

THE MAINSTREAM

GAITHERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



47th Year of Publication

December 2015

No. 12

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From the Heart of Pastor Ted

Why Did Jesus Come?

What is our #1 community outreach?
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten!

Who has served there longer than any other person?
Cathy Fantacci, Administrative Assistant



So I asked Cathy a few questions to help people appreciate the meaning of this milestone...

TW: *Cathy, how do you compare the school's mission today with that of 1976?*

CF: They're almost the same. It has always been a quality program to enrich children ages 3 to 5. Children still need to be loved and taught. We love their families, too.

TW: *Have those families changed over the last 40 years?*

CF: Parents today are busier. They are also more transient; they move at the drop of a hat! Many families have international origins, but all parents still want what is best for their children. They are seeking a religious program, education, and safety.

TW: *What do you see as leading challenges for the future?*

CF: Similar to what the church as a whole faces, we need to find common ground and meet the needs of people from different cultural backgrounds. Some of our families do not speak English at home. Some have different views on child-rearing.

(continued on page 2)

GPC STAFF

The Rev. Ted Wright, Senior Pastor
twright@gpchurch.org
The Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, Associate Pastor for
Community Engagement and Congregational Life
mlawrence@gpchurch.org
The Rev. Jacob Rodawla, Parish Associate
rodawla@hotmail.com
Carrie Larsen, Director of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries
clarsen@gpchurch.org
Jeannette Shields, Director of Children’s Ministries
jshields@gpchurch.org
Teresa McCoy, Director of Music and Worship Arts
Tmccoy@gpchurch.org
Paul Byssainthe, Jr., Assistant Director of Music and
Worship Arts
Ruth Jorritsma, Accounting Manager
rjorritsma@gpchurch.org
Andy Gosnell, Facilities Manager
agosnell@gpchurch.org
Jimilee Kalu, Office Manager
jkalu@gpchurch.org
Troy Agard, Temporary Communications Manager
tagard@gpchurch.org

Telephone: 301-948-9418 Fax: 301-869-3043
Website: www.gpchurch.org

**GAITHERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN
PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

Jessica Coughlin, Director
school@gppk.com
Cathy Fantacci, Administrative Assistant
schooloffice@gppk.com

Telephone: 301-977-5787
Website: www.gppk.com

THE MAINSTREAM

The MAINSTREAM is published monthly by Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 610 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-1297. The Mainstream is a product of GPC’s Communications Committee: Francie Whitlock, chairperson, Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence and Troy Agard, staff liaisons. Copies are available in the church’s Narthex and Main Office. Copy deadline is by the 15th of each month unless otherwise noted. Submit material electronically (using a Microsoft Word or Excel attachment) to editor Troy Agard: tagard@gpchurch.org.

(continued from page 1)

TW: *What are you most thankful for?*

CF: For the church’s support, for support from our families, and for the amazing staff members who make up our team.

TW: *What do you wish that people could understand better?*

CF: That GPP&K is not day care. We are a state-licensed Private Educational Institution, with a full curriculum and a state-approved Kindergarten.

So yes, some things have changed, but others have not. Enrollment is now mainly from outside the church. But chapel time remains compulsory. (Non-Christian clients know what they are choosing.) GPP&K is not a separate legal entity; it is part of our congregation’s overall ministry/mission. Director Jessica Coughlin, the Board, and the staff take wonderful care of that part of the facility.

On Sunday, January 24, at the 9:30 service we will celebrate! Please plan to join us!

Pastor Ted Wright
Senior Pastor

New Year’s Communion

January 3 at all three morning worship services

Message: “The Other Wise Man” – Pastor Ted

2015 Annual Reports from all GPC organizations are due in the main office by Friday, January 15.





From the Heart of Pastor Mary Beth

Many Blessings

Thanks to the generosity of GPC members and friends, Christmas was a little brighter and warmer for many of our neighbors and friends. Women at the Wilkins Avenue shelter enjoyed a week's worth of homemade meals; children, women, and men received hand-knitted (or crocheted) hats, mittens, and scarves. The children of Summit Hall Elementary School received winter coats. Inmates at the detention center had the chance to communicate with their parents, spouses, and children through the cards and postage stamps you donated. Meals were provided for families through The Lord's Table and Gaithersburg HELP.

