

*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  
First Sunday After Christmas  
27 December 2015**

**We Assemble to Worship**

RINGING OF THE BELLS  
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

\*\* PRELUDE Margaret Register, Piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP  
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 148 (NRSV) Logan Dodson  
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

- 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- 2 **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- 4 **Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**
- 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 **He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- 8 **fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10 **Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 **Young men and women alike, old and young together!**
- 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is  
exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for  
all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are  
close to him. Praise the LORD!**

Let us pray together: **God Most High, by your Word you created a wondrous universe, and through your Spirit you breathed into it the breath of life. Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips, and let the praise that is sung in heaven resound in the heart of every creature on earth, to the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

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

- \* HYMN 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO
- \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace. You clothe us with your love, but we do not love one another. You wrap us in your mercy, but we do not forgive one another. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to follow your way, and help us to grow each day in wisdom and favor with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- \* Silent Confession
- \* KYRIE ELEISON *Lord, have mercy upon us;  
Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

- \* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Hear this good news! Here we find ourselves in the Christmas season, surrounded in the knowledge that all things are being made new in Christ. We confess those things that keep us in the past, looking forward into the new year, reminded of the new promises that have been made in and through Christ. Let us be filled with grace and gratitude as we are forgiven for our shortcomings. Let us be filled with peace and hope, as we name and release all the ways we have been disappointed and disappointed others in the past year. Let us be filled with a love and forgiveness that knows no bounds, so that we may greet each other anew, in the knowledge and joy that we are forgiven. Amen.**

- \* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

**We Proclaim the Word**

- FIRST LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17 NT 201
- \*\* HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (first verse)  
CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Staying at Home"  
*(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Lou Johnson)*
- ANTHEM "The People Who Walked in Darkness" ISAIH 9
- SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:41-52 NT 59  
Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**
- MESSAGE "Growing Pains" Rev. Katherine Blankenship
- \* HYMN 110 "Love Has Come" BRING A TORCH
  - \* APOSTLES' CREED (Traditional) (Hymnal) Page 35
- PASTORAL PRAYER

**We Respond to God**

OFFERTORY

- (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 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT
  - \* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN "Mary's Child" MARY'S CHILD
  - \* THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD
  - \* POSTLUDE
- \* 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.**

We are delighted to welcome to our pulpit today Rev. Katherine Blankenship as she leads us in worship. Katherine is originally from Asheville, NC, a place she credits in the formation of her love of service, the mountains, and God. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University, received her Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, and is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Before working with Raleigh Youth Mission, Katherine interned with Asheville Youth Mission and served as the Director of Youth Ministry for a congregation in Atlanta, GA. Through her ministry with youth and young adults, she works to name creative gifts and profound truths in their lives, most often through music, art, prayer, and laughter.

We are happy to welcome Margaret Register as musician for our worship service today.

*THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF MR. JIM HUBBARD BY MRS. FRANCES HUBBARD*

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

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

**HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING**

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 403  
Fay Gaddy – Rolling Ridge, Newton Grove

**OTHERS:**

*Angie Prucha – (Daughter of Edwin Danford)*  
*Billy Kerr – (Brother-in-law of Dorothy Sue Faison)*  
*Minson Sessoms – DUKE (Father of Deborah Hall)*  
*Roland Heath – (Father of Jeff Heath)*

**AT HOME**

Barbara Kerr  
Martha Dunn  
Ted Lockerman  
Jean Parker  
Don Hollingsworth  
Kathy Wall  
Frances Hubbard

**SYMPATHY TO:** *Jody White and family on the passing of his mother, Virginia Elizabeth (Beth) White.*

**January**

- 03 - 11:00 a.m.- Worship (\*Sunday School weekly at 9:45 a.m.)
- 04 - 3:00 p.m. - Circle #1 (Home of Darby Scott)  
7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 05 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Memorial Room)
- 06 - 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Service @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 07 - 7:30 p.m. - P.W. Coordinating Team Meeting
- 10 - 8:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast @ GMPC  
11:00 a.m. -Worship (\*Sunday School weekly at 9:45 a.m.)  
Ordination and Installation of Officers  
7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 13 - 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study #13 (Resumes)  
3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew  
6:30 p.m. - Youth: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg  
7:00 p.m.- Bible Study #13 (Resumes)

**OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .**

**DVD copies of this year's Christmas Joy Program, "The king meets The King" will be made available soon.** A Sign-up sheet can be found outside the church office. Cost: \$10.00 per DVD.

**CANCELED: First Wednesday Fellowship Covered Dish** scheduled to be held on January 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. We will resume in February with our normal schedule. Thank you.

**GMPC and the GMPC Handbell Ensemble will join with St. Paul's Episcopal Church,** 110 W. Main St., Clinton, for an Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. We invite you all to join us, as we gather, to celebrate this Christian holiday.

The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting** for January will be on the 10th at 8:15 a.m. (\*Please note new time) at Graves memorial Presbyterian Church. We hope all men will join us as we combine and gather for breakfast and fellowship with our neighbors.

On Sunday, January 10, 2016, we will **Ordain and Install the Newly Elected Elders and Deacons of the Class of 2018 and one Elder of the Class of 2016.** We thank the Class of 2015 for their faithful service during the last three years!

**BIBLE STUDY:** will resume on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Moran. The 10:30 a.m. study will continue to focus on the lectionary. The 7:00 p.m. study will be on "The Gospel of Luke: Good News for All," a kerygma study. Please sign up, for the evening study, in the narthex or outside the church office. Cost of study material: \$20.00. Mark your calendars.

**CAKES NEEDED** for the January 14<sup>th</sup> First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. \*Please contact Annette Newton to sign up/place your name on the January list.

A **Columbarium Development Committee** is being formed to explore the development of a columbarium here at GMPC. The term columbarium comes from the Latin word *Columba* (dove) and is defined as a place or niche for cremated remains. If you would like to serve as a member of this committee please contact Dr. Moran or the church office.

**Mission Opportunity: Diaper Bank of Sampson County.** Donations of diapers (all brands and sizes, to include adult diapers), diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are collected. A collection bin is located in the GMPC fellowship hallway for your convenience.  
\*For more info. contact Chris Driver: cdriver82@gmail.com, cell #990-7436.

**Backpack Buddies Program:** Volunteers meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Sunset Avenue School to pack food bags for over 250 "food insecure" Clinton City School children, ages Pre K - 8th grade. What you can do to help: *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items! (canned soups, juice boxes, raisins, fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bars, pop tarts, trail mix & individual cereal boxes)* \*Food drop off container located in the Fellowship Hallway.

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**Michael and Jennifer Bradley and Boy Scout Troop 80 cordially invite you to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eli Bradley on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at GMPC. Reception will willow in the Fellowship Hall.**