

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd...”

-John 10:1-3, 10-11a

When I was growing up I could often be found at my friend’s house, especially during the summer months. There was a group of us, all around the same age, that lived within a one-block radius of my friend, so it was naturally a central point for all of us to gather at his house (which I’m sure made his parents thrilled!). While we would often congregate at his house, we would just as often move from there to another friend’s house within that block, and to get to one of them meant cutting through a fenced-in backyard.

Now, no one lived there, so I guess no one ever really cared that we cut through “their” yard, but every time I hopped the fence and made my way to the other side I felt like I was doing something illicit. I felt like I wasn’t supposed to be there, and that I was transgressing a boundary I wasn’t supposed to cross. (Just imagine a group of teenage boys “stealthily” moving along a fence-line in the middle of the afternoon, trying to look inconspicuous).

And this is, perhaps, what Jesus was referring to as he spoke to the disciples, immediately following a confrontation with the Pharisees in which he was accused of transgressing the bounds of acceptable behavior (he was “guilty” of providing sight to a man born blind). Whereas the thief who sneaks into the sheepfold by going over the fence goes in with life-stealing motives, Jesus (even though he is accused of breaking the social ‘fence’) has come to bring life, and life abundant...rich life...life full to overflowing.

Have you ever been guilty of crossing a line, a fence or boundary, which you shouldn’t have? Did you go somewhere that you knew you shouldn’t have gone, or by a way which was out of bounds? In many ways, we all have; if not physically in our actions, we are fully aware that we do not always live as we are called to live, have not followed God’s commands the way we ought.

It might begin to sound like a sticky dynamic, whether or not one ought to cross the fence, to step over the boundary of what is acceptable and what isn’t, until we reframe the question in terms of what Jesus is proclaiming and offering. Are we attempting something with the purpose of taking life (or diminishing life), whether it be of ourselves, of another, or of society? Or are we attempting to increase life, and meaning within life, by offering to others out of the abundance which we have received?

We have been called into the life of discipleship for two purposes: to increase our own life of faith (living into the New Life offered in Christ), and to increase the lives of others in society. Christ came into the world, acting in ways that sometimes put him at odds with the understood and acceptable ways of society, for the sole purpose of bringing new life, rich and abundant life, to the world. It is our calling to live into this offering and help others to do the same.

Over the next few weeks of Lent, we’ll be exploring how we walk this path toward Life, the Life Christ offers through his death and resurrection. We’ll talk about how we walk this path, what we encounter, and how we support others in their own journeys. And together, we’ll come to the Cross, to the Tomb, and finally to the Empty Tomb. I pray you’ll join us in this journey; we begin on Wednesday, March 1, for our Ash Wednesday service (7:00 p.m.).

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2017

Wednesday, 1 March 2017

“Ash Wednesday” – Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 5:7-8 * 2nd Reading: Luke 9:51-62
 Sermon: “Commit”

Sunday, 5 March 2017 (“Preschool Sunday”)

”1st Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 15 * 2nd Reading: Luke 10:25-42
 Sermon: “Don’t Step Off the Path”

Sunday, 12 March 2017

“2nd Sunday in Lent”- Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 122 * 2nd Reading: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35
 Sermon: “Facing Obstacles”

Sunday, 19 March 2017

“3rd Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 119:167-176 * 2nd Reading: Luke 15:1-32
 Sermon: “Let It Go”

Sunday, 26 March 2017

“4th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 41:1-3 * 2nd Reading: Luke 16:19-31
 Sermon: “Relational Faith”



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.

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
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell’s mother (health issue)
 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)
 Eileen Mozucha (continued recov., home)
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recov.)

Ralph Summerson
 George Poulson
 Aida Faries
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)
 Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff
 Irma Honeycutt, Dave & Patsy Johnson’s friend (health issue)
 J. A. Williams, Donald Hunter’s friend
 Harvey Spain, (recov., heart surgery)
 Ed Armstrong (home, going through dialysis)
 T. J. Webb
 Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friends (health issues)
 Roger Overstreet
 Marguerite Bishop (broken wrist)
 Mae Grammer, Dianne Overstreet’s friend (Col. Hgts. Healthcare Ctr.)
 Gladys Wiseman (Colonial Heights Rehab. Ctr.)
 Larry & Lisa Brown (in process of adopting)
 Velma Allen has now been declared cancer-free!
 Gene Vasek (health issue)
 Barbara Taliaferro (recov., knee surgery)
 Kay Slade, Rose Scott’s friend (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:

Doug Holc

Mar. 1: Ash Wednesday service; 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 4: Scouting Membership

Recruitment Drive for Scouts, Cub, Lion Packs in GMPC parking lot & Fellowship Hall, 6:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time begins 2:00 a.m.

on Mar. 12: Don't forget to set all clocks *forward* 1 hour.

Mar. 5: "Preschool Sunday". Please be sure to attend to see our Gregory Preschoolers present their heartwarming Preschool program during morning worship!

Workcamp Planning Meeting: Mar. 5 at 5:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Boy Scouts' Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser: Sat., Mar. 25 from 4:00 p.m. to

7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Includes spaghetti, salad, dessert & beverage; cost: \$7 (adults & youth ages 13 years & up) and \$5 (children ages 12 years & under). Purchase tickets from any Troop 900 member/Scouts' parents, or Advisor Phil Hagerich who lives closest to church (Tel.: 804.357.7369), Julie Stoke (804.458.4477) or Joann English (804.426.9435). Tickets also sold at door. The Scouts appreciate your support! Each Scout needs to raise \$2,000 to attend Jamboree, Summer Camp and Scouts' Ski Trip.

