



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

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



Partner 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

February 2023

Volume 18, Issue 2

In This Issue

- 1 Souper Bowl of Caring February 12th; Lent Begins This Month
Prayer Concerns; Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures; Welcome New Members; Newsletter Deadline; Worship Schedule; Volunteers; Treasurer's Report
- 2 Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought
Prayer Corner; Strand of Pearls (aka, the Prayer Chain); Healing Prayer Offered Weekly
- 3 Buildings; Christian Education
- 4 Congregational Growth & Care; Deacons; Fellowship
- 5 Mission/Outreach; Nominating Committee; Session News
- 6 Stewardship; Worship & Music; "Bontshe Shvayg"
- 7 January Lectionary; February Lectionary; Congregation News; A Little (Presbyterian) Church Humor
- 8 February Calendar
- 9 Regularly Scheduled Activities; Building Fund Update; Church Contact Information/Leadership
- 10
- 11

Souper Bowl of Caring February 12th

The Souper Bowl of Caring takes place on the second Sunday in February. Wait! Isn't that the same Sunday as the Super Bowl? Yes, we are encouraged to take our level of passion for football and match it with our passion for giving to those in St George who are hungry. Bring your canned food donations along with you to church! Bring your money donations and place them in the donation box in the Narthex. Each donation is equal to a touchdown for those who are in need right here in our hometown.

The Presbytery's Matthew 25 Initiative group has added a twist to this year's Souper Bowl - a competition between Utah Presbyterian congregations to see who can gather the most food and raise the most money. The competition is on a per capita basis, meaning that the total amount collected is divided by the number of members of the church. We are a large church so, if we want to win, we will need to collect A LOT of food and cash.

The cash collected will go to Switchpoint for the Soup Kitchen and the food will be divided between Switchpoint and Solomon's Porch. Let's stop by our favorite grocery stores, buy many cans of food, bring them to church on Sundays between now and February 12th to fill the Narthex and score touchdowns for those who are hungry!

Lent Begins This Month

The season of Lent and our celebration of Easter are always busy times at Good Shepherd and 2023 will be no exception.

With Easter a bit earlier this year, April 9th, Lent will begin this month.

Rev. Ralph's Lenten Bible study and potluck will kick off on February 20th at 5:00 pm in the CE Building. The weekly study, focusing on the Psalms, will continue until April 3rd.

We will celebrate the Good Shepherd version of Mardi Gras on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st, with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner at 6:30 pm in Conklin Hall. Dinner will be followed by a short "Retiring the Alleluia" service in Conklin Hall. Rev. Ralph needs volunteers to help cook for this event and onsite training will be available! A sign-up sheet will be available soon on the sign-up table in Conklin Hall.

Our observation of Lent formally begins on February 22nd, but the schedule will be a bit different this year. At Noon we will hold a joint soup and sandwich lunch in Conklin Hall with our brothers and sisters from Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church. Lunch will be followed by our annual Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary. For those who can't attend during the day, Rev. Ralph will be in the Sanctuary again from 6:30 pm to 7:15pm on Ash Wednesday for the Imposition of the Ashes.

Lent will continue until the first week in April as we prepare for Easter and our Risen Lord. More on what will happen then next month.

We hope everyone will participate in as many activities as possible during this most important season of the church year.

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan

Pastor

Ruth Ann Horvath

Clerk of Session

Candy Hurlbut

Church Secretary

Barbara McConnell

Music Director

Stephen Talley

Organist

Rev. Dolores Wiens

Strand of Pearls Prayer Chain

Chris Schleter

Website / Newsletter Editor

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

Ann Abbott & Family
 Shirley Taylor
 Arlene Prinselaar
 Virginia & Kelly Hunt
 Russ & Candy Hurlbut
 Charlotte Phipps
 Eliza Elwood & Family
 Cheryl Mansfield
 Marjorie Bayle
 Jan Hirschi
 Gloria McGilloway & family
 Tom & Mary Contreras and Colton
 Victims of the latest shootings
 The People of Ukraine and Russia
 Caregivers in our area, state and nation
 Our partner congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
 Those Serving Our Country

