

Calendar

Sun Feb 21

9:30 a.m. Adult Issues Class
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. New Member Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
Yoga - Narthex

Mon Feb 22

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tue Feb 23

10:00 a.m. Knitting Group

Wed Feb 24

6:30 p.m. Lenten Series – Dinner
7:00 p.m. Lenten Series

Sun Feb 28

Shelter Leaves

9:30 a.m. Adult Issues Class
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Young Adults Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Baptism
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
Yoga - Narthex

Mon Mar 1

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Tue Mar 2

10:00 a.m. Knitting Group

Wed Mar 3

6:30 p.m. Lenten Series – Dinner
7:00 p.m. Lenten Series

Sun Mar 7

9:30 a.m. Adult Issues Class
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. New Member Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
Yoga - Narthex

Mon Mar 8

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. Memo information Due

Wed Mar 10

6:30 p.m. Lenten Series – Dinner
7:00 p.m. Lenten Series

Sun Mar 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:30 a.m. Adult Issues Class
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Young Adult Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

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

THE
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Bi-Weekly Memo

February 21, 2010
February 27, 2010
March 7, 2010
Worship 11:00 a.m.
www.gtownpres.org



MEMO:

Dear Friends,

Several years ago, the now defunct comic strip *Shoe* every February used to spill considerable ink poking fun at the dreariness that we encounter during this month. For example, one character pointed out that “it is the third of February and already we are six weeks into the month.” Or, another wonders why in a Leap Year February has to be the month that gets another day; he would much rather have a July 32nd. That is pretty much the feeling that any number of people have during this time of the year. It has been excruciatingly intensified this year with the amount of snow we have had. I have received e-mails from young mothers who haven’t been out of the house for a week. Their opinion of the season is not pretty.

February can be tough. It can illustrate very well how at times the world of nature does not cooperate with what we want to achieve. It can represent all the hurdles that nature puts in our way. But this time can also be Lent, a slow period as the name implies. But it is a slow period that is necessary for the never ending day that we hope for in Easter. Matthew and Luke tell us that immediately after his baptism Jesus went into the desert to pray, and to be tempted, for forty days before he began his ministry. That is Lent, a period of accepting that there are deserts in our lives. Those deserts, though, do not in the end deny human purposes; sometimes they are the very things we need to dwell in for awhile in order to achieve our greatest purposes.

But for that to happen we need to know how to use times such as these. We need to learn how to accept a world that was not made *just* for us. We need, too, to learn to be patient. Things don’t happen on our schedules; but that doesn’t mean that what needs to happen won’t happen at all. As Paul pointed out, the world as a whole groans in labor pains for its final redemption. We, too, need to realize that our frustration can be labor pains, signs not of disappointment, but of a coming fulfillment.

That is what Lent is about. It is a matter of learning to wait, a time of faith’s learning to wait on God’s own Word, which reveals itself in its own time, but which reveals itself surely.

As we now enter into Lent, let me therefore invite you to join with all your brethren here at GPC in the observance of this spiritually vital season. There are a number of activities for all of us. Ash Wednesday will be observed with a service of prayer and meditation and communion on February 17. We will begin a Wednesday evening Lenten study series on March 3 (a week is missing because we are hosting the homeless shelter until February 28.) Everybody is invited to come to the church at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper, which will be followed by a service of evening prayer, and then an hour of study. We will be talking about “St. Augustine: Journey of a Soul.” (Further details are in this *Memo*.) In Sunday worship, the choir will present in Lent Karl Jenkins’ *Stabat Mater*, which Jenkins has specially arranged for GPC. We will celebrate communion on Maundy Thursday, and pray together with the other churches of Georgetown at the Good Friday service. Then, we will all join to together to celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection at the usual two Easter services.

I invite all of you to participate in these activities. But I also invite all of you to take a special time out of each day to engage in your own spiritual practices of reading, listening and praying. In doing so you will not be enduring the long winter season, but learning the joy of great anticipation.

Peace,

Eric

Happy Birthday

Feb 21 Ed Bassett	Mar 3 Sean Buckley
Francis Brooke, Jr.	Grace Fleming
Mitch Delk	Ann Harris
Lori Martens	Mar 4 Anne Crawley
Feb 22 Larry Crisafulli	Cabell Hobbs
Claire Farver	Mar 5 Betty Alexander
Barbara Nagi	Julie Aslaksen
Feb 23 Matthew Aslaksen	Jack Bowersox
Helen Romness	Katy McBride
Feb 24 Marissa Baly	Mar 7 Susan Noble Jones
Douglas Miller	Mar 9 Catherine McEaddy-
Feb 25 Claire Buckley	Holmes
Sophie Buckley	Philip McGreevy
Feb 26 Ann Dempster	David Taylor
Mary Beth Ray	Mar 11 Stuart Campbell-
Ella Schellhas	Jourdan
Feb 28 Campbell Gillon	Charles Gnaedinger
Thomas Mitchell	Elizabeth Jackson
Elizabeth Schatz	Mar 13 Bergen Romness
Peter Thornburgh	Mar 14 Roy Henwood
Mar 2 John Lintner	Kristiina Liuksila

YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY

The Young Adults Fellowship will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month for a Bible Study. The theme of the study for this semester will be "Justice and Righteousness."

