



The SPIRE

JANUARY
2012

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church

Beloved in the Lord,

When it comes to making New Year's resolutions, I'm generally ambivalent. I tell myself that's because I like to avoid the crowd mentality, but I suspect what I'm really avoiding is the possibility of failure. I don't like to set myself up for disappointment. However, there was one year where I made *and kept* a resolution: to read the through the Bible in one year. The reason I was able to keep that resolution was I had a very practical and simple guide to follow. It was published by a Philadelphia-based organization known as the *Scripture Union*. For many years I followed their daily devotional guide with its five-part Bible Reading Method – Pray, Read, Reflect, Apply, Pray. This fall I received a mailing from Scripture Union that introduced a new resource: **The Essential 100™**.



The Essential 100™ (or **E100®**) is a list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament—that enables a person to get the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down or overwhelmed. Most passages are 1-2 chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less. The readings are carefully selected to cover all major types of biblical writing including Historical Books, Poetry and Wisdom, the Prophets, the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. The **E100® Challenge** is a program and accompanying resources that a church or group can use to read through the **E100®** together. The plan is undated, so it can be used on any time schedule, and it's flexible so it can be used with any Bible translation.

On behalf of the Membership Committee I invite **YOU** to take the **E100® Challenge**! We have ordered enough Daily Planners for every member of the congregation, as well as a supply of Challenge Guides for use by individuals and groups. We encourage every small group to use the Challenge Guides sometime during 2012. The Kerygma class that has been meeting on Monday evenings for dinner and study will take up the **E100® Challenge** beginning in February. Anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome to do so. Contact me or the church office for details and to let us know you're ready to journey through the Bible with us in 2012! You can also go to www.E100CHALLENGE.com for more information.

As we lay the groundwork for calling a new pastor, there is no better way to prepare than Bible Study and prayer.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.
— Psalm 119:33-35 [NRSV]

As always, I remain
Yours & His,
Pastor Marie

New Year's Day Worship Service

Contemporary Style

On New Year's Day we'll join together at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a breakfast worship service as we praise God through word and scripture, music, and the Lord's Supper.

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From Becky

I have recently had the honor and privilege of walking the journey through the God and Life badge for Boy Scouts with two fine young men from our church, Chris Howe and David Curtis. This was not an easy badge to work through. It requires three months of daily devotions, ten classes that were an hour and a half each, five service projects, other homework in-between the meetings, a Statement of Commitment, and a final review. Both of these young men worked hard for this badge and we as a congregation should be very happy for them and proud of them. We will be recognizing them and their accomplishments for this badge on January 8 during the second service.

This God and Life badge has sparked some excitement among other Boy Scouts in our congregation. So sometime in the beginning of February, we will be starting a God in Church program which is for 5th-8th graders. If you know someone who might be interested in participating in this program, please contact Pastor Becky by January 25.

To Chris Howe and David Curtis- Congrats!

Blessings,

Pastor Becky

Here are our upcoming events in January for each group. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Becky: rkahnt@gwyneddsquare.org, 215-699-9159 x 12 or 609-651-1695.

AIM (Angels in the Making, grades K-3)

Friday, January 6, Movie Night 6-8:30 p.m. Bring a movie to share, and we will vote for the winner.

Friday, January 20, AIM Club 6-7:30 p.m.

FISH (Fellowship in Serving Him, grades 4-6)

Friday, January 13, LOCK -IN 7 p.m. on Friday to 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 14. Bring a snack and drink to share.

Friday, January 20, FISH 7-8:30 p.m.

SLUGs (Students Living Under God , grades 7-12)

Sunday, January 8, Trip to Broad Street Ministry

Sunday, January 15, SLUGs meeting at the church, from 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, SLUGs meeting at the church, from 6-8 p.m.

Friday, January 27—Sunday, January 29 SKI TRIP
Contact Pastor Becky if you are interested in more details. Scholarships are available if there is a need.

