

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”*

*-1 Peter 4:10-11*

**T**rivia question: What is the topic which Jesus spends the most time talking about in our scriptures? Would you say it's living a life of discipleship? Indirectly. How to love your neighbor as yourself, and love God before all others. In a roundabout way. But in actuality, a large portion of Jesus' teachings have to do with money, possessions, and how we use them (namely, stewardship). A quick Google search has multiple sources confirming this, that nearly 16 of Jesus' parables address this topic, and that in the gospel accounts alone there are about 288 verses regarding money/possessions, and in the whole of the Bible there are over 2,000!

Does this mean that Jesus is more interested in our bank accounts than he is in our hearts and the way we live our faith? No...and yes.

While there are indeed many good pearls of advice on how to manage our finances and resources, most of these verses and parables talk not simply about what to do with them, but rather, how we approach them, how we use them, and to what end. The “too long/didn't read” version is this: don't serve your treasures (bank accounts), let your treasures enable you to serve God and proclaim the Good News. This act of stewardship – the spirit in which we approach our money and possessions for use in the world – is not simply a way of guiding our decisions...not simply collecting pledges on a Sunday morning or making the annual budget. It so much more. Stewardship is the reflection of our relationship with God.

So, no, Jesus is not simply interested in our bank accounts. I don't think he determines our value based on whether we are millionaires or barely make ends need; he loves us all, regardless. I don't think he's hooked on whether or not we have the best interest rate on your

savings account, or even if we have a savings account. I do think he's interested in whether or not our use and stewardship of these resources – financial and material – are being used in the best way to promote the goodness of God, and the attitude we have to this end.

Money tends to be one of the taboo topics in society today, at least in terms of personal finances. We don't go around asking each other what we make, or what we have, though we certainly feel as we can gauge that based on what we show to the world: our houses, our cars, our vacations. And my goal is neither to ask you how your bank account looks, nor guilt you for any way in which you use those resources. My goal is simply this: to remind us (myself included) that all good gifts we have received come from God, and that the ways in which we use these gifts reflect our relationship with God.

And this is precisely what we will be discussing during the month of July: the ways in which the stewardship of the gifts we have received reflects (and deepens) our relationship with God. In this is our true calling, in this is the fullness of discipleship: that we offer every aspect of our lives in gratitude and humility to God's use. And in this is Jesus concerned, so much so that many of his parables and teachings focused on this very topic. May we indeed be good stewards of the gifts we have received, and glorify God with each and every gift.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JULY, 2017

### Sunday, 2 July 2017

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 28:1-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15  
 Sermon: “In Appreciation Of...”

### Sunday, 9 July 2017

“5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-20, 26-28 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 14:13-21  
 Sermon: “A Lifetime of Giving”

### Sunday, 16 July 2017

“6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Matthew 22:15-22 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13  
 Sermon: “Many Gifts, One Giver”

### Sunday, 23 July 2017

“7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 138:1-8 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 21:1-4  
 Sermon: “Gracious Giving”

### Sunday, 30 July 2017

“8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 133:1-3 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 4:10-20  
 Sermon: “Spiritually Overflowing”



**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, Rick, and her brother, Martin  
 (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  
 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  
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)  
 Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff  
 Irma Honeycutt, Dave & Patsy Johnson's friend (health issue)  
 Harvey Spain, (recov., heart surgery)  
 Ed Armstrong (home, going through dialysis)  
 T. J. Webb  
 Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew's friends (health issues)  
 Gene Vasek (health issue)  
 Barbara Taliaferro (recov., knee surgery)  
 Kay Slade, Rose Scott's friend (health issue)  
 Ron Woody (health issues)  
 Carrie King (health issues)  
 Tull Family (Joe's reassigned & family returned to Georgia)  
 Mila Campen (hospice care)  
 Gladys Wiseman (home)  
 Janet Shockley, Susan Walker's mom (recov. after surgery)  
 Sandy Eickmeyer (recov., home)  
 Matt Metschke, Mattie-Lynn's dad (lap-band surgery, recov., home)  
 Perry Lewis  
 Roger Overstreet (continued health concerns)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER:**  
Gregg Webber

**What's your favorite hymn?** As we move into summer, Jason invites us to sing our favorites, and to help guide him in picking them, he'd like you to tell him your favorite hymn(s) so that they can be incorporated into worship! Look for the submittal slips in the Narthex, and give them to him, leave them in his box, or place them in the collection plate!

**July 4:** Independence Day

**July 6:** Congregational Care Committee, 6:00 p.m. & Worship Committee, 7:00 p.m.

**July 9:** "Sunday in the Park!" A reminder that Scott Park Sunday was moved to July 9 this year! We'll join at church for Sunday School at 9:45

a.m., and then travel over to the park for worship in the pavilion at 11:00 a.m., followed by a picnic lunch and games! Church will provide fried chicken and iced tea/lemonade. Bring your favorite side-dish(es). Also, bring your bats, gloves, and balls, (*and don't forget the sunscreen!*) as well as any other park games you might like to play!

**July 10:** Session meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Session Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**July 13:** Special program for families (Guest: Jonathan Austin, a/k/a "The Juggler"), 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by ice cream sundaes.

**July 16-22:** Tri-Cities Workcamp Week. -Tri-Cities WorkCamp is fast approaching, and we have another

great crew sponsored by Gregory! We'll be commissioning them in worship on July 16, but one thing that keeps them going is mail throughout the week! They can be reached at: (Camper's Name), WORKCAMP 2017, P.O. Box 1761, Petersburg, VA 23805. A list of all campers attending is available in the church office.

**August 15:** Cook-out dinner followed by entertainment (Christian-themed Clown). Details TBA.

**August Session meeting:** Changed to Sep. 19.

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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

JULY 2	
JULY 9 "Sunday in the Park"	
JULY 16	Rose Scott
JULY 23	
JULY 30	

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 2017

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> 🔑 Gregg Webber	JUL. 2	Sunday in the Park JUL. 9	JUL. 16	JUL. 23	JUL. 30
Ushers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Jerry Hasky Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Megan Cashing	Jennifer Smyth	Patsy Johnson	Susan Walker	Pat Hunter
Counting	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott



**For School:** Nothing.  
(Taking a brief break.)

## WHAT'S JASON READING?

**For Church:** Embracing Stewardship  
(Charles R. Lane & Grace Duddy  
Pomroy)

**For Fun:** The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien)

## SUMMER OF FUN CONTINUES FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRESENTED BY THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christian Ed continues to celebrate the Christian family with two special events in July and August. Since we are all children of God, the events are being designed so "children of all ages" will be able to participate and enjoy. It is also our hope that everyone will take this opportunity to invite friends and family to join us. A personal invitation from you may be all that is needed to get a new family into our church.



**On July 13**, we will be treated to a juggling performance by Jonathan Austin. He is well known in the Richmond area and promises to give an incredible show. Please take this opportunity to invite someone to join you as this is entertainment for all ages. After the show we will enjoy ice cream sundaes

**On August 15**, a cook-out is in the planning stages with entertainment to follow. A Christian clown is joining us and plans to give us a lot of after-dinner

laughs. What a wonderful way to spend a summer evening together.

As you can see, this summer at Gregory will offer good wholesome family fun! These are events that everyone can enjoy and will provide YOU with the opportunity to ask a friend to church. *Mark your calendars!*



## HOLY HUMOR



***They say, "Ice Cream Is Sometimes Good For The Soul..."*** A mother took her two young children to a restaurant for dinner. The 6-year-old boy asked if he could say grace. With bowed head, he prayed, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would thank you even more if Mom gets us Ice Cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, they heard a woman loudly remark, "That's what's wrong with this country...the

kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for Ice Cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, the boy burst into tears and asked his mother, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As she held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached their table. He smiled and winked at the boy and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" asked the boy.

"Cross my heart!" The man said. Then in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad *she* never asks God for Ice Cream. They say a little Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, the mother bought the Ice Cream at the end of the meal. The boy stared at his for a moment and then he picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. ***Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already!***"

**GATEKEEPER: GREGG WEBBER**

~ July 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:45a Sunday School		Independence Day 		2p Church Cleaning		
11a Worship Service				6p Cong. Care		
				7p Worship		
9 Sunday in the Park	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:45a Sunday School	7p Session meeting			2p Church Cleaning		
11a Worship Service in Scott Park, followed by covered-dish lunch, games				7p Special Family Program, Fellowship Hall, ice cream refreshments		
16 Tri-cities Workcamp Week	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:45a Sunday School	Tri-cities WC	Tri-cities WC	Tri-cities WC	Tri-cities WC	Tri-cities WC	8:30a End Tri-cities WC
11a Worship Service	12p Lunch by Christian Ed	12p Lunch by Missions-Outreach	12p Lunch by Cong. Care	12p Lunch by Facilities	12p Lunch by Worship	
11a Commission of Workcampers				2p Church Cleaning		
				2p News articles due		
				7p Stewardship & Finance		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:45a Sunday School				2p Church Cleaning		
11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering				2p Newsletter out		
11a Worship Service						
30	31					
9:45a Sunday School	2p Committee reports due					
11a Local Emergency Aid Offering						
11a Worship Service						

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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STAMP  
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***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)  
[Sermons on Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/gmpcva)  
[WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG)*