



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, 2016

Volume 11, Issue 11

In This Issue

- 1 The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off; Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest
- 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
- 4 Christian Education; Deacons; Fellowship; Mission-Outreach
- 5 Mission-Outreach, continued; Prayer Chain; Parish Nursing; Senior Ministries
- 6 Senior Ministries, continued; Session News; Stephen Ministry; Stewardship
- 7 Stewardship, continued; Worship and Music; Women's Guild
- 8 November Calendar
- 9 December Lectionary; January Lectionary; News from the Russia Mission
- 10 Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Coming to Good Shepherd in January; ; Order Christmas Poinsettias; 2017 General Fund Pledge Form
- 11 Regularly Scheduled Activities; Building Fund Update; Church Contact Information/Leadership

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan

Pastor

Dick Higgins

Visitation Pastor

Ruth Ann Horvath

Clerk of Session

Amy Craig

Church Secretary / Newsletter

Barbara McConnell

Music Director

Steve Talley

Deborah Stone

Organists

Bob Routh

Head Usher

Louise Routh

Prayer Chain

Chris Schleiter

Website Editor

The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month. Beginning on November 27th with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest and culminating on Christmas morning with our traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

On Tuesday, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 5:30 pm, Rev. Ralph will lead a 30-minute program on the Book of Revelation. Please bring a small dish to share and learn more about one of the more misunderstood books of the Bible.

Saturday, December 10th will be the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held in Conklin Hall.

On December 11th, Session has called a Congregational Meeting before worship to elect officers for next year, approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph. We will dedicate our pledges for 2017 during the service. Also on the 11th, 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.

Sunday, December 18th Rev. Ralph, Cindy and Jeff will host their annual open house from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

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 2016, 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

Arlene Prinselaar	Brett Schroeder
Betty Miner	Jim Crowe
Joe Borden	Roger Kitzman

Wendy Christianson as she prepares to take her final ordination exams
Our sister congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
Those Serving Our Country

Welcome New Members

Ed & Althea	Mary & Lloyd
Haworth	Nelson

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

January Newsletter Deadline

December 23, 2016

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
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	2 Thessalonians 3:13	Doing good
Elder Chris Schleiter	Colossians 3:13-17	Peace of Christ
Elder Bob Moeller	1 Thessalonians 5:11	Encourage one another
Elder Judy Oar	Romans 12:19-20	God's wrath
Elder Russ Hurlbut	Ephesians 4:32	Be tender hearted
Elder Anne Patten	Romans 10:11-14	Same Lord
Elder Ruth Anne Horvath	1 Corinthians 12:4-7	Gifts of the Spirit
Elder Scott Florence	Galatians 6:9	Harvest
Elder Barbara McConnell	Psalms 95:2	Thanksgiving
Elder Carolyn Jentzer	John 3:16	God so loved

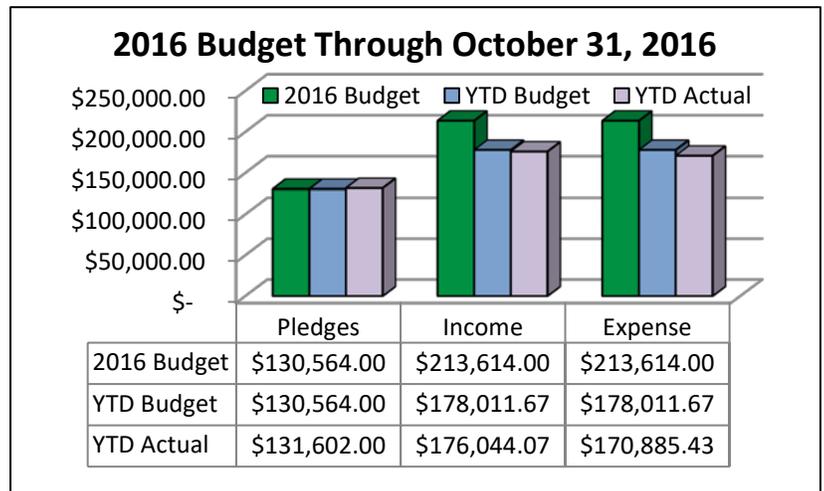
Thanks to our Volunteers

	Flowers	Fellowship
December		
December 4	Jan Hirschi	Potluck
December 11	C & P Phipps & L Sanda	Available
December 18	Available	C & D Beasley & A & S Paige
December 25	Chris Schleiter	Christmas Day
January		
January 1	Available	Available
January 8	Available	Available
January 15	Available	Available
January 22	Available	Available
January 29	Available	Available