Welcome New Members

Linda Fucone
 Margie Lenk

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

March Newsletter Deadline

February 17, 2023

Worship Schedule

8:45 – 9:00 am
Morning Prayer and Communion
 Sanctuary
9:00 – 9:45 am
Adult Education
 CE Building
10:30 am
Children's Sunday School
 CE Building
10:30 am
Worship
 Sanctuary
11:45 am
Fellowship Time
 Conklin Hall

Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures

Each month at our stated Session meetings, our Minister of Word and Sacrament 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 January were:

Rev. Ralph	Revelation 21:21-25	New Day
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	Proverbs 16:9	God directs
Elder Leslie Lintz	2 Corinthians 8:7	Abound in Grace
Elder Chris Schleiter	Psalm 18:2	My Rock
Elder Barbara McConnell	James 1:2-4	Endurance
Elder Alicia Kitzman	Psalm 86:15	Abounding in Love
Elder Mary Contreras	Ecclesiastes 4:9-10	Lift up
Elder Bill Somplatsky-Jarman	Psalm 29:11	Strength

Thanks to our Volunteers

	Flowers	Sunday School/Nursery
February		
February 5	Available	Available
February 12	Available	Available
February 19	Available	Available
February 26	Available	Available
March		
March 5	Available	Available
March 12	Available	Available
March 19	Available	Available
March 26	Available	Available

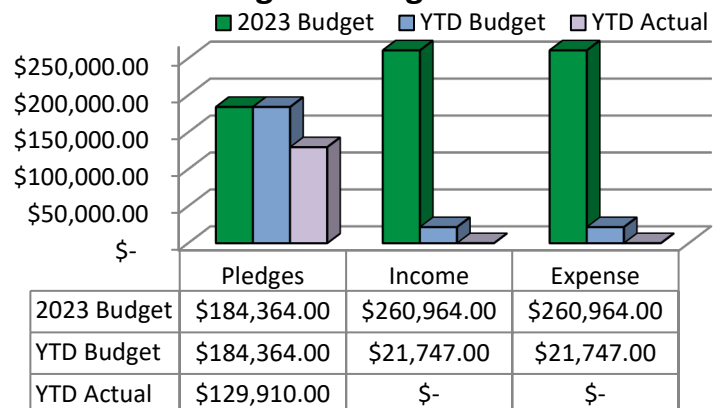
Sign up for Flowers on the board between the Narthex and Conklin Hall or on our website gspcsg.org

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of December 31

Month of December	
Receipts	\$ 25,424.79
Expenditures	\$ 27,700.86
2022 YTD Budget vs Actual	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 250,464.00
Actual Receipts	\$220,551.21
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 250,464.00
Actual Expenditures	\$239,926.93
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 226,262.72
Building Fund	\$ 73,858.79
Memorial Fund	\$ 4,533.80
Reserve Fund	\$ 45,917.70
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 3,460.35
Bequests	\$ 63,457.48

2022 Budget Through December 31



Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will let Myself be found by you," declares the Lord, "and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you," declares the Lord," Jeremiah 29:11-14 NASB



This past year has been for us a year of restoration. A restoration of our traditions and practices that have been part of our congregational life, past and present

Our Chancel and Bell choirs have returned to fill our sanctuary with joyous song of worship and celebration.

Our Bible studies have continued, and our Kerygma studies have enjoyed strong participation. As one of our attendees expressed in this past year regarding this class, "I never knew Bible study could be so much fun!" Many thanks to my teaching partner Rev. Dolores Wiens.

We continue to strongly support our local mission causes and our relationship with our sister church in Russia remains strong which has been challenging in the face of a one year old war between Russia and the Ukraine. Communication has been restricted but still doable. Pastor Sergei has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to God and all of you. Of course our plans to visit this past summer were impossible due to the conflict and had to be cancelled. I am planning to be part of a team from the Belorussia, Ukraine, Russian Mission network to visit Moldova in the fall, a date yet to be determined.

We have returned to our active participation and support of the Saint George Area Interfaith Council continuing to be the largest contributor to the annual CROP Walk.

