

the Shepherd's Watch – September, 2009

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Newsletter



*"We are an imperfect people, who,
in response to God's grace,
are striving to live as disciples of Jesus Christ."*

Dear Friends:

You're noticing changes around here I suspect. Such as the trees coming down to prepare a drive to the new church van parking area, the availability of new color brochures, children in and out at all hours of the day (at least beginning Sept. 8)... All these changes are expressions of new and exciting commitments to setting goals and accomplishing them. If we have been faithful, we will find that God's plans are taking shape right before our eyes. There is a corollary—if we are not being faithful to God's call, all that's happening will ... what... fail? How many successful people do you know who seem oblivious to the work of Holy Spirit in their lives, yet their work flourishes?

So if success is not measured by whether or not new opportunities for growth "succeed," how shall we measure our decisions and our faithfulness? The tasks of interim ministry provide some guidelines that I have found helpful over the years. As we are concluding my time with you, here's a brief overview.

History: Have we considered where we've been and intentionally used what we learned to discern where we may be headed? Are we reactionary (danger—not so helpful if this is where we are) or have we behaved responsively to our history (a positive thing)?

Emerging with a new identity: Has our self-reflection and our interim study left us stuck in old patterns of ministry or helped us think and act in new ways about our mission and focus?

Raising up new leaders: Has the interim period been a time of inviting new people to step into leadership, and have we given them the authority to accomplish their tasks?

Denominational relationships renewed: Have we reconnected to our heritage both in theology and practice? Are there concrete expressions of being Presbyterian that we can identify?

Commitment to a new future and new leadership: Will we still be saying, "we've never done it that way before," or will we be able to accept new opportunities with joyful confidence and an experimental "why not" attitude? Will we give our new pastor the chance to introduce her or his vision and welcome the possibilities that come with new life?

As you consider the past year, take note of the changes that have and continue to come and evaluate our success in preparing Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church to call a new pastor, I hope you will find Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church growing broader in faith, higher in hope and deeper in love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After all, this is our true calling as disciples of the Lord.

I will be writing a report for the Session giving my overall evaluation of the above. I invite you to share your reflections with us as well. Drop me an email or send the Session a note. As we begin our goodbyes, thank you for sharing your lives with me and for our mutual ministry together this year. I have grown in faith and wisdom as a result of being in your presence and at your service. May we both know the voice of our Good Shepherd as we enter the next phase of our calling and may we have the courage and wisdom to follow Christ wherever we are led. Until we meet again at the table of our Lord, we remain,

One in Christ,
Beverly

Financial Update

Brothers and Sisters:

As is common in establishing budgets, the Session is making mid-year adjustments. However, because we changed our fiscal year, the adjustments are quite different as we are looking toward the January-June, 2010 period as well, to create a 12-month new fiscal year budget. Below are the numbers for the end of the half-year, Jan-June, 2009. You will see that these are not very inspiring figures. In fact, they are numbers that have shaken up things a bit this summer, especially as we paid expenses in July.

Upon reviewing the status of our accounts with the Treasurer, I decided it was time to revive the Finance Team to do some investigation, and make recommendations about our budget, our financial processes and opportunities for increasing revenue. The Time and Talent forms produced some help in identifying people who were willing to serve and had the necessary gifts.

Your Finance Team is: Rose Magoon, Karen Sutton, and Mary Thurmond along with C&R Elders: Dave Lux, Michelle Marietta, and Carol Price. Rose is a CPA and Chief Financial Officer for a firm in California, Karen is a CPA and Certified Financial Planner, and Mary, with her background managing multi-million dollar health-care budgets, make these GSPC members a well-rounded team to lead our discussion and planning process. In addition, Dave Lux and Karen Sutton have met with the Personnel Committee (or a rep).

The Finance Team will be responsible for evaluating our current financial status, communicating all financial information to the Session and making recommendations to strengthen our position so that our ministry may continue in as full a capacity as possible. The Session will be responsible for making decisions about those recommendations and taking actions to stabilize our financial outlook and standing.

A preliminary report (after only one week of actual study and review by the Finance Team) was given to the Session at its August meeting. This revealed that our operating fund is decreasing significantly faster than expected in light of several factors: decreased revenues, normal changes in cash flow for the summer months as trips occur and revenue decreases, the timing of preschool revenue not resuming until Fall, and significant expenses for upgrading the building to meet fire safety codes and security needs. However, this first look suggests a continuation of deficit spending that is greater than a simple cash flow problem and it cannot continue. Thus we have a clear need to reevaluate our revenues and expenses immediately and to balance the budget now.

