May 7, Sunday
BTT Commitment Sunday
5th Grade Step-Up - Sunday School
11:00 am ONE worship service
12:00 pm All-church luncheon - Activity Center

May 12, Friday
1/2 day contemplative retreat @ Pinecrest

May 14, Sunday
Mothers’ Day
10 am - Children’s Choir Spring Program - AC

May 18 - 20, Fri - Sun
NaCoMe all-church retreat

May 28, Sunday
Begin summer worship schedule
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship service
11:30 Congregational potluck brunch

May 29, Monday
GPC office closed for Memorial Day holiday

BUILDING TOMORROW TODAY
COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MAY 7

Building Tomorrow Today is the theme of the current capital stewardship campaign. But, in truth, it is the philosophy of our church for nearly 18 decades. The founders of our beloved Germantown Presbyterian Church did not build the original chapel for themselves. They built it for their children and their children’s children and the scores of hard-working, God-loving people who would populate its rough-hewn pews in years to come.

This spring we embark on a similar endeavor. We are building a foundation for the future of Germantown Presbyterian Church, a future of expanded ministries, a growing congregation, a re-energized commitment to Christian education and new opportunities for intergenerational fellowship.

We are also embracing our historic heritage with the restoration and renovation of Evans Chapel. The Building Tomorrow Today capital stewardship campaign is the vehicle that will transport us to a better, brighter future in the near-term and for generations to come.

Watch for your information packet in the mail and prayerfully consider the commitment you will make on Commitment Sunday, May 7 at the 11 am service.

REMEMBER – ON MAY 7, THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11 AM.
For nearly 180 years Germantown Presbyterian Church has served as a beacon to the community—welcoming all God’s people to learn, grow, and serve others. Our church has endured these many years due to the grace of God, vision, faith, fortitude, sacrifice, and the love of its members through the years. These qualities continue to thread through our congregation today.

Our church is a place of prayer, worship, Christian education, community outreach, counseling, preschool education, fellowship, life celebrations, church activities, music enrichment, and housing guests. What a gift we have to share with the world, just by opening our doors!

I have a great love for our church. Last fall when Will asked me to prayerfully consider helping with the leadership of this capital campaign, I didn’t need to contemplate long. My only hesitation was the fact that my elderly parents live in northwest Arkansas and I wanted to be available to assist them, if they should need my help.

At the time my parents were both healthy and living independently. In early February, however, that changed drastically when my dad suffered a heart attack and required open-heart surgery.

Over the next two months Dave and I traveled back and forth to Arkansas multiple times to support my mom and visit my dad. As hard as my dad fought, he was not able to recover and died peacefully March 29.

The love, prayers, and support my family and I have received from each of you during this difficult time has sustained us and provided a peace that truly surpasses all understanding. GPC once again reached out to serve, love, and care for others.

Like the church’s service to the community over the last nine decades, my dad’s life was dedicated to service. His vocation was as a school district administrator but he also was an elder, deacon, and teacher in their Presbyterian church, a community organizer of youth sports programs, and in retirement, a full-time volunteer and organizer for countless organizations. We believe he was welcomed into his Savior’s arms with, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Like our church, what a legacy he has left behind.

The Building Tomorrow Today campaign is likewise about legacy. We have one of the most architecturally stunning church complexes in the Mid-south. As lovely as its exterior, however, we know our church was not built simply for us to admire but rather to enable us and the generations who follow—to worship the Lord and to do the Lord’s work.

We have the opportunity to continue to serve our community and world by securing the future of our structure for our children and grandchildren. We are to be God’s faithful servants. Our time here on earth is brief. Let us give sacrificially of our time, talents, and resources to build the body of Christ on this corner of Germantown that is our church home.
“My dear friend is going through such a tough time. He/she is beginning to doubt why God would let this happen. I’m afraid his/her faith is being challenged. I wish I knew how to help.” Have you considered suggesting a Stephen Minister? Even if the person isn’t a member of GPC, perhaps they even live outside the Memphis area, Stephen Ministry can help. Stephen Ministers are there to help bear other’s burdens during a crisis, especially one testing a person’s faith. They are trained to listen and maintain confidentiality meeting regularly with a person until they have worked through the crisis. Maybe the way you can help is by referring your friend to our Stephen Ministry program. Call the church at 901-754-5195 and ask for Pastor Susie. Confidential 1 to 1 caring for: grief, divorce, illness, hospitalization, pregnancy, family problems, aging, etc.

As members of the body of Christ, we are told in the Bible to “bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2) and to “rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep” (Romans 14:15). It is our hope that this grief support ministry will help you through this journey to find comfort, encouragement, support, and the peace which surpasses all human understanding.

Please prayerfully consider joining our team at 6:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in the parlor. If you have questions, please contact one of us: Stephanie Wall, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist (stephaniewall@hotmail.com or 901-754-6869), Beth Brock (beth.coleman.brock@gmail.com or 901-355-0262), Linda Oakes (linoakes@bellsouth.net or 901-237-6566).

