

KGPC ENEWS

Every Member in Ministry: Learning Together



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Blessings on the Journey

By Rev. Chris Carrasco

I've been thinking about journeys a lot lately. This month we officially begin our journey together as pastor and church as we celebrate and formalize this relationship in the Installation Service. I do hope you'll be a part of this special worship service in the life of the church on February 8th at 2 p.m. Members from my former church in Charlotte, as well as members from King's Grant and from the Presbytery, will all participate in this rite of passage as we mark the beginning of this long term relationship. I am so excited at this new beginning and new journey we are embarking on together. May God bless us on this journey!

This month also officially begins another journey. Lent has often been considered a journey toward Jerusalem. It consists of the symbolic biblical number of 40 days as well as 6 Sundays before reaching the climax of Easter. The motif of the journey is reinforced by Luke's Gospel as it describes Jesus' intentions, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51) While we don't know if this was exactly 40 days plus 6 Sundays before his resurrection, we know that Jesus intentionally traveled toward the place of his execution. He went on a journey. We are invited to walk that path also.

The journey of Lent is a time of transformation. It is a time to take a spiritual inventory of our souls, to remember the preciousness of life, to re-dedicate ourselves to a deeper relationship with God, to re-commit ourselves to a life of love through service. If you dare to take this Lenten journey of transformation, how do you begin? As everything else in the Christian life, Lent is rooted in prayer and communion with God. Pray for God to guide you and show you how to take this spiritual journey. For many it will begin with an Ash Wednesday service, using silence and reflection to understand more fully ways we have not loved God or our neighbor as much as we could. I hope you will join us on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. for meditation, repentance, reflection and re-dedication of yourself to the One who died for you. This contemplative worship is patterned after the Taize style of worship, with meditative singing, silence, candles, and personal reflection time. During the service, the imposition of ashes will take place for those who wish to participate. We hope you will join us in a peaceful atmosphere as we begin this important time in the church calendar year.

During Lent, God may be challenging us to a change, however big or small, for this season. Some take on a spiritual discipline, intentional times of prayer or Bible reflection or journaling. Others may give up something, the most popular being chocolate, soda, alcohol, or sugar, as a daily reminder of what is really important in life and the sacrifice Christ made for them. Some give up television, media, or the internet to live a more simple life or wean themselves from the influences of our society. Some give up food altogether as a fast, for a short time, as an act of self-emptying before the One who emptied himself for us that they might hear God more clearly. Making a change during Lent helps remind us what our priorities are and gives us a taste of sacrifice in the midst of over-consumption.



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February Birthdays!!

Noel Parent, Kevin Poland, Andrew Bradway, Matt Parent, Jeff Phelps, Ann Hipps, Kevin Deary, Joe Leonard, Sara McNulty, Ryan Otto, Christy Vereen, Meredith Overton, Sam Smartschan, Ray Hoberg, Eleanor Perry, Jim Otto, Blake VonStein, Phi LeCroy, Ken Costilow, Bryan Taylor, Elyse Taylor, Frances Potter, Amy Restrepo, David Kirkland, Ainsley Hetherington, Colton Overton, Eugene Markham, Matthew Swain, Lillian Campbell, Mickey Walker, Barbara Smith, Josh Balsly, Ashlyn Jones, Katie Dillon, Jean Thomlinson, Brad Christenson, Ronald Barfield, Jonathan Gray, Robert Bucknum

January 11 Welcome to Pastor Chris and Family

Two-hundred-forty (240) members, friends, visitors and the Carrasco Family were present on January 11 for Chris' first Sunday in the pulpit followed by a lovely welcome reception in the Fellowship Hall. The Lord's presence and energy were in play at KGPC that day. Let's keep it going!

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The season of Lent is a holy time. We are preparing ourselves for Passion Week: the trial, persecution, execution, and yes, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this next month and a half, set your face toward Jerusalem and make this a special time of preparation for the most important week of our faith. Take up your spiritual suitcases and undertake the transformative Lenten journey. May God bless us on this journey also!

February Worship Schedule

February 1 – Communion Sunday; Single Worship Service at 11 a.m.; Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

February 8 – Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m.; Traditional Worship at 11 a.m. ; Installation Service at 2 p.m.

February 15 – Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m.; Traditional Worship at 11 a.m.

February 22 – Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m.; Traditional Worship at 11 a.m.

