

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 Day
31 December 2017**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Gesu Bambino" Pietro A. Yon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show" LLANFAIR

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 148 (NRSV) Melvin Weaver
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 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **Christmas has come and gone, O Lord; the greetings have been exchanged and the gifts have been opened. Yet for some of us there is something missing. To the degree that we have not waited before the manger and worshiped you, we feel an emptiness inside. The tinsel and the packages are not enough. You are the center of Christmas, O Lord. Help us even now to hurry unto Bethlehem, and to remember what it means that you have come in the flesh for our salvation. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: There is no place that Christ may not be found, if we call upon him.

People: He has heard our confession and forgiven our sin.

Leader: The song of the angels can still be heard today.

People: There is peace among those who walk in his will.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3 OT 692

** HYMN 137 "He Came Down" (third verse)

*He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Naming that Baby"

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

ANTHEM "Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple" Pratt/Haas

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:22-40 Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "After Eight Days: A Conversation" Dr. Jerry Bron

* HYMN 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO

* 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 "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" Appalachian Carol
(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 545 "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LAND OF REST

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Earth to Heaven Exalt the Strain" LLANFAIR

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Praise Ye The Lord" from *The Christmas Oratorio*
Camile Saint-Saens

* 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.

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF MRS. RESSIE ROSE AND MR. BYRON ROSE, AND IN HONOR OF MRS. ALICE ROSE BY GEORGE, BILLY, AND JOEL ROSE

December Ushers are: Whit Tart, Wesley Cowand, IV, Wes Cowand, Tim Howard, Stan Mertz, Scott Prestage, Paul Viser

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

Sunday, December 17, 2017~		I will be loyal to GMPC and support it with ...	
My Presence:	Sunday School Attendance 51	~	Worship Attendance 143
My Gifts:		<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
	Tithes and Offerings	\$24,479.00	\$322,563.69
	Building Fund Offerings	\$ 3,565.00	\$ 62,195.83
Needed for the Church Budget:		<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
	Operating Budget	\$4,504.63	\$229,736.13
	Building Fund	\$1,525.38	\$ 77,794.38

**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)**

01 - - Happy New Year
03 - 5:30 p.m. - Handbells practice @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Note time change)
6:30 p.m. - First Wednesday Fellowship & Covered Dish in honor of Dr. Bron
04 - 10:00 a.m. - La Leche League of Sampson County
06 - 7:00 p.m. - Epiphany Service @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church
07 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Presentation of Budget
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
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 & Linda Wilkins to GMPC
3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew
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
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group?

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

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

Video from the Sunday, December 10, 2017 Christmas Joy Program has been uploaded to You Tube, and posted under News and Events on the GMPC webpage.

There will be **NO Youth Group on December 31st**.

The Church Office will be closed December 25th through January 2nd.

For emergencies please contact Clerk of Session, Carl Barr or Interim Pastor, Rev. Jerry Bron.

We will honor Dr. Jerry Bron at our next First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Meal, scheduled for January 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. We encourage everyone to come out and join us as we show our appreciation to our Interim Pastor and Linda, his wife. January hosts: K - 5th Sunday School Class, Friends in Faith Groups 1 & 2, & Dale Purcell.

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 4, 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!

A **PW Coordinating Team Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m. and a **PW Quarterly Gathering** is scheduled for Monday, January 23rd, also at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 W. Main St., Clinton, invites you to their Epiphany service being held on Saturday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. Join us, as we gather, to celebrate this Christian holiday.

Presbyterian Women Circle meetings in January. *Bible Leader: Myrtle Petty

Circle #1 will meet on the 8th at 3:00 p.m. at Mary Gran. Host: Margaret Faircloth & Anne Price

Circle #2 will meet on the 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room.

Circle #3 will meet on the 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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 church office.

A PODCAST (audio file, mp3 format) of Sunday Sermons Is Available on the GMPC Website. To listen to posted sermons visit: <http://gravememorial.org/sermons.shtml>.

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.

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!

GMPC's **Prayer Request Cards** are located in the pews for your convenience. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate.

A **"Lost and Found"** Dishes Box is located in the Ice Room here at GMPC. Please stop by and check it regularly for any of your dishes that you may have left behind.