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*From the Heart of Pastor Mary Beth*

## GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

Have you made a special commitment for the holy season of Lent? Some Christians use this time to give up a bad habit, drawing on the daily presence of Christ for support. Other believers take up some new discipline, such as daily prayer or morning meditations.

Whatever activity you choose to let go or adopt, the purpose is the same. We want to walk more closely with Christ our Savior, and to share more fully in the life he gives us.

When it comes to sharing more fully in the Christian life, I am reminded of the power of small groups. None of us has all the answers or all the wisdom. So we come together for a season to learn from each other, to be encouraged in our own Christian walk, to seek the presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

Long ago in the Garden of Eden, the Lord God walked with Adam and Eve "in the cool of the day." Long ago in Palestine, the Son of God walked among God's people. So we should not be surprised that even today God longs to walk with us still.

If you are not already registered for a Lenten small group, I invite you to contact Carolyn Hayes, Irene Fru Tchimou, or Steve Olin to inquire about current availability. Or, we can help you start a new group!

### SMALL GROUPS



Lenten small groups will meet weekly for 6 weeks beginning the week of March 5, in homes or at GPC, in the evening or during the day, for fellowship, study, and prayer. (A popular time has been on Wednesday at church, after the FourthNight dinner.)

The topic for study and discussion is "The Trinity." Each group will have a facilitator and will use a study guide developed at GPC specifically for this program. The sessions will focus on: 1) What is Lent? 2) God the Father, 3) God the Son, 4) God the Holy Spirit, 5) the relational nature of the triune God, and 6) our relationship with the triune God.

Last year, more than 150 people signed up for the Lenten small groups! The groups provide a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and discussion, to grow in faith together over the Lenten season, and to deepen our relationships with God and with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many Blessings,  
*Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence*  
Associate Pastor

### CONNECT WITH GPC!



[www.gpchurch.org](http://www.gpchurch.org)



Find Us on Facebook:  
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church



(301) 948-9418



(301) 869-3043



# STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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## WEATHER POLICY REMINDER

**Sunday mornings:** GPC is always open, but we cannot guarantee the condition of driveways, walks, or parking areas. Use your best judgment about whether or not to attend. If the weather is bad, we will worship God at 11:00 only.

**Office on weekdays:** Open, if staff members are able to reach GPC.

**Mid-week children's & youth programs:** If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, GPC programs are cancelled.

**Other meetings and programs, including retreats, off-campus events, and the church office:** GPC may close at the discretion of the responsible staff member or lay leader.

**Note:** Even if the building is open or the program is running, do not make the trip if you think conditions make it too hazardous to drive; instead, contact your supervisor or ministry leader.

If civil authorities declare a state of emergency, that declaration overrides GPC's policy and all activities will be cancelled.



## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

### MARCH 5

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper,  
Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching

### MARCH 12

Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching

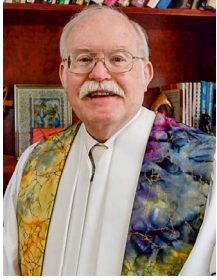
### MARCH 19

Rev. Dr. D. Jay Losher preaching  
(11:00) Presentation of WTW Mission  
Gift to The Outreach Foundation

### MARCH 26

(8:00) Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence preaching  
(9:30 & 11:00) "Lenten Reflections" with  
Chancel Choir/Canterbury Ringers/  
Laura Wilson





*From the Heart  
of Pastor Jay*



# LENT IS FOR LISTENING

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## **Lent is for listening.**

A season of hushed voices and uncomfortable silences;  
of hearing and overhearing ~  
hearing the creak and groan of the church building;  
overhearing the muffled cough, the stifled sigh ~  
in worship, the silenced infant's cry.  
Outside the oblivious, uncooperative, noisy world goes on,  
white noise distracting.

## **Lent is for listening ~ forty days of listening.**

Jesus' forty days in the wilderness  
ministered by angels ~ tempted by evil itself.  
After days upon days of being alone but not lonely,  
after days upon days of opened-up silence,  
the white noise fades,  
and then, even its memories.  
And Jesus heard, really heard  
beyond the hunger, past the thirst  
behind the silence, under the soundless,  
the voice of the calm within.

## **Lent is for listening ~ our forty days of listening.**

moving us over, under, around and through  
all the noisome distractions encumbering our lives,  
engulfing us ~  
For us to hear, really hear  
behind the silence, beyond the wordless,  
the calm, compelling call of God.

