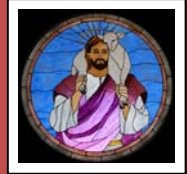




Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

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



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December, 2014

Volume 9, Issue 11

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Bob Routh

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Louise Routh

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Chris Schleiter

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The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off at Good Shepherd

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month. Beginning on November 30 with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie (and, this year Sweater) Contest and culminating on Christmas Eve with the traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

On December 7, we will dedicate our pledges for 2015. After Worship, Session has called a Congregational Meeting to elect officers for next year and approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph.

On December 8, the choirs will perform their annual Christmas concert. As this is being written we do not know whether the concert will be at the Tabernacle or in our Sanctuary. Please check the website for updated information.

Saturday, December 13 will be the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held for the first time in Conklin Hall.

Sunday, December 14 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 23rd, 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!

Pledge Drive Continues

We continue to receive pledges for 2015. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to serve the Lord through our ministries.

As of November 16th, we had a total of \$80,930 pledged towards a goal of \$132,132. 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.

Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie (and Sweater) Contest

We're giving you fair warning. Once again, in 2014, Rev. Ralph is challenging the men of the congregation to find and wear to church the TACKIEST Christmas ties they can find. This year, for the first time, women of the congregation are welcome and invited to participate by wearing their TACKIEST Christmas sweater. All women's entries must be publicly identified as being "Tacky" to avoid any unfortunate misidentification of a treasured family or handmade heirloom. 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 November be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it
John 14:13-14

Bob Prinselaar Larry Laubscher
Cathy Overkamp Barbara & Guy Schultzman
Wendy Christianson as she continues her studies
for the ministry in India
Our sister congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
Those Serving Our Country

Welcome New Members

Matt Fine Bonnie McGaha
Pam & Larry Cover

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

Deadline for January Newsletter

December 23, 2014

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
Kerygma Study of The Book of Revelation

10:15 am
Children's Sunday School

10:30 am
Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

11:45 am
Fellowship Time

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. I encourage 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:

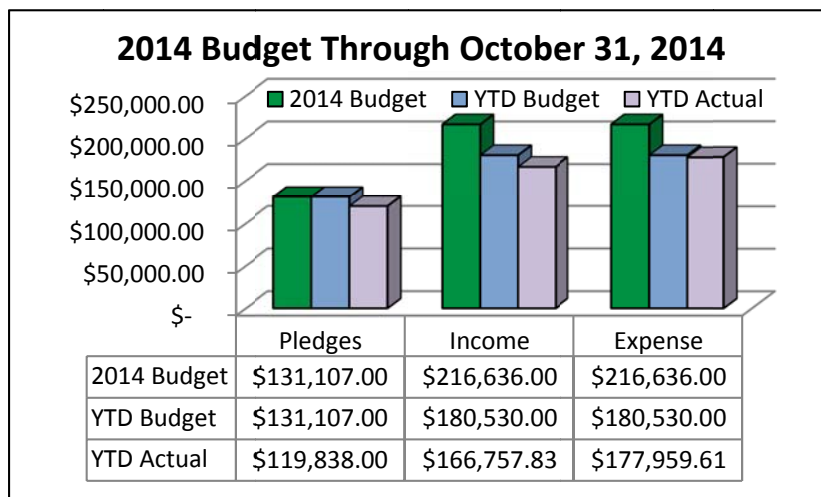
Rev. Ralph	1 Peter 1:3-9	Thanksgiving
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	1 Peter 1:3-4	Blessing
Elder Amy Craig	James 1:17-18	Good gifts
Elder Chris Schleiter	Psalms 84:11-12	Walking uprightly
Elder Jim Horvath	John 15:5	Vine and branches
Elder Mary Contreras	1 John 2:15-16	love of the world
Elder Scott Florence	John 16:33	Of good cheer
Elder Pebble Mowery	Luke 18:15-16	Kingdom living
Elder Gay Cunningham	James 1:26-27	Serve Well

