

# KGPC ENEWS

Every Member in Ministry: Learning Together



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## Preparing the Way

The celebration of Thanksgiving quickly gives way to the frantic pace of the holiday season – whether rushing around to parties and shopping, or baking cookies for Bethlehem Walk and rehearsing for Lessons and Carols – the season of Advent is busy. We spend lots of time and energy preparing – planning and rehearsing, cooking and cleaning, wrapping and decorating – that come Christmas Day we can enjoy a time of celebration and rest with family and friends.

As I look into the beginning of the Advent season, the Gospel reading from Mark introduces us to John the Baptist, about whom he quotes the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Prepare. Well, as it turns out, we generally do pretty well preparing; perhaps too well, we make a frantic obsession over preparing. But keep reading: prepare the way of the Lord. The call isn’t to prepare a fantastic light display, or perfectly set dining table, or an elaborately decorated Christmas tree surrounded with presents. Our call is to prepare the way of the Lord. Preparing a WAY is much different than preparing a finished product. Preparing the way of the Lord is much like trail-blazing, we must do it every day, at every step. It asks for us to pay close attention to the way we live, the way we interact with one another, our daily walk of faith.

During this season of Advent, you as a congregation is preparing not only for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, but for the birth of a new season of ministry and leadership with the arrival of your new pastor Chris. Already there are volunteers from the Session and the PAC (former PNC) who are helping to prepare the home where she and her family will live! These are great and joyful preparations. But also, hear the Advent call to prepare the way. Prepare – in heart and mind, through prayer and conversation, in worship and service – for the new thing God is birthing into your midst. Preparing the way of the Lord in this new time for KGPC may mean letting go of “the way we’ve always done things.” The good news of the gospel that we celebrate in this season is that when God brings a new thing into our lives, when God’s way intersects paths with our own, it is to bring grace and truth and life. Glory be to God – Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Rev. Jenny Spivey



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## December Birthdays!!

Brenda Stone, Dean Ives, Tom Potter, Dan Price, Ava Bryant, Kevin Martinette, Mekenna Doyle, Herbert Whitaker, Susan Donaldson, Jason Doyle, Carolyn Lammers, Tyler Jones, Carol Baden, Lauren Restrepo, Melissa Cole, Shirlissa Plater, Jim Dillon, Kevin Holbert, Ray Hetherington, Sara Sturdevant, Shelley Swain Berry, Brian Miller, Monroe Ozment, Rachel Phelps, Jeffrey Bernd, Bruce Bradley, John O'Donnell, Linda Chin, Melissa Swartworth, Hallie Parent, Beth Mitchell, Jeffrey Palatt, Richard Lammers, Betsy Leonard, Suzi Phelps

## Commitment Ministry

God is Good! The Commitment ministry thanks everyone for their generous response to God's call for our commitment season! We currently have 107 pledges from our members for a total of \$559,152.00! If you have not turned in a pledge card for next year's giving, you can still do it! Just stop by the office and turn it in!

Thanks,

Commitment Ministry

## December Worship Schedule

### **December 7 – Communion Sunday**

8:45 a.m. Contemporary Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### **December 14 –**

11 a.m. Single Worship Service (*Lessons and Carols*)

### **December 21 – 11 a.m. Single Worship Service**

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m. Bell Service;**

**8 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Communion Service;**

**11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service**

### **December 28– 11 a.m. Single Worship Service**

## **NEW AND EXCITING THIS YEAR: CHILDREN'S LESSONS & CAROLS presented by our RAINBOW CHOIR AND CHERUB CHOIR**

**Friday, December 12, 2014, 5:30pm**

There will be lessons with readers and actors and carols sung by our children's choirs. This is a short, child friendly program to be enjoyed by all. Please join us for this presentation of the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus. Reception to follow.

## Bethlehem Walk Needs



### **Decorators:** Decorators are needed

Monday, December 1-4, 10:00 am to 3:00

pm (contact Julie Seipel or Laurie Duquette

for specific times and duties).

**Cookies:** A reminder from the cookie angels... we need **4,000** cookies for Bethlehem Walk by Thursday, December 4th. Bring them to the kitchen. Blessings to all who have signed up to bake, cook, and deliver.

