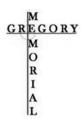
THE HERALD



Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church 6300 Courthouse Road ~ P.O. Box 182 Prince George, VA 23875 Ph.: (804) 732-1081/Fax: (804) 861-5150 office@gregorymemorial.org www.gregorymemorial.org Facebook.com/gmpcva

January 2016 THE HERALD Volume 4 * Issue 1

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



"When [the shepherds] saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

~Luke 2:17-20

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

hile the celebrations of the day may be fading into memory, while the wrapping paper, bows and bags may be cleaned up (or not), the truth is that, for us, Christmas is just beginning! From the end of November to December 24, we spent our days in Advent, preparing for the arrival of our Messiah, Immanuel, God-with-us. And then, just a few days ago on December 25, our season of Christmas began! It will carry us through into the beginning of January (the 6th, to be exact)...

Last month, I spoke about disciplines to put into practice to help us, individually and as a community, to prepare for Christ's arrival once again into our lives. Disciplines such as daily devotion and prayer, deliberate and active sharing of the blessings we have received, taking time to be mindful of the presence of God, and to breathe – simply breathe. The regular practice of these disciplines during Advent can help us to make the most of the season, and (in my opinion) go further to "keep Christ in Christmas" than any yard sign.

But they are not simply Advent practices, for a few weeks of the year. Nor are they simple Christmas practices, to continue in these coming days. Rather, these are *Christian* practices, disciplines which continually enhance and increase the life of faith we seek, the nearness of the Kingdom of God which we proclaim. The presence of Christ in our lives, after all, is

not limited to the time of Advent or Christmas, but is a year-round, life-time reality. So, too, are the disciplines of our faith! What joy, indeed, to be had in Christ!

Much like an athlete who strives to stay at the peak of his game, much like the professional who works to remain at the forefront of her field, we Christians bring the best gifts, the best service to our Lord when we continue to practice our faith and keep our skills (so to speak) fresh and up to date. When we let the ways of living out our faith fall by the wayside, then our ability to proclaim God's Kingdom likewise lessens.

The difference is that the practice of these disciplines – prayer, mindfulness, service, compassion, humility, love – brings joy, and not fatigue; they bring peace instead of burnout. They bring us closer to Christ, which is the source of Life and Light, renewing us rather than diminishing us or our strength.

What a Christmas gift this is, what a joy to be found in the presence of Christ and the Kingdom of God. Merry Christmas, one and all, and to all a good night!

With you on the journey, Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2016

Sunday, 3 January, 2016

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day - Color: White 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 2nd Reading: John 1:10-18 Sermon: "Drawn from the Corners"

Sunday, 10 January, 2016

Baptism of the Lord - Liturgical Color: White 1st Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7 2nd Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Sermon: Rev. Kelly Kaufman

-Sunday, 17 January, 2016

2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: Green 1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5 2nd Reading: John 2:1-11 Sermon: "Renamed"

Sunday, 24 January, 2016

3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: Green 1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 2nd Reading: Luke 4:14-21 Sermon: "With Rejoicing"

Sunday, 31 January, 2016

4th Sunday after Epiphany- Liturgical Color: Green 1st Reading: Luke 4:21-30 2nd Reading: Luke 4:21-30 Sermon: "A Mistaken 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.

Don Vtipil

Marion McDonald

James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell's brother Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister

Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother

Maryland Blanchard, Grace and Helen Cibula's friend

Ben Nicely

Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother

Mark Chariton

Evelyn Lichvar (health issues)

Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)

Rick Lichvar, Evelyn Lichvar's son (chronic illness)

Becky Smith

Chuck Barnes, the Ingrams' friend

Bob Hogsett, father-in-law to the Rechers' daughter

Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)

Aida Faries

Helen Cibula

Elizabeth Scott

Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's coworker

Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends

Ruth Figg

Jimmy Clark

Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram

Eleanor Jones

Jean Waymack

Frank Solesbee

Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son

Robert Hartsell (recov., health issue)

Cheryl May, Susan Walker's employee (Cheryl's dad's health issues)

Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)

T. J. Orr, youth friend of the Bishops (home)

Valerie Harsh (recov., foot injury)

Billy Robertson (recov., heart attack)

Sharon Maderly, Kaitlyn Hartsell's grandmother (health issue)

H. Martin Robertson (health issues) & wife Carol

Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother (recov., surgery)

Peggv Allen

Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)

The Juliano family, the Cashings' friends (fire/smoke damage to home)

Berthel & Izzy Garza, Mary Kay Schroeter's friends (health issue)

Judy Recher (health issue)

Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen

Annual Congregational Meeting to be on Sunday, January 24, 2016, following worship (with lunch provided). A make-up date, if necessary, will be January 31, 2016.

Sunday Luncheon for January will be on <u>Fourth Sunday</u>, <u>January 24</u>, after Annual Congregational Meeting.

[From Facilities Committee:]

"Greetings in this season of peace of joy! The Facilities and Stewardship & Finance Committees would like to express a deep level of gratitude for all the ways that you, the members of Gregory Memorial, have supported this church, her ministries, and the needs of her facility over the years. We perhaps do not say this enough, but we would not exist without all the ways you support us, and for this we are immensely grateful. Thank you!

