



Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’”

~Matthew 2:1-2

Is your tree still up and decorated? Even though the celebrations of the day are now past, are the trappings of Christmas still evident around your home? In other corners of society, Christmas decorations have disappeared, replaced by signs to get everything needed for New Year’s Eve, Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and possibly even Easter.

Has your household followed a similar pattern, or do signs of Christmas – tree with lights and decorations, Nativity crèche on the mantle, the Advent wreath now with only the Christ-candle lit, and other family favorites still claim visible space?

They should. We, of the Christian faith, are still fully and completely in the midst of the Christmas season, which began for us on the morning of December 25 (though we may have started a little early on Christmas Eve), and goes all the way through to the Epiphany of the Lord, typically January 6, commemorating the search of Magi for the newborn (or toddler) king. (Incidentally, this is where we get the Twelve Days of Christmas!)

In short: Whatever anyone may tell you, it is still Christmas, and the joy of the season is still evident and prevalent for all!

Yay! And Merry (continued) Christmas to all!

I pray for each of us that, as we enter into a new calendar year, we would carry over within our hearts the reality that the season in which we celebrate and commemorate the birth of Immanuel, God-With-Us, both closes out one calendar year and opens up the next. The joy, the peace, the promise of the Kingdom of God come near bookends each and every calendar year.

Do we sense it? Do we realize and practice such a reality? Does the joy and peace of Christmas Day truly go with us for the next twelve days?

Even though we celebrate it each year as a twelve day period, scholars posit that the visit of the Magi was an event that actually occurred not within the first few days of Jesus’ birth, but within the first few years. For my own personal spirituality, I like this idea: The journey to seek out Immanuel is not a one-day affair, but a longer journey. It will take me the better part of Christmas Day to drive to be with family; it will take the discipline and endurance of a much longer spiritual journey to draw close to Christ.

Regardless, what it all comes down to is this: Do not sell the Christmas season short, or allow it to drift away from you too quickly. Savor these days, this season. Allow it to be present with you in each of these Twelve days, and remind yourself as you awaken each morning to seek out the newborn king, the world’s Immanuel, and to allow his Light to become your light in the world.

“May the peace and joy of this season be with you each and every day of this season.” My wish and hope for each of you in these holy days.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason





WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2015



Sunday, 4 January 2015

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day - Liturgical Color: **White**
 First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Second Reading: John 1:1-18
 Sermon: "Gather Us In"

Sunday, 11 January 2015

Baptism of the Lord - Liturgical Color: **White**
 First Reading: Psalm 29
 Second Reading: Mark 1:4-11
 Sermon: "Water and Spirit" (Rev. Kelly Kaufman)

Sunday, 18 January 2015

2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: **Green**
 First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
 Second Reading: John 1:43-51
 Sermon: "We Have Found Him" (Rev. Kelly Kaufman)

Sunday, 25 January 2015

3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: **Green**
 First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Second Reading: Mark 1:14-20
 Sermon: "Following the Word"



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.

Our military and their families
 Our college students & the 2014/15 K-12 School Year
 Lucille Link (Patsy Johnson's mother)
 Helen Cibula
 Mark Smiley
 Bucky Allen
 Beverly Childress
 Ruby Hasky
 Wayne Hedgepeth, Ruth Figg's nephew (health issue)
 Bill McAllister
 Charlie Perkins (recov. from surgery)
 Frank Solesbee (hospitalized, MCV)
 Peggy Allen
 Donna Allen
 Aida Faries
 Don Vtipil
 Marian McDonald
 James Hartsell (Robert Hartsell's brother)
 Amy Townson (Josh Ingram's sister)
 Doris Karnowski (Josh Ingram's grandmother)
 Mike & Brenda Harrington (Valerie Harsh's friends)
 Maryland Blanchard (Grace and Helen Cibula's friend)
 Ben Nicely (Spain family's friend)

Mila Campen (Ann Hartsell's mother)
 Gary Coates (the Rechters's friend)
 Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister)
 Cookie Wicker (Glenda Mayhew's friend)
 David Childress (Beverly Childress' brother)
 Inez Paul (Mary Holc's mother)
 Sara-Lynn Prefontaine
 Bonnie Walling (Smyth family's friend)
 Tracy Taliaferro
 Brittany Mason, Kenny's niece (surgery)
 Peyton Audrey (Audrey Turner's great-granddaughter)
 Mark Chariton (new health issue)
 Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)
 Becky Smith, recovery from procedure
 David Johnson
 Ed Smiley, continued health issues
 Joanne Overstreet
 Jim Clark (health issue)
 Bradley Bishop (surgery)
 Audrey Turner, health issues
 Henry Parker, continues to recover

JOY: Lynn Bond is back to work!

