

MARCH

2012

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 18



Your Session has called a meeting of the congregation to follow worship on Sunday, March 11. The purpose of the meeting is (1) to elect two new ruling elders and (2) vote on incorporating the church.

New Elders The Congregational Nominating Committee has nominated *Jennifer Smyth* to serve in office 2012-14 and *Joan Mann* to serve 2012-13, completing the unexpired term of her late husband Dick. If these members are elected, they will participate in preparation for their office and be examined by the current elders. Upon approval, they will be ordained and installed and then begin their service on the Session.

Incorporation The *Constitution* of the Presbyterian Church (USA) directs “where permitted by civil law, each congregation shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained.” (G-4.0101). Changes in Virginia state law within the last few years now permit churches to incorporate. For Presbyterian congregations, such incorporation is done exclusively for dealing with church property.

With the advice of the Presbytery of the James and an attorney they have made available to us, Mr. Ben Lacy, the Session has unanimously chosen to follow this directive and, joining many other churches in the Presbytery, now asks the congregation to approve incorporation. The proposed new corporation will...

- Be empowered to deal *only* with the purchase, sale or mortgaging of *church property*. All current ministries of the church will continue to be overseen by the church and its Session. Outside of how property matters are dealt with and a slight adjustment to our annual congregation meeting, there will be no outward difference in our ministry or functioning as a church.
- Continue to utilize our three current Trustees (Dennis Allen, Jessica Mauger and Ron Recher) who will become directors of the new corporation. Members of the congregation will become members or stakeholders of the corporation with voting privileges.
- Permit the church to enter into financial arrangements such as borrowing funds against the property more easily with commercial institutions. (Any such actions having of course first been approved by the congregation.)
- Minimize the liability of church officers and leadership if the church were sued (i.e. the personal property of church officers could not be assessed to pay damages.)
- Maintain the title of the property in the name of the Presbytery of the James which is the current practice for virtually all congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The only difference that church members would see is a brief annual meeting of the corporation to elect a new trustee that would take place at the same time as the regular annual meeting of the congregation in January or February. Our attorney is serving on a *pro bono* basis, and there would only be a small state fee for incorporation.

[Continued on next page]

Congregational Meeting [Continued from first page]

On March 11, the congregation will be asked to approve the *Articles of Incorporation*. This is a legal document that sets out the corporation's name, connection to the Presbyterian Church (USA), number of officers and trustees, limitations as to its powers as solely over property matters, and a few procedural matters. Copies of this document are available at the church office and will be available on the day of the meeting. If the *Articles* are approved, the Trustees themselves will approve *Bylaws* and choose who among them will be the corporation president.

The Session has approached this decision with a great deal of consideration and discussion with the Presbytery and our attorney. If you have any questions regarding this change, please speak to Rev. Sprowl or Ruling Elder Donald Hunter.

WORSHIP IN MARCH...

SUNDAY, MARCH 4 – 2nd Sunday in Lent – Some call it the, “Our Father.” Most Presbyterians know it as “The Lord’s Prayer.” We say it nearly every Sunday, having had it memorized since childhood... but what is its central importance to Christians? Why did Jesus sum up a theology of prayer with those few words. Pastor Mark explores *The Prayer That Jesus Prayed* and why we need to really meditate on those familiar words. Read Matthew 6:1-15 to prepare. We will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 – 3rd Sunday in Lent – In its pages the word “God” is never mentioned, yet each year its story is memorialized by Jews the world over and Presbyterian pastor search committees study its verses for guidance. The writing is the Old Testament book of Esther, and Pastor Mark suggests why all the interest in his message, *For Such a Time as This*. To prepare, read Esther, focusing on verses 4:13-14. Our Congregation Meeting will immediately follow worship.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 – 4th Sunday in Lent – We welcome the children, staff and families of our Preschool as the 3- and 4-year-olds present a musical program. Pastor Mark focuses on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and helps us to consider once again who this “neighbor” is that Jesus commands us to love.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 – 5th Sunday in Lent – We’re born into one world, and Jesus invites us to become citizens of another, the Kingdom of God (or Heaven). He spends much of his preaching in Scripture explaining the expectations of the new realm. Friends, are we ready to make the leap? We discover some of the startling differences in Pastor Mark’s message, *Spiritual Immigrants*. To prepare, read Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50.

EASTER FLOWERS

The choices are “flowering” for Easter plants this year. In addition to Easter lilies at \$11 each, you can choose from azaleas at \$17, hydrangeas at \$15, tulips at \$10 and chrysanthemums at \$11. With your purchase, you may specify if you would like to honor or remember loved ones on a special Easter bulletin insert.

Order your flowers by calling the church office or using the form in the bulletin Sundays in March. March 25 is our order deadline. Please help us to reflect the joy of the season in Easter worship with your purchase of one or more flowers!



