



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

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

Sister Congregation to the Evangelical Baptist Church of Dorogobuzh, Russia



611 N 2450 E / PO Box 1499, St. George, UT 84771

Website: gspcsg.org

435-628-9158

Email: office@gspcsg.org

December, 2017

Volume 12, Issue 11

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Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan
Pastor

Dick Higgins
Visitation Pastor

Ruth Ann Horvath
Clerk of Session

Susan Holecheck
Candy Hurlbut
Arlene Prinselaar
Church Secretaries

Barbara McConnell
Music Director

Steve Talley
Deborah Stone
Organists

George Linden
Head Usher

Deborah Stone
Prayer Chain

Chris Schleiter
Website / Newsletter Editor

The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month. Beginning on December 3rd with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest and culminating on Christmas Eve with our traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

Sunday, December 3rd Rev. Ralph, Cindy and Jeff will host their annual open house from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

On December 4th, 11th and 18th, Rev. Ralph will lead a series of Advent lessons. Please bring a small dish to share and learn more about this liturgical season.

On Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 pm, the choirs will perform their annual Christmas concert in our Sanctuary. You can get a preview during worship that morning. This is a wonderful program and we hope you will all join us.

On December 17th, we will hold our Stated Congregational Meeting after worship to elect officers for next year and approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph. We will dedicate our pledges for 2018 during the service, as well.

Instead of a formal Christmas Party, we'll have a potluck Christmas Celebration after the Congregational Meeting on the 17th in Conklin Hall. Bring hors d'oeuvres or snacks to share and we'll sing some Carols of the season.

On Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm, we will anticipate the birth of our Savior with our Candle Light Worship and we'll wrap up the Christmas season with worship on Christmas morning.

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 2017, 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

Roger Kitzman	Jim Sullivan
Joe Borden	Norm Ramquist
Alice Blair	Doris & Gene Thomas
Jim Crowe	Dottie Malcomsen
The Ingold Family	The Routh Family
Paul & Gloria Reynolds	The Angarone Family
Shirley Craig	Betty Miner

Wendy Christiansen as she prepares for Ordination.
Our sister congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
Those Serving Our Country

Welcome New Members

Cindy Everitt
Joe Lamb

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

January Newsletter Deadline

December 23, 2017

Worship Schedule

8:45 – 9:00 am
Service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion - Sanctuary

9:00 – 9:45 am
Adult Education
CE Building

10:30 am
Children's Sunday School

10:30 am
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.

Rev. Ralph	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Hopeful Encouragement
Elder Chris Schleiter	2 Corinthians 9:6b-8	Give Cheerfully
Elder Bob Moeller	Matthew 5:16	Let Your Light Shine
Elder Judy Oar	Ephesians 3:14-19	Love of Christ
Elder Russ Hurlbut	Ecclesiastes 3:11	God's Work
Elder Anne Patten	Psalms 117	Praise the Lord
Elder Ruth Anne Horvath	1 Corinthians 16:13	Be Strong in Faith
Elder Scott Florence	1 Corinthians 15:58	Be Strong
Elder Gloria McGilloway	Psalms 57:1-2	Take Refuge in God
Elder Jan Hirschi	Philippians 4:13	Do All Through Strength
Elder Mary Contreras	Isaiah 35:4	Be Strong

