

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.  
Mark 6:34

Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat."  
Mark 8:1b-2

Recently on social media, someone called a friend of mine a "bleeding heart liberal." It was not meant as a compliment. I'm not that surprised by the 'liberal' part; my friend is one, and unashamedly. But what had me scratching my head was the part about being a "bleeding heart" and why that would have to be a bad thing.

I understand that, in common usage today, it's meant to mean someone who gets upset over every little thing, and often over hurts that might be more perceived than they are real. But it still got me to asking myself, "why is this a bad thing?" If our hearts truly do bleed (figuratively) for those who are suffering, why is that a negative quality in an individual?

Twice, in the Gospel of Mark, the word "compassion" is used. Again, in common usage, this tends to mean 'pity' or 'sorrow' but this is not truly accurate to the origins of the word. Taken for its parts, we have the prefix *com-* meaning "with" or "alongside" and the root *pati* meaning suffering, as in "The Passion of Jesus" (his suffering and agony on the cross). Hence, at its truest and most accurate, compassion means to share in the suffering of another, to take on and help carry the weight of agony of another who is being crushed by the experience.

Jesus, in Mark 6, saw that the people were lost, looking for a new way, and were suffering such as lost sheep. He had compassion on them, and taught them, leading them as a shepherd would his flock.

Then again, in Mark 8, he saw that the crowds were hungry, starving for both physical and spiritual nourishment. Again, he had compassion on them, walking alongside them and choosing to ease the pain of their hunger.

And as the gospels' story progresses, Jesus goes to the cross and bears, with compassion, the weight of brokenness and separation in the world – separation from God and each other, relationships broken by sin – and in that compassion, his heart bleeds (literally).

As I write this, the violence, death, and broken relationships of this past month are still very fresh on my heart, and I grieve. Knowing that such violence and death is *not* indicative of the Kingdom of God (in which every tear shall be wiped from our eyes, and death and sorrow shall be no more), I cannot help but feel compassion, even to the point of having a bleeding heart, for the loss and heartache that exists, still, in our world.

*But it doesn't stop there.*

From feeling compassion, Jesus went on to action, seeking to change the current reality to more closely match the reality of the Kingdom. He taught, fed, and healed those in the crowds that came to him. Similarly, feeling compassion for those who hurt, our call is to work to ease their suffering.

We can do this in any number of ways, but I believe the first step, after asking for the presence of the Spirit, is to do what comes naturally to show the light of Christ in the places that seem to be the darkest. *May we all be blessed in such an effort, for the glory of God.*

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JULY, 2016

### Sunday, 3 July, 2016

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20  
 Sermon: TBA; Melissa Miller, Guest Preacher

### Sunday, 10 July, 2016

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 7:1-17  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 10:25-37  
 Sermon: TBA; Dr. Deborah Rexrode, Guest Preacher

### Sunday, 17 July, 2016


9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 8:1-12  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 10:38-42  
 Sermon: "The Better Part"

### Sunday, 24 July, 2016

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Hosea 1:2-10  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 11:1-13  
 Sermon: "Sins and Forgiveness"

### Sunday, 31 July, 2016

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Hosea 11:1-11  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 12:13-21  
 Sermon: "Rich Toward God"

 **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)  
 Peggy Allen  
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)  
 Paul Cerny, Jr. (recov., surgery)  
 Ruth Figg  
 Ruth Dalton  
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother (rectal cancer diagnosis)  
 Eleanor Jones  
 Dottie Adkins, Bobby Allen's co-worker (recov., home)  
 Vivian Johnes (improved, at-home rehab)  
 Billy Robertson, health issue  
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother  
 Katherine Lee, mother/mother-in-law of Martha & Keith King  
 (recov., home)  
 Frank Solesbee (home)  
 Ellen Rusnak (Magnolia in Chesterfield)  
 Charlie Perkins (recov., heart issue)  
 Family/friends of those involved in Orlando tragedies

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER:**  
**Doug Holc**

➤ **COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR SUMMER:**

- \***Christian Ed** .- 7:00 p.m., on Jul. 25.
- \***Choir** – no meeting until Aug. 17.
- \***Circle** – no meeting until Sep. 6.
- \***Congregational Care** - no July meeting.
- \***Facilities** – July meeting date TBA.
- \***Missions & Outreach** – combined meeting 6:30 p.m., on July 12.
- \***Stewardship & Finance** – 7:00 p.m., on July 14
  
- **Camp Hanover @ GMPC** – 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., on July 11-15.

