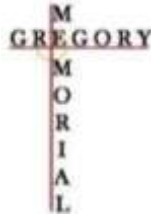


THE HERALD

January - 2014



Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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January 2014

THE HERALD

Volume 2 Issue 1

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." ~Isaiah 43:19*

Happy New Year! 2014 is upon us, and we are five weeks into the new liturgical year, as well. And as is always the occasion, our thoughts are drawn to the simultaneous consideration of the year past, and of the year to come. In almost the same breath, we ask questions such as, "What was your favorite moment or memory of this past year?" and "What do you hope the most to see/realize in the year to come?"

It's natural to engage in such reflection and visioning when we reach milestones, such as the new year, birthdays (especially ones that have to do with changing decades), and anniversaries. We consider where we have been, the ups and the downs, and we look ahead to what is to come, both known and hoped for.

Through Isaiah, God spoke to the people of Israel, calling their attention to the reality that a turning point was being realized. Into the world, as seen and known, a new thing was coming, and what a new thing it would be!

It may not seem like much to us today, in a world where a new road can appear in a matter of weeks, and rivers can be dammed and diverted as necessary, but what Isaiah refers to is *so much more!* It is the reality that the places that are inhospitable will become life-giving, that the places people are unable to trod will become inviting and welcoming. It is a work that goes beyond a mere construction zone to a world...a perspective...a way of life in which the barriers of society are removed and the dangers are replaced with blessings.

"...do you not perceive it?..."

It is now another year on the calendar – full of promise, full of potential, and full of invitation to do something new, to be a part of something at work, bigger than ourselves. We are annually invited to make resolutions to ourselves to do something new, or renew something we've let lapse. God is continuing to work at making this reality as we know it look very much like the Kingdom that is promised, and we are invited once again to join in this work, this resolution.

We will need eyes to see it, to search for it, to seek it out and find it. We will need voices to proclaim it and make it known, to invite others to it. We will need hands to join in the building of it, the shaping of what "is" into what "can be." But most of all, we will need hearts open to the leading and work of the Holy Spirit, guiding us in all of the above.

God, in Christ, is calling us to be a part of this new thing, this re-orienting of society and righting of the world, and in this new year, the question once more will be, "Will we join? Will we lay down our lives to be live into God's life?" I believe that the richest of blessings is to be found by resolving, "Yes!" Let us indeed live into God's blessings.

Happy New Year, one and all.

Peace,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2014

Sunday, 05, January 2014

2nd Sunday After Christmas Day: Liturgical Color: **White**
 Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:7-14 & New Testament: John 1:10-18
 Sermon: "Restoring the World"

Sunday, 12 January 2014

Baptism of the Lord: Liturgical Color: **White**
 Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9 & New Testament: Matthew 3:13-17
 Sermon: "The Silent Servant"

Sunday, 19 January 2014

2nd Sunday After Epiphany: Liturgical Color: **Green**
 PCUSA Emphasis: "Race Relations"
 Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-7 & New Testament: John 1:29-42
 Sermon: "The Global Beacon"

Sunday, 26 January 2014

3rd Sunday After Epiphany: Liturgical Color: **Green**
 PCUSA Emphasis: "Criminal Justice"
 Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-4 & New Testament: Matthew 4:12-23
 Sermon: "Seeking the Great Light"

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

<p>Ed Smiley (Doug Holc's friend) Frank Solesbee, recuperating, home Nancy Hettrick, health problems Katherine Tompkins Marian McDonald Gladys Wiseman Helen Cibula Audrey Turner Evelyn Lichvar Kenneth Figg Ruth Figg Grace Cibula Henry Parker June Hawks Aida Faries Don Vtipil 2013/14 School Year "Traveling Mercies"</p>	<p>All affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan & other natural disasters All who have lost loved ones due to acts of violence Family & friends of Oneita Johnson (David Johnson's mother), (d. 12/19) Shirley Barlow (Jean Waymack's sister), recovering from surgery Lawrence & James Hartsell (Robert Hartsell's brothers) Maryland Blanchard (Grace & Helen Cibula's friend) Russell Houston (Sheila Fields's brother), surgery Frankie Meade - Glenda Mayhew's mother Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister) Jonathan Bottoms, in a motorcycle accident Johnnie Smith - health issues Pam Harsh, Bradley Cooper, Jacob Spain, 1st year in college Valerie Harsh's foster-daughter Andrea, health issues Amy Townson (Josh Ingram's sister), recovering, home Martha Sodak-Staples, recovering from surgery Mark Chariton, Janet Swinton's son-in-law, health issues, ICC Drew Moncol, recovering from surgery. Tommy Forehand (Bishops' friend), recovering, home Victor Tomko (Doug Holc's cousin), in-home rehab Sentral Riggins Gravley (Bishops' friend), home Joy: Blake Bishop, recovering from surgery, home Ellie Wheelan is recovering at home</p>
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Privacy Disclaimer: Gregory Church safeguards its members' personal information and does not include it in Newsletters and Bulletins (unless requested) that are published on the Church website. However, this information may appear within the text of printed Newsletters and Bulletins distributed to the Church congregation.

