

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
Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 2017**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE "An English Christmas" arr. Douglas E. Wagner;
Handbell Choir

* BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN &
PROCESSIONAL CAROL: 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
MENDELSSOHN

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 Watching*
Jody, Hollis, Caiden, and Maddox White

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (Sing the verse each time with the choir.)

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (third verse)

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

RESPONSIVE LITANY: Congregation Responses in Bold

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**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 three 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, peace, wisdom, and strength be kindled as the light grows brighter. The **third candle** awakens our joy, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we wait our Savior's promised coming. Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-9.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (third verse)

Let us pray together: **God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess that at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Ding Dong! Merrily on High"
arr. Cynthia Dobrinsk; Handbell Choir

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnbook) No. 608

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Bidding Prayer (Congregation, please stand.) Jerry Bron
(followed by the Prayers for/of the people and the Lord's Prayer)

* **Bidding Carol:** 112 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"
SUSSEX CAROL

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 Tommy Newton

Anthem "Masters in this Hall" arr. John D. Miller; Chancel Choir

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 Mac Spell

* **Carol:** 102 "Savior of the Nations, Come" NUN KOMM, DER HEILAND

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Allison Martin

Anthem: "Isaiah 9" Bringle/Morris; Chancel Choir

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 David Nordin

Anthem: "Children, Go Tell It" arr. Ruth Elaine Schram;
PresbyMusic and Chancel Choir

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 Mac Purcell

Anthem: "Angels Singing, Noels Ringing" Judy Phillips; Handbell Choir

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23 Brooks Barwick

Anthem "Away in a Manger" MUELLER/CRADLE SONG; PresbyMusic

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 Bill Scott

Anthem "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" (See hymn #135 for the text.)
arr. Mark Hayes; Melissa Fulton and Lara Capparuccia, piano duet

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11 James Dodson

* **Carol:** 151 "We Three Kings" KINGS OF ORIENT

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Carl Barr

* **Carol:** 108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

CLOSING PRAYERS Jerry Bron

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Lamb of God, the Heavens Adore You" WACHET AUF
(See Hymn #349, third verse, for the text.)

THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE "Postlude on a French Noel" arr. Marilyn Rinehart

* Those who are able, please stand

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.

Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of **Nine Lessons and Carols** is a retelling of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ that is traditionally followed at The Christmastide. The story of the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, the promise of the coming of a Messiah who would bring us redemption, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and instrumental music.

The format was based on an English Order drawn up by Sir Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1680.

As the creator of **Nine Lessons and Carols** has pointed out in the first program at its inception, the pattern and strength of the service resides with the lessons themselves and not with the music. The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son.

That our Messiah has come, He has been born unto us, lived among us and died for us that we might for all eternity be redeemed unto His presence.

Nine Lessons and Carols is yet for us the beginning of this eternal story.

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
Ted Lockerman – Mary Gran

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)*

SYMPATHY TO:

Susan Westerbeek and family on the passing of her grandmother, Belle Rufus Pope.

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

Sallie Adams, Nita Aiken, Mary Aycock, Bonnie Barr, Edna Fay Boone, Ardella Boyette, Jennifer Bradley, Beth Bryan, Beth Bryan, Sr., Allison Brock, Linda Carr, Margaret Carter, Wanda Coleman, Nancy Cowand, Mary Doyne, Martha Dunn, Susan Fox, Sharon Funderburk, Beatrice Gray, Lisa Green, Mary Harrington, Nancy Heath, Betty Heaton, Til Herring, Tammy Honeycutt, Lee Howard, Kathryn Jackson, Ann Johnson, Linda Lamb, Peggie Lindsay, Lucy Lockamy, Alice Lockerman, Kathy Mertz, Iva Miller, Mary David Morris, Delores Murphrey, Melissa Nimmo, Brenda Nordin, Robin Palmer, Nancy Perry, Myrtle Petty, Vickie Pope, Joy Prestage, Marsha Prestage, Anne Price, Lynn Pridgen, Dale Purcell, Tink Purcell, Margaret Register, Alice Rose, Darby Scott, Debbie Sinclair, Robin Sink, Mac Spell, Julie Stefanovich, Amelia Surratt, Barbara Taylor, Susan Tucker, Diane Viser, Glenice Webster, Diane Westerbeek, Susan Westerbeek, Hollis White, Anne Wicke, Linda Williamson, Kristi Williford, Carol Wilson

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

Sunday, December 10, 2017 ~ I will be loyal to GMPC and support it with ...		
My Presence:	Sunday School Attendance 52	~ Worship Attendance 106
My Gifts:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$3,718.00	\$298,084.69
Building Fund Offerings	\$ 920.00	\$ 58,630.83
Needed for the Church Budget:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Budget	\$4,504.63	\$225,231.50
Building Fund	\$1,525.38	\$ 76,269.00

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

- 17 - 3:00 p.m. - Youth Group: Community Christmas Pilgrimage
- 7:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting?
- 24 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Christmas Eve
- 5:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service
- 25 - - **Merry Christmas**
- 31 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.)
- 01 - - **Happy New Year**
- 03 - 6:30 p.m. - First Wednesday Fellowship & Covered Dish in honor of Dr. Bron

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.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship Services, 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Communion by Intinction will be served at the 5:30 p.m. service.

There will be **NO Worship Readiness on December 17th and 24th**. The Worship Readiness class will remain in the sanctuary, with their parents.

There will be **NO PresbyMusic on December 20th or 27th**.

There will be **NO PresbyCrew, Adult Choir or Adult Handbells on December 27th**.

There will be **NO Youth Group on December 24th or 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 his wife. January hosts: K - 5th Sunday School Class, Friends in Faith Groups 1 & 2, & Dale Purcell.

Seasonal Flower Committee: (Please see your 2017-2018 Presbyterian Women's Book for list of committee members.) We ask that you please submit your Annual Dues: \$20.00 (Payable to P.W.) at this time if you have yet to do so. Thank you!

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.

GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry will not meet during the months of November & December. We will resume our regular schedule, monthly on the third Tuesday's at 9:30 a.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall on January 16, 2018. Do not worry if you can not sew, that is only one aspect of creating these quilts.

A PODCAST (audio file, mp3 format) of Sunday Sermons Is Available on the GMPC Website.

To listen to posted sermons visit: <http://gravesmemorial.org/sermons.shtml>.

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.

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 needed. A collection bin is located in the GMPC fellowship hallway for your convenience.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at First Baptist Soup Kitchen (408 College Street) on Thursdays, Weekly from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. *11:00 – 3:00: Cooking, 3:00 – 5:00: Deliveries, 5:00 – 7:00: Serving. (Volunteer for the day or as your schedule allows.