



# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation  
A Member of the Virgin River Presbyterian Fellowship  
Serving Southern Utah since 1988



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## December, 2015 Volume 10, Issue 11 In This Issue

- 1 The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off
- 2 Prayer Concerns, Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures, Welcome New Members, Newsletter Deadline, Worship Schedule, Flowers & Fellowship, Treasurer's Report
- 3 Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought, Christmas Open House invitation
- 4 The Acts 16:5 Initiative, Wendy's Window
- 5 Christian Education, Deacons, Fellowship, Mission-Outreach
- 6 Parish Nursing Ministry, Prayer Chain, Presbyterian Women, Senior Ministries
- 7 Session News, Stewardship
- 8 Worship and Music, Congregation News
- 9 December Calendar
- 10 December Lectionary, January Lectionary
- 11 Regularly Scheduled Activities, Building Fund Update, Church Contact Information/Leadership

## Church Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan**  
Pastor

**Ruth Ann Horvath**  
Clerk of Session

**Amy Craig**  
Church Secretary  
Newsletter

**Barbara McConnell**  
Music Director

**Fred Hampton**  
Organist

**Bob Routh**  
Head Usher

**Louise Routh**  
Prayer Chain

**Chris Schleter**  
Website Editor

## The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month. Beginning on November 29 with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest and culminating on Christmas Eve with the traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

On Thursday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th, at about 5:00 pm (after Choir), Rev. Ralph will lead a 30 minute prayer service in the Sanctuary. The service emphasizes small group prayer and will be similar to the one that he and Chris Schleter participated in while in Dorogobuzh. After the service we'll gather in Conklin Hall for a light potluck dinner.

Saturday, December 5th will be the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held in Conklin Hall.

On December 6th, we will dedicate our pledges for 2016. After Worship, Session has called a Congregational Meeting to elect officers for next year, approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph and vote on an amendment to the By-Laws.

On December 12th, the choirs will perform their annual Christmas concert at the Tabernacle. This is a wonderful program and we hope you will all join us.

Sunday, December 13th will be a VERY busy day! Rev. Ralph will begin his annual Christmas 101 – Bah Humbug (also known as "A Very Merry Commercialized Formerly Pagan Holiday!!") during Adult Education, the choirs will perform numbers from their Christmas Concert during worship and Rev. Ralph and Cindy will host their annual open house from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

On Sunday, December 20th, Rev. Ralph will wrap up Christmas 101.

Finally, on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm, we will anticipate the birth of our Savior with our Candle Light Worship.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this most joyous season!

## Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest

Consider yourselves warned. Once again, in 2015, Rev. Ralph is challenging the men of the congregation to find and wear to church the TACKIEST Christmas ties they can find and the women of the congregation to wear their TACKIEST Christmas sweater. The winners will receive a special prize.

All women's entries must be publicly identified as being "Tacky" to avoid any unfortunate misidentification of a treasured family or handmade heirloom. Ladies, you can pick up a sticker from Hawk to indicate that your sweater is, in fact, an entry into this year's contest.

We can't wait to see what you've found!

### Prayer Concerns

*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it* John 14:13-14

- Brent Schroeder                      Bob Prinselaar
- Melissa Beckman                      Candy Hurlbut
- Anne & Dave Patten on the death of Anne's mother
- Wendy Christianson as she continues her final year of studies for the ministry
- Our sister congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
- Those Serving Our Country

### Welcome New Members

If you are interested in joining our fellowship, please see Rev. Ralph or Session Clerk Ruth Ann Horvath

### Deadline for January Newsletter

December 23, 2015

### Worship Schedule

- 8:45 – 9:00 am  
Service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion - Sanctuary
- 9:00 – 9:45 am  
Adult Education with Rev. Ralph  
CE Building
- 10:30 am  
Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 am  
Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am  
Fellowship Time – Conklin Hall

### Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures

Each month at our stated Session meetings, our Teaching and Ruling Elders are invited to share any scripture that has spoken to their hearts in the previous month as part of their report. Rev. Ralph encourages our congregation, as part of their prayer life for the congregation, our Session and Pastor, to review their selections and continue to uphold them and one another in prayer.

