



### SAINT TO SAINT... *"Celebrating Easter Far South of the Border..."*

It was Easter morning, and the smiling pastor in his black robe and embroidered white stole knelt down on the steps in the chancel with the children. So many had come up that day in their Easter best – brightly colored dresses and newly clipped on ties! Why couldn't he see that many smiling faces every Sunday!

He pulled one of the Easter lilies close to him and began, "Happy Easter, boys and Girls!" "Happy Easter!" they happily shouted in return. "Did the Easter bunny come to your house today?" Hands shot up, voices shot out, and they discussed the details of the foil-wrapped chocolate treasures they'd discovered in their Easter baskets that morning.

Suddenly an odd note blared from the organ producing a look of embarrassment on the face of the organist and laughter among the children. The minister wondered if this wasn't a sly sign she wanted him to get his children's message over so the choir could sing their Easter anthem.

"Well," he said with a smile, "on a different note!" Chuckles were heard. Pointing to the lily, he asked, "Does anyone know what kind of flower this is?" "A rose?" one boy blurted out laughing. "No, really," said the minister in a serious tone.

A third grader offered timidly, "A lily?" "That's right!" exclaimed the minister. "It's a lily. Only a few weeks ago, this pot had just dirt in it. Everything looked *dead*." The minister looked around for effect. He continued, "Then amazingly day after day, a little green plant emerged with a stalk and leaves and finally this beautiful white flower!" All the children scrutinized the lily as if the minister saw something holy in it that they couldn't discern.

Then the minister asked, "And what do you think made the flower grow?" "Water?" one boy suggested. "Well, yes," said the minister with a little irritation, "But what else?" "Sunlight?" said a first grade boy with blond hair. "Yes, certainly," the minister declared, "But *who* makes water and sunlight?" The children finally gathered where the minister was going with his questions, and several said, "God!"

Now broadly smiling, the minister agreed, "That's right, the Lord brought this plant to life. It looked like it was dead, but it was alive. If we go outside we see how all the plants are turning green and flowering, shrubs that looked dead just a couple weeks ago are coming to life. That's the Lord's handiwork. It's his sign of new life."

The minister waited a beat and looked from face to face as some of the children were still wondering what he had meant by "handiwork," "And today on Easter, what's another sign from the Lord of new life?" He waited. The kids looked down at their hands and at each other. "Well... what did we hear in our story about Jesus' tomb? Did his friends find him there?" One boy raised his hand. "Yes, Stephen," the minister said, and the boy answered with a grin knowing his answer would please, "The tomb was empty. He's risen!" A five-year-old cut up exclaimed, "Jesus was a raisin?"

The kids laughed and so did the grown-ups who heard it. The minister smirked, "No, Tom, Stephen is right. Jesus was dead. And then he was raised from death. He had "new life." So when we leave the church this morning and see the flowers of spring, we can remember God's new life in Jesus!" "Whew, it was now over," thought the minister. "Time to get on with real worship!!"

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[Continued from first page] But then Jane, whose father was from Australia, raised her hand. The minister wanted to get on with the service, but accommodated the girl, "Yes, Jane, do you have something to say?" Jane quietly replied, "Yes, pastor. You know my dad. He's from Melbourne, you know, Australia. His family already went to church today for Easter. You know, the time difference."

"Yes, Jane, I know they're way ahead of us." Jane continued slowly, "Well, you see it's not spring there; it's fall. The leaves are falling off the trees. It's starting to get cold, you know. So if they go outside the church they don't see 'new life' like here." Some of the adults who caught this exchange tittered: here was a new thought!

"Oh no," the minister thought to himself. "That's all I need on Easter morning, a smarty pants." He tried to smile, "Well, that's right. It's hard to think about that. Australia's so many miles away. Hmm... well, let's pr..." Then Jaime, whose family was from Guatemala, spoke up in slightly accented English, "But Jesus is alive there too, isn't he, even though they can't see him." The minister began, "Well, of course..."

Gloria, whose mother taught Sunday School added, "My memory verse for Sunday School was, 'Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.' It's from Hebrews" (she pronounced the New Testament book in two distinct syllables.) "That's faith," she added. The minister, now with a sense of losing control, began, "Well, it certainly is... and that's very important, but..."