The restoration continues even in the face of some challenges. Our worship attendance is significantly lower than before the Pandemic. In conversation with other clergy locally as well as nationally this appears to be a shared trend for which none of us have a complete explanation. However, we do continue to welcome visitors, many of whom have become new members and in the past few months we have welcomed some returnees. We know whose guiding hand continues to shepherd us throughout these days and times. Our Lord and Savior continues to call us into a new and bright future that we have only begun to enter. The restoration continues. The New Day awaits!

In the meantime, I want to express my great appreciation to our congregation who have remained positive, supportive, generous, faithful and hopeful with a loving Christian spirit throughout these days.

The Lord is near, and he has led us through these days. And I continue to give thanks to Him for you all.

*In Christ
Rev. Ralph*

PS. Cindy, Jeff and I would like to thank you all for the kind sentiments and gifts we received from you all during the Christmas season. They were greatly appreciated. May God bless and keep you all!

**** Home Communion ****

If you have difficulty getting to worship and would like to have the Pastor serve you the Lord's Supper at home, please call the church office (435-628-9158).

**** Pastor's Note Regarding Hospital Visitation ****

With the federal laws that govern the privacy of medical records, hospitals no longer can give out any information regarding 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.

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 in the hospital and will be unable to assist or offer pastoral care.

Prayer Corner

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matthew 21:22



On January 15th, *visiting* Pastor Jill Doherty gave an inspiring message on using the power of story to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Our stories reveal the reality of His love, compassion, and care for us; the reality of His intervention in our lives and the reality of answered prayer. She encouraged us to share our stories with friends, neighbors and even strangers that we might meet in the grocery store and other public places, because this is a way we can introduce others to the One who is their salvation and who loves them in very personal ways. Her message confirmed what

I'd said during announcements just the previous week also inviting you to continue sharing your stories of God's intervention in your lives and prayers that have been answered as a means of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Over the past several years we have published some of your stories here in the Prayer Corner. These stories speak, even to those who are believers; they build our faith.

One such sharing came from Kathryn Whitton in the Prayer Corner for June 2022. She told the story of Kathryn and John's son Bransby who had been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. He went through 18 weeks of aggressive chemotherapy. Kathryn wrote of God's intervention to "supply Bransby's needs." At the time of her writing on May 26, 2022, she offered that the tumor had shrunk 80%. Subsequently, he was declared by his doctors to be cancer free.

Today, she writes this letter to be posted here:

Dear Church Family,

I want to reiterate what Pastor Dolores said on Jan 8th in church. We, as a family, need to share our victories concerning answers to prayer. On two occasions I have shared answers to prayers regarding Bransby during coffee hour. I wanted to thank all of you for your faithfulness in your prayers. They did make a difference. I know many people feel that faith in God is a private matter and should not be discussed in public. This was especially true in the past. But today is a new day. We should not be embarrassed to talk about our faith. We want to share our sorrows and our joys. We all need the love and support of our church family throughout our journey here on earth.

However, our stories should not be contained within the walls of the church. All of us are created for a purpose, and that is to be the hands, feet and mouth for Christ. He no longer walks on the earth, but we do. We are his ambassadors. He is counting on us to spread the good news. What better news than God's intervention in our lives and answers to prayers.

Bless all of you and thank you for your love,

Kathryn Whitton

Strand of Pearls (aka, the Prayer Chain)

Pearls on our Strand continue to pray actively for those for whom requests have been made as they come in. Updates and thanksgivings are appreciated and will be passed on.

Please call, email or text your requests to Rev. Dolores at 630-890-8343 or revdfw@icloud.com, and indicate whether you wish the request to remain confidential. Otherwise, it will be included in the GSPC prayer list in the newsletter.

Rev. Dolores Wiens

Healing Prayer Offered Weekly

Following our Healing service which was held in November, Healing prayer and anointing will now be offered every Sunday morning at the conclusion of the Worship Service in the Chapel. Rev. Dolores Wiens and Carolyn Barnett will be available in the Chapel to offer healing prayer for all who desire it. Due to the very positive response and feedback, we have received following our Healing Service, a Healing Service will take place this year on a date yet to be determined.