I want to thank the **Young Families** who set up the Giving Tree on November 22 and decorated it with the Giving ornaments. I want to celebrate the **child** who led his grandfather by the hand, saying, "Grandpa, come on! We have to get an ornament from the Giving Tree!" I am grateful for the **Fourth and Fifth Graders (and their teachers)** who carried all the gifts to Room 13 and sorted them. I give thanks for the **donors** who channeled the love of Jesus through their gifts. When asked why she gave to strangers through the Giving Tree, one donor said, "Stranger or no, everyone deserves a present at Christmas. This reminds me that God's love is for everyone."

Many Blessings,
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence
Associate Pastor for Community Engagement
and Congregational Life



PDA Mission Trip #21 to South Carolina March 27–April 1

It's official! The next PDA mission trip will be to South Carolina from March 27 to April 1. This is spring break week for Montgomery County Public Schools, so we're hoping for a whopping turnout from the senior highs.

Our host church will be Lake Murray Presbyterian Church, 2721 Dutch Fork Road, Chapin, SC 29036. Chapin is about 30 miles northwest of Columbia. Flooding was extensive throughout this area. We will have more information soon about accommodations at the church, where we will work, and the type of work that we will be doing.

Ready to sign on? Contact Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence or Mary and Bob Wasik at 301-519-9426, marywasik2000@yahoo.com.



Music Notes

Since November 22, our organ and piano benches have been graced by the presence of our new Assistant Director of Music and Worship Arts, Paul Byssainthe, Jr. Most Sundays, he has drawn a crowd around the organ console during his difficult and well-played postludes. So far, we've heard Bach, Widor, Dupre, and Dale Wood. And from the piano, we have heard several of his own arrangements of hymn tunes and praise songs that are breathtakingly lovely. Most of you are aware that Paul has come to us from New York City, but I thought you might want to know a bit more about his background.

We know Paul as an accomplished organist, but he is also a conductor and composer. He is a graduate of Andrews University in Michigan, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Organ Performance and the Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting. During his time at Andrews, he served as a Graduate Conducting Assistant, conducting symphonic works by Tchaikovsky, Barber, Brahms, and operatic scores of Verdi. He participated in numerous choral and orchestral ensembles and was involved in leading contemporary music for many worship services. During his first week at Andrews, Paul had the wonderful fortune of meeting a beautiful young lady named Magdala, and they have been inseparable ever since. In 2011, they were married at Paul's former home church in Brooklyn, New York.

Before making the leap from New York to Maryland, Paul was a very busy man, indeed, providing musical leadership for Jewish, Seventh Day Adventist, and Roman Catholic congregations, including serving as Organist and Choir Director at St. Martin de Torres Parish in Brooklyn. He was also working as a piano instructor for the Lang Lang International Music Foundation's Keys of Inspiration Program at P.S. 46 in Harlem. In February 2015, Paul and three of his close friends launched a production company, Zamar Music Group, with a vision to provide Christ-centered music production and songwriting, as well as to provide worship leadership consulting and training to local churches.

Paul has been involved in music since a very young age, having been encouraged by his father, who is also a well-respected church musician in New York City. As a teenager, he was a multiple winner in the International Concert Alliance Piano Competition, held at Steinway Hall in Manhattan. Paul is also a two-time winner of the Piano Teachers' Congress of New York Piano Competition. He was privileged to take part in several music summer programs and All-State festivals, both as a cellist and a vocalist.

Paul is also a budding composer who has written several short pieces for piano and strings, and has arranged scores for various recording projects. Paul and Magdala are living in Hyattsville, and in his spare time, Paul enjoys playing basketball, reading, and traveling.

Soli Deo gloria,
Teresa McCoy
Director of Music and Worship Arts

GUESS WHAT'S COMING!

Supplications, Gratitude, Hope, Love, Grief, Joy! Most of us have probably at one time or another prayed all of these emotions. Sometimes we pray alone, other times in groups. Sometimes we pray silently on our knees, other times we shout out our prayers to the Lord. We would like you to be able to express your prayers in a new way. The Art Group will be giving you an opportunity to articulate your prayers with a Prayer Square. A Prayer Square is a way of presenting your prayers to God. You may decorate your prayer on a fabric square which will be made available. Workshops will be during coffee hours and on Fourth Night, with dates to be announced. The completed Prayer Squares will be displayed on the brick wall in the Narthex. We're looking forward to sharing a new way to let the Lord know what is in your mind and on your heart!



