

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
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
1 October 2017**

Assemble In God's Name

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" arr. Marilyn Ham

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Moment for Stewardship

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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Song of the Chosen" Rory Cooney
"Rejoice, you saints, in God, for praise from you is right! Music makers sing by day, and play with all your might! Sing God a new song; play well upon your strings, for right and justice our God loves; whose Word does wondrous things."

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 78 (NRSV) Lauren Perry
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

3 things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

**4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell
to the coming generation the glorious deeds of
the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that
he has done.**

12 In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zo'an.

**13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.**

14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all night long with a fiery light.

**15 He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them
drink abundantly as from the deep.**

16 He made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Let us pray together: **God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" CORONATION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **I admit, O Lord, that I have not been zealous enough in my discipleship. I have not struggled to understand the great ideas of the faith, nor have I really attempted to give you the mastery of my life. I have lived selfishly in a world of misery and hunger, and have not sought to be Christ to my neighbor. Let the love that is waiting for me in your arms redirect me in all my ways. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God will not fail in fulfilling his promises.

People: He has promised to hear our prayers and forgive our sins.

Leader: Then our prayers are heard and we are forgiven.

People: We can begin again and live for Him! Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

Proclaim God's Word

FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:8 Message Version

** HYMN 487 "These Treasured Children" (second verse)
*Our ancient story we shall tell, til these our children know it well with-in
their souls and minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Whose Team Are You On?"

** P.A.T.H. OFFERING

(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:29-39 Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "What Does God Want With Us?" Dr. Jerry Bron

* HYMN 503 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"
O QUANTA QUALIA

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "Apostles' Creed" (Hymnal) pg. 35

Give Thanks To God

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"
Edmunds/Schram

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

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION
PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(Hymnal) pg. 35

BREAKING THE BREAD AND OFFERING THE CUP
PRAYER

Go In God's Name

* HYMN 442 "Just As I am, without One Plea" WOODWORTH

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN
"Song of the Chosen" Rory Cooney
*God speaks, and it is done, whose word existence gives. So let the world its God
revere, and hear the One Who lives. Your wondrous plan, O God, is known to
You alone, and happy are the people You have chosen for Your own!"*

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Nun fruet euch" arr. John Eggert
(Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice)

* Those who are able, please stand
** Seating of worshippers

The **P.A.T.H. Offering (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger)** is being received this morning. This offering, collected by GMPC since 1986, is sometimes called the 2 Cents a Meal Offering. Families are requested to "set aside" this amount per person, per meal in your family home and given bi-monthly on the 1st Sunday when Communion is observed (February, April, June, August, October, December). Of this, 25% is withheld and used to supplement our own "Sick and Relief" benevolence. The remaining 75% is forwarded to our Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. The presbytery's disbursement formula for what they receive from participating churches is as follows: 40% for International support (countries such as Haiti, Malawi and Bangladesh); 25% for PC(USA) hunger projects; 25% for local hunger programs within our Presbytery and 10% for administration.

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.

October ushers are: Whit Tart, Boyde Bristow,
Mike Carter, Gib Palmer, Lyman Horne, Hal Price

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109
Frances Hubbard - GlenAire
Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 715

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr
Martha Dunn
Tink Purcell
Don Wilson
Margaret Register
Geneva Matthis
Deborah Hall
Betty Heaton

OTHERS:

*Angie Prucha – (Daughter of Edwin Danford)
Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)
Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)
Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)
Jim McGuirt – (Former GMPC member)*

October: (Wednesday's: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.)

