

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



"Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"
-Matthew 6:26

The chair I was sitting in was fairly uncomfortable, as I sat in my office/study last Sunday while the motion to renew and reaffirm the Pastoral Covenant was being discussed in my absence. That's a bit of an understatement: the chair is decidedly uncomfortable. If you haven't poked your head in to see it, or need a reminder, I have in my office an antique church chair, which sat in the pulpit area of The Franklinville Presbyterian Church. When Franklinville closed, the chair came to me, and I placed it here to serve as a reminder of many things. One thing I don't remember, though, is how uncomfortable it truly is to sit in; one of the back supports runs directly up your spine if you lean back against it, making any sense of peace nearly nonexistent. I was sitting in it, though, because I wanted to sit with a different perspective for the time being.

And while I sat there, my eyes fell easily on two things: the window that shows the trees behind the back of the church, and the picture on the bulletin board of me and the pastoral search committee from February 2013, on the day that I had been interviewed by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the day on which the call we had been dreaming of together was approved and it was certain we would be moving forward together. Sitting there that afternoon, with a wooden rod along my spine, I thought back to that day and the joyous excitement we all had as we looked forward with GMPC, and out the window and the cold sunshine reminding me of life moving along – birds in the trees and air, squirrels in the branches, people living their lives.

While I had very little doubt that the call and pastoral covenant would be approved, there is a certain amount of anxiety that goes along with stepping out and allowing space for conversation while I awaited a vote that would intimately affect the coming year of my life, of our family's life. I guess no matter how certain one might be, there's always a bit of 'holding one's breath' while waiting to see if everything is approved. I thought, in those minutes, of the time that had spanned from the

taking of that picture in 2013 to now, almost exactly seven years later; I thought of the hours we had spent together in worship, the sermons preached, the joys of baptisms and weddings celebrated, the lives remembered and honored with tears and laughter alike. I thought of the deep and abiding presence of God at our Lord's Table, of bearing witness to the Resurrection and receiving the Good News of Immanuel, of hymns and anthems sung, candles lit, prayers offered. I thought of meetings attended and discussions held, meals prepared and cleaned up, water damage and repair. I thought back on all these things, and I thanked God for the blessing and privilege it has been to be present through it all, and asked that the blessing and privilege would continue. With joyous gratitude to God and to each and every one of you, it will, and I offer both my thanks and my commitment.

It is not a comfortable chair that I was sitting in, but I knew that to be the case and I wanted to sit there, anyway. I didn't want to be comfortable, or in a familiar position of ministry at my desk or reading; I wanted a renewed perspective, one that would remind me not to get comfortable or complacent, one that would remind me that ministry is not about sitting still all the time or always being in peaceful situations. I wanted to remember that sometimes the road of ministry is hard and carries sorrow with it, as well as the promise of looking forward, focusing not on what once was but upon the life that is present before us. This chair offered all of that, and it was a blessing in and of itself. May we all be so blessed in the days and months to come, and may we live into God's rich blessing as we live out the Kingdom of our Lord here in Prince George.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY, 2020

Sunday, 2 February 2020

“4th Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 131:1-3 * 2nd Reading: Mark 5:21-43
 Sermon: "To Await Healing"

Sunday, 9 February 2020

“5th Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 122:1-9 * 2nd Reading: Mark 6:1-29
 Sermon: "Rejection & Acceptance"

Sunday, 16 February 2020

“6th Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 51:1-3, 6-7 * 2nd Reading: Mark 7:1-23
 Sermon: "Truly Clean"

Sunday, 23 February 2020

“Transfiguration of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 27:1-4 * 2nd Reading: Mark 8:29-9:8
 Sermon: "No Fear"

Tuesday, 25 February 2020

Shrove "Fat" Tuesday Service- Burning of Palms – *details TBA*

Wednesday, 26 February 2020

Ash Wednesday Service



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.

<p>Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Mary Chadwick & Adelaide "Shorty" Smith, "Dink" Armstrong’s Sisters (health issues) Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, & her son, Rick (health issues) Becky Scott Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Kenneth Andrews, Childress family’s friend Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Gladys Wiseman Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) Verne & Clara Smith Sharon Entwistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend Peggy Allen Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Jerry Hasky (health issue) Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.) Randy & Kay Recher, son & daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma)</p>	<p>Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (health issues) Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues) Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member (health issue) Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues) Velma Allen (severe arthritis) Etta Holc (broken foot; home) Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns) Jackie Woodruff (health issues) Jane & Bob Jones (health issues) Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from brain surgery) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (triple bypass) Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from back surgery) Irene Ondisko, Donna Allen's mother (hospitalization & health issues) Sharon Reed & family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (brain tumor diagnosis) Family/friends of Betty Arthur, Mary Lykins' son-in-law's mother Family/friends of Gene Reed, husband of Velma Allen's cousin (d. 1/11)</p>
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"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence." St. Augustine



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc

FEB. 2: "4th Sunday after Epiphany"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service, Holy Communion**, 11 a.m.; **WorkCamp plan meeting**, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.

FEB. 3: Worship Com., 1 p.m.

FEB. 4: Circle (Host, location: TBA), 1 p.m.; **Congregational Care Com.**, 6 p.m.; **GS Tr5000**, 6 p.m.; **Christian Ed. Com.**, 7 p.m.; **Facilities Com.**, 7 p.m.

FEB. 5: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

FEB. 6: Fellowship Hall reserved (set-up for event on 2/7) 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

FEB. 7: PG Rotary Club Silent Auction & dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5-9 p.m.

FEB. 9: "4th Sunday after Epiphany", "Scouts Sunday"; Congregation B'fast (hosted by Scouts), Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m.; **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service**, 11 a.m.

