

## Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

*- John 8:31-32*

In the weeks leading up to Christmas I, like many, did the things and traditions that help get me in the right frame of mind. One of my personal traditions is to watch the movie *Love Actually* (2003). To some, this movie may not epitomize the Christmas spirit, and others have found it to be too disconnected in the stories of its characters. But one of the themes that runs throughout the movie is that, at Christmastime, you tell the truth. [Note: While I like this movie, I do not recommend it for children; it contains themes and language more suitable to adults.]

Sometimes this truth is to another person, sometimes it is to yourself. Sometimes it creates a new opportunity, other times it is painful, and still other times it has unexpected results. But throughout the movie, we see stories in which the characters find themselves living into the truth, and learning what is important to them.

And while we celebrate anew the in-breaking to our world of the Divine Light in human form, God-With-Us, Christmastime becomes another opportunity to take a truthful look at our lives, and to determine what needs to be done to live more fully into the life of discipleship to which we have each been called.

Jesus, caught in a discussion regarding his identity and ministry, speaks to the crowds that are around him, crowds consisting of his disciples, the Pharisees, perhaps some Romans, and a gathering of Jews. To them he proclaims that, in discipleship to him, they will know truth, and truth has a way of setting us free. Not necessarily from physical things which may bind us, but our spirits and hearts are set free to follow God more closely, to proclaim God more fully.

And in this Christmas season (remember, Christmas begins on December 25 and goes through early January!), as well as in this coming New Year, we have the opportunity to look at our own lives, our own

hearts, and truthfully determine if there are things that need to change so that we might be stronger disciples.

Looking at my own life and ministry, I see that there are things I need to change. Over the years here, I have allowed my schedule to be defined by the office tasks I thought needed to be done, and that the best way for me to a) do those tasks, and b) be faithful to this ministry was to be at the church very specific hours. In today's world of cell phones and mobile email, I wonder if this is still accurate. I don't know that it is, and so I plan to shift my daily schedule to make sure that more of my energy is spent away from the desk at church, and out in the community, visiting people and building relationships. (All the other tasks will still get done, not to worry, but they will no longer receive the most attention). After nearly a decade, it's a bit hard for me to realize I've become misguided, but it's true, and I intend to make that right.

What areas of your life might need tweaking, in order to live into the truth that a life in Christ brings? How might you go about making those changes? How can we at Gregory Memorial help?

Christ has come again, once more bearing the Light of God into the darkness of our world. This is cause for great joy and celebration, and while it means shining light in corners of our lives that we might rather leave darkened, it also means that the new life which comes after that is closer to the life God has in store for us. May this, along with the full blessings of our Lord, be your gift in this Christmas season!

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



# WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2017

**Sunday, 1 JANUARY, 2017**

”New Year’s Day” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 131 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 2:21-38  
 -Sermon: “My Eyes Have Seen”

**Sunday, 8 JANUARY, 2017**

”Baptism of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 51:6-17 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 3:1-22  
 Sermon: Guest Preacher, Lauren Slingerland

**Sunday, 15 JANUARY, 2017**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 146 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 4:14-30  
 Sermon: “Trusting In God”

**Sunday, 22 JANUARY, 2017**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 90:14-17 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 5:1-11  
 -Sermon: “The Right Bait”

**Sunday, 29 JANUARY, 2017**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 92 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 6:1-16  
 -Sermon: “Faith Restored”



**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 Hurricane Matthew  
 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  
 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)  
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother (rectal cancer diagnosis)  
 Eleanor Jones;  
 Vivian Johnes (improved, at-home rehab)

Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother  
 Teresa Knott, PG County employee (health issue)  
 Billy Robertson (home, feeling better)  
 Emily Hudson, Rose Scott’s niece (continued recov., home)  
 Eileen Mozucha (continued recov., home)  
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recov.)  
 Mae Grammer, Dianne Overstreet’s friend  
 Ralph Summerson  
 George Poulson  
 Aida Faries (unable to receive transplant)  
 Inez Paul, Mary Hole’s mother (moved into Brighter Living)  
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)  
 Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff & former Dir., Local Emerg. Planning Bd..  
 Irma Honeycutt, Dave & Patsy Johnson’s friend (health issue)  
 J. A. Williams, Donald Hunter’s friend  
 Harvey Spain, (recov., heart surgery)  
 Family/friends of Tommy Walker  
 Family/friends of Anne P. Sanford, widow of A.K. Sanford (d. 12/18)  
 Ed Armstrong (home, going through dialysis)  
 Traveling mercies for all who are traveling this holiday season

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER:**  
Gregg Webber

Please note that Jason will be in Louisville again for his next DMin courses, from January 2-13.

We welcome the following incoming Ruling Elders (Class of 2019):  
Dianne Overstreet, Patsy Johnson, and

Charles Smyth; and also Trustee (Class of 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> term) Morgan Ingram, and re-elected officers: Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session) and Kevin Foster (Treasurer).

Our heartfelt appreciation to our outgoing Elders:: Bobby Allen, Josh Ingram and Pat Hunter. Thanks for a job well done!

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, a potluck lunch will be held, followed by the Annual Ckngrational Meeting for 2016.