The Session will receive a full review from the Finance Team at our next meeting in September. After hearing that report, we will give the congregation a full review of our financial standing and the actions of the Session to balance our budget. We anticipate hosting a "town hall" meeting for anyone who wants to discuss this further. We expect the Elders will define some very tangible changes in order to balance our budget and we expect to come to you and ask you to help in some very concrete ways.

In the meantime, if you have pledged, please review and make sure you are current. If you have questions before the Session makes its report to you, please feel free to call Beverly Friedlander, Dave Lux or any member of the Finance Team. In Christ, Beverly

1/1/09 to 6/30/09	
Total Revenue	\$282,460
Total Expenses	\$326,861
Net Deficit	(44,401)

from the Personnel Committee:

Pastor Beverly Friedlander's contract ends November 2, 2009. With vacation days and personal days, her last day at Good Shepherd will be September 20, 2009. She has done an outstanding job leading our church these past fifteen months, and we wish her well as she seeks God's call.

Associate Pastor Joe Evans will lead our church until our new senior pastor is called. Pastor Evans led our church after Pastor Pittendreigh left and before Pastor Friedlander assumed the position of Interim Pastor. And Pastor Evans always does things well!

During this transition period, pray for Pastor Evans and the staff. The second thing you can do is check to see how you can help! You are God's hands on earth.

Susan Kintzler, Moderator of Personnel

from the Worship and Music Team :

MUSIC NOTES

Opportunities to Play and Serve

Good Shepherd Winds and Brass welcome adult and youth instrumentalists [with two or more years experience] to join them in worship leadership monthly and for special events. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings. All winds and brass are welcome and some instruments are available for loan [baritone horn, clarinet, alto clarinet and alto sax]. Bill Csuka is coordinator and arranger or call Emily Moon for information.

Handbell Ringers are needed! **Celebration Ringers** for adults and senior high youth begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. Music experience is preferred. Contact Emily Moon; limited positions are available.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Begin Wednesday, September 9 - 5:30 p.m.

SONBEAM CHOIR – Age 4 [by Sept. 1] – Kindergarten
Christian Education Bldg.; Janet Will, Director

CHERUB CHOIR – Grades 1 and 2
Adult Choir Area; Judy Donnelly, Director

HALLELUJAH CHORUS – Grades 3, 4, and 5
Adult Choir Room; Emily Moon and Harriet Woodward, Directors

PARENTS MEETING FOR ALL CHOIR PARENTS

September 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
Make this a GREAT SINGING YEAR!

Coming in October

October 4 at 4:00 p.m.
MUSIC AND MISSION CONCERT
Celebrating 35 Years of Music and Mission at Good Shepherd!

Communication Corner

- **"Watt did you say?"** No, that's not a misspelling. It's just a way to ask you to think about something. The June/July electric bill for Good Shepherd was \$2,739.00. That's a lot of money to power lights, provide comfort, and maintain security and other services. You can do the math - our 'levelized' billing (meaning an average monthly charge over the last 12 months) is about \$2,000 each month. That expense alone takes a big bite out of our general giving. So, this is a plea for all of us to be good stewards of God's facilities.

Be thoughtful about keeping windows closed, keep doors shut, turn lights off when not needed, and, most of all, refrain from adjusting the thermostats. In other words, just be aware of utility costs and savings the same as you would in your own home. Thanks!

- **News about the Newsletter!**

We have heard your requests for an email link to the Shepherds' Watch.

To reduce costs, prevent clutter in your mailbox, and save trees, we are "going green" and will soon be providing a link to the newsletter on our web page, www.goodshepherdpc.org. This month, new postal regulations requiring more labor intensive methods of sending out the newsletter will be in place, and there are more changes to come before the end of the year. In light of these factors, and the current economic slowdown, Good Shepherd will begin sending out an e-news once a month to announce "It's Here!" and provide a link to the newsletter on our web page. We know there are those who would prefer, and need to, receive the newsletter in the mail, and we are happy to continue sending it to your home by first class mail as long as you contact the front office by September 8 to let us know.