A reminder from the Belsches Scholarship Committee: Submit scholarship applications to receive scholarship funds for the Fall of 2017. Also, if you have not yet requested scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year, you are still eligible to apply.

Mark your calendar! Homecoming will be April 30!

2017 Lenten Service & Lunch

Schedule: (Prayer begins at 12 noon; a simple lunch follows at 12:30 p.m.)

- Mar. 9: Gregory Memorial PC
- Mar. 16: Sycamore UMC
- Mar. 23: Trinity UMC
- Mar. 30: Gary's UMC
- Apr. 6: Bethlehem CC


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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

MARCH 5	
MARCH 12	
MARCH 19	Rose Scott
MARCH 26	

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 – March, 2017

 GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc	MAR. 5 1 st Sunday in Lent "Preschool Sunday"	MAR. 12 2 nd Sun. in Lent Daylight Saving begins	MAR. 19 3 rd Sun. in Lent	MAR. 26 4 th Sun. in Lent
Ushers	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson
Announcements	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
Junior Sermon	Megan Cashing	Minister	Susan Walker	Valerie Harsh
Junior Church	Pat Hunter Breeana Hunter	Rose Scott Madison Foster	Mary Holc Justin Ellis-Bowman	Marguerite Bishop Kaitlyn Hartsell
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing	David Johnson Rose Scott

"To err is human; to forgive, divine." - Alexander Pope

WHAT'S JASON READING



[Still reading.....]

For school: Reclaiming What Was Lost
(Carlyle, Stewart, & Fielding).

For Fun: Everything's Eventual (Stephen King).

For Church: Miracles (C.S. Lewis – with coursework I couldn't get to this one).

HOLY HUMOR

NOAH IN THE 21ST CENTURY
.... *And we thought we had problems!*
If Noah had lived in the United States in the last ten years, the story may have gone something like this:

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In one year, I am going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all flesh is destroyed. But I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on earth. Therefore, I am commanding you to build an Ark." In fear and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build the ark. "Remember," said the Lord, "you must complete the Ark and bring everything aboard in one year."

Exactly one year later, fierce storm clouds covered the earth and all the seas of the earth went into a tumult. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping. "Noah!" He shouted. "Where is the Ark?" "Lord, please forgive me," cried Noah. "I did my best, but there were big problems."

"First, I had to get a permit for construction, and your plans did not meet the building codes. I had to hire an engineering firm and redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the Ark needed a sprinkler system and approved

floatation devices. Then, my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission."

"Then, I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the U.S. Forest Service that I really needed the wood to save the owls. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me take the 2 owls. The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now, I have 16 carpenters on the Ark, but still no owls."

"When I started rounding up the other animals, an animal rights group sued me. They objected to me taking only two of each kind aboard. This suit is pending. Meanwhile, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the Universe. Then, the Army Corps of Engineers demanded a map of the

proposed flood plain. I sent them a globe."

"Right now, I am trying to resolve a complaint filed with the EEOC that I am practicing discrimination by not taking atheists aboard. The IRS has seized my assets, claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes. I just got a notice from the state that I owe them some kind of user tax and failed to register the Ark as a 'recreational water craft.' And finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the Ark, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it's a religious event and therefore unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for another five or six years."

Noah waited. The sky began to clear, the sun began to shine, and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up hopefully, "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth, Lord?"

"No," He said sadly. *"I don't have to. The government already has."*



~ March 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7p Ash Wednesday service 7p Choir Practice	2 2p Church Cleaning 6p Facilities Workshop	3	4 6a BS, Cub & Lion Packs Recruitment Drive
5 Preschool Sunday 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service 5p Workcamp plan mtg	6	7 12:30p Circle Meeting (Figg) 5:30p GS 5000 6p Congre. Care 6p Facilities Committee 7p Worship Committee	8 7p Choir Practice	9 12p Lenten service & luncheon-GMPC 2p Church Cleaning 6p Facilities Workshop	10	11
12 2a Daylight Saving starts 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service	13	14 6p GS 553 6:30p Missions Committee 6:30p Outreach Committee	15 7p Choir Practice	16 12p Lenten service & lunch-Sycamore UMC 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 6p Facilities Workshop 7p Stewardship & Finance	17	18 9a BS Blood drive, BS Eagle Proj (Nall)
19 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service	20	21 5:30p GS 5000	22 7p Choir Practice	23 12p Lenten service & lunch-Trinity UMC 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out 6p Facilities Workshop	24 6p BS 900 yard sale setup	25 7:30a BS Yard Sale, BS fundraiser 4-7p Spaghetti Dinner, BS fundraiser
26 9:45a Sunday School 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal 11a Worship Service	27	28 6p GS 553	29 12p BS Order of Arrow 6p BS Honor Ct dinner 7p Choir Practice	30 12p Lenten service & lunch-Gary's UMC 2p Church Cleaning	31 2p Committee reports due	

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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MARCH NEWSLETTER



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

We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva
Sermons on Youtube.com
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG