

THE HERALD

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

6300 Courthouse Road ~ P.O. Box 182

Prince George, VA 23875

Phone: (804) 732-1081

gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net

JANUARY ISSUE

2012



ELDER INSTALLATION / ORDINATION – JANUARY 8

Join the Gregory family for the ordination and installation of new elders on Sunday, January 8. We are a church governed by elders (“Presbyterian” comes from the Greek word for “elder!”), “ruling elders” who serve on the Session and “teaching elders” like Mark who serve as pastors.

In the act of “ordination,” ruling and teaching elders are publicly set aside for special work for the Lord as leaders in the church. Once ordained a Presbyterian elder, a person remains an elder. Elders begin their service in the church with a service of ordination and installation. Previously ordained elders are not ordained again, only installed.

On January 8, Mary Holc and Evelyn Lichvar will be ordained and installed; Valerie Harsh will be installed having been previously ordained and having served on the Session before. For those ordained, there will be a “laying on of hands,” where other elders will be invited to participate: the symbolism is that the Holy Spirit is working through the community of faith to acknowledge the special service of those individuals. In worship, we will also thank outgoing elders Verne Smith, Jerry Bond, Evelyn Foster and Judy Recher for their service. Make sure not to miss this special time in the life of our church!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & LUNCHEON – JANUARY 22

The Session invites our members and friends to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 22 after worship. At the meeting, we will elect three representatives to the Congregation Nominating Committee (which nominates new elders and trustees), and hear reports from Session Committees, the Pastor Nominating Committee, and the Session as to the financial status of the church. It will also be a potluck and there will be sign up sheets about what to bring. Child care will be provided during the meeting.



Although only active members may vote at the meeting, all are invited to attend and hear the good news about Gregory in 2012! And prayerfully consider if God is calling you help us choose new ruling elders with your service on the Congregational Nominating Committee.

CLERK'S CORNER JANUARY 2012

The Session had their regular scheduled monthly meeting on December 20th. The following action items were approved:

1. Examination of the elders-elect, Valarie Harsh, Mary Holc and Evelyn Lichvar, and ordination and installation on Sunday, January 8, 2012.
2. Take money from the church's investments (\$28,300) to pay for repairing the roof on the sanctuary, the water leak in the east stairwell of the Fellowship Hall, and install a generator to keep the church from losing power during outages.
3. Purchase of cushioned folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall.
4. Have a separate budget "workshop" meeting in January.
5. 2012 Committee assignments as follow:
 - Clerk of Session – David Johnson
 - Christian Education – Valarie Harsh
 - Congregational Care – Evelyn Lichvar
 - Facilities – Bobby Allen
 - Missions – Dianne Overstreet
 - Stewardship & Finance – Morgan Ingram
 - Worship – Mary Holc
 - Outreach – Donald Hunter
 - Personnel – Dianne Overstreet
6. Donald Hunter (active elder on Session) moderator of the 2012 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC), and Verne Smith inactive elder on the committee.
7. Have the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Election of the CNC would be immediately after worship in the sanctuary, then go to the Fellowship Hall for lunch and committee reports.
8. Invite Ben Lacy, counsel, to the January 17th Session meeting to explain the process of church incorporation.
9. Have the 2012 Elder Retreat on February 3rd and 4th.
10. Allow three out-of state girls (Gregory family members) to attend the 2012 Work Camp with the Gregory youth at no cost to Gregory.
11. Sunday School teachers for 2012 as follows:
 - Fellowship Class – Rev. Sprowl, H. F. Scott, Jr., Helen and Grace Cibula
 - Youth Class – Donald Hunter
 - One Room School Class – Tara Foster, Pat Hunter, Morgan and Josh Ingram
 - Substitute teacher – Evelyn Foster
12. Camp Hanover Bible School the week of July 2-6, 2012.
13. A contract between Batts Audio and Gregory Church to install the new sound system.

Verne Smith, Clerk

CHECK OUT GREGORY'S UPDATED WEB SITE

www.gregorymemorial.org is the place to go to find out what's happening at the church. Although its primary audience are folks beyond the congregation who are checking us out as a possible church home, you'll find features of interest to current members including a calendar of upcoming events, links to past newsletter issues and photo galleries of recent activities (like the children's and youth Christmas Pageant.)



www.gregorymemorial.org

Let us know your thoughts and ideas for improvement. Many thanks to Larry Johnson for his help in setting up the site and in supplying photos for our galleries. We also thank Dick Mann for his faithful service in providing updates to the previous website.

Gregory Ministries

FACILITIES - We would like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous holiday season. Please remember to pray that we are able to continue to keep our church in great shape using our folks we have not but if not then we would need everyone's help to step up and take an active part in keeping our church in good shape.

Bobby Allen, Facilities Chairperson

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Happy New Year to everyone and may your year be filled with God's richest of blessings. We welcome the new committee chairperson, Mary Holc. Please be sure to lend your support and helping hand to her as she undertakes this position.

Jerry Bond, retired Chairperson

OUTREACH - It's hard to believe that "2012" is upon us!! The past year has been a busy one for our committee and I couldn't have had a more supportive group. Kudos to Donna, Brenda, Lisa, Joan, Dick and Marquita. Many things were accomplished but special mention goes to Larry Johnson for our new and wonderful website which entailed much time and work. If you haven't checked it out, please do. I think you will be very impressed and proud of the new product which is key to promoting our church in the community and beyond. Now it is up to committee chairmen, group leaders etc to submit their news so we can keep the website current. Photos are always welcome.

The outside Christmas tree was beautiful and required much assistance starting with the cutting down at Rose's house by Wayne. It was picked up and delivered to the church by the Bonds. An SOS went out for help in erecting and decorating it. We want to thank all the following who helped - Brenda & Jerry, Shirley, Billy, Donna, Donald, Donnie, Anne and Robert, Marguerite, Jennifer & Jamie, Les, Larry, and Ron. Driving by in the evening and seeing the tree looking so pretty made it all worthwhile.

There are too many people who helped with the PG parade and Open House to individually recognize but please know how much you were appreciated. To the many cookie providers, hot chocolate cooks and servers, and parents and children who participated in the parade, THANK YOU so much! It was a wonderful day and a super outreach as we served 11 gallons of hot chocolate and who knows how many cookies! Special thanks to Wesley Wiseman who was the perfect Santa in the parade and as a "welcomer" to the Open House. No award for our parade entry this year but the 9 children who participated had a fun time and that's what counts.

Lastly, I would like to share news with you about the Prince George TRIAD which has recently organized. TRIAD is a partnership consisting of the local Sheriff and/or Police Chief, seniors and senior service providers in a community who agree to work together to reduce criminal victimization of the elderly. A council composed of influential people in the county has been formed and held several meetings. The first public meeting will be held at 2PM on Monday, January 23rd at the Prince George Library. Brad Owens, director of PG Fire and EMS, will be the guest speaker sharing important information about home safety discussing heating appliances, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and escape plans etc. Not only will TRIAD aim to provide information for your safety and security but also provide fellowship with others in the county. Upcoming monthly meetings will feature topics such as avoiding scams and frauds and financial concerns, wills etc. and a speaker from the Attorney General's office speaking on the newly formed Elder Abuse & Neglect Squad.

Outreach committee wishes everyone a happy, healthy New Year!

Judy Recher, Chairperson for Outreach

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 – Guest preacher Rev. Ann Cherry considers the lessons of the Three Wise Men in her message, *Start Light, Star Bright*. Read Matthew 1:1-12 to prepare.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – Is there really any difference between Presbyterians and the other sheep of the Lord's fold? Pastor Marks thinks so and describes some in his message, *The Presbyterian Way*. A principal text will be Colossians 1:13-20. We will also ordain and install new elders during the worship service.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 – Do you feel different after celebrating communion? After baptism? What if the difference isn't perceived in *feeling* but in *knowing*? In his message, *Potlucks and Soul Food*, Pastor Mark suggests we can draw spiritual strength from the reality that the Lord is *really present* in that holy meal. Read John 17:1-22 to prepare. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 – "I've got peace like a river and joy like a fountain," the old spiritual goes, but is that really possible? In his message, *Peace Like a River and Joy Like a Fountain*, Pastor Mark describes the promises of God to tame anxious minds and fluttering hearts. Read John 14:27, 15:11, Philippians 4:4-9 to prepare.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 – Do you feel special? You are, because the Lord has chosen you! Find out how it works and why Christians have special reason to rejoice in Pastor Mark's message, *I Choose You!* Read John 15:9-17 and Deuteronomy 7:6-9 to prepare.



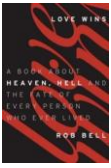
PRAYER CONCERNS

Dick Mann	Ruby Hasky
Christine Belsches	Katherine Tompkins
Aida Faries	Tammy Pelter (<i>Gladys Vtipil's niece</i>)
June Hawks	Mary Chadwick (<i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i>)
Marian McDonald	Virginia Mika (<i>Sister of Grace & Helen Cibula</i>)
Peggy Surfield	Mathew Mauger
Helen Cibula	Amy Harte (<i>David Johnson's cousin</i>)
Harry Johns	Family of Marie Allen
Don Vtipil	



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Help enhance our Sunday morning worship setting with your gift of flowers in honor or in memory of loved ones. You can let us know about your desired Sunday by signing up on the flower calendar in the hallway to the right of the choir loft. Your floral arrangement may be purchased or be one you bring from your garden. Two arrangements work out best for balance. Wyatt's Florist, 4712 Owens Way, 458-6392 is a local florist. Sign up today to get the Sunday of your choice!



“LOVE WINS” ADULT CLASS

Pastor Mark will lead a 4-session class on the bestselling Christian book, *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*. The class will meet on Sundays at 9:45 am in the parlor, March 4-25. Here’s a brief description of the book at “amazon.com”...

Millions of Christians have struggled with how to reconcile God's love and God's judgment: Has God created billions of people over thousands of years only to select a few to go to heaven and everyone else to suffer forever in hell? Is this acceptable to God? How is this "good news?"

What if the story of heaven and hell we have been taught is not, in fact, what the Bible teaches? What if what Jesus meant by "heaven," "hell," and salvation" are very different from how we have come to understand them?

Mark notes, “Rob Bell, a pastor with a heart for the unchurched and new Christians, bravely attempts to ask and answer these important questions in his controversial new book. If dealing with such issues is important to your faith journey, join us.” Although it’s not necessary to purchase or read the book to participate in the class, copies can be ordered through the church at our cost of \$12.00 each (retail \$23.00). To order, e-mail Mark or the church or sign up on the sheets on Sunday mornings in January and February.

USE YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS TODAY AT GREGORY!

According to Scripture (1 Corinthians 12), God designed the church to be a body composed of many parts with different but complimentary gifts and with Jesus as the head. Just as with the human body, if one or more parts aren’t functioning vitality suffers!

The Session invites you to use your gifts, talents and experience to serve the extension of the Body of Christ known as Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church. Help is needed in a wide variety of areas from usher to Sunday School teacher, from choir member to elder. One valuable way to serve is to become a member of a Session committee.

The committees are Christian Education, Facilities, Stewardship & Finance, Worship, Missions, Congregational Care and Outreach. You can easily understand some of the committees’ functions from their names; others need a little unpacking. “Missions” helps Gregory explore missions opportunities in Prince George and beyond. Some are “hands-on” (Food Pantry); others require more financial and prayer support (Presbyterian Medical Benevolence.) Each of these activities helps the church reach out beyond its doors to do the Lord’s ministry.



“Congregational Care” extends TLC to our homebound and ill members and shows hospitality by helping to arrange various meals and social functions at the church. The “Outreach” Committee is charged with helping folks beyond the church learn what Gregory has to offer and how Jesus Christ can change their lives. It’s evangelism and publicity and mission all rolled into one!

Gregory needs YOUR help to stay a healthy and vital extension of the Body of Christ in Prince George! Sign up to help in January.



Julie’s Had Her Baby!! Our church secretary, Julie Jacobs, gave birth to Connor Jacobs on December 15. He was 8 pounds, 9 ½ ounces and 21 - ½” long. Mother and father, Berry and baby are all doing fine. Gregory members brought one of the first meals to the family after the baby was born. You may address notes to the Jacobs family at 97B Bastogne Road, Fort Lee, VA 23801. Julie will be on maternity leave until sometime in February.

While we will miss Julie, we are happy to report that former secretary, Carolyn Gentry will be subbing for Julie until her return. Her hours will be somewhat different from Julie’s as she will be working Wednesday through Friday, 9am to 1pm. Make sure you stop by to say “hi” to Carolyn.



Carolyn Gentry

THOSE WHO SERVE IN

January

CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

“Teaching Christian Values for Life”

Date	Nursery	Junior Sermon	Junior Church
Jan 1	Robbi Foster	Lisa Hartsell	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter
Jan 8	Glenda Mayhew	Mark Sprowl	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Jan 15	Debra Bailey	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter Madison Foster
Jan 22	Ruby Spain	Susan Walker	Virginia Maloney Jared Smyth
Jan 29	Robbi Foster	Pat Hunter	Mary Beth Coleman Kevin Foster

OTHER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Sunday Servants	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
USHERS	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie Smith	Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond	Gladys Wiseman Verne Smith Debra Bailey Marguerite Bishop
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond
COUNTING	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Verne Smith Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar

FLOWERS

- 1-
- 8-
- 15- Marquita Simpson
- 22-
- 29-



JANUARY
GATEKEEPER
Bobby Allen - 458-5877



JANUARY ~ 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -Communion	2 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Outreach	3 12:30pm Day Circle 7:00pm Facilities & Worship	4 6:00pm S&F 7:00pm Choir	5 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning	6	7
8 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	9 Noon Widows 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed 6:30pm Preschool & Missions	10 6:30pm Session - budget 7:30pm Evening Circle	11 Committee Reports Due 7:00pm Choir	12 6:00pm Line Dancing	13	14
15 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -Minute for Missions	16 2:00pm Line Dancing	17 7:00pm Session Meeting	18 7:00pm Choir	19 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning	20	21
22 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -5-Cents-A- Meal 12:15pm Congrega- tional Meeting	23 2:00pm Line Dancing	24	25 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Choir	26 6:00pm Line Dancing	27	28
29	30	31				
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship -Emergency Aid Offering	2:00pm Line Dancing					



FEAR NOT!

Search for and circle underlined words located in the Bible verse.

O X S B T M Q D G T W K
P F B M I S O J M I V C
O B D S R G O N E V I G
W O L C I Y S U P V F W
E Y X H P H L V N R D O
R H W K S O F S Q D H C
X T M U V T L E M I N D
I O U E H N K A A O I M
L M Q I X J P I R R A B
C I C W N C H T M N I Z
E T O F R H V O J E H C
C A D W G M C D G O A A

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" 2 Timothy 1:7

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



COME JOIN US!!