YOUTH

Greetings, Youth & Youth Families! Happy 2016! As a reminder, this youth ministry is open to all youth in Grades 6-12. We are a welcoming community, so please feel free to drop in and invite a friend to our youth events.

What We're Teaching on Sunday Mornings: "Resolution Runner" What if, this New Year, youth made resolutions that they didn't give up on by February? The goal of this series is to let the Bible shape our resolutions and rely on God to help you keep them. Imagine that – actually keeping your resolutions! Join us at 11:00 a.m. in Spencer Hall.

Confirmation Begins: Confirmation is open to all youth in Grades 9-12. If your son or daughter is interested in participating in confirmation classes, please contact the Youth Director. Confirmation begins on January 22 at the retreat.

January Youth Events: Jan 13 – SkyZone Outing • Jan 22-24 – Confirmation Retreat • Jan 29-30 – 30-Hour Famine (for HS Youth) • Midweek Gatherings – Jan 6, 13, 20, and 27

Director of Youth & Young Adults: *Carrie Larsen* – clarsen@gpchurch.org or 562-777-5364 (mobile)



COLLEGE — AND — YOUNG ADULT



Are you a college student who is going to school locally? Are you a high school senior? Are you looking to connect with other students in the area? Join us for **Next Level**, a multi-church gathering for high school seniors and college students. This gathering will take place on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., starting on January 14, at Journey's Crossing Church. If you are interested in joining this gathering, please contact the director for more information or about carpooling to this event.

Young Adults: Let's connect!
With a new year upon us, let's make some time to connect over coffee, lunch, or dinner. Please contact the director to find a convenient time. I look forward to meeting you!

GPC Children's Ministry Activities

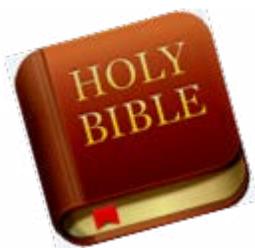


- ✦ **Bridges** — On Sunday, January 3, at 9:30 a.m., children will remain in the Sanctuary with their families and hear a special story from Pastor Ted – “The Other Wise Man.”. On the following Sundays in January, children will be dismissed from the Sanctuary as a group to attend Bridges.



- ✦ **Deep Blue Kids** — During January at 11:00 a.m., our Deep Blue Kids classes start a new unit called “Jesus’ Ministry Begins.”

Note: You can continue to reinforce the Sunday School lessons at home with the help of the Deep Blue Adventures App that is available for free from your app store.



- ✦ **2nd Grade Bibles** — Congratulations to the following children who completed a Bible workshop and received their Bibles on Sunday, November 22: Ashley Agard, Angel Baloga, Djelani Bassong, Johan Choi, Benjamin Eisenhour, Zachary George, Alex Imboden, Jacob Luce, Christine Magin, Liv Moncak, Katie Musick, Sydney Parsons, Matthew Peterson, T'resa Pinga Pinga, and Lainey Young.



- ✦ **Giving Tree** — Thank you to all of the children and their families who donated items or time for the Giving Tree project. A big thank you as well to everyone who donated hats and gloves for Summit Hall Elementary School. During the Children’s Ornament Party, the children made more than 50 scarves for the children at Summit Hall. And finally, thanks to the youth and adults who volunteered to help with the party.



- ✦ **Children in Communion** — The next big milestone in Children’s Ministries is the Children in Communion class. Look for more information about this in February.



- ✦ **VBS 2016** — Save the dates of July 11–15 for GPC’s annual Vacation Bible School. The theme will be “Surf Shack – Catch the Wave of God’s Amazing Love.”

Jeannette Shields
Director of Children’s Ministries
301-948-9418 or jshields@gpchurch.org



January is Joyful at GPP&K!

We have *eleven* classes of Three-Year-Olds, Pre-K children, and Kindergarteners. We remain one of the *oldest* and *largest* schools of our kind in the area and are honored to minister to so many children and families in our community.

