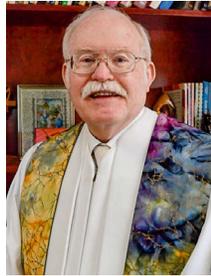


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From the Heart of Pastor Jay

WHAT'S AHEAD?

October is prime time for our discernment groups. Each group's purpose is to discern our call by seeking the intersection of where GPC's "deep gladness" connects with the world's "deep hunger." Where these cross is precisely the point where God's call to mission and ministry is for us. We will be trying to discern where they cross, and comparing that intersection with our current mission and vision to see if our Mission Statement needs adjustment.

Just to remind you, GPC's current shortened Mission and Vision Statement says:

Exalt God. Engage Neighbors. Equip Disciples.

The schedule for the next several months is as follows:

November	The Discernment Groups complete their work and the compilation process begins.
December	Strategic Planning and GPC Session review the outcomes, which are compiled, compared, and searched for emerging consensus.
January 2018	The analysis of the discernment process is complete. The congregation is asked to provide feedback on the emerging direction in mission. Anticipating the completion of the Mission Study process, Session submits a request to Presbytery for permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
February	Feedback is completed regarding the emerging direction in ministry. When the way is clear, GPC elects its PNC in February or March.
March	GPC elects its PNC in February or March.
April	By the beginning of April, the Mission and Visioning process has been completed, and any adjustments to our Vision and Mission Statement have been made.
May	By Memorial Day, if not before, the PNC has completed and submitted the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for the pastoral search.

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

CONNECT WITH GPC!



www.gpchurch.org



Find Us on Facebook:
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church



(301) 948-9418



(301) 869-3043



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SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

- OCTOBER 1** Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence preaching
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
(World Communion Sunday)
- OCTOBER 8** Rev. Dr. D. Jay Loshier preaching
- OCTOBER 15** Rev. Dr. D. Jay Loshier preaching
Commitment Sunday
Neighborhood Fair (Lindsay Hall)
- OCTOBER 22** Rev. Dr. D. Jay Loshier preaching
Children's Sabbath Sunday (9:30)
- OCTOBER 29** Rev. Dr. D. Jay Loshier preaching

MISSION BRIEFS — LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, November 8 | 7:00 p.m.

GPC-sponsored missionaries Jeff and Christi Boyd will speak at FourthNight about their work in Central Africa. They are based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sunday, November 12 | 11:00 a.m.

WTW Mission Tithe Presentation to Interfaith Works Women's Shelter





MANY BLESSINGS | *From the Heart of Pastor Mary Beth*

By the time you read this, October 1 may have passed. However, World Communion Sunday sets the theme of my reflection this month. I love the fact that our members can say in dozens of languages, "The peace of Christ be with you."

The world needs Christ's peace now more than ever. So let's speak this word not only on Sunday, but every day of the week. What difference would it make to your children if you sent them to school with this blessing? If a colleague at work or one of your neighbors were in distress, could you share this prayer with them? Could you speak these words to a stranger, such as a store clerk or to someone on the Metro? Sometimes God uses our voices to speak his message.

And sometimes God uses our hearts and our hands. St. Francis said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." American statesman Benjamin Franklin said, "None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing." This month we send our 24th Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) team to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to help families rebuild after last year's wildfires. More of you are contributing toward the PDA Cleanup Buckets to help hurricane victims in Texas and Florida. For a list of supplies that are needed, please see the church website's home page, or pick up a copy of the flyer in the church office.

Thank you for all the ways that you share with others the peace the world cannot take away. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Associate Pastor

MORE BLESSINGS | *From the Congregational Life Ministry*

How does Congregational Life support the GPC family in celebrating the love of our Lord?

