

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
Baptism of the Lord
7 January 2018**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "What Child Is This?" arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation of 2018 Budget

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" Bernadette Farrell

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 29 (NRSV) Anne Price
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory
thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sir'ion like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Ka' desh.**
- 9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the
forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

[UNISON]

**11 May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

Let us pray together: **God of mystery and power, open our eyes to the fire of your love, and open our ears to the thunder of your justice, that we may receive your gifts of blessing and peace, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Now let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us,
Our Father Who Art in Heaven

* HYMN 147 "The First Nowell" English Carol

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **Creative God, you make all things new. You hold out a new day and a new year for us... a new beginning. Yet how often we squander the opportunities, letting our doubts overwhelm us, letting our guilt as well as our sins stop us. You offer us new dreams, and we succumb to old weaknesses; you offer us hope and we choose the comfortable. Creative God, we have touched the joy of Christmas. Now let us carry a measure of delight and bounty of love into your new day. Fill us with the joy of living and the spirit of giving as we approach the new year. In the name of the One who gave everything so that our joy might be complete. (silent prayers) Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ came primarily so that our sins might be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ I declare that we are in fact forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May it be so for you and me. Amen

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6 OT 690

** HYMN 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (first verse)
*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Gifts for Baby... A Strange Baby Shower"
(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Linda Carr)

ANTHEM "Star of Fire and Flame" Mary Kay Beall

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Joy to the World: We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Dr. Jerry Bron

* HYMN 152 "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: **I believe in the God of Autumn, who spreads the mantle of his glory across the hills like a cloak of many colors; I believe in the God of Winter, who whispers in the wind and makes me thankful for the warmth of hearthside; I believe in the God of Spring, who dazzles the eye with blankets of blossoms and speaks to my heart through gentle rains; I believe in the God of Summer, who meets me in the morning mists and waits for me in the cool of the evening. I believe in the God of all seasons, ready to sacrifice for truth and to love the world as he loves it. He has revealed himself in Jesus Christ, and continues to reveal himself in nature, in history, and in the inner life. His name is to be praised forever and ever. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY "Song of the Birds" and "Adagio from Sonata in C Minor"
P. Casals (1876-1973); F. Handel (1685-1759)

(Visitors, please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate.)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 150 "As With Gladness Men of Old" DIX

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Longing for Peace, Our World Is Troubled" Bernadette Farrell

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Procession on 'We Three Kings'" arr. John Barr

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister. New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

A Covered Dish Appreciation Luncheon

In honor of Dr. Jerry Bron

Will be held following worship in the GMPC fellowship hall.

We invite you to join us as we show our appreciation to our Interim Pastor and Linda, his wife. As this Sunday marks the occasion of the last Sunday worship service that Dr. Jerry Bron will provide as Interim Pastor of GMPC, the members and congregation would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to him for being with us over the course of this past year. We feel very fortunate and blessed to have had him as a part of our church family. We are grateful for having the opportunity to get to know him and his family and we wish the very best for them all. We will not say "good-bye", as we look forward to continued friendships and hope he will come back whenever possible.

Thank you to cellist, Dr. Robert Nosow, of Jacksonville, N.C.,
for sharing in today's special music.

January ushers are: David Brock, John Fox, III, Ron Nimmo,
Jack Perry, Warren Sinclair, Glenn Spell, Don Wilson

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109

Frances Hubbard - GlenAire

Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 701

Tink Purcell – The Cardinal at North Hills

OTHERS:

Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)

Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)

Christine Stacey – (Mother of Lara Capparuccia)

Joe Kozel – (Father of Kristi Williford)

David Askins – (Former GMPC member)

AT HOME

Martha Dunn

Margaret Register

Betty Heaton

Ted Lockerman

Russell Byrd (Winston Salem)

January: (Wednesdays: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.);

(Cherub Choir: PreK-1st Grade, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30);

(Children & Youth Choir/Handbells: 2nd-8th Grade, Wednesdays, 5-5:45)

- 07 - 4:55 p.m. - Youth Group: "Red Rover" to FUMC for Food, Fun, & Fellowship
- 08 - 3:00 p.m. - Circle #1 (Mary Gran) Host: Margaret Faircloth & Anne Price
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 09 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Fellowship Hall)
- 10 - - Arrival of Dr. Stephen & Carol Wilkins to GMPC: Move in Day
- 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew
- 11 - 10:00 a.m. - La Leche League of Sampson County: *Note Rescheduled Date
- 14 - 8:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast @ Grove Park Baptist Church
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Dr. Stephen Wilkins
- 12:15 p.m. - Welcome to Our New Minister: Cookies & Cider in the fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group?

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Copies of **These Days**, January - March, are available in the narthex & outside the office.

NEW: La Leche League of Sampson County. Breastfeeding? Or pregnant and planning ahead? Join us the 1st Thursday of every month, in the GMPC Nursery, at 10:00 a.m., beginning January 11, 2018. The La Leche League of Sampson County, led by Lucy Lockamy, will offer valuable breastfeeding support and information. Pregnant women, mothers, and babies welcome!

CAKES NEEDED for the January 11th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 10th.

*Please contact January coordinator: Annette Newton to place your name on the list

The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for January will be on the 14th, beginning 8:15 a.m., at Grove Park Baptist Church. We hope all men will join us for breakfast and fellowship! Please mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance.

GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall. Do not worry if you can not sew, that is only one aspect of creating these quilts. Next Meeting: January 16, 2018.

MISSION BUDDIES: (PreK—12th Grade, 3rd Sunday's monthly, as part of Sunday School)

January Mission: (Please submit supplies by Friday, January 19, 2018.)

Care Bags for Children in Homeless and/or Domestic Violence Shelters.

ITEMS NEEDED: Blankets (\$2.50 Walmart blankets are fine), Children's Books, and Monetary Donations to buy tote bags. The high school BETA Club will be providing stuffed animals.

*A Mission Buddies donation bin is located in the fellowship hall.

PresbyCrew meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month from 3 – 5 p.m. for Kindergarten – 5th grade. Plan to join us & bring a friend!

Central Missional Community Steering Team News: The winter gathering will be held January 27, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. **Included in the worship service are a message by Olanda Carr and honoring the Faithful Saints selected by each Session. Neal Sinclair is GMPC's honoree.** The worship service will be followed by a business meeting, lunch and then breakout sessions sharing insights and ideas on "A Response of Our Gratitude." *Anyone wishing to stay for lunch (\$10.00) must register by calling the GMPC church office by January 19th.