- 01 - 1:00 p.m. - Youth Group: Defy Gravity in Wilmington
- 02 - 3:00 p.m. - Circle #1 (Home of Mary Aycok)
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 03 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Memorial Room) Salad Luncheon to Follow
- 6:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 04 - 6:30 p.m. - First Wednesday Fellowship & Covered Dish
- 7:30 p.m. - Reorganization Committee Meeting
- 05 - 5:00 p.m. - Mother & Daughter Bible Study (Memorial Room)
- 08 - 8:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast @ First United Methodist Church
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.)
- 12:15 p.m. - Boundary/Child Protection Training
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

GET INVOLVED SPOTLIGHT: Southeastern Carolina Crossroads, Help & Hope Over Addiction

(In an effort to bring awareness to the many mission opportunities here at GMPC we will "spotlight" one mission every month. We ask that you please give regularly to these programs in need of your help.)* Southeastern Carolina Crossroads (1086 Susie Sand Hill Rd., Elizabethtown, N.C.) is a program designed to address addiction(s) through a faith based approach, providing compassion and support in an all male environment. This program is primarily designed to produce in each man a more effective lifestyle in which he allows Jesus Christ to take full control. GMPC has been a part of Southeastern Carolina Crossroads since 2014, providing support thru our annual budget. **What you can do to help: *Donate Needed Items! (Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Bleach, Plastic Wrap/Aluminum Foil, Coffee/Creamer/Sugar, NLT Bibles, 1" Binder Notebooks, Printer Paper, Gift Cards to Walmart/FoodLion)* *A collection bin will be available in the GMPC fellowship hallway and Narthex throughout October.

MISSION BUDDIES (All Children – 12th grade, 3rd Sunday's, as part of Sunday School). *October Mission: Southeastern Carolina Crossroads. We will be putting together Care Packages, on October 15th, for the men entering this program. *ITEMS NEEDED: Washcloths, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Men's Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Soap/Body Wash. A collection Bin will be located in the Fellowship Hallway marked "MISSION BUDDIES". We ask that all supplies be submitted by Friday, October 13th.

Music Notes: 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, or protestations against abuses within the church, to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. As well as being a theologian & reformer, Luther was a prolific hymn writer. (5 Luther hymns in our hymnal.) Luther's music has been included in hymnals for congregational singing & arranged for choir & instrumental soloist for over 500 years. Over the next six weeks, you will be hearing & singing the music of the Reformation!

Stewardship Season: "A New Day Dawning". A Moment for Stewardship will be held, during worship, October, 1st – October 22nd. Plan to be in attendance as you will not want to miss this year's Moment for Stewardship presentations! **The 2018 Annual Operating Budget Pledge Cards** will be mailed Monday, October 9, 2017. Please prayerfully consider your financial support to our Lord through the 2018 GMPC Budget. **Consecration Sunday** will be October 29th.

Our **First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Meals** will resume on October 4th, at 6:30 p.m., in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dishes to share.

October Host: Congregational Care Committee

The next **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** will be held on Sunday, October 8th, at 8:15 a.m., at First United Methodist Church. We hope all men will join us for breakfast and fellowship.

Boundary/Child Protection Training. led by Dr. Jerry Bron, will be held on Sunday, October 8th & 15th, beginning at 12:15 p.m. Training is required for all adult leaders/volunteers who will be working with our children, Infants – Age 18, in any compacity. You will need to attend only one of the two sessions offered. Certification is valid for two years. *Those who received training last year, need to fillout/sign a recommitment form. Forms will be available on October 8th & 15th in the banner room and should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. UCare, Inc., will hold a vigilance in the GMPC parking lot on Saturday, October 9, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in recognition of domestic violence survivors and those who have left us much too early. Break the Silence. Break the Cycle. Mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance.

New Opportunity: Sampson Friends is an effort a group of GMPC members are initiating to reach out to all members of our community in hopes of bridging racial, cultural and economic divide between Christians. They are reading/discussing issues and possible outreach activities. They invite you to join them on most Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the GMPC library.

GMPC's Fall Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017 beginning at 8 a.m. This is a great time to come together and tidy up our Sunday School rooms, change bulletin boards, organize closets, work outside, etc. If there is an area that you are aware of that needs some special attention, please speak with one of our Property Committee members or the Church Office to bring it to their attention. See you on the 21st!