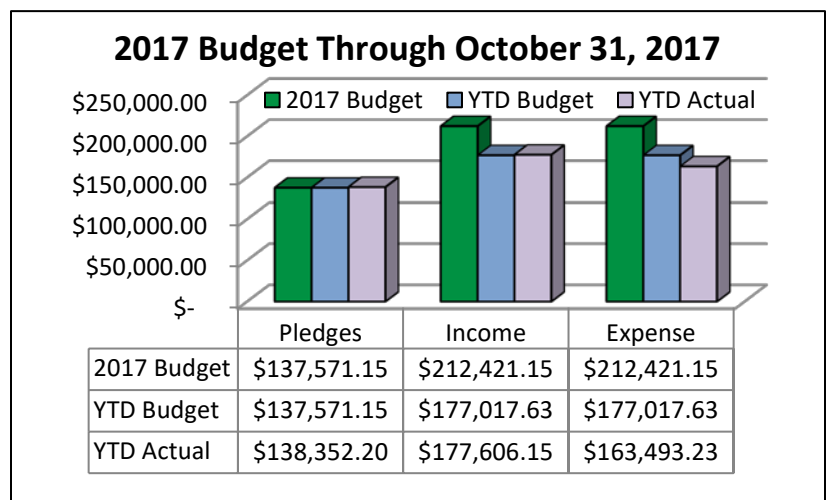
Thanks to our Volunteers

Flowers		Nursery
December		
December 3	In memory of Dawn Angarone	Jennifer P
December 10	Paul & Charlotte Phipps	Donna Beasley
December 17	Carolynn Thomas	Cindy Clingan
December 24	Donna Beasley	Judy Oar or Mary Contreras
December 31	Chris Schleiter	5th Sunday - No Nursery
January		
December 3	Available	Jennifer P
December 10	Available	Donna Beasley
December 17	Available	Cindy Clingan
December 24	Available	Judy Oar or Mary Contreras
December 31	Available	5th Sunday - No Nursery

Signup on the boards between the narthex and the Fellowship Hall or on our Website qspcsg.org
Our Fellowship time each Sunday is now Potluck. Please bring some goodies to share. If we have

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of October 31, 2017	
Month of October	
Receipts	\$ 15,430.41
Expenditures	\$ 12,035.10
2017 YTD Budget vs Actual	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 177,017.63
Actual Receipts	\$ 177,606.15
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 177,017.63
Actual Expenditures	\$ 163,493.23
Building Fund	
Building Fund Cash	\$ 73,359.01
Loan Balance	\$ 129,327.89
Net Building Fund	\$ (55,968.88)
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 9,150.81
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,941.31
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 32,789.84
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 1,027.33



Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying,

"We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

Rev. 11:15-17



Massacres, wars and the threat of wars, natural disasters, political turmoil and violence indeed call us to question the times we live in, where are we headed as world? Except I wasn't describing the world we are living in but instead the world into which the Christ child was born, the person of Christ lived, and the Savior was raised.

It was into this world that the first Advent of our Lord took place and the message of God's Kingdom entering in began to be announced. Then, like now, we are all challenged to choose whose Kingdom, and whose reign, are we going to live in: fear and darkness or light and hope?

It is far too easy to convince ourselves we are hopeless and living in hopeless times, but this is at complete odds with the message we declare in the Good News of the Gospel, that in Christ, we see truly and live accordingly under the Lordship of Christ, and thus our special gift this year is not to announce the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem but to declare that with His birth, death, and resurrection the new day, God's day has begun, and this is the best gift of all.

A Very Merry and Christ filled Advent and Christmas to you all.

In Christ

Rev. Ralph

Annual Christmas Open House December 3rd

Please join Cindy, Jeff and me as we hold our annual Christmas Open House on December 3rd from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Plan to bring a beverage and something to share and join everyone in the joy of the holiday season.



**** 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.

News from the Russia Mission

We want to wish our sister congregation in Dorogobuzh a very Happy Christmas. Because Pastor Sergei and his congregation follow the Orthodox calendar, they will celebrate the birth of our Savior on January 7th.

We will begin planning the details of next year's Russia Mission Network Conference during January. We will need many people to make this event a success – everything from transportation to those willing to host an attendee. If you are interested in helping out, please talk with Chris Schleter.

Meet the Member Mary Patricia (Pat) Sater

I was born in Jefferson City, Missouri where I used the Capitol building as my playhouse and always had a lap to sit on in the Governor's office. My Father worked in the Auditors office, but moved to Kansas City to head the General Services Administration so actually grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. My Father lived on the farm adjacent to the Truman farm so Dad was good friends with Harry and brother Vivian Truman. We were often invited to share Sunday dinners with the whole Truman family at their farm in Grandview. I loved going to the farm, but wasn't real excited about daughter Margaret Truman singing for us every now and then although a very nice person. My parents stayed in the Blue Room of the White House many times and sister Margaret got to go with them to Truman's inauguration.

