



# The Shepherd's Voice

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## A MINUTE WITH MIKE

*O LORD, in Your strength [we] will be glad,  
and in Your salvation how greatly [we] will rejoice!  
You have given [us our] heart's desire,  
and You have not withheld [our] request of [our] lips.  
For You meet [us] with the blessings of good things;  
You set a crown of fine gold on [our] head.  
Psalm 20:1-3*

Happy February greetings to you and yours,

Hoping that you collect a Valentine or two and perhaps something sweet from someone sweet... And may this Newsletter find you seeking to give your heart to our Lord Jesus!

The Psalmist sings for joy as he acknowledges that God has given us everything, even our heart's desire, and that God has not withheld anything. Begs the question does it not, what is your heart's desire? Is it the Lord Jesus? Is He your "Valentine?"

We love God when we love one another! This month we have another special opportunity to love one another by attending the Heart of the Church Brunch after worship on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. We are so thankful to Anne and Dan for their willingness to prepare our brunch, and we'll share that meal together in the student center. Can I encourage you to bring a Valentine card to present to someone who has blessed you? Maybe you are thinking that a little note might cheer someone's heart. Let's just share in the Lord's love of us all as we sing with the Psalmist; *For You [O God], meet [us] with the blessings of good things; You set a crown of fine gold on [our] head.*

Let's celebrate God's amazing love of us, His love for all. And let's continue to share that love with one another, our families, neighbors, co-workers and community. That's my heart's desire!

Thank you for the joy and privilege of serving you here at GSPC!

Love,

*Mike*

## SESSION NEWS

### Pastor

Pastor Mike offered the following for consideration and discussion:

- The special informational meeting of the congregation this coming Sunday was discussed. Jim Miller reported on his meeting today with Unity's Elder Jerry Slagh. Mike is tentatively scheduled to preach at Unity on Feb. 10; Dr. Laura is preaching that Sunday at GSPC.
- Mike has scheduled a luncheon with the two chief executives of the Seminary at Houlihans for Feb. 4. The Elders are invited, and he will confirm the date.
- Leadership Training – after some discussion, it was decided to table further leadership training until further notice.
- Mike is continuing to gather photos of the members for a proposed photo book. Jim Miller will assemble the book and distribute via e-mail in PDF format. A limited number of books will be printed, depending on final cost.

**Adult Ed & Children's (Shauna Gipe)** – The Bible study class starts up again on January 13. Shauna is working on the curriculum for the children's classes.

**Nominating Team** – The nominating team directed by Gary Lehmann will meet soon, and members of the team are to be elected at the annual meeting. It was noted that we need one new Elder and perhaps one new Deacon.

**Hospitality** – Next potluck is planned for Sunday, Feb. 17 in the Seminary Student Center after worship.

**Missions** – It was noted that the Joyful Noise offering during the first four months of 2019 will go to Grace's Table since we missed them last year.

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – It was noted that the next ECO meeting will be the national gathering in Colorado Springs in January 2019. No one will be attending from GSPC. The next presbytery meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2019, in Fredericksburg, OH.

**Next Session Meeting(s)** – The next Stated Session meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 13**, at 7:00 PM at Pastor Mike's home. The next fellowship and prayer meeting at Mike's will be at 7:00 PM on February 19. Elders were urged to attend.

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 42,100	Balance on Hand as of 12/31/2018 (less following committed funds)
- 11,000	<u>Building Fund</u>
\$ 31,100	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds available as of last month were \$25,335.
- \$543 was distributed to the Forgotten Man Ministries from the Nov/Dec Joyful Noise Offering and matching funds from Missions.

## 2019 Budget

The Treasurer presented a corrected budget for 2019 due to a few last-minute pledges and the increase in Pastor Mike's health care package. The total effect on the budget was minor, with the projected loss now \$8,482. **A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurers recommended budget revision as submitted, and submit it to the Congregation for approval.**

## REQUESTED RECIPE

Several have asked that the Cranberry Bar recipe served at coffee be placed in the newsletter. Here it is, but for those with computers, it can be found in [#justapinchrecipes](#) minus my comments to myself:

Cranberry Bars & Cream Cheese Frosting

**Cook time:** 35 min **Prep time:** 15 min **Serves:** 30-40 small bars

### INGREDIENTS

1 stick butter, room temperature  
1 ½ c sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 ½ c flour  
½ tsp salt  
1 tsp baking powder  
2 c whole fresh cranberries  
½ c chopped pecans

### FROSTING

2 ½ c sifted confectioners' sugar\*  
4 oz cream cheese, softened  
¼ c butter, softened  
2 tsp milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract

(\*Confectioners' sugar to desired consistency. I added quite a bit more because I thought it was pretty soupy.)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350. Grease 13x9 baking pan.
2. In bowl, cream together butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Add flour, salt, baking powder, cranberries and nuts.
3. Spread batter into pan. Batter will be thick. (If too thick, add about 1/3 cup buttermilk or milk to loosen. I added about ¼ c.)
4. Bake in preheated oven 35-40 minutes. Cool completely.
5. Frosting: In bowl, beat together all ingredients adding confectioners' sugar until desired consistency.
6. Spread on cooled bars and cut into small squares.

## THE GIFT OF ANOTHER YEAR

(Devotional by Elmer A. Dickson submitted to "THE UPPER ROOM". This seems appropriate as we start another year just as it is for birthdays which was the intent of the author.

Read Psalm 139: 1-18

*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

*--Psalm 90:12 (NIV)*

At the retirement home where I live, I host the birthday dinners. Each month I share with the guests the verse quoted above. A birthday can be a time to take stock of life. How have we grown in God's grace? Have we learned to love our neighbors as God has loved us? Are we able to confess our shortcomings and to seek God's guidance so that our lives are more pleasing to the Lord?