The scriptures for November were:

Rev. Ralph	Jeremiah 31:10-34	Lords new day
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	Romans 12:9-10	Love one another
Elder Amy Craig	Malachi 3:10	Tithe and Blessings
Elder Chris Schleiter	1 Chronicles 16:33-34	Steadfast Love
Elder Scott Florence	Philippians 4:6-7	God's peace
Elder Judy Oar	Romans 12:14-16	Bless and Rejoice
Elder Fred Hampton	Psalm 106:1-2	Thank the Lord
Elder Russ Hurlbut	Psalm 10	God vs. Evil
Elder Anne Patten	Psalm 30:4-5	Sing praise to the Lord
Elder Dave Patten	Matthew 6:25	Eat and drink

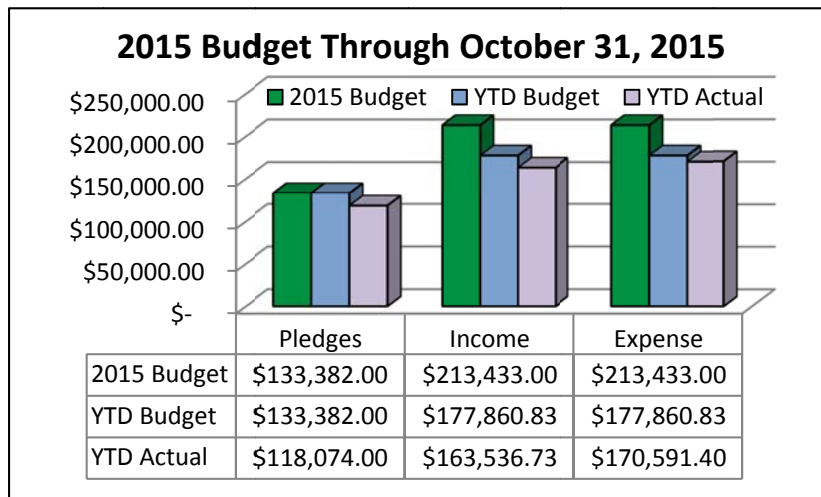
### Thanks to our Volunteers

	Flowers	Fellowship
<b>December</b>		
December 6	Paul & Charlotte Phipps & Laura Sanda	Potluck Sunday
December 13	<b>Available</b>	Doug & Pat Sater / John & Eliza Elwood
December 20	Donna Beasley	Donna Beasley / Sandy & Alan Paige
December 27	Chris Schleiter	<b>Available</b>
<b>January</b>		
January 3	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
January 10	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
January 17	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
January 24	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
January 31	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>

Signup on the boards between the narthex and the Fellowship Hall or on our Website [gspcsq.org](http://gspcsq.org)

### Treasurer's Report

General Fund	
As of October 31, 2015	
Month of October	
Receipts	\$ 14,619.23
Expenditures	\$ 14,730.09
<b>2015 YTD Budget vs Actual</b>	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 177,860.83
Actual Receipts	\$ <b>163,536.73</b>
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 177,860.83
Actual Expenditures	\$ <b>170,591.40</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	
Building Fund Cash	\$ 86,887.04
Loan Balance	\$ 157,638.82
Net Building Fund	\$ (70,751.78)
<b>Fund Balances</b>	
General Fund	\$ 956.30
Memorial Fund	\$ 896.12
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 17,692.79



## Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

*"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy."  
Exodus 20:8*



"A Very Merry Commercialized Formerly Pagan Holiday!!"

A couple of years ago while standing at the cashier's counter at a local chain restaurant, I witnessed a couple berating the young cashier for her employer having only "Happy Holiday" gift cards and no "Merry Christmas" gift cards. They were almost yelling at the poor young lady who had no more say in regards to her employers gift card policy than I do, "We're Christian and want Christ in Christmas!!"

I felt badly for the young lady — if she wasn't feeling the warmth and witness of Christian love at that point I could hardly blame her!

However, following that scene, I was led to ponder a few questions surrounding the yearly celebration we affectionately refer to as Christmas.

To begin with what is wrong with referring to December 25th as a "Holiday"?

The word "Holiday" comes to us from the old English and originally meant "Holy Day". Personally with all the commercialization that now fills all our senses from now until the big day I personally would like to see a little more "Holiness" surrounding the day.