## **Lent is for listening.**

Straining to hear the change of beat in the pulse of liturgy ~  
changing the "we's" to "I's"  
confessing "my" sin, not "our" sins any longer.  
Absorbing the change of colors in our banners ~  
the purple mood of royal mourning.  
Surprised by a dark wreath of candles  
wrapped in a crown of thorns ~  
a candle extinguished each week closer to the cross.

## **Lent is for listening.**

longingly, lovingly with great expectation  
to hear the very voice of God in the early dawn  
pronouncing victory over the ancient enemy:  
"Death, where is your victory?!"  
"Death, where is your sting?!"

## **Lent is for listening.**

(Poem written by Dr. D. Jay Losher and originally published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*,  
February 19, 2007, p. 9.)





# MUSIC NOTES | LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Here we are in March and I must take a moment to thank you for another great year of ministry together here at GPC. February was my 2-year anniversary with you, and while many times I still feel like “the new choir director,” I am constantly aware of all that we are accomplishing with every passing week. This past year, our Visiting Artist event provided support for our praise and worship style musicians, and that part of our music ministry continues to grow. Our Chancel Choir and friends participated in a combined Christmas musical with the choirs at Epworth UMC, which was a great musical experience and also fulfilled our goal to take our music and ministry outside these walls into the community. So much to be thankful for! Thank you for encouraging me and loving me as we grow together in Christ and sing his praises for many, many years to come.

Speaking of special musical moments: On March 26, we will present a program titled “Lenten Reflections” at the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services, featuring the Chancel Choir and Canterbury Ringers. Laura Wilson will present a liturgical dance piece to the song “How Beautiful” at both services as well. Some of the themes we will explore include penitence and sacrifice, but also expectation, hope, and joy. I hope that you can be with us.

Soli Deo gloria!  
**Teresa Violet McCoy**  
Director of Music and Worship Arts



## MONTGOMERY PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

Sunday, March 26 | GPC Sanctuary | 7:00 p.m.



The theme of the orchestra’s fourth concert of their 2016–2017 season is “Inspired by . . . Nature!” The concert will feature *In the Steppes of Central Asia* by Alexander Borodin; *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, with Lydia Leong (concertmistress) as violin soloist; and excerpts from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. There is no charge for admission, but donations are gratefully accepted.



## MONTGOMERY PHILHARMONIC MASTERCLASSES

The Montgomery Philharmonic is hosting a series of masterclasses at GPC this spring. The classes offer an opportunity to observe what goes on in preparation for concerts, as members of the BSO and the NSO work with MP orchestra members in depth on various works. These are open rehearsals and not performances. The classes will be held in Lindsay Hall or Fellowship Hall, and will emphasize the following instruments and sections:

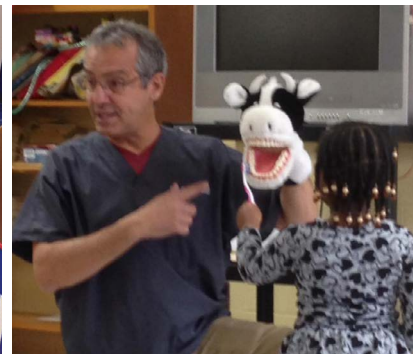
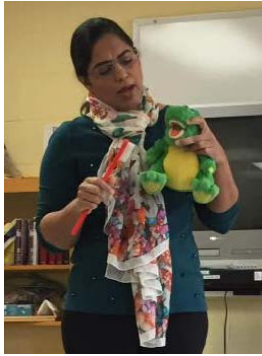
- Monday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.** – French horn and other brass
- Sunday, April 2, 6:00 p.m.** – violin, cello, and other strings
- Monday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.** – bassoon and other woodwinds
- Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.** – flute and other woodwinds

The classes are open to the public at no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and to pre-register, visit [montgomeryphilharmonic.org](http://montgomeryphilharmonic.org).





# MARCH IS MAGNIFICENT AT GPP&K!



We are so appreciative to the professionals in our community who support our program. Last month several such people came and shared information about their occupations with us. We would especially like to thank Dr. Gary Griswold and Dr. Sandhu for coming to school to demonstrate the importance of taking good care of our teeth. Dr. Janah and Dr. Claire from Gaithersburg Animal Hospital also came to see us. They brought a turtle and showed children how to take care of our pets. Thank you to the Bahls and Yazurlo families for sharing their dogs, Betsy and Bo, and for allowing the veterinarians to perform doggie checkups on them!

Kindergarteners spent last month learning many ways to stay healthy. They participated in a Health and Fitness Expo. Marathon runner and GPP&K staff member Jane Wikman got the children off to a running start. Aerobics instructor Nancy Brouillette from "Wet Yet? Water Fitness" worked out with the children through fun music and dance moves. Ice hockey player Mike Merriman showed the children how to play hockey, and Mr. Delgado and the Brit-Am Soccer coaches played soccer with the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. THANK YOU all for your continued support.

