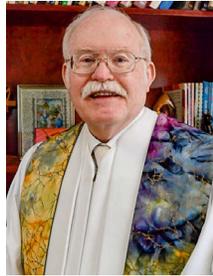


IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Have You Seen the Lion?**
From the Heart of Pastor Jay
Connect with GPC!
- 2 **Staff Contact Information**
GPC | GPP&K | Mainstream
Weather Policy Reminder
Sundays in February
- 3 **2017 February Lecture Series**
- 4 **Music Notes**
- 5 **GPP&K February News**
- 6 **Children and Young Families**
- 7 **Youth and Young Adults**
- 8 **FourthNight Schedule**
- 9 **Wanted: Candidates for the**
Next Class of Elders and Deacons
Save the Dates!
Bridges Support Group
- 10 **FourthNight Adult Electives**
Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Craft Group
VIPS
- 11 **Employment Support Group**
2nd Friday Book Club
Church Library Notes
- 12 **Mindful Movement with**
Some Yoga
Scones, Scones & More Scones!
Get Social
Thank You for Helping the
SHES Families!
- 13 **Tutoring for the Prison Ministry**
Next Mission Trip (April 2017)
Happy 100th Birthday,
Ruth Curley!
- 14 **Christian Sympathy**
Thank You
Welcome to the World!
- 15 **December Finance**
Committee Report



From the Heart of Pastor Jay

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LION?

The following scene from C. S. Lewis' *Prince Caspian* from *The Chronicles of Narnia* unfolds in the midst of war. The four Pevensie children and the dwarf Thumpkin are trudging through a gorge trying to reach allied forces. At a decision point, whether to take a path up to the crest or down into the valley, only Lucy, the youngest, sees Aslan indicating that they must go up. Aslan, the talking lion, represents Christ in *Narnia*.

"Look! Look! Look!" cried Lucy.

"Where? What?" asked everyone.

Lucy: "Aslan himself. Didn't you see?"

"Do you really mean——," began Peter.

"Where did you think you saw him?" asked Susan.

Lucy, stamping her foot: "I didn't think I saw him. I saw him."

"Where, Lu?" asked Peter.

"Right up there between those mountain ashes. Just the opposite of the way you want to go. He wanted us to go where he was—up there."

"How do you know that was what he wanted?" asked Edmund.

"He—I—I just know," said Lucy, "by his face."

The older children decide to take a vote. Only Edmund votes with Lucy to go where Aslan indicates.

So they go down. Eventually they are forced to backtrack. In the end they go up, following the path that Aslan/Christ has laid out for them. Then and only then are they successful at reaching their goal.

This scene from *Prince Caspian* illustrates an aspect of the life of faith. Those who have decided to follow Jesus, who have faith, may know how our personal faith makes sense of our lives, but we cannot always communicate that well to others who haven't "seen the elephant."

Even with strong faith, we occasionally have to struggle against nay-sayers, even difficult challenges to our faith from folks who do not understand. Yet indeed when we have met the risen Christ, we are able to recognize when God leads us, and in following Jesus we do find our purpose and reach the goal.

Shalom,
Rev. Dr. D. Jay Loshner
Interim Senior Pastor

CONNECT WITH GPC!



www.gpchurch.org



Find Us on Facebook:
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church



(301) 948-9418



(301) 869-3043



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Mainstream is published monthly by Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 610 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-1297. The newsletter is a product of GPC's Communications Committee: David Mecklenburg, chairman, and Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence and Jenna Obermiller, staff liaisons. Copies are available in the church's Narthex and Main Office. **Copy deadline is by the 15th of each month unless otherwise specified. Submit material electronically to Jenna Obermiller, Communications Manager, at jobermiller@gpchurch.org.**



WEATHER POLICY REMINDER

Sunday mornings: GPC is always open, but we cannot guarantee the condition of driveways, walks, or parking areas. Use your best judgment about whether or not to attend. If the weather is bad, we will worship God at 11:00 only.