Sometimes I also read Psalm 139 at the birthday celebration. It is a very personal recognition of God's place in our lives. The psalmist knew God deeply and felt the redeeming presence of his Maker, no matter what he did, where he traveled, or even if he was seeking to escape God's call in this life.

Whether we are young or old, we can seek the Lord's presence and commit our time to serve God and our fellow human beings.

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, help us to say yes to your guiding Spirit and to commit ourselves to faithful living in the days and years to come.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
Each year of life is an opportunity to  
grow in the knowledge of God.

## FEBRUARY DATES

1<sup>st</sup> (Fri.) Men's Breakfast 9:30am –  
Bob Evans  
3<sup>rd</sup> (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer meeting, 9:00am  
Study, 10:00am Worship, Communion /  
Bhama Cairns special music; LISTEN  
Team (Home Groups & Prayer) meeting  
after worship  
7<sup>th</sup> (Thur.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting  
1:00pm  
8<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) Seminary Chapel services begin –  
10:00am  
10<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer meeting, 9:00am  
Adult Study, 10:00am Worship, Rev. Dr.  
Laura Smit preaching; LOVE Team  
(Worship) meeting after worship  
13<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Session meeting 7:00pm  
15<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) Seminary Chapel service 10:00am  
17<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer meeting, 9:00am  
Adult Study, 10:00am Worship; Heart of  
the Church Brunch after worship service in  
Student Center  
19<sup>th</sup> (Tues.) Baynai's Home Group meeting  
7:00pm

21<sup>st</sup> (Thur.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting  
1:00pm  
22<sup>nd</sup> (Fri.) Seminary Chapel service 10:00am  
24<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:00am Prayer, 9:00am Adult  
Study, 10:00am Worship; LIVE Team  
(Mission & Media) meeting after worship

## FEBRUARY EVENTS – Sunday Services

3<sup>rd</sup> - Samaritas (Terraces) 3:30pm  
10<sup>th</sup> - Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:15pm  
17<sup>th</sup> - Vista Springs 2:00pm & 2:45pm  
24<sup>th</sup> - American House 3:00pm

## BIRTHDAYS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

2 Henry Gachini  
7 Elaine Miller  
24 Bob Schaafsma  
28 Carrie Barrett

## ANNIVERSARIES

6 Marv and Rose De Young

## REMINDERS

Pastor Mike continues with his camera seeking to find members for pictures for the FIRST Good Shepherd picture directory. If you have not done so, please see him to have your picture taken.

The Adult Bible Study Class has resumed with a 12-part study of the book of Genesis, a part of the "Knowing the Bible" series written by Mitchell M. Kim (J.I. Packer; Theological Editor). There is no cost for the book. It's not too late to join! For more information and to join the class speak with Pastor Mike.

Men of the church continue to gather every first Friday at 9:30am at Bob Evan's (M6 and Kalamazoo) for devotions and prayer. Mark your calendars (February 1) and plan on coming.

## WARMING EARS UPDATE

Colder weather of the winter months has finally arrived. That means our ladies who volunteer and sew warm hats for those in need have their sewing machines and sergers at work. Below is a report by

Diane Solomon updating the status of the Warming Ears mission project.

Warming Ears Mission started in 2000 to make hats for homeless people. Since then, we have donated over 52,000 hats. Over 15,000 hats have been donated each to In the Image and to a mission in Juarez that started in a garbage dump. We have donated almost 2,000 hats to the Santa Claus Girls. Our hats have gone to many local missions such as: Veterans Home, St John's Home, Cancer centers, Mel Trotter Ministries, DeGage Ministries, local schools, Holland Rescue Mission, the Bridge, Matthew's House, etc. This past year we donated 3,450 hats.

We were blessed a few years ago to get a wonderful donation from the Mission Committee that allowed us to work with Joann's Fabric and get fleece remnants for a very good price. We have saved many hundreds of dollars by getting these remnants at such good prices. We want to thank our Good Shepherd for helping us out with donations.

There are eight to nine of us, mostly retired ladies, who sew hats twice a month. We are always in need of helpers to fill in when our regular people can't make it. Sewing machine or serger is required. All our sewers bring their own machines which can be quite a task as these newer machines are not very light.

If you need more information, have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call or email Diane Solomon.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church is alive and well! However, that does not mean others are not welcome to join in the endeavors of this dedicated group.

In the past, they were a group of people numbering about 10-12. They had a place to meet and have social time and a nice pot luck meal! These conditions do not exist at the present in the current environment. However, the present group is still working at making a difference in people's lives which is the important thing.

There are currently about 12 or 15 prayer shawls waiting to be distributed. If you know someone who needs one or who just would be pleased to have one, please let Dana Bilyea know. She reports that they have provided about 70 scarves for homeless children in the last two years with only three knitters, but the group of Shirley, Marie, and Dana has recently been joined by Marjorie. Including prayer shawls, well over 100 items have been distributed since the inception at Good Shepherd Church.

More people are needed as the need is still great. Dana currently has two 18-gallon tubs full of yarn she'd be happy to share. If you are more into crocheting rather than knitting, that's not a problem. You're more than welcome, and they would love to have you.

Call Dana Bilyea if you have questions or need yarn.

### **LEARNING TEAM**

Adult Bible study has now started a series on Genesis and would love to have you join them before church at 9 A.M.

Children's ministry is happy to announce they have some new volunteers. Natlina Kenyi will be the classroom volunteer the first Sunday of the month, and Rachel Wahome the fourth Sunday. The Children's outing for February will be sledding at the Salvation Army Kroc Center on Saturday, February 9 at 1:30 P.M. with snacks provided.

