

# KGPC ENEWS

Every Member in



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### A New Day Dawns at KGPC

By Rev. Chris Carrasco

I don't know about you, but Advent took on a whole new meaning for me this year. With the themes of preparation, expectation, and anticipation, my thoughts were not only on the birth of Jesus, but the birth of a new chapter at Kings Grant Presbyterian Church. There has been much preparation by myself, my family, the Pastor Advisory Committee (formerly the PNC), members of Session, and many of you in anticipation of a new day dawning January 2015. Excitement and expectations are high as we look forward to the future together. Yes, Advent truly took on a new meaning this year.

After all that time of preparation and anticipation, the moment has arrived and a new day is dawning. I love how each day begins with the rise of the sun bringing with it new possibilities, unexpected blessings, and opportunities to be God's hands and feet in this world. As I paused to witness the beautiful way in which God ushers in another day on one of my trips to Virginia Beach, I couldn't help but think of the new day dawning our lives together.

After months of interviews, long nights and early mornings of prayer, reading MIFs and websites and statistics until my eyes got blurry, God has fully convinced me that I am being sent to serve you, the family of Kings Grant. It was a long journey, full of unexpected twists and turns. I mean, since when does a 2012 car break down one block away from the hotel after a 6 hour drive? How often does a two year old car have the 3rd, 4th, and 5th gears stripped from the transmission? Well that incident meant that we had to drive a rental car for two weeks and then return to Virginia Beach to retrieve our newly fixed car. That return trip, although only 24 hours, was my spiritual discernment retreat that helped lead me to the conclusion God wanted me to start a new chapter of ministry in Virginia Beach.

Of course I'm not going to Kings Grant just because my car broke down there while I was visiting. I'm going because of a search committee that was convinced long before I was that after 403 PIFs I was the one for them. I'm going because God spoke to me through Frederick Buechner who wrote, "The place God calls you to be is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." I can imagine no deeper gladness than being the next pastor at Kings Grant. I'm going because when God wakes me up between 2:00-4:00 a.m. EVERY morning for 15 days straight thinking about this church, God must be trying to tell me something. I'm going because after trying to convince the search committee I was not the right one, after trying to see myself in other churches, after surrendering this call to God and willing to say no, I couldn't NOT accept this call (sorry for the double negative). I'm going because if the search committee is crazy enough to do their presentation to the congregation in bare feet to preaching style, they must be kindred spirits (either that or as weird as I am). I'm going because you are exactly what I need, and I am exactly what you need, and by God's grace we have been brought together for such a time as this. (And since I am a native Southern Californian, being about 10 miles from the beach didn't hurt either. ☺)

I look forward to sharing God's Word with you for the first time on January 11 in what I know will be a long and fruitful ministry among a wonderful part of the Body of Christ. February 8 I will be officially installed by



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**January Birthdays!!**

Peter Lothrop, Audrey Malagon, Diane Ives, Carla Settlemyer, Alison Tillman Teaque, Betty Chidester, Addison Webb, Thomas Link, Sandra Bauer, Jessica Palatt, Kay Gray Cullen, Robert Gardner, Pat Bowling, Joe Baden, Marti Burke, Eva Rice, Bill Bowling, Kyle Restrepo, Jennifer Baden, Jacque Camlet, Ashley Balke Carlton, Grant Phelps, Jerry Deglow, Amber Meeves, Jacalyn Webb, Nancy Good, Michael Hawley, Neal McNulty, Ron Young, Kelly O'Donnell, Cody Leonard, Jon Blackwell

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the Presbytery at a 2:00 worship service.

I look forward to sharing God's Word with you for the first time on January 11 in what I know will be a long and fruitful ministry among a wonderful part of the Body of Christ. February 8 I will be officially installed by the Presbytery at a 2:00 worship service. A new day brings new possibilities, high hopes, anticipation, expectations, and excitement. January 1 the sun rises in my life and at Kings Grant, a new day dawns, and it's a beautiful thing!

**January Worship Schedule**

**January 4 – Communion Sunday:** 8:45 a.m.

Contemporary Service; 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

**January 11 – Single Worship Service:** 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

followed by a reception to welcome **Reverend Christina (Chris) Berwanger Carrasco**

**January 18 – 8:45 a.m.** Contemporary Service; 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

**January 25 – 8:45 a.m.** Contemporary Service; 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

**New Sermon Series Starts January 18<sup>th</sup>: What You Oughta to Know About Me**

**By Rev. Chris Carrasco**

As we start this new journey together, I thought it would be helpful to focus the first sermon series on who I am, what's important to me, and my core understanding of God. While sermons do not usually focus on the one preaching, this will be an exception to the rule as we get to know each other better in these first few months. Of course in four weeks this sermon series will only scratch the surface, but it will be a beginning. Feel free to read and reflect on the scripture ahead of time as you prepare for worship each Sunday. May God bless us all in this time of new beginnings.