Another young voice was raised, "In the fall and winter, things die. But didn't Jesus say, that the kernel of corn, no, I mean, it was wheat, has to die, but then it comes back to life in a lot of grains of wheat. And that's about new life too, isn't it pastor?" Freddy, who usually only made jokes suddenly added, "If a kangaroo leaves church and sees things dying, he knows that's not how things really end because Jesus was resur..." After struggling for a moment, Freddy changed words, "...raised!"

Understanding he had to exert some control and quickly, the minister raised his hand and said without much sincerity, "Well, this has been a very good conversation about Easter. It's spring here and fall in Australia." Believing he could wrap it up with a little biblical witticism, he added with a wink, "I think in Scripture it says, 'For everything there is a season!'"

But the Holy Spirit wouldn't let things end right there, and little Jason chimed in, "And for every season... there's Jesus!" Cue the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Together with you in ministry,

*Mark S.*

## CAMP HANOVER OPEN HOUSE- APRIL 22

Visit the Camp Hanover Open House Sunday, April 22, 2:00 - 6:00 pm to learn about summer camping opportunities. There will be hay rides, facepainting, disc golf, canoeing, paddle boating, a climbing wall, campfire goodies and more! Brochures for the summer camp will be available as well as an opportunity to register. The camp is located at 3163 Parsleys Mill Road, Mechanicsville.



The staff of Camp Hanover is offering a Vacation Bible Camp for children at Gregory again this year, July 2-6, but Camp Hanover also offers many more settings for camping experiences for children and youth through the summer. Brochures are available at the church office as well as online at [www.camphanover.org](http://www.camphanover.org).

## WORSHIP IN APRIL...

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – The crowd waved palms and shouted Jesus' praise but the shallowness of their understanding of his true mission brought him to tears. Does our spiritual thickness ever cause Jesus to weep today? Pastor Mark explores this in his message, *When Jesus Weeps*. Read Luke 19:28-44, Matthew 23:37-39 to prepare. We will also receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.



THURSDAY, APRIL 5 – MAUNDY THURSDAY – On this night that recalls Jesus' last meal with his disciples, we celebrate the Lord's Supper in intimate fashion at the front of the sanctuary. Worship concludes with the rite of *tenebrae* or "shadows" as we read Scripture describing Jesus' last moments on earth, extinguishing a candle with each even as his holy light was slowly snuffed out.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – EASTER SUNRISE – 7:30 am – Temple Building Parking Lot – Celebrate the surprise of the empty tomb with birds singing and the sun slowly ascending above the trees! We will sing the familiar Easter hymns, join together in prayer and Pastor Mark will explore the evidence for Jesus' resurrection in his message, "IF...He Really Was...!" Read John 20:1-18 to prepare. Enjoy a delicious BREAKFAST after the service in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 8:30 am.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP – 11:00 am – "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" is the ancient Easter greeting that begins our celebration of new life in Jesus! Join us for joyous music, a special children's time, and an inspiring message that focus on that new reality to which the first Easter pointed. Bring a flower from your garden to decorate the "flowering cross" or use one that will be available as you enter the sanctuary.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 - Do you sense that God's given you greater potential for life than you're tapping into? The story of the resurrection of Lazarus, John 11:1-44, gives us some guidance in to how to "let go and let God," as Pastor Mark explores in his message, *What's Holding You Back?* We will also receive the 5-cents-a-meal offering.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 – "A Kid-Friendly Sunday" - We want to include folks of all ages in our worship service! This Sunday will have music and liturgy and a sermon that can be appreciated by young and old alike! Our story tells of two of Jesus' disciples who met him on the road to Emmaus... but didn't recognize him! Do we ever "see Jesus" today? Read Luke 24:13-35 to prepare.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 – The Letter of James sometimes sounds a little over-the-top with his famous pronouncements that the "wages of sin is death," and "faith without works is dead." Martin Luther wanted to toss it out of the Bible! But James was serious about his faith and wanted it to make a difference in the world. Hear an appreciation of James' teaching in Pastor Mark's message, *The Face in the Mirror*. Read James 1:17-27 to prepare. We will also receive the quarterly emergency assistance offering for CCHASM.



