

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” -Matthew 11:29

How do you study the Bible? Do you lean more toward a pre-set devotional, which takes a verse or two and reflects on them? Do you have a schedule of reading through different books of the Bible? Do you study with others, or on your own?

My observation is that the majority of devotionals, and even of formal Bible studies, is that they hopscotch around throughout the Bible, focusing on thematic elements – pillars of the faith, for example, or gifts of the Spirit. Very rarely does a study work through the Bible from beginning to end, and that includes the Lectionary which we use in worship. And my point in all of this is that while we gain much from opening ourselves to scripture, we miss a bit of the deeper context when we hopscotch around (myself included). When we jump around to different verses, we often miss how events lead one to the next, and how instances in the past come back to influence a decision later on.

Last April marked three years of me being with you –which is one cycle through the Revised Common Lectionary (what we typically use in worship). This October marks, for me, nine years in ministry, or three times through the Lectionary cycle. I’ve been thinking for a while that, rather than jumping around, touching down for a bit here and there, we (and I) might benefit from looking at our Scripture a bit more chronologically. Thankfully, there is a resource for this, so I don’t have to make it up new, and you don’t have to sit through every single verse!

On Sunday, September 11, we will begin using in worship a resource called the Narrative Lectionary. Rather than moving around back and forth, we’ll begin in Genesis and move forward from there. We’ll hit some of the highlights, book by book, through the Old Testament until we reach late Advent and Christmas, at which point we’ll turn to the New Testament – the gospel of Luke between Christmas and Easter, then the stories of the Early Church and some of Paul’s letters.

My hope is that, using this approach, we will gain a deeper understanding of God’s presence at work in the world, from when time began, through the judges, kings, and prophets, through Jesus and the apostles. I believe we will gain a lot, and be greatly enriched in our lives of faith.

And that isn’t the only thing to look forward to on September 11! That is also our annual Sunday School celebration Sunday! Join us for a delicious breakfast, wonderful fellowship, and an engaging, interactive presentation from a K9 unit as we learn more about what it means to trust God. It will be a great way to “Refresh” our hearts and minds for the year to come, in Sunday School and worship, and in our lives of faith – you won’t want to miss out!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2016

Sunday, 4 September, 2016

16th Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11
 2nd Reading: Luke 14:25-33
 Sermon: "Blueprints and Clay"

Sunday, 11 September, 2016


17th Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8
 2nd Reading: Luke 11:4
 Sermon: "Wayward Man"

Sunday, 18 September, 2016

18th Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6
 2nd Reading: Luke 3:8
 Sermon: "Children of God"

Sunday, 25 September, 2016

19th Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21
 2nd Reading: Luke 6:35
 Sermon: "Divine Forgiveness"

 **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.

Communities affected by recent acts of violence
 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
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Evelyn Lichvar, her son, Martin, and her brother, Rick Lichvar (health issues)
 Becky Smith
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Helen & Grace Cibula
 Elizabeth Scott
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Jimmy Clark
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 Peggy Allen
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)
 Ruth Figg
 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)
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother
 Ben Wilbourne, Webber family member, (continued recovery)
 Teresa Knott, PG County employee (health issue)
 Laura Baghetti, Susan Walker's co-worker (ready to give birth)
 Billy Robertson (home, feeling better)
 Emily Hudson, Rose Scott's niece (continued recovery, home)
 Aida Faries (kidney transplant match)
 Susan Walker (health & stress issues)
 Otto Eickmeyer, Sandy Eickmeyer's father (ICU, health issues)
 Catherine Velvet, WorkCamp resident (health issues)
 Gladys Wiseman (thumb injury)
 Eileen Mozucha (stroke recovery)
 Kerry Rosier, arm injury
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recovery)
 Mae Grammer, Dianne Overstreet's friend
 Mary Coleman (hospital stays)
 Ralph Summerson

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:
Gregg Webber

➤ **"Fresh Start" Sunday** will be on Sept. 11 with breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. The program "Trust and Obey" features a Prince George County police officer and his canine partner. This interactive program is for all ages.

The Sunday school collection/donations received on that day will be used to support the "Heifer Project", a very worthwhile mission.

➤ **"Patriot Day" (Sep. 11)** falls on a Sunday this year. We will encourage any who wish to gather in prayer and reflection to do so in the Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m. We will encourage people as they

gather for worship to do so in silence, so as not to disturb the thoughts and prayers of each other.

➤ **The 2016 update to our pocket-sized Congregation Directory** is being prepared, and we ask that you stop by the Narthex table and make any necessary changes to your listed information. If there are no changes to be made, please write your initials beside your existing info so we will know you are aware of how your info is being listed. We have until Sept. 11 to make any changes.