Lenten Sermon Series:

The Seven Last Words of Jesus (and what they have to do with you)

Lent is a six and a half week period in the church year when we intentionally prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Holy Week. This year's Lenten Sermon Series will focus on the last words Jesus said from the cross. What were those words and what do they mean for our lives today? As we look to the cross, we listen to the last words Jesus spoke on this earth and how they speak to us today. May these words and this series enrich your Lenten time.

February 22 First Word of Jesus "Father, Forgive Them"
Luke 23:13-34a

March 1 Second Word of Jesus "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise"
Luke 34b-43

March 8 Third Word of Jesus "Here Is Your Son. Here Is Your Mother"
John 19:25-27

March 15 Fourth Word of Jesus "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"
Mark 15:29-34

March 22 Fifth Word of Jesus "I Thirst"
John 19:28

March 29 (Palm Sunday) Sixth Word of Jesus "It Is Finished"
John 19:29-30

April 2 (Maundy Thursday) Seventh Word of Jesus
"Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit"
Luke 23:45-46

KGPC Church Family **Winter Retreat**

Christian Education and Development are planning the annual winter retreat. The retreat will be held February 20th through 22nd, 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 as soon as possible. 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) or Becky Otto (<mailto:rotto2@cox.net>).

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Connection Point.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Session Notes - meeting on January 26, 2015

Today's meeting was our first Session meeting with Pastor Chris serving as moderator, and it was one with a decidedly different flavor from any Session meeting we've had in my experience. Every well run meeting typically has an agenda, but Session now gathers for Worshipful Work. Chris reminded us all, at both the beginning and ending of our meeting, that "We must be the people of God before we can do the work of the people of God"; inscribed at the top of our Worshipful Work list was the prayer "Not my will but Thy will be done, O Lord."

Before the meeting started Chris lit a candle in the center of our gathering as a visual reminder of who we are and what we are about and our continual focus on the presence of God in our midst. We then spent 30 minutes reading and reflecting on Matthew 7:7-11 (the verses from Sunday's New Testament reading) and pairing up to pray together with prayer partners, for whom we will pray until the next Session meeting.

Chris reported that she and her family are adjusting well to their new home. She has set a goal for visiting each of our small groups in her first 30 days with us, as well as regular pastoral visits with shut-ins and any hospitalized members. She asks that we all continue to wear nametags on Sundays, even if we know she knows our name - it helps visitors to see the name tags too!

Among our regular work items we reviewed our recent Church Statistical Report, which provides details on our membership numbers and demographics. It was wonderful to see that in the last year we had 26 new members join our church family! Session also set the date of March 7 as a Saturday when we would gather for a focused study on Christian Marriage in the PCUSA. As I've mentioned before, since last June Session has periodically discussed same-sex marriage in an effort to educate ourselves on all aspects of this topic. Our gathering on Christian Marriage is a continuation of those education efforts - there will not be any votes cast or decisions made at this retreat.

Starting off our meeting with 30 minutes of scripture reading, reflection and prayer provided us all with a better perspective to the work that followed. We ended the meeting in prayer as well, with Chris' charge to go into the world to continue our worshipful work.

Tom Dillon
Clerk of Session



To My Church Family:

Thank you for your gifts and expressions of love shown to me at Christmas and throughout the year. How blessed we are to have those who listen and those who share their musical gifts. May God continue to bless us all in the New Year.

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise
And may God give us faith to sing
always:*

ALLELUIA! AMEN!

To God be the Glory! **Janet Phelps**

Dear KGPC Family,

I wish to express my deep appreciation to you for my staff gift. Thank you for your service, support and encouragement throughout this past year. I am truly grateful.

Blessings to You all! **Sue Mooney**

Holiday Project Thank you

We received a thank you from the city of Virginia Beach (Michelle Streuli and Misty Lee) for our continued support of the Human Service Department Holiday Project 2014. Our church provided groceries for 25 families. They are hoping for our continued support in 2015 and the Missions Ministry hopes that we can increase the number of families we help in 2015 as well.

Christian Education & Development

Children's Ministry

Sunday School

Pre-K – 1st grade Sunday School in room 121

2nd – 4th grade Sunday School in room 119

Club 567 in room 118

Each class meets from 9:45 – 10:45 A.M., and all are invited to attend. The first Sunday of the month has a special Mission Time, and the other Sundays include a special Music Time at the beginning of each class. As all classes follow the lectionary, don't forget to start a wonderful discussion during lunch or dinner about what your entire family learned at church on any given Sunday. Join us soon!

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 – Remember - Dinner is not just for the kids...So come and share in some fellowship!

