation and anticipation of the birth and second coming of Jesus Christ. Before you know it, **Christmas Eve** has arrived and so has **Christmas Day**. But for

too many of us, it ends here. Christmas Day may be over, but not **the Season of Christmas Time!** New Year's Eve quickly approaches, and our celebrations continue into New Year's Day 2013.

Not unlike impatient passengers on a long road trip, we may find ourselves asking: "**Are we there yet?**" – finally arriving at our destination on January 6, 2013 - **The Epiphany of the Lord**. This moment grants us witness to the arrival of **Three Wise Men** bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to an infant baby boy – **God Incarnate**. How simple, how true!

Alleluia,
Rev. Bev

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Worship Information for December 2012 Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sunday, 02 December 2012 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Colors: Purple or Blue

Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & New Testament: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: "Sign, Sign, Everywhere A Sign"

Sunday, 09 December 2012 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Colors: Purple or Blue

Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4 & New Testament: Luke 1:67-79, 3:1-6

Sermon: "All In The Family"

Sunday, 16 December 2012 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Colors: Purple or Blue

"Gregory Memorial's Christmas Play"

(Featuring the Young and the "Young at Heart")

Sunday, 23 December 2012 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Colors: Purple or Blue

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a & New Testament: Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: "Deliverance"

Monday, 24 December 2012 - Christmas Eve Service

Liturgical Colors: Begins in Purple/Blue – ends in White

Sacrament of Holy Communion by Intinction*

Sunday, 30 December 2012 - First Sunday after Christmas Day

Liturgical Color: White

Old Testament: I Samuel 2:18-20 & New Testament: Luke 2:41-52

Sermon: "A Child Of God"

*

OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN.....

Ruby Hasky	All persons volunteering in Super Storm "Sandy" clean-up
Katherine Tompkins	Kay Alloway & Family (Loss of Kay's brother, Milton Bowen, Nov. 19)
Christine Belsches	Ava Warren (Mary Beth Coleman's stepmother)
Marian McDonald	Jimmy Belsches (Son of Christine Belsches)
Gladys Wiseman	Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister)
Audrey Turner	Jessica Griffin (Niece of Sheila Fields)
June Hawks	Dan Price (David Johnson's brother)
Aida Faries	Ed Smiley (Friend of Doug Holc)
Don Vtipil	2012-2013 School Year
PNC	Clara Smith

QUICK CALENDAR EVENTS:

"Hot Chocolate, Cookies" & Holiday Parade @ GMPC's Open House - Dec. 1, 3PM

Poinsettias for GMPC Sanctuary - Deadline for Ordering - Dec. 2

GMPC Pre-School Christmas Program-Dec. 13, time TBA

Ordination & installation (new elders & Trustee - Dec. 16

TRIAD Christmas Lunch - Dec. 17

News Article Deadline - Dec. 20

Christmas Eve Service & Holy Communion - Dec. 24, 6:30 pm

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS -

**[Open from 9 AM until 2 PM]
Christmas Week: Dec. 26, 27, 28
New Year's Week: Jan. 2, 3, 4**

THE CLERK'S CORNER

By David E. Johnson

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Session was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 and the following actions were taken:

- The 2013 Budget was approved, showing a \$14,006.97 deficit.
- Approved having Communion on the first Sunday of each even-numbered month and additional Communion observances on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
- Approved allowing the youth group to enter the church's float in the Hopewell Christmas parade on December 9th, 2012, including the \$30.00 entrance fee and some small additional funds for giveaways at the parade.
- Approved the date of Sunday, December 16th for the ordination and installation of the newly elected elders and trustee.

GREGORY MEMORIAL CHURCH HOSTS OPEN HOUSE: COOKIES & HOT CHOCOLATE AFTER DEC. 1 CHRISTMAS PARADE

By Donald Hunter

Gregory Church will host its Open House again after the Prince George County Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1 at 3:00 PM!

Plan to join us for "Cookies & Hot Chocolate" in the Church Fellowship Hall for some sweet treats as the Parade winds its way down Courthouse Road past the Church and up Redwood Drive.

Save a spot on your calendar to join in the festivities and enjoy

the beginning of the Christmas Season!

This is an opportunity for our fine GMPC volunteers to serve after the Parade or just to help out by baking some "homemade" cookies (even if you must buy them)!

The GMPC Youth will be entering the Gregory Float in the Parade again this year, and they are sure to dazzle everyone with their creativity.



2011 GMPC Float

Come on out--See the Parade support our Youth--Sample our delicious treats and serve our community!

2012 ANGEL TREE!

By Dianne Overstreet

Gregory Church's Angel Tree will be decorated again this year with colorful nametags shaped as pumpkins, girl angels, and boy angels, all bright and ready for the congregation to pluck from the tree on Dec. 2nd.

Gregory Church is blessed to be sponsoring two Christmas families this year.



2011 Angel Tree

The two families that are being sponsored this year are the same families that the Church sponsored for Christmas last year.

And just as a reminder: all gifts must be wrapped. Bring gifts and food items to the Church by Sunday, December 16th.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM FACILITIES

By Bobby Allen

The Facilities Committee would like to thank everyone for their support during this past year. As always, we can use more help

on activities that we have on our duty list. As we enter the Holiday season, we would like to wish everyone a very:

“Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe Holiday Season!”