Thanks to our Volunteers

	Flowers	Fellowship
December		
December 7	Paul & Charlotte Phipps & Laura Sanda	Potluck Sunday
December 14	Dick & Patti Babb	<i>Available</i>
December 21	Donna Beasley	<i>Available</i>
December 28	Chris Schleiter	Amy Craig
January		
January 4	<i>Dick & Patti Babb</i>	Potluck Sunday
January 11	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
January 18	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
January 25	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>

Treasurer's Report

General Fund As of October 31, 2014 October	
Receipts	\$ 13,861.71
Expenditures	\$ 12,566.34
2014 Budget vs Actual	
Budgeted Receipts	\$ 216,636.00
Actual Receipts	\$ 166,757.83
Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 216,636.00
Actual Expenditures	\$ 177,959.61
Building Fund	
Building Fund Cash	\$ 68,912.03
Loan Balance	\$ 167,565.16
Net Building Fund	\$ (98,653.13)
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 5,478.75
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,312.86
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 22,813.42



Pastor's Page

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

John 3:16-17

Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought



It is indeed that time of year again when the lights adorn the homes and night skies while Christmas music fills the aisles of every store where we may find ourselves hurriedly doing our Holiday shopping. (I believe this all started in August this year!)

Our calendars are filling quickly with events and social gatherings as time quickly comes for the big day and the big guy in the red suit, or one of his surrogates, to arrive.

It is also the time of year when we all prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, or did we forget? Many years ago in place and time far, far away a dear meaning member of another congregation, at the conclusion of our annual Christmas Sunday service, made the comment to her pastor, namely me (she should have known better), "You know Pastor, I absolutely love Christmas but I can do without the Easter thing."

I do believe it was then that the last few remaining hairs on my head were instantly singed off, never to return. And why, to this day, when asked what is my favorite Christmas story from the Bible I never speak of shepherds or stars and instead quote, what I consider to be the best Christmas story of all as found in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world..." US! That we and the world might be saved through Him!

In all the gaiety and celebrations it becomes far too easy to forget that it was not Christ's birth that made Him Lord over all but the cross and resurrection. That without Easter, Christmas becomes nothing but a birthday rather than a world and life changing event.

Yes, let us then gather with friends and family, exchange wonderful gifts and fa-la-la-la-la till we can't fa-la-la-la-la any more. Let be joyous and joyful remembering the greatest gift of all, but as well let us not lose sight of just whose birth it is and who's coming and resurrection has given us the greatest eternal gift of all, our salvation.

A very merry and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

*In Christ,
Rev. Ralph and Family*

Open House on December 14

Cindy and I would like to invite the congregation to our annual Christmas Open House on December 14 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Bring a beverage and something to share and join everyone in the joy of the holiday season. Our address is 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 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 HEART FOR THE CITY

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

Imagine what it would mean to have a "heart for your city." Such a heart would include:

- a great hunger for your city to awaken to the love of Jesus Christ
- a vision for what your city could become
- an awareness of the greatest needs in your city
- a passion to see your city build up its people
- a zeal to see Christ honored in your city's life together

The Lord said to Jeremiah, "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7 (NRSV)

The exiled people of God were commanded to see the welfare of and pray for the city to which they had been sent (Babylon).

Jesus lamented, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Luke 13:34 (emphasis added)

Do you sense the heaviness of heart, the deep desire, the weeping of Jesus over the city and the people He loves?

A heart for the city is to have God's own heart to gather the people together, to heal the wounds of the city, to give all a future and a hope.

May Jesus give you his vision for your city or the community in which you live. Pray for it daily. Seek its welfare. Allow God's heart for your city to fill your heart. Joy to you

Courtesy of The Vital Churches Institute

Wendy's Window



Greetings from Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, India where I have been involved in a number of interesting activities since September 2014. Time is flying by! I said that in one of my classes and a young student replied, "That is impossible, Miss. Time cannot fly."

Kodaikanal International School (KIS) is an autonomous residential school with a broad college-oriented curriculum, serving young people from diverse cultures. The academic program is intentionally set within a community life based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and devoted to service in India and to the whole human community. Each year, the first semester begins in July and is completed by the third week in November so the boarding school students can take a 6 week break to visit their families. All activities related to Christmas must be completed by November 16. So, as I write this on November 18, I have already been involved planning a Christmas Assembly for 400 students and staff, a Vesper Service in the KIS Chapel and a gala Christmas banquet.

