



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith

From the Pastor's Pen

Where Are We in the Interim Period?

"So when are we going to get a new pastor?" That's a question that bubbles around during every interim period in every church, and Good Shepherd is no exception. The chart below outlines the major steps in the process—the next one for us is the Mission Study, which we will most likely get started in October. The purpose of this Study is for all of us to take a step back and figure out who we've been, who we are, and who we think God is calling us to be—so that we can determine what gifts and skills will be needed in the next pastor.



Pastor Leaves Daris left in January.

Interim Pastor Begins I was called by the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee on April 26, was approved by Session on May 25, and began on June 8.

Church Conducts Mission Study and Writes Report Our Mission Study will provide opportunities for everyone in the church to participate. Part of the Mission Study will include an assessment of the church's finances.

Congregation Elects Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) This cannot be done until the Mission Study is complete (probably early 2018), though the church's Nominating Committee may start thinking about nominees to serve on the PNC before then.

PNC Writes Ministry Information Form (MIF) The MIF is the job description for pastor of Good Shepherd. It needs to present the church both honestly and compellingly.

Session and Presbytery (Committee on Ministry—COM) approve MIF We turn to our partners to help make sure the MIF is the best it can be.

MIF Is Added to the Church Leadership Connection (online) The Presbyterian system of matching candidates to churches is a lot like internet dating. Once our MIF is up on the system, we will automatically be matched to some candidates, and others will find us and self-refer.

PNC Reviews, Interviews, Reference Checks Potential Candidates This usually takes several months—sometimes even a year or more.

PNC Chooses a Pastoral Candidate This is the result of much prayer and attention to the Holy Spirit.

COM Approves Candidate The presbytery does the final reference checking and questioning of the candidate.

Candidate Meets and Preaches for Congregation/Congregation Votes to Call We all say, "Thanks be to God!" After the vote, it usually takes a few weeks for the new pastor to finish up at her or his current position and move to the Joppa area. During this time, the congregation will be bringing the interim period to a close and getting ready for the new pastor.

If you have questions or concerns about any of this, please let me know.

Blessings, Jeanne



What's Been Happening This Summer?

Summer may seem like "low season" in a church's life, but we've actually accomplished a lot thus far.

The Nominating Committee found candidates for **all** the seats on both Session and the Board of Deacons. Those folks have been elected by the congregation, will be ordained and installed on Sept. 10, and will begin their work right away.

We've started "culling the rolls." ([See article below](#))

The new playground has been completed and is being enjoyed by the children in our childcare center almost every day. (Thank you, Jim, Gary, Wayne, Mike, and Mike!) Next up: the parking lot.

Farrell and I have done the initial planning for worship through the end of November.

I've spent a lot of time getting ready for a new year of Session, including new elders, new committee responsibilities, and new ways of doing things.

The same is true for the Board of Deacons, as we imagine how best to live up to what the *Book of Order* calls a ministry of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress." (G-2.0201)

The staff has been working on entering into an agreement with a technology support company to make sure we can depend on our computers, projectors, and printer/copier.

We've enjoyed wonderful guest musicians and terrific worship all summer, including an outstanding outdoor worship and picnic on August 13 and a "guest" preacher, Bob Barr, on August 27.

At the request of the Women's Group, I've begun to plan a Women's Retreat, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, titled *Feeding Our Hungers: Beyond Wine and Chocolate*. (Save the date—more information coming soon!)

I've met with all of the current elders, and some others in the congregation, to get to know them and their dreams for the church.

And lots more stuff behind the scenes!

Culling the Rolls

Every Presbyterian church keeps a "roll" of its members and submits those numbers each year to the larger church (presbytery and General Assembly). Membership numbers are used to determine the amount the church will pay in "per capita" fees and, in this presbytery, the salary range for the pastor.

Good Shepherd's rolls have not been examined in a number of years, and it's pretty clear that there are a lot of people on that list who have not attended or supported the church in, well, a long time. In some cases, over 10 years.

A group of people, headed by Dorothy Burns, have been going through our rolls to determine which people are actually active members of the congregation. The plan is to send letters to people who have neither attended nor supported the church in more than two years, asking them if they would like to remain on the rolls and inviting them back into active membership.