This month the children will learn how St. Patrick used the shamrock shape to explain the Trinity. For St. Patrick's Day, the Pre-K classes will make Irish Soda Bread. The Three-Year-Old classes will make beautiful, bright green shamrock smoothies using spinach and fresh fruits. Yum! We will all enjoy a visit from the Duffy School of Irish Dance. Many of the Irish dancers who will perform for us are GPP&K alumni. We are so proud of them and it is always fun to see them again!

Our Enrichment classes will learn about service dogs and how they help people. They will have a special visit from a dog being trained as a seeing-eye dog and will make homemade doggie biscuits for the dogs in these very special programs. Kindergarteners will review the properties of solids, such as spheres, cones, cylinders, and cubes. They will study the Earth's properties and discover that the land is made up of rocks, sand, and soil, and that water comprises oceans, lakes, and rivers. They will listen to Beethoven while creating visual art using their individual interpretation of the music. To celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, they will make "green eggs and ham" using avocados.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! If you wish to register your child for the 2017/2018 school year, which begins next September, you may call the office at 301-977-5787 or visit the website at [www.gppk.com](http://www.gppk.com) and email us directly from there. Join us on Facebook and see pictures of what we're doing!

In service to His children,  
*Jessica Coughlin*  
Director, GPP&K



## CONNECT WITH GPP&K!



(301) 977-5787



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[www.gppk.com](http://www.gppk.com)



# CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG FAMILIES' MINISTRY

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### 9:30 a.m. Bridges to Worship (4-year-olds – 5th Graders)



Children stay in Rooms 32/33.

Children will hear stories that trace the history of the people of God in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah, the Exile and Return, and Jeremiah.

On **March 19**, children will hear the story of St. Patrick.

### 11:00 a.m. Traditional Classes (3-year-olds – 5th Graders)



Children begin with their parents in the Sanctuary and end in Rooms 30/31, 35, and 36.

**Note:** On **March 5** (Communion Sunday), the children will begin and end in their classrooms.

**3rd Graders and under** (Deep Blue) will study the last weeks of Jesus' life, as found in the books of Luke and Matthew. **4th and 5th Graders** (Dwell) will continue their study of the book of Acts.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (FOURTHNIGHT)



### Kids Clubhouse – 7:00–8:00, in Rooms 30–31.

March 8 – April 12 – A child-friendly version of the Lenten Series will be offered for these 6 weeks.

During March, we will plant paper whites for our pen pal partners as a mission project.

March 29 – Children and youth invite their families and other interested adults to join them for Peter's Walk, a multi-sensory Lenten event. For details, see Carolyn and Carrie.



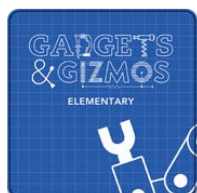
## LOOKING AHEAD

**Wednesday, April 12** – Family Seder (more information coming soon)



### Family Retreat – May 5–7 – Camp Meadowkirk (Middleburg, VA)

Plans are firming up for this Retreat! Only a couple of rooms are still available. If you cannot attend the whole weekend, consider joining us for Saturday morning and afternoon, which represents most of the program. If you are interested, need scholarship information, or have questions, please contact Carolyn.



### Vacation Bible School – July 17–21 9:00 a.m. until Noon

"Gadgets and Gizmos – Uniquely Wired, Wonderfully Made!" is this year's VBS theme. To volunteer as an adult VBS leader this summer, contact Carolyn.

Carolyn Hayes

Director of Children and Young Families  
301-948-9418 | [chayes@gpchurch.org](mailto:chayes@gpchurch.org)





# FEEDING THE 5000 FOOD DRIVE

*"The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children."*

—Matthew 14:21

Please bring contributions to the marked boxes in the Narthex or at the North Entrance.

**Sunday, March 5, through Easter Sunday, April 16**

Throughout Lent, GPC will collect food for these local organizations that help the hungry in our community:

- **THE LORD'S TABLE** ([faithinactiondc.com/stmartin](http://faithinactiondc.com/stmartin)) provides a hot, multi-course, mid-afternoon meal six days a week for the hungry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Gaithersburg.
- **GAITHERSBURG HELP** ([gaithersburghelp.org](http://gaithersburghelp.org)) provides local families in need with short-term emergency assistance of various kinds, including supplemental groceries.
- **MANNA FOOD CENTER** ([mannafood.org](http://mannafood.org)), through its Smart Sacks program, provides needy children with backpacks full of kid-friendly food every Friday so that they have food on the weekends when there are no school meals to sustain them.