Buildings & Grounds

I am looking forward to serving as the Elder for Buildings and Grounds. Thanks to Eric Westland for leaving our facilities in good shape.

Guy Schultzman has been working on a project to make improvements to the Memorial Garden. The Washington County Water Conservancy District has implemented a program to provide money to those who choose to remove non-functional grass and replace it with drought-tolerant landscaping. A part of the Memorial Garden project was to replace some of the grass anyway, so we applied for money from the WCWCD program and have been tentatively approved for up to \$5,482 to complete this work. There are still a couple of legal requirements to work through but, if we get final approval, that money will help considerably with the cost of the overall project and removing the grass will help to reduce our environmental impact save us money on water. Thanks to Guy for taking the lead on this.

Tom Contreras

Christian Education

“True wisdom consists in two things: Knowledge of God and Knowledge of Self.” — John Calvin

In February there is a little something for everyone in the classes offered to help us thrive as we explore spiritual understanding, personal transformation and have opportunities to get better acquainted with those in our church family. We would be delighted to have you join us as we learn and grow together.

Children’s Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday in the CE Building at 10:00 am, thanks to the help of Cathy Overkamp and Donna Beasley. During February, the lessons will be about the books of the Bible. Charlotte Phipps hopes to return to teaching by the end of February.

Adult Sunday School is continuing lessons from *The Present Word* series. During February, Ruth Ann Horvath will be leading discussions from Unit 3, which explores various aspects of God’s call and its responsibilities. What is the value God places on us? Can we be called to God regardless of our past? What is God’s wisdom? Embrace suffering...why? Does God play favorites? What is God’s dream for us? What is the BEST life ever? Come find out ... every Sunday in the CE building from 9:00-10:00 am.

The monthly Women’s Bible Study continues with lessons from *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus*. Join co-teachers Virginia Hunt, Donna Beasley, and Darlene Baxter as they take a deep dive into a study and discussion about the life of Bathsheba. What lessons can we learn from her? If you are looking for fellowship and scriptural wisdom, then don’t miss this chance at 11:30 am on Monday February 27th in Conklin Hall.

The Monday Evening Lenten Potluck and Bible Study will begin on February 20th and conclude April 3rd. Rev. Ralph will lead a new Kerygma study, *Discovering the Psalms: Passion, Promise, and Praise*. Each session will begin with potluck (including Pastor Ralph’s famous fried chicken) at 5:00 pm in the CE Building, followed by a group exploration into the book of Psalms. Eat great food, make new friends, and learn life-transforming concepts ... it doesn’t get any better than that!

The weekly Men’s Bible Study will continue at 11:00 am on Thursdays at Bishop’s Grill at 1973 W Sunset Blvd. Men, this is your chance to eat, enjoy some guy-talk, and dig into the Word each week with Pastor Ralph.

Weekly Women’s Bible Studies will continue with Pastor Ralph each Tuesday at 11:00 am in the CE Building, as well as Wednesday at 11:00 am at Barnes & Noble Café at the Red Cliffs Mall. Get ready to soak up some fellowship and new insights.

Thanks Bill Somplatsky-Jarman for his years of service as head of Christian Education at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. His work to have relevant, quality educational classes has been a blessing to many.

As I step into my new role as head of Christian Education, I feel fortunate to have a strong Christian education team of teachers and discussion facilitators, who tirelessly give their time and talents to lead classes that will help us grow in our Christian journey. A big thank to each one. You are appreciated!

I welcome input from each church member. If you have ideas for programs or classes that would be of value, ways we can improve, or any other thoughts about Christian education at our church, please contact me in person, or call/text at 407-488-5460. Your feedback is important.

Wishing you God’s richest blessings as we learn and grow in Him.