Our Sexton and Our Facilities:

Most of our members recognize that our church now has a Sexton – a manager of church facilities including custodial and maintenance duties. Mike Hurst has been a willing servant of Good Shepherd, helping us to be good stewards of our facilities. What a daunting task! And, we need to help Mike be as effective as possible by doing the following:

- ✓ Avoid the temptation to ask Mike to 'do this or that' at the last minute, therefore taking him away from scheduled tasks. Doing so makes it more difficult for him to complete a rather formidable list of chores within a very tight time frame;
- ✓ If you are in charge of a meeting or event at Good Shepherd (even if you are not present at the meeting or event), please do this: Insure that someone attending the event is the 'responsible individual' charged with securing the building at the close of the meeting or event by
 - Turning out the lights,
 - Returning the thermostats to pre-set levels (if they have been adjusted for you), and
 - Locking the doors

Remember that while Mike is being paid to be our Sexton, it should remain with all of us to be responsible stewards of our Lord's buildings. So, go ahead. Take out the trash. Clean up your mess or spill. Use a little elbow grease. Most people take care of what they value most.

Enhancement Funds:

The Session has voted to release the undesignated funds in the Enhancement Fund (approx \$11,000) to cover the enhancements in smoke and fire detection in the CE Building and the new sanctuary roof. The remaining money in the Enhancement Fund is designated for a bus garage. Plans were to initially build a structure near the Youth Building, but the initial estimate soon doubled due to County regulations. The new plan is to build a structure on the newly purchased property next door that will cover the buses, but not be visible

from the road (and hence subject to more County regulations). After the bus garage is complete, the Session has voted to release any remaining funds to the operating budget. **The Session requests that anyone who has made a contribution to the buses and does not want their portion of the remaining funds to be used for the operating budget must contact Mary Ann Hartman, Jack Sumpter, or Carol Price in writing. A form will be provided.**

from the Discipleship and Fellowship Team:

HOEDOWN

Sept. 12, 2009 - Red Arrow Ranch

Everyone come...

young, old and young at heart!!

Plan to join your fellow Good Shepherds at the Red Arrow Ranch for an old fashioned Hoe Down and Square Dance! We will begin at 4:00 pm with a covered dish picnic dinner. At 6:00 pm, we will move to the barn and square dance (or attempt to, anyway!!). We plan to finish at 8:00 pm.

We have a professional Caller, Bill McVey, who will be leading us. Come one and all, no experience necessary! He will teach us as we go. We should have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs!

All paper products and drinks will be provided. Bring enough food to share. Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship! See the poster in the Fellowship Hall for directions to Red Arrow Ranch.

The Military Support Group

The Military Support Group has been meeting for two months on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We are working on a bulletin board with pictures of military families. If you would like your family's pictures included, please place them in Tom Saroka's mailbox in the CE Building.

If you have served in the U.S. military, we would like to have your permission to post your name with our Veterans on the bulletin board. Please e-mail Alice Saroka at AZGS@bellsouth.net. John Pettay is looking into a group of people volunteering at the USO Center at Hartfield Airport. Let us know if you are interested.

Thanks for your prayers for our service men and women who are listed in the bulletin each week.

From the Senior Shepherds

Day Trips

The Sr. Shepherds have some great trips planned. We welcome anyone who would like to go with us. Contact Faye Crissman at 770-651-7068 or fscrissman@yahoo.com to let us know you would like to join us on these trips!

Tues. Sept 22 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA
\$6.00 entrance fee& \$3.00 gas

Tues Oct 27 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Leaf Trip North Ga & Apple Farm
\$9.40 lunch \$4:00 gas
Lunch at Amicolola Falls Restaurant

Nov. Trip To Blue Willow Details announced later.

Wed., Dec 2 10:00 am

Christmas Show at Aurora Theatre
\$16.00 - **Reservations by Sept. 1.**

World Famous Luncheon:

The next World Famous Luncheon is Thursday, Sept.17, at 12:45 pm. **IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL THE A-#1 CHEFS:** Reverse your August cooking instructions and prepare one of your favorite dishes to share with the entire group. One month off is all you get! Paul can hardly wait.

We have read and heard about the many Mission Trips taken by members of Good Shepherd to Haiti for many years. Some of those who represent us have been so often I doubt they can remember how many trips they have made. We have an opportunity to **see a pictorial representation** of one of the latest trips presented by Mike Thurmond. We will all be proud of what these represent. Bring a friend.

AND IN CLOSING: Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

from the Missions and Outreach Team :

The Gilead House: The Gilead House is Good Shepherd's very own mission. It is the brick ranch-style house across the parking lot from the church. Although the house has been owned by the church for a long time, it became a mission house for transitional living for homeless families in October 2008, after a huge effort by the congregation to refurbish and furnish the house.