I understand there are those who object just as strongly to the term "X-Mas in reference to the day associated with the birth of Christ, however perhaps we have forgotten that originally our "X" was the Greek letter Chi and for the early church was one of the universally accepted symbols for "Christ". Personally I would like to see a little more "Christ" associated with the day most commonly associated with gifts and love.

Perhaps then, before we accost any more teenage cashiers in the name of Christ, we should consider a few facts that are generally not known or considered.

To begin with December 25th was originally a pagan holiday and not a Christian one. A majority of scholars believe Christ was born in the spring, not in winter. However early in the life of the church, as Christianity grew, a Pope decided to take the holiday, make it a Christian one and tone down the party. While the pagans and populace were willing to give up the day they were completely reluctant to give up the party, much to the chagrin and complaining of the Pope.

Therefore a few thoughts to consider: it is perhaps time for us again to take back the December 25<sup>th</sup> event in our own lives – to again make the day Holy by centering our lives and day on the joyous gift we have been given in the gift of the Christ and, through his cross, the new life we all now have received and celebrate in Christian love, every day of the year.

A very blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

*Rev. Ralph and family*

### **Christmas Open House December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Cindy, Jeff and I invite the congregation to join us for our annual Christmas Open House on December 13 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Bring a beverage and something to share and join everyone in the joy of the holiday season. We live at 331 Vermillion Avenue in Bloomington Hills. Please see me if you need directions. We hope to see everyone there!

### **\*\* Home Communion \*\***

If you have difficulty getting to worship and would like to have the Visitation Pastor or Pastor serve you the Lord's Supper at home, please call the church office (628-9158).

### **\*\* Pastor's Note Regarding Hospital Visitation: \*\***

Please keep in mind that with the federal laws that went into force a number of years ago, hospitals are no longer allowed to give out any information in regards to patients to visitors, including clergy. Unless a visitor requests a specific name, the hospital desk is not allowed to give out any information, including religious affiliation.

So, if you or a family member is hospitalized please alert the Pastor, your Deacon, or the church office. Otherwise, we will not be informed of your presence there and unable to assist or offer pastoral care.

## The Acts 16:5 Initiative

*"Day after day the congregations became stronger in faith and larger in size." (Acts 16:5)*

### Building One Another

*By Dr. E. Stanley Ott  
Founder and President  
Vital Churches Institute*

#### WAKE UP!

This morning I wrote two emails. In the first I used the word, "ecclesiology" (the theology of the church) and in the second I used the word, "anesthesiology."

Later musing about these two rhyming words it occurred to me: ecclesiology is about waking people up and anesthesiology is about putting people to sleep!

It is the classic work of the church to call us to wake up – wake up to the love and reality of God – wake up to the presence of Jesus Christ and his invitation to follow him – wake up to new life, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:14\*

Throughout American history there have been periods of intense awakening to the wonder of the person of Jesus, periods that are known as the Great Awakenings.

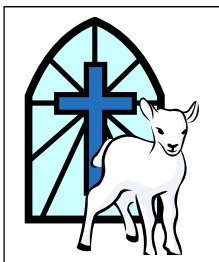
While we surely live in a day in which a new Great Awakening would lift the lives of countless people to know and experience the reality of Jesus who loves them, any such movement has to begin with a few – like me and like you!

Open yourself to the wonder of the person of Jesus, set your heart on embracing and following him and growing to know his love. "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Wake up!

Joy to you

### Wendy's Window



In the Christian church, the time before Christmas is ADVENT, a season of preparation for Christmas. ADVENT begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, the colors of ADVENT are purple and pink.

During ADVENT, Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In ADVENT, we are reminded of how much we ourselves need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior's second coming, even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas.

The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word ADVENTUS, which means "coming " or "arrival." The focus of the entire ADVENT season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his FIRST ADVENT and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his SECOND ADVENT. Christians affirm that Christ has come, that he is present in the world today and that he will come again.

ADVENT is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin and still have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!!

May we celebrate God's deliverance as we await the return of Christ the King.

*Wendy Christianson  
101 Loetscher Place, #207  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
907-821-1316  
wendy.christianson@ptsem.edu*

## Christian Education

For the past few weeks, we've been examining LDS faith and culture. Beginning on January 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing for five weeks, we'll look at some of the issues faced by LDS when they decide to leave the church and join a new faith community within traditional Christianity. Sundays begin with a prayer service including Communion at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary before we move to the CE Building for Adult Education at 9:00 am. Please join us for both.