The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
met on Tuesday, February 21, 2012
and the following items were discussed/approved:

- Committee assignments and membership were approved.
- Enhancing the worship atmosphere by playing spiritual music through the sound system prior to the worship service on an experimental basis was approved.
- Suggestion of having one worship service per month include more “children-friendly” ministry was referred to the Worship Committee for further review.
- Subsidizing Vacation Bible Camp (led by Camp Hanover counselors) participants at \$75 per child was approved.
- Funds remaining from the 2011 Mission budget (to round out 10% of the year’s total giving) of \$250.00 was approved to be donated to Smile Train.
- Approved the request of the TRIAD group to meet in the sanctuary on the 4th Monday of each month if their current County space is inadequate.
- Approved the designation of March 11, 2012 to hold a congregational meeting to elect 2 new elders and to approve the Articles of Incorporation for the church.

-David Johnson, Clerk of Session

Church Ministries

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Ed Committee is excited to say that Camp Hanover will be held here July 2-6. Last year’s camp was a huge success and we are hoping for the same this year. Camp will be all 5 days this year and registration is \$25.00. It will be open to rising 1st through 5th graders. Look for more information in the weeks to come.

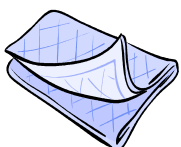
We are in need of some more committee members. We would love to have more parents involved with new ideas for teaching our young people. If you are interested or just curious please join us the second Monday of the month at 6:00p.m.

FACILITIES

Spring is on the way and each year, we have a spring clean-up Work Day here at Gregory. This year it will be on Saturday, March 17. Come at 8:00 am to enjoy breakfast and a morning of fellowship as we work together to keep our church looking good!



MISSIONS



The **Blanket Project** - is on-going. Please remember to consider making a donation so that blankets can be sent to those in need. We are still trying to reach our goal of \$1200. Donations will be accepted until April 1st and then this project will close. See any Committee member.

MISSIONS [Continued]

Boy Scouts Troop 900: We want to thank our Boys Scouts and let them know how grateful we are for the tremendous job they did leading our Worship Service on Boy Scout Sunday. They conducted the service with dignity and poise and are positive reflections of the great work our Boy Scouts of America do for our country and God.



March 18th is Pre-School Sunday. Please be sure to come and watch our children Praise the Lord through songs that they have learned. Susie McAllister, the Director, and her staff work extremely hard putting together a program to teach our children Christian values that the parents and community can be proud of. They love to perform for a big audience.

In the next few months we will make plans to collect items to send to our Military Troops. The **Adopt-A-Platoon Project** is our way to say "Thank You" from Gregory Memorial. Just pick up an item each time you visit a store and before you know it you will have a box full to bring in at the date to be announced. Flyers of approved items will be available.

Adopt-a-Highway, Bull Hill Road – We are asking for volunteers to help with the clean-up of Bull Hill Road on **May 19th**. The more people the less time. Twelve (12) people are needed. *Will you please be a first time volunteer?*



March 25th is the Five Cents a Meal Collections.

Mission members are needed! – If you would like to join our team, please see Dianne.

WORSHIP

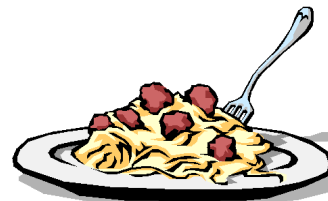
The Worship and Facilities Committees want your ideas and thoughts about the hymns and inspirational music you'll hear prior to worship starting the first Sunday in March and for all five March Sundays. From 10:30am to 11:00 am, soft instrumental and/or vocal music will be playing for reflection and meditation as we gather. Please let the Facilities and Worship Committee members know if this is something that will enhance the 30 minutes before the service.

REMEMBERING OUR HOMEBOUND FRIENDS

The Day and Evening Circles delivered red roses to the homebound this Valentine's Day. Bouquets were delivered to Christine Belches, June Hawks, Oneida Johnson, Elizabeth Scott, Katherine Tompkins and Gladys Wiseman. Due to travel distance, a card was mailed to Marian McDonald from the Circle members at Gregory.

"THAT'S A SPICY MEATA-BALL!" MARCH 8

Help support our Workcamp youth and enjoy some good food too with your purchase of a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 8 at the church. A full course dinner is only \$7 per person, and your meal can be boxed for takeout. Purchase your tickets at the door or from one of our youth.



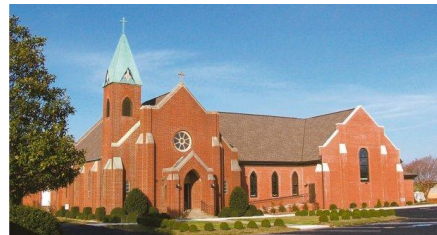
WIDOWS GROUP – MARCH 12

The Widows group meets for support and fellowship the second Monday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and/or food to share if you wish. This group is open to Gregory members and friends and folks from the community. For more information, call Evelyn Lichvar 861-6417.