Signup on the boards between the narthex and the Fellowship Hall or on our Website gspcsg.org

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of October 31, 2016	
Month of October	
Receipts	\$ 20,521.77
Expenditures	\$ 14,007.19
2016 YTD Budget vs Actual	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 178,011.67
Actual Receipts	\$ 176,044.07
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 178,011.67
Actual Expenditures	\$ 170,885.43
Building Fund	
Building Fund Cash	\$ 91,845.76
Loan Balance	\$ 148,202.84
Net Building Fund	\$ (59,629.82)
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 9,138.33
Memorial Fund	\$ 462.31
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 17,728.31
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 1,641.00



Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

"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



At the conclusion of my annual Christmas Education Series, "Christmas 101, Bah Humbug", share with the class that the above citation from the Gospel of John is my favorite Christmas scriptural passage.

Now do not jump to the conclusion that I thoroughly enjoy the Christmas season, the gaiety, the lights, the singing of carols, the hearing again of the stories we have marveled at since childhood of stars, angles and shepherds. I do!

However sometimes in all the excitement I believe we miss the greatest of announcements, not about a babe in a manger being born but instead God's greatest gift being delivered to us all. Sometimes I believe our focus at this time of year centers entirely on the past rather than the present and future.

In fact in terms of seasons in the church year, the season of Advent is entirely separate from Christmas. In the oldest of church traditions the celebration of Christmas came much later than Advent. What we have lost is the fact that Advent started with Christmas, remembered Jesus coming and looks forward to the second coming, with hope and expectation.

So yes, I will be joining you all in the festivities, as a professor said to me many years ago, "If you try to fight Christmas you will lose!" I would much rather celebrate and focus my faith and life not on the tree but rather on the gift of our present hope and future day that God has given us in the Son, our salvation. Now there is something to celebrate!

A Blessed Advent and Joyous Christmas to you all!

*In Christ
Rev. Ralph*

Annual Christmas Open House December 18th

Please join Cindy, Jeff and me as we hold our annual Christmas Open House on December 18th 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.

Christian Education

Advent began on Sunday November 27th. On Tuesdays during Advent, Rev. Ralph is offering a series of four lessons on the often misunderstood and misinterpreted Book of Revelation (notice there is no "s" after this book's name—that is because it is a single Revelation). Come at 5:30 pm, bring some food to share, and LEARN why this is an appropriate study subject for Advent!

Our Lenten Devotional Booklet is off to a running start. Please look for the LARGE three-sided poster in Conklin Hall every Sunday through December and January. Choose your date(s), put your name on those dates, and send in your item(s) for the spiritual inspiration of others (and yourself, of course!) for the Lenten Season, a time of reflection and waiting for the return of our Savior. Make sure your name is on your item!! We want to be sure everyone who contributes is properly credited.

Please thank Cathy Overkamp for the gorgeous turkey on the CE bulletin board and for the "feathers" we found on our tables during the church Thanksgiving dinner. Stop by the CE bulletin board in Conklin Hall, and read on those feathers what your fellow congregation members are thankful for!

Rev. Ralph is holding his usual Advent "Bah Humbug!" Sunday morning classes in the CE building at 9:00 am through December 18th. Come, listen, & learn what it is all about! Don't forget to bring your sense of humor.

There will be NO nursery service at the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day worship services. The Committee believes that EVERYONE needs to be in church at those times. Also, no nursery service will be provided for our December 11th Christmas Concert.

Anne Patten

Deacons

The Deacons will be meeting for the final time in 2016 on December 4th.

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 anything from the shed, please contact Dick Babb (688-1120) and he will make arrangements to get you what you need.

Tineke Ingold, Moderator

Fellowship

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. 10th at 5:00 pm in Conklin Hall. There is still time to join us at our catered dinner. The cost is \$27.00 per person. Call me at 435-673-0442 if you would like to come to the party.