January 18 **What You Oughta Know About Me:**

**Scripture:** Matthew 22:34-40, Romans 8:35-39

January 25 **What You Oughta Know About Me: Prayer:**

Psalm 102:1-7, Matthew 7:7-1

February 1 **What You Oughta Know About Me:**

**Football:** I Corinthians 12:12-27

February 8 **What You Oughta Know About Me:**

**Motherhood:** Matthew 23:8-12, Romans 8:12-17, Isaiah 49:13-15

## **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 the Connection Point.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

### **SESSION NOTES, DECEMBER 22, 2014**

Several important pieces of church business were reviewed at the December 22 Session meeting. First, it being Pastor Jenny Spivey's last meeting as Moderator of our Session, she reviewed a "Covenant of Closure" that is used in some Presbyteries to make explicit the understanding between a departing pastor and the congregation he or she had served. This is similar to the points Jenny made in her sermon on December 28. The point of the Covenant is to make clear that the departing pastor, no matter how much he or she might be connected to the congregation, is no longer meant to be active in pastoral care, worship, or other aspects of the congregation's life, such as memorial services or weddings. It is only with the approval of the new pastor that the former pastor, whether that pastor was permanently installed, interim, or bridge, can so participate - and then it would be under extraordinary circumstances. Seems a bit cold, but this prevents a "muddying of the waters" when members of a congregation may feel ties to a former pastor and yet there is a new pastor who has the responsibility to minister to the congregation.

On a personal note, as Clerk I have been very impressed by, and most grateful for, the leadership Pastor Spivey provided to our church in the four months she was with us. As I said in my remarks at the worship service on December 28, God was very much guiding her ministry with us, from the timing of her arrival and departure, to the messages she delivered in her sermons, to the new elder training and the challenges she gave to Session as we consider our role as leaders of our congregation. I know she will do well in her call at Westminster Canterbury and she will be an asset to our Presbytery. I wish her all the best in those roles!

The Christian Education and Development Ministry gave a presentation on a 30 Day Study Challenge it will issue to the congregation, urging each of us to become involved in Sunday School classes as a way to assure our faith lives are in balance, between prayer, worship, fellowship and study. Study with fellow Christians is an excellent way to mature in your faith, and KGPC offers excellent and varied ways to do that.

Session heard a proposal from our Long Range Planning Committee regarding the structure and operation of our Elder Nominating Committee, a committee that is re-established each year to nominate a new class of Ruling Elders to serve on Session. The proposal did not change the ENC's charge to nominate a class of elders that is representative of the diversity of our congregation, while changing some of the steps the ENC would take to reach that goal. Additionally, it was recommended that the nomination process be expedited while also making sure that prospective Elders understand the roles and responsibilities of a Ruling Elder. Current Ruling Elders Sylvia Maume and Julie Seipel agreed to form an Elder Nominating Committee with a goal of having that ENC approved at our annual Congregational Meeting in early February.

Finally, Session approved the financial budget for 2015 as recommended by the Standing Finance Committee. The SFC develops our annual budget after receiving pledge cards from the congregation and consulting with each Ministry Moderator as to their plans and needs for the coming year. Pledged giving for next year is down a bit from 2014, but not so much as to be a cause for concern, and so our budget is pretty much the same as it was in 2014.

Tom Dillon  
Clerk of Session



## Christian Education & Development (CED)

### Children's Ministry Morsels

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the calls, visits, cards and support you have given Herbert and me this past year. Herbert was always so grateful for the communion being served in our home.

My family and I would also like to thank you for the lovely reception you prepared for us after the Memorial Service.

Peace be with you,  
Marguerite Whitaker

Dear Church Family,

I am sure my 90th birthday in November was the best of all! It seems like I celebrated for the whole month.

Of course I have my Kings Grant Church family to thank along with the community and my family. WOW- the cards I received made me look forward each day to opening every one.

The Lord has given me a blessed life. At times it wasn't all joyful but with your concerns and knowing the Lord was holding my hand I never felt alone!

May God be with you and Peace to all!