**Food items:** we need lots clementines and pita bread. Bring it to the kitchen by Dec. 4

**Dress rehearsal** for all volunteers December 4 at 6:30.

## Staff Gift

Each year it has been the practice of our congregation to present monetary gifts to our KGPC staff during the holiday season. The opportunity is with us again to participate in showing love and appreciation for those that minister to us in such a dedicated and loving manner. Please place your gift in the offering plate and mark it "Staff Gift" or you may give it to Tom Dillon or Gary Harrell by Sunday, December 21st.



## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

As we celebrate the good news of great joy and open our hearts to God's love in Jesus may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love. The Christmas Joy Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions." Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. Envelopes will be in the church pews throughout the month of December and may be placed in the offering plates any Sunday in December.

## A note from the PNC...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last November you elected eight of us to the PNC and gave us the task of following God's will in finding the next pastor for KGPC. As we first sat down to start our task, we had many prayerful discussions...where is God leading KGPC...what kind of a pastor does He have in mind to lead us on our way... what are we really good at, and what do we need help with...and when will we cross paths with that one person that all eight of us feel led to call as our pastor? And as you waited, we know that you had many questions and prayers, too....what are they doing....why is it taking so long...why can't we know who they're talking to? On our side, and on yours, there was a lot of praying, a lot of wondering, and a lot of hoping, along with a lot of faith...faith that we would, in God's time, find the person God had in mind...and we did.

One wonderful day in mid-September, when Bill was out of town, the remaining seven of us had a phone interview scheduled with a pastor in Charlotte. As soon as we finished the interview we called Bill to tell him that we needed to bring this pastor to town, and that it didn't really matter what he thought, because the rest of us loved her. Then, in early October she came to Virginia Beach for three days, and God confirmed all of our convictions that she was the pastor He was calling to lead KGPC.

All last winter and through the spring and summer, we had said that if we ever found someone that we all liked, we would know it was God's will, because you selected as diverse of a PNC as you could...and here we were, all wanting to call the same person, and all excited! And so, as we met to discuss our recent visit, the question was not "Is she the one?" but "Should we wait until tomorrow to extend the call or do it right now?" That's how excited we were...until someone pointed out that she was probably still driving home, and we might want to wait until the next morning, and so we did.

On Sunday, November 22, we had the honor of announcing our next pastor, Reverend Chris Carrasco. I could not be more excited to stand in front of you all and share our joyous news. If it was up to me, I'd have called you all on the night of October 30 when, after prayerful consideration, Chris had joyfully accepted the call we had so excitedly extended. I cannot wait to see all that happens as Chris joins us in our journey to follow His will. Praises for the amazing church family that God has given us, for the spirit-filled pastor He has sent us, and for His love and leading in all that we do! Amen.

Suzy Farley & the Pastor Nominating Committee



## KGPC Church Family Winter Retreat

Christian Education and Development are planning the annual winter retreat. The retreat will be held February 20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore and we would love to have you there! We have reserved our (very nice) lodges, so **we need your commitment and a \$25 deposit (per family)**. Space is limited so be sure to reserve your space early. The retreat will have something for everyone...recreation, fellowship, lessons, and an informal Sunday morning worship service.

If you have any questions or are interested on being part of the planning committee, please contact Jacque Camlet ([mjcamlet@verizon.net](mailto:mjcamlet@verizon.net)) or Becky Otto (<mailto:rotto2@cox.net>).

A sign up sheet will be posted in



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

### Session Notes - November 24, 2014

Part of Pastor Jenny's role during her "bridge" pastorate with us, short though it was, was to act as a consultant in moderating Session, meeting with the various ministries, and conducting elder training sessions. During the Session meeting on November 24, Jenny gave us feedback and training based on her observations of our church since she arrived here in early September. She started out by referencing a TEDTalk by Simon Sinek on what makes a great leader...you can view it at Ted.com. The essence of this message is that leaders in business (e.g. Apple), in faith (Martin Luther King) and in innovation (Wright brothers) are memorable because of WHY they do what they do, not because of what they do. In that light, she asked us to:

- Examine our Church mission statement...it should be clear & concise and should set us apart from churches down the street;
- Ponder the questions relating to Seven Transformational Keys for the church and our ministries; look first and foremost at "why" we do what we do, and only when we have that answer should we focus on the "how" and "what";
- Think about where we are relative to the Five Tasks of Interim Ministry as we come to the end of the Interim Ministries of Randy Bremer and Jenny Spivey.
- Prayerfully consider how we can use this material to prepare for our new future with incoming Pastor Chris Carrasco.