This will be my last note to you. I have resigned from my position of Fellowship Elder. I have enjoyed my work as your elder very much. I will miss all the fun I have had. Please give your support to the next Fellowship Elder.

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

*Peace in Christ.
Carolyn Jentzer*

Mission/Outreach

We now have final results for our fall-season activities.

Our goal for Operation Christmas Child was 150 shoeboxes. Once again, we fell a bit short, collecting 141 boxes. It's not too early to start on next year's boxes. If you want to get an early start (and shop the after-Christmas sales), please see me and I'll get you some boxes to fill.

The CROP Hunger Walk on November 12th was a great success. After an encouraging sendoff by Washington City Mayor Ken Neilson and St. George Mayor Jon Pike, more than 140 walkers covered the six-mile course (roughly the distance that people in the developing world have to travel EACH DAY to obtain food and water) and, together, we raised more than \$5,000 to feed the hungry. Twenty percent of the total raised will be donated to the Soup Kitchen and Solomon's Porch with the remainder being distributed around the world. Start getting in shape for next year when the walk will be on Veteran's Day, November 11th.

Mission/Outreach, continued

As usual, we will be making year-end donations to several local charities. I'll let you know who they are and how much we will donate next month.

Jim and Sue Ann Roberts from the Soup Kitchen joined us for worship on November 13th to thank the congregation for their continued generosity. In addition to hearing from Jim, we made a couple of announcements:

First, our own Gloria Reynolds will be retiring as the head of our Soup Kitchen team at the end of the year. Gloria and Paul have served the Soup Kitchen for more than 18 years and I want to extend our thanks to them for the great work that they have done to help feed the hungry in our community. Carolyn Thomas and Ruth Ann Horvath will take over for Gloria beginning in January.

Second, Jim will be retiring as Director of the Soup Kitchen at the end of the year to concentrate on his position as a board member at SwitchPoint. We thank Jim for his tireless service and look forward to working with him in the coming years.

In honor of Gloria, Paul and Jim, we are going to forego our usual Soup Kitchen Sunday in December and, instead, collect canned food all during Advent. Please bring your cans of food any Sunday between November 27th and Christmas day and place them in the box in the Narthex. At the end of the year, we'll present the donations to the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank to be used to feed the hungry. I can't think of a better way to say "Thanks" to Gloria, Paul and Jim than to feed those in need.

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to help those in our community and world who need help so badly.

*Blessings
Chris Schleiter*

Parish Nursing

Many thanks to all who volunteered to donate blood during our Fall Blood Drive on November 18th. The Red Cross team was able to collect nine, life-saving, units of blood.

We are in the process of planning our January Brown Bag Luncheon and are very excited about the program. We will be showing the film, "Moonshot Through the Double Helix," which documents the HOPE genomic medicine can offer to cancer patients who may have been without hope. Genomic sequencing, being conducted in St. George at the Intermountain Precision Genomics lab under the direction of Dr. Lincoln Nadauld, employs innovative technologies to study a cancer patient's DNA, searches for mutations causing the cancer and identifies drugs, not previously known, to target the mutations. The documentary is the creation of students from the Dixie State University Digital Film Program and was presented as part of this past summer's DOCUTAH series. Save the date – Wednesday, January 25th at Noon. Come, bring neighbors and friends, and learn about this wonderfully exciting and groundbreaking medical history being created in our midst.

The members of Parish Nursing Ministry - Mitzi Rak, Charlotte Phipps, Kathie Greear and Alicia Kitzman – wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

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

Senior Ministries

Our November 9th Soup and Fellowship speakers were Reverend Ralph and Russell Estlack, speaking on two different subjects that dovetailed into each other.

Reverend Ralph, shared some photos and videos of his visit to the children's Bible Camp at our sister church in Russia. Seventeen happy looking children were running relay races, playing volleyball, doing crafts and bible plays, having balloon fights and doing hand jives. He joined in on all these activities and made many friends with the children.

Russians do pay continual homage to their soldiers with flowers and visits to their graves in each little town as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow. Russell Estlack gave the history of how our Veterans Day came to

Senior Ministries, continued

be. The red poppy symbolizes the blood of the thousands of soldiers who died on Flanders Field in WWI and continues today to remind us of all the soldiers sacrifice going to wars to defend our democracy. Russell related 5 events which lead up to President Eisenhower signing into law a day to observe ALL living veterans of all wars. We would like to thank our two speakers for their excellent presentations. Thanks to Sherry Kretschmer, Barbara West, Judy Oar and Joyce Otness, who made delicious soups and bread and dessert for the occasion.

