

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

November 5, 2014

Thank you!

Thanksgiving may be my favorite holiday of the year! Its simple focus hasn't been too corrupted by commercial interests like so many other holidays. It lifts up the important Christian virtue of gratitude, which I believe is foundational for spiritual health.

When our kids were young, we began a tradition of the "Thanksgiving Box." On Nov. 1, we would place a box on the dining room table. Every day at dinner, we would each write down one thing on a piece of paper for which we were thankful. (When the kids were too young to write, they would whisper their item to one of us, and we'd write it down for them.) Then, on Thanksgiving Day, we would open the box and read all of the things for which we were thankful as a family. We'd then thank God for those things.

Developing an attitude of gratitude takes a little work in a consumer culture that constantly seeks to make us feel discontented with what we have. What could you do to become a little more grateful this season?

*"Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise." (Ps. 100:4)*

*"...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the
will of God in Jesus Christ for you." (I Thess. 5:18)*

Pastor Dave

Inside:

- Christmas Fair
- Volunteers Needed for Children's Games at the Fair
- HELP NEEDED to decorate the church
- Mission Bright Star
- Young at Heart
- Calendar of Giving

A sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who sent me beautiful cards, hand-written notes and prayers. Also, to the pastors and Harry Winsheimer who brought me communion. I am blessed to belong to such a caring and loving church.

Abundant Blessing upon all of you
Jo Rice

TO GETTYSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thank you for being our Chartered organization for 65 years. We appreciate being a part of your community outreach and are grateful for the support you have given to us through the years!

The Scouts and Scouters of Troop 73
Battlefield District
New Birth of Freedom Council
Boy Scouts of America

Thank you to everyone who helped with the PW Rummage Sale. It couldn't have been a success without you.

Rummage Sale \$2,470.96

Bake Sale \$ 231.06

Total \$2,702.02

I am so blessed to have such a great group of folks that care about me at GPC. Jim, Bill and I want to say a huge THANK YOU for all your kind thoughts and prayers during my recent "cardiac event". I am progressing along very well and on my way to a full recovery. But it couldn't all have been accomplished if I didn't have a strong Christian base fighting along with me. You are all wonderful and caring Christians, thank you so very much.

Cathy Gardner

To the GPC Family:

I want to thank you so much for your part in hosting my ordination service and reception on September 28th, as well as for the travel communion set and generous financial gift as Megan and I move into this new stage of our lives. What an honor it was for me that my ordination was held in the same sacred space that I was baptized, confirmed, and married. It was a truly special day! Thank you. Even more than that, though, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the countless ways that GPC has touched my life and lived into the promises made upon my baptism. As we get settled into our new home in Greenville, SC and my new ministry with St. Giles Presbyterian Church, I carry with me many fond memories of you.

God's Peace

TJ Remaley



As the story goes, they built a new church building and people came from far and wide to see it. They admired its beauty! Up on the roof, a little nail heard the people praising everything about the lovely structure-except the nail! No one even knew he was there, and he became angry and jealous.
"If I am that insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit!" So the nail then released its hold, slid down the roof, and fell in the mud.

That night it rained and rained. Soon, the shingle that had no nail blew away, and the roof began to leak.

The water streaked the walls and the beautiful murals. The plaster began to fall, the carpet was stained, and the pulpit Bible was ruined by water. All this because a little nail decided to quit!

But what of the nail? While holding the shingle, it was obscure but it was also useful. Buried in the mud it was just as obscure, but now it was useless and would soon be eaten up by rust!

The moral of the story-EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT TO THE CHURCH! You may, like the nail, feel obscure at times, but just like the nail, your absence is felt. When you are not present for worship, in some way the body of Christ hurts. We are ALL a part of the Lord's ministry.

2014 Christmas Fair on December 7

It's Christmas Fair time once again! The 28th Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday, December 7, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be games and prizes for children and adults, a light supper, craft tables, baked goods, and coffee for sale. We will also have a Silent Auction from Nov. 23 to Dec. 7. Bring your whole family to enjoy this kick-off to the Christmas season. Do your Christmas shopping at the Fair where money raised will benefit seven projects listed below. You will also be able to shop at the Fair on Sunday mornings, December 7, 14, 21. **Specific wish lists will be available in the next newsletter, so that you can purchase an item in honor of someone on your holiday list and receive a gift card.**