*Fred Hampton*

## Deacons

The Deacons will meet again on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is anything that you would like us to consider or if you have any suggestions for how we can do our job better, please speak with me or your parish Deacon.

Just a reminder that we have a shed full of items you may need if you have an illness or are recovering from surgery. If you need to borrow any items from the shed, please contact Janice Klein (628-1158) and she will make arrangements to get you what you need.

Please remember that should you need anything, your Deacons will be glad to help you. That's what we're here for!

*Tineke Ingold, Moderator*

## Fellowship

*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalm 100:4-5 (King James Version)*

Thanksgiving is past. Thank you all for sharing your talents at our Thanksgiving lunch. Every seat in Conklin Hall was filled. I hope you had a great meal with us and a wonderful holiday with friends and family.

The Advent season is here. It is time to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will start with the Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in Conklin Hall. There is still time to join us at our catered dinner. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Call me at 435-673-0442 if you would like to come to the party.

May the joy of this season touch your hearts now and throughout the New Year.

*In Joy,  
Carolyn Jentzer*

## Mission/Outreach

Our fall projects are in the books and I want to thank you for your wonderful generosity and support. I am constantly amazed at your generosity and faith and pray that we can build upon our work for years to come.

We collected 216 pairs of shoes during the shoe drive. This was a few more than last year and will help many who lack shoes to wear. We will probably do this activity a bit earlier in the year next year so start saving shoes now!

The CROP Walk raised nearly \$5,000 this year. Our congregation was responsible for nearly 20% of that total. Thanks to all who walked and to those who supported our walkers.

We had a goal of 125 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and we fell just one short. Gloria Reynolds and her helpers, Paul Reynolds and Liz Larsen delivered 124 boxes to Calvary Chapel on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Yes, for the second year in a row, we were ONE box short of our goal. Although we didn't quite meet our goal this year, we'll be looking to collect 150 boxes next year. You don't have to wait until next October to start shopping, either. After Christmas and back to school sales are great times to pick up a few items and put them away for next year.

Now that we've reached the end of the year, we'll be deciding on the local charities that will receive donations and the amounts of those donations. I'll have information on that in the January newsletter.

Finally, we had a great visit with Ellen and Al Smith, our Mission Co-Workers for Russia on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. They led our Adult Education class and answered many questions about Russia and our relationship with Pastor Sergei's congregation. They also presented a Minute for Mission and thanked the congregation for their continued support of our mission. We thank Ellen and Al for coming to visit us in St. George and look forward to having them back soon!

*Blessings  
Chris Schleiter*

## Parish Nursing Ministry

Be sure to join us on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Noon, we will welcome Karen Schlieter, MS, Gerokinesiologist (someone who studies the mobility, fitness and rehabilitation of the older adult) as our Brown Bag Lunch speaker. She'll be discussing: "5 Steps to Reduce Falls." Bring your sandwich. We will have drinks and a dessert.

*Alicia Kitzman and Mitzi Rak*

## Prayer Chain

I would ask anyone in the congregation that would like to join in prayers for the ill, people with problems, or those with happy news like a mending body to please contact Louise Routh at 628-7725 or on her cell 229-4733.

All prayers are important.

*Louise Routh*

## Presbyterian Women

SAVE THE DATE!!!

As promised, a "kick off" meeting to reinvigorate the Presbyterian Women's organization in our Church has been scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2016, at 1:00 pm in Conklin Hall. Presbyterian Women is open to all, and we look forward to gathering together in January.

*Candy Hurlbut*

## Senior Ministries

November's Soup and Fellowship hosted a speaker from outside our congregation, Kristyn Decker, who most graciously agreed to tell us about her life as a polygamist. Kristyn was born into the sect and lived it for fifty years with a deep gnawing feeling that what she was told to believe was not how she wanted to live. She took us inside the lives of polygamist families, related a history of FLDS and her branch called AUB (Apostolic United Brethren) led by her father, a prophet, Allred. She was the twelfth of his twenty-three children.

A mother of seven, she views the abuse, molestation, poverty, depression and loneliness she endured for fifty years as her good fortune, each one raising awareness for the necessity for change. She gradually pulled herself out with EDUCATION – she became a teacher. She quotes Eckhart Toli , " Love, joy and peace cannot flourish until you have freed yourself from mind dominance."