FEB. 10: Crater Karakona BS Chapter "Internet/Cyber Awareness Class", Sanctuary, 6 p.m. Open to public, no food or liquids permitted in Sanctuary. please.

FEB. 11: Missions-Outreach Com., 7 p.m.

FEB. 12: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

FEB. 13: Newsletter articles due in church office, 2 p.m.

FEB. 14 : Valentines's Day

FEB. 16: "5th Sunday after Epiphany"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service**, 11 a.m.

FEB. 17: "Washington's Birthday/ Presidents Day"

FEB. 18: GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.

FEB. 19: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

FEB. 20: Newsletter out, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com.**, 7 p.m.

FEB. 21: Fellowship Hall Use: Alternate weather date (PG Rotary Club event)

FEB. 23: "6th Sunday after Epiphany"; Pancake B'fast Workcamp fund-raiser, Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.; **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service**, 11 a.m.; **5 Cents a Meal Offering**, 11 a.m.

FEB. 25: Shrove "Fat" Tuesday; Dinner & Service - Burning of Palms; details TBA

FEB. 26: "Ash Wednesday"; Annual reports to Presbytery, 2 p.m.; **Ash Wed. service**, 7 p.m.; **Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

FEB. 27: Begin Lent; First Thurs. in Lent

FEB. 29: Committee reports due, 2 p.m.


Missed the sermon? GMPC's sermons are on *YouTube* each week. Check out **gmpeva** on Facebook, or the **gregorymemorial.org** website for the links, or search *YouTube.com* for Sunday's sermon.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 5	
FEBRUARY 12	
FEBRUARY 19	
FEBRUARY 26	

For assistance with the sign-up, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday).

THOSE WHO SERVE – FEBRUARY, 2020

 GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc	FEB. 2	FEB. 9 "Scouts Sunday"	FEB. 16	FEB. 23
Ushers	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	SCOUTS	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson
Announcements		SCOUTS	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
Nursery				
Counting	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing	David Johnson (Sub.)

*5 Cents a Meal Offering

** "Scouts Sunday"

Congregation Breakfast (Hosted by Scouts) to commemorate "Scouts Sunday" will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 9 at 8:00 a.m.

TWC'20 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m-10:00 a.m.

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Shrove "Fat" Tuesday Dinner and Service for the Burning of Palms is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 25. More details to come.

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Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 26, at 7:00 p.m.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

A Backyard Neighbor Funeral

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the next-door neighbor's little boy, Jimmy, was busy in his backyard filling in a hole.

Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy sobbed, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"Isn't that an awfully large hole for a goldfish?" Mr. Green asked.

Patting down the last bit of earth, Jimmy replied, "*That's because he's in your cat!*"

God, Being Left-Handed...

Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in pre-school. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all during the night before. Everything was beautiful that morning.

His grandmother commented, "Doesn't it just look like an artist

Painted this scenery? Did you know that God painted this just for you?"

"Yes," replied Philip, "God did it, and he did it all left-handed."

This surprised his grandmother, so she asked him, "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Philip, "We learned at Sunday School last week that *Jesus sits on God's right hand. So he must've done it left-handed!*"

Lesson on Honesty

The Sunday school teacher was just finishing a lesson on honesty.

"Do you know where children go if they don't put their money in the collection plate?" the teacher asked.

"Yes ma'am," a boy blurted out. "*They go to the movies.*"

Going to Church Instead of Fishing

A boy came to Sunday School late. Knowing he was usually very prompt, his teacher asked, "Johnny, is there anything wrong?"

"No, ma'am, not really," he said. "I was going to go fishing, but my

daddy told me that I needed to get on up and go to church."

The teacher was very impressed and asked Johnny if his father had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing.

"Yes ma'am, he did," Johnny said. "My daddy said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

Your Hut in Heaven

A man died and went to heaven. He was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter who led him down golden streets. As they went, they passed stately homes and beautiful mansions until finally, they came to the end of a street where they stopped in front of a rundown cabin.

"Here's your stop," St. Peter announced.

Perplexed, the man asked, "Why are we stopping at this cabin, when there are so many mansions we passed that I could live in?"

St. Peter replied, "*I did the best I could with the money you sent us.*"

FEBRUARY, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service Holy Communion 6:30p WorkCamp plan meeting	3 1p Worship Com.	4 1p Circle (Host: TBA) 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 7p Christian Ed Com. 7p Facilities Com.	5 7p Choir practice	6 9a-6p Event set-up for 2/7 2p Church Cleaning	7 5p PG Rotary Silent Auction & dinner, Fellowship Hall	8
9 SCOUTS SUNDAY 8a Congregation B'fast (hosted by Scouts), Fellowship Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service	10 6p Crater Karakona BS Chapter Internet/ Cyber Awareness Class, Sanctuary. Open to public: <u>No food or liquids,</u> <u>please</u>	11 7p Missions- Outreach Com.	12 7p Choir practice	13 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service	17 WASHINGTON'S 'DAY/PRESIDENTS DAY	18 6p GS Tr5000	19 7p Choir practice	20 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	21 Reserved: Event alt. date for In case of cancellation	22
23 9-10a Pancake B'fast Workcamp fund- Raiser, Fellowship Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering	24	25 SHROVE TUES. Tenta.- Shrove "Fat "Tues. dinner & Service-Burning of Palms; <i>details TBA</i>	26 ASH WED. 2p Annual reports to Presbytery 7p Ash Wed. Service 7p Choir practice	27 BEGIN LENT 2p Church Cleaning	28	29 2p Committee reports due

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

STAMP

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FEBRUARY 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)
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG