

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
Second Sunday in Advent
6 December 2015**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness"
Johannes Brahms; Ian Parker, Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
"Redeemer, Come!" TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE- *Hope for Those Who Are Weary*
Congregation Responses in **Bold**
Jody, Hollis, Caiden and Maddox White

CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN: HYMN 314 "Christ, Be Our Light"
Congregational Chorus (Sing the refrain each time with the choir.)

The Light shines in the darkness.

but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting:

Today we light two candles. The first candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The second candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of the world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

REPEAT CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN "Christ, Be Our Light"

Let us pray together: **God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Greet Thee?"
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Dorothy Sue Faison
Let us pray: **Holy Savior, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. But who can endure the day of your coming? We confess you as Lord, yet our paths remain crooked, our ways, rough. Show us the tender mercy of our God; break in upon us from your holy heights. Refine us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may live as people of light, and walk in ways of peace, to your glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Apostle Paul has written: "If God is for us, who is against us? Neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 OT 889-890

** HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (first verse)
CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Chrismon Tree"

** P.A.T.H. OFFERING
(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader)

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:1-11 NT 196

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Approved By Love" Dr. Moran

* HYMN 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion" BEREDEN VAG FOR HARRAN
* APOSTLES' CREED (Traditional) (Hymnal) Page 35

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "The King Shall Come" Lloyd Larson
(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

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"While We Are Waiting, Come" WAITING

* THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "O Blessed Emmanuel" J.S. Bach

* 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.

*THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND GREENERY ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY THE SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE*

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Mary Gran

OTHERS:

Angie Prucha – (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Billy Kerr – (Brother-in-law of Dorothy Sue Faison)

Minson Sessoms – DUKE (Father of Deborah Hall)

Beth White – (Mother of Jody White)

Wilma Gaylor – (Sister-in-law of Alice Rose)

Roland Heath – (Father of Jeff Heath)

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr

Martha Dunn

Jean Parker

Ted Lockerman

Tami Warren

Annabelle Fetterman

Susan Bristow

Don Hollingsworth

Kathy Walls

SYMPATHY TO: Gary Wayne Hall and family on the passing of his brother, William "Bill" C. Hall.

December ushers are: Edwin Danford, Anthony Sessoms,
Wes Coward, Tim Howard, Stan Mertz, Scott Prestage

December

- 06 - Noon - Organist Search Committee Meeting (Choir Room)
- 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Joy Practice
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth: Christmas Shopping, Bring \$5.00
- 6:30 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Joint Officer Meeting & Examination of Class of 2018
- 07 - Noon - Circle #1 (Home of Lou Johnson) Lunch to be served
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 08 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Memorial Room)
- 09 - 3:00 p.m.- PresbyCrew
- 12 - - Christmas Joy (Last) Rehearsal: Following Clinton Parade
- 13 - 11:00 a.m.- Worship (*Sunday School weekly at 9:45 a.m.)
*Christmas Joy Offering Received
***NO Presbyterian Men's Breakfast** in December
- 6:00 p.m.- Christmas Joy Program
(ALL participants should arrive no later than 5:30)
- 15 - 10:00 a.m.- Newsletter / Staff Meeting

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

The **Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer** greatly appreciates everyone's prompt response in pledging to the 2016 budget. If you have not pledged, please consider doing so at this time. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex and outside the Church Office.

A Joint Meeting of the Session & Diaconate (for all current and newly elected officers) and the Examination of the class of 2018 will be held tonight, Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

GMPC's **Christmas Joy Program "The king meets The King"** will be held on December 13th at 6:00 p.m. (We ask that all participants arrive by 5:30 p.m.) in the GMPC fellowship hall. A reception, coordinated by Mariana Sanderson, Mary Carol Todd, Natalie Berendt & Committee, will follow. GMPC's children, youth & adults will come together, under the direction of Susan Bristow, to bring us the Christmas message thru this year's fun stage performance. *Please bring one canned good/ staple item or toiletry item, per person, for our Christmas food/supply drive in support of U CARE, Inc.

***Remaining Rehearsals Schedule:** Sunday, December 6th @ 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 12th, following Christmas Parade (Final Dress Rehearsal: Lunch will be served)

The **Organist Search Committee** is comprised of the following members: Bill Scott, Ellen Tew, Katie Brown, Diane Westerbeek, Vickie Pope, Betty Blue Packard, Bill Aiken & Glenda Underwood. The first scheduled meeting will be held December 6, 2015 following worship. If you wish to serve as a member of this committee please contact Bill Scott or the office.

If you would like to sing or play for worship during Advent (or any time), please see Ms. Tew or Mrs. Sinclair. We'd especially welcome youth performers at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service.

A **Columbarium Development Committee** is being formed to explore the development of a columbarium here at GMPC. If you would like to serve as a member of this committee please contact Dr. Moran or the church office to share your willingness.

PresbyCrew: Will meet only once in December, Wednesday the 9th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

COOKIES and/or MONETARY DONATIONS NEEDED for the December 10th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cookies/monetary donations be delivered to GMPC by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 9th. Monetary donations will go towards the purchase of a large sheet cake. *Coordinator: Diane Westerbeek (Checks should be made to GMPC.)

We invite you all to take part in Winterizing the Community Garden sponsored by GMPC, located at 105 Royal Lane, on Saturday, December 12, 2015 beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Nancy Perry or Sharon Funderburk.

December 20th — **Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells, 11:00 a.m.** Our traditional program of scripture and music to ring in the Christmas season.

GMPC's Youth invites you all to join them on December 20th for Caroling & Refreshments. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 2:30 p.m., gather into groups to go caroling in the community, before returning to the church at 5:00 p.m. for more caroling with the GMPC Choir as we enjoy refreshments. Feel free to join us for the community caroling only or the choir caroling & refreshments only or both as your schedule allows.