I attended Southwest H.S. , Kansas City Jr. College (where I met Doug the very first week there), and Central Missouri State University. I've sung in Choirs both at Church and School since I was very young and still singing in our Church choir. Taught Sunday school for years and directed the youth choir at Bellevue Christian Church in Bellevue, WA for 5 years. Performed in The Samena Players both singing and dancing for 10 years and had parts in many of the musicals we put on at the Bellevue Christian Church such as Fiddler on the Roof, The Sound of Music and Amahl and the Night Visitors.

In 1957 my parents moved to the Seattle area and Doug followed us there to marry me. Then we spent our first year of marriage in Chicago at the Illinois Institute of Technology. I guess it was meant for us to live and raise our children in Seattle because Associated Press did an article on Doug and it got in the hands of the Personnel Director at Boeing. He hired Doug to work at Boeing . Immediately after moving to Bellevue we took up skiing and loved it so much we became ski instructors and I taught for 30 years. I also enjoyed driving a school bus for ten years. Got paid to drive my children to their sports events and watch them play.

We have 3 children and 6 amazing grandchildren. Can't start talking about them or it would be many pages long.

We moved to Utah 18 years ago and were so fortunate to find the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

This summer, after 40 some years, we sold our place on Camano Island, WA, where we enjoyed crabbing, water skiing, kayaking and watching the kids and grandkids grow up. What a chore that was packing up all those years of stuff and, of course, a few tears, but on to new adventures.

Christian Education

Christian Education at Good Shepherd is alive, well, and kicking! We have children consistently in Sunday School Class; we have had 8-10 people attending Jeff Clingan's Adult Sunday School Classes on "Christianity in the Roman Empire of the East" (we are learning things we NEVER knew about the early Christian church!); and the 5 weekly Bible Studies in public venues (except for Sunday evening at Rev. Ralph's house) are consistently well attended and act as a witness to the community about the importance of studying and discussing the Bible and its meaning for us in today's world. Remember that Friday's Bible Study venue has changed to 25th & Main Cafe, a very nice restaurant in the heart of downtown St. George (their cupcakes are awesome!). And we have Rev. Ralph's "Bah Humbug! 101" Advent classes to look forward to after Thanksgiving!

The Advent Devotional Booklet has been completed (thanks—Jan Hirschi!) and printed (thanks—church secretaries!), and copies will be available in church on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd. Please pick up a copy, and enjoy each day in Advent as you read what your Good Shepherd friends have found inspiring. Think about what you find inspiring for future booklets!

Christian Education, continued

The Advent Lessons & Potluck Suppers were off to a good start on Monday November 27th at 5:45 pm. More good food, fun, and learning will take place on December 4th, December 11th, and December 18th. Remember, study books are provided free of charge for these sessions. Rev. Ralph is teaching us all sorts of things we never knew before! Please come and bring food to share. It is always interesting to find out "What's For Supper".

Anne Patten

Deacons

Eight of our Deacons will be retiring at the end of 2017. Most of them have served our church for many years. Some for as many as six years.

Be sure to thank any and all of them when you meet in church.

- Bloomington Hills Parish - Dick and Patti Babb
- East Bloomington Parish - Molly Bass
- Old St George Parish - Larry Laubscher
- Pine Valley Parish - Tineke Ingold
- Green Valley Parish - Rayanne Bartlett
- Red Cliffs Parish - Matt Fine
- Hurricane Parish - Ann Hogan

We also want to thank Russ Hurlbut, Guy Schultzman and Fred Overkamp for performing some maintenance on our shed. It looks great and is full of items you may need if you have an illness or are recovering from surgery. If you need to borrow anything from the shed, please contact Dick Babb (688-1120) and he will make arrangements to get you what you need.

*In Christian love and fellowship,
Your Deacons*

Fellowship

What a feast we had! Thank you all for making our Thanksgiving Brunch a very special occasion. Our plate count indicates that 116 people joined in our celebration of God's bounty. We have much to be thankful for in our lives.

