



## Preparing for 2017



*By Alexander S. Brown, Minister*

**I**T IS hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. In just a few weeks we will be bidding 2016 a fond farewell, and welcoming a new year. If the past 11 months have felt like they passed in a whirlwind, December will come rushing through even more quickly – the passage of time hastened by the busyness of the Christmas season. Whether it’s the purchasing of gifts, wrapping them, meeting mailing deadlines, or going to Christmas parties and visiting with friends, it seems like this month quickly becomes a blur of activity.

For many of us, the last month of the year often feels like the shortest. However, I want to encourage you to set aside a little time in this busy month to prepare for the dawning of 2017.

With the New Year comes the proverbial “New Year’s Resolutions.” It is that great, momentous occasion on which we resolve to transform our lives. Usually these resolutions center on some kind of personal improvement.

For some the resolution is to finally stop smoking. For others it is to start exercising. Others decide that it is time to finally start eating better.

For Christians this list of personal improvement often includes some kind of resolve to improve our spiritual health – a desire to be more consistent reading our Bibles, or praying more, or being more involved in the life of our church.

All of those – both the pursuit of spiritual and physical health – are good desires and aspirations. However, I think all of us know something of the disappointment that can often set in in February or March when we realize that after a few weeks (maybe even a few days) our lofty ambitions had feet of clay.

### *So, how can 2017 be different?*

Well, of course there are no foolproof measures that can be taken to ensure that things will be different; there is no key to unlock the next level of spiritual success! However, there are some steps we can take to ensure that we are as well prepared as we can be for the arrival of the New Year.

*Continued on page 2*

*If we are to make a positive change in our pursuit of Christ in 2017 then we must plan how we are going to do it.*

## December Calendar

- Sun 12/4 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
(John Knox/Scottish Ref.)  
The Lord’s Supper—  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
(No Evening Service)
- Wed 12/7 Book Group Luncheon  
12:00 p.m., Brown home  
(see pg. 6)
- Wed 12/7 “1st Wednesday” Dinner  
6:30 p.m., Kroeze home  
(see pg. 6)
- Sat 12/10 Men’s Monthly Study  
8:30 a.m., Brown home
- Sun 12/11 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
(John Knox/Scottish Ref.)  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Lessons and  
Carols, at GIPC; violinist  
Maestro Luis Haza
- Tue 12/13 Stated Session Meeting  
6:00 p.m., GIPC
- Wed 12/14 Midweek Prayer  
7:00 p.m., Brown home
- Sun 12/18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
(John Knox/Scottish Ref.)  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
(No Evening Service)
- Sun 12/25 **Christmas Day**  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
(No Sunday School or  
Evening Service)

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**T**HE FIRST thing that we can do is make our resolution *now*. If we wait until January 1<sup>st</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup> to resolve to make a change, we will have already begun the year behind! So, now is the time.

Take a few moments away from the busyness and distractions of life and think and pray about what you would like to see changed in your life. Perhaps you want to be more consistent in your Bible reading, or start a regular practice of family devotions.

Maybe it is your resolution to be more involved in the life of the church – maybe you want to make sure that you are involved in one of our Bible Studies, or start attending Sunday School. Perhaps you want to be more regular at the Prayer Meeting or Sunday Evening Worship. Whatever your resolution is, now is the time to decide, because now is the time to prepare.

A favorite cliché of mine is “prior planning prevents poor performance.” I think that is true in almost every area of life, and it is certainly true when it comes to the spiritual disciplines.

*If we are to make a positive change in our pursuit of Christ in 2017 then we must plan how we are going to do it.*

Greater involvement in the activities of the church will mean that you will have to examine your calendar and block out time to ensure that your involvement will not be crowded out by other commitments.

So, for example, if you want to regularly come to Sunday Evening Worship, you may have to rearrange family plans on Sunday afternoons.

Or, if you want to come to Sunday School, make sure you set your alarm early enough to get to church an hour earlier than you currently do!

Whatever your resolution is, it will need intentionality if it is to succeed.