Office on weekdays: Open, if staff members are able to reach GPC.

Mid-week children's & youth programs: If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, GPC programs are cancelled.

Other meetings and programs, including retreats, off-campus events, and the church office: GPC may close at the discretion of the responsible staff member or lay leader.

Note: Even if the building is open or the program is running, do not make the trip if you think conditions make it too hazardous to drive; instead, contact your supervisor or ministry leader.

If civil authorities declare a state of emergency, that declaration overrides GPC's policy and all activities will be cancelled.



SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper,
Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching

FEBRUARY 12

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence preaching

FEBRUARY 19

Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching

FEBRUARY 26

Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching





2017 FEBRUARY LECTURE SERIES

Saturdays – February 11, 18, and 25 | 9:00 a.m. – Noon | Lindsay Hall



Michael Novelli



February 11

Michael Novelli (creator of Merge, a summer event for youth) will lead a workshop on “Bible Storying”— a way to enter Scripture, personalize it, and enable us to retell the story.
(A light lunch will be provided.)

February 18

Using themes from the book *Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels as the framework, we’ll gain new insights on sharing His life and telling our story.

February 25

With the preceding two weeks as our inspiration, we’ll express our individual and collective story through the written word, several kinds of media, or social justice.

The February Lecture Series is made possible by the Eugene Johnson endowment for adult education.





MUSIC NOTES

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

I thought that you might be interested in knowing a little more about one of the church’s oldest and best-loved hymns, “All Creatures of Our God and King.” It was written in 1225 by St. Francis of Assisi. Some of you know that I spent three summers singing opera in central Italy, and I travelled to Assisi several times and visited the garden where this hymn was likely written.

St. Francis was born in 1182, the son of a rich Italian merchant. After finishing his grade school education, Francis joined the army and was captured in battle. Upon his release, he renounced his father’s wealth and announced his intention to live for Christ. He began traveling, preaching, living simply, and trying to make Christ real to everyone he met. Francis always loved nature, and many of the tales and legends that we know about him spotlight his interactions with animals. He reportedly once preached a little sermon to the birds, saying something like this: “My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love Him. He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly, and all other things you need. It is God who made your home in thin, pure air.” That understanding of nature is reflected in “All Creatures of Our God and King,” which in its Italian form is titled “Cantico di fratre sole,” or “Song of Brother Sun.” It challenges all creation to worship God: the sun, the moon, the birds, the clouds, men and women of tender heart—all creatures, period.

Although it was written in 1225, an English version of the hymn didn’t appear until 1919, when Rev. William H. Draper paraphrased it as the hymn we know today—“All Creatures of Our God and King”—for a children’s worship festival in Leeds, England.

As you read the hymn lyrics below, imagine them coming from a 13th century man of God, who gave up a great fortune to commune with nature and teach others about the love of Christ.

*All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!*

*Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
(Refrain)*

*Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.
(Refrain)*

*Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show.
(Refrain)*

*And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!
(Refrain)*

*Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
(Refrain)*



Soli Deo gloria!
Teresa Violet McCoy

Director of Music and Worship Arts



FEBRUARY IS FABULOUS AT GPP&K!



The classes are all beginning their Valentine's Day preparations! The Pre-K classes will create a valentine postcard for their families. They will learn about the postal system by purchasing a stamp and mailing the postcard home. It's exciting for them to receive mail at home that they have sent from school. The Three-Year-Old classes will make heart necklaces out of clay and beads. All classes will celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating valentine bags, exchanging valentines, and enjoying a classroom party.

During Music and Chapel Time, the children will learn ways that we can show love to others besides making Valentine's Day cards. They will hear the story of Zacchaeus and sing a special song about him. They will learn that Jesus forgave Zacchaeus and even went to his house to spend time with him! They will also learn that Jesus healed a man who couldn't walk. He can do anything!