Jenny challenged us to understand what we as elders will do to make the upcoming changes go as smoothly as possible for all of our congregation.

Session agreed that we as a group will lead the way in helping Chris & her family to get settled in our community, by helping prepare their new home so they can move in with a house stocked with essentials (and maybe some fun non-essentials). Chris will begin preaching January 11, with a reception following which Congregational Care will organize.

**Tom Dillon**  
Clerk of Session



**The Holbert family - Bill, Kevin and Heyleigh,** would like to express their extreme appreciation and gratitude for the overwhelming abundance of love, support, compassion, and caring that could only come from the true "Body of Christ".

The outpouring of blessings through this challenging time of transition is nothing less than "Miracles of the Spirit".

A warm heartfelt thank you to each and every KGPC church family member for every thought, prayer, act of kindness, availability, presence and gratitude.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Children's Ministry Morsels

**Sunday School; Pre-K – 4th grade Sunday School in room 119; Club 567 in room 118:** Join us during this very special season of Advent as we continue "Feasting on the Word" and preparing for the birth of our Savior. Just remember to follow the star, and you can't miss what lies ahead. Classes meet from 9:45-10:45

**Children's Church: Children's Church during the 11:00 A.M. service in room 120** Children focus on New Testament lessons and the way Jesus teaches us to live our lives.

**CHOW:** Thank you to Pat Bowling, Angie Hetherington, Beth Overton, and Sue Mooney for teaching our children for the fall session of CHOW. Thank you to Mel Allmond, Sandy Christenson, and Effie Norton for the wonderful meals as well. Winter CHOW begins on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. See you then!

**Club 567 Adventure Program:** Club 567 is the new program for our 5th, 6th & 7th graders. In November the PYFs planned a joint laser tag and pizza fun fest, and the kids all had a great time getting to know each other through fellowship. Get involved, so you can see what else we have planned! See the Youth Ministry section below for upcoming events!

**Eva:** We continue to sponsor Eva in Malawi, so please consider a Christmas donation in your child's name. What a special way to honor your child and support Eva.

**Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child":** Thank you to all who put together one of the over 30 boxes we collected for Operation Christmas Blessing. Thanks also to those of you who donated for the shipping costs. Please know what a blessing you have been in a child's life this year.

**Playground Mulch:** Thank you to the volunteers who lovingly came out to spread mulch on the playground on a rather chilly fall morning. The Christian Education and Development ministry is so thankful for your help.

**VBS 2015:** Do you have ideas about how to improve VBS? Have you ever thought about helping or stepping up into a bigger role with VBS? Well, now is the time to make your voice heard! Contact Marie Garrenton [marie.sauer@gmail.com](mailto:marie.sauer@gmail.com) with your ideas and questions.

**Children's Education Team:** We love our KGPC children and youth and are excited about serving them. We also recognize that our ministry team benefits greatly by brainstorming ideas when we meet. If you have an idea you would like to share with us, please contact Becky Otto or feel free to attend our ministry meetings. Our next meeting will be on 12/1 at 6:30 in the evening.

**GOLDEN GUYS & GALS,  
and  
UPCOMING GOLDEN  
GUYS & GALS**

Our annual Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. at Mahi Mah's, Ramada on the Beach, 615 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach. This is our 8th Christmas Luncheon at Mahi Mah's and is always a time of great food and wonderful fellowship. The price is \$15 (actual cost is \$25 and church subsidizes the difference). Donna Perry has a sign-up sheet in the office to select your food choices and make your check payable to KGPC. The food choices are crab cake, a chicken dish or steak and the famous brownie/sundae bar. There is valet parking.

This is a special invitation to the upcoming GG&Gr's. Look forward to seeing you there - come join the fun!!!! Call Lorraine Jordana at 486-6507 if you need a ride

**Outreach Project**

Would you please be a blessing to someone else this Christmas? Would you provide the groceries (uncooked) for Christmas dinner to a family in need? We will provide you the name, address, phone number and number of people in the family. You buy and deliver the groceries at your convenience before Christmas. Please contact Bruce or Lilly Bradley (486-3041) to volunteer. Providing a meal for someone else will make your own feast tastier. Thanks for sharing!