With the support and generous contributions of the Angel Network, the Congregational Life Ministry coordinates and implements a variety of activities and events. To join the Angel Network, please contact Paul Njofang at michelemichou@gmail.com or Shari McCann at shari.mccann@yahoo.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

SNACKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD	WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	POPCORN; (no coffee hour after the 11:00 AM Service because of luncheon in Lindsay Hall)	PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FALL DINNER (5:30 PM – hosted by GPC Men's Ministry)	FRESH VEGETABLES AND DIP	NEIGHBORHOOD FAIR	BAKED GOODS	ASSORTED TREATS (hosted by VIPS)
01	01	08	08	15	15	22	29

KEY ● Weekly Coffee Fellowship ● Ministry of the Week ● Receptions ● Seasonal Events ○ Special Recognition





MUSIC NOTES | THE FIVE SOLAS

At the end of October, the Christian Church worldwide will celebrate an important milestone: 500 years of Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic priest named Martin Luther posted his grievances against his church on the door of the church for all to see, and we claim that date as the beginning of all of our Protestant denominations. To be sure, there were brave priests and theologians who voiced concerns over some of the church's practices for hundreds of years before that time, but for whatever reason, in 1517, the time had finally come for real change. For reform. So Martin Luther helped establish the Lutheran denomination, and John Calvin helped establish the Reformed denomination, and John Knox helped establish the Presbyterian denomination, and many others found their voices to step out in faith and interpret the scriptures in a bold, new way. And even the Roman Catholic Church decided that there was legitimate reason enough for change and concern, and they launched their own Counter Reformation.

You are no doubt familiar with some of the 95 "theses" that Martin Luther posted on the doors that day, but quite a few of them dealt specifically with music and art. The official language of the Roman Catholic church was still Latin, even though it was a language no longer spoken daily by any country or tribe. So Martin Luther said that Christians should be able to pray, to hear scripture, to hear preaching, and to SING SONGS in their native language, so that they could be more fully understood by the people. What a concept!



For 20 years before I came to GPC, I taught Music Appreciation and Music History courses where I would write these words on the board: PROTEST-ant REFORM-ation—to point out the fact that through PROTEST came REFORM. As Presbyterians, we are reformed—and still reforming! We believe that God is not finished with us, and I hope God never is.

During the month of October, look for some artwork and messages from our GPC Art Group to bring to life the messages of some of the church's reformers. And in our search for new leadership, as we participate in our Discernment Groups, may we find our voices and step out in faith to speak the truth in love about the future of GPC.

Soli Deo gloria!
Teresa Violet McCoy
Director of Music and Worship Arts



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FALL DINNER

Sunday, October 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Lindsay Hall

The men of GPC are invited to attend this dinner. Our speaker will be Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, who will talk about her trip to Lebanon this summer. The menu for the evening will include Italian baked ziti. Assistance with set-up and clean-up would be appreciated. For more information, contact Rich Kempf at casadekempf@live.com.





OCTOBER IS OUTSTANDING AT GPP&K!

October brings lots of fall fun and outdoor learning experiences at GPP&K. We are excited to celebrate autumn with lots of fall projects and themes!

All classes will learn about apples and sing a special Johnny Appleseed grace. The 3-year-old classes will be making apple tarts, while the Pre-K classes will make a healthful apple crisp. Children will have the opportunity to grind apples to make applesauce and apple cider.

The Kindergarteners are observing paintings by Van Gogh and emulating some of his works, such as *Starry Night*. Please visit our Kindergarten art gallery to check out our work!

This month we will welcome fathers to our "Donuts for Dads" event. Children will share a donut and story with dad (or other special family member) and celebrate their importance in our lives. This month also brings individual and class pictures. Parents will be able to order prints in time for Christmas!

The GPP&K pumpkin patch will arrive this month in the school foyer! Children will have an opportunity to look inside a pumpkin and feel around inside it too, using adjectives to describe what they see and feel. All GPP&K students will be able to pick a pumpkin from our "patch" to take home.

Our optional Enrichment program also starts this month. Students in this program will explore books by author Laura Numeroff and observe Fire Prevention Month. Classes will bake brownies for a neighborhood firehouse to thank them for their hard work.

We hope that you all have a wonderful fall season! As always, you can learn more about the exciting happenings at GPP&K by visiting our Facebook page or our website, www.gppk.com, where you will find our email and phone number. We look forward to hearing from you!

Have a happy fall!

In Service to His Children,
Amy Smith
GPP&K Director



CONNECT WITH GPP&K!



(301) 977-5787



Find Us on Facebook:
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten



www.gppk.com

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG FAMILIES' MINISTRY



The life you lead is the lesson you teach!