In addition to teaching Religious Education for Grades 5 and Grades 11, preaching monthly, planning the weekly worship service and leading dormitory devotions each Thursday evening, the chaplain, Raja Krishnamoorthy asked me to plan the Christmas Assembly. It was great fun and quite meaningful. I worked on it with thirteen Grade 11 and Grade 12 students, the Intermediate and Advanced Bands, a staff Brass Quartet and the Food Service Director who catered the event with plum and pear cake as well as cream filled doughnuts. We hosted a program called "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? A Service for Advent." During the program, the students explained what advent is, bands played seasonal music, students read scripture, offered reflections and were involved in a skit. The staff brass quartet accompanied the singing of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." As students were invited to come forward to light a tea candle of commitment, the following prayer was offered:

Wendy's Window, continued

God of Advent, among refugees and outcasts you breathed your first breaths. In the cry of a newborn child You proclaimed: "Emmanuel, God-with-us." Come, God of the margins, breathe into us the spirit of longing for your Kingdom. Come this Advent to make us dream of and work for a better world of justice and freedom. Come Lord, come. Amen.

The 300 tea lights were on a cloth tablecloth which soon ignited. Fortunately, the KIS Safety Officer and colleagues put out the fire without too much fanfare. It was, I must say, "eventful" for students and staff.

I wish you a meaningful Advent and Merry Christmas!!

*Blessings,
Wendy Christianson
Wendy.christianson@ptsem.edu*

Choir Notes

With the beginning of Advent, the Chancel Choir will sing "Waiting for a King". What a wonderful way to start the Advent season with that beautiful selection! The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are preparing music for a Christmas Concert which will be presented at either the St. George Tabernacle or in our sanctuary on December 8, at 7:00 p.m. We will let you know where the concert will be as soon as we know. Soloists in the program will be Ann Hogan, violinist, and our special guest artist, baritone Don Snyder. He will also sing for our worship service on December 7th. Part of the concert will be repeated during the December 14th worship service.

A very special "Thank You" goes to all the members of both choirs for their efforts in preparing the music and especially to Fred Hampton, our accompanist, for his dedication and hard work.

*With a grateful heart,
Barbara McConnell, Music Director*

Deacons

The Deacons have been giving rides to those members who otherwise would not be able to attend our services and are always available for home visits if requested. Also please remember that we have a Deacons' closet full of health aids for you to use. Bob Morgan is in charge of that so get in touch with him if you need to borrow something.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or don't know who your Deacon is, please call me at 435-574-3614.

Tineke Ingold, Moderator

Fellowship

Thanksgiving is past. Now Fellowship is looking ahead to our Christmas Party, the first in Conklin Hall. It will be on Saturday, December 13 at 5pm. The cost is \$25.00 per person with a paid reservation.

We will be working with Lifetouch Photography to create a new directory in January, 2015. Photo sessions will start Tuesday, January 13 and run through Saturday, January 17. You will receive a free 8x10 copy of the photo that will be in the directory and have an opportunity to select other packages from the photos you have taken. We will start taking appointments on November 30. You may bring your pets or any other reasonable prop you would like to include in the photo.

Back by popular acclaim, there will be another Bobbie Burns Night late in January or early in February. Look for details after New Year's.

As we head into the Christmas season, I hope that the joy of Christ's birth may be with you now and throughout the coming year.

Carolyn Jentzer

Mission/Outreach

The annual St. George CROP Walk to End Hunger was held on November 8th and was a great success. More than \$5,000 was raised to alleviate hunger in our community and around the world and our congregation contributed more than \$1,000 of that total. One fourth of the money raised stays in St. George and, this year, will help the Community Soup Kitchen and Solomon's Porch feed hungry people in our community. I look forward to this walk each year and hope that even more of you will join Rev. Ralph and me in walking next year!

Like the CROP Walk, Operation Christmas Child was a great success this year, as well. We delivered more than 70 shoeboxes that will go around the world spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to underprivileged children. We'll do it again next fall so start saving goodies for next year.