➤ **Homecoming Committee is collecting info** to make sure all family and friends, present and past, are invited to our Homecoming celebration in November, and to that

end we would greatly appreciate your help! If you have current addresses for any previous church members not presently in our directory, please pass that info onto a member of the Homecoming Committee. Thank you!




FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

SEPTEMBER	7	
SEPTEMBER	14	
SEPTEMBER	21	
SEPTEMBER	28	

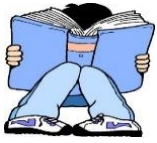
For assistance with this list, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday)

THOSE WHO SERVE

 GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber	SEP. 4	SEP. 11	SEP. 18	SEP. 25
Ushers	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Announcements	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
Junior Sermon	Megan Cashing	Minister	Susan Walker	Valerie Harsh
Junior Church	Lisa Brown Breeana Hunter	Marguerite Bishop Kaitlyn Hartsell	Tara Foster Austin Smyth	Valerie Harsh Jamie Meurer
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher

*"Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."
Joseph Addison*

WHAT'S JASON READING



For church: The Art of Pastoring (William Martin), a collection of reflections to nourish pastors.

For school: Counseling Survivors of Traumatic Events: A Handbook (Weaver & Preston), to better respond to those living in pain.

For fun: End of Watch (Stephen King), simply fun to read, my go-to relaxation author.



HOLY HUMOR

• TOP TEN WAYS THE BIBLE WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF WRITTEN BY COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- 10) Loaves and fishes would be replaced by pizza and chips.
- 9) Ten Commandments would *actually be only five*, but because when typed in double-spacing and written in a large font, they *only look like ten*.
- 8) Forbidden fruit would have been eaten *because it wasn't dorm food*.
- 7) Paul's Letters to the Romans becomes *Paul's e-mail to the Romans*.
- 6) Reason Cain killed Abel: *They were roommates*.
- 5) The Plains of Armageddon as the place where the end of the world occurs would be *replaced by Finals*.
- 4) *A Book of Armaments* would be in there somewhere.
- 3) Reason why Moses and followers walked in desert for 40 years: *They didn't want to ask directions and look like a freshman*.
- 2) *Tower of Babel* gets blamed for the Foreign Language requirement.
- 1) Instead of creating the world in 6 days and resting on the 7th, He would

put it off until the night before it was due, *then pull an all-nighter and hope no one notices*.

• DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH AND MOSES?

George W. Bush was campaigning one day and had to board a commercial aircraft because Air Force One needed repairs. While on the plane, the President saw an old man with a long white beard carrying stone tablets in one hand and a wooden staff in the other. The President approached the man and asked, "Excuse me, sir. But you look a lot like Moses. Are you really he?"

The old man just ignored him. President Bush kept looking at this man, and soon he again asked him if he was Moses. Again the old man ignored him.

Finally the President sent one of his Secret Service agents to the old man asking, "Sir, the President would really like to know if you are Moses. Why do you keep ignoring him?"

At last the old man answered, "I don't mean to be rude. But the last time I talked to a bush, I was on the backside of a desert for 40 years!"

• **HOLY HAIR, BATMAN!** A pastor's son who had just gotten his driving permit asked his father about using the family car. His father answered, "Son, I'll make a deal with you. If you bring up your grades, study your Bible more, and get your haircut, then we will talk."

Two months later, the boy approached his father again about using the car. His father said, "Son, I'm really proud of you. You have brought up your grades and studied your Bible diligently. But why haven't you gotten your hair cut?"

The young man replied, "Samson had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father said, "Yes, son and as you will recall, they walked everywhere they went!"



SEPTEMBER, 2016

GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				2-8:00 pm Cleaning 7:00 pm Preschool Orientation		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<u>Labor Day</u>	11-11:45 am Preschool 1 st Day 12:30 pm Circle 5:30-8:30 pm GS Troop 5000, Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Cong . Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<u>Patriot Day</u> 9:00 am “Fresh Start Sunday” Breakfast & Program: “Trust & Obey” 10:45 am Observance of Patriot Day in Sanctuary 11:00 am Worship	6-7:00 pm GS Troop 553, Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship		5:30-8:30 pm GS Troop 5000, Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Missions	7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	1:00 pm PG Triad, PG Library 6-7:00 pm GS Troop 553, Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Christian Ed		1-9:00 pm BS Court of Honor (6 pm dinner), Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning	2:00 pm Committee reports in	

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

STAMP

SEPTEMBER 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)