1. **MISSION: HONDURAS 2015** Our church will once again participate in the medical/dental mission to Honduras. Led by Dr. Lee Flinner, Dr. Tom Soliday, and Rev. Dan Hans, our members will join with others from around the country to provide health care and health education to over 7,000 adults and children in Azacualpa de Santa Barbara in Honduras. Through your contribution you can help provide medicine, dental care, vitamins, etc. to the Honduran people.
2. **MEXICO PROJECT 2015** Next summer Pastor Dave will again lead a group to work with Accion Ministry in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. They'll live and work in a village where they'll do a construction project on a church or home, run a Vacation Bible School, and give out glasses to those in need. There are also opportunities to fellowship and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Your donation will help to buy construction materials for our project!
3. **LAKOTA INDIAN PROJECT** in Takini, South Dakota. Last summer 40 GPC members and friends traveled to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. There they renovated Indian homes, built handicap ramps, installed windows and doors, hosted a potluck dinner and pow-wow for local residents, donated diabetic equipment, offered a money management class and provided a Festival with free food, clothing, games and prizes for 4250 residents of the reservation. Your contribution can buy needed supplies to help this extremely poor community.
4. **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** Our Christmas Fair first began in 1986 to support Heifer International , a self-help program which sends livestock to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. These families become self-sufficient through training and gifts of livestock to help them become responsible for their own food needs. Farmers who receive animals must commit to pass on the first born off-spring of that animal to a neighbor in need.
5. **SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization in which volunteers build homes for low-income families. These families then provide their own labor and can purchase homes with no-interest mortgages. Members of our congregation travel to John's Island, South Carolina every April to participate in various building projects.
6. **MEALS & MORE** Meals & More is a summer enrichment program for homeless, abused, neglected, and hungry children. It is now an interfaith ministry for children ages 5 to 10. Two meals a day are served in addition to educational and fun activities including drama, art, music, reading, math, and science. Each summer, the children learn about a foreign country and its customs, food, and geographical location. They are also given opportunities to help others through many outreach projects. The program is held for 8 weeks at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church.
7. **NEW ORLEANS 2015** In February we will be doing a week long mission trip to help with the on-going efforts to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. We will partner with St. Bernard Parish to do framing, roofing, drywall installation, siding installation, painting and mold remediation.
8. **PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT** 12-oz. packages of 7 different kinds of coffee, 4 types of tea, and 12-oz. cans of organic hot cocoa & spicy hot cocoa mix will be available through the Presbyterian Coffee Project/Interfaith Coffee Program. Also for sale will be several kinds of chocolate bars, organic roasted almonds and olive oil. These items are available through a program called Equal Exchange which provides fair trade opportunities through worker-based co-ops with small scale farmers.

Come to the Christmas Fair to buy "gifts that will keep on giving" to people in need throughout the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact the church office 334-1235. See you on December 7! !

MISSION NEWS IN FOCUS

GPC member Bob Smith recently returned from a meaningful and successful mission trip to New Orleans and shares his experience below:

I spent the last week in February with friends from Michigan, Wisconsin and New Jersey aiding in the revitalization of New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) which is still recovering from the destructive forces of Hurricane Katrina which hit in August 2005. While it was the fourth mission trip to NOLA for me, the group was made up of folks who were making their first trip to others who were making their seventh trip. We work through St. Bernard's Project, an award-winning non-profit that has successfully transferred its rebuilding model to tornado-stricken Joplin, MO and the New Jersey communities ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. The name comes from St. Bernard's Parish (we would say county) right next door to New Orleans. St. Bernard's Parish is the only county in the US that had 100% of its habitations declared uninhabitable after a natural disaster. To date, over 600 families have been able to return to their communities in NOLA, Joplin and NJ through the efforts of over 40,000 volunteers. But my passion is NOLA. At the current rate of revitalization, it will take another 14 years to return to pre-Katrina levels. While I see progress each time a go, the amount of destruction remaining is mind-boggling. Because of the high water table, houses are built on slabs. It is not uncommon to see block after block of empty slabs in what were once thriving neighborhoods. The mission is to bring back families – one house at a time and bring the neighborhoods back to life. You never know what tasks you will be assigned. This year we worked on mold remediation; insulation removal; roof tie-downs; tile, pipe and wiring removal and trash haul-away. But you do know that your efforts will make it possible for a family to return and make that reality happen just a little sooner.