Our next congregational celebration will be on December 17th when we gather for our Christmas Party. The after-worship fellowship will be a Pot Luck of Hors d'oeuvres and snacks and a Carol Sing Along. The caroling will be led by Barbara McConnell and lyrics will be provided (we hope you all know the tunes). Signup sheets are in Conklin Hall for the potluck.

This is such a busy and joyful time of year at GSPC, which means many opportunities for fellowship. Whenever and wherever you participate in any of the many activities during the week, you are involved in the practice of fellowship. Stay joyful!

*Blessings
Gloria McGilloway*

Mission/Outreach

Operation Christmas Child has wrapped up and the Mission Committee wants to thank everyone who donated money or filled one or more boxes. While we only filled 124 boxes this year (down from 149 last year), we were presented with a large cash donation at the beginning of the final week. Had we had a little more time, we would have topped last year's count for shoeboxes, but we were able to make a sizeable cash donation and, as we all know, every little bit helps. We have some boxes left over if you want to get a head start on next year. Watch the sales and grab those goodies for the kids when they're least expensive. The children will love you for it.

The CROP Hunger Walk was held on November 4th this year. As a community raised more than \$4,500 to help feed the hungry both here and around the world. The local donations this year went to Solomon's Porch for the Sunday Feast and to the Utah Food Bank.

Finally, as we did last year we'll be collecting canned food during the four Sundays of Advent to benefit the Soup Kitchen. Last year we collected \$385 and 446 pounds of food. Let's go for \$500 and 500 pounds this year.

I continue to be amazed by your generosity and willingness to share.

*Blessings
Chris Schleiter*

Parish Nursing

The final BROWN BAG LUNCHEON of 2017 has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th at Noon in Conklin Hall. Our speaker, David Grygla, DO from Dixie Regional Medical Center, is most qualified to answer the question - "A Hospitalist-Who's That?"- because he IS one. Care from a Hospitalist may have already been part of your life experience, but Dr. Grygla will tell us about the role such a person will play should you require an in-patient hospital stay. Take an hour out of your busy December schedule to have lunch with us on the thirteenth. Tell your friends, bring your sandwich and enjoy sweets and a beverage, which we'll provide.

When marking dates on your 2018 calendar, please reserve Wednesday, February 21st, for the next BROWN BAG LUNCHEON and our speaker, Katie Woods, Attorney and National Certified Guardian. Katie has shared her expertise with us during a previous Luncheon, but this time will speak about an all too prevalent reality in today's society, Elder Abuse.

We continue to be available to take your Blood Pressure during Fellowship time on the second Sunday of each month and often have been asked about what are 'good' numbers? You may have heard, according to the latest recommendation of the medical community, the optimum reading should be less than 130 systolic (top number) over 80 diastolic (bottom number). As always, it is best that you discuss with your own medical provider what these new guidelines might mean for you.

Sadly, there have been instances in the past year when emergency care has been needed during church services. DO YOU KNOW—Should one be needed, both our church building and the education building are equipped with AED's (Automated External Defibrillators). The device (plus a Blood Pressure monitor) in the church building is located on the right wall of the CHAPEL. In the Education Building, an AED is mounted on the wall to the right of Reverend Ralph's office. You do not have to be a professional to operate the equipment because auditory instructions are provided. Take time to familiarize yourself with the locations of this emergency equipment and always remember— make sure someone has called 911!

We of Parish Nursing – Charlotte Phipps, Kathie Greear, Anne Patten, Pebble Mowery, Mitzi Rak and Alicia Kitzman – wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and Healthy New Year!!

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 me on my cell, 632-3160.

All prayers are important.

Deborah Stone

Senior Ministries

Third Annual Russian Mission Report: Rev. Ralph and Kathie Greear presented their experiences in Russia this year. Approximately 40 people attended the Soup and Fellowship event. We were well entertained with slides and music from the 10 days they spent in Dorogobuzh. They were warmly received in town with a statement by a scarved 92 year old WISE woman (a babushka), member of the Christian church, who said "At first we were curious about why you were here, but now we can see you come out of love."