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**Missed the sermon?** GMPC's sermons are on YouTube each week. Check Gregory's Facebook page for the links, or search YouTube.com for Sunday's sermon

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| JANUARY 1  |  |
| JANUARY 8  |  |
| JANUARY 15 |  |
| JANUARY 22 |  |
| JANUARY 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 – JANUARY, 2017

|  <b>GATEKEEPER:</b><br>Gregg Webber | JAN. 1   | JAN. 8   | JAN. 15  | JAN. 22  | JAN. 29  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Ushers</b>   | Robert Hartsell<br>Dianne Overstreet<br>Rose Scott<br>Wayne Powers | Rose Scott<br>Wayne Powers<br>Morgan Ingram<br>Josh Ingram | Bobby Allen<br>Donna Allen<br>Velma Allen<br>Larry Johnson | Jerry Hasky<br>Wayne Powers<br>Glenda Mayhew<br>Les Mayhew | Sheila Fields<br>Janet Swinton<br>Marguerite Bishop<br>Valerie Harsh |
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Valerie Harsh  | Mary Kay Schroeter   | Larry Johnson  | Rose Scott   | Dianne Overstreet  |
| <b>Junior Sermon</b>  | Patsy Johnson  | Minister   | Pat Hunter   | Megan Cashing  | Susan Walker   |
| <b>Junior Church</b>  | Patsy Johnson<br>Madison Foster                                    | Lisa Brown<br>Kaitlyn Hartsell                             | Megan Cashing<br>Austin Smyth                              | Jennifer Smyth<br>Jamie Meurer                             | Susan Walker<br>Jared Smyth  |
| <b>Counting</b>   | Sandy Hunter<br>Ron Recher   | Morgan Ingram<br>Donald Hunter                             | David Johnson<br>Ron Recher                                | Kevin Foster<br>Glenda Mayhew                              | Sandy Hunter<br>Mary Kay Schroeter                                   |

## WHAT'S JASON READING



**For school:** *Leadership and the Art of Struggle*  
(Snyder, Steven)

**For Fun:** *Everything's Eventual* (King, Stephen)  
**For Church:** *Miracles* (Lewis, C.S.)

### OF AGE

Age brings wisdom, we are told,  
Which means we're wiser when we're old.  
More knowing and more understanding,  
Less selfish, too, and less demanding.

For more experience we've had,  
Which helps us tell the good from bad.  
It takes some time in life's great school  
To keep from acting like a fool.

Age knows a lot you shouldn't miss,  
But try to tell a youngster this.

- Richard Armour



**JANUARY, 2017**

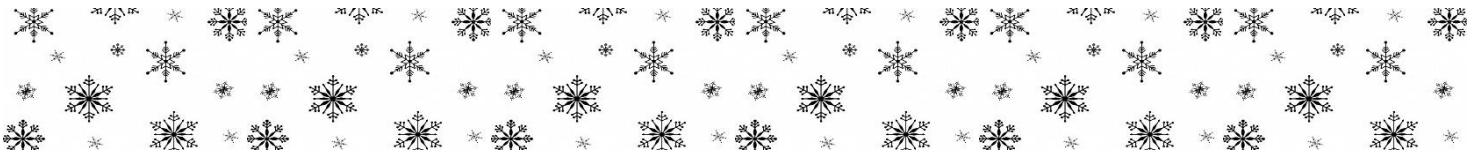
**GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber**

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                         | Thu  | Fri  | Sat                                    |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1  | 2   | 3   | 4                           | 5  | 6  | 7                                      |
| <p>New Year's Day<br/> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School<br/> <b>11:00 am</b> Worship</p>   |   | <p><b>12:30 pm</b> Circle<br/> <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> GS Tr. 5000, Fellowship Hall/kitchen<br/> <b>6:00 pm</b> Cong. Care<br/> <b>7:00 pm</b> Facilities<br/> <b>7:00 pm</b> Worship</p> |                             | <p><b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning</p>   | <p><b>6:00 pm</b> BS Lock-in begins, Fellowship Hall Jan 6-7</p> | <p><b>11:00 am</b> BS Lock-in ends</p> |
| 8  | 9   | 10  | 11                          | 12   | 13   | 14                                     |
| <p><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School<br/> <b>11:00 am</b> Worship</p>   | <p><b>6-7:00 pm</b> GS Tr. 553, Fellowship Hall/kitchen</p>                 | <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Mission<br/> <b>6:30 pm</b> Outreach</p>  | <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p> | <p><b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning</p>   |  |  |
| 15   | 16  | 17  | 18                          | 19   | 20   | 21                                     |
| <p><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School<br/> <b>11:00 am</b> Worship</p>   |   | <p><b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> GS Tr. 5000, Fellowship Hall/kitchen</p>   | <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p> | <p><b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning<br/> <b>7:00 pm</b> Stewardship &amp; Finance</p> |  |  |
| 22   | 23  | 24  | 25                          | 26   | 27   | 28                                     |
| <p><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School<br/> <b>11:00 am</b> Worship<br/> <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i></p>   |   |   | <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p> | <p><b>9:00 am</b> News articles in<br/> <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning</p>          |  |  |
| 29   | 30  | 31  |                             |  |  |  |
| <p><b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School<br/> <b>11:00 am</b> Worship<br/> <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i><br/>           Potluck Lunch after worship &amp; Annual Congregational Meeting</p> | <p><b>1:00 pm</b> PG Triad, PG Library<br/> <b>7:00 pm</b> Christian Ed</p> | <p><b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> GS Tr. 5000, Fellowship Hall/kitchen</p>   |                             |  |  |  |

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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STAMP

## ***JANUARY 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)  
[Sermons on Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)  
[WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG)*