Classes continue through March 11th. The children's curriculum will be "Heaven – What will it be like?". Dinner for everyone begins at 5:30 and classes begin at 6:15. Dinner is \$4 a person, with a family cap of \$15. Children three and under are free. Please remember to sign up for dinner in the Connection Point by the Sunday before each CHOW session to help us plan for dinner. What a great opportunity to share a meal and fellowship! And we are always looking for more helpers before and after dinner. If available to help, contact Sue Mooney.

Eva

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

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 or Becky Otto at rotto2@cox.net with your ideas and questions.

Children's Ministry 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 2/2 at 6:30 in the evening.

GOLDEN GUYS & GALS

February 18th meeting will be a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall with a challenging fun-filled quiz game entitled “**So you think you know your Bible better than a 5th Grader**”. Just a hint - study up on your biblical knowledge.

**Mark your calendars!
Save the date!
Formal installation of
CHRIS CARRASCO
February 8 at 2pm at King’s
Grant Presbyterian Church**

Don’t miss the Presbytery’s formal installation of **CHRIS CARRASCO** on **February 8** at **2 p.m.** in our sanctuary. This will be a landmark occasion for King’s Grant as we install the 6th pastor in our 51 year history. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow immediately after the service. So save the date, mark your calendar and join with friends, neighbors and fellow Presbyterians as we embark together on the journey that the Lord has for us.



Upcoming Events:

Club 567 Adventure Program (5th, 6th, 7th grade youth): Club 567 is a new program for our 5th, 6th & 7th graders. In January the kids met up with the PYF kids to have pizza, play four square, and get to know Pastor Chris. In February we will be teaming up with the PYF group again to do a Ziti for My Sweetie meal.

PYF (high school youth)

Sunday, February 1: pack candy for college kids during Sunday school ...bring 2 bags of Valentines candy NO PYF that night due to Super Bowl

Sunday, February 8: “The game of Life”, 5-7 @ KGPC (with dinner)...come and play the game of Life with youth from 1st Pres at the Beach to learn about making good financial decisions in God’s world

Sunday, February 15: “Ziti with our sweeties” Valentine Lunch: 12 noon -1:30pm. Watch your emails/texts for more information

Sunday, February 22: Daytona party @ Farleys...learn ALL the excitement about race car driving and how it applies to God and life!...meet at church, bring a snack to share...watch your email/texts for times

Sunday, March 1: Baking party @kgpc...5:30-6:30...come help make breakfast for the homeless and cookies for Kairos...bring 2 rolls of chocolate chip cookies





Women's CIRCLES: All Circles meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month (February 10 this month) and are open to any woman of the church to join at any time! We are all studying Twelve Apostles by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

LYDIA CIRCLE: Lydia Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Hoberg. The study will be the Apostle Judas (Chapter 11, p.113) led by Vivian Phelps.

EVE CIRCLE: Eve Circle will meet in the Connection Point at 7:15 p.m. We will be Ch. 10 (Judas) in the book. Laurie Duquette is the study leader; Susan Stokes will provide dessert.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE: Elizabeth Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Sherry Hatfield at 340-4293 or Email: musicsinger@cox.net.

Elder Nominating Committee Invitation

The Elder Nominating Committee invites you to offer names to consider for the Elder Class of 2018. Nominees must be members of Kings Grant Presbyterian Church who are willing to serve the Session for 3 years with spirit led discernment. What an exciting time to serve God by serving on our Session! Please submit names or questions to Julie Seipel or Sylvia Maume by Sunday, February 15.

Adult Ministry Update

Adult Sunday School

Two adult classes meet each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. David Anderson leads a study of "What Jesus Said" in the Fellowship Hall. The class that meets in the Parlor is studying "Feasting on the Word".

Small Group Studies: All small groups have "open chairs" waiting just for you!

Lunch Bunch: Mondays, 12:15-2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Bring your lunch!

When All Else Fails Read the Directions by James Moore. A Study on the Beattitudes, 10 Commandments and Golden Rule. Join us as we explore God's directions for our lives.

Books are available through Julie Seipel (mseipel@aol.com)

Men's Breakfast Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come and enjoy a hot homemade breakfast with the men of the church. Women welcome too!

Kerygma: Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

We are studying a book titled Witness Without Parallel Eight Biblical Texts that Make Us Presbyterians by Earl Johnson. Join us as we explore what Core Scriptures make us Presbyterians. All are welcome anytime. Books are available through Julie Seipel.