Why do I keep going back and why NOLA? It was brought home to me two years ago. We had the chance to participate in a homecoming, during which a returning family received their home and a celebration was planned with the family providing cake and special New Orleans treats for the volunteers present at that time. The single mother had two children, one an eight-year old boy. The family had been out of their home six years. During that six years, they had moved fifteen times. This young man had never known a stable environment – all he knew was change and turmoil and there were issues. But with a strong family and stable environment back home, within a month he was named Most Improved Student at his neighborhood school. If volunteers had not made the effort to rebuild NOLA, this young man could have been the wrong kind of statistic. Now he has a chance. That's more than enough for me!

What about you? Have you considered going on a mission trip, but were not sure what you could contribute? GPC supports many opportunities that require little prior experience, other than willing hands and an open heart. This year's Major Mission Trips include Yucatan, Mexico; Honduras Medical and Dental; South Dakota Lakota Sioux; HS Youth Workcamp; and South Carolina Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, we will be adding an opportunity in New Orleans for 2015!

Now is the time to start planning for next year. Need financial help? Assistance is available. We have a place and an adventure for YOU!

For more information about how you can get involved, or to support our missions in prayer, please see the Missions bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall, contact the church office at (717) 334-1235, or call Tom Kolmer at (717) 634-0258 to get connected.

Upcoming Events:

November Music Schedule

Nov. 9	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir
Nov. 16	10:00 a.m.	Combined Worship Adult Choir Chapel Choir Adult & Youth Handbell Choirs
Nov. 23	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir
Nov. 30	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

November

November 9	1:30 - 4:00	Car Chase
November 16	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner / Fellowship
November 23	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner / Fellowship
November 30	NO SHIP	THANKSGIVING

MidSHIP Schedule

November

November 9	1:30 - 4:00	Car Chase
November 12	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
November 16	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner / Fellowship
November 19	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
November 23	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner / Fellowship
November 30	NO SHIP	THANKSGIVING

Children's Stewardship Project

Our Sunday School stewardship project is to bring items to help us make "Gift of the Heart" Kits.

Preschool & Kindergarten-First Grade blunt scissors, 12" ruler, small pencil sharpener, new pencils with erasers, large eraser, box of 24 crayons, notebook of ruled paper, sheets of construction paper.

Second-Third Grade

hand towel, washcloth, comb, metal nail file or clipper, bar of soap (bath size), toothbrush, tube of toothpaste, bandaids.

Fourth-Fifth Grade

cloth diapers, shirts, washcloths, gowns or sleepers, diaper pins, sweater or sweatshirt, receiving blanket.

Please bring these items to Sunday School by **Sunday, November 9th**.



"Gettysburg Addresses Lincoln"

Our church will host the annual "Gettysburg Addresses Lincoln" program at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19.

D. Scott Hartwig will speak on "Lincoln's Words at Gettysburg." The talk will focus on the context and meaning of the Gettysburg Address. Scott will explore the meaning of the speech at the time and its context for today. In addition to being a faithful member of our congregation, Scott worked for the National Park Service for 34 years and was the Supervisory Historian at Gettysburg National Military Park.

All are invited and the event is free. If you have a Civil War era outfit, please wear it and help to welcome guests.

DECEMBER 1 @ 8:00 a.m.

Christmas spirit is hard to maintain throughout the hectic season. Here are two opportunities to stir that spirit without fighting crowds and purchasing things. Set aside a little time and come to the church the morning of Monday, December 1st at 8:00 AM and help set up and string lights on the tree in the sanctuary. Please contact Dennis Meckley, (717-337-0777), if you want to volunteer to help decorate the tree.



DECEMBER 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, December 2nd at 10:00 AM to help Cindi Knouse decorate the Christmas tree, sanctuary, outside doors and foyer. Please contact Cindi at home (717-528-8993) or cell (717-377-2671) if you would like to volunteer.

2014 Christmas Mission Fair on December 7th!

Christmas Fair Children's Games Volunteers Needed

Beginning Sunday, November 9th we will have signup sheets in Fellowship Hall for volunteers to sign up for 30 min. blocks of time to help with the games down-stairs in the Education wing. Please stop by and sign up to help with one of fifteen games. We need help with all the games.

Silent Auction For Christmas Fair Needed by Nov. 17

Christmas Fair already? Silent Auction Items – what's that about? This year we will once again be holding a Silent Auction to benefit the missions at the Christmas Fair. Bidding will begin on Sunday, November 23 and end as the Fair concludes on December 7th.