This month, our Three-Year-Old classes will learn how to make music. They will begin enjoying music with our own music teacher and will make their own musical instruments to take home.

The Four Year Old Pre-K classes will learn about hibernation and migration and what animals do in the winter. They will make an art portfolio using different kinds of art forms during their Art Unit.

All classes will play with “snow” (shaving cream) in their classrooms. They will learn that Jesus was the son of a carpenter and make something out of wood to take home during our Woodworking Unit. We greatly appreciate all of our parent volunteers who help to make these projects possible.

This month, our Kindergarten students will continue to use their *National Geographic Kids* magazines and observe animal wildlife habitats. For Art, they will study the works of Georgia O’Keeffe and use the book written and illustrated by Caroline Chang, who is the daughter of Judy Chang, one of our own staff members. The book teaches them about the life of this amazing artist. For Math, they will identify and review geometric solids and discuss the attributes of points, edges, and faces. They will celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. by hearing how he taught people to show respect for one another.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2015/2016 CLASSES WILL BEGIN SOON! GPC’s church members have first priority and may register beginning on February 12. For information regarding other registration dates, class choices, and tuition, please visit us at www.gppk.com. Applications may be obtained on our web site, by emailing us at school@gppk.com, or by calling the school office at 301-977-5787. We welcome parents to visit our school, so please call our office now to schedule an appointment for a tour. We hope to hear from you soon!

In Service to His Children,
Jessica Coughlin
Director, GPP&K



You’re Invited!

GPP&K is celebrating 40 Years Nurturing Children!
We’re the Ministry of the Week on January 24 at the 9:30 a.m. service,
so come visit us. Afterwards, *between* the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
services, there will be cake and festivities in Lindsay Hall.
We would love for you to meet our staff and some of our alumni.

Update from Rachel Simko, Our Missionary in Ecuador

By now, New Year's has come and gone and the Christmas decorations have been put away.

This month will look a little different than usual for me as I embark on a new project that I have long desired to pursue. With my roommate on furlough in the U.S. until February and so many other friends still away for their holiday travels and visits, I am taking the opportunity to stay out in Rio Bamba for several weeks. I have spoken of my knitting and crochet classes with the women in Columbe often enough, but there are countless other communities all around it, with small, one-room churches that were hand built by members of the community themselves. This month, for three weeks, I will be living out in a teeny-tiny manse-like situation and traveling out to five of the newest churches to paint murals on the walls behind their pulpits! I am very excited. Samson (my trusty missionary cat) will be coming with me because there is no one to take care of him in my absence, and also because I anticipate being a little lonely out in the hills. Our neighbors will be chickens and cows—neither of which has Samson ever encountered—so it should be interesting. My plan to paint all five murals while dressed in traditional Quichua garb, which I wear when I am out in indigenous communities, should be interesting as well.

I am also very happy to report that I am back in the black financially, thanks to the overwhelming support of everyone at GPC! Thanks so much to all of you! It is a huge blessing and such a great weight lifted off of me! I hope that everyone has had a happy new year so far and is sticking to their resolutions!

To read more or to support Rachel, go to: www.artinecuador.wordpress.com.



Creativity: Divine Gift

The 2016 Eugene Johnson February Workshops



Sometimes we get all caught up in our heads: words...reasoning...trying to understand. Presbyterians, especially, can be very left-brained. What happens when we open the other side?

God is creative. God made us to be creative. Art is universal—a language bigger than culture. It awakens our souls. It builds community. It takes us where words can't always go.

The Rev. Ashley Goff, Minister of Spiritual Formation at Church of the Pilgrims in Washington, DC, will lead us on Saturday, February 6, in workshops to explore our God-given creativity as a pathway to the Holy and to neighbor alike.

Save the date now. Invite friends. This might take them delightfully beyond some preconceived notions about religion and church!



