



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith



From the Pastor's Pen

Gratitude

As we head into the month of November—Thanksgiving Month—my mind turns to gratitude. Among very many other things I'm thankful for, this year I'm full of gratitude to God for bringing me here to work with this wonderful congregation. There's a lot going on here to be excited about, some of which I'm including below.

What are you grateful for this November? I encourage you to develop a practice of gratitude. Some people I know don't get out of bed in the morning until they've thought of three things they're grateful for that day. Others post on Facebook every day in November to say what they're thankful for that day. Simply articulating what we're grateful for makes us happier. And I don't know about you, but I'm awfully grateful for happiness!

Women's Retreat

On Saturday, November 4, almost 20 of us will gather at Christ Our King Presbyterian in Bel Air for a women's retreat, at which I will lead a program called *Feeding Our Hungers: Beyond Wine and Chocolate*. We will look at the story of Adam and Eve and talk about the "hungers" that led them to eating the fruit of the tree and being expelled from Eden. We'll explore the question of where our hungers come from. Could God give them to us? Could they be the invitation to a quest?

I'm looking forward to sharing time with these women. And maybe eating some chocolate?

Adult Sunday School

Did you know that a motley group of about a dozen Good Shepherd-ites have been meeting every Sunday morning at 9:30 to study the Bible? They're having a good time, and their revolving team of teacher facilitators are enjoying themselves as well. You're welcome to join them, any Sunday in the Upper Room.

All Saints Sunday



My mother hated having her picture taken, but after she died five years ago, we came across some photos from her younger years, including this one from when she was in college. It reminds me that she was a lovely woman in her own right, not just as Mom to six children.

I'll be bringing a picture of my mother to worship on **November 5**, as we remember the "saints" of the church and in our families. If there's someone you'd like to honor on All Saints Sunday this year, please bring a picture of them or a memento that reminds you of them. We'll put them all on tables in the front of the sanctuary to remind us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses ... and to remember their lives in gratitude and love.



The Yarn

Stewardship

You'll soon receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee asking you to make a pledge of giving for 2018. I'm hoping you'll see this more as an opportunity than as an obligation. An opportunity—a holy opportunity—in that we are created in God's image and are part of God's beloved family, and because God is the Great Giver, we are also created to be givers. It feels **good** to give because giving is part of our heavenly DNA.

Sharing the "Good" in Good Shepherd

If someone has a bad experience as a consumer, they are five times more likely to tell others about it than if they had a good experience. Complaining about our institutions—stores, medical practices, government offices—is a national pastime! It even extends to churches, where we find it easy to notice all the things the church is doing "wrong."

To counteract that trend, we're starting an occasional series of short talks during worship about what's **good** at Good Shepherd. Bill Starke will do the first one on October 29 about how he was and is welcomed into the Good Shepherd family.

What about you? Do you see something that this church does well? If you'd like to share about it during worship, please talk to Ellie Pfoutz or Rev. Gay.

Women's Bible Study

Thursday, November 16, 2017—10:00-11:30—Upper Room



(Please note that this is a different date than the usual second Thursday.)

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 3 – In Community with the LIVING WORD

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 1:1-3a; Genesis 1:1-5; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 1:5, 14; Hebrews 4:12-13

MAIN IDEA: Hebrews describes *God's word as both living and active*. God's word challenges, supports, and encourages us to look inward and live the most faithful lives we can.

CONTEMPLATION: Think of an act of compassion that you are willing and able to practice that you would want in a covenant (promise) with God.

Prayer leader: Jeanette Cloud of Witnesses: Elaine Hospitality: Ruth & Jeanette

BRING LUNCH



Thanksgiving Turkeys



Again this year Good Shepherd will be giving away turkeys to our Food Closet Friends. We receive the turkeys and food boxes from the Giving Boxes Program at Christ Our King. Again this year we will be adding to the menu by giving fresh food items; milk, butter, bread, fruit, pies, salad, and potatoes. Please sign up in the narthex to donate as many of these items as you can. All food items should be brought in on November 19 due to lack of storage.



We will need help on Saturday, November 18 at 9:00 am at Christ Our King to pack the boxes. Then on November 20 we will need help in our parking lot to distribute 25 turkeys and food items 1:00-4:00 pm.

Session Highlights: October 12, 2017

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of what's going on at Session meetings, we are committing to reporting on each meeting in the next *Yarn*.

Church members are always welcome at Session meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Mission Study - The first of three ministry assessments is planned for Sunday, November 12, following worship. The assessments will assist us as we search for a new pastor. The focus of this gathering will be on our past history and how it relates to who we are as a congregation. The other two assessments are scheduled for January 7, 2018 and February 11, 2018.

The Women's Retreat - The retreat, to be led by Rev. Gay, will be Saturday, November 4 at Christ Our King Presbyterian, 10 Lexington Rd. and Rt 924 in Bel Air. The subject will be Feeding Our Hungers: Beyond Wine and Chocolate. Bring a friend. The sign up sheet is in the hallway across from the offices.