**Club 567 Activities:**

***Sunday, December 7*** - "Take Down" Bethlehem 5:30-7 p.m. Come help take down Bethlehem and put it away until next year...parents help encouraged!

***Saturday, December 20*** - Bake Cookies for the Homeless 10:30-12 in the church kitchen. Bring 2 rolls of cookie dough.

**PYF:**

***Sunday, December 7*** - "Take Down" Bethlehem 5:30-7 p.m. Come help take down Bethlehem and put it away until next year...parents help encouraged!

***Sunday, December 14*** - Christmas for Malibu shopping extravaganza & lunch...meet in the Senior High room at noon with money for lunch. We will return to church by 2:30.

***Sunday, December 21*** - Yankee Gift Exchange 5-6 p.m. Bring a \$5 unisex wrapped gift!

**NO PYF Sunday, December 28**

***Sunday, January 4*** - Out to Lunch...meet in the PYF room at noon. We will return to church by 2 pm.

**PYA Christmas Lunch:** Annual lunch for all post high school young adults at the home of the Leonards, ***Sunday, December 21***, 12 noon-2pm. RSVP to Julie Seipel (535-4201) or [mseipel@aol.com](mailto:mseipel@aol.com) by Dec. 19 please.





**Women's CIRCLES:** Every Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Circles are open to all women of the church and will all be studying the same book. This year we will delve into the lives of Jesus' disciples in the book **The Thirteen Disciples** by J. Ellsworth Kalas..

**LYDIA CIRCLE:** The Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, December 9th, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Pollie Morison. Lilly Bradley will give the lesson, (not from our study book). Brenda Stone will be our desserter. Please remember to bring a gift item (\$10) for women who are living in a Samaritan House facility or are being counselled by this group. This is our 5th year to do this project at Christmas time. Suggested gifts are gift cards to Walmart, gasoline and grocery store gift cards, personal items such as gloves, hats, umbrellas, personal items such as lotions, toothpaste. **DO NOT WRAP THEM.** We will take these items to Samaritan House on Friday, December 12th.

**EVE CIRCLE:** We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 13.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Sherry at 340-4293 or Email: [musicsinger@cox.net](mailto:musicsinger@cox.net)

## **Adult Ministry Update**

### **Small Group Studies**

#### **Kerygma**

We are taking a holiday break but will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 14 from 10-11:30 in the Parlor. We will begin a new study titled **Witness Without Parallel Eight Biblical Texts that Make Us Presbyterians** by Earl Johnson. Books are available so there is plenty of room for all! Contact Julie Seipel for a book.

#### **Lunch Bunch**

is also taking a break for the holidays and will resume on January 5.

#### **Men's Breakfast**

Come and enjoy a hot homemade breakfast with the men of the church. This group gathers in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m.

#### **Wednesday Night Women's Study**

will resume January 7, 2015.

#### **Moms Group**

Open to moms of all ages, this group meets on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Come share the joys of motherhood with other KGPC moms. Babysitting is provided.

#### **BOOK CLUB**

Our Book Club gathers the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Parlor and anyone who can read is invited to join us.

Upcoming reads are: January 27, **Pale Blue Eyes** by Louis Bayard; February 24, **Invention of Wings** by Sue Monk Kidd; March 31, **Last Train to Istanbul** by Ayse Kulin. Let Julie Seipel know if you need a book. Grab a good read today!



- Dec 5-7 Bethlehem Walk
- Dec 14 Lessons & Carols
- Dec 24 Three Christmas Eve services (5, 8 and 11pm)
- Feb 20-22 KGPC Annual Church Family Retreat

**CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED!**

Family in Christ,

We are looking for childcare providers for our children when extra events are planned for our church. Robin and Deane, our giving care takers in the nursery, need to take much needed rest as well during the year. This is a paid position with some flexibility of your time needed. If you are interested in being placed on our list of providers, please call or email Gretchen Almond at 757-403-0485 or [gretchenalmond@msn.com](mailto:gretchenalmond@msn.com). Blessings and thank you for answering a great call to service.



**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM - \$6.00 each**

A tradition at KGPC during Advent has been the poinsettia 'tree'. Over 100 plants are arranged on a platform to form a tree shape in the sanctuary. You can help by purchasing one or more plants. Please take them home after the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

**ORDER INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of plants \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Only list our names       No listing

**PLEASE ATTACH \$ TO FORM**