FOURTHNIGHT

Wednesdays in January 2016

- 5:30–6:30 PM CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM**
5:30–6:00 Chorus – Choral Room
5:30–6:30 Joy Chimes/Joy Ringers/Joy Singers – Fellowship Hall/Handbell Haven/Choral Room
- 6:15–7:00 PM DINNER AVAILABLE** – prepared and cooked on site
Come anytime during the 45-minute window.
Enjoy good food and meet new friends!
\$6 for 6th Graders and older/\$3 for 5th Graders and younger
\$20 maximum family limit
- 6:30–8:00 PM NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE**
- 6:30–8:00 PM PRESCHOOL PROGRAM** in Room 24
- 6:30–7:15 PM "CLUBHOUSE"** for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Meets with Carolyn Hayes, Rooms 32–33
- 7:15–8:00 PM CHILDREN'S STORYTELLING** with Carolyn Hayes, Rooms 32–33
- 7:00–8:00 PM MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM**
- 7:00–9:00 PM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM**
- 7:00–8:00 PM BIBLE STUDY** – Fellowship Hall
1/6–1/20 "A Look at Three of the Minor Prophets" – Pastor Ted
1/6 Jonah – 1/13 Malachi – 1/20 Joel
1/27 No Bible Study
- 7:00–8:00 PM ADULT CONVERSATIONS** – Church Library
1/6 "One Thing That God Might Be Calling Me to in 2016" – Steve Olin
1/13 "The Rest of the Story – Eve" – Jim Richardson
1/20 "Ways That We Each Experience God" – Jim McCoy
1/27 "Encountering 'the Other': A Conversation About Expectations" – Kim Mitchel
- 7:30–9:00 PM CANTERBURY RINGERS REHEARSAL** – Sanctuary

GPC Weather Cancellation Policy

- Sunday morning worship is never cancelled, although we may alter the program and/or limit worship services to 11:00 a.m. People should use discretion about travel.
- Children's and youth programs follow the decisions of Montgomery County Public Schools. FourthNight on Wednesdays will do likewise.
- All other programs are subject to the decision of the responsible staff member or lay leader. Again, please use discretion about travel.

Elders and Deacons

Blessings to our **incoming** elders and deacons, to be installed on January 10:

- Carol Anderson – elder
- Kwang Choi – deacon
- Jere Denlinger – deacon
- Fred Edwards – elder
- Irene Fru – elder
- David Mecklenburg – elder
- Paul Njofang – elder
- Georgina Obeng – deacon
- Jennifer Scavullo – elder
- John Slavcoff – elder

Thanks to our **retiring** elders and deacons, whose terms will expire on January 10:

- Gary Aller – elder
- Kingsley Anpoma – elder
- Carl Byrd – elder
- Liz Holdridge – elder
- Kris Maldarelli – elder
- Sandy McCoy – deacon
- Paul Njofang – deacon
- Yaw Obeng – elder
- Steve Olin – elder
- Keith Rush – deacon
- Annette Ward – elder
- Bob Wasik – elder

Recommend Someone to Serve as a Ruling Elder or Deacon

Your Nominating Committee will soon begin seeking God's will with regard to future officers. If you know of church members who are spiritually mature (regardless of chronological age), and who might consider serving for 3 years on Session or the Deacon board, please contact one of the following: Elder Elisa McClelland (chair), Carol Anderson, Maxine Brown, Titus Fomuso, Anna Newton, or Cindy Zammit. Thank you.

Update from Norm Gordon, Bi-Vocational Bridge Leader

Jesus Came For All – Despite the Labels!

As we set out to minister and discover God’s purpose among the religious “nones” — those with no church affiliation—I am continually drawn to the story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4) and the number of labels that the two of them were up against: he was male, she was female; he was a Jew, she was a Samaritan; he worshiped in Jerusalem, she worshiped on the mountain of her ancestor Jacob. Labels, labels, labels. Jesus does not ignore the labels but one by one peels them away so that two spiritually minded individuals can have a conversation about connecting with a Living Savior.

I feel as if that’s my call: to peel away labels so that the spirit of Jesus can enter in and do His work. Exhibit A: we hosted a Christmas party in our home this Advent. There were lots of labels represented among the 10 families present: 14 Asians, 11 Caucasians, 2 Africans, and 7 of mixed descent. There were 13 adults, 12 teenagers, and 8 children. There were 8 Christian families, 1 Muslim family, and 1 Hindu family. But as we ate together, shared together, played Christmas games together, and sang carols together, I sensed the Spirit of the One who this season belongs to drawing folks in across the cultures, across the generations, and, yes, across the religious backgrounds. As Jesus said to the woman, “Salvation is from the Jews; but the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.” (John 4:22–23) Labels define the tradition, the background, the culture, the practice. But they don’t define the heart, which is what Jesus seeks.

