

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



“To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”

~Ecclesiastes 3:1

The days are cooling and daylight is dwindling; leaves are beginning to change color; and even the air is beginning to take on a different feel. It happens each and every year, and each and every year it mystifies me, grabs hold of me, bringing me along on this ride. In terms of the seasons, I really think Fall might be my favorite. Watching the world change in such a tangible way, almost viscerally carrying me along with it...I love every moment of it.

This, along with the musings of “The Teacher,” reminds me that we live in a world that is in constant flux, an ebb and flow of change, growth, and alteration. I need this reminder; I often don’t want to embrace change, given the amount of time and energy I sometimes put into getting things “just the way I want them.”

I don’t think this is unique to just me.

We spend countless hours envisioning, planning, shaping and working on a project – around the home, around the church, in our lives and relationships – only to discover that, as soon as we finish, some new or different variable is being introduced that demands we respond to it, and alter all our original work. At times, it’s maddening, especially when we can’t simply ignore this new variable but must, in fact, go along with it.

And yet, it always happens; it continues to always happen. “To everything there is a season,” Qoholeth muses, implying that any given thing will move into season, and then move out of it as well. Nothing will last forever – at least, not in a single development. And this includes both our Church and our congregation.

October is not only the changing of leaves, it is the month in which we celebrate the birthday of John Knox, the Scottish leader of the Protestant Reformation so closely tied to the heritage of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is also the month in which we celebrate the Reformed nature of the Church. Approaching the 500th

year since Knox’s birth, I’ve been reminiscing on what his life must have been like as he looked at the church he loved and realized it needed to grow, but unsure of how to go about helping it do so in the Spirit, perhaps grieving what would no longer be comfortable and familiar...it makes me wonder what sort of growth is still ahead of us, and what will be asked of us.

Oftentimes, the greatest difficulty we have in accepting change stems from the reality that, deep down, we fear that it threatens to invalidate our view, our perspective, or even our understanding of an organization or event...of the world...even of our own lives. And out of that fear – that anything could undo what we have done, or upend what we have striven to understand – comes resistance (sometimes violently so) to any kind of change or growth whatsoever.

Rather than supporting the natural growth of an idea, group, organization or idea (even after we have passed the reins onto another), we pour every fiber of our being into inhibiting and impeding. Too often, when facing change or transition, we focus our attention on the aspect of what we may be losing, rather than on what we may be gaining.

Don’t get me wrong: I do not believe that every change is good, or that change for the sake of change is wise. But we do live in an environment that changes, and does so for the betterment of life. So, too, we are called to discern and grow in Life, supported and led by the Holy Spirit. I do not know yet where we may be led, but I would grieve to see us close ourselves off to the deeper gifts of God outright. Let us seek the voice of the Spirit, recall the purpose of Christ, and allow ourselves to be led by the will and vision of a Loving and Merciful God.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 2014

Sunday, 05 October 2014 - Holy Communion

17th Sunday After Pentecost - Liturgical Color: **Green**

PC (USA) Emphasis: "World Communion Sunday; Peacemaking Offering"

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-20 & 2nd Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon: "Producing Fruit"

Sunday, 12 October 2014

18th Sunday After Pentecost - Liturgical Color: **Green**

PC (USA) Emphasis: "Domestic Violence Awareness"

1st Reading: Exodus 32:1-14 & 2nd Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon: "A Banquet Robe"

Sunday, 19 October 2014

19th Sunday After Pentecost - Liturgical Color: **Green**

PC (USA) Emphasis: "Children's Sabbath"

1st Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 & 2nd Reading: Matthew 23:15-22

Sermon: "God's Visage"

Sunday, 26 October 2014 "Reformation Sunday"

20th Sunday After Pentecost - Liturgical Color: **Green**

PC (USA) Emphasis: "Reformation Sunday"

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 & 2nd Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon: "The Greatest Prophet"



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

One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community. In order to most effectively pray, your Worship Committee and Leadership ask that, as you know of updates, *PLEASE let us know.* And if the time has arrived that it is no longer as imperative to have someone on our list, please let us know that as well! Thank you, and may continued blessings be yours!

<p>Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother Helen Cibula) Audrey Turner (Brighter Living) "Traveling Mercies" Bucky Allen, recov. (surgery) Beverly Childress, improving Joe Baxter, recov. (surgery) Inez Paul (health issues) Sara-Lynn Prefontaine (recov.) Jean Waymack Kenneth Figg Bill McAllister, recov. (surgery) Peggy Allen Henry Parker Jerry Bond David Johnson (recov.) Becky Smith</p>	<p>All affected by acts of violence & natural disasters Members of our military & families Robert Hartsell's brother, James (status unchanged) Amy Townson (Josh Ingram's sister), recov. Nita Spain (Keith Spain's stepmother), health issues Maryland Blanchard (Grace & Helen Cibula's friend) Ben Nicely (Spains' friend), health issues Mila Campen (Ann Hartsell's mother), recov. (surgery) Ed Smiley (recov. surgery) & son, Mark Smiley Gary Coates (Rechers' friend), recov. (surgery) Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister) Cookie Wicker (Glenda Mayhew's friend), health issue Our college students: Pam Harsh, Bradley Cooper, Travis & Jacob Spain David Childress (Beverly Childress' brother), recov. (surgery) Mike & Brenda Harrington (friends of Valerie Harsh) Ruby Hasky, contin. health concerns Evelyn Lichvar, illness Carol Thacker, recov. (surgery) Bonnie Walling (friend of Smyth family), health issues</p>
<p>AND: Aida Faries June Hawks Marian McDonald Don Vtipil</p>	<p>JOY: Continued improvement: Harold Shockley; Tracy Taliaferro</p>