Deanna Flores

Congregational Growth & Care

For most of us, the Internet is our connection to the world and our loved ones but, for those operating out of malicious intent, it can serve as a connection to our identities and private lives as well. In the worst case, it's as if we have allowed strangers the use of our computers. While we may believe we are able to detect when we have been targeted, many of the familiar scams have been re-imagined and could be unrecognizable until it's too late. On Thursday, February 9th at Noon in Conklin Hall, Chris Schleter will not only educate us about how we may recognize many of the scams currently "out there," but also will tell us what to do about them and answer other questions about computer use. *Computer Safety - Is This Real?* will be our first Lunch and Learn event of 2023, so bring a sandwich and plan to join us.

During the month of February, we also take note about its designation almost sixty years ago as Heart Month designed to bring awareness that there are lifestyle choices an individual can make to prevent both heart disease and stroke. Our knowledge about diagnosis and treatments of cardiovascular disease has grown exponentially in the ensuing years so that now, it is estimated that 80 - 90% of all heart disease and stroke are preventable. Certain cardiac events such as cardiac arrest (a sudden interruption in the heart's electrical conducting system - atrial or ventricular arrhythmia) can result in loss of cardiac function, breathing and consciousness and may occur despite our best intentions for prevention. Cardiac arrest is different from a heart attack. In the latter, blood flow in vessels feeding heart muscle becomes blocked and the heart tissue fed by those vessels die. The area of the heart impacted by the blockage determines the extent of loss of heart function, its ability to be rehabilitated and even survivability. If cardiac vessels are found to be narrowed or blocked, then it may be assumed that other vessels in the body may be likewise affected and could result in stroke or other disease processes.

It is not 'new news' to us that studies have shown eating a heart-healthy diet, engaging in regular exercise, abstaining from smoking, maintaining a proper weight and blood pressure provide measurable benefits in helping prevent cardiovascular disease or assist in recovery from a cardiac event. And choosing to make these lifestyle changes is certainly cost effective because the primary cost is personal resolve. As a reminder, Rev. Ralph holds his bi-weekly, non-threatening exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:00 pm in Conklin Hall, healthy living tips and the recipe of the month may be found on our committee's bulletin board and we offer monthly blood pressure readings on the third Sunday of each month during Fellowship Hour in Conklin Hall. Should you wish, we are available to teach you how to take your own blood pressure at home. Your Growth and Care Committee remains committed to partnering with you. Choose health!

Alicia Kitzman

Deacons

Our Deacons are putting the finishing touches on our organization plan for 2023. Your Deacons will be reaching out to their parishes shortly and we look forward to being here should you need us.

The Book of Order mandates that the Deacons and Session meet jointly each year. At Good Shepherd we accomplish that requirement by holding a joint Elder/Deacon training session where we meet jointly and then break up into separate Deacon and Elder sessions to learn more about the responsibilities of our offices. This year's training will be on Saturday, February 4th, from 9:00 am to Noon.

John and I are your contacts for the Deacon Shed which is full of items you may need. We have everything from walkers to crutches to wheelchairs to raised toilet seats. If you need anything from the shed, please give John a call at 801-541-7444, and he'll work with you to get you what you need.

Peggy Graber, Moderator

Fellowship

Hi everyone!!

Again, I would like to say THANK YOU !! to you all for bringing treats, making coffee, serving and helping to clean up after Fellowship hour on Sundays

Robbie Burns Night will be Saturday January 28th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck dinner followed by Scottish bagpipe music and dancing in the Sanctuary. Please try a new Scottish recipe from the book on the sign up table. We look forward to a wonderful night of food, music, and dancing !!

Mary Contreras

Mission/Outreach

As you read on the front page, the Souper Bowl of Caring is coming up on February 12th. The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina: Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. Twenty-two churches raised \$5,700 in the first year. Now the Souper Bowl of Caring is an ongoing organization in which hundreds of churches participate – donating to their local charities for those who are hungry.

We will be competing with the other churches in the Presbytery to see who can bring in the highest average amount of food or cash per member. Let's do what we do with the CROP Walk and lead all the others!

You may have noticed that this year's Change 4 Change donation will go to the Assistance League of Southern Utah. Since 2008 Assistance League has helped those students through Operation School Bell, their primary philanthropic program. The organization holds shopping events with students and their families. Volunteers read with students in schools and gift them with books to take home. Every year thousands of students in our community don't have new clothes to start the school year. New clothes boost self-esteem. In addition, many elementary students are behind their peers in literacy development. The Assistance League appreciates your donations and encourages you to become a member of the organization.