**Margaret Vadersen**

**Sunday School:** Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup> in room 121: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade 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!

**Attend the Birthday Party for Jesus – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School:** Bring in a gently used toy (or more if you are making room for your new toys), so we can celebrate Jesus and give to those in need.

**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 resume Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. We were remiss in not thanking Dottie Roth for her help in the kitchen during Fall CHOW, so thanks, Dottie! Kitchen help is still needed for Winter CHOW.

**Club 567 Adventure Program:** Club 567 is a new program for our 5th, 6th & 7th graders. In December the kids visited several nursing homes and visited with our members. They shared cookies, cards, music, and their time! We are still working on a January activity, so keep your ears open. Get involved, so you can see what else we have planned!

**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 Vacation Bible School? 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) or Sue Mooney [s.mooney@kgpc.org](mailto:s.mooney@kgpc.org) 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 January 5 at 6:30 in the evening.



## **GOLDEN GUYS & GALS,**

The Golden Guys & Gals celebrated their 8th annual Christmas luncheon at Mahi Mah's on December 10th.

There were fifty-five members present sharing a great luncheon, special desserts and lots of good fellowship. We had several newcomers present and hope to see them at our meetings in the new year. There will not be a January meeting but the February 17th meeting will be a potluck luncheon with a challenging game scheduled for the program. Just a hint - study up on your biblical knowledge.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Club 567 (5th, 6th, 7th grade youth):** Ice Skating at the Beach - Date TBD

### **PYF (High school youth):**

Sunday, Jan. 4 OTL (Out to Lunch)...meet at noon to head out to lunch together. Bring \$10 for food

Sunday, Jan. 11 5:30-6:30pm @ church... "Surprise night"

Friday, Jan. 16 PYF Lock In: watch texts and emails for details

Sunday, Jan. 18 NO PYF

Sunday, Jan. 25 5:30-6:30pm... Valentines for college kids; bring 2 large bags of Valentines candy for our college kids





**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:** Lydia Circle met at Pollie Morison's home on December 9th and there were 20 members present. Lilly Bradley led the Christmas lesson which she has done for the past 4 years. Brenda Stone provided a great dessert. We collected \$260 in gift cards (Kroger, WAWA, Walmart, and Target) and several gifts for women of the Samaritan House. The focus is mainly on the children of Samaritan House so we decided the Moms might need a bit of cheer also. The next meeting will be January 13th at Janice Johnson's home. Margaret Vadersen will lead the study on JOHN, PAGE 125. Dr. Bremer listed the disciples in their order of importance and John was number 4.

**EVE CIRCLE:** Eve Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 13th in the Connection Point at 7:00 p.m. We will be Ch. 12 in the **Twelve Apostles** book. Eileen Bucknum is the study leader; Kay Cullen and Linda Miller will provide dessert.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 13th 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**

### **Adult Sunday School**

Join us on Sunday, January 4 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a combined adult class as we kick off the **30 Day Study Challenge**. Life in the church is a four-legged chair that encompasses prayer, worship, study, and fellowship. Ask yourself, "Is my chair level on all four legs?" January is a time for new resolutions, new ministry, new leadership, and new growth.

*"For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge." 2 Peter 1:5*

Beginning January 11, two adult classes will continue at 9:45 a.m. David Anderson will continue his teaching of "What Jesus Said" in the Fellowship Hall and the "Feasting on the Word" class will meet in the Parlor.

### **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** will resume on January 5.

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

Come and enjoy a hot homemade breakfast with 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.

#### **Mom's 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!



- Jan 11 Reception to welcome new pastor - 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](mailto:gretchenalmond@msn.com). Blessings and thank you for answering a great call to service. Gretchen



**Are you up for the 30-Day Study Challenge?**

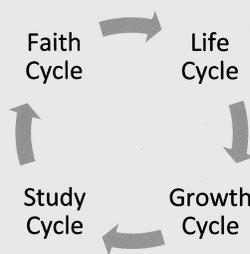
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For more information, contact one of the CED team members: Julie Seipel, Jacque Camlet, Becky Otto or Marie Garrenton

**Christian Education and Development Ministry**



Life in the church is a four-legged chair...

- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Study
- ✓ Fellowship

So ask yourself, “Is my chair level on all fours?”

January is a time for new resolutions, new ministry, new leadership, and new growth. It is a time to level out your life. How is your faith growing? Where are you on your walk?

**Take the 30-day study challenge!**

“For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge”  
2 Peter: 1-5 (NRSV)