



ear Church Family and Friends,

I'm writing this note the day after experiencing deep kindness and mutual love. On Saturday, August 21, you provided the GPC staff with a delicious supper as part of a Staff Appreciation Night at the Ramblers Concert in the Activities Center. The staff was so grateful to be honored by the congregation, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. At intermission, the Stewardship Team recognized each staff member and noted the particular year in which each staff member came on board. Some have been very new additions to the staff (joining our ranks this year or last), while others have been around a lot longer than I have – some of them 15, 18, and even 28 years.

The most touching moment for me came when I was surprised with a book of letters and pictures chronicling our relationship together over the last ten years. June 1 marked my ten year anniversary as your pastor, and I cannot imagine a better, more rewarding decade in my entire life! I am so touched by your kind words, and I am amazed to see so many wonderful pictures and memories of our time together. In this book, there are several pictures of children who are now young adults. I remember them as adolescents, and now they are college graduates. There are pictures of babies that I baptized, and now they are young disciples in the prime of childhood. There are also pictures of some people who mean the world to me who are no longer with us outside of our memories. I look at them and remember such joy experienced in their presence, and I miss them so much.

This last ten years has been the most important in my family's life. All three of our girls went through Confirmation at GPC. Their faith was developed, nurtured, and strengthened by their participation in youth group and Sunday School. Being a preacher's kid is never easy, as the spotlight seems to be on them to be perfect - which usually results in their being far from it. I am so thankful that my children have never felt such pressure at GPC! You have allowed them to be themselves: to cut up, ask questions, have doubts, enjoy youth group as one of the gang, and to grow up in a supportive church family. The only thing harder than being a preacher's kid is being (in my case) a preacher's wife. In some churches, there are enormous expectations placed on the preacher's wife to be Mary Poppins: "practically perfect in every way!" You have given Susan such grace to be herself, to find her own place in GPC, to develop friendships, and to exercise her spiritual gifts without placing unrealistic expectations on her. She has found her place teaching Jr. High Sunday School and sitting on the second row to keep a watchful eye on me!

I am touched by the kind words of your letters, and I am moved to tears to read all of the names of the necrology in the back of the book. I am surprised and saddened to see how many church members have died since I became pastor. I look over the list, and almost every name brings back a fond memory: some time of laughter together, a visit at home or in the hospital, a meeting in my office, a round of golf played



together, a lunch shared, an intimate family moment like a wedding or baptism, and so much more. One of my mentors in ministry told me that he deliberately avoided becoming good friends with members of his congregation because he needed to maintain some distance to be most effective as a pastor. I guess it worked for him, but that could never work for me! My model of ministry is based on relational friendship – that we all grow closer to God as we grow closer to one another. Jesus called us His friends in the Gospel of John, and then He invites us to be Christian friends with one another. Thank you for allowing me to become your friend in Christ over these last ten years, and I look forward to many more together!

Finally, a word of gratitude toward those with whom I've had disagreements, struggles, or conflict. Some of those people will not be reading this because they have left GPC as a result of either something I said or did (or neglected to do) or something that has happened at GPC under my watch. I am grateful also for the hard conversations we've had together, as you have helped me see things from a different, and sometimes better, vantage point. You have contacted me with your concerns and disappointments, and I hope that I have been quick and gracious in my replies. I never want anyone to leave our family of faith, but many have in the last ten years. My ultimate hope is that I will carefully listen and faithfully respond to people who are disappointed in me or in GPC. I have learned over the years that I cannot please everyone, but I can at least be attentive and sympathetic to your needs and concerns.

On the day of my first anniversary at GPC, two church members called me to say that they and their families were leaving the church. They were willing to give me a year, but they found my leadership and approach lacking for a variety of reasons. I was pretty hurt, but I thanked them and wished them well. I have seen them multiple times since then, and we always shake hands and converse about our families and our mutual faith in Christ. Sometimes I wonder if they regret their decision to leave GPC, but I doubt it. God usually calls us where we need to be in order to be happy and faithful in our walk with Christ.

I know He has for me.

Gratefully Yours,

Will

GPC ONSITE & ONLINE

GPC continues to re-open the church facilities for worship, classes, and meetings, and the refurbished sanctuary welcomes Sunday worshippers. Those who come to worship are asked to wear masks while onsite out of an abundance of love and caution for your Christian Brothers and Sisters. Please continue to watch the GPC website and social media for the latest updates on these and other events.

IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING GPC EMAILS AND WANT TO, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS@GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG.

ONSITE & ONLINE LIVESTREAMING

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE MEETINGS & HOW TO ENGAGE, CONTACT THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT COMMUNICATIONS@GERMANTOWNPRES.ORG.

Men's Breakfast (Friday mornings)
Sunday Morning Worship Service (8:30am/11:00am Sunday mornings)
Sunday Evening Worship Service (6:00pm Sunday evenings)
Sunday Schools (9:40am Sunday mornings)
Youth Fellowship - (9:40am/5:30pm Sundays)

GPC IS LIVESTREAMING THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:00AM.

Men's Lunch Devotion - 2nd/4th Mondays/Month on Zoom - Contact Anthony Duke (anthony-duke@ipaper.com)
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES - 1st Tuesday/Month at 10am/7pm - Contact Bonnie Algee (bbalgee@bellsouth.net)
Thursday Morning Bible Study - 2nd/4th Thursdays/Month in person - Contact Jean Carroll (jeancarroll1@comcast.net)

VARIOUS OTHER FELLOWSHIP GROUPS - TBD

Online Services can be found on GPC's website, GPC's vimeo & Youtube channels, & GPC's facebook page. Be sure to like, share, & subscribe.

You'll be notified every time a new video is added.

VIMEO - GERMANTOWN Pres (https://vimeo.com/user22619921)

YouTube - GermantownPresTN (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwEm01y_cQ9Hys-3vytQOMPw/)

REMEMBER: EVERYTHING IN BLUE TYPE IS A HYPERLINK IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

UPCOMING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR PLANNER

Monday, September 6 - Labor Day Labor of Love/GPC office closed

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5/6
WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, November 5
Men's/Kids' Event



SAVE the DATE – Women's Retreat – First weekend in November (11/5-6/21). This will be our 4th Annual Women's Retreat, and we are planning to return to Pinecrest for a wonderful time of incredible fellowship, delicious food (including Pinecrest's famous cinna-

mon rolls), God's beautiful and quiet nature, and some inspiring Bible study. This year there will be an added element for dads and kids! "What?" you ask??? Yes, Pastor Will is going to coordinate a Friday evening movie, pizza, and popcorn time in the Activity Center for dads and kids to make it even easier for moms to attend the Women's Retreat – how cool is that?! So, SAVE THE DATE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS – AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!



GPC's Wednesday Night Compass program plans to resume in January 2022.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

See below for the list of members' birthdays for the current and upcoming months. Be sure to wish your friends a happy birthday and if you know anyone who's been left out, let us know by emailing communications@germantownpres.org or calling the church office 901-754-5195 and asking for the communications department.

September

- 1 Emily Coursey
- 1 Rachel Hormberg Bouldin
- 2 Beth Boyle
- 2 Phil Carroll
- 2 Jan Petri
- 2 Bill Priester
- 4 Helen Norman
- 5 Kiki Kalagias
- 5 Bill Prest
- 5 Cynthia Shaw
- 5 Anne Tims
- 5 Ruth Woodworth
- 6 Jeff Cook
- 6 Jan Thomson
- 7 Barbara Ragsdale
- 8 Evev Eason
- 9 Randy Greebon
- 9 Greg Morgan
- 9 Mary Strop
- 9 Susan Walker
- 10 Susan Lipscomb
- 11 Candace Askew
- 11 Amy Morse
- 11 Lindsay Overbey
- 11 Metcalf Prest
- 13 Cat Carlin
- 13 Eleanor Denton
- 13 September Eason
- 14 Emma Grace Lumm
- 15 Janet Dellinger
- 17 Agnes Thomas
- 18 Jim Blair
- 18 Randy Edens
- 18 Kimm Harris
- 18 Jeff White
- 19 Audrey Holmes
- 19 Campbell Humphrey
- 19 Reut Grueber Wise
- 20 Mark Cooper
- 20 Bobbie Ann Spangler
- 21 Don Chandler
- 21 Brittany Schweigert
- 22 Paul Gwin
- 23 Austin Hogan

- 24 Sue Perrin
- 25 Walter Fast
- 26 David Edwards
- 27 Bo Cotten
- 29 Warren Crain
- 30 Shannon Cammack
- 30 Rob Cotten

October

- 1 Sandy Roberts
- 2 Grav Carter
- 4 Susan Jones
- 4 Jean Priester
- 4 Eileen Scroggin
- 8 Kay Donaho
- 8 Jerry Huff
- 9 George McGaha
- 9 Sarah Thompson Riley
- 10 Amelia Cates
- 10 Josh Oldham
- 10 Amy Phillips
- 11 Kevin Flovd
- 11 Aggie Losa
- 11 Bob Schriner
- 13 Cathy Borden
- 13 Tucker Brock
- 13 Alta Simpson
- 14 Neal Horner
- 14 Amanda Walters
- 15 John Colmer
- 15 Larry Hak
- 16 Grace Jones
- 16 Erin Potter
- 17 Anne Allen
- 17 Andrew Arthur
- 17 Kriste Cullum
- 17 Ty Hardin
- 17 Tay Hyde
- 18 Joe Crocker
- 18 Shirley Howell
- 19 Sherril Blair
- 19 Jack Losa
- 19 Dot Wieters

- 20 Cathy Aslin
- 20 Abby Chandler
- 20 Jim Howell
- 20 Norma Miles
- 20 Cat Rice
- 20 Janet Roll
- 21 Tim Goss
- 21 Katherine Willingham
- 22 Martha Boyd
- 22 Kay Collins
- 22 Bob Eason
- 22 Karen Fesmire
- 22 Gisela Pickett
- 23 Matthew Lindow
- 24 Stacy Weiss
- 25 Thomas Powell
- 26 Nancy Wells
- 26 Bill Wilson
- 27 Vern Barton
- 27 Kim Sauer 27 - Neil Southern
- 28 Richard Fast
- 28 Joe Lyle
- 29 Ellie Goughnour
- 29 Melinda Russell



GPC COMMUNICATION SURVEY RESULTS

Over the summer, the Communications and Technology Team asked the GPC congregation to take a survey about how they communicate and how GPC can improve its avenues of communication to get our messages out to as many as possible. On the following few pages, you will see the results from that survey.

Thank you to all who participated, and if you would like to add anything to this conversation, please email communications@germantownpres.org.

Demographics of Those Who Participated

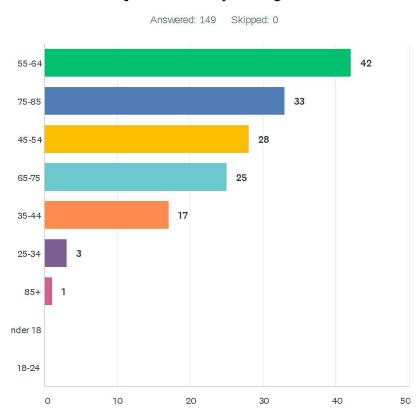
By far, members of the congregation are connected in a number of ways, but they primarily use their smart phones more than their other devices, with their laptops and their tablets coming in second and third respectively.

Almost twice as many women as men took the survey, and you can see the age breakdown from the graph on the right.

Many of you indicated you'd be willing to use your social media platforms to share/promote GPC and its activities and to invite friends and family to church.

Many also expressed an interest in sharing what GPC means to them in the newsletter or social or other avenues. We'll be reaching out to you in the near future.

Q19 What is your age?



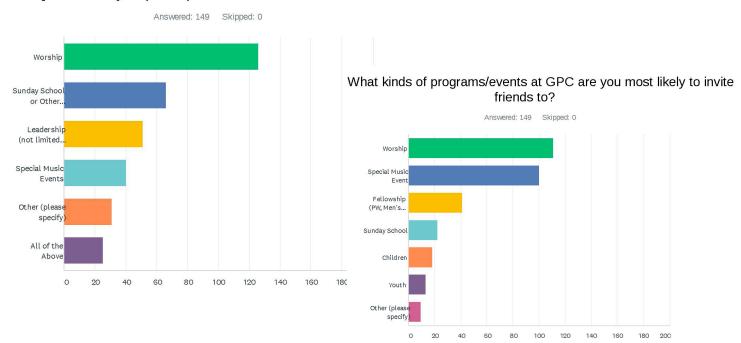
BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.

1 JOHN 1:7 (KJV)

GPC COMMUNICATION SURVEY RESULTS

How Do People Participate in GPC Life?

Q1 How do you participate in GPC's Church Life?



What kinds of programs/events at GPC do you attend most often?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 0 Worship Fellowship (PW, Men's... Sunday School Special Music Other (please specify Youth Children 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 In the graphic on the left, under the category of other, a wide range of programs/events/activities appeared.

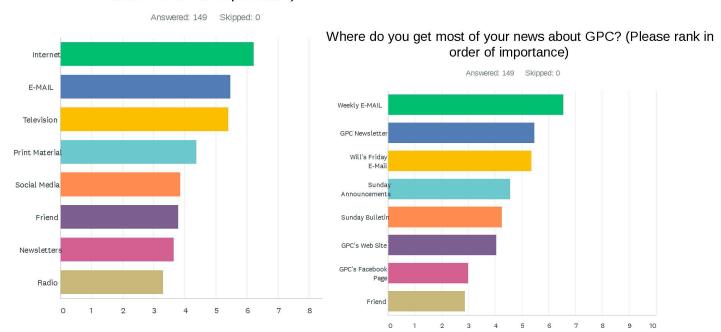
Examples are:

- fellowship groups
- special needs ministry activities
- women's/men's groups
- choir
- mission projects/opportunities
- · volunteering at the church
- Bible studies/book clubs
- special events
- Wednesday night Compass

GPC Communication Survey Results

How Do People Get Their Info from GPC?

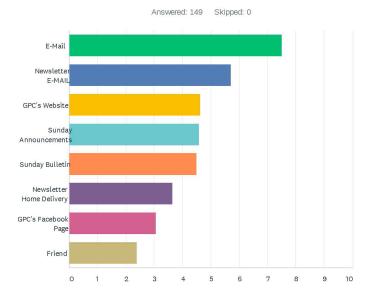
Where do you get most of your daily information and news? (Please rank in order of importance)



Most of you get your news and information online with TV coming in a close third.

For most of you, email is the best way to communicate, but many also get their information from GPC's newsletter (which is great!).

What's the best way to deliver news about GPC to you? (Please rank in order of importance)



Thank you again to everyone who participated, and if you would like to add anything to this conversation, please email communications@germantownpres.org.



It's a great time to be a part of Germantown Presbyterian Church. Not only are we back in person, but we are also back in our newly renovated sanctuary. We currently offer three wonderful worship service options to attend (8:30am early, 11:00am traditional,

6:00pm contemporary/blended).

There will be an Inquirers Luncheon on September 12 immediately following the eleven o'clock service. All of you who have been visiting both in person and online who would like to know more about GPC and how to join, come have lunch with us and find out all the many areas in which our church is involved and where you might be interested in participating.

Let's grow in GPC together. If you'd like to attend the luncheon, contact me at 901-647-6433 or amybirdwellphillips@gmail.com.

Peace in His love, Amy B. Phillips **GPC** Membership Committee





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

FINDING YOUR PEOPLE IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Each of our 5 adult Sunday School classes are back in the building and meeting every week as they grow closer together in faith and friendship. God has blessed our church family with a passion for helping each other grow as disciples of Jesus. And as we fully emerge from COVID, we have the opportunity to write a new chapter in that great history.

Each of our Sunday School classes are vibrant, healthy, and a wonderful place to connect meaningfully with others. So if you're curious about what it would be like to feel a deep sense of belonging and friendship, our groups are an easy and enjoyable way for you to experience that sense of home. There is nothing better than growing closer to Christ through authentic relationships. So come check out our Sunday School classes. We can't wait to welcome you on the journey of faith.

If you want to get involved in a Sunday morning group, email Pastor Mike at mikel@germantownpres.org.

| Name | Description | Location | Time | Point of Contact |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Coffee & Conversations | Parents of young children, current- ly focusing on the Prodigal Son story | Second Floor Room UL-217 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Candace Askew: candace.phillips@ fedex.com |
| Paula's Hearts & Hands | Women's knitting group, currently focusing on 1 Corinthians | Second Floor Room UL-214 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Susan Olinger: olinger.sh@gmail. com |
| Psalm 78 | Parents of school age children, currently focusing on stories behind hymns | Second Floor Room UL-215 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Rebecca Floyd: rebeccafloyd1973@ gmail.com |
| The Seekers | Adults of all ages, currently focusing on evangelism | Second Floor Room UL-216 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Randy Harris: randyfharris2@ yahoo.com |
| Hits of the Ages | Adults of all ages, currently focusing on the 12 Disciples | Second Floor Room UL-218 | Sundays 9:40-10:40am | Alan Callicott: Alan@callicott- insurance.com |

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Morning

8:30-9:30am - Early Morning Worship 9:30am - Children's Sunday School Dropoff 9:40-10:40am - Sunday School Hour 10:45am - Children's Sunday School Pickup 10:30-11:00am - Coffee & Donuts 11:00am-12:00pm - Late Morning Worship

<u>Evening</u>

5:30-7:30pm - Youth Group 6:00-7:00pm - Evening Contemporary Worship

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Men at GPC Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 6:30am in Warren Fellowship Hall (with occasional exceptions for holidays). Breakfast starts at 6:30am (bring \$3) and Bible study at 7:00. Different men lead each week's study using Scripture from the lectionary. Come one, come all! Currently the meetings take place in a hybrid format, so you can attend in person or Zoom.



Men's Lunch Devotions

All men are invited to come as you can on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 12:00pm. The group is currently discussing readings from the book *Mornings with Bonhoffer*. Currently this group is zooming, but they're discussing a return to in-person meetings. Watch the newsletter for updates. Part of GPC's Men's Ministry, the contact person for this bimonthly lunch study is Anthony Duke (Anthony.Duke@ipaper.com).

WOMEN AT GPC

Presbyterian Women in August

Installation of officers for the 2021 - 2022 year took place on August 17. Pastor Susie presided over the installation service for the new officers. A catered luncheon followed.

Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles will begin September 7 going through May 4 and will meet at GPC. Circles meet the first Tuesday of each month - Day Circles meet at 10:00am, and the Night Circle meets at 6:30pm. Gatherings are every other month and will feature a guest speaker or service project. We are all strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

Circle #1 - UL 215 Circle #2 - UL 216

Circle #3 - UL-217

Circle #4 (night circle) - parlor at 6:30 refreshments, 7:00 lesson

Our study for 2021 - 2022 is What My Grandmothers Taught Me - Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

Books are \$10.00.

New members that are interested in joining or have questions, contact Bonnie Algee - <u>bbalgee@bellsouth.net</u> or Brenda Jeter - <u>bjeter3044@gmail.com</u>.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP UPDATE

I heard from three Fellowship Group conveners this month. No one else reported any activities.

Susan Jones reported that the PNO NO MO group has no September event scheduled due to the start of school and recent surge of the COVID virus. They are hopeful of scheduling an outdoor event in October if circumstances allow.

Beth Carter reported that the Saturday Night Fellowship Group #4 is in the process of organizing for the year. The first gathering will be in the September/October time frame as long as the virus allows them to meet safely. They will try to meet at least twice before the Christmas holidays.

Brenda Jeter reported that the planned September Fellowship Group dinner for the Cornerstones will be

postponed until things settle down with the COVID virus. They have a Christmas celebration scheduled in Warren Fellowship Hall on December 10.

Pastor Mike reported that he met with the Coffee and Conversations group on August 22 to see about organizing a new Fellowship Group. He has already laid the groundwork and will report later about the results of the meeting.

If you want to get involved in a fellowship group, email Pastor Mike at mikel@germantownpres.org.

Submitted by Martha Drannon

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

PEACE PROGRAM FISHING RODEO BLOWOUT

By Jackie Classen

SUMMER WACKY WEDNESDAY PROGRAM **ENDS WITH A BANG (OR A FISH)!**

As summer ends, we say "good-bye" to Wacky Wednesdays.

This summer's Wacky Wednesday VBS gatherings filled Warren Hall and the corridors of GPC with heart-warming, cheerful laughter and loving comradery.

Our participants and volunteers came together weekly to engage in friendly fellowship; symbolic and enjoyable bread-breaking; Bible studies coupled with everyday-object lessons; singing and signing Scripture-based songs; game playing; and crafting fun.

To top it all off, our Finale Fishing Rodeo, which we pray will be an annual event for years to come, allowed all fishermen and fisherwomen to enjoy the success of catching at least one fish, and sometimes a turtle!

> This was Shelby Stewart's first fishing expedition, and she successfully caught a fish! Way to go, Miss Shelby!!!

SPECIAL THANK YOUS!

Thank you, Ms. Elaine Cates, for opening your lake and grounds to us!!! What a gorgeous place!! And thank you for that gentle breeze among those beautiful trees!! Thank you to Sarah Hardin for capturing the beauty, intrigue, and excitement of our Fishing Rodeo!!

Thank you, Pastor Will, for helping me coordinate this event, especially in finding the perfect volunteers to add with the awesome weekly Wacky Wednesday crew!!! Thank you to all our Wacky Wednesday volunteers who came week after week to share compassionate comradery among some exceptionally fine people!! You're a treasured blessing!!! Thank you to all our fabulous Fisherman Crew volunteers!!! I'm so grateful I didn't have to touch a worm, night-crawler, bug, or fish!!! Thank you!!!

Thank you, Jeff Bowlin and Greg Morgan, for helping to haul items to and from the church!!! Thank you, Betsie Menendez, for the loan of your tables! Thank you also for helping us pack up and get that gorgeous tent back to GPC!! Will you please fold my fitted sheets?!! Thank you, Helen Warren, for helping Betsie haul tables and for being the person who has helped me SO much with this job!!! You're a great role model, and I'm happy to work with you always!!!

We couldn't have done this without ALL of your help!!! YOU made the day happen!!!

Thomas Guererri enjoyed a day of fishing with his

father, John. They had a blast!!!



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

PEACE PROGRAM FISHING RODEO BLOWOUT

By Jackie Classen



All of this was made possible through collaborative planning with Pastor Will Jones! Thank you, Pastor Will!



Cody (seated, in the blue baseball cap) brought his whole family to fish!



Our volunteer fishermen replaced the bait for participants! Thanks, guys!

Captain America caught a fish... no wait!!! That's Tim McNatt! Way to go, Tim!!!





Quinton Nesbitt, who usually cooks the fish at his restaurant, was able to kick back and catch the fish instead!



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



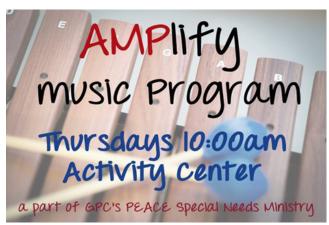
a part of GPC's PEACE Special Needs Ministry

Fall 2021 Schedule

8/18 Luncheon 8/25 Luncheon 9/1 Luncheon 9/8 Luncheon 9/15 Luncheon 9/22 Luncheon 9/29 Luncheon 10/6 Luncheon 10/13 No Luncheon/ Fall 12/15 Fall Finale Feast Break

10/20 Luncheon 10/27 Luncheon 11/3 Luncheon 11/10 Luncheon 11/17 Luncheon 11/24 Thanksgiving

12/1 Luncheon 12/8 Luncheon



Fall 2021 Schedule 8/19 Class 8/26 Class 9/2 Class 9/9 Class 9/16 Class 9/23 Class 9/30 Class

10/7 Class 10/14 No Class/ Fall

Break 10/21 Class 10/28 Class

11/4 Class/ Rehearsal 11/11 No Class/Veterans

Day Holiday

11/18 Class/ Rehearsal 11/25 No Class/ Thanks-

giving

12/2 Class / Rehearsal 12/9 Dress Rehearsal @

9:15am

12/9 Performance @

10:30am

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUTS FOR SEPTEMBER!

Jacob Miller on September 27, 2021!!! Kenesha Crittenden, PA to Quinton and Qubinique, on September 27, 2021!!! Happy birthday to y'all!!!



GPC was all jazzed up to host the JoyLife901 Breakfast Club, then ... COVID cases rose. We are now on pause, but we continue to examine safe, effective avenues for gathering and are prepared to move ahead once we get the green light.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for this piece of our PEACE Ministry outreach.

Stay tuned for new news in e-blasts, bulletin announcements, and upcoming editions of The Window.

We are seeking Safe Gatherings certified volunteers willing to donate time on a Friday night from 5:30-10:30pm.



We are in the early-planning stages, as we revisit, revamp, and hope to resurrect this ministry opportunity. The PEACE/Breathe program can offer much-needed respite to families unable to find quality childcare for their children with exceptional needs. The needs are great. Are you one of the few willing to sacrifice for the good of another?

If you are interested in helping to resurrect this program, please contact Jackie Classen at GPC (specialneeds@ germantownpres.org).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Thank you to the Petals & Prayers Ministry for providing individual arrangements of flowers every week from the Sunday chancel arrangement.

Each Sunday or Monday, flowers from the chancel will be placed into portable sized vases to take to the sick, bereaved, or shut in.

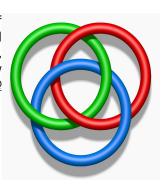
Typically Pastor Susie delivers these throughout the week, but anyone is welcome to share an arrangment with friends or family. Just come by the church office and you'll be directed to the flower room to choose a bright arrangement to share with a loved one.

CIRCLES OF CARE MINISTRY

This wonderful ministry bubbled forth during the very early days of the pandemic (March 2020), and now about 30 GPC parishioners are caring for about 216 other GPC parishioners.

How? Mostly by calling and checking on others. What do they say? "Hi, I'm (name) from GPC and I'm calling to check in on you. We want you to know that your church family loves you. How are you doing? Is there anything you might need us to do for you?"

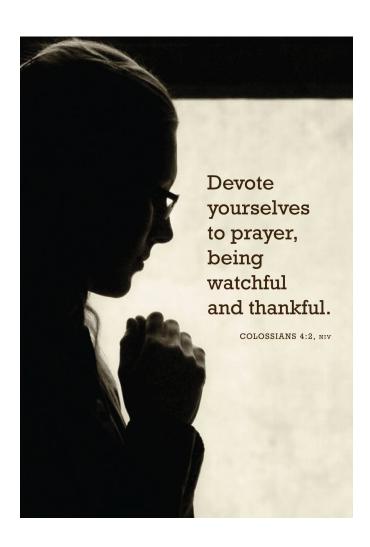
If you'd like to be a part of this vibrant ministry and call on a handful of folks, please let Pastor Susie know by emailing her at care@germantownpres.org.



MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET



Currently the Medical Supply Closet is full. There are plenty of walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, and other medical supplies folks need from time to time. If you are in need of one or more of these, you are welcome to check them out from the Medical Supply Closet. Simply contact Ann DeVere (901-754-5195 or office@germantownpres.org) at the front desk of the GPC office, and she will assist you in getting what you or your loved one might need.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

THE GPC PRAYER MINISTRY

Contributed by The Congregational Care Prayer Team



These times are filled with anxiety and unrest. We, as a church, want to pray for all our members. There are several ways to request and/or otherwise participate in prayer.

- 1. The website has a prayer request link on the home page with a praying hands graphic or you can email prayers@germantownpres.org.
- 2. Prayer cards are in the pew racks and can also be found in the AC lobby, the Welcome Center, the GPC office and elsewhere around the church. Just fill them out and put them in the offering plate. You can specify that your request be prayed over by pastors only, by a small prayer group, or shared with the churchwide prayer list published in the monthly newsletter.
- 3. Another way to request prayer is through the email list that church member Margaret Owens oversees. She sends requests to a larger prayer list within the GPC family. If you'd also like to be included on this list to receive prayer requests or if you have a prayer request that you want to share, you may email her as well. Her email is margaretowens1@aol.com.
- 4. The pastors also pray over all confidential prayer requests. Or you can also send a prayer request directly to the pastors at prayers@germantownpres.org.

This is a great way for us to get renewal and strength.

GPC'S GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

Grief Support Group Meet Every Month

The Grief Support Group has resumed its in-person meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Warren Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

The group meetings are free and open to GPC members, visitors, and those from the greater community area. If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the Grief Support Ministry Team listed below.

The Grief Support Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall - The Grief Support Ministry leader, GPC member and former GPC staff member, Elder, Deacon, Certified Grief Support Specialist and Certified Grief Counselor through the American Academy of Grief Counseling, The American Institute of Health Care Providers, and The Grief Recovery Institute

Beth Brock - GPC member, Elder, Deacon, Former Board Member of Memphis Crisis Center

Linda Oakes - GPC member, Deacon, Retired Nurse St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Hospice Volunteer

Contact information for this Ministry Team:

Stephanie Wall-901-494-7786 or <u>stephaniewall@hotmail.com</u>

Beth Brock-901-355-0262 or beth.coleman.brock@gmail.com

Linda Oakes-901-237-6566 or linoakes@bellsouth.net



MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

MUSIC NOTES

Well.. ONCE again COVID has slowed our momentum down in getting music up and running again at GPC!! As most of you are aware we were scheduled to have the choir return on August 15. We are again in a holding pattern with our soloists and small ensembles keeping us on track. As I say so many times using the words from an anthem "There is a Sunday Coming Soon!!" There is a Sunday coming and, no matter what form it may take, you can count on quality music in worship!!

WORSHIP Music in September:

- <u>Sunday, Sept. 5</u> our soloist will be TJ Turner, a doctoral student from SC, who has been with us for the past year.
- Sunday, Sept. 12 our soloist will be Karen Schowalter Cooper. We will also have a quartet or quintet sing with us (Woodie Whited is scheduled to be our bass). I am also planning to have Johnathan Whited play Prelude on his string bass. It will be great to have both Woodie and Johnathan back on this Sunday.
- <u>Sunday, Sept. 19</u> was the Sunday that we were going to have our Jubilee Celebration (#GPCjubilee), but that has been delayed. I plan to have an ensemble sing this Sunday.
- <u>Sunday, Sept 26</u> I have tenor Dane Suarez scheduled to sing. Dane (who sang with us as an opera apprentice some years back) and wife Kerriann are both living in Memphis and singing with us. Dane is traveling as an opera singer and will sing with us when in town. Dane has been in San Diego for the past 8 weeks.
- <u>Sunday</u>, <u>Oct. 3</u> is WORLD Communion Sunday. We will have an ensemble sing; our soloist is scheduled to be baritone Jake Stamatis, another opera singer who now lives in Memphis and is singing with us when he is in town. He sings regularly with Opera Memphis.

It is a difficult time to schedule and plan ahead. PRAY for COVID Relief!! There are so many who are in need of prayer.

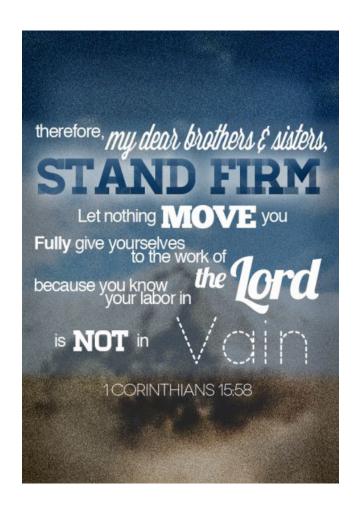
Looking ahead we are still planning to have the Sounds of the Season Concert with Kallen, GPC soloists, and some part of the Chancel Choir in December. Currently, it is scheduled for 2:30 Sunday, December 5. I am so appreciative to our student singers and our regular soloists who still feel comfortable singing for us in worship. Know that it is VERY difficult for soloists to sing with masks. Getting deep breaths and having the support necessary to project through the mask is difficult. A number of our singers simply cannot sing while wearing a mask.

A BIG thank you to ALL of our talented Chancel Choir members. They ALL want to be singing!!!

As I always do, let me thank those of you who support music at GPC not only through your giving to the annual budget, but you also regularly contribute to our Music Fund and the Teachey Scholarship Fund. It is because of your contributions that I am able to keep our student singers and guest instrumentalists actively participating in music for worship!!

I hope to SEE YOU in WORSHIP soon!!

Jerold C. Teachey, D.M. Director of Music



MISSIONS & OUTREACH





Memphis Athletic Ministries Love God... Love Others... Love Self

Memphis Athletic Ministries(MAM) is searching for men and women who will commit to mentor a high school student this school year. Mentors will be matched with students accepted into our Amplify Mentoring Program (AMP). AMP students are hand selected and hired by MAM to work in our sites and gain college and career training. Mentors will help these students set goals and take the steps to reach those goals and prepare them for life after MAM. For more information or to sign up, go to: www. mamsports.org/volunteer.

Torres Chief Executive Officer Memphis Athletic Ministries (901)489-7866 mamsports.org



Help Support UKirk Memphis

UKirk Memphis is a ministry serving the campuses of Rhodes College, the University of Memphis, and beyond. UKirk is a nationwide campus ministry affiliated with the Presbyterian Church(USA) and in partnership with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. We seek to reach, love, and teach college students to be lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

UKirk literally means University Church. At its core, UKirk

- + Worshipping and serving the living, Triune God.
- + Diving into Scripture, asking questions of it, wrestling with it, and, through the Holy Spirit, trusting it as it speaks to us.
- + Encouraging active engagement in the world, commitment to God's mission throughout creation, and love for neighbor and self.
- + Connecting students to one another and to the Church, helping each person to understand there is a world beyond our own.
- + Discovering God's grace and reconciling promises.
- + Loving and Accepting ALL

Although we continue revising and refining how we do ministry, it's importance in the spiritual lives of our students has not waivered, nor has our need for support from individuals and congregations like GPC. We ask for your prayers for our students as they navigate life in this time. And if you feel called to donate financially, you can do so online at www. ukirkmemphis.com under the "Support Us" tab. There, you can also sign up for our quarterly newsletter. If you would rather write a check, you can make it out to the Presbytery of the Mid-South with UKirk in the memo line, and send to the Presbytery office at 449 Patterson St., Memphis, TN 38111. UKirk Memphis sends a big thank you to Germantown Presbyterian Church for their continued support of our ministry!

Questions? Contact Rev. Elizabeth Doolin, the UKirk Campus Minister, at ukirk-memphis@gmail.com.

Follow us on social media! On Instagram and Twitter @ UkirkMemphis, and Facebook @ UKirkatMemphis



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

RISING TOGETHER FOUNDATION (RTF)



FAMILY MINISTRY

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

First-Graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 19 in the 11:00 worship service. This is a special day for these children and one that they are very proud of! Once they receive Bibles, their Sunday School teachers will encourage them to bring their Bible to Sunday School every week so that they can learn to look up Bible verses and stories that they study at Sunday School. First-graders will even use highlighters, take notes, and talk about how the Bible verse and story is important in their lives. Please join us at worship on September 19 to encourage our first-graders!

September Schedule

Sunday School is every Sunday morning at 9:30am. Come join us!

<u>Sunday, September 5</u> - No Sunday School, Labor Day weekend

Sunday, September 12 - Sunday School

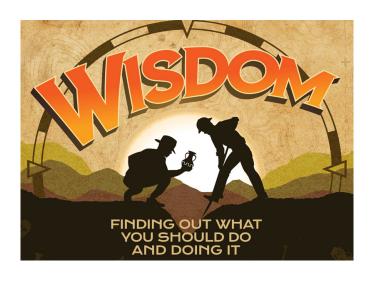
<u>Sunday, September 19</u> - First Grade Bible Presentation at 11:00 worship service

<u>Sunday, September 26</u> - Introduction of 5th Grade Worship Leaders in the 11:00 worship service



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL THEMES





FAMILY MINISTRY

GPC YOUTH AT MONTREAT

By Christopher Greco

A group of nine students and three adults departed early from GPC on Sunday, July 18 before even the pastors had made it to church. Loading into a black bus, they ventured across two states to the Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina. That afternoon they arrived at Montreat College and Retreat Center and moved into Anderson Hall, their new home for the next week.

Students flocked to fields and outdoor spaces to share games of Ultimate or Cornhole. Throughout the week, students got to make friendship bracelets, play challenging and new games, and connect over the fun of recreation. Each student joined a small group to discuss their faith and journey together. All this fellowship and fraternity was lit upon the backdrop of the gorgeous greenery that decorates the area.

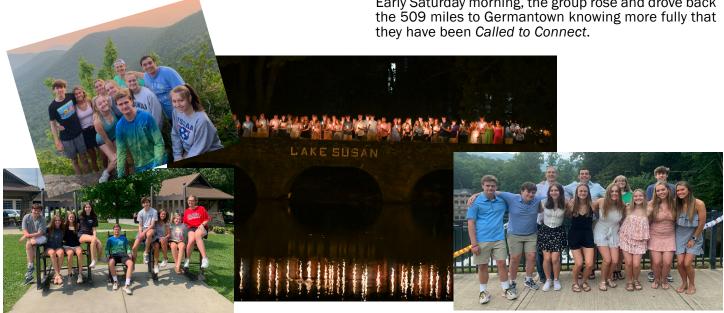
Over the week, students heard from various speakers about how we, as Christians, are Called to Connect. A rainy Monday featured a lesson from Luke 1:39-45 about how Mary was chosen to carry Jesus. Tuesday featured a lesson from Genesis 11:1-9. The week's pastor, Reverend Damon Williams, said that our smart phone turns into an expensive brick when it is away from its charger too long, and we also lose our charge over time the less we recharge spiritually.

The group of Middle and High Schoolers got to explore the town a bit on Wednesday. In Black Mountain, they explored and shopped before the Jones family invited them for a special meal cooked for the group. They enjoyed the company of each other over the laughter that roared over the riddles and jokes they shared. During worship that evening, the group learned how to reconnect with others through love from John 13:1-15.

On Thursday before the sun had risen, the group decided to take a treacherous hike up the steep Lookout Mountain. At the top they were greeted with a beautiful natural painting as the sun peaked out of the Smoky Mountains. They were taught that day of the kindness they are called to show others even when it is difficult. This was all portrayed through the story of Jacob and Esau written in Genesis 33:1-15.

On the final evening, students discussed and learned of their connection to each other. That our faith tethers us to one another. They sang and worshiped around Lake Susan as they held candles and slowly blew them out before returning to their beds. Each evening before sleeping, the group rendezvoused together to share their day and what the stories from each sermon meant to them.

Early Saturday morning, the group rose and drove back they have been Called to Connect.



In September, we will be hosting Mess Fest, our first large event of the Fall months; make sure to bring clothes you don't love for this messy event! In October, students are invited to the Halloween Lock-in on Friday, October 29 to the early morning of the next day. November will host our first ever Youth Group Thanksgiving Celebration the Sunday before Thanksgiving. As we close our Autumn Semester, we will have our big Christmas Blowout on December 12.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In the Congregation

- **Barbara Arthur
- >Shirley Billups
- >Sherril/Jim Blair
- >Huddy/Bayard Boyle
- >Tommie Faye Coffman
- >Kay/David Collins
- **Mark Cooper
- >Kay Donaho
- >Judy/Fred Frick
- >Dot/Lamar Hartzog >Jean/Bob Hicks
- >Judy Hobbs
- >Dot Ledlow
- >Carol/Bill Leppert
- >Aggie/Jack Losa
- >Lalla Mellor
- >Susan Robinson
- >Jackie/Bill Ruleman
- **Mary Blanche Scott
- >Diane Short
- >Mary Strop
- >Anne/Wayne Tansil
- >Jan Thomson
- >Bob Thurman

>Amanda Walters >Woodie/Johnathan

Whited

The congregation extends its love, sympathy, and prayers to:
the family of Jim Kinney in his death;
Francesca & Mike Lyle & family in the death of Mike's great-aunt.

In Service in the Military

Sidney Baker - niece of Kay Donaho
Kyle Bishop - grandson of Brenda Bishop
Trip Hiller - grandson of Anne & Wayne Tansil
Johnny Nowell - son of Jo & Adm. John Nowell
Patrick Peak - son of Eleanor Denton
Jason Ragain - son of Debbie Ragain

Coronavirus Prayers

Doctors, nurses, emergency workers dealing with COVID-19
Patients with COVID-19
Wisdom for church leadership
Bethlehem Bible College

GPC Friends & Family Prayer Ministry

- >Brandon PEACE program participant & friend of Jackie Classen
- >Deborah Cornelius friend of friend of Greg Morgan
- >JoAnne Day mother of Jeff Day
- >Diane former college roommate of Jeanie Hill
- >Virginia Goss daughter of Gloria/Tim Goss
- >Jean Griffin & family friends of Gisele & Terry Pickett
- >Debra Hampton & family coworker of Woodson Farmer

- >Allerie Hanlon (1st responder) - daughter-in-law of Susan Ollinger
- >Susan Hawkins daughter of Ann Phillips
- >Hubert Moore uncle of Patrick Rice
- **Louise Oaks mother of Betsie Menendez
- >Mary Ann & Troy Odom parents of Tracey Smith
- >Nephew of Margaret Owens
- >Dr. Carlos Reyes-Sacin (1st responder) - son-in-law of Susan Ollinger

- >Sally mother of Martha Mayers
- >Bill Sims extended family of Missy Gwin
- >Mark Smith brother of Barbara Armstrong
- >Mary Ann & Merle Weaver friends of Jackie Classen
- **Whitney & 4-yo son, Davis friends of Karen Fesmire

COVID-related

**from Martha Drannon - cousin Joette Sykes

- **from Diane Callahan Edens
 cousin Cliff & wife Judy
- **from Missy Gwin cousin Donna, her daughter Lauren, her grandsons Paul Thomas & William
- **from Jeanie Hill daughterin-law's mom Norma, son
- >from Violet Olsen niece & nephew Kim & Chris Mitchell
- **from Debbie Ragain friend Tina Dodson

**Indicates new request added since last month.

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.

September 2021 GPC Family Prayer Ministry

Sep 5
Jean & Gil Brooks
Brooke & Anthony Duke;
CeCe & Bryce
Susie & Joe Lyle
Nicole & Judd Peters, Julia
Eileen & Steele Scroggin,
Beckett, Lincoln
Amanda Walters

Sep 12
Lindsey & Joseph Butler;
Adelaide, Chandler
Kay Dortch
Rachel & Brad Gay; Hallie,
Lyla
Alexa & Garrett Guynes;
Gabby, Garner
Amy & Barry Phillips
Ramona & John Seabold
Helen & Lance Warren
Nancy Webb

Sep 19
Katherine & Bill Burnett;
Billy
Elaine Dellinger
Betty & Don Dowden
Tricia & Jeff Harris; Joseph,
Talmadge
Amy & Jim Morse; Andrew,
Thomas & Win
Diane Short
Kwassi Walters; Dilon,
Isabella

Sep 26
Cathy & David Aslin; Molly,
Meghan
Katie Burrow
Ginny Cifaldi
Marilyn & John Donnelly
Karen & Bill Fesmire
JW McAllister
Ann & Roscoe Phillips
Kay Shelton

ENGAGE IN 2021

SESSION CORNER

The COVID Task Force met 8/5 with leadership from a highly regarded Infectious Disease Specialist. He was adamant that our primary line of defense is the vaccine, and that the vast majority of recent hospitalizations are with those not vaccinated. Based on Task Force recommendations, the Session passed the following motions:

- In response to the recent surge of COVID cases, the Session strongly recommends that everyone wear a mask while indoors. We believe this demonstrates self-sacrificial love for those who cannot be vaccinated for reasons of age (children under 12) or health.
- In addition to the above statement, everyone working with children under twelve (i.e. Sunday School and children's choir teachers, nursery workers, etc.) shall wear a mask.

- We will continue to rely on expert medical advice as we discuss and discern what is best for our congregation. We encourage everyone to do the same for the safety and health of their loved ones.
- Groups where children are not involved may self-regulate their meeting space and procedures, subject to the above statements.
- We will not have a full choir until further notice due to possible spread of the virus from singing.
- We will postpone the Jubilee event (#GPCjubilee) until the COVID situation is more favorable.

We will reassess these decisions at the September 16 Session meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Callahan Edens

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

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Terry Bishop Becky & David Stanley

In Memory of Tom Cates Mr. & Ms. Robert Q. Wilson

In Memory of Betty McCallen
Betty & David Blaylock
Katie Burrow

In Memory of Diane Stearns
Scarlet Baughman
Beth & Bill Boyle
Katie Burrow
Marketta & Gary Childers
John, Judy, Kathy, & John Guttery

Dixie & Bob Johnson
Dr. & Ms. Conn McConnell
Lynn Mellor
Marcy Miller
Dixie Morgan
Patricia Smith
Shirley & Lyle Ware
Maureen & Bill Wilson

Music Fund

In Memory of Dianne Bell Nicki & Tommy Lamar

In Memory of Tom Cates Nicki & Tommy Lamar In Memory of Sandy Franks Nicki & Tommy Lamar

In Memory of Betty Green Nicki & Tommy Lamar

In Memory of Billie Martin Nicki & Tommy Lamar

In Memory of Betty McCallen Nicki & Tommy Lamar Mary Blanche Scott GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2363 S GERMANTOWN RD GERMANTOWN TN 38138

рн: 901/754-5195 Fx: 901/754-6961

www.GermantownPres.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

8:30AM WORSHIP
11:00AM WORSHIP
(ONSITE & ONLINE)

9:40AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

6:00PM WORSHIP
(ONSITE & ONLINE)

October Window Deadline: September 15

GPC Financial Summary, July 2021 July 2021 2021 YTD **July 2020** 2020 YTD \$125,706 \$1,233,458 \$117,565 \$1,053,806 Revenue \$169,898 \$1,079,770 \$109,733 \$986,257 **Expenses** (\$44,192)\$153,688 \$7,832 \$67,549 Net We had a deficit of \$44,192 in July, but our year-to-date results remain positive and significantly higher than our results from a year ago. We believe this represents only the normal giving cycle that occurs in summer and reinforces the need for everyone to remember their pledge to GPC even though they may be out of town on vacation. Our expenses for payroll, utilities, and building maintenance do not take a vacation.

WILLIAM G. JONES PASTOR

Susan Carter Wiggins Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Nurture

MICHAEL LYLE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

TOM SAUER ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO SENIOR ADULTS

Anna White Director of Family Ministry

CHRISTOPHER GRECO
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Jackie Classen Director of Special Needs Ministry, Asst. to Director of Children's Ministry

JEROLD TEACHEY DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

ALEX BENFORD
ORGANIST/MUSIC ASSOCIATE

JOHN JOHNSON WORSHIP LEADER/MUSICIAN

SANDRA FRANKS COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

JENNIFER GENRTY DIRECTOR, GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL FRED TURVEREY
BUSINESS & FACILITIES
ADMINISTRATOR

AMBER MILLER FINANCIAL SECRETARY

ANN DEVERE CHURCH SECRETARY/ RECEPTIONIST CARL WOODS

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

RANDY SMITH MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Laurie Henderson Director of Communications



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