Today, this lovely woman lives in New Harmony with her husband of several years. She is not a Mormon, nor a polygamist. She lives in most humble GRATITUDE for nature, life, love and the freedom to choose. Kristyn volunteers to help end human rights abuses due to polygamy and other forms of abuse through a program she founded: Sound Choices Coalition. She is the author of several books on leaving polygamy. You can find more about her on [www.kristyndecker.com](http://www.kristyndecker.com).

Thanks go out to our delicious soup makers: Sherry Kretschmer, Luisa Estlack, Catherine Overcamp, Sandy Paige and me. Cookies, Bread and goodies came from Joyce Otness, Sherry Kretschmer and , Alicia Kitzman. Both were really yummy

Brain Games, or our Card Party, continues on the third Wednesday of each month. We had two friendly tables of "Hearts" this month with comradery and groans and celebrations with each hand. We would like to get a bridge table playing.

Book Club will be next month on Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. We are reading "Summer of Revolution" by Joseph Ellis. The host is Russell Estlack. Please join us to talk about the men who were active in our fight for independence from British tyranny.

*Judy Oar*



## Session News

Session held their regular monthly meeting on November 10, 2015. Here is a synopsis of the actions:

- Approved Rev. Clingan's 4<sup>th</sup> week of 2015 vacation to be taken January 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Approved inviting the Presbytery of Utah to meet at Good Shepherd on May 14, 2016.
- Accepted the following nominations: Jan Hirschi as Deacon, Bob Moeller as Elder, and Virginia Hunt as Deacon representative to the 2016 Nominating Committee.
- Approved 2016 Terms of Call for Rev. Clingan. (Included in the 2016 Budget which will be presented to the congregation on December 6, 2016 at a Called Congregational Meeting following worship).
- Voted to call a Called Session meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at 10 am in the CE Building to meet and greet new members and receive a report from the Nominating Committee.

*Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk of Session*

## Stewardship

By now you should have received your annual Stewardship letter in the mail. As you can see, we need your financial support for the coming year. If you have any questions about the mailing, please see me or the other members of the Stewardship Committee, Carolyn Thomas, Dawn Argonne, or Chris Schleiter. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord is calling you to share with the missions of our church. We will be dedicating pledges on December 6<sup>th</sup>, but pledges are always welcome even after that date!

Thank you to all of you who have generously given this year. We still have a few more months of this year and items to pay. Please see the treasurer's report on page 2 for general fund information. The building fund information can be found on page 11. The good news is as of October, we have spent \$170,591, which is below the amount budgeted for expenses! Unfortunately we have received \$163,536, which is below the amount budgeted for income. As you can see, we are behind in what we need to receive to fully meet our expenses.

As I will be leaving the Session at the end of December, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve this congregation. You are a joy to work with and an amazing generous group of people!

## Brother Steward

### Jesus, the Light

Are you waiting for something that seems to be too long in coming? Maybe it's a job promotion or a raise. Maybe it's just employment of any kind! Perhaps you've been praying for someone's salvation, and you don't see any sign of God's working in that person. It's difficult to wait. People in Jesus' day were waiting for a Messiah. It seemed to many that his coming was long overdue, but Paul writes in Galatians 4:4-5, *"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."* Our waiting is over! The Light has come into the world!

Simeon was one who knew that *"the time had fully come,"* and *"moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts"* (Luke 2:27). There he saw the child whose parents brought him there to fulfill what the Law required of them. Simeon knew Jesus was the light. He proclaimed, *"For my eyes have seen your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel"* (Luke 2:30, 32).

Unfortunately, not all who were waiting for the Messiah recognized him when he came. In John 1:4-5 we read, *"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* Still today the darkness misunderstands the Light. Yet he continues to shine, and, as he shines, he dispels darkness.

And he calls upon us to shine also. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described a lamp that is put on a stand so that it lights up the whole house. Then he said, *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

The only way to dispel darkness is to fill it with light. As stewards, it is our joyous task to be reflections of Christ's light. So we are *"prepared in season and out of season: [we] correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction"* (2 Timothy 4:2). We are always prepared *"to give an answer to everyone who ask [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have. And we do so "with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against [our] good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander"* (1 Peter 3:15-15). In this way we proclaim that the waiting is over! Jesus, the Light, has come into the world!