Nursery help needed



We are in need of volunteers to help staff the nursery. If you like babies and small children, please consider offering your time to help. Doing just one shift every month is a big help. The nursery shifts are as follows: first service, 8:15-9:30 a.m., Sunday school time 9:30-10:30 a.m., and second service, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. If you are concerned that you would not know what to do with that crying child or that dirty diaper, no worries. You would be in the nursery with Sara, who is part of our staff and provides consistency for the children from week to week. To work in the nursery, you will need child safe clearances. For more information on the clearance or to sign up as a volunteer, please see or contact Sharon Bisio or the church office.

Inquirers' Class Coming in February

- Are you interested in joining this church?
- Are you curious about Presbyterian beliefs?

The membership committee is planning to hold an Inquirers' Class in February. Watch the Spire and the church bulletins for more details. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with the pastors, Julie McDonald, or Keith Curtis.

Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church will be held at noon on January 22, 2012, in the fellowship hall. This is a very important meeting at which we will approve a new set of bylaws that have been revised to conform to the new Presbyterian Book of Order. While we were revising, we changed the format and organization so it is easier to read. Copies of the new bylaws should be available in the narthex by January 8.

Other important business includes approving the recommended terms of call for Pastor Becky. (Yes, she will be back full time and getting more of her salary in cash than previously.) You will get to review the newly approved budget for 2012, which contains much good news, and you will be able to ask questions about the annual report, which will be printed by then.

Best of all, this meeting comes with LUNCH! You may be given the opportunity to provide some sandwiches or desserts, and the fellowship committee will provide salad, chips, and drinks. Come and be a part of this event.



Transition Team Status

At our Timeline Event in late October, many of us gathered to record events in our history as a congregation and our reflections on them. Thank you to all who shared your perspectives to help us more fully understand our past together. In mid-November the Session, Deacons, and Transition Team met to further process the information, identifying six areas for members and friends to discuss further in small groups. By actively listening to each other in these small groups (6-10 people each), we hope to recognize our history for what it is, appreciate the different impacts that events have had on each of us, and utilize that information as the basis for discerning God's plan for the future for our church.

Schedule conflicts prevented us from starting these small group meetings in December as we had hoped, but we will begin them in January as shown below. All will be held at the church.

The Ministry of Dave Poland at GSPS: Saturday, January 21st from 10:00 – 11:30

Decision Making: Property and Finance: Saturday, January 21st from 12:30 – 2:00

The Ministry of Jim Barber at GSPC: Saturday, January 21st from 2:30 – 4:00

The following topics will be taken up in February:

Youth Ministry and Christian Education at GSPC

The Ministries of the Interim and Associate Pastors at GSPC

Worship: Style, Music, Resources, Time, and Space

Please contact the church office at 215-699-9159 to let us know of your interest in attending a particular meeting. Also, please check the weekly bulletins and church website for more information and updates. You can contact either of the Pastors or any of the Transition Team members with questions.

The Transition Team (Kate Ingalls, Katy Joyce, Keith Curtis, Lee Hourani, and Paul Bisio)

Local benevolences totaling \$5800 designated for the 4th quarter are:

<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$600
<i>Mission support for Sthreshleys (Congo)</i>	\$500
<i>Philabundance</i>	\$500
<i>John Gloucester House</i>	\$400
<i>Presbyterian Childrens' Village</i>	\$500
<i>Chester Eastside Ministries</i>	\$500
<i>GSPC Mission Trips</i>	\$300
<i>Hope Prison Ministries</i>	\$200
<i>Keystone/Interfaith Hospitality</i>	\$400
<i>New Life Youth & Family Services</i>	\$600
<i>Upper Gwynedd Fire Dept.</i>	\$400
<i>Phila. Society for Service to Children</i>	\$400
<i>PMI Japanese Missionary, Koji Esaki</i>	\$500

Good News

The stewardship committee would like to thank all members and friends who returned their 2012 estimates of giving. These giving intentions provide valuable information to our Session and Finance Committee in planning Gwynedd Square's ministry. Through your giving you are supplying the needs of the Lord's people in worship, Christian education, missions, fellowship and all the activities of our congregation. We received 96 responses, totaling \$340,775, which is a 40% increase over last year's response. We thank you for thoughtfully considering your stewardship and its many rewards, as we continue our journey of faith.