The ladies bridge table continues to enjoy their afternoon at the card party every month. They would really like to play every week. Six more of us play rummy type games and leave the event in good faith. We will continue to play the third Wednesday of each month, beginning in January.

We will not be hosting Soup and Fellowship or the card party in December, but we will be back on schedule after New Year's. Parish Nursing has a Brown Bag Lunch scheduled for January 25th. Soup and Fellowship will return in February.

A thought: You don't grow old and quit playing. You grow old BECAUSE you quit playing.

May God bless and keep you. Merry Christmas.

Judy Oar

Session News

Session held their regular monthly meeting on November 13th. Here is a synopsis of the actions:

- Approved to accept into membership: Roger and Carol Clark to be received on November 20, 2016.
- Approved vacation for Rev. Clingan from December 26, 2016, thru January 1, 2017.
- Accepted the following nominations: Mary Contreras as Elder for a three-year term and Jan Hirschi as Elder for a one year term; Ed and Althea Haworth as Deacons.
- Approved the 2017 Budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on December 11, 2016.

Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk of Session

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministers would like to wish everyone a joyous and peaceful holiday season. For most, it is a season of good will towards men and optimistic hope for the new year. But sadly, for some it is a time of loneliness or feelings resulting in a condition termed "Holiday Blues" – a form of depression. The feelings of Holiday Blues can be intense and unsettling even if short-term. The key to coping is understanding these Blues, what may be your triggers, knowing how to respond to these feelings and setting realistic expectations for the holiday season. Stephen Ministers are prepared to help those in need during the holidays with caring Christian support, contact visits, and tips to help you through the season. If you think you could benefit from such a caring experience, even if it is short term, please contact Anne Patten, Karen Kirkland, or Rev. Ralph. All Stephen Ministry services are confidential and free.

We wish you ALL the merriest of seasons and that the birth of our Lord fills your heart with joy and hope.

Karen Kirkland, Stephen Leader

Stewardship

We continue to receive pledges for 2017. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to serve the Lord through our ministries. Through November 13th, we had a total of 25 pledges totaling \$62,078 towards our goal of \$137,571. As you can see we still have a ways to go. If you have not already made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. A pledge form is included on page 11 of this newsletter. Pledge cards are also available in the Narthex or by calling the church. You can also pledge online at our website gspcsg.org. We will dedicate our pledges during worship on December 11th.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, taught by Rev. Jimi Kestin of Solomon's Porch Foursquare Fellowship, will start the second Tuesday of January, 2017. Please contactCarolynn Thomas if you are interested in taking the class.

Do you have a story of faith or good works as relates to our church or Christ. Then please share it. Please contact one of us (Dawn Angarone, Carolynn Thomas, Chris Schleiter or me) with your story. The stories will be told during spotlight for Mission and published in the newsletter.

Stewardship, continued

Charles Spencer, of the Heartland Presbytery wrote:

The psalmist reminds us to "give thanks to the LORD, for God is good" (107:1). Generally I think of my stuff as mine: my car, my house, my money. Our faith calls us to a different perspective. As a believer, I am to be mindful that all good gifts come ultimately from the loving and generous hand of God. In the Sunday service, I am invited to present my tithes and offerings in the same spirit of love and generosity with which God meets me. This time is to be one of joyous thanksgiving, an opportunity to "let the redeemed of the LORD say so" (Ps. 107:2) and demonstrate our gratitude. Writing to the Thessalonians, the apostle notes that he and his co-laborers had conducted their ministry "so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God" (1 Thess. 2:9). There are costs in following the commands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, extend fellowship to the lonely, comfort the bereaved, and act as faithful disciples. There are costs in ministries of nurture and education that communicate the faith from generation to generation. There are costs in maintaining worship and proclaiming the gospel. While expensive, the work of the church need not be a burden. Where is the burden in joyously returning a portion of the gifts God provides to be used in the work of Christ through the church? The invitation of Stewardship Commitment Sunday is to consider the rich blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is an invitation to make a Christian witness of our gifts and a faith statement in our generosity.