Wednesday Night Women's Study: 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Parlor (no meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month)

Join us to study the book Compelled, Living the Mission of God by Ed Stetzer & Philip Nation. Books available through Julie Seipel

Moms Group: Thursdays, 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Connection Point. Babysitting is provided.

Open to moms of all ages. Come share the joys of motherhood with other KGPC moms.

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: 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!



- Feb 8 Installation of new pastor 2pm - Rev Chris Carrasco
- 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. Blessings and thank you for answering a great call to service. Gretchen



Mission Ministry

KGPC's Missionaries

KGPC has been supporting four missionaries for quite a while. Over the past year, two of them have moved on to other activities. **Rebecca Young** has accepted a full time faculty position at the seminary in Jakarta where she has served as a Presbyterian World Missions missionary. She no longer requires support and has confirmed that her new position includes a better compensation package than she had with PWM. **Nate and Gunnhild Bremer** have moved to Norway from their Wycliffe Bible Organization missionary assignment in Ethiopia. They are continuing their work with Wycliffe in translating the Bible into less common languages but are no longer missionaries.

The Mission Ministry is working with PWM and other support organizations to identify two new missionaries to include in our support of God's work around the world. In the coming weeks, Missions will be providing updates on the work of our missionaries and on the search for new people in the missions field whose work we can support. If you know of anyone that is considering or already doing mission work, please forward their contact information to Kevin, Mooney, Sandy Christensen, or Marie Garrenton before February 5.

Kroger Cares Cards

Do you have one? Have you used it? Are you confused about how to use it? More than half of the cards registered to KGPC have not been used since they were issued.

It might help to think of them as gift cards that you give yourself. Only the real gift is to KGPC and our ability to contribute more to God's work.

Using the card is easy. When checking out at Kroger, just present the card to the cashier. Like any gift card, the cashier will deduct the amount of your purchases from the balance on the card. To increase the amount on the card, on your next visit, hand it to the cashier when you first start your checkout and tell her or him how much you would like to add to it. You can use a check or any credit card, including any rewards card to do this. That way, you still get all the points on your rewards card that you would normally get when shopping at Kroger.

KGPC only gets credited each month for the total new amount put on all the cards registered to KGPC. If no one adds anything to their card, we get no contribution from Kroger.

So go shopping! And use your Kroger Cares Card whenever you can.

Congo Partnership Ministry 2015 Trip

The PEVA Congo Partnership Ministry is organizing a trip to the Congo for the churches within PEVA who have sister church affiliations with congregations in the Congo Presbyterian community. Our sister church, CPK Salembao, has proven a wonderful host to each of the visitors we have sent in the past. The trip is set for July 27 to August 10. Missions Ministry is able to send one representative from KGPC. All travel expenses will be paid in advance by the Ministry. This opportunity is open to the congregation. If you are interested and able to travel, please contact Kevin Mooney.

**Help Wanted! Coffee Servers
are needed in the Connection
Point!**

We're looking for a team of 4 to 6 people to share coffee shopping, preparation, and clean-up responsibilities. If you'd like to pitch in, please contact Mike Farley at 757-620-2643. Thank you very much!

Poetic Thoughts for Lent

By Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take the time
to let the power of our faith
story take hold of us,
a time to let the events
get up and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the
streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea and
listen to his word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge
through us,
a time to ponder and a time to
wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh
new taste of God!

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The Valentines blanket drive is on!

Missions will be selling valentines and collecting donations for Church World Service in the Connection Point on Sundays through February 8. Regular valentines are \$5, children's are \$1. Sign up for your valentines in the Connection Point and show someone how much you love them and God and your neighbor at the same time. Help someone get a nice warm feeling.

Great KGPC Yard Sale is Returning!

Mark your calendars for May 2nd. Collections will begin during the last week of April. Missions Ministry is looking for some volunteers to help receive, sort, and stage donations during that week. Sign up on the sheet in the Connection Point."

Congregational Growth Ministry

Congregational Growth Ministry is looking for people who are willing to give others a ride to church. If you would be willing to drive someone, who otherwise could not come to worship; please contact Suzy Farley at 757-620-1912 or suzyfarley@yahoo.com.

Bettie "Betz" Elliott Memorial Service

Betz joined the church triumphant in October and a celebration of her life will be held at King's Grant Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 21, at 1 p.m. with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Betz and Charles Elliott were among founding members of King's Grant when the new congregation moved from King's Grant Elementary School into the newly constructed church building. They were faithful members and Betz is remembered as a teacher and regular children's sermonette participant.

2015 Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2015 is in the hall across from the Connection Point and there are still Sundays available.