QUICK CALENDAR:

- 1/1- New Year's Day (Office closed)
- 1/4 - Officers' installation after worship [tenta.]
- 1/8 - Relay for Life meeting, 6 pm
- 1/12- Committee reports in, 9 am
- 1/15 - News articles in, 9 am
- 1/18 - "Week of Prayer" begins
- 1/20- Session meeting, 7 pm [Tenta.: may change due to Pastoral schedule]
- 1/26 - PG TRIAD , PG Library, 1 pm



THE CLERK'S CORNER

By: Donald R. Hunter

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 and approved the following:

1. Pastor's requested days off (December 29-31, 2014)
2. Reverend Ginna Bairby to fill the Pulpit on December 28, 2014
3. Reverend Kelly Kaufman to fill Pulpit January 11 and 18, 2015

ALSO....

At a Congregational Meeting held December 7, 2014, the following slate of officers for Class of 2017 was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by unanimous vote of the congregation:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary Holc | (Elder, 2 nd Term) |
| Robert Hartsell | (Elder, 1 st Term) |
| Susan Walker | (Elder , 1 st Term) |
| Gregg Webber | (Trustee) |
| Donald Hunter | (Clerk of Session) |

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STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE REPORT: NOVEMBER, 2014

		General Fund	Capital Improvements
Beginning of the Month	11/1/2014	\$ 969.58	\$ 3,015.14
Cash receipts		\$ 14,203.25	\$ 0.00
Cash disbursements		\$ (14,279.76)	\$ 0.00
Interest /Dividends Earned		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.12
Transfers(to) from General Fund		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers(to) from Investment Cash Account		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers(to) from DGA		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers(to) from CI		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
End of the month	11/30/2014	<u>\$ 893.07</u>	<u>\$ 3,015.26</u>



From the Pastor's Desk.....

 Please remember that Jason will be traveling in the Holy Lands from January 5 -19. Please keep him, his group, and their family

members in your prayers – prayers for safety, prayers for enlightening experiences, and prayers that the distance will not be lonely.

I look forward to sharing my experiences with you upon my return, and I thank you for helping to make this opportunity possible!"



**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY
JANUARY, 2015**

January 4	
January 11	
January 18	
January 25	

The new 2015 Sanctuary Flowers Calendar is posted.

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: Jan. - Josh Ingram Mar. - Keith Spain . May - Doug Holc
 Feb. - Dennis Allen Apr. - Bobby Allen

NO JANUARY MEETING FOR STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE .



SUNDAY SERVANTS – January, 2015



<u>GATEKEEPER:</u>  Josh Ingram	JAN. 4	JAN. 11	JAN. 18	JAN. 25
Ushers	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Wayne Powers Les Mayhew	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Acolytes	Breeana Hunter Jamie Meurer	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	Breeana Hunter Jamie Meurer	Breeana Hunter Kaitlyn Hartsell
Announcements	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Jerry Bond	Mary Kay Schroeter
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing
Junior Church	Valerie Harsh Justin Ellis-Bowman	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Patsy Johnson Mamie Meurer	Lisa Brown Madison Foster
Nursery	Ann Hartsell	Ruby Spain	Rose Scott	Susan Walker
Counting	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Pat Hunter

JANUARY, 2015



GATEKEEPER: Josh Ingram



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				<u>Office Closed</u> New Year's Day 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Officer installation [Tentative]</i>	9:30 am Line Dance 6:30 pm Missions <i>Jan. 5-19 Pastoral trip to Israel</i>	12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:00 pm Relay for Life meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:00 am Committee reports in 9:30 am Line Dance		7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 2:00 pm Session Agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Week of Prayer begins</i>	9:30 am Line Dance	7:00 pm Session meeting [date subject to change]	7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm News Letter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
25	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		7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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STAMP

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JANUARY 2015 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)