As the gathering wound down, one guest who had no church home agreed to get together with another disciple and me later on this week to talk some more about faith. No labels, just Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers as the Gordons continue to be among those with no church home and find avenues for God’s grace in the lives of those the Father seeks.

Thank you for your investment in this endeavor.

Norm Gordon

Thank You to Volunteers for the Women’s Shelter

Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped out with the **women’s shelter meals** in December. **714 meals** were served by GPC by **over 100 volunteers** who shopped, cooked, bagged, delivered, and served! Our church community truly showed God’s love to our neighbors. Thank you to all who participated. If you did not get a chance in December and would still like to help out, watch for opportunities to volunteer at the shelter for the “Dinner: Impossible” program, and, of course, for Christmas 2016!

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group will meet on Saturday, January 2, at 8:00 a.m. in Lindsay Hall. This month, Carl Byrd will be leading our program, speaking about our Community Engagement Ministry and the many activities that they are engaged in. Come and enjoy the fellowship of Christian men talking about the work we do to fulfill the Lord's mission for GPC. After the breakfast, you are invited to stay to help others take down the Christmas decorations around the church.

Guess Who's Coming to Lunch? VIPS Welcome the GPC Staff!

VIPS look forward to hosting the GPC staff for lunch on Thursday, January 7! This luncheon opportunity will allow small groups of VIPS to chat with individual staff members—both recent additions and more established members—to hear about the many ways that each of them supports the GPC family. We may also learn a bit about the life journey that has brought each to our congregation. VIPS will provide the lunch for the staff. VIPS members may choose to bring a Bag Lunch or to participate in the regular shared Sub/Salad/Chips Lunch. Gathering begins at 11:30 AM, followed by the business meeting. The Chats over Lunch Program will begin at 12:30 PM.

VIPS (Very Important Presbyterian Seniors) welcomes all who are 50 and over to join in our activities! If you have questions or will be attending VIPS for the first time, please contact Nancy Sanders at 301-963-1357.

2nd Friday Book Club Meeting

The 2nd Friday Book Club will meet Friday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Spencer Hall. The group will continue to study *Walking the Bridgeless Canyon* by Kathy Baldock, a narrative describing her hiking encounter with a lesbian Native American woman, during which time the author's conservative Christian beliefs were challenged, leading her to research many LGBT issues in depth. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Come—even if you haven't had the chance to read the book.

For more information about the group, contact Suzie Ward, psaward@msn.com, 301-977-2839; Beverly Spencer, Beverly.Spencer@montgomerycollege.edu, 301-977-1303; or Cindy Cename cennamlee@gmail.com, 240-498-6330.

Craft Group Meeting

The next Craft Group Meeting will be January 10, in Rooms 30–31, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will be working on embroidery, crocheting, sewing, and knitting. Please bring your lunch and come join the fun. If you have a special project in mind, want a materials list, or have any questions, please contact Barbara Clark, 240-988-9572 or email bellbarb@yahoo.com. Our next meeting will be February 7. Hope that you can join us!

GPC Employment Support Group



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.

Our January monthly meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Room 202 (across from the elevators at the north end of the building) on the following dates:

- Second Monday, 1/11/2016
- Fourth Tuesday, 1/26/2016

If you are looking for new resources, you may want to check out **People-4-People** (<http://www.people-4-people.org>). They provides one-on-one career and spiritual counseling, professional career development workshops, access to job opportunities, and direct job training to the unemployed, underemployed, and low skilled workers to equip them in developing and enhancing job searches and career skills.

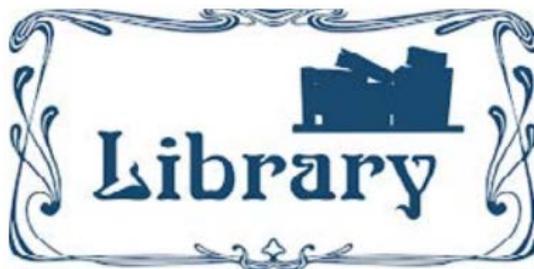
For more information, please contact Clara Pratt at pratt6901@comcast.net.

