

CHURCH CHAT

Calendar

- Jan. 2 WNL Returns (5:30 pm)
- Jan. 6 New Sermon Series Begins
- Jan. 11 Teen Girls Night Out (6 pm)
- Jan. 13 Remembrance of Baptism
- Jan. 16 Preschool & Kindergarten Registration
- Jan. 22 Ladies Paint Night
- Jan. 26 Ladies Morning Out (9 am)
- Jan. 27 Potluck & Annual Meeting (5 pm)
- Feb. 1-3 Men's Retreat
- Feb. 3 Preschool Sunday
- Feb. 5 AARP Tax Preparation Begins (8:30 am)
- Feb. 7 Valentine Box Deadline
- Feb. 8-10 Marriage Retreat
- Feb. 10 Operation Tons of Love Begins
Communion & Worship Prep (11 am)
- Feb. 15 Parent's Night Out (6 pm)
- Feb. 18 Registration Deadline for Women's
Retreat
- Feb. 24 Candlelight Concert (4 pm)
Operation Tons of Love Ends
Winter Jam

From Your Pastor:

2018 has been a year full of opportunities to serve the Lord! In my final Annual Report I desired to give you a glimpse of how your pastor is engaged in kingdom work. Here's my ministry profile:

Community Activities:

- Board member of Tidewater Pastoral Counseling Services
- Holy Week Services
- Met with our Scouts to help them earn badges

Continuing Education:

- Montreat: Transitional Ministry Training
- The Fellowship Community National Gathering

Fall Activities:

- Auto Show
- Ben Smith Presentation
- Chesapeake Christmas Parade
- Jingle Jog
- Lip Sync Video
- Murder Mystery Participant
- Trunk or Treat

Groups:

- Brown Bag Lunch
- Friday Morning Men's Group
- Guest Speaker for Seasoned Saints Luncheon:
 1. Visit to National Parks Presentation
 2. Celebrate Your Life Funeral Planning Presentation
- Sunday Night Life Group

Meetings:

- Moderate Annual Meeting
- Congregational Meetings
- Deacons' Meetings

In This Issue:

- Potluck Party & Annual Meeting
- Ladies Morning Out
- Candlelight Concert
- Men's Retreat
- PJ's & Pizza
- Valentine Gift Boxes

continued page 5

WORSHIP

Winter Sermon Series: Ralph's Favorites



Over many years of reading the Bible and in thirty-three years of preaching and teaching, there are particular texts that become "favorites." There are a lot of reasons texts can be favorites. Perhaps they are seminal passages that help shape our understanding of God, or faith, or grace. Or perhaps they are passages that resonate with me personally or have been meaningful to me in my Christian walk. Obviously there are many more than can be included in a series that is limited to 10-12 choices, so perhaps this series would have more accurately been called, "Some of Ralph's Favorites." Nevertheless, I am looking forward to returning again to these familiar and favorite passages, and I hope you will join and enjoy them with me! -Ralph

January 13
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday
Reaffirmation of our
Baptismal Vows

Join us for this moving
worship service

Jan 6		Jacob wrestles with God (committing to being engaged w/ God in the new year)	Gen. 32:24-32	
Jan 13	<i>Remembrance of Baptism</i>	Crossing the Jordan/ Jesus' Baptism	Joshua 3:5-17	Matthew 3:13-18
Jan 20		Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-14	
Jan 27		Cycles: The Definition of Insanity	Judges 2:11-23	
Feb 3	<i>Preschool Sunday</i>	Jumping off the Wheel	Jeremiah 18:1-12	Roman 9:16-26
Feb 10		God's plans to give us a hope and a future	Jeremiah 29:1-14	
Feb 17		David & the Big Guy	1 Samuel 17:1-11, 41-54	
Feb 24		Elijah's Funk	1 Kings 19:9-18	
Mar 3	<i>Children's Ministry Sunday</i>	God calls to Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-19	

Candlelight Concert

February 24th, 4:00 p.m.

Bach & Handel "The Twain Who Never Met"

Billye Brown Youmans, soprano, Ruth van Baak Griffioen, recorder, Allegra Havens, violin, George Corbett, oboe, Jeffrey Phelps, cello



The Great Bridge Presbyterian Candlelight Concert Series was inaugurated on September 24, 2000, after the church received a generous grant from the Edwin K. Sloane Fund of the Norfolk Foundation, now the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, for the purchase of a Steinway grand piano, model B. Honoring the legacy of Mr. Sloane, the instrument is used in a variety of cultural events and concerts, including piano recitals, choral and instrumental ensembles and in worship services. We provide an eclectic array of spiritually uplifting music to the Hampton Roads community presented by many of the area's extraordinarily gifted musicians.