QUICK CALENDAR EVENTS:

GMPC Office Closed - 01/01 New Year's Day

Boy Scouts Yard Sale - 01/04, 6 a.m.-3:00 p.m., GMPC parking lot

Boy Scouts Order of Arrow Lock In - 01/10-11, 6 p.m. Fri.-11 a.m. Sat., Fellowship Hall

Committee reports due - 01/13, 9 a.m. in Church office

Preschool Board Qtr. Mtg. - 01/14, 6:30 p.m.

News Article Deadline - 01/16, 9 a.m. in Church office

Third Sunday Lunch - 01/19 after worship, Fellowship Hall

Congregational Meeting - 01/19 after worship

Session meeting - 01/21, 7 p.m.

PG TRIAD Mtg. - 01/27, 1 p.m. @ PG Library

HOLY HUMOR

By Sandy Hunter

"KEEP YOUR FORK..."

A young woman with a terminal illness had three months to live and was getting her things "in order." She invited her Pastor to her home to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs and scriptures she wanted for her service. Everything seemed to be in order and as the Pastor was preparing to leave, she remembered something very important to her.

"There's one more important thing," she excitedly said. "What's that?" asked the Pastor. The young woman continued. "It's very important that I be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor looked at her not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and since then, I have tried to pass along its message to those I love

and those who are in need of encouragement. Grandmother said that in all her years of attending socials and dinners, she remembered that always as the dishes of the main course were cleared, someone would invariably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' The young woman continued, "It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming ... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me in my casket with a fork in my hand and wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'

The Pastor's eyes filled with tears of joy as he hugged her good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that she had a better grasp of heaven than he did..she had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much

experience and knowledge. She *KNEW* that something better was coming!

A short time later as people passed by her casket, they saw the cloak she was wearing and noticed the fork that had been placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard them ask, 'What's with the fork?' And over and over he smiled. During the service, the Pastor spoke of his conversation with the young woman shortly before she died, telling them what the fork symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork, adding that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. And he was right.

So, the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come!




FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY

JANUARY 2014

January 05	-
January 12	-
January 19	-
January 26	-

**It's not too late to sign up to provide flowers for the Sanctuary.
You may write in your name on the Flowers signup sheet
beside the Sunday you wish to provide flowers,
or call Church office at 732-1081
(9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday).**

SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR JANUARY 2014

GATEKEEPER:  Doug Holc	January 05	January 12	January 19	January 26
Ushers & Acolytes (A)	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Josh Ingram Morgan Ingram Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond Chayse Hartsell (A) Breeana Hunter (A)	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Valerie Harsh Chayse Hartsell (A) Kaitlyn Hartsell (A)
Announcements	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
Junior Sermon	Susan Walker	Rev. Cashing	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter
Junior Church	Mary Kay Schroeter Kevin Foster	Virginia Maloney Jared Smyth	Valerie Harsh Pam Harsh	Mary Beth Coleman Madison Foster
Nursery	Susan Walker	Glenda Mayhew	Ann Hartsell	Ruby Spain
Counting	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Sheila Fields

JANUARY, 2014
GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			NEW YEAR'S DAY	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		6:00 am - 3:00 pm Boy Scouts Yard sale @ GMPC parking lot
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:30 am Line Dancing 6:30 pm Missions	12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Stewardship & Finance	6:00 pm BS Order of Arrow lock-in @ GMPC Fellowship Hall begins	9:00 am - 3:00 pm Officer training 11:00 am BS Order of Arrow lock-in @ GMPC Fellowship Hall ends
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:00 am Committee reports due 9:30 am Line Dancing	6:30 pm Outreach 6:30 pm Preschool Board Qtr. meeting	7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles due 2:00 pm Session Agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>3rd Sunday Luncheon</i> <i>Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	9:30 am Line Dancing	7:00 pm Session meeting	7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents A Meal Offering</i>	9:30 am Line Dancing 1:00 pm TRIAD @ PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed		7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



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

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)

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