Three-Year-Old classes will have the opportunity to bring their pets (or stuffed animal pets) to school and have a visit from a veterinarian during their Pet Unit. They will learn how to take care of their pets and even get to see a doggie check-up. All classes will also enjoy a visit from a dentist, who will show us how to take care of our teeth!

February is Health & Fitness Month in Kindergarten. The children will welcome various instructors, who come to lead them in aerobics, soccer, and other fun physical activities. In their Healthy Culinary Arts program, they are growing their own herbs and will use them when they create healthful soups that they will enjoy for lunch. It is important for children at this age to begin the habits of staying active and eating healthful foods. For Art, they will study the works of Matisse, Kandinsky, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

In Enrichment, our author of the month is Jan Brett. The children will observe her beautiful illustrations and enjoy her stories. For our Community Caring Project, the children will make Valentine's Day cards for Asbury residents who are in Wilson Health Care Center. We hope that it will make them feel very special and loved.

Registration for 2017–2018 classes begins with priority registration for GPC members on Friday, February 17, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For information regarding other registration dates, class choices, and tuition, please visit us at www.gppk.com, or you may call the school office at 301-977-5787 and we'll be happy to help you. We hope that you'll join us on Facebook, where you can see pictures of our program. We'd love to see you there! Happy Valentine's Day and God bless you all!

In service to His children,
Jessica Coughlin
Director, GPP&K



CONNECT WITH GPP&K!

 (301) 977-5787

 Find Us on Facebook:
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten

 www.gppk.com

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG FAMILIES' MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 a.m.
Bridges to Worship
(4-year-olds – 5th Graders)



Children stay in Rooms 32/33.

Children will hear stories that trace the history of the people of God in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah, the Exile and Return, and Jeremiah.

On **February 19**, children will hear the story of St. Patrick.

11:00 a.m.
Traditional Classes
(3-year-olds – 5th Graders)



Children begin with their parents in the Sanctuary and end in Rooms 30/31, 35, and 36.

Note: On **February 5** (Communion Sunday), the children will begin and end in their classrooms.

The Deep Blue lessons describe Jesus teaching us how to love one another as recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (FOURTHNIGHT)



Kids Clubhouse – Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00, in Rooms 30–31.

February 1 – After a quick FourthNight dinner, carolers will meet at Kindley Assisted Living (at Asbury) at 7:00 p.m. to sing Groundhog Carols! If you feel sufficiently silly to join us, contact Carolyn.



Note: On **March 1**, the Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary will replace the FourthNight dinner and Kids Clubhouse.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Tuesday, February 28** – GPC's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show.
- **During March**, we will plant paper whites for our pen pal partners as a mission project.
- **Wednesday, March 29** – Peter's Walk: a special multi-sensory Lenten event for youth and families. For details, see Carolyn Hayes and Carrie Hansen.

Family Retreat – May 5–7, 2017
Camp Meadowkirk (Middleburg, VA)

Six rooms are available. For scholarship information and/or to reserve your room, contact Carolyn Hayes.



Vacation Bible School
July 17–21, 2017
9:00 a.m. until Noon

"Gadgets and Gizmos – Uniquely Wired, Wonderfully Made!" is the theme for 2017. To volunteer as an adult VBS leader this summer, contact Carolyn Hayes.

Carolyn Hayes

Director of Children and Young Families
301-948-9418 | chayes@gpchurch.org



Youth Young adults

YOUTH EVENTS

In addition to Wednesday night youth group and Sunday morning youth gathering, these events will be happening this month:

- Winter Retreat—February 3-5
- Super Bowl Party—February 5
- Confirmation Class—February 12, 19, 26
- Pancake Supper & Talent Show—February 28

COLLEGE STUDENTS

College Bible Study
Tuesday nights from
4:30-6:00 p.m.,
starting February 6,
at the Germantown
Campus of Montgomery
Community College

BAKE SALE

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Families of Youth, we need your HELP!

Youth are encouraged to bring baked goods or any other delicious and yummy desserts to church on Sunday, February 5, to support our youth bake sale fundraiser. This bake sale is an annual event and money earned will help support our summer youth trips.