QUICK CALENDAR:

10/05 - "World Communion Sunday";
Holy Communion (pews);
Peacemaking Offering

10/11- Bull Hill Rd. Clean-up
(Missions); meet at GMPC, 8 am

10/12 - "Fall Festival" at GMPC,
Fellowship Hall, 3:30-5:30 pm

10/13- Committee reports due 9 am

10/16 - News articles due 9 am

10/19-Third Sunday Lunch & Learn,
Fellowship Hall after Worship

10/21- Session meeting, 7 pm

10/26- 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering

10/27 - PG TRIAD meets at PG
Library, 1 pm

THE CLERK'S CORNER



By: Donald R. Hunter

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 and approved the following:

- new GMPC member, Blake Bishop
- Amendment of dates for Pastor's 2015 Israel trip from Jan. 5-17 to Jan. 5-19
- Temporarily suspend Preschool \$10 *per capita* fee on students
- Fall Festival at GMPC on Oct. 12 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Rescheduled GMPC's Homecoming from 2015 to 2016 because of 2015 Missions trip
- Re-sealing of GMPC parking lot for \$5,640
- Missions Committee's request to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to two (2) needy families and Christmas "Angel Tree"
- 2014/15 Preschool calendar for special school outings and Preschool's proposed fund-raiser (sale of Virginia Diner peanut products)



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE REPORT: AUGUST, 2014

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church Summary of Operating Accounts As of August 31, 2014		General Fund	Capital Improvements
Beginning of the month	8/1/2014	\$ 969.40	\$ 1,011.27
Cash receipts		\$ 12,258.96	\$ -
Cash disbursements		\$ (11,332.03)	\$ (6,480.00)
Interest /Dividends Earned		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.06
Transfers(to) from General Fund		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers(to) from Investments Cash Account		\$ 6,480.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers(to) from DGA		\$ (54.58)	\$ 0.00
Transfers (to) from CI		\$ (6,480.00)	\$ 6,480.00
End of the month	8/31/2014	\$ 1,841.75	\$ 1,011.33

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, if requested, within the text of printed Newsletters and Bulletins distributed to the Church congregation.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY OCTOBER, 2014

October 05	The Hunters
October 12	Rose Scott
October 19	-
October 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.
 For assistance, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATEKEEPERS: October - Bobby Allen; November - (Dennis Allen; December - Doug Holc

GMPC SEEKS NEW TREASURER - Personnel Committee, along with Stewardship and Finance Committee, will be looking for a Treasurer. If you, or someone you know, may be interested and is capable, please contact Pat Hunter, Chair of Personnel, for more details.

THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH & LEARN RETURNS!- Join us after worship on **October 19** for our Third Sunday Lunch & Learn; covered-dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for details (to be announced) on later date.



SUNDAY SERVANTS – October, 2014

<u>GATEKEEPER:</u> 🔑 Bobby Allen	October 05 "World Communion Sunday"	October 12	October 19	October 26 "Reformation Sunday"
Ushers	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Wayne Powers Les Mayhew	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew
Acolytes	Breeana Hunter Jamie Meurer	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	Breeana Hunter Jamie Meurer	Breeana Hunter Kaitlyn Hartsell
Announcements	Jerry Bond	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing
Junior Church	Tara Foster Madison Foster	Valerie Harsh Kaitlyn Hartsell	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Lisa Brown Kevin Brown
Nursery	Rose Scott	Susan Walker	Glenda Mayhew	Ann Hartsell
Counting	David Johnson Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Pat Hunter	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott

OCTOBER, 2014

GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Holy Communion</i> (pews) <i>"World Communion Sunday"</i> <i>Peacemaking Offering</i>	9:30 am Line Dance 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		8:00 am Bull Hill Rd./ Adopt-a Highway- Clean-up (Missions)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 3:30-5:30 pm GMPC Fall Festival	9:00 am Committee reports due 9:30 am Line Dance	6:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance	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>Third Sunday Lunch & Learn after worship</i>	9:30 am Line Dance	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 Dance 1:00 pm TRIAD @ PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed			2-8:00 pm Cleaning	<i>Hallowe'en</i> 	

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

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OCTOBER 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)