Finally, the dates for our trip to Russia are becoming more solid by the day. We will leave on July 15 (three days after the departure of Bike & Build), spend a couple of days somewhere in Europe to get over our jet lag then head to Dorogobuzh for five days with our brothers and sisters there. After Dorogobuzh, we'll spend a few days sightseeing in St. Petersburg and then go on to Rome for three days before heading home on August 2. We are not sure yet of the exact number of people we will be able to take but, if you are interested in going, please see me to get on the list to be considered.

Blessings!
Chris Schleiter

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

Parish Nursing Ministry

With all of the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we will not hold a Brown Bag Lunch in December. Please join us next year as we continue to have programs about topics that are important to our congregation.

Did you know that, even if you miss a Brown Bag Lunch you can still listen to the presentation? The recording of each of our Brown Bag Lunches is available on our website, gspcsq.org. Just go to the Parish Nursing Ministry page in the Ministries menu and select the Brown Bag Lunch you would like to listen to.

Also remember that we will be happy to check your blood pressure monthly. Stop by our table in Conklin Hall after worship on November 9th and we'll give you a quick BP check!

Anne Patten & Mitzi Rak

Session News

Session held their regular monthly meeting on November 11, 2014. Here is a synopsis of the actions:

- Voted to permit Four Square Fellowship to temporarily use our sanctuary for Worship on Sunday evenings.
- Voted to train Candy Hurlbut and Dawn Angarone as Church Secretary "backups."
- Voted to install addition irrigation to front trees.
- Voted to purchase new music stands and extension cords for lighting of the new Nativity.

Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk



Senior Ministries

Our Soup and Bread Fellowship in November had a timely topic, TURKEY, and lively presentation by our own resident Turk, Preston Hughes. (He really is from Mississippi and is not a Turkey farmer.) After graduation from West Point he served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a commissioned officer in the Field Artillery. He received a doctorate degree in Middle East studies at the U of U and did intensive language training in Turkish as it was considered a critical language at that time.

Col. Hughes spent 22 more years, focusing on Turkish-related assignments including Military Attaché and NATO liaison officer to the Turkish General Staff. He and his family lived in the capitol city of Ankara and also in Istanbul for many years. Two of his children were born in Turkey and consider it their home away from home. He and his wife Ann moved to St George in 2009. Preston remains very active in Middle East affairs and is adjunct instructor at Dixie State University where he teaches American Government and Introduction to Islam.

With a large map of Turkey behind him, he presented a fascinating history of this ancient biblical land known in the past as the Byzantine Empire which was part of the Eastern Roman Empire the first millennium after Christ. The Turks, as they became known, actually came from China, thru what is now Afghanistan and northern Iran, and in the 11th century conquered the Byzantine Army and changed the name of the capitol from Constantinople to Istanbul. (People just liked it better that way, as the song goes.) In the 15th century, we have the large territory of Asia Minor or Anatolia. These Turks continued their reign with very aggressive conquests in Europe and Middle East and North America and called all this conquest land The Ottoman Empire which continued for 3 centuries. It began to collapse in the 19th century and was eliminated after WWI.

The British and French divided up this land and installed rulers and made borders in these new countries of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The Arabs were not happy. A small bit of land in mid Anatolia was given to the Turks. Everything started to fall apart by 1919. Greeks invaded them from the north, French troops invaded from Syria, Italians got into the battle and took their share and Britain conquered Istanbul giving them control of the Black Sea. What a terribly frustrating situation this must have been for these fierce Ottoman fighters.

Then, a small group of military officers, led by a man named Mustafa Kemal Ataturk decided to fight to preserve the Turkish homeland. He was so successful that he became known as the Father of Modern Turkey and is much revered today for his courage and leadership. He has an impressive large mausoleum in Ankara. We could compare him to our George Washington. Ataturk led in establishing a secular government, aligning with the Europe and the west. He abolished the use of Arabic writing and established Turkish as the national language, not Arabic. He established secular democratic government, free elections and civilian control the the military.