Please contact Cindy Zammit, 301-515-7543 or cindy.zammit@yahoo.com, for more details.

Thank you in advance for your support!

FOURTHNIGHT SCHEDULE

MUSIC

Cherubs – *Choral Room*
5:30–6:00

Joy Chimes | Joy Ringers | Joy Singers
Fellowship Hall | Handbell Haven | Choral Room
5:30–6:30

Canterbury Ringers – *Sanctuary*
7:30–9:00



CHILDREN

Nursery Care
6:30–8:00

Kids Clubhouse
Preschool – *Room 11*
K–5th Grade
Rooms 32/33 or Fellowship Hall
7:00–8:00



DINNER 6:15–7:00 PM

prepared and cooked on site

Come anytime during the 45-minute window.
Enjoy good food and meet new friends!

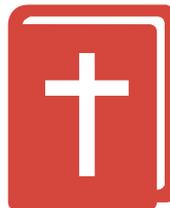
\$ 3 for 5th Graders and younger
6 for 6th Graders and older
20 maximum per family



YOUTH

Middle School Program
Spencer Hall
7:00–8:00

High School Program
Spencer Hall
7:00–9:00



ADULTS

Classes
Rooms 32/33 or Fellowship Hall
7:00–8:00

Conversations – *Library*
7:00–8:00



WANTED: CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT CLASS OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

The Nominating Committee is looking for individuals who are capable of being effective leaders, are strong in spirit to discern God's call, and will strive to be good disciples of Christ. If you feel called or know of a fellow church member who might be a good candidate, please email Carol Anderson at bellsgpc@yahoo.com, or text or call 301-233-8081.



SAVE THE DATES!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
Ash Wednesday Service

MARCH 8 – APRIL 12
Lenten Series

Small groups will meet during the week, some on Wednesday evenings after FourthNight dinner.
(There will be no Adult Conversations or Classes.)



WHERE DO YOU FIND THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST?

Your Missionary in Action – Norm Gordon



What does the spirit of Christ look like at a party? We discovered it last December at our Christmas party—15 families, 50 people, seniors, middle-agers, youth, children, a plethora of ethnicities, all coming together to share a party. Many did not know one another. At the beginning of the evening—caution, awkwardness, and low tones. After three hours together—laughter, frolicking, and joy. The format was straightforward: a potluck dinner together and some fun, Christmas-oriented games, concluding with an old-fashioned sing-along of pop tunes as well as Christmas carols. The accessories were simple: name tags and introductions. Somewhere during the evening, quietly, without announcement, the spirit of Christ emerged. Almost like

magic—kids talking to adults, strangers becoming friends, shy folks belting out the lyrics to “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and love flowing like wassail. Unexplainable outside of the deep, deep love of Jesus. But don't take it from only me—let a youth attendee tell it:

“I go to many Christmas parties in various places for different groups or organizations. Of all of them, your party stands out. I keep thinking about why. When I am at your house and with your family, I feel happier and sense a presence of light that dwells in your home. It brings people closer together, allows people to talk to one another, and brings peace.”

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” (Luke 17: 20–21)

Remember, the spirit of Christ can appear anywhere!



Norm Gordon is a Bridge Leader serving as a GPC Missionary in Central Montgomery County among the unchurched. For more information, contact him at ngordon0522@gmail.com.

FOURTHNIGHT ADULT ELECTIVES (FEBRUARY)



ADULT CONVERSATIONS

Share – Connect – Grow

Wednesday evenings in the Church Library | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Informal group discussions, sharing questions, thoughts, experiences, and insights. If you find the topic to be of interest, come! *Feel free to invite friends from outside the church.*

- February 1 "What's Your Favorite Spiritual Book?" – Carl Byrd
- February 8 "Respecting Others' Opinions: Part 2" – Charlotte Spencer and Carole Tukes
- February 15 "Telling the 'Old, Old' Story" – Carolyn Hayes
- February 22 "Sharing Your Story" – TBD



ADULT CLASSES

Learn – Stretch – Grow

Wednesday evenings | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

- February 1 "Mindful Movement With Some Yoga" – Sandy Menzies
- February 8 TBD
- February 15 TBD
- February 22 TBD

Note: On March 1 (Ash Wednesday), there will be no FourthNight dinner, Adult Conversation, or Adult Class.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 4
Lindsay Hall | 8:00 a.m.