The children's Bible School of about 20 kids occupied much of their time, teaching them English hymns, playing games, doing crafts, stories, relay races, etc. and helping to prepare, cook and feed them. The language barrier is easier to bridge when engaged in shared activities as noted in Kathie's report. They attended Sergei's church and exchanged sermons which were translated by Al or Ellen. Visits to war memorials, a monastery, Christ's Cathedral in Moscow rounded out their visit. I was impressed with Kathie's experience with the smell of dill which transports her back to Russia since this herb grows abundantly there. She made a delicious Russian borscht soup for us with dill and sour cream on the side. Ralph gave us some raspberry jam, preserved by Nina, Sergei's wife, which we added to hot tea. Tea and jam is a Russian thing. It was yummy.

Dawn's tragic death was an extra sad event where the people of Dorogobuzh showed sincere compassion and concern.

Senior Ministries, continued

One takeaway from my perspective is this: The people said we know our countries are in difficult relationships and times are dangerous, but you came anyway. We are grateful. We had two borscht soups for lunch. One was Ukrainian borscht, full of cabbage and meat and other vegetables made by Emily Penzari. Thanks to my committee who provided delicious accompaniments and a soup without beets for those who didn't like beet anything. * The Russians are coming here next year. *

Brain Health: The season of sugar everywhere, from Halloween to New Year's Day is upon us and is a challenge to avoid. DO IT. Look but don't touch. And, drink more water!!!!!!!. Your brain will love you for it.

Judy Oar

Session News

Session held their regular monthly meeting on November 12th. Here is a synopsis of the actions:

- Approved to receive Joseph Lamb and Cindy Everett into membership.
- Approved one week of vacation, Dec. 25-31, 2017, for Rev. Ralph Clingan.
- Approved that members of Session use prayer and discernment to create a vision process and statement for Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church for the next 5-10 years. Session is to review our current vision statement and create a new Vision Statement by June 1, 2018.
- Approved the new interest rate of 3.5% and to keep the building loan payments the same as last year. This is down from our current rate of 3.8% on the building loan.
- Approved to spend \$500 from the 2017 Grounds Budget to replace the storage shed entrance door and to paint and repair the Deacon's Shed
- Approved to spend about \$2,100 from the Building Fund for the purchase of and installation of about 280 LED energy saving bulbs to replace the current florescent bulbs in the church buildings.
- Tabled to the January Stated Session Meeting the Partial Surface Treatment of the Church Parking Lot.
- November 3, 2017 - Approved an E-Vote to accept the proposal from Holbrook Asphalt to crack seal approximately 11,000 linear feet of our parking lit at a cost of \$5,181 to be taken from the Building Fund.

Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk of Session

Stephen Ministries

The Stephen Ministers wish you the merriest of times this Christmas season. We hope it will be a time of joyous celebration for you and your family. We also want to give a big applause of gratitude to both Dick Babb and Marena Fosler. Both have been faithful servants to Stephen Ministry but have now retired their shawls. Heartfelt thanks to you both. We miss your smiling faces at our meetings.

In case you have never heard of Stephen Ministry, it is a free service offered here at Good Shepherd Presbyterian (and other churches locally) that provides a kindred spirit to anyone who is walking through troubled times. It may be the loss of a loved one, a health issue, depression, divorce, or a strained relationship to mention just a few. Our trained ministers provide confidential support during these challenging journeys and stay with you through the tough times. They offer a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, a voice to pray with you and a heart full of empathy. If you are in need of some one-on-one Christian support, please contact Rev. Ralph, Anne Patton, or Karen Kirkland.

May the birth of our Savior bring you hope and great joy in the year to come.

Karen Kirkland

Stewardship

Please see the treasurer's report for financial details.

Thank you to the church members for your pledges and donations. Through November 26th, we were just over half way to our 2018 pledge goal of \$141,450.

Brother Steward

Brother Steward puts it this way: "What's The Worry?"

Jesus knows our nature. He knows we're prone to worry. Perhaps that's why he warned:

Stewardship, continued

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (Matthew 6:25-27)

In spite of these words of both admonition and assurance, Christians still tend to worry. Sometimes worry about the ability to provide for our families takes over our lives to such an extent that it guides our thoughts and actions. We put off giving to the Lord through our church – “temporarily,” we say – until we feel secure in our financial situations. Life, as you know, seems to throw one crisis after another at us, and, often, that financial security never comes.