Those under forty, married or single, students or employed/unemployed, or anywhere in between, are all welcome.

The study will be from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., in the Colonial Room. Watch for announcements for social events!

SCHEDULE:

February 28:	Jonah 1-3
March 14:	Isaiah 42:1-12; 52:13-53:12
March 28;	Matthew 5
April 11:	Matthew 6-7
April 25:	John 18:1-19:16
May 9:	Philippians 2:1-11
May 23:	Romans 12, 13

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Interested in joining Georgetown Presbyterian Church? New Members classes will be held Feb. 21, Mar. 7, and Mar. 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Colonial room. Please email the church office to let us know if you plan to attend these classes. Check with us about alternative arrangements if you have to miss a class. New Members will meet with the Session on Mar. 18, and then be recognized in the worship service on Palm Sunday Mar. 28. We look forward to welcoming you into full fellowship with this part of the Body of Christ!

In Our Fathers House

Longtime GPC member William Dempster died February 2, 2010. A service and burial were held in New Jersey on February 9th.

Changes in the Memo

In an effort to minimize expenses, the GPC newsletter the "Memo" is going electronic. As of April 11th the Memo will be moving to a Monthly publication and will be sent electronically to all those who have e-mail. For those of you who do not have e-mail copies will be available in the Narthex and the church office starting April 11th.

The memo for April 11th will cover the remainder of April and will include a schedule for the following months. The schedule will include the dates each month the Monthly Memo will be sent electronically, the dates the Monthly Memo will be available to pick-up in Narthex or the church office and the due dates for articles to be submitted for publication in the Monthly Memo.

The Monthly Memo will also be available our web-site and updates will be sent electronically.

We thank you for your support during this transition.

The Church Office

LENTEN STUDY SERIES:

Beginning on Wednesday, March 3, we will begin a Lenten Study Series, centering on the thought of St. Augustine. Augustine was surely the most influential thinker of the ancient church; he was responsible for the shape of Christian thought for the next thousand years or more. No thinker outside the biblical writers influenced the Reformers more. But this classic thinker who influenced the thought of ages to come is also still one of the most appreciated as a personal guide to the Christian faith. He himself once said that all he wanted to know is God and the soul. He is still read today for those who think similarly.

Each Wednesday evening will begin at 6:30 with a light supper. At 7 pm we will join together in a time of meditative evening prayer, led by members of our community. Following prayer, we will spend our time working through the rather exemplary life of Augustine, as well as some of his most important and timeless writings which reflect the various stages of the soul's journey from youth to old age. No reading is required ahead of time, although eager participants may well want to look at Augustine's *Confessions*. Other books that will be mentioned are listed in this schedule, which is as follows.

- March 3: The Restless Heart
(*Confessions*, especially books 1-6)
- March 10: Conversions
(*Confessions* books 7-10)
- March 17: What is Inside Us: The Nature of Faith
(*On Christian Teaching*; *On the Trinity*, *Sermons on the Gospel of John*)
- March 24: The Disappointments and Hopes of Old Age
(*The City of God*; *The Spirit and the Letter*.)

All from the church family are welcome, including families, students and young adults. Teenagers may want to be part of the study, but there are also plenty of places to do homework. Please let us know if you are coming with younger children, and we will seek to provide something for them.

Next Memo Due Date

For the Memo covering March 14 & March 21. Due date is **Monday March 8th** at 5:00 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION –FEBRUARY

Please join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Washington Room as we continue to explore issues of importance to our faith and community:

February 21—Professor Denise Hopkins, Wesley Theological Seminary, will explore aspects of the story of Bathsheba. Many have considered Bathsheba to be one of the "bad girls of the Bible." So why does Matthew include her in his genealogy of Jesus? She was the wife of King David and the mother of Solomon, so why does Matthew mention her only as "the wife of Uriah". What does she have in common with Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Mary, the only other women mentioned in this lengthy genealogy? We'll see a movie clip from "King David", starring Richard Gere, to glimpse how our culture has dealt with Bathsheba. Does she need a press agent? This will be the concluding talk in Professor Hopkins' series on *Matthew's Genealogy of the Female Ancestors of Jesus* (the originally scheduled talk was snowed-out in December).

February 28—Freddie Berger, Professor Emerita of Drama at Wesley Theological Seminary will explore important issues facing many congregations and denominations through discussion of the play, *Racing Demon* by David Hare. The first part of a trilogy, the play focuses on the Church of England which finds itself wracked by disension on matters of doctrine and practice, and attracting unwanted publicity. In this play, the Rev. Lionel Espy and his team of clergymen struggle to make sense of their mission in South London as the arrival of a zealous young curate intensifies their personal and professional problems.

The Schatz family wishes to thank everyone who lifted us up in prayer, provided meals, and sent cards during our recent illnesses. It was wonderful to be surrounded with so much love and support! We are all doing much better, though we still have a few hurdles ahead. We appreciate your continued prayers and give thanks to God for the gift of the family of Christ.



Congratulations to Paul and Hiroko Hersey on the birth of their son Nathaniel Lawrence February 12, 2010.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 14th.