

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

HOMELESS MAN OR SOMETHING ELSE?

It was an unusually cold day for the month of May. Spring had arrived and everything was alive with color. But a cold front from the North had brought winter's chill back to Indiana. I and two others, just three pastors, were enjoying lunch at the picture window table in the restaurant on the corner of the Town Square. As I recall, the food and the company were both especially good that cold day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was also carrying a well-worn sign that read, "*I will work for food.*"

My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways.

I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the Town Square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call for some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car. Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "*Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the Square.*" And so, with some hesitancy, I headed back into town.

As I turned the Square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of a store-front church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked, feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked. "Not really," he replied, "Just resting." "Have you eaten today?" "Oh, I ate something early this morning." "Would you like to have lunch with me?" "Do you have some work I could do for you?" "No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."

"Sure," he replied with a smile. As he began to gather his things. I asked some surface questions. "Where you headed?" "St. Louis."

"Where you from?" I asked. "Oh, all over; mostly Florida." "How long you been walking?" "Fourteen years," came the reply.

There and then, I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered well beyond his 48 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling.

He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly.

He gave his life over to God. "Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked. "Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like? To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?"

He smiled. "Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone even threw a half-eaten burger at me and make a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome."

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2023

Sunday, 6 August, 2023

“10th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 13 August, 2023

“11th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips

Sunday, 20 August, 2023

“12th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 27 August, 2023

“13th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
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
Etta Holc
Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)
Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)

Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (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)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)
Tara Foster (recovering at home, kidney stones)
Billy Robertson (health issue)
Shirley MacNeill (health issue)
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley's & Sandy Eickmeyer's
friend (brain injury)
John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues)

Continued from Page 1. "Homeless Man..."

Daniel continued, "But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

We finished our dessert and he gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "***Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.***"

At that very moment I felt as if we were on holy ground. "Could you use another Bible?" I asked. He said he preferred a certain translation because it traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read it through 14 times," he said. "I'm not sure we've got one of those," I told him, "but let's stop by my church and see." And so I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

"Where you headed from here?" He dug in his pocket and came up with an advertisement. "Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon." "Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?" "No, I just figure I should go there." He pointed to a star emblem in the advertisement. "If figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next." He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission.

I drove him back to the Town-Square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked there and unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet." I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah,

***"I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope.'*"**

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you." I said, "I know. I love you, too." He smiled and said, "The Lord is good."

"Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked. "A long time," he replied. And so on that busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and in that moment I felt had been changed.

He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "***See you in the New Jerusalem.***" "I'll be there!" was my reply.

He began his journey again. As he headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll, he called back "***When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?***"

"You bet," I shouted back, "God bless!" And that was the last I saw of him. Later that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them, a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the console. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. I remembered his words: "***If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?***"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "***See you in the New Jerusalem,***" he had said.

Yes, Daniel, I know I will...

Source: www.atimetolaugh.org/faith.html.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called Congregational Meeting – Sunday, July 30, 2023, immediately after worship service To elect members to *ad hoc* Congregational Nominating Committee that will develop slate of names for Class of 2026 Elders and Trustee. For election at November 12, 2023 Called Congregational Meeting.

Join us for "Coffee Hour" – Sunday, July 30, 2023, hosted by Faith Committee in the Fellowship Hall following the Called Congregational Meeting. We will recognize 4 new members, 2 newlywed couples, and retirement of Kevin Foster from office of Treasurer of Gregory Memorial. Also we'll congratulate the recipients of the Frances Belsches Memorial Scholarships for

the 2023 Fall college semester.

Come to our "Nat'l Night Out" on Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the PG Ruritan Building @ 5450 Ruffin Road in Prince George for hotdogs, snow cones, bottled water, games, etc. Hosted by volunteers (PG Ruritans, GMPC & BSA Troop 900) and PGPD to promote community awareness, public safety & crime prevention. **Open to the public.**

Stated Session Meeting - 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, August 20; Rev. Marvin Daniel, Moderator.

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, August 6**. 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, 2023
August 6, 2023

October 1, 2023
December 3, 2023

ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

August 6	Patsy Johnson
August 13	Larry Johnson
August 20	Rose Scott
August 27	Donald Hunter

TO MAKE YOU SMILE


PROVERBS FROM FIRST GRADERS

A first grade teacher presented each of the 25 children in her class the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Imagine the insight to be gained from this class of 6-year-old children.

- Don't change horses ___ **until they stop.**
- Strike while the ___ **bug is close.**
- It's always darkest before ___ **Daylight Saving Time.**
- Never underestimate the power of ___ **termites.**
- You can lead a horse to water but ___ **how?**
- Don't bite the hand that ___ **looks dirty.**
- No news is ___ **impossible.**
- A miss is as good as a ___ **Mister.**
- You can't teach an old dog new ___ **math.**
- If you lie down with dogs, you'll ___ **stink in the morning.**
- Love all, trust ___ **me.**
- The pen is mightier than the ___ **pigs.**
- An idle mind is ___ **the best way to relax.**
- Where there's smoke there's ___ **pollution.**
- Happy is the bride who ___ **gets all the presents.**
- A penny saved is ___ **not much.**
- Two's company, three's ___ **the Musketeers**
- Don't put off till tomorrow what ___ **you put on to go to bed.**
- Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ___ **you have to blow your nose.**
- There are none so blind as ___ **Stevie Wonder.**
- Children should be seen and not ___ **spanked or grounded.**
- If at first you don't succeed ___ **get new batteries.**
- You get out of something only what you ___ **see in the picture on the box.**
- When the blind lead the blind ___ **get out of the way.**
- And the WINNER is: Better late than ___ **pregnant.**

"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." ~ Hebrews 13:1-2

AUGUST, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>No Facilities Cmte and no Worship Cmte meetings in August</i></p>		<p>1 6-7:30p "Nat'l Night Out" – new PG Ruritan Building @ 5450 Ruffin Rd In Prince George</p>	2	<p>3 6a Clean Church</p>	4	5
<p>6 9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service & Holy Communion</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel</p>	<p>7 7p Finance Cmte</p>	8	9	<p>10 6a Clean Church</p>	11	12
<p>13 9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips</p>	14	15	16	<p>17 6a Clean Church</p> <p>2p News articles due</p>	19	20
<p>20 9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service</p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel</p> <p>12p Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Daniel</p>	<p>21 Drive Carefully</p> <p>School starts today!</p> 	22	23	<p>24 6a Clean Church</p> <p>2p Newsletter out</p> <p>7p Faith Cmte</p>	26	27
<p>27 9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service</p> <p>➤ 5C Meal Offering</p> <p>Guest preacher: TBA</p>	28	<p>29 2p Necropsy report due</p>	30	<p>31 6a Clean Church</p> <p>2p Cmte reports due</p>		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

STAMP

AUGUST 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)