## SECRETARY TO LEAVE

Julie Jacobs is leaving the position of church secretary. Julie had hoped to be able to continue to work after her baby arrived in December, but the logistics have not worked out. Her last day is Thursday, April 5. We will miss Julie but wish her well as she is at home with Connor. The Personnel Committee is interviewing candidates and hopes soon to have one to take Julie's place.

**CLERK'S CORNER**

APRIL 2012

**The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 and the following items were discussed/approved:**

- **Approved reservation of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for American Red Cross Shelter Training.**
- **Approved recommendation from Personnel Committee changing the number of hours the church secretary works from 16 to 12 to help reduce the projected budget deficit.**

*-David Johnson, Clerk of Session*

**INCORPORATION AND TRUSTEES APPROVED AT CHURCH MEETING**

On Sunday, March 11, the congregation met after worship and voted unanimously to elect two new elders and to incorporate. The new elders are Joan Mann and Jennifer Smyth. Joan and Jennifer will now participate in elder training and be “examined” by the other elders as to their faith and understanding of the Presbyterian Church. After that they will be ordained and installed as ruling elders in worship and begin their service.

The vote to incorporate (actually to approve “articles of incorporation”) means that the church property will be held as a corporation with church members as stakeholders. The current trustees will comprise its board of directors with the church treasurer and clerk of session functioning as corporate treasurer and secretary, respectively.

After much discussion and consultation with an attorney suggested by the Presbytery, the Session recommended this move in order to (1) follow the requirement of the national Presbytery church, (2) make it easier for the church to buy, sell or mortgage (any of these still requires the vote of the church membership), and (3) lessen the liability for church officers and session members if the church is sued.

Under incorporation, the ministry of the church will function exactly as before. The only difference is that at the conclusion of the annual congregational meeting there will be a brief meeting of the corporation to elect one new trustee. In the near future, the trustees will meet to elect a president among them who will preside at the annual meeting. Gregory trustees are Dennis Allen, Jessica Mauger and Ron Recher.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENT – APRIL 22**

To honor its founding 200 years ago, Union Presbyterian Seminary, along with the Presbytery of the James, is holding a special worship service at the Richmond Convention Center at 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 22. Seminary President Dr. Brian Blount will preach, and a 200-voice choir will sing. Communion will also be celebrated. The event is open to the public.

**FACILITIES**

Facilities Committee would like to thank everyone for all their help who came out for Work Day. Continuous help is always needed to keep our church in top-notch condition. Feel free to contact Bobby Allen if you'd like to assist the Facilities Committee in keeping our church clean and nice! Thanks again to everyone for their support.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are pleased to announce that Camp Hanover will be here again this summer. It is for rising 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The cost this year will be \$25.00. Dates are July 2-6 including the 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available at church or online at Camp Hanover. Registration should be done online or by mail to Camp Hanover, not the church. We hope to see you there! If you can volunteer to help with our camp this year please let Valerie Harsh know so we can schedule you in for a day.

We will be including all children ages 12 and under in our Jr. Church once a month. The dates will be April 8<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day, June 17<sup>th</sup> Father's Day, July 8<sup>th</sup> Patriotic Day, and Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> Summer Fun Day. If this proves to be a good thing we will have more dates later on.

Do your children enjoy going back for Jr. Church? Please thank Patsy Johnson for this. Patsy has been preparing the Jr. Church materials for over 3 years. Patsy has expressed her wishes to stop doing this after the middle of May. If you know of someone who would be interested in taking over for Patsy please let Valerie or Patsy know. We will provide you with the materials and training. This will be a very rewarding opportunity for someone.

## PRE-WORSHIP SANCTUARY MUSIC

In March we experimented with playing worshipful music through our sound system prior to the start of the worship service. We heard no "nays" and many positive responses that the new music helps to create a more worshipful atmosphere. If you have any ideas for types of worship music or artists you'd like to hear pass them on to Doug or Mary Holc.

## A "KID FRIENDLY" SUNDAY! - APRIL 22

In an effort to create a meaningful worship experience for our older children who do not participate in "Children's Church," we're adding some special activities on Sunday. As noted above, once a month, they will be invited to participate in an "advanced" children's church with a crafts activity. We will also be experimenting with a "Kid-Friendly Sunday" perhaps each month with music, message and liturgy crafted to appeal to worshippers of all ages! Our first "Kid-Friendly Sunday" will be April 22.