If you have an item you would like to offer, or know of a business that may like to donate, please contact Tom Kolmer at 717-634-0258 or tomkolmer@gmail.com. Some suggestions include Dinner for 6, a round of golf, movie passes and popcorn, Christmas wreath, gift certificate for massage, etc. Be creative in your ideas! Also teens could offer childcare, snow shoveling, etc. We will then choose 15 of the items to use for the Silent Auction.

The Silent Auction was a big hit last year! We hope you will participate once again, either by donating an item or by bidding!

Extra Crafts for the Christmas Fair

Do you have any crafts you would be willing to donate for sale at the Christmas Fair on Sunday, December 7th? If you make crafts to sell this time of year, perhaps you have some extras you would be willing to give. If you like to make crafts in your spare time, perhaps you could make some just for the Fair. All proceeds from items sold at the craft tables will go to the mission projects.

Contact Tom Kolmer at 717-634-0258 or tomkolmer@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please bring crafts to Fellowship Hall BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, OR THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT THE LATEST. THANKS!



Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed., Nov. 26@ 7:00 p.m.
St. James Lutheran Church,
York St., Gettysburg



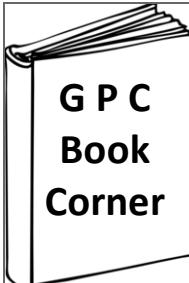
MISSION BRIGHT STAR

Sun., November 23rd,
you will have an opportunity to participate in our church's annual Mission Bright Star program. Mission Bright Star is a ministry in which members of our congregation purchase gifts for children whose father or mother is a resident in the Adams County Correctional Facility during the Christmas season. In addition to the gifts for the children, each family will also receive a "Birth of Jesus Story Cube" which is a hands-on activity that makes the Christmas story come alive. These \$5.00 cubes will be available on November 23rd for church members to purchase for the families. Thank you for helping bridge the gap between children and their parent/parents at Christmas.



NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you. We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for Nov. is Barry Wareham at 359-7623.



Kind of gave myself a Halloween scare a couple of weeks ago with a heart attack. That was something I didn't have on my schedule of things to do. But I am progressing along very well. I have come full circle from shock, afraid, scared of dying, anger, concern and now acceptance. I have been given a huge challenge and I (with help) intend to conquer it and come out stronger on the other end.

I am very lucky that I will have the opportunity to correct some of my bad decisions and continue living a full life. Gosh, I want grandkids!! I have a fantastic husband and great son who have stepped in and taken over so to speak. I think I scared them a little too.

I have so many great friends here at GPC that have prayed for me, sent emails and cards. They really help, especially the prayers! It is such a powerful feeling just knowing that God is listening to all of us and helping us through our troubles. You are all very special to me!

I am going to take some time off and recuperate, relax, repair my body and enjoy my family. I am expecting to continue my responsibilities as the Librarian because I love it so much and I think that precious things help with healing. However, you may not see me as much for a while, but know it is only for a short time to get myself completely well.

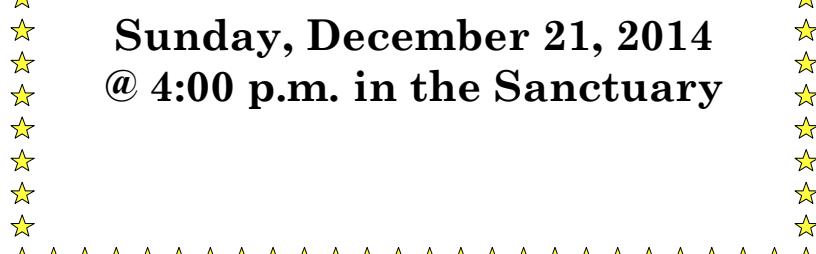
My friends, you are truly loved, please know that. You are all so important in your own way. Now, enough with the mushy stuff, I intend to come back stronger and with a better understanding of how to care for myself. Please keep the prayers coming and as always, KEEP ON READING!!!!

Cathy



SAVE THE DATE:

**Light in the Midst of Darkness;
A Worship Service for
Those Who Find Celebrating
Difficult**



**Sunday, December 21, 2014
@ 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Thanksgiving Activities for Families –

A booklet of activities that families can do about being “thankful” can be found on the CE table in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to take a copy to do with your children or grandchildren.

Congregational Meeting

Nov. 23

A Congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, Nov. 23 following the 11AM worship service in the sanctuary for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and Nominating Committee members. Please plan to attend this brief, but important meeting!