Please join us for prayer, breakfast, and a program. Our speaker will be Malvin Duncan, who will relate his faith journey, beginning with his first home in Des Moines, Iowa. You are sure to be moved by his experiences. *No reservations are needed.*

Our meeting next month will be March 4.



CRAFT GROUP

Sunday, February 12 | Rooms 30–31 | 12:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch and join the fun! We will be sewing, crocheting, and knitting, so come start or finish projects. If you have a special project in mind, would like a materials list, or have any questions, please contact Barbara Clark, 240-988-9572 or bellbarb@yahoo.com.

Our next meeting will be March 12.



VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

Thursday, February 2 | Lindsay Hall | 11:30 a.m. | *Is There Enough Water to Irrigate or SNOTEL?*

GPC's own Donald Woodward, retired after 40 years of working for the National Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation Service, will present our program! He will share how the measurements of snow's water content and its depth out west are used to forecast the availability of water for the upcoming year. We will also have some Valentine fun!

Gathering begins at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting will start at 12:00 noon. The 12:30 p.m. lunch will be a bring-your-own lunch or a shared-sub-salad lunch.

If you are attending VIPS for the first time or have questions, please contact Nancy Sanders at 301-963-1357.





GPC EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP



Monday, February 13 | Room 202 | 7:00 p.m.

Note: The fourth Tuesday (February 28) is also GPC's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show, so come join the fun at GPC's version of Mardi Gras and then return on **Wednesday (March 1)** for our Ash Wednesday service.

This group provides a supportive Christian environment for those who are unemployed, about to be unemployed, underemployed, or seeking a career change. Meetings are free, open to the community, and typically last about an hour.

The following resources and services are available to those looking for career opportunities:

All **Federal** positions are posted on the official website of the United States Government (www.usajobs.gov), with special suggestions for the following groups: *individuals with disabilities, veterans, students and recent graduates, and senior executives.*

The **State of Maryland** provides job seeker services (visit www.dllr.state.md.us/county/mont/), including career exploration assistance, referrals to training programs, resume preparation assistance, placement services, and workshops to enhance job seeking skills and work readiness.

WorkSource Montgomery American Job Center
Wheaton, MD | Telephone: 301-929-4350

Germantown American Job Center
Germantown, MD | Telephone: 240-777-2050

The **Professional Outplacement Assistance Center (POAC)** provides assistance to individuals in professional, executive, technical, managerial, and/or scientific occupations. Laurel, MD | Telephone: 301-362-1646 | www.dllr.state.md.us/poac

For more details or questions, please contact Clara Pratt at pratt6901@comcast.net.



2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

Friday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. &
Saturday, February 11, 9:00 a.m.

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, MD

Our February monthly meeting has been cancelled so that we may attend a presentation being co-sponsored by Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, The Presbyterian Outlook and National Capital Presbytery, and the Institute of Radical Reconciliation. "The Origin of Race" is the first of two forums in a series entitled "Theology, Racism, and Christian Practice: How Shall We Respond?" The second forum is Saturday at 9:00 a.m. The cost to attend on Friday only is \$15, payable at the door, and is available to those who register in advance. The cost to attend both Friday and Saturday is \$25. Please contact Mary Wasik, marywasik2000@yahoo.com or 301-351-0614, to register.