For those who are interested, all of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were shipped to the Pacific Islands. Donna Beasley reports that, even though it's February, it's never too early to start gathering items to go in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We have a goal of filling 90 shoeboxes in November and need your help. The featured items for February are toothbrushes and bar soap. The Knotty Knitters are busy making baby doll cradles and pillowcase dresses. We hope you will help us with our biggest Mission project of the year.

*Blessings
Chris Schleiter*

Nominating Committee

I want to thank last year's Nominating Committee for their work in filling most of our needed positions for 2023 and beyond. We will have similar needs this year and hope that each of you will prayerfully consider accepting a call to serve should a member of the committee seek you out. This year's Nominating Committee will be me as Session representative and Moderator, Ka-Wai Yu as the Deacon representative and Anne Patten, Gloria McGilloway and Matt Fine as congregational at-large members.

Ruth Ann Horvath

Session News

Session held their monthly meeting on January 8th. Here is a synopsis of the actions that were taken:

- Approved to receive Linda Fucone and Margaret Lenk into membership of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. They will be received by the congregation on January 22, 2023.
- Approved to appoint Elder Ruth Ann Horvath to serve as Session Representative/Moderator of the 2023 Nominating Committee.
- Approved the Churchwide Mission Donations as follows: \$3,000 to Ellen Smith, \$1,000 to support the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy's programs for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and \$1,500 to Presbytery for general Churchwide Mission.
- Approved a Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan Resolution covering the 2023 year and establishing the annual HRA covered expenses be set at a total of \$4,000 for 2023.
- Approved the appointment of Mary Laubscher as Treasurer for 2023.
- Approved the appointment of Ruth Ann Horvath as Session Clerk for 2023.
- Approved the appointment of Anne Patten as Commissioner to the Presbytery for 2023.
- Approved to set the second Sunday of each month at 12 Noon as the Stated Session Meetings for 2023.
- Approved to set the first Sunday of each month as the dates of Communion for 2023 except for April, on which the date will be April 16, 2023 (the Sunday after Easter). Approved to serve Communion at every Sunday Prayer Service, Maundy Thursday Service and to members who are shut ins.
- Approved to appoint a commission consisting of Rev. Ralph Clingan and Ruth Ann Horvath to prepare 2022 PCUSA Annual Statistical Report.

The next meeting of the Session will be Sunday, February 12th at 12:00 Noon in the CE Building.

*Ruth Ann Horvath,
Clerk of Session*

Stewardship

As we enter the season of Lent in February, we begin to focus on prayer, penance, and self-sacrifice. We can use this time to renew our commitment to addressing the needs of others, our church, and all people who do not yet know the joy and the peace of following Christ. Please consider prayerfully how you can be a blessing to our church with your pledges and offerings. Your faithfulness and generosity are very much appreciated and know that every one of you makes a difference.

*Thanks and blessings.
Leslie Lintz*

Worship & Music

Our first meeting will be January 29th, 2023, after worship at 11 :45 am in the Chapel. We will be discussing plans for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper on February 21st and Ash Wednesday on February 22nd.

Ushers are an important part of Worship, and we extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate. Greeting those who come to church, giving out bulletins and passing the offering plates are simple tasks that are very rewarding. Please know how much you are appreciated.

Thanks to Barbara McConnell, Music Director, and Steve Tally Organist and Accompanist for bringing us beautiful music every Sunday.

I am very blessed to be the Ruler Elder for Worship.

Ruthanne Skinner

"Bontshe Shvayg" a Jewish folktale (From Sandy Paige)

Bontshe Shvayg, or Bontshe the Silent, is a man who endures a life of injustice, mistreatment, privation, and indignity with "Not one word against God. Not one word against man." Unlike even Job, he never cries out. He was born in silence, he lived in silence, he died in silence, and he was buried in silence. No one knows what he died of—"he might have starved to death." No wine was drunk at his bar mitzvah, and even the wooden sign marking his grave is used by the gravedigger's wife for a fire to boil potatoes. His stepmother fed him moldy bread and gristle as a child "while she herself drank coffee with cream." His father is defined by what he ingests: "A drunk."