Salvation Army Band Hymn Sing and the Souper Supper and Cookie Carnival

They're ba-ack! By popular demand, the Salvation Army Band returns Sunday, January 24, to raise the roof and lead us in praise to God. Join us in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. to sing the hymns of faith. Stay for the Souper Supper and Cookie Carnival in Lindsay Hall. If you would like to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup, stew, or chili recipe to share with us, please let Sue Farrand know, so that we can reserve a spot for you.

Game Night

The Families Group will host a churchwide Game Night on Saturday, January 30, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Spencer Hall. Come join us in playing board games! Game Night is a potluck event, so please bring a main dish to share.



Church Library Notes

By Linda Hastings

In the 1940's, English author Rumer Godden came upon a small book of French poetry by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold, who lived in a Benedictine abbey in France. These poems impressed Rumer Godden so much that she decided to translate them into English and, with Bernos' cooperation, they became *Prayers from the Ark*. These 27 poems/prayers, each by a different creature in the ark, are touching, humorous, and profound. Many remind the reader of the Psalms.

Noah prays and asks the Lord to guide the ark to safety, saying, "Lord, what a menagerie! Between Your downpour and these animal cries one cannot hear oneself think!"

One of my favorites, the cat's prayer, says, in part: "Lord, I am the cat. I ask nothing of anyone – but if You have by some chance, in some celestial barn, a little white mouse or a saucer of milk, I know someone who would relish them."

Bedside Treasury of Inspiration by Helen and Horace Johnson is a compilation of thoughts on the wonders of life and living as expressed by over 100 great authors and thinkers, in poetry and prose.

Divine Inspiration by Robert Atwan features poetry from world literature focusing on Jesus' life and teaching.

Eerdman's Book of Christian Poetry, edited by Pat Alexander, is a treasury of poems with stories about their poets.

The English Spirit by Paul Handley includes poets ranging from the Venerable Bede in the 7th century to C. S. Lewis and other 20th century figures.

God's Treasury of Virtues is a collection of stories, quotes, hymns, scriptures, and poems about the fruits of the Spirit.

Heartsongs and other books by Mattie Stepanek, poet and peacemaker.

Light from Many Lamps by Lillian E. Watson is a treasury of inspiration offering insight and guidance on the challenges of daily life.

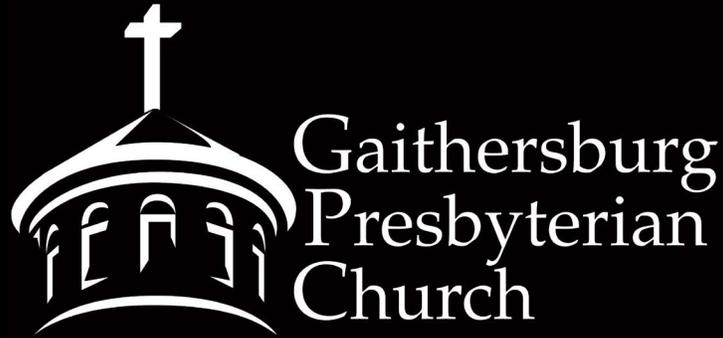
Sitting By My Laughing Fire by Ruth Graham. The poems in this book could well be termed the footprints of a pilgrim.

2000 Years of Classic Christian Prayers by Owen Collins combines poetry and prose, topically arranged.

The World in Time, edited by Elizabeth Gray Vining, contains prayers, poetry, and prose selections, with comments by the editor.

puzzle?

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Christian Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

Marge Leach and her family,
on the death of her husband,
Walter Leach,
in Gaithersburg, Maryland,
December 12, 2015

Carol Scott and her family,
on the death of her father,
Carl DeWeese,
in Emporia, Kansas,
November 25, 2015

Full-Time Opportunity on GPC Staff

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) is a 700+ member congregation representing 25 countries, four generations, and a wide variety of economic, educational, political, financial, and theological positions. Located in America's #1 most diverse city,* we are blessed by the wealth of perspectives and traditions throughout our community. Were it not for Jesus, we might never have known each other! But with him at the center, we strive to grow as disciples and to engage local neighbors.