The church partners with Action Ministries, a non-profit organization, which has been in the business of helping homeless families become self-sufficient for many years. The church provides and maintains the house and Action Ministries provides the screening of families and the ongoing case management. Our congregation also provides a support team for the families, providing some physical goods as well as services such as tutoring, assistance with resumes and job skills, etc.

Our first resident lived in the house from November 2008 until July 2009. During this time she was assisted in signing up for GED classes, received tutoring, accumulated clothing for herself and her children, received help in making up a resume and cover letter, had skills training in applying for jobs, obtained help in getting some personal business taken care of, and had a car purchased for her by the congregation. She left to continue her GED studies and work toward suitable employment. Hopefully we will have a new family by the time this newsletter is published!

There are some opportunities for people to work in meaningful ways in this ministry. The following is a list of opportunities, and you may be just the person to take on one of these jobs!

1. **Manager of the House Maintenance:** This job requires performing/organizing routine maintenance and upkeep on the house, as well as calling plumbers, etc. when necessary. (The house was completely over hauled last year, so no large surprises should be in store). You may be a home handyman, or you may just be someone with good organizational skills who can call volunteers or professionals when needed.
2. **Yard Manager:** A landscape company is now mowing the lawn, but occasional yard work is needed to trim bushes, weed-wack, etc. This person would plan and organize work days.
3. **Support Team Leader:** This person will keep in contact with the case manager from Action Ministries, and with her guidance organize assistance as needed for the client. They will be the person who interfaces with the resident and the congregation to assist our residents with needs such as tutoring, donations of clothing, etc.

Want more information or want to volunteer? Contact Susan Jones at 770-972-6803 or susanjones7@comcast.net.

Preschool News: This summer had been a VERY busy time for our children's weekday ministry! Many of us have been hard at work over the past several months as we updated our facility and learned more about what it means to be a licensed school and child care facility. I am so happy to report that all of the hard work and prayers have paid off, and we are now licensed!!

Thank you to the many members of our congregation who pitched in to make this ministry a reality! Thank you to those who painted bathrooms, cleared out the brush from the back of the CE building, raked mulch, stripped wallpaper, worked with various government agencies, and much more! It has been a joy to see so many members of our congregation embrace the idea that this is truly where God has been leading our school. With the license, we will now be able to offer parents so many options for their child. Our hours will be Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and we will serve children between the ages of 12 months and 4 years of age. We are excited to be offering parents a four hour preschool day, early morning care from 7:30-9:30, afternoon care from 1:30-3:00 pm and extended day care from 1:30-6:00.

The teachers have returned, the classrooms are ready, and school begins on September 8th. Enrollment is looking great! The numbers have already far exceeded where we were at the end of last year, and many of our parents are taking advantage of our new services. There are only a few spaces left for the fall, so help us spread the word about Good Shepherd Preschool and Extended Day!!!

Pam McClure, Director

Remember! September is “Stock the Pantry” month at Good Shepherd. The Lilburn Co-op is depending largely on our church to provide food for our community . Beginning August 30th, pick up a paper bag with a food list attached from the Narthex. Fill the bag with groceries, add a few plastic bags full of groceries, and bring it all to the room connecting the Narthex to Fellowship Hall. Or just pick up a food list and get your bags at the grocery store! If you can only afford one item, that is one item for a hungry person! Clean your own pantry and bring those items you do not need!

The Haiti Mission Team will be leaving on Oct. 17, and requests donations for the following:

Soap and washcloths,
Toothbrushes & paste,
Small children’s underwear,
Medicine bottles,
Ziploc bags, and
Suitcases that can hold 50#,
are on rollers, and
that do not need to be
returned.

The First Mark of Discipleship: PRAY DAILY:
“They will call on my name , and I will answer them” *Zech. 13:9*

PRAY FOR:

Bob Rogers, Frank Grantham's brother-in-law, diagnosed with cancer.
Jim Hodges, recovering from radiation & chemotherapy.
Jennifer Hill, in treatment for stomach cancer.
Roy Stainbrook, multiple health concerns.
Dick MacNary, multiple health concerns.
Joel Price, Joshua Price's father.
Mafalda Ferraro, Mary Well’s mother, lumpectomy, 8/25.
Dee Dee Edelstein, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Snellville.
The Pastor Nominating Committee
Christian Sympathy:
Roy Stainbrook, whose sister died 8/6.