Children's Sunday School Coordinator – To give Carolyn more time to work more with the parents of our children, Gayle Luckenbaugh has graciously agreed to serve in this new volunteer position for 2017–2018. Thank you, Gayle!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Children's Sunday School, 11:00 a.m.

Children begin in the Sanctuary with their parents and, following the Time with Children, are dismissed to the following locations with their teachers:

- Preschool (3- and 4-year olds) and Kindergarten – Room 25
- 3rd and 4th Graders – Room 11
- 1st and 2nd Graders – Room 30–31
- 5th Graders – Room 36

Notes:

- If a few more teachers would volunteer, we could offer individual classes for more grades. If you are able to help in a class a couple of times a month, please contact Carolyn immediately.
- On Sunday, October 1 (World Communion Sunday), children begin in their classrooms.
- If a family attends the 9:30 a.m. worship service together and the parents want to attend an 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School class, their children may sit in the front rows in the Sanctuary with teachers until all children are dismissed to Sunday School. Parents or another adult must pick up children from the downstairs classrooms.

Adult Sunday School – Everyday Spirituality – 11:00 a.m., Room 202 – This class will study the book *"The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything"* by James Martin, SJ.

Children and Young Families Committee Meeting – October 1, 12:15–1:45 p.m., Carolyn's Office

Children-Led Worship – October 22, 9:30 a.m. – GPC encourages children and their parents to serve as lay leaders, ushers, and musicians. Carolyn will talk to the children about helping. If your child/children would like to participate, contact Carolyn.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

All-Church Hike at Sugarloaf Mountain – Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. – Meet at GPC in the north parking lot. Details to follow.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (FOURTHNIGHT)



Clubhouse Volunteers – We suggest that parents of children who attend the Clubhouse plan to volunteer to help one night each month. If you could assist with this, talk to Carolyn.

Clubhouse Coordinator – We are actively seeking someone to organize the FourthNight Clubhouse program and volunteers. Carolyn will plan the crafts and mission projects with the coordinator, so this volunteer position should take about one hour of preparation during the week. For more information, call Carolyn.

October 4, 11, and 18, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

- **Kids Clubhouse** – Carolyn will announce activities and locations on Wednesday evenings.
- **Parents Small Group Study** – This group meets in the Library (new location!) and will be reading *"Playing for Keeps"* by Reggie Joiner, Kristen Ivey, and Elizabeth Hanson. The book is for everyone who encounters children on a regular basis.

October 25 – Families Night Out – Watch for details.

Carolyn Hayes

Director of Children and Young Families



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH THING

Please note that our Sunday Morning Program will now run from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; the additional 15 minutes will allow youth to have enough time in their small groups to discuss the lesson. We are starting with a series called "Backpack"—what's in our "backpack" that weighs us down and keeps us from getting closer to God.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH THING

All youth and their families are invited to have dinner in Lindsay Hall from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. and then the youth head downstairs to Spencer Hall. All youth will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This change will be helpful to families with both middle schoolers and high schoolers.

On The Journey ∞, *Carrie Larsen*
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
(562) 777-5364 (mobile)



EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Sunday, October 8, 2017 | Lindsay Hall | 12:30 p.m.

A Public-Service Seminar

GUEST SPEAKER

PAUL C. SEXTON – FINANCIAL ADVISOR, EDWARD JONES

- *When is the right time to plan?*
- *How much more will the stock market gain this year?*
- *What should I do to prepare for potential tax changes?*
- *What about life income opportunities and donor-advised plans?*

Lunch is available by **reservation only** – \$10 covers the meal and all handouts
Catering by Boston Market – a choice of sandwich box lunches

If you prefer, you may attend the seminar for **FREE** without buying lunch.

Flyers/registration forms are available. Please return the completed registration form to a Planned Giving committee member or the church office.

You may also register at www.gpchurch.org/careplanning.



HELP COOK FOR THE MCCH MEN'S SHELTER!



You can help our homeless neighbors!

GPC continues partnering with KindWorks and Nourish Now to cook meals for the MCCH Men's Shelter in Rockville. Nourish Now supplies the ingredients for hot breakfasts or dinners for 80 residents, GPC supplies the kitchen, and KindWorks and GPC supplies the volunteers.