There are several reasons it's important for a church to have accurate rolls:

Financial Savings

- ⇒ We pay a yearly *per capita* fee (a way of supporting the presbytery and General Assembly) for each person on our rolls. That fee has been a bit over \$30 the last few years. We've estimated that reducing our official membership number will save us over \$3,000 a year.
- ⇒ The salary range for a pastor depends to a great extent on the size of the congregation. Culling the rolls now means that the salary of the incoming pastor will be more in line with what the existing congregation can afford.

Appearance to Candidates

- ⇒ Pastoral candidates look at the size of the congregation in comparison to the church's average worship attendance. If a church claims 250 members but sees an average of 65 in worship, the candidate is going to wonder why so many people aren't attending. An average worship attendance of 65 looks much healthier in a church of 100 members!
- ⇒ Candidates also look at the church's average giving per member, to see where it ranks in comparison with the giving of Presbyterians across the country. I have to tell you that I was quite concerned, when I started here, to see statistics showing that Good Shepherd's average giving was only half of the national average. I soon learned that the statistics show that because, on the official rolls, the church has far more members than is actually true.

Knowing Who We Really Are

- ⇒ Coming to terms with the real size of the church is also important when it comes to knowing who we really are. As Good Shepherd prepares to look for a new pastor, we need to be able to recognize and claim our values, our strengths and weaknesses, our history ... and our numbers.



Deacons

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Christmas in July a great success. Your donations were greatly appreciated and delivered to Harford Family House.

Thank you to all who helped with our Annual Picnic. It was a successful and fun day. We had a wonderful service, beautiful music, excellent weather and an abundance of food. As always any feedback is appreciated. Let us know what you liked or didn't like. Your ideas are always welcomed!

The deacons will be meeting September 6th, at 6:45pm. We are excited to welcome our new deacons and welcome back the "recharged" current members.

COFFEE HOUR—Pot luck Sunday is September 3rd. Remember to bring a covered dish.

We also need people to sign up for coffee hour. We would like to see some new names on the list. Everyone is encouraged to take a turn. Partner up with one or more people. Make it a light fare...Coffee and doughnuts, hey now there's an idea! If we wish to continue this social time we need a few more hands. You will find the sign up sheet in the Narthex. THANK YOU!

FOOD PANTRY—offering of non-perishable food, personal hygiene, or paper products, such as tp or paper towels.

Shepherd's Kids

Time for Shepherd's Kids!

What a joy it is to meet with our children on the second and third Wednesday of each month, as we share the joys of being a family in Christ. If you have never been a part of this ministry, we invite you to join us. We begin at 5:30 with dinner. We gather in groups, with an adult at each table. We always start by giving thanks for the blessings we share. After dinner we break into groups and enjoy stories, art activities, and music. We are always looking for new ideas to teach and entertain our children.

Our first meeting will be September 13, 2017. We look forward to sharing this joy and ministry with all who would care to join us.

Women's Association



Our new year is starting with a new Bible Study and new program offerings!

ALL women of Good Shepherd are automatically members of the **Good Shepherd Women's Association** and we invite you to attend any or all of our upcoming events.

Our first Bible Study will be on **Thursday, September 14 at 10:00**. See the separate Yarn announcement which explains all about this event. Bring a lunch for our after-study fellowship.

On September 28 at 10:00 we will have our first **4th Thursday Program**.

Jeana Talbot, Director of GSPC Child Care Center will have a discussion on the **"Community"** of the Center including children, teachers, and parents' relationships. She will give us a tour and explain some of the daily happenings at the Center. She will also present some current needs to which we could contribute.

A big **THANK YOU** to the congregation for the many backpacks that were donated to Riverside Elementary!!!

The First Sunday Food Pantry donation drive has also been quite successful! It has drawn our attention to the needs of our community and of how many use this needed mission of our church. Again, **THANKS YOU!!**



Officers

ELDERS:

Class of 2018

Gary Workman
Mary Kaye Kent
Jerry Tich
Lynn Villa

Class of 2019

Sounghee Baranowski
Hazel Morgan
Gail Wronowski

Class of 2020

Cindy PreVatte
Ellie Pfoutz
Farrell Maddox
Mike Bohns
Valerie Davis

DEACONS:

Class of 2018

Becky McKemy
Norma Webster
Susan Luu

Class of 2019

Clay Maas
Elaine Tich
Chris Bohns

Class of 2020

Redet Fiseha
Ashley Andrews
Allen Wronowski

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Is Collecting Money for Victims of
Hurricane Harvey

We will be sending the donations to Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance (PDA), which already has an
infrastructure and teams in place, and has an
excellent record of getting the money to the people
who need it. If you would like to contribute, you
can do so in any of these ways:

Give through Good Shepherd Church, with either
cash (in an envelope marked Hurricane Harvey)
or check (made out to Good Shepherd
Presbyterian and noted as a Hurricane Harvey
donation).