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*Amy Craig*

## Worship and Music

November was the month we traditionally think of as "Giving Thanks"! Much appreciation goes to all the musicians for their hard work in preparing for our Advent and Christmas season. We also want to thank those volunteers who helped with decorating our beautiful church!

We have much to look forward to during December as it will be a busy month. Our annual Tabernacle Concert is Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, the church Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 13 during the worship service and the Christmas Eve service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm! So, please mark your calendars! As you can see, the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will be extremely busy!

Thanks to our special guests who will share part of our concerts: Stephen Talley, harp; Ann Hogan, violin; Suzanne Czarnecki, trumpet; and Ka-Wai Yu, cello. We are all grateful to Fred Hampton for his hard work in accompanying the Chancel Choir and these musicians!

We hope you will feel the spirit as we remember and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and as we hopefully await His Coming again.

*Blessings to you all!*

*Anne Patten and Barbara McConnell*

## Congregation News

### Pledge Drive Continues

We continue to receive pledges for 2016. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to serve the Lord through our ministries.

Through November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had a total of eleven pledges totaling \$21,590 towards our goal of \$111,000. As you can see we still have a ways to go.

If you have not already made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or by calling the church. You can also pledge online at our website [gspcsg.org](http://gspcsg.org).

We will dedicate our pledges during worship on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Thanks from Candy Hurlbut

I want to express our heartfelt thanks to our Church family for all the cards, concerns, and prayers for me and Russ following my recent back surgery and my lengthy recuperation.

*Candy Hurlbut*

### PW Christmas Boutique

The soon to be re-organized Presbyterian Women are getting right to work. They are planning to hold a Christmas Boutique in 2016 and ask that, as you decorate for the holidays, if you find any Christmas items that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and give them to Nancy Linden or Fred Hampton.





## DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>9:30 am Calendar Coordinating Council Meeting</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Egg & I <b>1:30 pm Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Meeting</b> 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 4:00 pm Bell Choir	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble <b>1:00 pm Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Meeting</b> <b>3:00 pm Deacon Meeting</b>	11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel <b>12:00 Noon Brown Bag Lunch – Karen Schlieter on 5 Ways to Reduce Falls</b> 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir <b>5:30 pm Prayer Service &amp; Potluck</b>	7:45 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's	<b>5:00 pm Christmas Party</b>
<b>6</b> Soup Kitchen Sunday	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
8:45 am Prayer/Communion Service 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Communion Worship <b>11:45 am Congregational Meeting</b> 11:45 am Fellowship <b>11:45 am Worship Committee Meeting</b> <b>11:45 am Mission-Outreach Committee Meeting</b> 5:00 pm Bible Study @Rev Ralph's Home	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Egg & I 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 4:00 pm Bell Choir <b>5:15 pm Session Meeting</b>	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble <b>1:00 pm Book Club – Conklin Hall</b> <b>6:30 pm Safe Harbor Support Group</b>	11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel <b>1:30 pm Parish Nursing Ministry Meeting</b> 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir <b>5:30 pm Prayer Service &amp; Potluck</b>	7:45 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's	<b>7:00 pm Christmas Concert at Tabernacle</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
8:45 am Prayer/Communion Service 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship – Christmas Cantata 11:45 am Fellowship <b>11:45 am Blood Pressures Taken</b> <b>3:00 pm Open House at to Rev. Ralph's Home</b> 5:00 pm Bible Study @Rev Ralph's Home	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Egg & I 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 4:00 pm Bell Choir	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble <b>1:00 pm Senior Ministries Card Party – Conklin Hall</b>	11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir <b>5:30 pm Prayer Service &amp; Potluck</b>	7:45 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
8:45 am Prayer/Communion Service 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Fellowship 5:00 pm Bible Study @Rev Ralph's Home	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Egg & I 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 4:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir <b>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</b>	7:45 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
8:45 am Prayer/Communion Service 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Fellowship 5:00 pm Bible Study @Rev Ralph's Home	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Egg & I 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 4:00 pm Bell Choir	11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>New Year's Eve</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir		

PLEASE NOTE: This calendar is subject to change. Always check the church website [gpscsg.org](http://gpscsg.org) for the latest information.

## Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Sunday, December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Sunday, December 20 4th Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96:1-13	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Friday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97:1-12	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
	<i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-9	Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)	John 1:1-14
Sunday, December 27 1st Sunday after Christmas	1 Samuel 2:18-20,26 Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

## Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Wednesday, January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 10 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Sunday, January 31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



## Regularly Scheduled Activities

Soup Kitchen Supply Sunday – contributions of supplies – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month  
 Safe Harbor Support Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each Month – 6:30 pm in the CE Building

Shawl Ministry	Monday	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Conklin Hall
Exercise with Rev. Ralph	Tuesday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
	Thursday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
Co-Ed Bible Study	Sunday	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Rev. Ralph's home
Women's Bible Studies	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	The Egg & I
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Starbucks Café at Barnes & Noble
Men's Bible Studies	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	The Cracker Barrel Restaurant
	Friday	7:45 am to 8:45 am	Bishop's Restaurant
Choir Practices	Tuesday	4:00 pm Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	Thursday	3:45 pm Chancel Choir	Sanctuary



### Building Fund Update

As you all know, we have a mortgage payment of \$1,343.51 due each month. The mortgage has a principal of \$184,117 and a 15 year term which means that if it goes for its full term (although, with your help, we hope to pay it off early), we will pay a total of \$241,831.80. We also have a number of major maintenance items over the next several years totaling more than \$100,000 that need to be funded in addition to paying off the mortgage, meaning we need to raise \$342,000.

Our first campaign produced \$101,226. Through November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have received pledges towards our second campaign totaling \$41,845 and additional cash donations of \$12,300 for a total of **\$155,371** or about **45.4%** of the way to our **\$342,000 goal**.

If you have pledged to the building fund, thank you. If you have not yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider how you can help us to pay off the mortgage early and have sufficient funds to perform needed maintenance and make other improvements in the future.

### Church Contact Information

Office Hours	Secretary in Tue/Thu 9:00 am to Noon
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office email	<a href="mailto:presch7@msn.com">presch7@msn.com</a>
Pastor's Office Hours	Mon-Thu 9:00 am - 11:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Pastor's Cell	435-705-1867
Pastor's email	<a href="mailto:RevRalph1@msn.com">RevRalph1@msn.com</a>
Prayer Chain	Louise Routh 435-628-7725
Website	<a href="http://www.gspcsg.org">www.gspcsg.org</a>
Website Editor	Chris Schleiter
Newsletter Editor	Amy Craig
Newsletter email	<a href="mailto:presch7@msn.com">presch7@msn.com</a>
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Info on Stephen Ministry	<a href="http://www.stephenministries.org">www.stephenministries.org</a>

### Church Leadership 2015

#### Elders

Class of 2015	Ruth Ann Horvath	773-6790	Clerk of Session Fellowship Senior Ministries Mission/Outreach
	Carolyn Jentzer	673-0442	
	Judy Oar	702-241-6227	
	Chris Schleiter	627-9048	
Class of 2016	Amy Craig	592-0246	Stewardship Grounds Christian Ed
	Scott Florence	574-2383	
	Fred Hampton	627-0017	
Class of 2017	Gay Cunningham	705-4696	Growth Building Worship
	Russ Hurlbut	879-9393	
	Anne Patten	773-4307	

#### Deacons

<b>Bloomington</b> <b>Dixie Downs</b> <b>East Bloomington</b> <b>South Gate</b> <b>East St. George</b> <b>Green Valley</b> <b>Hurricane</b>	Dick & Patti Babb	688-1120
	Shirley Fromknecht	628-2381
	Molly Bass	628-6440
	Bob Moeller	801-707-4353
<b>Ivins</b> <b>Old St. George</b> <b>Pine Valley</b> <b>Red Cliffs</b> <b>Santa Clara</b> <b>West Bloomington</b>  <b>Washington</b>	Rayanne Bartlett	673-6657
	Ann Hogan	635-0993
	Virginia Hunt	714-955-1167
	Ron & Sherri Ard	674-1382
	Larry Laubscher	656-0617
	Tineke Ingold	574-3614
	Matt Fine	760-887-1251
	Dottie Malcomson	673-4471
	Candy Hurlbut	879-9394
	Jeff Clingan	705-8692
Janice Klein	628-1158	



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