Meals are delivered directly to the shelter so that residents can enjoy them that weekend.

UPCOMING DATES

October 27

and

November 17

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at GPC

PLEASE RSVP

so we know how many helpers to plan for. Sign up at

kind-works.org/news/new-project-help-cook-hot-weekend-breakfasts-mens-shelter

or contact Denise Schleckser at dschleckser@verizon.net.



NEIGHBORHOOD FAIR

Sunday, October 15 | Lindsay Hall

Mark your calendars to check out the display of the various services that our GPC community offers you and our neighbors. If you represent a group and would like to have a display table that day, contact Diane Franetzki at diane926@hotmail.com.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, October 19 | Lindsay Hall | 1:00–7:00 p.m.

"The rarest blood type is the one that is not available when you need it!"

Donating blood is good for the nation and for you. Regular blood donors have fewer heart attacks because they accumulate less iron, a suspected risk factor. Healthy people, age 17 or older, can donate every 56 days. Your body will quickly replace the blood you have donated, so you have nothing to lose!

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the display case in the Narthex (behind the Welcome Desk) on October 1, 8, and 15, or you may call Marcia Haller at 301-977-0648 or 301-461-7263 to request a time slot or if you have any questions.

GPC has a long and faithful history of supporting the Red Cross Blood Drives. To all the wonderful donors and volunteers—a very special thanks to each of you!

See you on October 19!

SAVE YOUR 2018 CALENDARS!

This time of year, many of us receive calendars from the nonprofits that we support. Your extra calendars may be used by the Prison Ministry at GPC or go to nursing homes, so that each resident may have a colorful calendar on their wall. Please leave the calendars in the small bin labeled "Calendars" under the mailboxes in the hall near the church office.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS MORE MEMBERS

The committee welcomes members with a background and/or interest in communications (graphic design, editing, marketing, website design, social media, etc.) who would like to help spread information to our congregation and community. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. To join the committee, or if you are just curious about what we do, you are invited to attend an upcoming meeting (dates are October 3, November 7, and December 5). For more information, please contact David Mecklenburg, Chair, dmeck1@verizon.net, or Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, staff liaison.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY — TELLERS

Tellers are needed to count the Sunday offering. The time commitment would be one Sunday every two months for all three services, from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with breaks between worship services. Candidates should have good organizational skills and basic math skills. Knowledge of Excel is very helpful. Training will be provided. If you are interested, contact Joyce Schumacher at joyceschu@gmail.com, or call or text 240-505-3554.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT SUMMIT HALL ES!

School kicked off on schedule with the 16 new classrooms almost totally complete. We continue to hear thanks from the staff for the support our GPC friends lent to move boxes and boxes of books and other supplies to the new portables. They even moved two pianos out of the gym and into the music rooms.

The attached photo shows our group helping to collate a mailer that was going out to all the families in the school. With that amount of support, the job took us just over an hour!

Many volunteer opportunities are available at school. Few parents help in the classrooms due to the language barrier, or because they are busy working multiple jobs. Help is needed with the following:

- Assisting a teacher at a specific time with reading/writing, or math and science
- Donating winter coats for school age kids (needed soon, before cold weather)
- Helping the librarian re-file books (her aide is out on extended sick leave)
- Changing the announcements on the outdoor sign once a month
- Donating laundry detergent, toiletries, and grocery store gift cards

Please contact us with questions or new ideas.

—Marilyn Morrison, mmorrison67@verizon.net
and Stuart Morrison, smorrison1494@verizon.net



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR D48!

Oops!!! Did you forget to sign up for **Dinners for Eight**? Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get to know members and friends of GPC. You still have a few more days to sign up for four gatherings between November 2017 and June 2018. You can sign up as a single, a couple, or a substitute by calling Clara Pratt at 301-840-2212 or by sending her an e-mail message at pratt6901@comcast.net!



COME JOIN THE FOURTHNIGHT FUN ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!

6:15–7:00 Dinner

7:00–8:00 Adult Electives (classes, conversations, and presentations) – TBA

If you are interested in facilitating a conversation at FourthNight this fall, please contact Steve Olin (solin@comcast.net) or Carolyn Hayes (chayes@gpchurch.org) to discuss your ideas.

