

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ...let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance...The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

~Proverbs 1:1-2, 5, 7

How's your schoolwork going? Are you keeping up with your reading? Are you working on your assignments?

These are the questions I've been asked most regularly since I began my Doctor of Ministry program a few months ago. And I'm happy, each time, to respond with 'yes' to all of them. I'm excited to share this journey with you; one of the aspects that truly makes this academic program different from others is the expectation that the student be in full-time ministry with a congregation. I couldn't be in this program if I wasn't in ministry, because it is expected that the learning I undertake not be done for myself alone, but should directly benefit the congregation, as well, growing us all as disciples of Christ and ministers of God! And I am very excited that I have the privilege to do this with you in particular.

And so, here's the 'official' invitation: It would give me great joy if you would join me in this program of study and learning, of growth and increased discipleship.

To that end, I'd like to tell you a bit about what will be coming in the next few weeks. For the first three Sundays in May (the 1st, the 8th, and the 15th) I will be delving into Paul's Letter to Philemon in the sermons, looking at how this brief letter can help us better live into the reconciling work of the Kingdom of God. At the end of this time, I'll have a *brief* survey to be filled out, for those who are willing to do so.

This will directly go into my current assignment, for my next seminar in June, which is to use the book of Philemon in a ministry project, and then reflect upon it. By attending worship, by engaging in this conversation with me, and by responding to my survey, you will be helping me complete my assignment.

But that's not all! On Sunday, May 15, we'll be having a Third Sunday Luncheon, at which I'll be giving you more information about this program overall – how long I anticipate it to last, what I plan to focus on, what I hope my project will be, and other ways in which the congregation can support me along the way, plus answering any other questions you may have. I want to share as much of this with you as I can, because I am genuinely excited about what I'm doing and I want to share it with you, every step of the way. I hope you'll make a point of joining us for lunch and discussion on that Sunday.

In the meantime, may we all continue to learn and relearn the lessons of our Master, to be instructed and guided by them for the edification of all.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MAY, 2016

Sunday, 1 May, 2016

6th Sunday of Easter - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 16:9-15
 2nd Reading: John 14:23-29
 Sermon: "Uncertain Homecoming"

Sunday, 8 May, 2016

7th Sunday of Easter - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 16:9-15
 2nd Reading: John 14:23-29
 Sermon: "Uncertain Homecoming"

Sunday, 15 May, 2016


Day of Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Red
 1st Reading: Acts 2:1-21
 2nd Reading: John 14:8-17
 Sermon: "Slaves of the Spirit"

Sunday, 22 May, 2016

Trinity Sunday - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: 1 Kings 18:20-39
 2nd Reading: Luke 7:1-10
 Sermon: "Prayers of the People"

Sunday, 29 May, 2016

(Memorial Weekend)
 2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: 1 Kings 18:20-39
 2nd Reading: Luke 7:1-10
 Sermon: "Prayers of the People"

 **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.

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
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 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
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Aida Faries
 Helen Cibula
 Grace Cibula
 Elizabeth Scott
 Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's
 co-worker

Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Jimmy Clark
 Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 Peggy Allen
 Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)
 Berthel & Izzy Garza, Mary Kay Schroeter's friends (health issue)
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)
 Mary Mistr (fire damage to home)
 Paul Cerny, Jr. (recov., surgery)
 Ruth Figg (recov., knee replacement surgery)
 Ruth Dalton (Don Vtipil's mother), Chippenahm with heart problems
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother (colon cancer diagnosis)
 Eleanor Jones
 Kay Alloway, (cancer diagnosis)
 Frank & Joy Stetts, cousin of Donald Hunter & Pat Hunter
 (Frank: heart surgery; Joy: hand surgery)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:

Dennis Allen

* It's time to sign up for our outing to The Diamond to cheer on the Flying Squirrels! We'll be going to the game on Saturday, June 18, 6:05 p.m., and sitting in one of the party decks again. This means that seating is limited to the first 24 that sign-up (sorry!). Sign-up sheet is in the narthex; if you'd like to go, *please sign up by May 29*. If you have any questions, please contact Jason.

* We'll be saying 'Thank you' and 'Congratulations' to the students and teachers of our Preschool in worship in Sunday, May 15.

* Please plan to join us on Sunday, May 15, for a Third Sunday Luncheon. Jason will be talking about his Doctor of Ministry program, filling us in on the details, sharing his vision and hopes, and taking questions. Congregational Care will be hosting the luncheon, and asks people to sign up to

bring a dish to share on the sheet in the narthex. Whether you bring a dish or not, you are warmly invited!

*Outreach Committee is helping to organize a group to go see the play "Some Enchanted Evening" (starring our very own Kevin Foster II and Madison Foster!) at Prince George High School, on Saturday, May 7. If you are interested, please see Evelyn Foster for details/tickets.

HOLY HUMOR

OPEN TO INTERPRETATION...

The Sunday school teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Another Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know... Aces!"

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday school teacher asked her class if there was a

commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "***Thou shalt not kill!***"



A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?"

"NO!" the children shouted.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're

really getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "***FIRST, YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!***"

[And the hands-down winner is...]

At Sunday school they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Adam's wife, Eve, was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later on that week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and asked, "Johnny, what is the matter?"


Rolling his eyes to the heavens, Johnny groaned and said, "***I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.***"

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY MAY, 2016

MAY 1	
MAY 8	Dianne Overstreet
MAY 15	Sandra Perkins
MAY 22	Rose Scott
MAY 29	

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

THOSE WHO SERVE – MAY, 2016

 GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen	MAY. 1	MAY. 8 “Mother’s Day”	MAY. 15	MAY. 22	MAY. 29
Ushers	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh
Announcements	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet
Junior Sermon	Susan Walker	Minister	Valerie Harsh	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter
Junior Church	Jennifer Smyth Jared Smyth	Susan Walker Breeana Hunter	Patsy Johnson Madison Foster	Pat Hunter Kaitlyn Hartsell	Rose Scott Austin Smyth
Counting	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott	David Johnson Kevin Foster	Ron Recher Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter

*Anything big enough to occupy our minds is big enough to hang a prayer on.
George MacDonald*

MAY, 2016

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		12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Preschool parents' Mother's Day Lunch, Fellowship Hall 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<u>Mother's Day</u> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering</i>		6:30 pm Missions 6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>Preschool Sunday</u> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Preschool Program <i>Pentecost Offering</i> <i>Third Sunday Luncheon - Host: Congregational Care</i>		6:30 pm Missions	7:00 pm Choir	<u>Preschool's 2015/16 Last Day</u> 9:00 am News articles in 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 7:00 pm Preschool graduation, Sanctuary		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	1:00 pm PG Triad, PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed		7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
29	30	31				
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i>	<u>Memorial Day</u> 2:00 pm Committee Reports in					

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

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MAY NEWSLETTER



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

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