Turkey today is a member of NATO and is a charter member of the UN. They were our allies in Korea. We have a strategically important base in southern Turkey which has caused some problems because of our political stand in issues such as the invasion of Iraq. And, as we see in the news, their southern border is like our southern border with a stream of refugees seeking asylum. The current president of Turkey, Erdogan, is increasingly authoritarian and is a big concern especially for secular and educated Turks. Preston is a fountain of information about the Middle East. In the interest of space, much information was not included. The reader is encouraged to contact Preston for clarification. He would be a super tour leader. Let's go! Thank you, Preston, for a very interesting trip thru the history of Turkey.

Judy Oar



Stewardship

As you are aware, Good Shepherd is in the middle of its fall pledge campaign. So far we have received 30 pledges totaling \$80,930. This gives us 61.25% of our goal. It is an excellent start to meeting our needs for 2015! We still need \$51,202 to meet our pledge goal.

Thank you so much for your generosity. While pledges are always welcome, you still have time to pledge before we dedicate all of our pledges on December 7. Please see the treasurer's report on page 2 to see our current financial status.

Giving: an Obligation or Opportunity?

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians' love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. They **excelled in the grace of giving**. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they *"urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints"* (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give as the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, he changes us so we view our giving as an opportunity rather than an obligation. As renewed and transformed people, our attitudes toward giving change from a "got to" to a "get to" attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start to **excel in the grace of giving** by giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for who he is and what he does for us. The more we give of ourselves and our gifts the closer our relationship with Christ becomes and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us, enabling our continued giving. *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). We thank God that he fills us daily with his love so that we as members of his Body here at our church see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank him. © Copyright Parish Publishing, LLC • May not be copied without permission. • www.parishpublishing.org

Amy Craig

Congregation News

Death of Margaret Sydner Reported

We were saddened to learn of the death of charter member Margaret Sydner who passed away on October 28, 2014 at the age of 96. Margaret was born September 2, 1918, in Pleasant Valley, Nova Scotia, to Aaron and Lucy (Crosby) Killam.

She moved to California as a young woman. She married Francis "Pete" Sydner on June 25, 1965, in Mendon, Nevada. They moved to Utah in 1970. Margaret was a charter member of the Good Shepard Presbyterian Church and served on the church's first Session.

Margaret enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends and we will surely miss her.

Grounds Work Day in December

The leaves will be falling soon so we will plan on at least one more grounds work day on either Dec 3 or Dec 10 to gather them up. We will announce the exact date and time the Sunday before but if you can hold these dates, we would appreciate it!

Scott Florence

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	2 9:30 Coordinating Council am Meeting 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Minister pm Training 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 4:15 Bell Choir pm	3 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Promenade Bakery 1:00 Stephen Ministry pm Supervision Group Meeting	4 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Cracker Barrel 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	5 7:45 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	6
7 Dixie Care & Share Dedication of 2015 Pledges Congregational Meeting 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Communion Worship am 11:30 Congregational am Meeting 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Worship Committee am Meeting 11:45 Growth Committee am Meeting 5:00 Bible Study pm @Rev Ralph's	8 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 7:00 Choir Concert pm	9 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Minister pm Training 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 4:15 Bell Choir pm 5:15 Session Meeting pm	10 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Promenade Bakery	11 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Cracker Barrel 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	12 7:45 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	13 5:00 Christmas Party pm
14 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Blood Pressures am Taken 11:45 Deacon Meeting am 3:00 Open House pm - @Rev Ralph's 6:00 pm	15 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	16 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Minister pm Training 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 4:15 Bell Choir pm	17 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Promenade Bakery	18 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Cracker Barrel 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	19 7:45 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	20
21 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 5:00 Bible Study pm @Rev Ralph's	22 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	23 Newsletter Deadline 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Minister pm Training 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 4:15 Bell Choir pm	24 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve 7:00 Christmas Eve pm Worship	25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Cracker Barrel 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	26 7:45 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	27
28 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship - Rev am Harold preaching 11:45 Fellowship am 5:00 Bible Study pm @Rev Ralph's	29 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	30 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Minister pm Training 3:00 Exercise With Rev pm Ralph 4:15 Bell Choir pm	31 New Year's Eve 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Promenade Bakery			

Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 26 through January 3. Please contact Rev. Harold (669-0330) with any concerns.