7:00–8:00/8:30 Programs for children and youth



TENTATIVE MEAL SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

- 10/4 Chicken Shawarma with yogurt sauce, roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, baked pasta, green salad, fruit
- 10/11 Moroccan pork tenderloin, coconut rice, ratatouille, green salad, baked pasta, fruit
- 10/18 Peruvian chicken, Moroccan potato casserole, zucchini/squash/peppers, baked pasta, fruit
- 10/25 Tacos, Mexican rice, taquitos, fruit

Want to join a 4N team to help prepare, serve, and/or clean up? You can participate once a month, a few times a year, or as often as you're able. Contact Shari McCann at shari.mccann@yahoo.com for more information.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BREAKFAST Saturday, October 7 8:00 a.m. | Lindsay Hall

This month there will be an opportunity to participate in a discernment group discussion, if you have not already signed up to be part of another group. The second and third discernment group meetings will be on upcoming Saturdays. Please join us for prayer, a light breakfast, fellowship, and discussion. All are welcome and no reservations are needed.

Our next meeting will be November 4. GPC member Russ Madsen will speak on "Drugs and Regulations in the U.S. – All You Wanted to Know and More."

CRAFT GROUP

Sunday, October 1 | Rooms 30–31
12:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch and come join the fun as we sew, crochet, and knit. Come start or finish projects! If you have a special project in mind, would like a materials list, or have questions, contact Barbara Clark at 240-988-9572 or bellbarb@yahoo.com.

Our next meeting will be November 5.

VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

Thursday, October 5 | 11:30 a.m. | Lindsay Hall | *Loving Neighbor, Lebanese Style*

From July 18–31 this summer, Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence visited several Presbyterian churches in Lebanon and saw first-hand some of their ministries to the refugees from the war in Syria. Her presentation will focus on the Good News that is being proclaimed in different places.



Gathering begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the 12:00 noon meeting. Lunch (bring-your-own or shared pulled pork sandwiches and sides) will begin at 12:30 p.m. Rev. Mary Beth's presentation will conclude our day. Anyone 50 or over is encouraged to join in the fun and fellowship of VIPS! If you are attending VIPS for the first time or have any questions, please contact Nancy Sanders at 301-963-1357.

Our next meeting will be November 2.



GPC EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, October 9 & Tuesday, October 24
Room 202 | 7:00 p.m.

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.

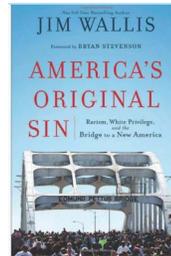
On Sunday, October 15, the GPC Neighborhood Fair will feature various programs that our GPC community offers you and your neighbors. Please stop by the ESG table between worship services to visit with us if one of the following applies to you:

- If you are seeking a new career opportunity
- If your company is looking for new talent
- If you would like to present a topic to our job seekers
- If you are a graduate of this program
- If you just want to make some new friends

To share information or if you have questions about the ESG, contact Clara Pratt at pratt6901@comcast.net.

2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

Friday, October 13
Spencer Hall | 7:30 p.m.



The group will continue to discuss *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. The author urges Christians to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. Please join our group—we've had great discussions and will begin Chapter 8. All are welcome, so come and bring a friend, even if you haven't read the book.

For more information about the group or to be added to our email list, contact Cindy Cennam, cennamlee@gmail.com or 240-498-6330.

Our next meeting will be November 10.

CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES by Linda Hastings

Books recently added to the GPC library will be on display in October.

- *Beatitudes*, by C. H. Spurgeon. God has an excellent benefits package for his children. Discover the way to receive these rich treasures.
- *Call to Wonder*, by R. C. Sproul. When Jesus tells us to become like a child, what is he asking of us?
- *Disappointment with God*, by Philip Yancey. Three questions no one asks aloud: Is God unfair? Is God silent? Is God hidden?
- *Hope Has its Reasons*, by Rebecca Pippert. Surprised by faith in a broken world. Unless you are willing to be shaken and humbled, don't read this book.
- *Joyfully Aging*, by Richard Bimler. Life is a gift from God. Celebrate His gift of aging instead of moaning about old age.
- *Just Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels. Simple steps pointing people to faith.
- *King's Cross*, by Timothy Keller. The story of Christ calls each of us to look anew at our relationship with God.
- *Making Sense out of Suffering*, by Peter Kreeft. This book is for anyone who has ever wept and wondered, "Why?"
- *Our Ultimate Refuge*, by Oswald Chambers. Job and the problem of suffering.
- *Your Spiritual Gifts*, by C. Peter Wagner. How to find your gifts and use them to bless others.