- While Pastor Jason is on vacation, we will welcome to Gregory’s pulpit the following guest preachers: Ms. Melissa Miller, Union Seminary student (July 3) and Dr. Deborah Rexrode (July 10).



- **TRI-CITIES WORKCAMP** – July 17-23. Commissioning of the Gregory Workcampers will occur during July 17 worship. Campers’ mailing address is: [Camper’s name], Work Camp 2016, P. O. Box 1761, Petersburg, VA 23805.

Visitors must be over age of 18 with government issued picture I.D.

Lunch providers for the week are:

- 7/18: TBA
- 7:19: TBA
- 7:20: Congregational Care
- 7:21: Facilities
- 7:22: Missions

➤ **Gregory Memorial Preschool is accepting applications for the 2016-17 school term.**

Monthly tuition is \$130 (3 yr. old class) and \$135 (4 yr. old class). Annual supply fee is \$60 per student. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required. See Page 6 for application. Contact: Janet Lammey, Preschool Director at 804-704-0584.

## CAMP HANOVER IS COMING TO GREGORY!

**CAMP HANOVER IS COMING TO GREGORY the week of July 11-15, 2016.**

The staff of Camp Hanover will be at Gregory for a 5-day day-camping experience. This program is designed for children who are currently in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We must have a minimum of 15 children. The maximum is 32. They will be engaged in bible study, arts and crafts, and active play from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day. The cost is \$75 per child. The church will be responsible for the rest of the fee. We do not want cost to keep any child from having this wonderful experience, so contact me if assistance is needed. Those who attended in previous years have had only wonderful remarks about their experience. We are happy to be able to offer it again this year.

Mark your calendars now. Available spots will be given on a first come, first serve basis. If your child knows already that they want to come, please let me know now so I can put their name on the list. Registration forms are available in Narthex.

Contact person: Sandy Hunter  
Co-Chair, Christian Ed. Committee  
804-833-8414 H or 731-0082 C



## HOLY HUMOR

• **Several children found a dead robin.** Feeling a proper burial was in order, they put it into a small cotton-lined box, dug a hole in the back yard, and made ready to dispose of the deceased. The minister's 5-year-old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he somberly intoned, "Glory be to the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes."

• **Two priests died at the same time** and met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter greeted them and said, "I'd like to get you guys in now, but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest said, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," said St. Peter, and off flew the first priest.

The second priest mulled this over for a moment and asked, "Will you be keeping track of us?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," said the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappeared.

After a week, the computer was fixed, and the Lord told St. Peter to recall the two priests. "Will you have trouble locating them?" He asked.

"The first one should be easy," replied St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asked the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

• **A country preacher** decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness.

Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both of his legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!"

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "*Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive!*"

• **A new pastor** was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. As he approached one of the houses, it seemed obvious that someone was at home, yet there was no answer to his repeated knocks at the door. So, he took out a business card and quickly wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message: 'Genesis 3:10.'

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he burst out in laughter. Revelation 3:20 began 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 read, '*I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.*'

• **At the pearly gates**, St. Peter greeted a minister and a congressman and gave them each their room assignments.

"Pastor, here are the keys to one of our nicest efficiency units. And for you, Mr. Congressman, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

"This is unfair!" cried the minister in dismay.

"Listen," St. Peter said, "Ministers are a dime a dozen up here, *but this is the first congressman we've ever seen.*"

• **"Blessed are the..." red-necked(?)** What's wrong, Bubba?" asked the pastor during Sunday prayer service.

"I need you to pray for my hearing," said Bubba.

The pastor put his hands on Bubba's ears and prayed. When he was done, he asked, "So how's your hearing?"

"I don't know," said Bubba. "*It isn't until next Tuesday.*"

• **At the pearly gates**, a taxi driver and minister were waiting in line. St. Peter consulted his list and told the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Peter next greeted the minister with, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Now, wait just a minute," complained the minister. "So, that man was just a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," St. Peter replied. "While you preached, people slept; *but while he drove, people prayed.*"



## WHAT'S JASON READING?



I'd like to introduce a new section, and see how it fits. I'm calling it, "What's Jason reading?" Each month, I'll update you on what I'm reading, and why. Feel free to ask me about any of

them! Right now, I'm reading the following:  
 For my degree: "Bulletproof Spirit: The First Responder's Essential Resource for Protecting and Healing Mind and Heart" (Willis, Dan).