This goes for devotions as well. If you are to regularly read the Bible or nurture family devotions, then you need to decide when in the day is best to do that. For many people first thing in the morning is best for Bible reading and prayer – setting aside time before the distractions of the day kick in. For others, the quiet of the evening provides the best opportunity to be alone.

The same is true for family devotions – for some it is best to do it at meal times, when all the family is gathered, but for others a separate time, set apart from all other activities is best.

However you decide to do it, the most important thing is to decide now. And the benefit of figuring this out at the beginning of December is that you can use this month as a kind of trial run, testing out different options.

However, with private and family devotions we often need another tool in our belts if we are to succeed. We not only need to set our schedule, we also need to decide what resources we are going to use and what shape these devotions will have.

**O**NE OF the first things that you are going to need to do is simply decide how you are going to read your Bible.

Some people like to read sequentially through Scripture, reading from Genesis to Revelation and watching as the Redemptive storyline unfolds as they move from Creation to the formation of God’s Covenant people, to fulfillment of God’s Covenant promises in Christ, to the consummation of all things as it is depicted in Revelation.

*Continued on page 3*



## LESSONS & CAROLS

A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

Guest violinist Maestro Luis Haza

**Sunday, December 11th**

**6:00 p.m.**

Golden Isles Presbyterian Church

48 Hampton Point Drive

Saint Simons Island

[gipc-pca.org](http://gipc-pca.org)

*Join us for light refreshments  
after the service.*

### World Missions

November was “Missions Month” at GIPC, a time to hear from new and experienced missionaries, and to expand our vision for reaching the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. John Tweeddale of Reformation Bible College was the Keynote Speaker at the annual missions conference.

A family involved in mission aviation reminded us of how vital support services are in the work of Bible translation, in order to reach people groups who have never heard the name of Jesus. *Imagine not having access to a copy of God’s Word, or being able to read it in your own “heart language”!*

Others shared how God is at work in countries regarded as “closed” or hostile to the Gospel, and of the great need for discipling new believers, Biblical counseling, and providing pastors and leaders with sound theological training.

God moved in hearts and the congregation responded by making Faith Promise commitments of \$56,800 for World Missions in 2017.

## Preparing for 2017 *(Continued from page 2)*

Others, however, find that following this method often gets them bogged down in the more difficult books, such as Leviticus or Numbers, and so they prefer to read chapters from multiple parts of the Bible every day.

Some are always reading the Psalms and/or Proverbs – going sequentially through these books and beginning again when they finish.

Whatever you decide depends on your personality, preferences, experience and opportunity – remember this plan needs to be realistic, and so plan on something doable. The goal is to nurture a long-standing discipline, and so have the long view in mind as you prepare.

*Now is the time  
to prepare!  
See page 4 for  
resources to  
help you plan.*

If you are just starting to implement these devotions I would encourage you to pitch it low. It is far better to find that your plan is too easy, and then add to it, than find it frustrating and discouragingly difficult.

I think that is particularly true if you are wanting to nurture a time of family worship. I have joined families in their devotional time who have had mini-worship services, complete with singing, prayer, Bible reading and even a short homily. That is undoubtedly too much if you are just trying to introduce this practice into the rhythms of family life.

It would be much better to simply begin with a Bible reading and prayer – establishing a solid foundation on which you can easily build and expand as the practice matures.

**L**ET ME encourage you to start preparing now. Pick out a Bible reading plan and give it a go in December. If it is not right then you have time to look for something else. Try gathering as a couple or as a family a few nights a week to just get used to a new habit.

I know that I will be resolving to pursue holiness in 2017, and I hope that many of you will, too. Let's make our plans now, so that we can hit the ground running when January 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around! ☞

### *Why read the Bible?*

"We read the Bible to know God better,  
to think God's thoughts after Him,  
to love what He loves, to cherish what He cherishes. . .  
It is to shape the whole mind and heart."  
(D.A. Carson)

From *Why read the Bible?*

A helpful 5-minute video interview with Don Carson. Find it here:

[desiringgod.org/articles/why-read-the-bible](http://desiringgod.org/articles/why-read-the-bible)



## *Poinsettias*

Each Christmas season the congregation is provided with an opportunity to order poinsettias to decorate the church sanctuary.