LENTEN LUNCHEONS BEGIN MARCH 1

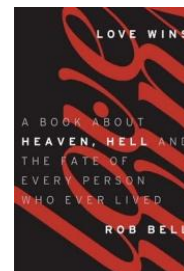
The popular community Lenten worship and luncheon series begins this year at Sycamore United Methodist Church, Prince George on Thursday, March 1. Each of the sessions begins at 12 noon. Gregory which has been a host church for many seasons decided to take a year off this time around. The schedule is as follows:

March 1 - Sycamore United Methodist Church, 9710 Old Stage Road, Prince George, **March 8** - Church of the Sacred Heart, 9300 Community Lane, Petersburg; **March 15** - Trinity United Methodist Church, 10021 County Drive, Disputanta; **March 22** - (Location to be announced); **March 29** - Bethlehem Congregational Church, 10501 Pole Run Road, Disputanta.



“LOVE WINS” STARTS SUNDAY MARCH 4

Join Pastor Mark for five weeks beginning Sunday March 4 as he begins a discussion about 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. You needn't have read the book to attend. Those still interested in obtaining a copy may order one at the first class session.



TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT...

One of the members of the Gregory Church family passed from this life to the next in late January, too late to be recorded in the February newsletter.

GLORIA SINGLETARY January 27

Our prayers are with Ferney and his family.

Plan now to attend the inspiring worship opportunities offered at Gregory this year during Holy Week, April 1 – 8...



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – 11:00 am – Once again on this holy day we observe the contrasts of Jesus' triumphal procession into Jerusalem and his rejection by his people at the Cross. We will have our own procession and waving of palm fronds and invite you to join us!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 5 – 7:00 pm - This year in addition to celebrating the Lord's Supper in intimate fashion at the front of the sanctuary, the service will also be one of "tenebrae" (Latin for "shadows") where we will extinguish candles and lights with the reading of Scripture to suggest the fading of Jesus' light from the world. [Note: A proposed "Christian seder" for this date has been cancelled.]

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE, APRIL 8 – 7:30 am – What better way to travel back in time to the disciple's surprising discovery of the empty tomb than to worship outdoors in the Temple parking lot! During this abbreviated service, we'll sing the familiar songs and rejoice in the good news that "He is risen indeed!" The service will be followed by our usual delicious Gregory **Easter breakfast** in the Fellowship Hall! (In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary.)



EASTER SUNDAY FESTIVAL WORSHIP, APRIL 8 – Bring a flower from your garden or use one of ours to "flower" the Cross as evidence of new life! Flowers, soaring choruses, an inspirational message... and you! That's what it will take for our worship to become truly festive. It's always a wonderful time to invite guests and family members to join you.



Those Who Serve - March 2012

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Nursery	Glenda Mayhew	Debra Bailey	Ruby Spain	Robbi Foster
Junior Church	Jessica Mauger Kevin Foster	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh	Rose Scott Madison Foster	Josh Ingram Morgan Ingram
Junior Sermon	Susan Walker	Mark Sprowl	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter
Ushers	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond	Wayne Powers Verne Smith Bobby Allen Marguerite Bishop	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie Smith
Announcements	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter
Counting	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher	Verne Smith Rose Scott	Morgan Ingram David Johnson

*Flowers for March 4
provided by
Rose Scott*



Gatekeeper:
Doug Holc - 541-2565



PRAYER CONCERNS

Ruby Hasky
Christine Belsches
Aida Faries
June Hawks
Marian McDonald
Helen Cibula
Harry Johns

Ed Smiley (*Friend of Doug Holc*)
Katherine Tompkins
Mary Chadwick (*Dink Armstrong's sister*)
Virginia Mika (*sister of Grace and Helen Cibula*)
Matt Mauger
Amy Harte (*David Johnson's cousin*)



MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning	2	3
4 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Lent 2</i> <i>Communion</i>	5 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:30pm Missions & Outreach	6 12:30pm Day Circle 6:00pm S&F, Cong. Care @ Kay A's. 7:00pm Facilities & Worship	7 7:00pm Choir	8 6:00pm Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner	9	10 2-4:00pm Sanctuary, Hall & Kitchen reserved for Beudet family.
11 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Lent 3</i> Cong. Mtg.	12 Noon Widows 2:00pm Line Dancing 6:00pm Christian Ed	13 7:30pm Evening Circle	14 Committee Reports Due 7:00pm Choir	15 2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning	16	17 8am-? Work Day
18 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Lent 4,</i> <i>Pre-School</i> <i>Sunday</i>	19 2:00pm Line Dancing	20 7:00pm Session Meeting	21 7:00pm Choir	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship <i>Lent 5,</i> <i>5-Cents-A-Meal</i> 3-6:00pm Boy Scouts use of Sanctuary, Hall & Kitchen	1:00pm TRIAD Meeting 2:00pm Line Dancing		Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Choir 1-9:00pm Boy Scouts Ct. of Honor, use of Hall & Kitchen	2-8:00pm Volunteer Cleaning		Relay for Life Dinner

COME JOIN US!! 

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

Join us for...

Congregational Mtg. March 11

Preschool Sunday March 18