PRAY FOR OUR SENIORS AND HOME BOUND

MEMBERS: Alice DeMore, Jean Herington, Fred & Dorothy Edwards, Dee Dee Edelstein, and Ruth Medlock.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: Katherine Alley, Brian Forester, Josh Jones, Tyler Moore (Ron Moore's nephew) (Iraq), Erin Pettay, John Pittendreigh, Nicholas Saroka (Afghanistan), Kristopher Stevens, Philip Wolfe (Germany), Jon Stainbrook (Afghanistan), Brandy Stephenson.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm in the Bridal Room. We welcome you to join us even if you do not know how to knit or crochet. We will teach you. Look for the yarn basket in the fellowship hall for information on this ministry. We always are in need of yarn for shawls. Please help us by donating money, gift certificates or skeins of yarn. It will be used for a wonderful cause.

October Birthdays

- 01 Katie Adcock
- 02 Bill Csuka, Bethany & Stephanie Leggett
- 03 Joan Fowler
- 04 Catherine Haynes
- 05 Tom Saroka, Scott Walker, John Culp
- 07 John Hicks, Scarlet Johnson
- 09 Sherrill Rutherford, Jack Sumpter, Beth Dunn, Cami Fox, Haley Thomson
- 10 Kyle Hurford
- 11 Kathy Benton, Brandon Hickman, Emily McClure
- 13 Eleanor Hill, Liz Bearden, Bob Johnston
- 14 Ethan Thurmond
- 15 Ginny Smith
- 16 Rick Hornbeck
- 17 Kathy Manning, John Fisher
- 18 Dawn Kelliher, Daniel Sauls
- 19 Jim Wood, Shelly Smart, Daniel Diener
- 20 Jackie Barker
- 21 Brittany Kimball
- 22 Marion Scott, Michelle Marietta
- 25 Bill Butler, Tom Macfie
- 26 David Duncan
- 27 Peggy Sumpter, Jane Edwards, Jean Ann Crites, Cindy Brown, Godlove Fomuteh
- 29 Anna Parker
- 30 Anne Dopson, Larry Martin, Katie Jensen

Many thanks for all the visits, food and "cheery cards" during my recent illness. It's so good to be up and about again. It is so good to be part of such a caring congregation. God bless you all, Alice DeMore

As your church staff, we want to be available to you when you need assistance:

Beverly Friedlander, Interim Pastor

bfriedlander@goodshepherdpc.org

Marlucia Damaceno Crispim, Commissioned Lay Pastor, Hispanic Fellowship,

igorma2@hotmail.com

Joe Evans, Associate Pastor

jevans@goodshepherdpc.org

Emily Moon, Director of Music Ministry

emoon@goodshepherdpc.org

Katie Gomola-Arnold, Director of Student Ministry

kgomola@goodshepherdpc.org

Mary Lynn Darden, Organist

mdarden@goodshepherdpc.org

Harriet Woodward, Music Associate

harrietw@bellsouth.net

Pam McClure, Dir. of Good Shepherd Preschool

pmclure@goodshepherdpc.org

Our Faithfulness to God - August, 2009

	Received	Needed
08/02/09	\$ 11,911.40	13,375.00
08/09/09	\$10,006.00	13,375.00
08/16/09	\$ 3,400.80	13,375.00
08/23/09	\$ 9,146.00	13,375.00

This Month:

- Sept. 1 Discipleship/Fellowship Team Mtg.
- Sept. 3 Preschool Parent Orientation
- Sept. 5 High School Fall Retreat
- Sept. 8 First Day of Preschool
Dorcas Circle Meeting
- Sept. 9 Hannah Circle Meeting
Wednesday Night Programs begin
- Sept. 12 Square Dance/Red Arrow Ranch
- Sept. 13 Worship/Music Team Meeting
Discipleship/Fellowship Team Mtg.
- Sept. 15 Pack 502 Scout Meeting
- Sept. 17 Sr. Shepherds Luncheon
- Sept. 19 Praise Ensemble Rehearsal
Youth Meeting/Hispanic Fellowship
- Sept. 20 Stated Session Meeting
- Sept. 22 Sr. Shepherds/Trip to Booth Western Art
Museum
- Sept. 26 Choir Advance
- Sept. 27 Monthly Ladies Luncheon

Visit our website at www.goodshepherdpc.org

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