Greens Needed for Advent Wreaths

As you are trimming your bushes this fall, please save them and bring those greens to the church in **black plastic bags** marked “Advent Wreath”. You can leave them in Fellowship Hall. These greens will be used for making Advent Wreaths on November 23rd and November 30th in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now to make an Advent Wreath for your family on November 23rd or 30th.



Combined Worship Service and Reception

On Sunday, Nov. 16, we will hold one combined worship service at 10AM at the new Gettysburg Middle School, 37 Lefever St., within sight of our own parking lot! There is plenty of parking and the facility is handicapped accessible.
Please plan to attend this festive event!



Advent Class (November 30, December 7, 14, 21)

“The Origins of Christmas”

will be facilitated by Cheryl Betts in the MacAskill Room at 9:30. Come prepare your minds for the Season of Advent by exploring the historical and theological understanding of Advent.



Soup Kitchen News

Another group of fantastic cooks have prepared meals for Gettysburg Soup Kitchen during the months of July thru October. They are Tracy Boyer, Bev Weber, Rita Egloff, Marilyn Zanger, Bethie Fitzpatrick, Linda Thompson, Janet Lightner, Bob Remaley, Pam Wisor, Sherry Farkas, Gail Hull, Lois Gregor, and Sharon Kuntzman. Many thanks to all who donated food plus their time and talents. If you don't want to cook but could help serve the meal, the soup kitchen could use your help. The hours to help are 11:30 – 1:00 PM on the second Monday of the month for GPC. New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like more information about how you can participate in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kuntzman at 359-5949 or brushstroke123@embarqmail.com or Lou Nyiri gpclou@embarqmail.com or 334-1235, ext. 4.

Young at Heart Wednesday, November 12, 2014

For our November meeting we will be joining the youth of the church at **4:30 pm** to share in a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings and a time of fellowship with the young people. Our group will be providing side dishes for the dinner. You may be called by someone from the food committee and asked to bring a dish. If you don't get called and would like to attend just come - no RSVP is necessary. Everyone is welcome. It is not necessary to be a regular attendee at YAH. If there are any questions please contact Pam or Dick Wisor at 717-359-8896 or at pwisor@hotmail.com.



WE ARE THE HONOR GUARD

(In the Shadows of Heroes)

We once stood together as brothers,
In the swamps of Vietnam, the sands of faraway deserts, on the beaches of foreign soil,
With military precision, and a singular purpose and resolve, to serve and protect.
We were soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their sons. We are Americans.

Today, we still stand together in the shared fraternity of our pasts.
The resolve remains; the military precision has slipped away. Only the purpose has changed.
Today we stand in the shadows of heroes, who we come to escort and honor, their final battle fought.
We come together for funerals, ceremonies, parades... through snow, rain, freezing cold and blazing heat.
Always, the shadows of the fallen are thrown over us all; the families, the friends, the comrades.
They will not be forgotten.

We stand together, living in the light, as our own shadows grow longer.
We continue to serve our country, until the day is done and the shadows are gone,
and we are the ones being escorted.
We are the Honor Guard

Written by an Honor Guard's Wife

Ellen Finch

June 1, 2014



PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, Nov. 17, 1:00 p.m.

Front Room, Paideia House

Lesson 3: 2Corinthians 3:1 - 4:6

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Front Room, Paideia House

Lesson 3: 2Corinthians 3:1 - 4:6

Esther Circle

Thursday, Nov. 20, 10:00 a.m.

Eisenhower Lounge at GPC

Lesson 3: 2Corinthians 3:1 - 4:6

"Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization.

For the month of:

November

We are collecting items for

"Office for the Aging - Home Delivered Meals"

Emergency Meal Supplies - Peanut butter, pull top cans of soup, crackers, individual fruit servings, individual cookie packs, individual cereal boxes, other non-perishable, single serve items.



Sunday School Offering November and December

The Sunday School offering for the months of November and December will be going to "Meals and More" a summer program for children that includes library reading, learn how to express themselves in song and playing of instruments, etc.

Israel and Palestine: History and Narratives Class

9:30 in MacAskill Room with Dr. Stephen Stern, Chair of the Religious Studies Department at Gettysburg College and Director of Judaic Studies. Be sure to come join in the discussion this Sunday November 9th.

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly

Next Newsletter Deadline:

Noon, Thursday, November 13, 2014

November 2014

GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

November 9 Stewardship Sermon

November 16 ****All Church Worship!****

One Service at 10:00 a.m. at the Gettysburg Middle School
Pledge Sunday

November 23 Thanksgivers Sunday
Mission Bright Star

November 30 Advent Begins