Bontshe saves a rich Jew. He is rewarded with a job and the man's mistress. She turns out to have been carrying the rich man's child, whom Bontshe takes on. The rich man fails to pay him, though, and even the boy grows up to throw Bontshe out.

You learn these things as Bontshe is welcomed into heaven, where his deeds are being judged by the heavenly tribunal. The prosecutor can find nothing to prosecute. "He kept silent. I will do the same." The judge finally is ready with his judgment. "My child . . . you have suffered all in silence. There is not an unbroken bone in your body, not a corner of your soul that has not bled. And you have kept silent. There in the world below, no one appreciated you. You yourself never knew that had you cried out but once, you could have brought down the walls of Jericho. You never knew what powers lay with you. There in the World of Deceit, your silence went unrewarded. Here, in the world of Truth, you will be given your full due. The Heavenly Tribunal can pass no judgment on you. It is not for us to determine your portion of paradise. Take what you want! It is yours, all yours!"

Bontshe looked up for the first time. His eyes were blinded by the light that streamed at him. Everything glittered, glistened, blazed with light: the walls, the angels, the judges. So many angels! He cast his dazed eyes down again. "Truly?" he asked, happy but abashed.

"Why, of course," the judge said. "Of course! I tell you, it's all yours. All heaven belongs to you. Ask for anything you wish, choose what you like."

"Truly?" asked Bontshe again. "Truly! Truly! Truly" clamored the heavenly host.

"Well then, smiled Bontshe, what I'd like most of all is a warm roll with fresh butter every morning." The judges and angels hung their heads in shame.

Lectionary Readings for February

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, February 5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10]	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]	Matthew 5:13-20
Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Sunday, February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 <i>or</i> Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday, February 26 1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

Lectionary Readings for March

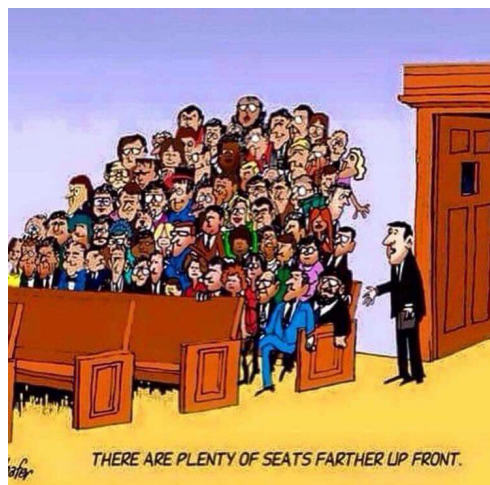
Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, March 5 2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17 <i>or</i> Matthew 17:1-9
Sunday, March 12 3rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Sunday, March 19 4th Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Sunday, March 26 5th Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

Congregation News

Thanks from Charlotte Phipps

Charlotte Phipps says "Thank you" to everyone for their prayers, love and thoughtfulness during her recovery. She hopes to be back with us soon.

A Little (Presbyterian) Church Humor



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	11:00 Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on 3050 E 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	10:00 Joint am Elder/Deacon Training 11:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Soup Kitchen Sunday 8:45 Prayer Service with am Communion 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Communion Worship am 10:30 Children's Sunday am School & Nursery 11:45 Fellowship am	1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ CE Building 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 6:30 Grief & Loss pm Support Group	11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	11:00 Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on 3050 E 12:00 Lunch & Learn - Noon Chris Schleiter - Computer Safety - Is This Real? 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	11:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Souper Bowl of Caring 8:45 Prayer Service with am Communion 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 10:30 Children's Sunday am School & Nursery 11:45 Fellowship am 12:00 Session Meeting Noon	1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ CE Building 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph	11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	11:00 Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on 3050 E 1:15 Growth & Care pm Committee Meeting 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	11:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Transfiguration of the Lord 8:45 Prayer Service with am Communion 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 10:30 Children's Sunday am School & Nursery 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Blood Pressures am Taken	9:30 Calendar am Coordinating Council Meeting 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 5:00 Lenten Bible Study pm	11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ CE Building 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 5:30 Shrove Tuesday Dinner with "Retiring of the Alleluia" service 6:30 Grief & Loss pm Support Group	Ash Wednesday 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble 12:00 Ash Wednesday Noon Luncheon & Service 6:30 Imposition of the Ashes	11:00 Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on 3050 E 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	11:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal am
26	27	28				
First Sunday in Lent 8:45 Prayer Service with am Communion 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 10:30 Children's Sunday am School & Nursery 11:45 Fellowship am 11:45 Worship am Committee Meeting	11:30 Women's Bible am Study & Fellowship 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 5:00 Lenten Bible pm Study	11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ CE Building 3:00 Exercise with Rev. Ralph 6:00 Stephen Ministry pm Supervision Group Meeting				