Bob Moeller

Worship and Music

As this message is being written, it is in the Thanksgiving spirit that we owe "Thanks" to many people who help make our worship services so special!

We appreciate the volunteers who prepare our communion table every first Sunday of the month. We wish to show our gratitude to Virginia Hunt, Janice Wick, and Dick and Patti Babb for preparing our communion trays every month. Even though they have expressed how much they have enjoyed this job, they would like to turn it over to someone else. If anyone would like to prepare our trays once a month, please contact Barbara McConnell or any of our Elders.

The worship committee also wishes to show their gratitude to the many volunteers who put up the Christmas decorations. We hope you will feel the spirit and will welcome the Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

Please mark your calendars for the Bell and Chancel Choir concert to be held at our church on Sunday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm. 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 Saturday, December 24th.

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

*Blessings,
Barbara McConnell*

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild Christmas Bazaar was a great success. Thanks to the you, we exceeded our goal. We made a wonderful \$1,400.00 and could not have done without your help. Part of that money will be used to donate to a few of our local charities. Also, we will be sending a small contribution to our sister Church in Russia. We would like to thank everyone who came out to help us set-up on Wednesday and all who came Thursday, Friday and Saturday to help out. That is called togetherness and we could not have reached our goal if not for you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We took photos and they will be added to our Good Shepherd Women's Guild scrapbook.

Please remember our Holiday Cookie Sale on December 11th and 18th after church. If you would like to donate homemade cookies for this event please see Laverna Metzger. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Mary Starrett

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 3:30 Chancel Choir pm 5:00 Bell Choir pm	7:30 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	
4 Food Drive for Soup Kitchen and Food Bank 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Communion Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Worship Meeting am – CE Building 11:45 Mission Meeting – am Church Office 11:45 Deacon Meeting – am CE Building 5:00 Bible Study pm @Rev Ralph's Home	5 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	6 9:30 Calendar Coordinating Council Meeting 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 1:30 Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Meeting 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 5:30 Advent Program on Book of Revelation – CE Building	7 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe @ Barnes & Noble 1:00 Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Meeting	8 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 3:30 Chancel Choir pm 5:00 Bell Choir pm	9 7:30 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	10 5:00 Christmas Party – pm Conklin Hall
11 Food Drive for Soup Kitchen and Food Bank 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Blood Pressures am Taken 11:45 Session Meeting am 7:00 Choir Christmas Concert - Sanctuary pm	12 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	13 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 5:30 Advent Program on Book of Revelation – CE Building	14 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe @ Barnes & Noble	15 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm 5:00 Bell Choir pm	16 7:30 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	17
18 Food Drive for Soup Kitchen and Food Bank 8:45 Prayer/Communion am Service 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship am 3:00 Open House @ pm – Rev. Ralph's Home 6:00 Home om	19 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	20 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 5:30 Advent Program on Book of Revelation – CE Building	21 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe @ Barnes & Noble 1:00 Senior Ministries Card Party – Conklin Hall	22 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 3:30 Chancel Choir pm 5:00 Bell Choir pm	23 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Christmas Eve pm Worship
25 Canned Food Drive for Soup Kitchen and Food Bank 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 Home	26 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	27 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Egg & I 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph	28 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe @ Barnes & Noble	29 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Village Inn 3:00 Exercise with Rev pm Ralph 3:30 Chancel Choir pm 5:00 Bell Choir pm	30 7:30 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's	31 12:00 Prayer Over the Noon City @ Eccles Fine Arts Center – Dixie State

Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 26 through January 1.

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.

Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Friday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
	<i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	John 1:1-14

Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
Sunday, January 1 First Sunday after Christmas Day	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
Friday, 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 8 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Sunday, January 15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Sunday, January 22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Sunday, January 29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

News from the Russia Mission

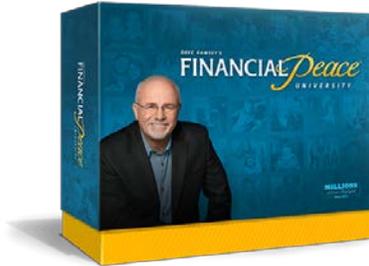
The Russia Mission has had a quiet time since Jan Dunham and Donna Beasley returned from the Russian Mission Network Conference at the end of September. Rev. Ralph continues to correspond with Pastor Sergei and we continue to pray for their church family and mission, as they pray for ours.