PETALS AND PRAYERS MINISTRY

Need to take flowers to someone in need? Go to the flower room!

Each Sunday or Monday, flowers from the chancel are placed into portable-sized vases for members and staff to take to the sick, bereaved, or homebound. Please come to the flower room (north side of the choir loft) and help yourselves to these flowers in the cooler.

The GPC Flower Committee
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

THANK YOU, GPC FAMILY

D ear G P C F amily,

Thank you dear people for all the love, support, and prayers you gave me during my heart valve repair and that long recovery. You sent cards and messages all along the way.

And when my sister Dicksie died several months ago, you were there for me, supporting and praying again.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and...

I love you,

L alla Mellor

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFASTS START IN MAY

The first GPC Congregational Breakfast/Brunch for the summer will be at 11:30, Sunday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). This will be the first Sunday for the summer schedule, with one service from 10:30 to 11:30. So, this gathering will be a brunch. Please plan to bring the family and your favorite breakfast casserole, pastry, fruit, or your favorite brunch dish. Be prepared to share your summer plans, celebrate Memorial Day, and enjoy fellowship with your church family.

NEW MEN’S MINISTRY LUNCH DEVOTIONAL KICKS OFF ON MONDAYS

On Monday, April 10, 18 men from GPC met at Boyle Investments (5900 Poplar Avenue) to kick off a new Lunch Devotional.

After sharing lunch, the group was led by Pastor Jay in a discussion of Christian mentorship and leadership as presented in Acts 9, especially the relationship between the early church leaders Barnabas and Paul.

This devotional will continue to explore Christian leadership, using Leadership Promises for Every Day, a resource from John Maxwell, a well-known pastor and writer on applying Christian principles to leadership in business.

Special thanks to Chris Harding for coordinating the group and to Paul Boyle for hosting the group at his company’s office!

The group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 11:30 am-12:30 am, at Boyle Investments (5900 Poplar Avenue, though to get there you need to enter the parking lot from Ridgeway Center Pkwy).

Please contact Chris Harding (chris.harding@ipaper.com) or Pastor Jay (jayh@germantownpres.org; 901-754-5195 x112) to learn more and, if you’ll be joining us, to help us make sure we have enough food!
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

REMINDER ABOUT COLLECTION BINS IN THE AC

Presbyterian Women are no longer collecting eyeglasses, magazines or plastic newspaper bags. Please do not put them in the bins in the Activity Center any longer.

Still being collected in the bins: yarn necklaces through August; Soup Kitchen supplies; Project Outreach donations; PW monthly food donations.

Eyeglasses may be deposited in collection boxes around the city and at the MECCA office on Poplar. If you do not have access to recycling in your neighborhood, there are recycle bins for the magazines near the Farmer’s Market at the Agricenter off Germantown Parkway.

Thank you for your many generous donations in the past.

MAY SHOW FOR THEATER FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The theatre fellowship group will be going to Playhouse on the Square on Thursday, May 18 at 8:00 pm to see Million Dollar Quartet. Million Dollar Quartet is coming home!

Bringing to life one of the most iconic moments in Memphis music history, Million Dollar Quartet takes place on a Tuesday night shortly before Christmas in 1956. Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, and Carl Perkins have gathered together at Sun Studio for the first and only time. Million Dollar Quartet gives you a front row seat to their only performance, a cultural fashion point that caught rock-n-roll at the moment of creation.

Tickets are $25 for seniors. Please call Playhouse on the Square to reserve your tickets (726-4656). The group is trying to get together near row F - Side - Stage right.

The group also plans to go to dinner before the play. Please contact Becky Stanley (901-409-2886 or beckycstanley@gmail.com).

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men’s Breakfast meets Friday mornings in May at 6:30 am. Breakfast (only $3) starts at 6:30 am and Bible study starts at 7:00 am. First-time visitors eat free! The men use the GROW Bible study plans that follow the Sunday Scriptures.

Come one, come all!
Watch for summer plans starting in June.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The May 16 Presbyterian Women Gathering will be “All About Bluebirds.” Our speaker will be Fred Robertson with the Tennessee Bluebird Association. He will share interesting facts about this beautiful bird and share about how to attract more bluebirds to this area.

The meeting begins at 10 am in Warren Hall. Please come to visit with good friends, meet new friends, and enjoy a delicious luncheon. Tweet tweet!

For more info, contact Jeanie Hill at jhilltn@comcast.net or 901-755-8478.

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Come one, come all!
Watch for summer plans starting in June.

For more info, contact Jeanie Hill at jhilltn@comcast.net or 901-755-8478.
The Prayer Team of Germantown Presbyterian's 2017 Capital Campaign Building Tomorrow Today is creating a Virtual Prayer Vigil to take place from 7 am – 7 pm on Saturday, May 6, 2017, which is the day before Commitment Sunday. Watch for an email invitation from Sign Up Genius, then open and sign up for a 30-minute prayer time. You can pray from anywhere and choose any time. When all the time slots are full, feel free to sign up at the same time as someone else.

Note – the labyrinth walk is another opportunity for your prayerful discernment and it will occur in the AC on April 29 (1-6 pm) and April 30 (1-4 pm) – these are two separate and very prayerful events in the life of GPC, and we both welcome and encourage your participation in both!

---

**ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY CLASS**

Starting Sunday, May 28, 9:30 am-10:15 am, Warren Hall

*Living into Christ's Presence* by Dallas Willard and John Ortberg

This summer, as we typically do, we’ll combine our Adult Sunday Groups and Classes into one, meeting in Warren Hall from 9:30 am - 10:15 am.

This summer we will be following a book and video series called *Living in Christ’s Presence: Final Words on Heaven and the Kingdom of God*. This resource stems from a conference hosted by renowned professor and Christian writer Dallas Willard, whose work has focused in particular on the nature of discipleship.

In conversation with John Ortberg, a Presbyterian pastor in California, Willard explores Scripture’s description of the kingdom of God and our place within it as Christ’s disciples.

For our class, each week we’ll watch a short excerpt of teaching from Willard or Ortberg, read the Scripture passages touched on in their remarks, and your pastors will lead discussion on the passages’ application in our own growth as disciples.

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**PW NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH YARN NECKLACES**

We have been requested to contribute yarn necklaces to a PW Global Exchange Opportunity. Martha Heffner from Oxford, MS will be our synod Global Exchange representative to Indonesia. The necklaces made by PWs all over the United States will be given as gifts to our PW sisters in Indonesia.

The necklaces will be collected in a bin marked PW NECKLACES FOR INDONESIA in the Activity Center. The last day to contribute necklaces will be August 27. If you have not previously made the necklaces, there will be copies of the instructions in the bin.

Thank you for your help with this project. Bonnie Algee
MEMORIALS

During the month of March GPC received the following honorarium and memorial gifts.

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<tr>
<th>In Honor of Melinda Russell</th>
<th>In Memory of Sam Laine</th>
<th>In Memory of Jim Edmonds (brother of John Edmonds)</th>
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<td>Roscoe &amp; Ann Phillips</td>
<td>Ben &amp; Beverly Froelich</td>
<td>Bobby Lanier</td>
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<td>Ann Heffernan</td>
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<td>Lalla Mellor</td>
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<td>In Memory of Robert King</td>
<td>In Memory of Buddy Lanier</td>
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<td>Virginia Dickinson</td>
<td>Gordon &amp; Joyce Cochran</td>
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<td>Amanda Walters</td>
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<td>In Memory of Buddy Lanier</td>
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<td>Gordon &amp; Joyce Cochran</td>
<td>Austin &amp; Phyl Simmons</td>
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<td>Amanda Walters</td>
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<td>In Memory of Dicksie Cribb</td>
<td>In Memory of Betty Stevenson</td>
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<td>(sister of Lalla Mellor)</td>
<td>Dick &amp; Pat Bevier</td>
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<td>Fred &amp; Helen Norman</td>
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<td>Diana Watkins</td>
<td>Daniel Stevenson</td>
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<td>Jerri Ann Stevenson</td>
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<td>Tommy &amp; Nicki Lamar</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Memory of Gene Dickinson</td>
<td>In Memory of Michael Halter</td>
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<td>Catherine King</td>
<td>(father of Jeff Halter)</td>
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<td>Bill &amp; Macie Houston</td>
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<td>Bob &amp; Dixie Johnson</td>
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<td>In Honor of Melinda Russell</td>
<td>Tommy &amp; Nicki Lamar</td>
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<td>JW McAllister</td>
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<td>Fred &amp; Helen Norman</td>
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<td>James &amp; Debra Ragain</td>
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<td>Austin &amp; Phyl Simmons</td>
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<td>In Memory of Jim Edmonds</td>
<td>Herman &amp; Marvette Stallings</td>
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<td>Tim &amp; Peggy Thomason</td>
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<td>In Memory of John &amp; Louise Bagby</td>
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<td>Gordon &amp; Nancy Dunn</td>
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GPC BUDGET UPDATE

Operating Financial Summary as of March 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 2017</th>
<th>3 months ended</th>
<th>Mar 31 2016</th>
<th>3/12 of 2017 Budget</th>
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<td>Support &amp; revenue</td>
<td>$150,608</td>
<td>$390,811</td>
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<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>175,019</td>
<td>367,349</td>
<td>340,455</td>
<td>425,000</td>
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<td>Net</td>
<td>$(24,411)</td>
<td>$23,462</td>
<td>$25,159</td>
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Forward in Faith Campaign Summary

March Contributions $2,150
Total Forward in Faith Contributions $2,684,815
Outstanding pledges 207,440
Balance of construction loan -0-
Funds available for future phases 275,786
IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation:

>Bill Armstrong  >Gay Beaumont  >Lilly/Warner Biedenharn  >Elizabeth Boyd  >Huddy & Bayard Boyle
**Jean Carroll  >Bill Curtis  >Martha & Richard Day  >Randy Edens  >Nancy/Peter
Hawkinson  >Roy Hendrix  >Bob Hicks  >Jerry Huff  >Sandy Jones
>George Kelly  >Carol & Bill Leppert  >Aggie Losa  **Jeanie Hill  >Leslie Murray
>Norma/Tom Miles  >Jackie/Bill Ruleman

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to:
Jean Carroll & family in the death of her brother, James Satterwhite;
JoEllyn Slott & family in the death of her father, Ed Grosshuesch;
Arlene & Neil Southerm in the death of his son, Bob.

The GPC Prayer Ministry: Did you know??

Part of the Prayer Ministry:

Church Prayer List - The first of each month the office publishes a Prayer List. The list can be found in the monthly newsletter or upon request. Contact the office for a copy to pray for all that are listed. This is a ministry you can do at home.

GPC Friends and Family Prayer Ministry

>Mary Boulton - friend of Phyl Simmons
>Joe Burghard - friend of Mary Rogers
**Tonya Cook & mother Janey Johnstone - friends of Phyl Simmons
>Thelma Cuffari - sister of Vi Olsen
>Joanne Day - mother of Jeff Day
>Ravi Fredericks - friend of Mary Rogers
>Pam Fritz - friend of Jeanie Hill
>Rick Gonzalez
>Susan Hawkins - daughter of Ann Phillips
>Leigh Hinshelwood & daughter, Caroline - GPP teacher
>family of Beth Hodges Ingram - friend of Beth Willingham
>Jessie Lee Holter - mother of Debbie Florendo
**Butch Joseph - friend of Lindas Sue Bobo
>Lyndie & Mike Leppert - family of Carol & Bill Leppert
>Christy & Jay Morse, daughter Lucy - daughter & family of Eleanor & David Denton
>Rev. Jamie Mosley & mom, Joyce Jones - nephew of Gary Mosley
>Nancy Nichols - friends of Anne & Wayne Tansil
>JJ Pennel & husband Joe - co-worker of Drayton Meyers
>family of Kim & Michael Perry - cousins of Bob Hicks
>Barbara & Paul Prestley & Will - friends of Evelyn & Phil Mosley
>Dr. Steven Rice - friend of Barbara & Bill Armstrong
>Carley Cassilbry Ridgeway - friend of Phyl Simmons
>Scott Ruleman - son of Jackie & Bill Ruleman
>Jewel Simpson - friend of Sue Kelley
>Connie Maize Smith (twin sister of Boyd Maize)

Friends and family requests submitted to the office for prayer will remain for 30 days before being removed. If you notice someone you requested prayer for is no longer on the list, simply notify the office, and they will be placed back on the list.

May GPC Family Prayer Ministry

May 7  May 14  May 21  May 28
Lilly & Warner Biedenharn  Judy Bilbrey  Shirley Billups  Sherril & Jim Blair
Susanne Crain  Susan & Warren Crain  Nicki & Tommy Lamar  Cynthia & Barty Cresap, Katie
Rebecca Laine  Steffie & Rob Draughon  Richard Linder  Rachel Gwin
Susie Wiggins  Tamah & Jeff Halfacre, Mary Lennox  Amanda Mackey  Carol & Phillip Langsdon
Jane & Dan Young  Anne & Richard Rouse  Linda & Lanny Oakes  Marjorie & Dennis Marshall

**Indicates new request added since last month.
MISSIONS/SERVICE
MISSION TEAM TO GHANA BEGINS PREPARATION FOR JULY TRIP

Earlier this year, GPC’s Missions Leadership shared the decision to explore a global missions partnership in the African country of Ghana, announcing a trip this July (July 20-30). Six members from GPC have heard and answered that call to serve on the team to go!

The team will join Dr. John Azumah, a native Ghanaian and professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, and Juan Sarmiento, our liaison with the Outreach Foundation (a Presbyterian global missions network).

The team has already begun to meet to pray, discern, and learn about the country to which they have been called.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THIS TEAM!
Erin Bowden
Beth Brock
Ty Hardin
Jay Howell
Frances Lilly
Lance Warren

MEXICO MISSION TEAM PREPARES FOR JUNE TRIP

This team will depart on June 20 and return June 27.

Cat Carlin
Angel Damiani
Neal Horner
Lelia Jones
Susan Jones
Will Jones
Sarah Kennedy
Mary-Wyatt Pettigrew
Drayton Mayers

OAK FOREST ELEMENTARY IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS, THURSDAY, MAY 18

Oak Forest Elementary, where GPC helps with the reading program called Team Read, will be conducting their 5th Grade Exhibition on Thursday, May 18, 8:45 am - 10:00 am and needs volunteers to interview the students about their projects.

5th graders will have completed projects on the Transdisciplinary Theme “How We Organize Ourselves.”

If you’re interested in serving this school in a fun and different way, please contact Beth Willingham (bethwillingham@comcast.net) or Pastor Jay (jayh@germantownpres.org; 901-754-5195 x112).
MISSIONS/SERVICE

GPC TO PARTNER WITH MAM
SUMMER ACADEMY, SUPPLIES NEEDED!

GPC’s Missions Leadership Team voted last month to support Memphis Athletic Ministries’ Summer Academy. In addition to athletic teams and spiritual growth, one component of MAM’s Summer Academy is, as the name would imply, academic improvement.

So, MAM inquired about GPC’s willingness to help support the staff and the kids!

More immediately, MAM needs supplies! Below is a list of supplies needed for Summer Academy. GPC’s Missions Leadership has agreed to provide funding for any supplies that are still needed after GPC’s own donations.

You may drop off any supplies at the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jay (jayh@germantownpres.org; 901-754-5195 x112).

SUMMER ACADEMY SUPPLY DRIVE

Art:        Math:        Incentives and miscellaneous:        Science:        Science (continued):  
Large construction paper  Decks of cards  Small candy (ie Starburst, Kisses)  M&Ms  Empty toilet paper rolls  
Printer paper  Dice  Basketball cards  Marshmallows  Radish seeds  
Black markers  Dollar tree toys  Soccer balls  Tea bags  Flower pots  
White crayons  Candy bars  Football cards  Oreos  Sand  
Crayons  Snacks in individual packages  Volleyballs  Mentos  Gravel  
Kids’ scissors  Mixing bowls  Jump ropes  Borax  Potting soil  
Popsicle sticks  Measuring cups  Water guns  Baking soda  Flour (10 lb bag)  
Tissue paper (red, white, & blue)  Flash cards – addition, subtraction, multiplication  Notebooks paper  Vinegar  Newspaper  
Ribbons  Rulers  Notebook paper  Pencils  Graph paper  
Glue pens  Graph paper  Pencils  Graph paper  
Sequins  Plastic spoons  Graph paper  Aluminum pans  
Glitter  Paper grocery bags  Duct tape  Aluminum pie tins  
Magazines  Meatballs  Paper plates  Empty clear 2-liter bottles (with cap)  
Cardstock  Paint (washable, in a variety of colors)  Plastic bowls  Plastic spoons  
Cardboard  Q-tips  Pixie cups  Paper plates  
Liquid Glue  Paper grocery bags  Quart size Ziploc bags  Empty clear 2-liter bottles (with cap)  
Black construction paper  Vsco tape  Gallon size Ziploc bags  Plastic spoons  
Origami paper  Styrofoam plates  Duct tape  Paper plates  
Yarn  Brown paper sacks  Duct tape  Plastic bowls  
Paint (washable, in a variety of colors)  Cotton balls  Styrofoam plates  Balloons  
Q-tips  Balloons  Brown paper sacks  Cotton balls  Balloons  

MISSIONS/SERVICE

REFLECTION ON THIS YEAR AT MEMPHIS ATHLETIC MINISTRIES FROM MAM STAFF

GPC volunteers are starting to wrap up another great year at Memphis Athletic Ministries (MAM), one of our local mission partners.

MAM coordinates a series of gyms across Memphis, hosting after-school programs for children and youth to improve academically, participate athletically, and grow spiritually. One of their largest programs, which is at Olivet Fellowship Baptist Church, is where volunteers from GPC have been serving for the past three years.

One staff member at MAM, responding to a request from Pastor Jay, wanted to share a few words of reflection and gratitude for the ministry and growth happening at MAM.

As a coach and overseer of the kids, some days are tough at MAM. Not every day is there joy and energy being that real things are happening to real people and real families daily. Yet, there are still those small yet so beautiful moments of joy that reveal themselves throughout the week in the kids. Something that has given me joy is seeing the excitement on the kids’ faces when they first walk into the gym doors from school. Some of them usually run up to hug coaches and scream hey! It’s their simple asking of, “How are you Coach such in such,” or them just telling us all about their day! It brings me back down to Earth from the busy-ness and worrying I’ve done about my own life and family. Also, it’s a joy to know that godly seeds are being planted in the kids’ lives every single day. For them to see adults, some that look like them and some that don’t, being positive, showing them respect, SPOILING THEM, reading to them, and sharing the Word of God with them is mind blowing, and I’m sure giving both parties joy, whether they recognize it or not. So, at the end of the day, when all of the shouting, disciplinary actions, and attitudes are done with, MAM kids always bring me joy; it never fails.

A challenge I have faced this year is the barrier of the generational cycles that seem impossible to break. Many of these children don’t know how to read because they don’t have parents that reinforced it or didn’t know how, and creating an atmosphere that reading (or any subject) can be FUN is extremely difficult when that message has never been brought to them. I am thankful to see coaches and volunteers excited about reading getting this message to the kids.

It has been incredible to watch God at work in our classrooms this year. The Lord has changed the hearts and attitudes of some of our students. One of my own classes started out with some disciplinary issues that I knew I could not fix. I never was able to fix it, but God was able to change their behaviors. One day I decided to pass out treats to this class even though they had misbehaved, and I let them know they did not deserve this treat, but because I love them, I wanted to share it with them. One of my students that had given me so much trouble months ago told me this treat was like grace. In that moment, God reminded me of the grace He has shown me in my own life and the lives of our students. He also showed me that our kids listen, and they are learning even when I feel like they are not paying attention.

If you’re interested in serving at MAM towards the end of this school year or next fall, please contact Lisa Patterson (lpattersondrg@gmail.com) or Pastor Jay (jayh@germantownpres.org).
**MISSIONS/SERVICE**

**TEAM READ END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION AND GIFTS FOR STUDENTS**

On Thursday, April 13, a room full of volunteers from Germantown Presbyterian Church, St. George’s Episcopal, and Beth Sholom Synagogue gathered with second graders from Oak Forest Elementary to celebrate a year of hard work and reading development.

Since early fall, these second graders have met twice weekly with their “coaches” to increase their reading vocabulary, and Thursday was a celebration of their progress!

GPC’s own Kim Sauer led the students in a raucous singalong, and Roscoe Phillips offered an inspired reading of *Dog Breath: The Horrible Trouble with Hally Tosis*.

With support from GPC’s Missions Leadership, each student was given a book as a special end-of-year gift to take with them.

Team Read also celebrated the retirement of Marilyn McNeal, the school’s IB Coordinator and liaison for the Team Read program. We are sad to see her step away from the school, but thankful for her dedicated service to the school and to the students, not to mention her warm welcome of each Team Read volunteer!

Special thanks to GPC’s own Beth Willingham, who has helped coordinate this wonderful partnership with the Oak Forest community.

**PROJECT OUTREACH EASTER REPORT**

**Talk about a Holy Thursday!!**

In a park south of Moscow TN, 208 families were blessed with a Kroger sack filled with non-perishable food, 170 received 10-12 lb. hams, 1 dozen eggs, a collection of full size hygiene items and tooth brushes, a bag of fresh fruit, 4 rolls of TP, and tons of beautiful clothes to choose from (no cost), and, for the first time, each family received 2 Easter baskets. The remaining baskets, 77 extra baskets, went to Church of the Resurrection where there is also great need. Sixty volunteers including 17 students from St Agnes, St Dominic, and CBHS, enjoyed one of the most beautiful days God ever created. One of the students said his favorite part of the day was the prayer.

Your support for these less-fortunate families becomes the homilies and prayers they hear. The grave was empty on that first Easter morning, but the hands and feet and heart of Jesus walk the earth in 2017 through all who do His will.

Many THANKS to those who pray, encourage, purchase, collect, donate, sack, load, count, unload, sort, bag again, carry, hug, and clean up. Our volunteers, and you know who you are, are the very best.

**Next up:**
**School Supplies for 700 children in late July.**

**GPC HOSTS EASTER CELEBRATION AT MEMPHIS ATHLETIC MINISTRIES**

On Tuesday, April 11, volunteers from GPC hosted an Easter celebration for some students at Memphis Athletic Ministries (MAM).

Led by Lisa Patterson, Ann Harbor, Beth Boyle, and Pastor Jay, the students made a few Easter-themed (and edible) treats to take home with them—though most of the treats didn’t make it past the door!

MAM runs a series of after-school programs across Memphis, one of which is hosted at Olivet Fellowship Baptist Church, where GPC serves with them.
Our global partnership continues with our friends in Brazil, at the Independent Presbyterian Church of Caico (IPI Caico).

This congregation in the northeast region of Brazil is led by Rev. Alberto Soares and Rev. Erica Soares, a husband and wife team serving not just the congregation in Caico but also smaller congregations in the surrounding area—it’s quite a calling!

GPC has been involved with this congregation’s growth and development for about 15 years, supporting its beginning, the construction of a church building, and the transition from a “church plant” to a full congregation within the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPIB), their parent denomination. A team from GPC was privileged to be a part of the worship service marking that transition in the summer of 2015.

Additionally, GPC has been partnering with Alberto and Erica in their own pastoral renewal, supporting them in joining a pastor support network and retreat ministry in Brazil called the SARA Project.

Our two congregations are reaffirming their commitment to each other despite the dissolution of official relations on the denominational level.

In 2015, the IPIB voted to sever the official partnership with the PC(USA), stemming in part from recent decisions on human sexuality. Though dialogue, of course, continues on a denominational level, one question arose: what effect would the denominational decision have on partnerships between Brazilian and American congregations, like our partnership? Would our partnership with IPI Caico have to end because of the severed denominational ties?

For GPC, the answer was a quick and emphatic “No!” though we wanted to defer to the wishes of our friends in Brazil, who may have felt torn between, on one hand, the friendship between our two congregations and, on the other, the potential risk pertaining to their good standing within their denomination.

Blessedly, our friends’ initial answer was “Let’s keep this going,” and after a couple of years’ further discernment, they have again affirmed their desire to continue in partnership. In the near future, GPC and IPI Caico will be drafting some covenant documents, official statements of mutual commitment that will, by the grace of God, guide the continuation of this partnership for years to come.

Below are a few words of gratitude from Pastor Alberto (awkwardly translated from Portuguese by Pastor Jay and Google Translate):

Rev. Jay,
Friends and partners,

How good to know that God has given the opportunity to accomplish His work.

…As the continuation of the partnership, compared to these questions, one has to understand each case. There are many things that are in question and can not be solved anyway.

We understand that the Church has its German-town and autonomy is respected. As our church too. Both walk respecting and reconciling issues to better serve God. The problem introduced in denominations must be examined.

…We have no problem with our partnership. It does not hurt the constraints facing the positioning of national denominations.

A proposal that we can further confirm our partnership, shall, if possible, a document from German-town Church explaining something about this issue.

This document will be the board of the local church. Our partnership will be solidified on documents between the two churches.

From church to church:
Hopefully soon we may see and embrace with friends.

…If possible, send this email to all partners and all our gratitude to the church family from Caico.

Muito obrigado,
Rev Alberto, Family and Church
CHILDREN'S NEWS

GPC'S EASTER EGG HUNT & PETTING ZOO

GPP KIDS HUNT FOR EASTER EGGS
CHILDREN'S NEWS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENTS...

Save the date of May 14 as our children's choir presents

*In the Big Inning,*

a musical by Cyndi Nine, Rob Howard, & David Guthrie.

Join us in the AC at 10:00 to hear a baseball story
that also drives home the Gospel!

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is quickly approaching June 5 - 9! We are so excited for our children to hear how God made each of us in HIS image and unique at the same time! What an incredible way to show off God’s power by using the special way He made us to make a difference!

You know we need lots of supplies to pull off a great VBS! Please help by visiting the robot supply boards just outside the sanctuary and in the Welcome Center. Pull a tag to help remember the item you are donating. Donated items may be placed in the green bin in the church office. Thank you so much for your help!

Want to see all of our children in action? Visit the Sign Up Genius to find a place where you would like to spend your time:  http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054aa9ae2ba2fb6-vbsweek

Thank you! VBS runs on volunteers!

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5TH GRADE STEP UP

5th Graders will "step up" to visit junior high Sunday school on Sunday, May 7 during the Sunday school hour. This is a wonderful way for 5th graders to catch a glimpse of how junior high Sunday school works.

Also, this is wonderful opportunity for junior high students to show hospitality to new friends! 5th graders will officially join the junior high Sunday school class in August. Please contact Anna White with questions.

annaw@germantownpres.org
CHILDREN'S NEWS

PLAY IN THE PINES
SPECIAL NEEDS NEWS

BASIC DISABILITY ETIQUETTE TIPS

The following tips are things to keep in mind when interacting with people with disabilities. Remember each person is an individual. Never assume you know what a person with a disability wants or needs.

- If offering any assistance, always wait for a response and then follow the individual’s instructions.

- When talking to a person with a disability, talk directly to that individual, not the friend, companion, or sign language interpreter who may be present.

- Respect all assistive devices (i.e. canes, wheelchairs, crutches, communication boards) as personal property. Unless given permission, do not move, play with, or use them.

- Remember that people with disabilities are interested in the same topics of conversations as nondisabled individuals.

- When introduced to a person with a disability, it is appropriate to offer to shake hands. People with limited hand use or who wear artificial limbs can usually shake hands. (Shaking hands with your left hand is an acceptable greeting.)

- If talking with a person using a wheelchair for any length of time, try to place yourself at their eye level. (This is to avoid stiff necks and “talking down” to the individual.)

- Remember to show your face while talking with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

- Do not shout or raise your voice unless asked to do so.

- If greeting someone who is blind or has a visual impairment, identify yourself and those who may be accompanying you.

- Do not pet or make a service dog the focus of conversation.

- Let the individual know if you move or need to end the conversation.

- When interacting with a person who is visually impaired, follow their lead. If they need assistance, they will ask.

- Allow the person to negotiate their surroundings, e.g., finding the door handle, locating a chair, etc.

- Treat adults as adults. Address people with disabilities by their first name only when extending the same familiarity to all others.

- Relax! We all make mistakes. Offer an apology if you forget some courtesy. Keep a sense of humor and willingness to communicate.

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Our PEACE Program will be reaching out into the special needs community this summer with an outstanding Bible study called “Wacky Wednesdays in the Word.” Please add this Bible study to your list of prayer concerns as we open our doors each week to share the love of Christ to those who are sometimes overlooked. If you would like to go a step further and volunteer, please contact Monica Kirby in the church office or send her an email at monicak@germantownpres.org.

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

June 14 - Wacky Pajama Pants (Jacob’s Dream)
June 21 – Wacky Hair Day (The Story of Sampson)
June 28 - Necktie Day (Three Friends in the Fire)

July 12 - Wacky Socks Day (The Last Supper)
July 19— Wacky Hat Day (David and Goliath)
July 26—Wacky T-shirt Day (Coming Clean -Bring or wear a white t-shirt for autographs.)
YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH AUCTION GREAT SUCCESS

The school year is almost over. It has gone by so fast! Pretty soon it will be time for the youth to go on summer trips. Our seniors are getting ready to go to college. It is a time of excitement and craziness! The best news is that God is with us in all of the messiness that comes with the end of the school year. Prayers for all of us as we anticipate summer and all of the joy it will bring. Grace and Peace, Amanda

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YOUTH DATES TO CALENDAR

Save the Dates:
May 7 All church event following 11:00 am worship
May 14 Mother’s Day
May 19-21 NaCoMe Retreat
June 5-9 Vacation Bible School

June 28 Summer Trip Meeting 7 pm Warren Hall
July 9-15 Senior High at Montreat Youth Conference
July 19-23 Junior High at Maryville College for Montreat Middle School Conference
What a wonderful season of music we have just finished here at GPC! Throughout Lent all aspects of music in worship have been special. A Big thank you to ALL who gave so much time and effort in the preparation and presentation this year during Lent. Special thanks is in order to the Chancel Choir and to Carolyn Mason, our organist for the hours of time spent in rehearsal and preparation.

From Sunday April 2, when our worship followed the life of Christ through sections II and III of Handel's *Messiah*, to a glorious Sunday of music and worship on Easter, we have experienced the glory and majesty of His name through music and the spoken word! So many people have commented on how meaningful our Maundy Thursday service was. If you were in attendance, help me spread the work that Maundy Thursday worship is special. It is filled with emotion and a sense of being there walking with Jesus through these Holy Days. If you did not attend Maundy Thursday worship, circle it on your calendar for next year.

As we move through April and into May we have so much to look forward to.

This Sunday April 30, our hand bell choirs will be featured in worship.

On May 7 we have a combined service at 11:00 to celebrate and dedicate our Capital Campaign giving. Music in worship on this day will include bagpipes, trumpets and two anthems by the Chancel Choir, *Ye Shall Be Witnesses* and *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*. Make plans to be present. There will be a meal following our combined worship service.

On May 14, Mother’s Day, our children’s choirs will present a musical in the Activity Center during the Sunday School hour called *In the Big Inning*. Make plans to attend and support our GPC Children. Dr. Sandy Franks, Karen Schowalter Cooper, and a host of volunteers spend hours and weeks preparing, and they will appreciate you being in attendance.

In worship on the 14, Mother’s Day, Chancel Choir will sing *Train Up A Child*, an anthem celebrating the efforts of all mothers as they train and raise their children in the church.

On May 21 we will have the Houston High student Brass Quintet with us. The anthem will be an arrangement of *The Strife Is O’er* with organ and trumpet accompaniment. We here at GPC are proud to support all of our student musicians.

May 28 will be the 1st Sunday of our Summer schedule with one worship service at 10:30. The anthem will be an arrangement of *How Great Thou Art*. Christina Crouse will sing the Mozart *Alleluia*, an exciting ‘very difficult to sing’ *Alleluia*, on our last Sunday in the season of Eastertide.

Thank you, the congregation, for your kind words of appreciation and continued support of our music program at GPC. It is a pleasure to prepare music for worship and join you in proclaiming Praise to of our Risen King each Sunday in the church year.

I look forward to seeing you in WORSHIP!

Jerold C. Teachey, D.M.
Director of Music
SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS
from May 28 – July 30

9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – One Worship Service

Be sure to mark your calendar!

William G. Jones
Pastor

Jay Howell
Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Missions

Susan Carter Wiggins
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Tom Sauer
Pastor to Senior Adults

Amanda Mackey
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries

Jerold Teachey
Director of Music Ministries

Carolyn Mason
Organist

Anna White
Director of Children’s Ministries

Monica Kirby
Director of Special Needs Ministries

William G. Jones
Pastor

Jay Howell
Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Missions

Susan Carter Wiggins
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Tom Sauer
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Amanda Mackey
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Jerold Teachey
Director of Music Ministries

Carolyn Mason
Organist

Anna White
Director of Children’s Ministries

Monica Kirby
Director of Special Needs Ministries

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Worship Times:
8:30 a.m. Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Office hours:
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

June Vine Deadline: May 15

A PLACE TO WORSHIP... A PLACE TO LEARN...