Our recently redesigned staffing model replaces the part-time Director of Children's Ministries with a new, full-time Director of Children and Young Families. This acknowledges the importance of Sticky Faith and represents a more holistic approach.

For a full position description, including responsibilities and qualifications, please contact the search committee at gpcdcyf@gmail.com. To learn more about our church itself, visit the web site (www.gpchurch.org). Our salary range is \$52-\$60K, based on experience, education, and cost of employer-provided benefits. Application forms are available from the search committee. May the Holy Spirit guide every step!

*source of the ranking: wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-and-least-ethno-racial-and-linguistic-diversity/10264/#main-findings

November Finance Committee Report

The net financial result for November was \$23,358 (\$97,764 income and \$74,405 expenses), resulting in an eleven month YTD balance of \$1,781 (compared to a 2014 balance of -\$17,571). Our cash position in our operating checking account totals \$167,484, with expected November expenses of \$81,000. The net balance on our \$800,000 Within These Walls (WTW) loan is \$13,462 and the Ministry designated funds account totals \$154,998. The Capital Maintenance Reserve currently stands at \$104,442. The WTW income account is at \$59,612. Finally, we have a total of \$133,887 in our three Presbyterian Foundation endowment accounts. The Columbarium debt to the Capital Maintenance Reserve has been retired. Third quarter donation statements have been mailed out. Please remember to review your statement to ensure that your information is correctly reflected on the statement. Thank you for your faithful support of the Lord's work through Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church.

GPC FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT November 2015

	Operating Budget	Nov 2015	2015 YTD	% of Budget	2014 YTD	2014/2015 YTD \$ Change
INCOME						
Envelope Pledged	790,478	73,729	695,806	88%	728,518	-33,412
Envelope Unpledged	177,907	18,892	175,986	99%	166,565	9,421
Loose Offering	21,545	2,370	21,935	102%	19,982	1,953
GPFAK Rent	19,510	2,158	17,267	89%	16,754	513
Other Income:	13,000	62	5,825	45%	12,476	-6,651
Room Rent	2,500	550	1,810	72%	1,500	310
Interest & Dividends	60	3	81	135%	54	27
2014 Carryover	0	0	27,450	0%	0	27,450
Total:	1,025,000	97,764	945,460	92%	945,849	-389
EXPENSE						
NCP MEMBERSHIP	30,044	0	30,044	100%	29,199	845
HUMAN RESOURCES	579,415	44,626	525,846	91%	502,452	23,394
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	204,500	13,100	208,515	102%	241,637	-33,122
OFFICE OPERATIONS	45,930	2,487	39,956	87%	39,895	61
COMMUNICATIONS	10,411	1,349	9,020	87%	9,940	-920
STEWARDSHIP	7,100	98	5,058	71%	6,159	-1,101
COMM ENGAGEMENT	102,500	9,043	94,258	92%	103,128	-8,870
EQ DISCIPLES	30,600	2,957	20,907	68%	19,966	941
VITAL WORSHIP	10,000	298	6,198	62%	7,877	-1,679
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	4,000	447	3,679	92%	2,862	817
SESSION	500	0	198	40%	305	-107
Total:	1,025,000	74,405	943,679	92%	963,420	-19,741
Net:		23,358	1,781		-17,571	19,352

ESTIMATED 30 DAY EXPENSE: \$81,000
(Projected spending for Dec '15 based on spending from Dec '14)

CASH POSITION	Institution	Type of Account	Nov	Oct
Operating Account	Bank of America	Checking	167,484	133,137
Designated Funds	Suntrust	Checking	154,998	154,001
Capital Maintenance Reserve	Bank of America	Checking	104,442	104,442
WTW Loan Compensating Bal.	Presbytery Inv. & Loan	Mutual Fund	24,995	24,995
WTW Income Account	Bank of America	Checking	59,612	57,176

Presbyterian Foundation Endowments:		Interest Income held in Money Markets to be withdrawn upon request:
Mem. Garden & Columbarium	25,248	791.40
General	60,000	1,833.12
The Barbara Reid Fund	48,639	1,524.09

DEBT POSITION	Institution	Nov	Oct
WTW Loan	Presbyterian Investment & Loan	13,462	23,494
Columbarium Debt to Capital Maintenance Reserve		0	0

Label