We have the same worry when it comes to serving. We complain that we just don't have time. We work long hours, and then we have commitments to our families. How can we go to meetings or make meals for a family whose mom is sick?

Later, we tell God and even ourselves. Later, when the college tuitions are paid and the kids are out of the house. Then we'll have time and money. But then, after all that hard work, don't I deserve to get away and take a nice, long cruise?

We reap what we sow, we read in 2 Corinthians 9:6. What are you sowing? Proverbs 11:18 reads,

“He who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.” Matthew 6:19-21 records Jesus' words, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Is it forgetfulness of God's promises or lack of faith that keeps us stuck in this pattern of giving all for our physical, temporal lives instead of storing up treasures in Heaven. Take God at his Word: give generously, serve without reward, take time to help others, and watch him satisfy your every need.

Bob Moeller

Women's Guild

The next general meeting will be Saturday, December 30th, at 11:00 am in Conklin Hall. This will be potluck, everyone seems to enjoy them. Signup sheets will be on the back table first Sunday of December. PLEASE sign up to bring your favorite dish to share.

We will have our annual Christmas Cookie sale after church on Sunday December 10th and December 24th. LaVerna Metzger will have the bags and ties for your cookies, she all also have a signup sheet first Sunday in December. PLEASE sign up for the cookie sales. This has been such a success for the Guild.

The officers of the Women's Guild would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season.

Mary Starrett

Worship & Music

As this message is being written, it is in the Thanksgiving spirit that we want to show our “Thanks” to the many volunteers who make our worship services special! The worship committee also would like to show their gratitude to the many volunteers who helped with the “Hanging of the Greens”. We hope you will feel the spirit and will welcome the Advent Season as we prepare for Christmas!

Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas concert presented by the Bell and Chancel Choirs which will be held on Sunday, December 10th, at 7:00 pm in our Sanctuary. Part of the program will be presented that morning during the worship service. We owe much gratitude and thanks to all the musicians who have worked so diligently in preparing the music for the Advent and Christmas services and concert.

Also, please join us for our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th.

May you feel the love of our Savior as we prepare our hearts for Christmas!

*Blessings,
Barbara McConnell*

Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday December 3 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Sunday December 10 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Sunday December 17 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 <i>or</i> Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sunday December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 <i>or</i> Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday December 24 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Monday December 25 Nativity of the Lord	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 <i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98	Titus 3:4-7 Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 John 1:1-14
Sunday December 31 First Sunday after Christmas Day	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Saturday, 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 7 Baptism of the Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Soup Kitchen

Our church "crew" participates in the Soup Kitchen the first Monday of each month. During the month of November volunteers included Marge Linn, Ruth Ann Horvath, Janis Wick, Josie Kellejan, LaVerna Metzger, Bev Haines, Carol Somplatsky-Jarman, Vicky Westland and her Dad Barney, Brian and Patti Lusby, and Carolynn Thomas. Serving over 100 hungry folks is always just as much a blessing to the volunteers as it is to those who enjoy their lunch. To warm everyone up during the Fall season we served Southwest chicken stew with rice and beans, cornbread, coleslaw, fruit and dessert. Many positive comments were received – especially for our famous "Presbyterian" coleslaw. Questions about the Soup Kitchen experience? Contact Carolynn Thomas 435-817-8288.

Congregation News

New Bible Study

A new Bible study is now meeting on Fridays at 25 and Main in St. George, at 11:00 AM. This Bible study is open to couples, singles, males and females, did I leave anybody out? Come join us for fellowship and spiritual nourishment!

