

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



"...And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us." Romans 5:5

I didn't grow up as a practicing Christian but I am pretty sure being from Buffalo prepared me. Growing up in the Buffalo area requires an awful lot of hope. Living in a thriving city like San Antonio makes being hopeful pretty easy. Home values go up, jobs come to town, the sun shines and the Spurs win. Buffalo, on the other hand, still reels from the painful death of its major industrial base, Bethlehem Steel. The scar of that great loss still marks the shore of Lake Erie and still haunts families who never recovered emotionally or financially. It continues to trickle down economically making every bit of growth hard earned. It continues to trickle down emotionally laying a dim fog of despair on the hearts of so many.

And no matter how long you live in it or love it, the long winters of cold and dark can really drain the hope from your soul. And most people who have lived in Buffalo long enough can tell you that the words "wide right" actually produce a physical reaction sort of like nausea but more painful. Many Buffalonians can remember where they sat in Januaries of '91, '92, '93 and '94 as their hopes of Superbowl victory were dashed again and again.

As I sat last night watching my Bills try with all their might to scratch out a win against a team from another city that has faced some rough times, Cleveland, as I watched those Bills fans stand in below freezing weather until the bitter end, I realized that these are people of hope. It is easy to be hopeful when victory surrounds you, but it is something else when the entire universe tells you to give up.

This is the type of hope we are called to as Christians. Not hope in the face of victory but hope knowing that, even in the midst of despair our victory has already been won. The Apostle Paul loved to write about this hope. In the 10th chapter of 2 Corinthians he

writes: *"Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again."*

In the first letter of Peter we read: *"But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15).

This is not to say that all Buffalo Bills fans place their hope in the right place. I pray that their eternal hope is placed in something more reliable than our beloved Bills. But, as Christians, perhaps observing them can teach us something. Can we learn to hold on to hope even when the facts the world offers us tell us not to? In a world filled with extreme poverty, disease, corruption and violence; in a nation facing huge economic uncertainty and certain change can we have hope, true hope, not in ourselves but in the God who tells us that our victory has already been won? [Rev. Will Rice is now an associate pastor at University United Methodist Church, San Antonio, TX]

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday, 1 February 2015

4th Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: **Green**
 First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Second Reading: Mark 1:21-28
 Sermon: "Raised Up"

Sunday, 8 February 2015

5th Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: **Green**
 First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
 Second Reading: Mark 1:29-39
 Sermon: "Coming to the Good News"

Sunday, 15 February 2015

Transfiguration of the Lord - Liturgical Color: **White**
 First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12
 Second Reading: Mark 9:2-9
 Sermon: "Change At Any Cost"

Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2015

Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12
 Second Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, 22 February 2015

1st Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17
 Second Reading: Mark 1:9-15
 Sermon: "Renewed"



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
 Families/friends of crew & passengers of AirAsia Flt. QZ8501
 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
 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

Bob Hogsett, father-in-law to the Rechers' daughter
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother
 Tracy Taliaferro
 Brittany Mason, Kenny Overstreet'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
 Joanne Overstreet
 Jim Clark (health issue)
 Bradley Brockwell (surgery successful)
 Audrey Turner, health issues
 Henry Parker, continues to recover
 Jerry Bond
 Beth Thompson, Susan Walker's co-worker (health issues)
 Family/friends of Ed Smiley (d. 01/13)
 Family/friends of Ruth Swineford, PG centenarian (d. 01/17)

OUR JOY! For the safe return of our Holy Land travelers!

QUICK CALENDAR:

2/1 - Holy Communion

2/8 - "Scouts Sunday" @ GMPC

2/12 - Relay for Life meeting, 6 pm;
Committee reports in, 9 am

2/12 - News articles in, 9 am

2/17- Session meeting, 7 pm

2/18 - Ash Wednesday service , 7 pm

2/23 - PG TRIAD , PG Library, 1 pm

2/26 - Lenten Service & Lunch,
Trinity UMC, 12 pm**CLERK'S CORNER**

By: Donald R. Hunter

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

- No action items were presented.
- It was announced that the Missions trip has been scheduled for the week of June 21 - 27, 2015.

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FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY**FEBRUARY, 2015**

February 1	
February 8	The Hunters
February 15	
February 22	Rose Scott

Please 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).

HOLY HUMOR

AND THEN IT'S WINTER.....

You know. . . . Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my soul mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... The winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were

young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth....it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do

it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY



SUNDAY SERVANTS – February 2015

GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen	FEB. 1	FEB. 8 "Scouts Sunday"	FEB. 15	FEB. 22
Ushers	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond	Scouts	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Wayne Powers Les Mayhew
Acolytes	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	Scouts	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	Breeana Hunter Kaitlyn Hartsell
Announcements	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Jerry Bond
Junior Sermon	Susan Walker	Scouts	Valerie Harsh	Patsy Johnson
Junior Church	Megan Cashing Kaitlyn Hartsell	Scouts	Susan Walker Mattie Lynn Metschke	Rose Scott Madison Foster
Nursery	Glenda Mayhew	Ann Hartsell	Ruby Spain	Rose Scott
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher

FEBRUARY, 2015

GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Holy Communion</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	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship "SCOUTS SUNDAY"	9:00 am Committee reports in 9:30 am Line Dance	6:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance	7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 2:00 pm Session Agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:00 pm Relay for Life meeting		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:30 am Line Dance	7:00 pm Session meeting	ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service 7:30 pm Choir	2:00 pm News Letter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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		2:00 pm Annual reports out (POJ) 7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Trinity UMC) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		