Flyers with food requests are available on GPC's website and in the Narthex, Lindsay Hall, and the church office.

*Last year we raised our goal to 7,000 items and ended up with 7,117 items! Let's do it again!*



## THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE SHES FAMILIES!

In February, the Move It Monday! helpers gathered for lunch at the Morrison's house. This gave us a chance to renew friendships and enjoy time together when we were not on opposite sides of the sports field. We look forward to the warmer weather, when—sometime in April—the running program will restart for the season. Encouraging the students to run a mile or more during their recess is a great way to improve everyone's fitness! Consider joining us this spring on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Marilyn Morrison and Carolyn Hayes provide a craft project during the Christmas dinner at SHES sponsored by Linkages for Learning.

Being a classroom volunteer is a special way to help our education system and some young students, but beware—it is addictive! You might get Valentines or hugs or lots of greetings as you walk through the halls of the school! Thanks to Art Eisenhour, Marilyn and Stuart Morrison, Jim Richardson, and Keith Rush for their commitment. Every time you file lunch cards, sharpen pencils, or cut papers, the teacher has more time to devote to teaching. When you help a child with their classwork, you always get more than you give. Please give of your time if you can.

Thanks to all who participated in the coat drive this winter, and for gathering toiletries and laundry products for the families at SHES. These items help make a big difference for families whose budgets are tight. Also, the Box Top\$ for Education that you collect and bring to GPC help the school buy many needed items.

If you're interested in helping at SHES, please contact Marilyn Morrison at [mmorrison67@verizon.net](mailto:mmorrison67@verizon.net).

# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 4  
Lindsay Hall | 8:00 a.m.

Please join us for prayer, breakfast, and a program entitled "Homelessness: It Can Happen to Anyone." Derek Longbrake, an ordained Presbyterian minister and the Donor Relationship Manager for Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, will tell us about the organization and its various programs. *No reservations are needed.*

Our meeting next month will be April 1.



February 12, 2017 Craft Group Meeting

# CRAFT GROUP

Sunday, March 5 | Rooms 30–31 | 12:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch and join the fun! We will be sewing, crocheting, and knitting, so come start or finish projects. If you have a special project in mind, would like a materials list, or have any questions, please contact Barbara Clark, 240-988-9572 or [bellbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:bellbarb@yahoo.com).

Our next meeting will be April 2.



September 2016 Mission Trip



## SPACE AVAILABLE ON MISSION TRIP

JAMES ISLAND,  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
April 9–14, 2017

Harbor View Presbyterian Church has room for 40 people, and a few spaces are still available. We hope that some GPC youth (14 years and older are allowed to participate) will go again. We've been to Harbor View twice before and found it to be a very welcoming and comfortable church for our group.

To reserve your space or for more information, please contact Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence or Mary and Bob Wasik, [marywasik2000@yahoo.com](mailto:marywasik2000@yahoo.com) or 301-519-9426.



# VERY IMPORTANT PRESBYTERIAN SENIORS {VIPS}

Thursday, March 2 | Lindsay Hall | 11:30 a.m.

*Great Expectations – A Look at Us as Disciples of Christ and the Excitement of the Resurrection*

GPC's own Malvin Duncan will help us prepare for the Lenten season and the miracle of Easter with his special presentation. The meeting begins with gathering at 11:30 a.m. The bring-your-own lunch or shared baked ham & cheese and/or baked turkey & cheese sandwiches and salad lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. Malvin's presentation will conclude our afternoon. If you are attending VIPS for the first time or have questions, please contact Nancy Sanders at 301-963-1357.

**A Special Thank You:** For our February meeting, Lindsay Hall was festive with an amazing handmade *We Love You VIPS* poster created by the GPC youth group, and each individual was delighted to also receive a personal Valentine card and note from a youth! Thank you very much for your generosity, youth group and Carrie! Your kindness touched each of us!

**Field Trip on Saturday, March 25:** Join in a guided tour of the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Fire Museum at 10:15 a.m. At the museum, we will be able to explore the history of the fire station with its restored Diamond-T and Seagrave pumpers, equipment, and uniforms, as well as department logs and memorabilia dating back to the 1920s. Reservations will be accepted at the March 2 VIPS meeting with the payment of a \$2.00 donation.







# GPC EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP UNEMPLOYED

Monday, March 13 & Tuesday, March 28  
Room 202 | 7:00 p.m.

This group provides a supportive Christian environment for those who are unemployed, about to be unemployed, underemployed, or seeking a career change. Meetings are free, open to the community, and typically last about an hour.