For more information about the upcoming forums, the group, or to be added to our email list, please contact one of the following people:

SUZIE WARD

psaward@msn.com | 301-977-2839

BEVERLY SPENCER

Beverly.Spencer@montgomerycollege.edu | 301-977-1303

CINDY CENAME

cennamlee@gmail.com | 240-498-6330



CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES

by Linda Hastings

This month's display features books about the archaeological research revealing the life and times of the Bible, the composition of the Bible itself, and its central role in our daily lives.

- Bailey, Kenneth E. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*. A master of Middle Eastern studies helps us understand Jesus in His own historical and cultural setting.
- Crossan, John D. *Excavating Jesus*. Beneath the stones, behind the texts, key discoveries for understanding Jesus in his world.
- Frank, Harry T. *Discovering the Biblical World*. The illustrated story of the people, archaeology, history, and landscape of the Bible.
- Hendricks, Howard. *Living by the Book*. Practicing effective Bible study methods: observation, interpretation, and application.
- Keller, Werner. *The Bible as History*. Archaeological verification of the Bible. One review called it "A lively blend of drama and reporting that reads like a detective story grafted on to a history book."
- Moore, Helen, ed. *Manifold Greatness*. Published in connection with an exhibit at the Folger Library. The story of the commissioning and translation of the King James Bible, published in 1611, and its impact on England and the American colonies.
- *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts*. An essential tool to enhance Bible study.
- Pfeiffer, Charles. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible*. The scrolls' discovery, historical background, interpretation, and importance.
- Reader's Digest. *The Bible Through the Ages*. The origin and composition of the Bible in five parts: Oral Tradition, The Written Word, Words of a New Faith, Copying the Word, and The Printed Word.
- Wilson, Ian. *Jesus: the Evidence*. Biblical background and recent developments in Biblical archaeology.





MINDFUL MOVEMENT WITH SOME YOGA

Sandy Menzies, RYT-200 Yoga Instructor & GPC member, facilitator

Wednesday, February 1 | Fellowship Hall | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Have you ever heard a song and wanted to move your body, yet felt self-conscious? This FourthNight class will be a non-judgmental space that will give you an opportunity to be creative as you experience prayer through movement. Based on the practice of Dancing Mindfulness, the class will allow you to experience the seven primary elements of mindfulness in motion: breath, sound, body, story, mind, spirit, and fusion. Through these elements, you have the opportunity to express your faith and love of Christ while respecting your boundaries! Wearing comfortable clothes is encouraged. Please know that you can opt out of the class at any time, honoring yourself and your physical abilities.

For more information on Dancing Mindfulness, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4qgrtu2ddo>.



SCONES, SCONES & MORE SCONES!

*Strawberry, cherry, lemon, or plain, with butter, jam, or cream;
Served for breakfast, snack, or tea, freshly baked scones are a favorite for me.*

Wednesday, February 15 | Lindsay Hall | 7:30 p.m.

After FourthNight dinner has been cleaned up, we'll be baking in the kitchen! We're going to make SCONES—lemon, cranberry, plain, and orange, to name a few flavors—to be served with morning coffee between worship services. We invite you, your friends, and your families to join us, and would like people of ALL ages up to 99, including children, to participate. There will be a sign-up sheet in Lindsay Hall. If you have questions, contact Laura Johnson, laurajo2011@hotmail.com or 301-613-6617, or Ann Hayes.



GET SOCIAL

To see church photos and event reminders,

"Like Us" on Facebook!

Visit

www.facebook.com/

[GaithersburgPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/GaithersburgPresbyterianChurch)

or "search" for

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

from www.facebook.com.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE SHES FAMILIES!

Our **Third Annual Coat Drive** for Summit Hall Elementary School was a big success. We collected some 120 coats, and many gloves, hats, and scarves. In addition, numerous donations of toiletries and laundry detergent were collected through the Giving Tree. The outpouring of all these gifts was tremendous and will affect many of the families in our neighboring area. Thank you for caring for the SHES families.