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
Women's Bible Study and Fellowship – last Monday of each month at 11:30 am in Conklin Hall
Al-Anon Meeting – Friday at 12:00 Noon 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
Men's Bible Study	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Bishop's Grill on Sunset
Women's Bible Studies	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	CE Building
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Barnes & Noble Cafe
Choir Rehearsals	Thursday	3:45 pm Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	Saturday	11:30 am Bell Choir	Sanctuary



Building Fund Update

When we took out our mortgage, we estimated that we needed \$384,000 to pay off the mortgage and have the resources to meet our needs for maintaining and improving our facilities. Now that our mortgage has been retired, we have turned our attention to several major maintenance items and improvements that need to be addressed over the next several years. These projects, totaling more than \$145,000, need to be funded. We still need your help.

Through **January 22nd** we have received pledges towards our third campaign totaling **\$56,100** and additional cash donations of **\$68,777** giving us a total for all three campaigns of **\$319,940** or about **83.3** of our **\$384,000** goal.

While we are not currently conducting a Building Fund campaign, we do need donations to the Building Fund to ensure that our buildings and grounds are kept in good condition. Please consider a donation to the Building Fund to help us reach our goal.

Church Contact Information

Office Hours	Wed. & Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office Email	office@gspcsq.org
Pastor's Office Hours	Mon to Thu – 9:15 am – 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 2 nd & 4 th Weeks by Afternoon Appointment Only
Pastor's Cell	435-705-1867
Pastor's Email	pastor@gspcsq.org
Prayer Chain	Rev. Dolores Wiens 630-890-8343
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Website	gspcsq.org
Newsletter email	newsletter@gspcsq.org
Website / Newsletter Editor	Chris Schleiter
Information on Stephen Ministry	www.stephenministries.org

Church Leadership 2023

Session

Class of 2023	Alicia Kitzman	435-272-4614	Growth & Care
	Deanna Flores	407-488-5460	Christian Ed
Class of 2024	Ruth Ann Horvath	435-922-5271	Clerk of Session
	Mary Contreras	435-229-8753	Fellowship
	Chris Schleiter	435-619-2843	Mission/Outreach
Class of 2025	Leslie Lintz	412-403-9980	Stewardship
	Ruthanne Skinner	541-510-5660	Worship
	Tom Contreras	530-440-8484	Building/Grounds

Deacons

Parish	Deacon	Phone
Deacons	Peggy Graber	801-541-7444
	Moderator	
Bloomington	Candy Hurlbut	435-879-9394
Bloomington Hills	John Graber	801-608-4158
Hurricane	Sue Lundgreen	778-368-3054
Quail Creek	Marilyn Conklin	928-460-0608
Red Cliffs	Ann McLuckie	435-680-1062
Santa Clara/Ivins	Jesse Henderson	404-859-3408
	Melissa Henderson	404-859-2128
Sun River	Mona Johnson	408-799-7166
Washington	Ka-Wai Yu	812-340-2184



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
Saint George UT 84771-1499

Address Service Requested

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

If you are not a member of the church and no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let us know by emailing newsletter@gspcsg.org and we will remove you from our mailing list. Thank you.

gspcsg.org

The newsletter is also available on our website