Career Confidence provides services to those looking for career opportunities and is offering the following seminar in March:

### Time Management and Shorter Job Searches

Saturday, March 4 | 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
1201 Seven Locks Road, Rockville, MD

Pete Elmer carefully managed his weekly job search activity to maximize his job search workweek. He will walk you through his weekly routine and you will gain a good understanding of how to manage your time looking for a job. Pete will talk about pitfalls that job seekers fall into, so that you will not spend time on activities that do not actually lead to jobs. He wants people to work on the right activities in the right proportion leading to the right job. Please treat this seminar as a formal job interview and take several copies of your resume with you. Men should wear a suit and tie. For more information, visit [Career-Confidence.org](http://Career-Confidence.org).

**Reminder regarding ESG's inclement weather policy:** If Montgomery County Public Schools close, dismiss early, or cancel evening activities, the ESG meeting scheduled for that day is cancelled.

For more details or if you have questions, please contact Clara Pratt at [pratt6901@comcast.net](mailto:pratt6901@comcast.net).



# 2ND FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

Friday, March 10 | Spencer Hall | 7:30 p.m.

The group will continue to discuss *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. The book's author urges all Christians to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. We're on Chapters 4 & 5 and have had some great discussions, so come and bring a friend, even if you haven't read the book. (This book is also available for the Kindle as well as in hard copy.)

**Note:** Winter months often bring bad weather, so if you are in doubt about whether or not a meeting will be held, please check with one of us before heading out. If we know in advance that bad weather is expected, we will send out a cancellation announcement prior to the meeting. As always, use your best judgment.

For more information, please contact one of the following people:

**SUZIE WARD**

[psaward@msn.com](mailto:psaward@msn.com) | 301-977-2839

**BEVERLY SPENCER**

[Beverly.Spencer@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Beverly.Spencer@montgomerycollege.edu)

301-977-1303

**CINDY CENAME**

[cennamlee@gmail.com](mailto:cennamlee@gmail.com) | 240-498-6330



# CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES

by Linda Hastings

The subject for the Lenten Bible Study groups this year is the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The display for March features books that might help you in your exploration.

- *Behold the Christ*, by Roland Bainton. A portrayal of Christ in words and pictures.
- *Bright Evening Star*, by Madeleine L'Engle. The author contemplates the mystery and the majesty of Jesus Christ coming to Earth as man.
- *Christian Doctrine*, by Shirley Guthrie. A revised edition of his earlier book, which has been a best seller for more than 30 years.
- *Eerdmans' Handbook to Christian Belief*, by Robin Keeley. An explanation of basic Christian beliefs and how they developed historically.
- *Forgotten God*, by Francis Chan. The author contends that we've ignored the Holy Spirit and are reaping the disastrous results, and urges us to pursue the Spirit-filled life.
- *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition*, by John H. Leith. Covers all aspects of reformed history, theology, polity, liturgy, and Christian culture.
- *The Promise of the Spirit*, by William Barclay. Studies the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments, and discusses the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church today.
- *The Reason for God*, by Timothy Keller. Discusses how the belief in a Christian God is both a sound and a rational one.
- *Westminster Dictionary of Theology*, by Alan Richardson. A comprehensive guide to the language of Christian theology.





# CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of our congregation  
is extended to the friends and family of

**John Clark Maynard**

*(brother of Beverly Spencer)*  
on his death  
in Dallas, TX  
January 20, 2017



## THANK YOU!

GPC Youth would like to thank the congregation  
for supporting the **Youth Bake Sale**  
on Super Bowl Sunday again this year.  
The money raised will help support  
our youth trips this summer!



## WE'VE MOVED!

Please make a note of our new information  
in your church directory.

**JIM AND TERESA McCOY**

13223 Meander Cove Drive, Germantown, MD 20874



## CARING CONCERNS

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the GPC members who provided meals, visited and called me, took me to medical appointments, and sent me a wonderful number of cards and notes during my last hospitalization and recuperation. I am doing better every day knowing that my GPC family is there to provide Tom and me with whatever we need in the way of support.

—Stephanie Curtis



## GET SOCIAL

To see church photos and event reminders,  
"Like Us" on Facebook!

Visit

[www.facebook.com/GaithersburgPresbyterianChurch](http://www.facebook.com/GaithersburgPresbyterianChurch)

or "search" for

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

from [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).



If you would like to share a family milestone with the Mainstream, please submit material electronically to [jobermiller@gpchurch.org](mailto:jobermiller@gpchurch.org) on or before the 15th of each month.