ET CETERA, ET CETERA

By Staff Writer

Calling All Elders! If you are an Elder (“Once an Elder, always an Elder”...) and wish to participate in the Worship Committee’s rotation list for serving communion, the forms are available in the Narthex on which you may indicate your preferred available and unavailable service

dates. The form is also printed in the Sunday Bulletin as a tear-off. The completed form may be left in the collection plate, or dropped off in the Secretary’s Office Mailbox.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed on December 24th (Christmas Eve).

JANUARY NEWSLETTER - *Please* send your information or news articles or pictures for the January Newsletter to the Church Office by **9:00 am, Tuesday morning, December 18.**

Deadline applies to emails, also!

ADVENT TRADITION: POINSETTIAS IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

By Staff Writer

The tradition of placing memorial poinsettias in the Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church Sanctuary began decades ago. The live, red poinsettia plants were purchased by congregational members and their families and displayed in the Sanctuary during Advent.

Under the watchful eye of a volunteer, the plants are watered and tended until the night of the Christmas Eve service. After the

service, the poinsettias are taken home for the enjoyment of family and friends, or gifted to a special someone.

Poinsettias may be purchased at a cost of \$10.50 each, with checks written payable to: "Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church." The deadline for receiving all orders is **December 2.**

To place your order for a lovely, live red poinsettia, write

your name on the Poinsettia Order sheet on the Narthex table. Be sure to provide detailed wording for the memorial information, or the name of person you wish to honor, on the Order sheet.

A Special Remembrance List that will include the names of those to whom the poinsettias are dedicated will be included in the Bulletin for the last Sunday of December.

LITURGICAL COLORS OF THE CHURCH SEASON

By Reverend Beverly Bullock

2013 LITURGICAL COLORS

From the 2012-2013 Presbyterian Planning Calendar



Here's an Explanation of the Liturgical Colors:

White symbolizes joy, purity, and truth. It is used for special days in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, such as Christmas and Easter.

Gold is sometimes used in place of white.

Purple or Violet symbolizes penitence, preparation, and expectation during the seasons of Advent and Lent (through Maundy Thursday).

Blue is sometimes used in place of Purple/Violet.

Black symbolizes deep sorrow and is used on Good Friday as well as funeral services.

Red symbolizes fire and blood, and is used on Pentecost Sunday as well as ordination services.

Green symbolizes God's creation, the color of living things as well as spiritual growth and is used for all other time periods not marked by a specific season (Ordinary Time)



General Assembly Mission Council
100 Northrup Street, Louisville, KY 40202
www.gamc.org/gamc



Those Who Serve – December, 2012

0++ GATEKEEPER: JOSH INGRAM	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Nursery	Susan Walker	Ann Hartsell	Jennifer Smyth	Ruby Spain	Virginia Maloney
Junior Church	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter Kevin Foster	Mary Beth Coleman Madison Foster	Jennifer Smyth Jared Smyth	Kris Holliday Max Holliday
Junior Sermon	Valerie Harsh	Rev. Beverly Bullock	Susan Walker	Pat Hunter	Patsy Johnson
Ushers	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond	Wayne Powers Verne Smith Bobby Allen Marguerite Bishop	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Valerie Harsh Rose Scott Jerry Bond Debbie Smith
Announcements	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
Counting	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Ron Recher Rose Scott	David Johnson Sheila Fields	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar

**Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church Flag Memorial Eagle Project
INDIVIDUAL BRICK/PAVER**

"THEIR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY"

Your donation of **\$50** or more entitles YOU to have your name engraved into a brick/paver as a lasting record of your loved one. This will be permanently installed in the Gregory Memorial Flag Monument in honor of the members of the congregation that served in our military. For more information contact me at Jason.troop900@yahoo.com

A unique and lasting record of your support
A tribute to someone special. A memorial to a loved one.

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Fill out this form and return it with full payment by check or money order to: "Boy Scout Troop 900"

Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (28 max)

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Contact Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone No. _____

Jason Hundley of Boy Scout Troop 900 needs your support!

DECEMBER, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						3:00pm Christmas Parade & GMPC Open House
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Poinsettia order deadline</i>	2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Missions	12:30pm Day Circle 7:00pm - Facilities -Worship -Congreg. Care	7:00pm Choir	2-8:00pm Cleaning		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	Noon Widows Group 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed	Committee Reports Due 6:30pm Outreach 7:30pm Evening Circle	7:00pm Choir	2-8:00pm Cleaning Pre-school Christmas Program-TBA 6:00pm Stewardship/ Finance		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship/ Children's Nativity <i>Ordaining/ Installation of Elected Elders & Trustee</i>	Noon TRIAD Christmas Luncheon 2:00pm Line Dancing	7:00pm Session Meeting	7:00pm Choir	2-8:00pm Cleaning <i>Newsletter Articles due</i>		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>5 Cents A Meal Offering</i>	2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service & Holy Communion	Christmas Day Office closed	Office Open	2:00-8:00pm Cleaning Office Open	Office open	
9:45 am 30 Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Emergency Aid Offering</i>	31 New Year's Eve	JAN 1 2013				



COME JOIN US!!
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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