

*To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:*

## IN PERFORMANCE OF "ORDINARY" MIRACLES

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes when I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and features, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly-picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes, but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Jim Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?" "H'lo, Mr. Miller, I'm fine, thank ya. I was jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good." "They are good, Barry, How's your Ma?" "Fine. Gittin' strong alla' time." "Good. Anything I can help you with?" "No, Sir. Jus' admiring' them peas." "Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller. "No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with." "Well, what have you got to trade me for some of those peas?" asked Mr. Miller.

Barry thought for a few seconds, then answered, "All I got's my prize marble here." "Is that right? Let me see it," said Miller.

Barry dug down in his pants pocket and fished up the marble. "Here 'tis. She's a dandy!" "I can see that, Barry," said Mr. Miller. "Hmmm, only thing is, this one is blue, and I sort of go for the red ones. Do you have a red one like this at home?" he asked the boy.

"Not zackley, but almost." "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way, you let me look at that red marble, of yours." Mr. Miller told the boy. "Sure will. Thanks, Mr. Miller!"

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile, she said, "There are two other boys like him in town. All three are in very poor circumstances. My Jim loves to bargain with them for peas, applies, tomatoes, or whatever we have. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do—he decides he doesn't like the red after all, and then he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble--- or an orange one---when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store, smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later, I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys and their bartering for marbles. Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some

old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there I learned that the store owner, Mr. Miller, had died. His visitation was that evening and, knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary, we lined up to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer words of comfort.

Ahead of us in line were three young, one wearing an army uniform, the other two had nice haircuts, wore dark suits and white shirts...all very professional-looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. And each hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket.

Her misty light blue eyes followed them as one by one, each stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I introduced myself and reminded her of what she had told me years earlier about her husband's bartering for marbles. With glistening eyes, she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young who just left were those boys, all grown up. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size...they came to pay their debt."

"We've never had a great deal of the wealth in this world, she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness, she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband and there, resting underneath, were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Today, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles: A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself. An unexpected phone call from an old friend. All green traffic lights on your way to work. The fastest line at the grocery store. Your keys found right where you left them.

***Never be in way too much of a hurry to notice ordinary miracles when they occur.***

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*Source: Facebook posting; #Fifty Shades of Life.*

*To share an article in THE HERALD, please send it to the church email: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office door mailbox.*

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MAY, 2023

### Sunday, 7 May, 2023

“5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter” – Liturgical Color: White  
 Guest Preacher: Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

### Sunday, 14 May 2023 –“Mother’s Day”

“6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter” – Liturgical Color: White  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

### Sunday, 21 May 2023

“7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter” – Liturgical Color: White  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips

### Sunday, 28 May 2023

“Day of Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Red  
 Guest Preacher: TBA



**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. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

Those affected by earthquakes and cholera in Turkey and Syria  
 First-responders, world-wide  
 Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters  
 Families, persons, communities impacted by gun violence  
 People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens  
 conscripted into war  
 Those in our community suffering from mental/physical illness,  
 Loss, grief or hardship  
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister  
 Becky Scott Smith  
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues)  
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother  
 Verne & Clara Smith  
 Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues)  
 Eddie Frankenstein  
 Grace Cibula  
 Etta Holc

Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)  
 Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)  
 Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)  
 Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)  
 Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)  
 Randy Warthan (health issue)  
 Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)  
 Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter  
 Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)  
 Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue)  
 Charlie Perkins (health issue)  
 Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)  
 Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)  
 John Kephart, Grace Cibula’s nephew (heart surgery on 1/12)  
 Tara Foster (recovering at home from surgery: kidney stones)  
 Billy Robertson (recovering from eye surgery)  
 Shirley MacNeill (recovering at home, health issue)

*“My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge. ~ Psalm 67:7*

### CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2023 schedule for Holy Communion provides that we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months.

We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, June 4**. We are continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

### HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2023

February 5, 2023  
April 2, 2023

**June 4, 2023**  
August 6, 2023

October 1, 2023  
December 3, 2023

### ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

May 7 - Patsy Johnson  
May 14 - Larry Johnson  
May 21 - Susan Shockley  
May 28 - Rose Scott

### *"MAMA MIA!" at Fort Lee Playhouse*

Would you like to go to the play, "MAMA MIA!" at the Fort Lee Playhouse on Sunday, May 21? The cost of the play is \$16 per person. We are getting tickets for the afternoon performance which begins at 3 p.m. We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. for carpooling for anyone interested. This is a play with lots of good music and is one that everyone will enjoy.

If you have a military ID then you must do the following:

1. Enclose your name and the money for your ticket in the envelope provided. Cash is preferred but if you need to write a check, please make the check out to Patsy Johnson.

If you do not have a military ID then you must do the following:

1. Fill out all the information requested on the form provided in the bulletin. Extra forms may be found in the Narthex. Each person going must fill out their own form.
2. Enclose the money for your tickets and the information form(s) in the envelope provided. Cash is preferred but if you need to write a check, please make the check out to Patsy Johnson.

Envelopes can be put in the offering plate or given to Patsy Johnson.