As the new year begins, we will begin planning for some of our members to join Rev. Ralph on a visit to Dorogobuzh for Bible Camp next summer. If you are interested in going, please talk with Chris Schleiter and he can give you more information.

We thank the Lord for our relationship with our sister congregation and look forward to seeing our brothers and sisters in Christ next summer.



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Coming to Good Shepherd in January



This nine-week class begins Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in Conklin Hall
Led by Rev. Jimi Kestin – Solomon's Porch Foursquare Fellowship
\$109 per couple or single - **Register by December 21st**
Call 435.817.8288 or see Carolyn Thomas for more information

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

Each year, we decorate the Sanctuary with lovely poinsettia plants. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill out the pink order form (or tear off and fill out the one below) and attach a check or call Amy during office hours and let her know. The last day to order poinsettias for the 2016 Christmas season is Sunday, December 4th.

Christmas Poinsettia Order

Name: _____

In Honor Of / Memory Of: _____

The cost of each Poinsettia is \$15.00. Please make your checks payable to Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and write Poinsettia on the memo line.

2017 General Fund Pledge Form

CHANGING LIVES FOR CHRIST!

"But just as you excel in everything . . . in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us . . . see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7).

I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give the following amount:

My (our) first fruit offering percentage _____%.

\$_____ per week, totaling \$_____ annually.

I (we) will commit to praying for the mission and ministry of my (our) church.

NAME(S): _____

(Please print)

Please return the top portion to the church office or drop in the offering plate.

 I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give the following amount:

My (our) first fruit offering percentage _____%.

\$_____ per week, totaling \$_____ annually.

I (we) will commit to praying for the mission and ministry of my (our) church.

Please detach and keep for your records.

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
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	Starbuck's Café @ Barnes & Noble
Men's Bible Studies	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Village Inn
	Friday	7:45 am to 8:45 am	Bishop's
Choir Practices	Thursday	3:30 pm Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	Thursday	5:00 pm Bell 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 20th we have received pledges towards our second campaign totaling **\$43,227** and additional cash donations of **\$21,875** for a total of **\$166,328** or about **48.6%** 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	office@gspcsg.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@gspcsg.org
Prayer Chain	Louise Routh 435-628-7725
Website	www.gspcsg.org
Website Editor	Chris Schleiter
Newsletter Editor	Amy Craig
Newsletter email	newsletter@gspcsg.org
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Info on Stephen Ministry	www.stephenministries.org

Church Leadership 2016

Elders

Class of 2016	Scott Florence	574-2383	Grounds
	Barbara McConnell	656-1951	Worship
	Bob Moeller	801-707-4353	Stewardship
Class of 2017	Gay Cunningham	705-4696	Growth
	Russ Hurlbut	879-9393	Building
	Anne Patten	773-4307	Christian Ed
Class of 2018	Ruth Ann Horvath	773-6790	Clerk of Session
	Carolyn Jentzer	673-0442	Fellowship
	Judy Oar	702-241-6227	Senior Ministries
	Chris Schleiter	627-9048	Mission/Outreach

Deacons

Moderator	Tineke Ingold	574-3614
Bloomington Hills	Dick & Patti Babb	688-1120
Dixie Downs	Shirley Fromknecht	628-2381
East Bloomington	Molly Bass	628-6440
East St. George	Virginia Hunt	714-955-1167
Green Valley	Rayanne Bartlett	673-6657
Hurricane	Jan Hirschi	435-680-1012
	Ann Hogan	635-0993
Ivins	Dawn Angarone	859-351-2642
Old St. George	Larry Laubscher	656-0617
Pine Valley	Tineke Ingold	574-3614
Red Cliffs	Matt Fine	760-887-1251
Santa Clara	Dottie Malcolmson	673-4471
South Gate	Shirley Fromknecht	628-2381
Washington	Mary Contreras	673-9745
West Bloomington	Candy Hurlbut	879-9394
	Jeff Clingan	705-8692



Scan this QR code on your Smartphone or Tablet to visit our website.

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
POSTAGE PAID
ST. GEORGE, UT
PERMIT NO. 675

Address Service Requested