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

Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, December 7 2nd Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Sunday, December 14 3rd Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalms 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sunday, December 21 4th Sunday in Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Thursday, December 25 Nativity of Jesus Christ Christmas Day	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalms 97 <i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalms 98	Titus 3:4-7 Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 John 1:1-14
Sunday, December 28 1st Sunday After Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalms 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, January 4 Second Sunday after Christmas Day	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Tuesday, 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 11 Baptism of the Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Sunday, January 18 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 25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

Some Things You May Not Know About Christmas

- **The average Christmas tree takes seven years to grow to a height of 6 to 7 feet.** If you were born today, and a tree was planted today, you'd be in second grade by the time that tree reached appropriate Christmas height!
- **Seven out of 10 dogs get Christmas presents from their owners.**
- **Santa would have to visit roughly 1,300 homes per second to deliver presents just to the United States alone.** This just proves that Santa really is magic.
- **Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" is the best-selling Christmas single of all time.** It beat out "Jingle Bells" -- which doesn't actually mention Christmas!
- **If you count all the gifts given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you'd get 364,** which means a gift for every day of the year -- except Christmas!
- **The traditions of trees, mistletoe and elves all stem from pagan roots.** In fact, a lot of Christmas traditions actually pre-date Christianity. Same with Easter. Join Rev. Ralph for "Christmas 101 – Bah Humbug" to find out more!
- **Humphrey Bogart and Sir Isaac Newton were both born on Christmas. Famous funny men W.C. Fields and Charlie Chaplin both died on Christmas.**
- **Holly wreaths are universal symbols.** Ancient druid and pagan cultures believed holly had magical properties because it stayed green all year long, and would often wear sprigs and berries. Later, when Christianity took hold, holly wreaths became a popular holiday ornament. It is said that the sharp leaves and the round shape represent the crown of thorns, and the red berries represent the blood of Christ. Either way, holly wreaths have been a holiday tradition longer than there's been a Christmas.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Dixie Care & Share – contributions of money & food – 1st Sunday of each Month
 Safe Harbor Support Group – 2nd 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	Paradise Bakery @Promenade Mall
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	4:15 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 we hope to continue our tradition of paying off our mortgages early), we will pay a total of \$241,831.80. We also need to replenish the \$45,000 that was in the fund when we began the project meaning we need to raise almost \$287,000.

Through November 16th, we had received pledges totaling \$68,881.00 and cash donations of \$25,748 for a total of \$94,629 or about 33% of the way to the \$287,000 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 free funds to be used for additional improvements that we need to make.

Church Contact Information

Office Hours	Secretary in Tue/Thu 9:00 am to Noon
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office email	presch7@msn.com
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	RevRalph1@msn.com
Prayer Chain	Louise Routh 435-628-7725
Website	www.gspcsg.org
Website Editor	Chris Schleter
Newsletter Editor	Amy Craig
Newsletter email	badger55@infowest.com
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Info on Stephen Ministry	www.stephenministries.org

Church Leadership 2014

Elders

Class of 2014	Mary Contreras	673-9745	Worship
	Gay Cunningham	652-3654	Growth
	Jim Horvath	773-6790	Facilities
Class of 2015	Ruth Ann Horvath	773-6790	Clerk of Session
	Carolyn Jentzer	673-0442	Fellowship
	Pebble Mowery	673-9185	Senior Ministries
	Chris Schleter	627-9048	Mission/Outreach
Class of 2016	Amy Craig	592-0246	Stewardship
	Scott Florence	688-2624	Grounds
	Cathy Overkamp	703-8257	Christian Ed

Deacons

Moderator	Tineke Ingold
Class of 2014	Dottie Malcolmson, Tineke Ingold, Anne Patten
Class of 2015	Don Fennell, Shirley Fennell, Fred Hampton, Jan Hirschi, Janice Klein, Bob Morgan, Evelyn Morgan, Shirley Fromknecht
Class of 2016	Ann Abbott



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