For the church: "Brushed by the Sacred" (Beckes, Lee)  
 For fun/vacation: "Finders Keepers" (King, Stephen)

- Pastor Jason

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

### JULY, 2016

JULY 3	
JULY 10	
JULY 17	Bobby Allen
JULY 23	Rose Scott
JULY 31	Marguerite Bishop

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 – JULY, 2016

<u>GATEKEEPER:</u> 🔑 Doug Holc	JUL. 3	JUL. 10	JUL. 17	JUL. 24	JUL. 31
<b>Ushers</b>	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	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
<b>Announcements</b>	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
<b>Junior Church</b>	Valerie Harsh Justin Ellis-Bowman	Lisa Brown Breeana Hunter	Patsy Johnson Madison Foster	Megal Cashing Kaitlyn Hartsell	Jennifer Smyth Austin Smyth
<b>Counting</b>	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter

*FAITH is the conviction that God knows more than we do about this life and He will get us through it.*  
 Max Lacado

Gregory Memorial Preschool Registration Form

Child's Full Name: Birth date:

Address:

City: State: Zip

Mother's Full Name: Home Phone:

Home Address: Cell Phone:

(City, State, Zip)

Name of Employer: Work Hours:

Business Address: Work Phone:

(City State, Zip

Email address

Father's Full Name: Home Phone:

Home Address: Cell Phone:

(City, State, Zip)

Name of Employer: Work Hours:

Business Address: Work Phone:

Guardian other than Above Home Phone:.

Home Address: Cell Phone:

(City State Zip) Work Phone:.

Name of Employer: Work Hours:.

Business Address:

Emergency Contacts: (other than parents or guardian)

Primary Emergency Contact

Home Phone: Work Phone: Cell Phone:

Relationship to child:

Secondary Emergency Contact: (other than parents or guardian)

Secondary Emergency Contact

Home Phone: Work Phone: Cell Phone:

Relationship to child:

Person(s) authorized to pick up child: (other than those listed above)

Name: Name:

Name: Name:

Person(s) NOT authorized to pick up child:

Name: Name:

Name: Name:

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Registration for the 2016/17 School Year begins March 1, 2016. Please call Janet Lammey, Preschool Director, at 704-0584, or email gregorymemorialps@hotmail.com to check availability of openings for enrollment. Registration and Fees: Tuition is due 1st of month as follows: 3 yr. old class - \$130/mo. & 4 yr. old class - \$135/mo. Children must reach the stated age by September 30 of current school year. A copy of each child's birth certificate from their state of birth & copy of child's immunization record is requested at registration & will be kept on file by Preschool. Return completed registration form with \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee within two weeks to insure a position in our program. Make checks payable to GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL. Completed registration forms should be mailed to:

Gregory Memorial Preschool, P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875.

Parents will be notified in August with additional information regarding orientation.



# JULY, 2016

GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship  <i>Guest preacher: Ms. Melissa Miller</i>  Pastor vacation 7/3-15/16	<b>Independence Day</b>  	<b>7:00 pm</b> Worship		<b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship  <i>Guest preacher: Dr. Deborah Rexrode</i>  <i>GMPC's Camp Hanover: July 11-15</i>	<b>9:00 am-3:00 pm</b> Camp Hanover	<b>9:00 am-3:00 pm</b> Camp Hanover  <b>6:30 pm</b> Outreach & Missions (combined)	<b>9:00 am-3:00 pm</b> Camp Hanover	<b>9:00 am-3:00 pm</b> Camp Hanover  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning  <b>7:00 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance	<b>9:00 am-3:00 pm</b> Camp Hanover	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship & Commissioning of Workcampers  <i>Tri-Cities Workcamp July 17-23</i>	<i>Tri-Cities Workcamp Lunch: TBA</i>	<i>Tri-Cities Workcamp Lunch:TBA</i>	<i>Tri-Cities Workcamp Lunch: Congregational Care</i>	<b>9:00 am</b> News articles in  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning  <i>Tri-Cities Workcamp Lunch: Facilities</i>	<i>Tri-Cities Workcamp Lunch: Missions</i>	<b>9:00 am</b> <i>End Gregory's week at Tri-Cities Workcamp</i>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	<b>7:00 pm</b> Christian Ed			<b>2:00 pm</b> Newsletter out  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning		<b>2:00 pm</b> Committee. Reports in
<b>31</b>						
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i>  <b>2:00 pm</b> Committee. Reports in						

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

STAMP

## ***JULY 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)*