Donate \$10 by texting "PDA" to 20222. You'll be
asked to confirm with "YES" for a donation to
the Presbyterian Church (USA). Give online at

Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 14, 2017—10:00 – 11:30—Upper Room

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews



OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY: (From the author, Melissa Bane Sevier) The Letter to the Hebrews is a significant book of
the Bible, and is also significantly different from every other book in the Bible. It consists of thirteen chapters, all of
which are packed with theology, metaphor, comparisons and spirituality. Our study will focus on nine major themes with
an overarching motif of community, those groups in which we study and worship, our family and friends, social and
therapy groups that all are a part of us...our Cloud of Witnesses. Begin thinking about those people who have sustained
you in your life and faith.

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 1 – In Community with Jesus Christ

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-5:6; 7:26-28; Genesis 14:18-20

MAIN IDEA: Jesus, the Christ, is the basis of all of our faith and action, individually and as a faith
community.



Ushers / Tellers

Ushers:

Jan. 1 Petnic, Workman
Jan. 8 Tich, McKemy, Morgan
Jan. 15 Douglas, Webster, Starke
Jan. 22 Maas, Wronowski

Tellers:

Bohns, Terry
Starke, Webster
Tich, Pfoutz
Kent, PreVatte

Prayer List

Philip Pugh, Wayne Weich, Lesley & Mike Pinkosz,
Diana Ciccotelli, Rodger & Vyona Bultena, Ed
Matthai, Mike McKemy, Darlene Burton, Lynda Bates,
Suzy Phillips, Michael & Lesley Pinkosz, Carolyn
Bartlett, Carol, The Barnes Family, John Sapp, Bill
Hanna, Steve Morgan, Millie Fike, Edie Burns,
Dr. Whiteford, Lynn Villa, Tommy

gsprayers@juno.com





SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday, 3	Worship 11:00 Readers Training Following Worship 1st Sunday Pot Luck Lunch 1st Sunday Food Pantry Sunday	
Monday, 4	Office, Day Care Closed	
Tuesday, 5	Harford County Schools Begin	
Wednesday, 6	Deacons 6:45 Choir 7:30	
Sunday, 10	Worship 11:00 Coffee 12:00	
Monday, 11	Pre-School, Pre-K Begin	
Wednesday, 13	Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00 Choir 7:30	
Thursday, 14	Women's Bible Study 10:00 Session 7:00	
Sunday, 17	Worship 11:00 Coffee 12:00	
Wednesday, 20	Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00 Choir 7:30	
Thursday, 21	Susquehanna Parish Ministry 7:00	
Sunday, 24	Worship 11:00 Coffee 12:00	
Wednesday, 27	Choir 7:30	
Thursday, 28	Women's Association 10:00	

New Address

Jenna and Seaver Shunk
1049 Plaza Circle, Joppatowne,
MD 21085

Bob and Dorothy Burns
361 Tufton Circle
Fallston, MD 21047
443-243-0325
Dorothy.burns21@gmail.com
office@holy411.org

Anita Barret
205 Joppa Road
The Redgely Unit 2209
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-372-3692

Choir

Do You Ever Wonder What It Would Be Like To Sing In Our Choir?

You chance has come!! The choir rehearses every Wednesday night at 7:30. We invite all who would like to "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord Our God!" We will have a special rehearsal to kick the season off on Thursday, August 31, 2017. And then we will return to our routine schedule on September 6.

First Sunday

Food Pantry Collection Sunday

Please help our food closet by donating non-perishable food items. Cash donations are always welcomes.

Pot Luck Coffee Hour, bring something to share for coffee hour.

Happy & Happy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dorothy & Bob Burns
September 14, 1974

Jeanette & Jim Petnic
September 22, 1956

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 Katy Brown-Pollard
6 Marcia Goldberg
9 Susan Luu
10 Hazel Morgan
11 Zach Hale
16 Robert Terry
19 Michael Elonge