All concerts are free and open to the public. A free will offering will be accepted.

WORSHIP

Rehearsal & Worship Schedule

CHOIRS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, January—May 2019

January	Rehearsals on 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
27	9:30 Junior
February	Rehearsals on 6, 13, 20, 27
10	9:30 Cherub
	11:00 Angel
	Operation Tons of Love – February 10 - 24
17	11:00 Tentative Junior
March	Rehearsals on 6 (Ash Wed, Service of Healing & Wholeness), 13, 20, 27
3	Children's Ministry Sunday (will confirm only two services 9:30/11:00)
	Angel, Cherub, Junior – will search for 1 piece for all three choirs to sing
	2 nd annual FAMILY SING SUNDAY
24	9:30 Angel
	11:00 Cherub
April	Rehearsals 3, 10 6:45 p.m. ALL choirs (9:30, Palm Sun), 24, (NO rehearsal 17)
14	PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL
	9:30 ALL Choirs
21	EASTER
28	4:00 p.m. Candlelight Concert
	Featuring the Virginia Children's Chorus
	<i>Please encourage children to attend</i>
May	Rehearsal 1 (Last KICK), <i>POSSIBLE rehearsals Sunday – 5, 12 possibly 10:30 – 11:00</i>
5	11:00 Junior
12	9:30 Angel
15	Wed time TBA – probable joint rehearsal with light dinner
19	Youth Sunday, Confirmation Sunday
	4:00 p.m. "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Celebration Concert honoring Ralph & Anita



"Soli Deo Gloria"

Vacation house drawing update: We are delighted to announce that the winner of the beach house is Sheetal Spiegall. She purchased her ticket(s) from Suzan Sadler.

The winner of the Visa gift card is Linn Mullen who purchased her ticket(s) from Christine Brookshire.

We wish to thank EVERYONE who participated in this fundraiser. Your support of our music ministry is deeply appreciated.

Thank
you



New Year! New Name!



After almost 20 years of leading and ministering in worship, the GBPC Praise Team has a name—BRIDGE TO WORSHIP! Our goal is to offer and engage people in meaningful worship through music. Our desire is to bring people closer to Jesus...to be a bridge to worship. We are excited to see how the Lord will work through us and in us in 2019!

Possible logo....it is still in process!

The Story Behind the Song: *Who You Say I Am*

By Ben Fielding, Hillside Worship



"Who You Say I Am" was an incredible privilege to be a part of. I wrote the song with Reuben Morgan who is a great friend, and we have a great history of writing songs together. A couple

of the things we discussed was the fact that there is such a prevalence of people struggling with anxiety and stress. One of the top challenges that young people face is anxiety, over their careers or relationships or specific issues. We wanted to write a song that would speak to that, which is "Be Still." Through that process, we wrote "Who You Say I Am" because we realized that it is so important to understand how God sees us, and what He says about us. It's so important to go to the Scriptures and read who God says we are. The way we show God is determined by the way we know God.

The theme, "Who You Say I Am", is from John 8, which is *the truth will set you free*. Jesus says, 'who the son sets free, is free indeed.' It's a real declaration of identity. It talks about how a slave has no place in the family. Our identity resides in knowing ourselves in Christ and living within the stability of knowing we are who God says we are.

Based on these scriptures: [John 8:36](#) (NIV): "So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

[Romans 8:31](#) (NIV): "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

[John 1:12](#) (NIV): "Yet to all who did receive Him, to

those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

Song takeaway. Once our identity is grounded in Christ, and all that's been accomplished by Jesus, and all that God says about us, everything else becomes peripheral, like our careers. The central truth is that God has called us by name and given us our identities in His family. We hear that phrase, "I am a child of God" so often within our congregations that I believe we start to numb out the meaning of it, and how it applies to our everyday lives.

"Who the Son sets free is free indeed" is a Scripture about freedom and identity. You are a child of God. That can never be threatened or taken from you. As a believer, the truth of this song changes the way I live out my faith. We were passionate to give the church a song that says that God is for them and He thinks the world of them. While everything around you and about you changes, this is the one thing about yourself that will stay constant. You are chosen by a God who loves you deeply. He is a God who is for you and is never against you. He is a God who has plans for you to prosper. He is a God who wants a relationship with you. He is a God who will never let you down.

The theme of the song is, "*I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I am.*" God has chosen us and the fact that we are in a position where we know God and be reconciled to Him. The challenge of the song is the idea that we have been set right because of the comprehensive work of Jesus. You can stand before Him as chosen, and not forsaken. You haven't been left on your own. He is running towards us.

WORSHIP

Continued from page 1...

Meetings (continued):

Session
Staff
Ministry Chairs
Pastors' Aides
Stewardship & Finance
Service & Mission (periodically)

New Membership:

Connect One Campaign
Discipleship Ministry (20 members)
Inquirers' Classes (3)

Pastoral Care:

Administer 2nd Mile Fund
Baptism Preparation
Home Visits
Hospital Visits
Marital Counseling
Nursing Home/Rehab Visits
Premarital Counseling

Preschool:

Children's Chapel
Opened their activities in prayer

Service Activities:

C.A.S.T.
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip
Rise Against Hunger

Special Services:

Blessing of the Animals
Christmas Eve
Good Friday
Healing Service
Lessons & Carols
Maundy Thursday
Service of Remembrance
Weddings & Funerals (17)

Teaching:

Gospel of Mark
Holy Spirit (Turbo Group)
Jeremiah
Prayer
Vacation Bible School (assorted)

Worship:

Preached approximately 40 Sundays

Thanks for a wonderful year of ministry and all of your support! In Christ's Service, *Ralph*



gbpres.org

listen to sermons online

Save the Date

2nd Annual
FAMILY SING SUNDAY
May 3rd

Children's Ministry Sunday!
No rehearsals, just family fun
and worship!



Wednesday Night Class for Adults! 6:30-7:45 pm



What can we learn from Mr. Rogers today? Quite a lot, actually! Each night we will watch a portion of the documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” followed by a Bible study of passages related to the themes presented each segment. Mr. Rogers, who will be making weekly guest appearances!

- Session 1, Jan. 2nd : Theme: Loving Our Neighbors Opening Song: “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” Scripture: Luke 10:25-28
- Session 2, Jan. 9th: Theme: Being open to those who are different (racially, culturally, etc.) Opening Song: “There are many ways to say I love you” Scripture: Luke 10:29-36.
- Session 3, Jan. 16th: Theme: Accepting & reaching out to those who are on the margins Opening Song: “It’s You I Like” Scripture: Mark 2:1-12.
- Session 4, Jan. 23rd: Theme: Throwing better parties Opening Song: “It’s Such a Good Feeling” Scripture: Luke 14:7-14

How can you make it a beautiful day in YOUR neighborhood?

Join a Life Group in 2019!



Does one of your New Year's resolutions include a regular commitment to fellowship, prayer, study and service with other Christians? Our community of faith is lived out in Life Groups as they help carve out time, hold members accountable for growth, listen and encourage each other. Make the connection into caring, life-transforming friendships via little communities in 2019! Our Adult Ministry Team is ready to help place you in a Life Group that fits your needs. Contact Laura Bowser at laurab@gbpres.org.

Potluck Party! Annual Congregational Meeting

January 27th, 5 pm—7 pm



GBPC is celebrating “old school” as we reflect on 2018 and look forward to God’s vision for 2019! An old fashioned Potluck Supper is the plan along with community building activities. This will be Pastors Ralph & Anita’s last Annual Meeting with GBPC so let’s have some fun! Let Tessa know what you plan to bring using your VOMO App. Bring dishes according to your last name:

A-G: Main Dish H-R Side Dish S-Z Dessert

GBPC members should plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting. Terms of Call will be voted on and the budget presented. Look for the 2018 Annual Report in the narthex mid January.

2019 Retreat for Men

February 1st—3rd



Registration for the 2019 Men’s Retreat to Kitty Hawk, NC begins Sunday, January 6th in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by to register for this event at the Hilton Garden Inn. The guest speaker for Pastor Ralph’s final Retreat will be GBPC’s very own Allen Crostic. All men ages 14 and older are welcome and encouraged to attend. “A la carte” pricing is also available for those who may only be able to attend part of the event. For additional information, stop by the Registration Table in the Fellowship Hall.

A Retreat for Women:

When Life Rocks Your Boat Dealing with Change

March 22nd—24th, Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, NC

Guest Speaker: Christy Wimber has been in church ministry well over two decades, focused on leadership, mental health and the training and planting of new churches.

Worship Leader: Olivia Dyer is a songwriter, worship leader and visual artist living in Norfolk, VA. Olivia debuted her acoustic full-length album, "The Threshing Floor" in 2011. She currently focuses on solo and collaborative projects with local songwriting communities in Virginia.

Register in the Fellowship Hall or online , gbpres.org by February 18th.

RightNow Media

“Netflix for the church” because they offer a huge library with thousands of video sessions that people can access anytime, anywhere. The creative team films and produces RightNow Media Originals featuring teaching from respected teachers and pastors. They also distribute video resources produced by over 100 other major Christian publishers and ministries. Be sure and register for Rightnow MEDIA to take advantage of over 18,000 video Bible studies. There is tons of great content for kids, too! Email laurab@gbpres.org to have a personal invitation sent to you. Complete your own user name and password to register.

Join GBPC: New Member Class



Getting Connected

Participants will also receive the Living Your Strengths book. Childcare provided.

Sun., Jan. 27th, 11:00—12:30 pm
Join the pastors to hear their testimonies and learn about the key emphases of the Presbyterian tradition and how that impacts what we’re doing at GBPC. Par-

Sun., Feb. 3rd, 11:00-1:00 pm

Come learn what your God-given strengths are in order to plug into the right place at GPBC! Enjoy lunch with staff and ministry leaders, and meet with elders to share your faith story and join GBPC. Child-care provided.

WANT TO JOIN? CONTACT: BRENDA SIMS,
ANGEL33K1@VERIZON.NET



Men's Basketball

Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Begins January 17th

Men, come join us for some competitive pickup 3v3 basketball. We play in the fellowship hall, 16 and up. Sign up in the narthex or in the fellowship hall between the services. Email us with any questions at cory1029445@gmail.com.



Marriage Retreat

February 8th—10th, Norfolk Hilton, The Main

Remember how captivating it was when you first fell in love with your spouse? Every moment was special. As real life takes over, that memory can grow less vivid, and you might not feel like the center of their world as often. That's where the Weekend to Remember® marriage retreat from FamilyLife comes in.

The two-and-a-half day romantic weekend getaway is a time to be together as a couple to invest in and strengthen the foundation of your marriage, no matter how firm or fragile it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come.

The Weekend to Remember marriage retreat is not a large group counseling session or small group discussion. You won't be asked to share intimate details of your relationship with anyone.

You will listen to engaging talks from marriage experts, then take private time alone with your spouse to work on the concepts you studied. When you leave, you will have an assortment of powerful, Christ-centered communication tools to use for years to come.

Learn how to:

- Address issues as they arise, rather than letting resentments fester
- Express feelings positively, so your partner remains engaged in the discussion
- Resolve conflict in healthy, biblical ways
- Maintain a vital sexual connection with one another
- Forgive one another freely and completely
- Increase your commitment to your marriage, resulting in deeper intimacy

REGISTER:

[WWW.FAMILYLIFE.COM/
WEEKEND-TO-REMEMBER](http://WWW.FAMILYLIFE.COM/WEEKEND-TO-REMEMBER)

weekend to
remember
marriage conference

Invest
in your
marriage!



Ladies' Morning Out, Home Sweet Home

January 26th @ 9 am. Join us for praise and worship, inspirational speakers, and a continental breakfast!



“A place of refuge, retreat, and comfort;” “Where you will always be surrounded by love” are just two definitions of “home.” Encouragement, fun, and refreshment are some others. Through Ladies' Morning Out 2019, “Home Sweet Home,” the Lord Jesus brings us to a wonderful place of refuge, retreat, and renewal. With it, He also provides encouragement, inspiration and replenishment through the creative messages of Paula Bass and Carol Miller.

Come and join us as we gather to celebrate the fun and fellowship of *Home Sweet Home*.



Speaker, Paula Bass:
The Freedom in Receiving

With over 20 years of ministry, Paula is well equipped to assist others in finding their way in a challenging world. Internationally, with church and business groups, she has shared her teachings on personalities, leadership and overcoming the hurts of the past. “Paula Pellets” as her insights have been called by many, have been offered in large and small groups. Both women and couples groups have enjoyed her wit and wisdom. Whether at a women’s retreat, training session or workshop, Paula brings thought-provoking ideas to her messages.

Paula shares her life with her husband, Preston; her two sons and four grandchildren round out her family. Anyone who knows Paula, however, knows that most everyone she meets become family.

Ladies Paint Night

January 22nd, at church, \$25

All materials included, come and paint your own masterpiece with the guided help of an artist! Contact Jean Frey for more information, jeanfrey8@gmail.com



Speaker, Carol Sargent Miller:
The Freedom in Giving

Building up and encouraging people through the love of Jesus is the passion of Carol Sargent Miller. Filling her teachings with lively and entertaining illustrations, Carol encourages her listeners to learn, understand and implement life-changing attitudes and actions. Be it in a church, convention center, or one-on-one, Carol delivers foundational principles essential for a dynamic, abundant life in Christ. Her personal trials and triumphs are testimony that every pain, pressure, and problem can be overcome by the love, goodness and grace of the Lord Jesus.

Happily married to Gordon for over 47 years, they raised three children, and they are Grammy and Grandad to eight. Though Carol is also an ordained minister, an inspirational speaker, and Bible teacher, her greatest joy is being Jesus' helper.



Club Orange Kids

Club Orange Sunday School is offered Sundays during our 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Children are divided by grade levels in K-5th grades. We are so excited to have all of our new volunteers who plan to partner with parents to help build a firm foundation of faith in our children.

Preschool Enrollment Begins Jan. 16th

2018-19 early registration for church families! Our classes fill quickly so enroll now before registration is open to the public in January. Great Bridge Presbyterian Preschool's goal is to provide a warm, loving, Christian, environment. Educational opportunities for "whole child development" are provided in many areas including spiritual, social, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, and physical.



- Classes for 2 year olds through Kindergarten
- Individual attention in a small-class setting
- Enrichment classes in Spanish, Music, Computers
- Stay & Play extended day opportunity



LEARN MORE:
GBPRESPRESCHOOL.ORG OR CALL
 757-549-4303

Communion & Worship Workshop

Children in 2nd through 5th grades, along with their parents, are encouraged to attend this workshop to explore the meaning of the sacraments. Older siblings who have not yet participated in this class are also welcome. Classes will be on Sundays, February 10th, 17th, and 24th from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To reserve your seat in the workshop, please register online no later than February 6th.

Pizza and PJ's: Parent's Night Out

Children's Ministry wants you to have a free night out with your spouse to celebrate Valentines! On Friday, February 15th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. --Children can come in their PJ's for pizza and movies! This event is for kids who are independently potty trained thru 5th grade. They can feel free to bring their sleeping bags to sit on during our movie time. Please note that we will be serving food that can affect children with allergies. If your child has an allergy please pack them a dinner. Online sign ups are required to ensure we have enough food.

Youth Calendar



January 11- Girls Night Out: Middle and High school girls are invited to a make over getting hair and nails done. There will be a photo booth, games, food, and a talk about being a Godly woman. 6:00-10:00 pm.

February 24- Winter Jam: Winter Jam is an incredible evening of live concerts by the top artists in Christian music, plus worship and ministry, to encourage believers and share the good news with those who have yet to trust Christ. Middle & High School. Cost is \$15 at door and \$35 to go with youth group on the jam pass to get in early.

A New Way to Serve: Introducing VOMO

GBPC will be launching a new app called VOMO that is going to help our church serve better, both inside and outside of our walls.

Think of this new platform as our Church Hub for making an impact. It has mobile apps (both Android and Apple) that helps make serving as a church easy and fun. In just 3-clicks, you will be able to see local service opportunities inside our church as well as ministries in our community.

GBPC is passionate about finding ways to say "thank you" for making a difference in your community and around the world by participating in our various projects. We've partnered with several organizations who share that passion and want to encourage you to keep volunteering!

VOMO Rewards tracks your service hours and allows volunteers to "Pay It Forward" to various charities:

- Salvation Army
- Meals on Wheels
- Samaritan's Purse
- and more!

Or volunteers can use their service hours to earn gift cards to:

- Starbucks
- Chick-fil-a
- Walmart
- Regal Cinemas
- and more!



You will receive an email inviting you to join our free VOMO service app in January!

12th Annual

Operation Tons of Love

February 10-24



Please help the Food bank of Southeastern Virginia by bringing in your food donations and placing them in the fellowship hall.

SHOPPING LIST

Lean Canned Protein: peanut butter, tuna, chicken, turkey, beans

Fruits & Vegetables: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta sauce, 100% fruit juice, fruit preserves, dried fruit

Whole Grain cereal, pasta, oatmeal, rice, crackers

Meals: Soups, stews, boxed meals, canned pasta

Baby Products: formula, baby food, diapers, wipes

Low Fat - Low Sodium - Low Sugar Products Preferred

Bring grocery bags to the Fellowship Hall. Please remember:

Non-perishable food, Non-breakable containers, Nutritional labels intact, Check dates (items can be up to 6 months past printed date).

AARP Tax Prep

GBPC hosts AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 5th through April 10 2019. Volunteers always needed to help register guests. Contact Frank Brothers, hfbrothers@cox.net if you can help.

Valentine Boxes

Each year before Valentine's day, we send care packages to college students and deployed military. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online at gbpres.org. Donations of candy and money for postage accepted. Deadline is February 7th.