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 and
High School Programs
Spencer Hall
7:00–8:30



ADULTS

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

Conversations – *Library*
7:00–8:00





ADULT ED AT GPC!

The Adult Education Program at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church offers each of us a wide range of opportunities to grow in faith and knowledge as disciples of Jesus Christ. Classes provide a relaxed time to create new friendships as we discuss, share ideas, and pray together in a small group atmosphere.

Current courses include:

Christian Classics: *"Selected Writings of Thomas Aquinas"*

Leader: Liz Holdridge | Sundays, 8:00 a.m. | Room 205

Thomas Aquinas is a well-known 13th century Christian scholar. A citizen of Italy, he studied at the University of Naples and was a member of the Dominican order. From his "Selected Writings," we have chosen to study his reflections on The Nature of Theology, Faith and Reason, Proof of God's Existence, On Human Choice, What Makes Actions Good or Bad, and The Active and Contemplative Lives. Our practice in class is to first read the text aloud and then discuss it in a round table manner. This book is challenging and encourages thoughtful reflection and discussion!

The Present Word: *"Covenant with God"*

Leader: John Coburn | Sundays, 9:30 a.m. | Room 206

This course uses PC(USA) study guides that are new each quarter on themes from the Scriptures. This quarter offers studies on the theme "Covenant with God." It considers the major covenants that God makes with people on behalf of the earth and the human community. Beginning with Noah, God promises benevolence toward creation. Similar commitments are made with Abram, Phinehas, and Ezekiel. Ultimately, the covenant forms the foundation for the coming Messiah and salvation for the world. Join us as we deepen our understanding of how God continues in relationship with us and His creation.

The Bible as a Whole: *"Acts"* (or *"The Acts of the Apostles"*)

Leaders: Sue Farrand and Stuart Hayes | Sundays, 9:30 a.m. | Room 205

This ongoing Bible study, working its way through the Scriptures, resumes after summer break with Acts 13. We'll follow the historical account of the first 30 years of the church, written by Luke, who also wrote the third Gospel and was a companion of Paul during his later missionary journeys. Each week we read scripture aloud, imagine the experiences of the early disciples, and share how scripture inspires and affects our lives.

***"The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life"* by James Martin, SJ**

Leader: Carolyn Hayes | Sundays, 11:00 a.m. | Room 202

In this new course, we will explore what James Martin means by everyday spirituality, as we apply the ideas and practices of Ignatian teachings in our own lives.

***"Playing for Keeps"* by Reggie Joiner, Kristen Ivy, and Elizabeth Hansen**

Leader: Carolyn Hayes | Wednesdays (FourthNight), 7:00 p.m. | Library

A book for anyone who lives with, works with, or has contact with people 18 and under. It's about love over time and how to practice it, and is a kind of everyday spirituality as well.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

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

Janet Andrews

(wife of Bruce Andrews and mother of Sydney Andrews)
on her death in Gaithersburg, MD
August 31, 2017

and of

James Fahndubulleh

(brother of Hawa Wright)
on his death in Liberia
September 12, 2017



CARING CONCERNS

THANK YOU

Thank you for the love that GPC has shown me, and for the cards and the prayers that continue to come my way.

— Nawal Mourad



NEW PHONE NUMBER

Please note the new information in your church directory.

**ROBERT AND MAXINE
(COUNIHAN) ALDRIDGE**

NEW PHONE NUMBER: 301-904-7462



CONGRATULATIONS!

"I DO!"

Mary Beth Luckenbaugh and Zach Arnold were married on September 2 on the Kennedy Center's Rooftop Terrace. She is a P/K special needs teacher in Alexandria and he is a pilot. They live in Bethesda. Mary Beth's parents are Gary and Gayle Luckenbaugh.



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2018 STEWARDSHIP PACKET

Don't forget to pick up your envelope!



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.