Inter-Faith Relations - Ashley Barnes Andrews spoke to the session about the proposed Ahmadiyya Muslim community building homes for their senior population in Joppa. The proposal has caused some unease in the community and the Ahmadiyya community is holding outreach meetings at the Joppa Magnolia Fire Hall on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. The Session plans to gather additional information on the issue and consider creating a subcommittee to plan any potential outreach opportunities for GSPC.

Parking Lot Project - The parking lot is almost completed. There is some work to be done around the curbs and landscaping put in between the church and the library.

Review of Membership Rolls - The review of church membership rolls to determine who are active church members is almost complete. Letters will soon be sent 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.



The Yarn

Deacons

Deacons are researching recipients for a Giving Tree. It was suggested we return to this type of outreach. This will present the opportunity to buy gift for a child. We should have more information available the early part of November.



FIRST SUNDAY

Food Pantry Collection Sunday Please help our food closet by donating non-perishable food items. Cash donations are always welcomed.

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

Shepherd's Kids

In October the children heard stories and talked about families and about being anything they want to be when **they grow up. Noah's Ark was the topic for a small group of older ones.** The Children learned about the different shapes of leaves and colored pictures of them. They loved the **memory game with cards showing Noah's Ark animals, and they colored pictures from Noah's Ark.**



NEXT SK: November 8 & 15—5:30-7:00

Happy & Happy



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Norma & Bill Webster
November 5, 1966

Gail & Allen Wronowski
November 15, 1992

Yong & John Pandoliano
November 21, 1979

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11 Chuck Lawson
12 Steve Rapley
13 May Andrews
18

Bud Baranowski
Brad McKemy
19 Yong Pandoliano
22

Eposi Elonge
Benjamin Zanca
30 Rita Garrity

The Deacons would like the church family to know your important day! If we do not have yours in our file, please notify Ellie Pfoutz, 410-679-4813.

Ushers

Ushers:

Nov. 5 Petnic, Workman

Tellers

Nov. 12 Tich, McKemy, Morgan

Nov. 19 Douglas, Webster, Starke

Readers

Nov. 26 Maas, Wronowski

Tellers:

Bohns, Kent

Starke, Webster

Pfoutz, Tich

PreVatte, Workman

Readers:

V. Maas

C. Maas

E. Burns

S. Thompson



NOVEMBER 12 ALL-CHURCH GATHERING



60's

Have you noticed the photos on the wall in the Upper Room? Pictures from each of the decades Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church has existed. We'll be looking at those photos and telling the stories they remind us of in our All-Church Gathering on November 12. We'll gather right after worship that day, with lunch in the Upper Room, and we'll be out in an hour and a half.



70's

This gathering will be the first part of the ministry assessment required before we can start looking for a new pastor. (The second and third gatherings will be on January 7 and February 11.)

In order to create a successful assessment, we need your voices and stories, prayers and presence. The team working on this (Norma Webster, Elaine Tish, Cindy PreVatte, Farrell Maddox, Chris Bohns, and Jeanne Gay) has planned a fun and fruitful time for us that Sunday. Please plan to be there!

We're hoping that many people will attend as we begin looking at how our history has shaped us and what we have learned about ourselves as a congregation.



80's



90's



2000's



2010's





The Yarn

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

Prayer List

Philip Pugh, Wayne Weich, Lesley & Mike Pinkosz, Diana Ciccotelli, Rodger & Vyona Bultena, Ed Matthai, Mike McKemy, Suzy Phillips, Bill Hanna, Steve Morgan, Dr. Whiteford, Steve Rapley, Gail Wronowski, Jody, Gene Slater, All those suffering from the wildfires in California, Frank T, The Pinkosz Family,

gsprayers@juno.com



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Wednesday, 1

Deadline for Women's Retreat Sign-up

Deacons 6:30

Choir 7:30

Saturday, 4

Women's Retreat 9:00—Christ Our King

Sunday, 5

Day Light Saving Ends—Fall Back

Adult Sunday School 9:30

Worship 11:00

Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 8

Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00

Choir 7:30

Thursday, 9

Session 7:00

Sunday, 12

Adult Sunday School 9:30

Worship 11:00

New Pastor Mission Study Lunch 12:00

Wednesday, 15

Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00

Choir 7:30

Thursday, 16

Women's Bible Study 10:00

Saturday, 18

Thanksgiving Boxes Packed Christ Our King

Sunday, 19

Adult Sunday School 9:30

Worship 11:00

Coffee 12:00

Thanksgiving Food Collection Day

Good Shepherd Turkey Give Away

Monday, 20

Choir 7:30

Wednesday, 22

Happy Thanksgiving

Thursday, 23

Office, Day Care Closed

Friday, 24

Adult Sunday School 9:30

Sunday, 26

Worship 11:00

Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 29

Choir 7:30