Recently we contracted to have the roof of the Fellowship Hall replaced. The shingles on the roof were over 30 years old from what we could tell, and far past the 'lifetime' of the roof. As this was such an immediate need, our committees determined to fund this project through the use of our investments, as opposed to undertaking a fundraising campaign. We have since heard some dismay that we did not give you, the congregation, a chance to

help in this expense. It was never our intent to cut you out of the process, or to take your gifts for granted. We simply wanted to make sure there was no delay in replacing the roof.

If you would like to donate to this project, or any others, please speak with a member of the Facilities Committee, the Stewardship & Finance Committee, or the Pastor. Thank you very much, and may blessings be yours in this new year!"

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, sign up on the form in the Narthex, or, indicate on the form you prefer reading it directly from the church website.

HOLY HUMOR

By Sandy Hunter

Catholics And Coffee...

The people at Starbucks managed to arrange a meeting with the Pope at the Vatican.

After receiving the papal blessing, the Starbucks official whispered, "Your Eminence, we have an offer for you. Starbucks is prepared to donate \$100 million a year to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily coffee."

The Pope responded, "That is impossible. The prayer is the word

of the Lord. It must not be changed."

"Well," said the Starbucks man, "we anticipated your reluctance. For this reason we will increase our offer to \$300 million."

"My son, it is impossible. For the prayer is the word of the Lord, and it must not be changed."

The Starbucks guy said, "Your Holiness, we at Starbucks respect your adherence to the faith, but we do have one final offer...We will donate \$500 million a year - that's half a billion dollars - to the great Catholic Church if you would only change the Lord's Prayer from 'give

us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily coffee.' Please consider it." And he left.

The next day the Pope convened the College of Cardinals. "There is some good news," he announced, "...and some bad news. The good news is that the Church will come into \$500 million.

"And the bad news, your Holiness?" asked a Cardinal. "We're losing the Wonder Bread account."



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

January, 2016

January 3	
January 10	
January 17	
January 24	
January 31	

For assistance with this list, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday*)

Sign-up sheet is temporarily on counter of Fellowship Hall kitchen.

SUNDAY SERVANTS – **January, 2016**

GATEKEEPER: O Dennis Allen	JAN. 3	JAN. 10	JAN. 17	JAN. 24	JAN. 31
Ushers	Jerry Hasky	Sheila Fields	Robert Hartsell	Rose Scott	Bobby Allen
	Wayne Powers	Janet Swinton	Dianne Overstreet	Wayne Powers	Donna Allen
	Glenda Mayhew	Marguerite Bishop	Rose Scott	Morgan Ingram	Velma Allen
	Les Mayhew	Valerie Harsh	Wayne Powers	Josh Ingram	Larry Johnson
Announcements	Rose Scott	Rose Scott Dianne Overstreet		Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Valerie Harsh	Morgan Ingram	Patsy Johnson	Lisa Brown	Megan Cashing
	Justin Ellis-Bowman	Josh Ingram	Breeana Hunter	Madison Foster	Kaitlyn Hartsell
Counting	Morgan Ingram	David Johnson	Kevin Foster	Sandy Hunter	Donald Hunter
	Donald Hunter	Ron Recher	Glenda Mayhew	Pat Hunter	David Johnson

JANUARY, 2016

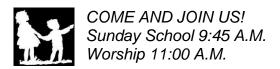
GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					New Year's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45 am Sunday	-	12:30 pm Circle	7:00 pm	2-8:00 pm	5:00 pm Scouts	11:00 am Scouts
School			Choir	Cleaning	District Order of	Lock-in ends
11:00 am		6:00 pm Cong. Care		6:30 pm Relay	Arrow Lock-in Dec. 8-9 at	
Worship		Cure		for Life meeting	GMPC	
•		7:00 pm				
		Facilities				
10		7:00 pm Worship	12	14	15	16
10	11	12	7:00	2 8.00	15	16
9:45 am Sunday		6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
School						
11:00 am				7:00 pm		
Worship				Stewardship & Finance		
Guest Preacher						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45 am Sunday			6:30 pm	9:00 am News		1-9:00 pm Cub
School			Missions	articles in		Scouts Spaghetti
11:00 am Worship			7.00	2.0.00		Dinner Fundraiser, Fellowship Hall
22700 uni worsing			7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning		(5-7:00 pm dinner)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45 am Sunday	1:00 pm PG		7:00 pm	2:00 pm		9:00 am Officers'
School	Triad, PG		Choir	Newsletter		Training,
11:00 am Worship 5 Cents a Meal	Library			Out		Fellowship Hall
Offering	7:00 pm			2-8:00 pm		
337 - 18	Christian Ed			Cleaning		
Annual						
Congregational Meeting &						
4 th Sunday						
Luncheon (Rain date: 1/31)						
date. 1/31)						
31						
9:45 am Sunday						
School						
11:00 am Worship						
Local Emergency Aid Offering						
Rain date for						
Cong. Mtg.& Lunch						
2:00 pm Committee reports						
in						
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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church 6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182 Prince George, VA 23875-0182

STAMP

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva