

Church Calendar

Thur Dec 1 7 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Sat Dec 3 6 - 8:30 p.m.	St. Nicholas Dinner
Sun Dec 4 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m.	Adult Issues Sunday School Worship - 2nd Sunday in Advent The Lord's Supper Children's Church Congregational Meeting Lunch Bunch
11:15 a.m. 12 p.m. 12 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 5 p.m. 5 p.m.	Auction Committee Meeting Confirmation Class/Youth Group Yoga
Tue Dec 6 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting Knitting Group College Bible Study
Thurs Dec 8 7 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
Fri Dec 9 4 p.m.	French Maternal School Concert
Sun Dec 11 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m.	Adult Issues Sunday School Worship - 3rd Sunday in Advent Handel's <i>Messiah</i> NO Children's Church (1st-4th grades) today Lunch Bunch 2012 Chancel Flower contributions due
12 p.m. 12 p.m. 5 p.m. 5 p.m. 5 p.m.	Children's Ministry Meeting Youth (6-12 grades) Caroling Yoga
Mon Dec 12 5 p.m.	2011 Christmas Flower contributions due
Tue Dec 13 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m.	Staff Meeting Knitting Group
Thurs Dec 15 6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Fri Dec 16 7:30 p.m.	Potluck Christmas Party at the Bradleys
Sat Dec 17 10 a.m. - noon	Christmas Pageant rehearsal
Sun Dec 18 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m. 12 p.m. 5 p.m. 5 p.m.	Adult Issues Class Sunday School Worship - 4th Sunday in Advent Lunch Bunch Youth (6-12 grades) Christmas Party Yoga
Tue Dec 20 9:30 a.m. 10 a.m.	Staff Meeting Knitting Group
Sat Dec 24 5 p.m. 9 p.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant Candlelight Service
Sun Dec 25 11 a.m.	Worship - Lessons and Carols
Mon Dec 26	Christmas holiday GPC Offices closed
Tue Dec 27 10 a.m.	Knitting Group
Wed Dec 28	January <i>Memo</i> submissions deadline

The Georgetown Presbyterian Church
3115 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007
Address Correction Requested

THE
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Monthly Memo

December 2011
Worship 11:00 a.m.
www.gtownpres.org



MEMO:

Two years ago, I asked some of the children from my church in England to write down for me what Christmas meant to them. Here are some of their answers...

I go to Scotland to see my family and we go to church because it is Jesus' birthday. Jesus came to give us love. ~Eilidh age 11
Jesus' birthday, celebration and forgiveness and things you desperately want to get. Crispy aromatic duck by the ton!
~Michael age 10

I like big Christmas lights, chocolate faces, presents and Jesus' birthday! ~Emma age 10

When Jesus was born. ~Isobel age 6

Its night and Father Christmas gives me toys. ~Anna age 4

A chance to spend time together as a family and a chance to have fun with everyone. ~Beatrice age 13

The birthday of Jesus, we give him our prayers and he gives us love. And we get lots of presents and new clothes and shoes and stockings. And Santa Claus gives us lots of nice things. ~Kirsty age 11

Giving presents, getting presents, and SNOW!!! ~Robbie age 8

The birth of Jesus, as he brought love to the world and forgave our sins. Having Christmas dinner around the family table. As a tradition we all help to put up the decorations. ~Joanne age 11

It means family and happiness for everyone. It means Christmas shows and chocolate, and stockings, and presents. ~Rosie age 13

A three course meal featuring roast duck and stuffed apples, followed by a walk in the park, finishing off with presents and marzipan in the drawing room. Oh, and we go to church in the morning. ~Robert age 15

Toys!!! ~Alfie age 4

As we reflect on the meaning of Christmas we are inspired by the joy children bring to the season. This year, may we greet Christmas morning with childlike expectation. May we find meaning for ourselves and for others in the richness of Christ's birth. May we look for signs and promises of hope in the world and growth within ourselves.

Blessings upon you and your loved ones during this journey towards Christmas morning-

C.L. Cook

Camille L. Cook

December Prayer

Holy and everlasting God,

I come yet again Lord with open hands asking for your blessings.
In this time of preparation my prayer is that you might stir within me.
Awaken me to the riches of life in this season of giving and celebration.
Keep me sheltered from the panic and hustle of consumption and materialism.
Give me an eye for holy mangers tucked away in stables.
Give me a heart for your people rejected by the closed doors of the world.
Teach me Lord how to give lasting gifts and build meaningful relationships.
Grant me time and strength to embody the Christian meaning of Christmas
to be that of faith, hospitality and peace.

I ask these things so that when Christmas morning dawns, I may have more to show
for my preparations than wrapped gifts and tired feet.
Prepare the way of the Lord within me and around me.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

From the Desk of the DCE...

Merry Christmas! What an exciting year this has been for me and for Education at GPC. A few highlights: we started two new adult classes (*Bible 101* and *Faith Formation for Families*); two Bible studies (college students and young adults); and we've nearly tripled our kids' average Sunday school attendance from September to November. I want to say a big thank you to all the wonderful kids, parents, and volunteers who helped make this a great semester. And there are more exciting things ahead! We are working on training teachers and children's worship leaders in new programs for next year.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 10 a.m. programming for children or adults on Christmas, December 25, and New Years Day, January 1. Regular classes will resume on January 8.

Christmas Eve Pageant – Come and enjoy the children's Christmas pageant this Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at 5pm. This is a magical night, not to be missed! If your child is interested in participating in the pageant, please contact Rachel Vaagenes at vaagenesrl@comcast.net.

Youth Group Christmas Party – all GPC youth grades 6-12 are invited to celebrate Sunday, December 18 from 5-7pm. Close out a great year with games, caroling and food. Bring your friends! (vaagenesrl@comcast.net)

Our Pastors Remember

The Heritage Committee announces the publication of *Our Pastors Remember*, a collection of oral history interviews with nine senior and associate pastors, beginning with Dick Austin, 1963-1966, our first associate pastor. Other pastors interviewed for the book include Clarence Ammons, Merritt Schatz and Campbell Gillon. Two GPC associates during Campbell's ministry – Dana English and Sim Gardner – were also interviewed for the book. Pastors from the 1960s and 1970s include John Ackerman, Richard Oman, and Rob McClure.

The interviews with pastors were conducted by Susan Page, Gina Rowe and Phil Fleming. Some of the interviews were transcribed by the late Barbara Bowersox. Susan Page and Jolene Blozis edited the collection, and the pages in the book were designed and formatted by Jolene Blozis. The book was printed by Rachid Gana at St. Columba's Church, Washington, D.C.

The books sell for \$10 which will help recover the \$1250 cost of printing 100 copies.

Music for Mission

On **Saturday, January 28**, we present our third **Music for Mission** with an elegant dinner, silent auction, and performance by the inspiring *Children of Uganda*. At the end of November, we emailed **Music for Mission Silent Auction Donation Forms** to the congregation and there are extra forms in the Narthex. If you have a place/experience/item or service that you would like to donate to the Silent Auction or if you have any questions, please contact Susan Bell (skrausebell@starpower.net) or Katy McBride (kmcbride@wt.net).

Budget and Finance Committee Report

Period Ended October 31, 2011

OPERATING BUDGET REPORT

Actual operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$36,968 through October 31. The difference is due primarily to pledged and non-pledged income below budget, personnel costs higher than budget, and the Manse property tax higher than budget.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$582,270	\$612,017	\$(29,747)
Total Expense	619,238	607,965	11,273
Income-Expense	\$(36,968)	\$ 4,052	\$(41,020)

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT

The value of the investment portfolio increased due to investment performance.

September 30, 2011 Balance	\$1,239,798
Deposits	-0-
Withdrawals	-0-
Investment performance	62,367
October 31, 2011 Balance	\$1,302,165

Adult Issues Class — December 2012 Sundays, 9:30 a.m. ~ Washington Room

Adult Issues continues its exciting season of presentations intersecting faith, the arts, current affairs, interfaith matters, and Christian living. The forum draws on local talents as well as thinkers from across the nation, and from the Reformed Institute and various seminaries.

December 4 Charlie Alexander, Jolene Blozis, Peggy Garrett, and Phil Fleming of GPC Heritage Committee team present "The Birth of a Heritage Committee Oral History Book." Charlie describes the Committee's mission and history; Peggy talks about the Oral History Project, and Jolene tells us about the book – how it was put together, edited, and made ready for publication. We plan to leave ample time for Q and A. A wonderful program that follows on the heels of Richard Austin's two-part series on GPC during the ministry of Dr. Russell Stroup. Phil Fleming introduces and participates.

December 11 and 18 "Pharaoh and Herod, Moses and Jesus: Advent Parallels and Women Who Made a Difference." Denise Hopkins of Wesley Seminary delves into how Moses and Jesus were born in precarious circumstances under oppressive rule. Both the midwives to Moses and Mary embodied the unexpected and allowed for a new story that leads to redemption for both peoples. We examine the parallels in these birth stories and contemplate how these women undermined the oppression of empires – a fitting subject for our time of Advent preparation. Grace Fleming hosts.

Note: Adult Issues will not meet on December 25 or January 1. Class will resume on January 8 when Dr. David Little, retired from Harvard Divinity School, speaks on "Evangelicals versus Ecumenicals: A Reversal of Fortunes."

THE MONTHLY MEMO

The deadline for the **January Memo** is **December 28**.



Backward Glances

DECEMBER 2011

In this column for the past two months, we have discussed army chaplains associated with GPC. From the beginning of the Civil War, both the Union and Confederate armies had chaplains. In 1861, the War Department authorized one regular minister per regiment to serve as chaplains. There were also missionaries who actively worked with the soldiers to meet their spiritual needs.

In 1864, Congress and the War Department awarded chaplains pay and allowances equal to that of a captain. They wore captains' uniforms and were authorized to carry swords and pistols. In the Confederate army they held no rank and received half the pay of a lieutenant.

Those captured and not bearing arms were immediately repatriated. Some, however, believed in combat and fought alongside their soldiers even though their main duty was to meet the spiritual needs of the soldiers. There was real disagreement among chaplains whether to engage in combat. This was not a new paradox. Priests and monks fought alongside Robert the Bruce in the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Bear in mind also that many of the chaplains believed they were serving on God's side in the War. Given the intensity of feelings among the populace, that was not surprising. Most, however, did not take up arms.

Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Baptist ministers served as Chaplains throughout the war. Fourteen black ministers also served as chaplains to the Union Black troop units.

The Heritage Committee
By Doug McFadden

Handel's Messiah

At the 11 a.m. service on **December 11**, Music Director John Lintner and Conductor Alvin Carpintero lead The Georgetown Presbyterian Choir in singing favorite selections from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, accompanied by strings and organ. The text for this famous oratorio, based on the King James Version of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, comes alive in this beautifully expressive music. We hope you will join us for this wonderful service.

Bradleys' Potluck Christmas Dinner Friday, December 16 ~ 7:30pm

All are invited to this delightful time of fellowship and festivity as we enjoy conversation, food, and carol-singing. Please RSVP to Nancy Bradley at 703-821-2694.

2012 Chancel Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the **Chancel Flowers in 2012**, please fill out a donation sheet (located in the narthex) and either place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office **by Sunday, December 11**.

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER 2011

December 1	Michele Saranovich	December 20	Laney Altamar
December 2	Gordon Grant		Meredith Ferro
	Georgiana Sharp	December 21	Michael Horan
December 4	Katherine McGuire	December 22	Lynn Dizard
December 5	Benjamin Berger	December 23	Fred Amling
	Andrew Dye		Anna Hovis
	Jim Harff	December 24	Brannan Meyers
	Janet Lanman		Miley Thomas
December 6	Ellen Hoagland	December 25	Alex Cary
December 7	Charles Marshall		Stephanie Frang
December 8	Jonda McFarlane		Lee Minichiello
December 10	Todd Newnam		Charles Schilke
	Yeats Valentine Owen	December 26	Anna Soopper
December 12	Mary Lynn Bianco		Esther Wisdom
	Lauren Mattison	December 28	Elizabeth Fitchjian
	Kirk von Seelen		Natalie von Seelen
December 13	Elizabeth McKay Evans	December 29	Cathy Sterling
	Susan Trees	December 30	Ann Hunt
December 15	Matthew Miller		Betsy Isaacson
December 16	Tamra McCraw		Julia Walter
December 19	Helgi Walker		

Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC) provides services to the neighborhood's homeless population and has an impressive newly-renovated center and website: <http://georgetownministrycenter.org/>. GMC clients need **gently-used women's and men's clothing, as well as shoes or sneakers**. Also, the **GMC knitting class** needs yarn donations, preferably multiple skeins of the same yarn type and color. Donation boxes are inside the front door of the church's lower level and in the Georgetown Room.

GPC Pledge Report

As of December 5, we have received 91 pledges for a total of \$357, 628 towards our pledge goal of 140 for 2012.

Tables of 8

It's sign-up time for GPC's annual **Tables of 8**. For four evenings of good food, great fellowship and fun, mark the following Saturdays on your calendar:

Jan. 21, Feb. 25, March 24, & April 28

These evenings are open to all: young, young-at-heart, single, married, etc. We need 32 couples or partners and a list of substitutes. Sign up even if you can't commit to all four evenings since there may be others who can attend the evenings you can't. The more the merrier! Contact: Judi Crowson at 202/333-1603 or jdcrowson@verizon.net.

2011 Christmas Flowers

The Church will be beautifully decorated with Christmas flowers, greens and wreaths on **December 18**. If you would like to make a contribution for these flowers, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and put it in the offering plate or mail to the church office **by Monday, December 12**. Checks should be made out to GPC — Christmas Flowers.