## Easter Word Find

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

RESURRECTION SACRIFICE  
 MARY WHITE  
 MAGDALEN BAPTISM  
 JESUS CONFIRMATION  
 RISE EUCHARIST  
 DEAD  
 TOMB  
 GUARDS  
 ANGEL  
 THOMAS  
 APOSTLES  
 SOLDIERS  
 EASTER  
 SUNDAY  
 MASS  
 EGGS  
 BASKET  
 BLESSINGS  
 LAMB  
 GOD





# Those Who Serve - April 2012

	APRIL 1	APRIL 8	APRIL 15	APRIL 22	APRIL 29
Nursery	Glenda Mayhew	Debra Bailey	Ruby Spain	Robbi Foster	Glenda Mayhew
Junior Church	Virginia Maloney Jared Smyth	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter Kevin Foster	Mary Beth Coleman Madison Foster	Jennifer Smyth Jared Smyth
Junior Sermon	Lisa Hartsell	Mark Sprowl	Valerie Harsh	Susan Walker	Pat Hunter
Ushers	Wayne Powers Rose Scott Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond	Wayne Powers Verne Smith Bobby Allen Marguerite Bishop	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet	Pat Hunter	Mary Kay Schroeter
Counting	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Ron Recher Verne Smith	Donald Hunter Rose Scott	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter

Flowers for April  
8 - Evelyn Lichvar  
22 - The Hunters



Gatekeeper:

Bobby Allen - 691-3337



## PRAYER CONCERNS

Ruby Hasky	Ed Smiley ( <i>Friend of Doug Holc</i> )
Christine Belsches	Katherine Tompkins
Aida Faries	Mary Chadwick ( <i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i> )
June Hawks	Virginia Mika ( <i>sister of Grace and Helen Cibula</i> )
Marian McDonald	Matt Mauger
Helen Cibula	Amy Harte ( <i>David Johnson's cousin</i> )
Harry Johns	The family of Maurice Zachman ( <i>Debra Bailey's father</i> )
	The family of Charles Lucy ( <i>Bonnie Reid's father</i> )

Prayer  
Works



# APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Palm Sunday</i> <b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am</b> Worship <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	<b>2:00pm</b> Line Dancing <b>6:30pm</b> Missions & Outreach	<b>12:30pm</b> Day Circle <b>6:00pm</b> Cong. Care @ Kay A's. <b>7:00pm</b> Facilities & Worship	<b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>Preschool Easter Celebration</b>  <b>7:00pm</b> Maundy Thursday Svc. <i>Communion</i>	<b>Fellowship Hall Eastern Steps to be torn up.</b>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>Easter Sunday</i> <b>7:30am</b> Sunrise Svc. <b>8:30am</b> Breakfast <b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am</b> Worship	<b>B-Dry to repair Stairwell</b>  <b>Noon</b> Widows Group <b>2:00pm</b> Line Dancing <b>6:00pm</b> Christian Ed & S&F	<b>7:30pm</b> Evening Circle	<b>Committee Reports Due</b>  <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>2-8:00pm</b> Volunteer Cleaning		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10:30am</b> Session Mtg. <b>11:00am</b> Worship	<b>2:00pm</b> Line Dancing	<b>7:00pm</b> Session Meeting	<b>7:00pm</b> Choir			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am</b> Worship <i>5-Cents-A-Meal</i>	<b>2:00pm</b> Line Dancing		<b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>  <b>7:00pm</b> Choir	<b>Preschool Field Day (Scott Park)</b>  <b>2-8:00pm</b> Volunteer Cleaning		
29	30					
<b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am</b> Worship <i>Emergency Aid Offering</i>	<b>2:00pm</b> Line Dancing					

**Join Us for...**

**Palm Sunday April 1, 11 am**

**Maundy Thursday April 5, 7 pm**

**Easter Sunrise April 8, 7:30 am**

**Easter Breakfast April 8, 8:30 am**

**Easter Festival Worship April 8, 11 am**

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



COME JOIN US!!