### Money and forms needed by May 10<sup>th</sup>

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Cut here. Place completed form with payment in envelope & put in collection place or give to Patsy Johnson by May 10<sup>th</sup>.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date on the driver's license number \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*People without a military ID will be instructed at a later date to call the Fort Lee Playhouse and you will be asked to give them your Social Security number.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thanks to the Facilities Committee!!** Doug Holc and Bill Shill have been hard at work. Bill has replaced some of the tile in the Fellowship Hall and Doug has replaced all of the lights in the Sanctuary with new LED lights. What a difference the new lights have made. Everyone should take a few minutes and go up to the Communion Table and see how it sparkles! Thanks, gentlemen, for all you are doing.

### **SING-SPARATION: "FEEL THE SPIRIT THROUGH MUSIC"**

Come and enjoy an evening of traditional Christian music. The Faith Committee and Congregational Care Committee invite you to attend a musical program at Gregory Memorial, "Feel the Spirit Through Music" on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Special music is planned and one of our featured guests will be Mr. Tim Britt, who is highly recommended by all that have heard him play the piano. We hope to provide many good memories by playing the "old favorites" that we have all grown up with. We have given everyone the opportunity to inform us of their favorite hymn with hopes of playing and singing as many favorites as possible. Refreshments will follow and a "LOVE Offering" will be collected

with all monies being donated to the Prince George Baccalaureate Program.

**Congregational Care Committee has merged with the Faith Committee;** Patsy Johnson – Chairman; Mary Holc, Co-Chairman. Meetings are held at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7 p.m. (Note: No meeting in May, 2023.)

**Stated Session Meeting** – at 12 p.m. on Sunday, May 21.

### **"Mama Mia!" at Fort Lee Playhouse on Sunday, May 21.**

Performance starts at 3 p.m.; carpoolers to meet at church at 2 p.m. Cost is \$16/person by advance reservation. Each person is required to complete the form (provided in the April 30 and May 7 Sunday bulletins or use the one on Page 3) to get on Base. Those who get the newsletter by email can print their own forms as well, complete and place with payment in a plain mailing envelope (write "Mama Mia" on the outside) and drop it in the collection plate Sunday or give to Patsy Johnson by May 10.

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## HOLY HUMOR

**LET'S MAKE A DEAL...** When preparing items for her yard sale the next day, Jill decided to work from inside her cool air-conditioned home to do the marking of all the stickers. It was an ambitious task: several hundred items needed to be labeled. To save time, she hurriedly slapped them onto her shirt and ran in and out of the house, sticking them on the sale items. She did this for most of the afternoon, until each item had been labeled. Later that day, a UPS delivery arrived. As she signed for the package, she noticed that the delivery driver appeared especially ill at ease and not his usual chatty self and did not make eye contact. It was only after he left that she noticed that there was one big sticker still attached to her shirt. It read "**Make Me An Offer.**"

**SMALL(ER) WORLD...** While vacationing in Las Vegas at the Hotel Bellagio, 2 priests decided to "go incognito" and wear casual clothes so they wouldn't be identified as clergy. They bought Hawaiian shirts and sandals, and soon hit the pool. There they noticed a gorgeous blonde in a tiny bikini. "Good afternoon, Fathers," she said as

she strolled by. The men were stunned. and wondered how she knew they were clergy. Later they bought even wilder attire: surfer shorts, tie-dyed T-shirts, and dark glasses. The next day, they returned poolside. The same fabulous blonde, now wearing a string bikini, passed by, nodded politely at them, and said, "Good morning, Fathers." "Just a minute, young lady," said one of the priests. "We are priests and proud of it, but how in the world did you know?" "**Don't you recognize me? I'm Sister Kathryn from the convent.**"

**SAY NO MORE...**A store manager overheard one of her cashiers tell a customer, "We haven't had it for a while, and I doubt we'll be getting it anytime soon." The manager quickly assured the customer that whatever it was she wanted would be there by next week. After the customer left, the manager scolded the cashier. "Never tell the customer that we're out of anything. Tell them we'll have it next week," she admonished the cashier. "Now, what was it that she wanted?"

**"Rain."**

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Source: <https://www.humormatters.com/htm>

## MAY, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>1p</b> Worship Cmte.	<b>2</b> <b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm.)  <b>7p</b> Facilities Cmte.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service  Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell	<b>8</b> <b>6p</b> BSA Tr900 Cyber/ I'net Security class (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)	<b>9</b> <b>1p</b> Circle (Location TBA)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>7p</b> Faith Cmte	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mother's Day</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service > <u>Presby. Women's Birthday Offering</u>  Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	<b>15</b> <b>7p</b> Finance Cmte	<b>16</b> <b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm.)	<b>17</b> <b>7p</b> "Sing-spiration!" - "Feel The Spirit Through Music"  Open to the public	<b>18</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>2p</b> News articles due  <b>7p</b> Finance Cmte	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service > 5C Meal Offering > Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips  <b>12p</b> Session meeting  Moderator: Rev. Philips  <b>3p</b> "MAMA MIA!" play at Ft Lee Playhouse; (Carpoolers to meet at 2pm at GMPC.) Pre-registration & pre-payment required by May 10 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>2p</b> Newsletter out	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Day of Pentecost</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service > 5 Cents Meal Offering > <u>Pentecost Offering</u>  <b>Guest preacher: TBA</b>	<b>29 Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm.)	<b>31</b>  <b>2p</b> Cmte reports due			

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

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***MAY NEWSLETTER***



***COME AND JOIN US!***  
*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.*  
*Worship 11:00 A.M.*

*We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)*