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11:00 Open Bible Study @ am 25 & Main Cafe	2
3 Advent Food Drive 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Communion Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 3:00 Open House @ pm – Rev. Ralph's 6:00 Home pm	4 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 5:45 Advent Potluck & Lesson - CE Building	5 9:30 Calendar Coordinating Council Meeting 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision Group Meeting 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 4:00 Bell Choir pm	6 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble 1:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision Group Meeting	7 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm 7:00 Interfaith Choir pm	8 11:00 Open Bible Study @ am 25 & Main Cafe	9 2:00 Memorial Service pm for Bruce Ingold
10 Advent Food Drive 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Blood Pressures am Taken 11:45 Session Meeting am 7:00 Choir Christmas pm Concert - Sanctuary	11 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 5:45 Advent Potluck & Lesson - CE Building	12 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 4:00 Bell Choir pm	13 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble 12:00 Brown Bag Luncheon - Dr. David Grygla on "A Hospitalist - Who's That?" - Conklin Hall	14 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm 7:00 Interfaith Choir pm	15 11:00 Open Bible Study @ am 25 & Main Cafe	16
17 Advent Food Drive 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:30 Stated am Congregational Meeting 11:45 Fellowship am	18 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 5:45 Advent Potluck & Lesson - CE Building	19 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 4:00 Bell Choir pm	20 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble 1:00 Senior Ministries pm Card Party – Conklin Hall	21 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm 7:00 Interfaith Choir pm	22 11:00 Open Bible Study @ am 25 & Main Cafe	23 Newsletter Deadline
24 Christmas Eve Advent Food Drive 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 7:00 Christmas Eve pm Worship	25 Christmas Day 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	26 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 4:00 Bell Choir pm	27 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	28 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	29 11:00 Open Bible Study @ am 25 & Main Cafe	30 11:00 Women's Guild am Meeting & Potluck – Conklin Hall
31 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 5:00 Bible Study pm @Rev. Ralph's						

Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 25th through January 1st.

Please contact Dick Higgins (435-879-0253) or Anne Patten (773-4307) with any concerns.

PLEASE NOTE: This calendar is subject to change. Always check the church website gpscsg.org for the latest information.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Soup Kitchen Sunday – Contributions of food, supplies and cash – 1st Sunday of each Month

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
Open Bible Study	Sunday	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Rev. Ralph's Home
	Friday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Bishop's
Women's Bible Studies	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	The Egg & I
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Starbuck's Café @ Barnes & Noble
Men's Bible Studies	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Village Inn
	Friday	7:30 am to 8:30 am	Bishop's
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 26th we have received pledges towards our second campaign totaling **\$45,357** and additional cash donations of **\$33,923** for a total of **\$180,506** or about **52.8%** of 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	Wed 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Fri 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office Email	office@gspscg.org
Pastor's Office Hours	Mon to Thu – 9:00 am – 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Pastor's Cell	435-705-1867
Pastor's Email	pastor@gspscg.org
Prayer Chain	Deborah Stone 435-632-3160
Website	www.gspscg.org
Newsletter email	newsletter@gspscg.org
Website / Newsletter Editor	Chris Schleiter
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Info on Stephen Ministry	www.stephenministries.org

Church Leadership 2017

Session Elders

Class of 2017	Jan Hirschi	435-680-1012	Growth
	Russ Hurlbut	879-9393	Building
	Anne Patten	773-4307	Christian Ed
Class of 2018	Ruth Ann Horvath	773-6790	Clerk of Session
	Gloria McGilloway	610-349-6045	Fellowship
	Judy Oar	702-241-6227	Senior Ministries
	Chris Schleiter	627-9048	Mission/Outreach
Class of 2019	Mary Contreras	673-9745	Worship
	Scott Florence	574-2383	Grounds
	Bob Moeller	801-707-4353	Stewardship

Deacons

Parish	Deacon	Phone
Deacons	Virginia Hunt -Moderator	714-955-1167
Bloomington Hills	Dick & Patti Babb	688-1120
Dixie Downs/Santa Clara	Shirley Fromknecht	628-2381
East Bloomington	Molly Bass	628-6440
Green Valley	Rayanne Bartlett	673-6657
Hurricane	Ann Hogan	635-0993
Ivins		
Old St. George	Larry Laubscher	656-0617
Pine Valley	Tineke Ingold	574-3614
Red Cliffs	Matt Fine	760-887-1251
Sun River	Candy Hurlbut	879-9394
	Jeff Clingan	705-8692
Washington	Ed & Althea Haworth	805-888-9014



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An electronic version of this newsletter is available on our website.

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
611 N 2450 E
PO Box 1499
St. George, UT 84771-1499

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