Plants may be dedicated *In Honor Of* or *In Memory Of* a special person or event. Order forms are available at the church; the cost is \$5.00/plant.

Please turn in your requests with payment (to GIPC) by Sunday, December 4th, or email the [office](#).

A list of dedications will be published in the December 25th church bulletin. Plants may be taken home after the Christmas service.

## Loan Update

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Loan Balance         |           |
| (as of 10/26/16)     | \$657,316 |
| November Payment:    |           |
| Interest             | \$ 3,221  |
| Principal            | \$ 2,727  |
| Additional Principal | \$ 1,500  |
| Total Payment        | \$ 7,448  |

## Significant Sessional Actions

The next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13th, 6:00 p.m. at GIPC.

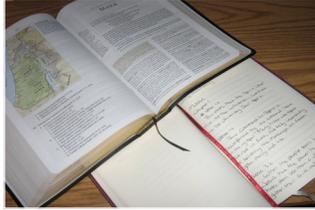
## GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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E-Mail: [office@gipc-pca.org](mailto:office@gipc-pca.org)

[www.gipc-pca.org](http://www.gipc-pca.org)



## Preparing for 2017: Bible Reading Plans and Resources\*

### Bible Reading Plans

- Crossway has compiled a list of different reading plans to guide you through the Bible, offering a variety of methods for guiding your reading. You can view a plan on your mobile device, print a copy, or have the daily reading emailed to your inbox. Find it here: [bit.ly/2gJ2np7](http://bit.ly/2gJ2np7)
- The Navigators offer 3 different plans for reading through the Bible. If Bible reading is a new discipline for you, their “5x5x5” plan might be a good place to start. 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, with 5 helpful hints to help you dig deep as you read. They also offer the classic *Discipleship Journal* plan which is a perennial favorite. Alternately, their *Book at a Time* plan takes you through the Bible in a year with two daily readings. You can find those plans here: [bit.ly/2gkWa4j](http://bit.ly/2gkWa4j)
- If you want to go a bit slower, you can find a 2-Year Reading Plan here: [bit.ly/2gVI8aw](http://bit.ly/2gVI8aw)
- If you are making your own plan, or just want to go at your own pace, this chart - <http://goo.gl/THd2Ii> - may help you keep track of what you have read.
- The Gospel Coalition has a helpful post which not only collates a number of different resources, but also gives suggestions for alternate ways to approach a daily intake of Scripture. You can find it here: [bit.ly/2gl7hKx](http://bit.ly/2gl7hKx)

### Resources for Family Worship, Devotions, & Bible Study

- [\*A Neglected Grace\*](#) by Jason Helopoulos is a great introduction to Family Worship if you are new to this concept, or if you want a booster to spur you on.
- [\*For the Love of God\*](#) by D. A. Carson is a helpful devotional that accompanies the M'Cheyne 365 Day Bible Reading Plan.
- Paul David Tripp's [\*New Morning Mercies\*](#) is full of helpful and challenging insights and is a great companion to begin the day with.
- Tim Keller's [\*The Songs of Jesus\*](#) leads the reader through the book of Psalms with daily readings. This book is ideal for those wanting to start or restart having a daily quiet time.
- [\*The Jesus Storybook Bible\*](#), [\*The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden\*](#), and [\*The Ology\*](#) are good resources to help guide your children or grandchildren through the Redemptive storyline of the Bible.
- I heartily recommend the [\*ESV Study Bible\*](#) as a help as you study the Bible.
- If you want some additional resources, the [\*New Bible Dictionary\*](#) (Marshall, Millard, Packer, Wiseman) and/or the [\*New Bible Commentary\*](#) (Wenham, Motyer, Carson, France) are great additions to your library.

\*Many of these books/resources are available at the GIPC Book Stall. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rev. Brown at: [abrown@gipc-pca.org](mailto:abrown@gipc-pca.org)

## THE BOOK STALL

The book table, located in the church foyer, provides easy access to good Christian books at reasonable prices.

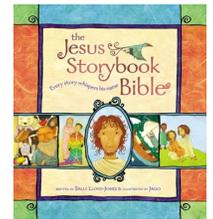
Many of the books mentioned in the column to the left are available at the table, including:



*The Biggest Story: How the Snake Crusher Brings Us Back to the Garden*  
(Kevin DeYoung)

*A Children's First Catechism*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible*  
(Sally Lloyd-Jones)



*The Ology*  
(Marty Machowski)

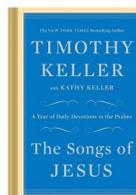
*For the Love of God*  
(D. A. Carson)

*New Morning Mercies*  
(Paul David Tripp)



*A Neglected Grace*  
(Jason Helopoulos)

*ESV Study Bible*



*The Songs of Jesus*  
(Tim Keller)

...and others!

If you would like to recommend a book for the table, or are seeking good books on a particular topic, please speak with Pastor Brown.



### Westminster Shorter Catechism

1 year plan: Study Q & A:

Week of December 4: 100, 101

Week of December 11: 102, 103

Week of December 18: 104, 105

Week of December 25: 106, 107

2 year plan: Study Q & A:

Week of December 4: 49

Week of December 11: 50

Week of December 18: 51

Week of December 25: 52

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #100

**Question:** What does the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?

**Answer:** The preface of the Lord's prayer, (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven,*) teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #101

**Question:** What do we pray for in the first petition?

**Answer:** In the first petition, (which is, *Hallowed be Thy name,*) we pray, that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all in which He makes Himself known; and that He would dispose (overrule) all things to His own glory.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #102

**Question:** What do we pray for in the second petition?

**Answer:** In the second petition, (which is, *Thy kingdom come,*) we pray, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #103

**Question:** What do we pray for in the third petition?

**Answer:** In the third petition, (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,*) we pray, that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #104

**Question:** What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

**Answer:** In the fourth petition, (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread,*) we pray, that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #105

**Question:** What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

**Answer:** In the fifth petition, (which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,*) we pray, that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by His grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #106

**Question:** What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

**Answer:** In the sixth petition, (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*) we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

### Westminster Shorter Catechism

#### Question #107

**Question:** What does the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?

**Answer:** The conclusion of the Lord's prayer, (which is, *For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.*) teaches us, to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen.*



## Children's Discipleship

### Nursery

GIPC provides a Nursery for children ages Birth-4 years.

### Children's Church

Each Sunday children ages 4 years through 2nd Grade are dismissed during the latter half of the Morning Service for "Children's Church" where they will be studying a unit on Christmas during the month of December.

### Memorization Program

GIPC is also committed to supporting and encouraging parents in the important responsibility of instructing their children in the Christian faith, and to that end, is providing a Memorization Program that involves incentives and rewards.

*(Please refer to the flyer in the church foyer or speak with Sara Brown.)*

**DECEMBER**

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip."

(Psalm 37:31)

**Family Worship**

**Old Testament Reading**

| Date | Book                 | Chapter | ✓                        |
|------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1    | <i>I Chronicles</i>  | 29      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2    | <i>II Chronicles</i> | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3    |                      | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4    |                      | 3,4     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5    |                      | 5-6:11  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6    |                      | 6:12-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7    |                      | 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8    |                      | 8       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9    |                      | 9       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10   |                      | 10      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11   |                      | 11,12   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12   |                      | 13      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13   |                      | 14,15   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14   |                      | 16      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15   |                      | 17      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16   |                      | 18      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17   |                      | 19,20   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18   |                      | 21      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19   |                      | 22,23   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20   |                      | 24      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21   |                      | 25      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22   |                      | 26      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23   |                      | 27,28   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24   |                      | 29      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25   |                      | 30      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26   |                      | 31      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27   |                      | 32      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28   |                      | 33      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29   |                      | 34      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30   |                      | 35      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31   |                      | 36      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**DECEMBER**

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip."

(Psalm 37:31)

**Family Worship**

**New Testament Reading**

| Date | Book              | Chapter | ✓                        |
|------|-------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1    | <i>II Peter</i>   | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2    | <i>I John</i>     | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3    |                   | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4    |                   | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5    |                   | 4       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6    |                   | 5       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7    | <i>II John</i>    | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8    | <i>III John</i>   | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9    | <i>Jude</i>       | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10   | <i>Revelation</i> | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11   |                   | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12   |                   | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13   |                   | 4       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14   |                   | 5       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15   |                   | 6       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16   |                   | 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17   |                   | 8       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18   |                   | 9       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19   |                   | 10      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20   |                   | 11      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21   |                   | 12      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22   |                   | 13      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23   |                   | 14      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24   |                   | 15      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25   |                   | 16      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26   |                   | 17      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27   |                   | 18      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28   |                   | 19      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29   |                   | 20      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30   |                   | 21      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31   |                   | 22      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**DECEMBER**

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip."

(Psalm 37:31)

**Private**

**Old Testament Reading**

| Date | Book             | Chapter | ✓                        |
|------|------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1    | <i>Micah</i>     | 6       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2    |                  | 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3    | <i>Nahum</i>     | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4    |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5    |                  | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6    | <i>Habakkuk</i>  | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7    |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8    |                  | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9    | <i>Zephaniah</i> | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10   |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11   |                  | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12   | <i>Haggai</i>    | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13   |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14   | <i>Zechariah</i> | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15   |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16   |                  | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17   |                  | 4       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18   |                  | 5       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19   |                  | 6       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20   |                  | 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21   |                  | 8       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22   |                  | 9       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23   |                  | 10      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24   |                  | 11      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25   |                  | 12-13:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26   |                  | 13:2-9  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27   |                  | 14      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28   | <i>Malachi</i>   | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29   |                  | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30   |                  | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31   |                  | 4       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**DECEMBER**

"The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip."

(Psalm 37:31)

**Private**

**New Testament Reading**

| Date | Book        | Chapter | ✓                        |
|------|-------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1    | <i>Luke</i> | 15      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2    |             | 16      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3    |             | 17      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4    |             | 18      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5    |             | 19      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6    |             | 20      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7    |             | 21      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8    |             | 22      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9    |             | 23      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10   |             | 24      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11   | <i>John</i> | 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12   |             | 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13   |             | 3       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14   |             | 4       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15   |             | 5       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16   |             | 6       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17   |             | 7       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18   |             | 8       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19   |             | 9       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20   |             | 10      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21   |             | 11      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22   |             | 12      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23   |             | 13      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24   |             | 14      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25   |             | 15      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26   |             | 16      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27   |             | 17      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28   |             | 18      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29   |             | 19      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30   |             | 20      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31   |             | 21      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Christian Discipleship**

Each Sunday, 9:30 a.m. at GIPC

Each Sunday the adults meet for a time of study prior to the Morning Worship service. Topics include theology, church history, how to share the Gospel, and practical Christian living. The current series, taught by Rev. Alexander Brown, is entitled, "John Knox and The Scottish Reformation."

**Men's Monthly Study**

December 10th, 8:30 a.m.

The men of the church meet on the "2nd Saturday" of each month at Pastor Brown's home.

**Women's Monthly Study**

The monthly study for women (first Tuesday) will not meet in December. The current study, based on the book of James, will resume in January.

**"1st Wednesday" Dinner**

December 7th, 6:30 p.m.

Kroeze Home

Each month on the first Wednesday, in lieu of the prayer meeting, the church family gathers for a time of food and fellowship. The next dinner will be held at the home of John and Gail Kroeze. The main course, ham, will be provided. Please sign up in the foyer to bring a side, salad, or dessert. To help with planning, please note what you plan to bring, and list the names of all those attending.

**"Beyond the Pages" Book Group**

December 7th, 12:00 noon

Lunch at the Brown Home

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, December 7th, 12:00 p.m. at the home of Alex and Sara Brown for a light lunch. Afterward, the group will discuss the December book selection entitled, *The Westing Game*, by Ellen Raskin.

January Book Selection:

*The Perfect Horse*, by Elizabeth Letts