Medical Expense Needs

Our own Kahnt family (Pastor Becky, David, Sammy and Abby) has had a difficult year with medical expenses not fully covered by insurance (thousands of dollars are out of pocket). When Sammy had a severe asthma attack a few months ago, an ambulance ride all the way to Children's Hospital in Philadelphia was necessary.

Session has agreed to set up a Kahnt Family Medical Expense Fund to help cover some of those excess expenses. If you would like to donate to this fund, please make your check payable to GSPC and clearly mark it for this fund. These monies will be a gift to them as needed, and thus will not be a contribution to the church or appear on your church statement.

CROP Walk 2011

Seventeen folks from GSPC enjoyed a wonderful day for the annual North Penn/Lansdale 10K CROP Walk. Our team brought in \$1025, and the entire Walk crowd collected over \$12,000 to help fight hunger globally and here in the North Penn region. Thanks to all the walkers and their sponsors!!



Alternative Gift-Giving Mart Thank You

Special thanks to all those who were able to contribute towards gifts to Gwynedd Square, within our community and around the globe this Christmas through the Alternative Gift-Giving Mart. A total of \$1,795 was distributed to Heifer International (\$455), Democratic Republic of the Congo Health Programs (\$445), Kirkwood Camp (\$305), Habitat for Humanity (\$250), GSPC Special Projects (\$185), and Medical Benevolence Foundation (\$155).



You Can Help!

Recent Session Actions

At its very long meeting on December 8, the Session:

- Heard the good news that we may actually not operate in the red for 2011. Based on increased giving and pledges, a new contract with Little Lambs, and a number of profitable fun(d)-raising activities, approved a balanced budget for 2012 of over \$500,000.
- Approved the creation of a Kahnt Family Medical Expense Fund for 2012 so that members who desire to give them monetary gifts for this purpose may funnel them through the church anonymously and without it being income for the Kahnts.
- Voted to eliminate the Inactive Roll, which is no longer required under the new Form of Government. Also approved requests from the following members to be removed from the church roll: June Wendig, Robert Wendig, and Wendy Fillgrove.
- Approved new Interim Contract for Pastor Marie for 2012.
- Scheduled or approved the following events and activities:

Children and Youth Sunday for March 18
 A Mommy Mart at the church on April 21
 Potluck dinners on Wednesdays, January 11, February 8, April 11, May 9, and June 13
 Game night on Saturday, January 7 at 6:30
 Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 11
 Meal preparation for Aid for Friends on a date TBD
 Gospel Fund-Raising Concert and Reception for Community Housing March 31

WANTED:

Session is seeking volunteers, needed immediately

- A new treasurer - job could be shared
- Volunteers to organize us for hosting Presbytery meeting on March 27
- Members for almost every committee

Speak to either pastor if you want to explore the possibilities.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- 1 Psalm 8
- 2 James 3:13-18
- 3 John 1:(1-9), 10-18
- 4 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- 5 Ephesians 3:1-12
- 6 Matthew 2:1-12
- 7 Isaiah 4:1-7
- 8 Psalm 29
- 9 Acts 8:14-17
- 10 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 11 1 Peter 4:7-11
- 12 Psalm 40:1-3
- 13 Galatians 4:4-7
- 14 Isaiah 62:1-5
- 15 Psalm 36:5-10
- 16 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- 17 Isaiah 49:1-7
- 18 Leviticus 25:8-10
- 19 Isaiah 61:1-3
- 20 James 1:22-25
- 21 Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10
- 22 Psalm 19
- 23 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- 24 Luke 4:14-21
- 25 Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 26 Matthew 21:33-42
- 27 Matthew 11:7-15
- 28 Jeremiah 1:4-10
- 29 Psalm 71:1-6
- 30 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- 31 Luke 4:21-30

Laura and Bryan Glauzel welcomed

Cameron Joseph

to their family
 Siblings are Stephen and Rebecca.
 Granparents are Guy and Becky Malick.

Thank-You Messages

WITH
Gratitude 

Presbyterian Women received this thank you from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia upon receipt of our \$300 contribution.

On behalf of Trinity Presbyterian Church and Session, we want to thank you and the Presbyterian Women of Gwynedd Square for your generous donation to our Bread of Life Recovery Housing. As you know, we have taken on a major challenge with this Recovery House, but we have faith in God, who has led us to this point, and faith in people like you who have the vision that we do to see this through.

God Bless all of you and a blessed Christmas season to each one of you.

Cheryl Iredale, on behalf of Pastor Tom Wray, our Session and our congregation.

Thank you to PW from Children's Village,

On behalf of Presbyterian Children's Village, I thank you and the PW of Gwynedd Square for your gift of \$300 that has been used to benefit our families during the Christmas season. As you can imagine, many of our families struggle to acquire the basic necessities and cannot even think about any extras to delight their children. Your gift has been used to lighten the burden for those in particularly challenging economic situations. Presbyterian Children's Village is blessed to have the financial assistance of many people who support our mission of healing spirits, nurturing children, and serving communities.

Your gifts and prayers help immensely.

Sincerely,
Darlene Hewett

GSPC Presbyterian Women

The Women's Circles are open to women of all ages who wish to share in study, mission work, and fellowship.

- The **Morning Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at 10 a.m. at the church.
- The **Afternoon Circle** will meet on Thursday, January 12, at noon in the fellowship hall.
- The **Evening Circle** will meet on January 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Judy Hinz.

A group of women regularly get together for good fellowship and an inexpensive meal. The next outing is Monday, January 9, at 6 p.m. at Franconia Heritage Restaurant on Allentown Road and Rt. 113.

Snow Days Reminder

What happens if we have a really big snow storm on a Sunday? We worship! But maybe not at church. Not certain if there are cancellations? Then please do one or more of the following:

- ~ Call the church office and listen to the message on the answering machine.
- ~ Look at the church web site.
- ~ Check for an email notice.
- ~ Check the GSPC Facebook page.

Service Participants

		Greeters	Ushers	Sound Room Attendants	Worship Leader/ Lay Assistant	Children's Church
1	10:45	Nancy & Rush B	Dan O	Chris M	Becky H	-
	8:30	MaryKate & Fred B	Bob K	Chris M	-	-
8	10:45	Cathy & Robert D	John H, Tom H, Ruth S, David B Jeremy V	Frank S	TBD	
	8:30	Harry C	Kate I	Chris M	-	-
15	10:45	Shirley & Norm H	TBD, Cyndi C, Brianna C,, Connie M, June R, Cathy D	Joe G	TBD	
	8:30	Shelley D	Shari W	Chris M	-	-
22	10:45	Kathy & Doug Y	Paul B, Clyde R, Linda R, Ruth A, Lorna S	Sam T	TBD	
	8:30	Kate I	Bill M	Chris M	-	-
29	10:45	Delores & Dennis H	TBD, Page B, Diane B, Mott L, Ruth L	Alan F	TBD	

January 2012

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church
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The Reverend Marie C. Cone, *Pastor*
The Reverend Rebecca A. Kahnt, *Associate Pastor*
Louise M. Gerdelmann, *Minister of Music*
Nanci Landes, *Children's Choir Director*
Donna J. Stewart, *Secretary*
Sarah Weber, Sandy Taylor, Bob Taylor, Donna Stewart,
Liz Reichwein, Pat Peddie, Diane Butt, *Spire Staff*



**Game
Night**

Game Night

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for desserts and games in the fellowship hall.
Please bring a dessert and your favorite game for sharing.



Return Service Requested

Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church
837 Sumneytown Pike
Lansdale, PA 19446



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