We are constantly amazed by the transient nature of schooling for some of the students. During the first week of January, I was having fun working with a new 3rd grade boy who spoke no English, helping him with his multiplication tables and with saying the numbers up to 20 in English. He had such a great smile when he said the words correctly, and I looked forward to working with him again. Within the week, I learned that he had moved and that the 3rd grade had three other new students! There was a scramble to find enough desks for them. Our hearts go out to the families as they struggle to find housing and complete the task of enrolling their children in school.

If you would like to help students with math or reading in a classroom, please contact me.

Marilyn Morrison

Mmorrison67@verizon.net





TUTORING PROGRAMS FOR THE PRISON MINISTRY

There are new opportunities in 2017 for service at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) in Clarksburg:

- **Tutoring in Math and/or Language Arts** with inmates who are studying to pass the GED exam. Tutors can choose times during the following hours on weekdays: 8:00–11:00 a.m., 1:00–4:00 p.m., and 6:00–9:00 p.m. Generally, a tutor will work one 1- to 2-hour session per week. If you want to tutor in the areas of Social Studies or Science, you are asked to tutor Language Arts with a focus on readings in Social Studies or Science. It seems that most of our students can pass the Social Studies or Science GED tests if they have a good background in Language Arts and can readily understand the readings given to them.
- **Teaching a Literacy Class** for inmates who need to improve their reading skills. The library at MCCF is willing to provide space on Fridays, 8:30–11:00 a.m.

I have enjoyed working as a tutor because the inmates are motivated to work hard and are very grateful for the help that they receive from volunteer tutors. If you are interested participating in one or both of these programs, please contact me. You will need to complete an application form to become a volunteer at the jail.

Mary Wasik

marywasik2000@yahoo.com | 301-351-0614

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

—Hebrews 13:16



September 2016 Mission Trip



NEXT EXOTIC DESTINATION FOR GPC'S INTREPID MISSION TRIPPERS:

JAMES ISLAND,
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
April 9–14, 2017

We're bound for South Carolina again! There are spots for 40 people at Harbor View Presbyterian Church and we hope that some GPC youth will participate again. We've been to Harbor View twice before and found it to be a very welcoming and comfortable church for our group.

To reserve your space or for more information, contact Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence or Mary and Bob Wasik, marywasik2000@yahoo.com or 301-519-9426.



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, RUTH CURLEY!



Ruth Curley, Flo Hoff's mother, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 3. (Dick and Flo Hoff are former longtime GPC members who now live in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.)

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Ruth was the oldest of three girls. She and her husband, James, were married in 1939 and lived in New Jersey until moving to Florida in 1971. Ruth moved to Asbury in 2003 and has lived in Wilson Health Care Center since 2015. She is a member of GPC and attended worship services with Dick and Flo for several years. Ruth is in good health, mentally alert, and very sociable. According to Flo, her mother is an avid reader and often helps the nurses with other residents living on the same floor at WHCC. Ruth has one daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to the friends and family of



Ruth Sando Perry

(sister of Hawa Wright)
on her death in Columbus, OH, January 8, 2017

Jeanne Curtis

(wife of Bud Curtis, mother of Becky Byrd, and mother-in-law of Carl Byrd)
on her death at Asbury in Gaithersburg, MD, January 18, 2017

JANUARY 2017 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Copies are available in the Narthex – pick up yours today!



THANK YOU FOR THE GIVING TREE DONATIONS FOR THE PRISON MINISTRY

Inmates at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg and their families thank GPC for the generous donations of gift cards, socks, puzzle books, paper, envelopes, folders, greeting cards, Bibles, and other items to bring joy into their lives. Special thanks go to the VIPS for their gift card donations.

God bless you all.

—Mary Wasik



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations

to

Arfan Sandhu and Ulfat Masih,
the proud parents of

of

**MATTHEW
ARFAN SANDHU**

born on December 14, 2016



If you would like to share a family milestone with the Mainstream, please submit material electronically to jobermiller@gpchurch.org on or before the 15th of each month.

