



# The Shepherd's Voice

6751 Avalon Dr. SE

Caledonia, MI 49316

Telephone - 616-822-9988

Email Address - [pastor@goodshepherdpres.com](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdpres.com)

Facebook Page - Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Grand Rapids

Website - [GoodShepherdPres.com](http://GoodShepherdPres.com)

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## A MINUTE WITH MIKE

*And we know, that God causes all things to work together for good,  
for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.  
(Romans 8:28)*

My Dearest brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus the Christ,

Warm summer greetings to you and yours! Hard to believe that summer has arrived. Graduations, summer plans and vacations, lawns to cut and gardens to tend, lots of wonderful activities, all under the loving guidance of our God and King!

I was struck by a comment my good friend and colleague made when asked the question, "What are some of the most difficult things you recall facing you as you planted your church years and years ago?" Rev. Tom Wilson, founder and pastor of Word of Faith Outreach Ministries on Eastern Ave, led our Leadership Training series last month. Tom told those of us who gathered to learn and grow in our faith, "The most difficult thing I faced was not with the church, but with myself. I could not see what God was doing and as a result, I was often fearful and anxious. Yet in spite of the fact that I could not see God "growing" my church, I had to trust Him that indeed, He was working, growing, building my church and The Church for Himself!"

I took great comfort in those words as I believe them to be true about me and our church. I can easily begin to measure the progress our family of faith is making through that which is "visible," but that completely discounts what we know better about God. He is working and has already done a work in us before we ever were! It's true in our personal and spiritual lives; it's true in our families and communities; it's true in our country and world; it's true at GSPC! He has a plan, and a purpose, and is lovingly and faithfully growing His church and people. Much like those seeds in your garden, there's something happening, even if we can't see it!

I would like to encourage you this month as we prepare to ordain and install new church officers not only to trust God, but to love Him, continue your devotion for Him, and do what you can to serve Him! God indeed has caused all things – to work together for good – for each of us! To the praise and glory of most Holy and Powerful name!

In His love and joy,

*Mike*

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## SESSION NEWS

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 11,883 Cash on Hand as of 4/30/2019  
25,036 Certificate of Deposit (Fifth/Third)  
(less following committed funds)  
- 11,000 Building Fund  
\$ 25,919 Uncommitted Funds Available

#### Notes:

- Uncommitted funds available as of last month were \$29,310; *\$3,391 more than this month.*
- We sent a check to Grace's Table for \$1,155.84 in April; \$577.92 each for Missions (matching funds) and Jan-Apr Joyful Noise Offering disbursement.

**Pastor** – Pastor Mike offered the following for consideration and discussion.

Session/Leadership Training – all agreed that the last session was excellent and that the guest moderator, Tom Wilson, did an outstanding job. It was suggested that perhaps we could do this quarterly and call it a “spiritual retreat.”

### Nominating Team

A discussion took place regarding proposed candidates, and Gary Lehmann advised that he had two candidates who have agreed to serve; Betty Rittersdorf and Bill Keating. The schedule will be as follows: First Announcement in the Bulletin May 26; Second Announcement June 2; and Congregational Meeting to Elect on June 9

### Children's Church

This was discussed at some length, particularly the need to find a replacement for Jared who will be leaving us in August. No action taken.

### Media/Marketing

Jim Miller reports that the Easter mailing was reasonably successful. It was estimated that we had five new visitors on Easter Sunday as well as two more the following Sunday who we believe came because of the mailer. Jim is looking for help with the web site and will contact Christine Williams to see if she's interested.

### Next Session Meeting

The next Stated Session meeting will be on Thursday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m.

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## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

The annual outdoor worship service and picnic will be held again at Shady Side Park in Dutton

on Sunday, July 14. More information will be found in the July newsletter.

## JUNE DATES

2<sup>nd</sup> (Sun.) Ascension Sunday: 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship & Communion, Bhama Cairns special music, LISTEN Team (Home Groups & Prayer) meeting after worship  
6<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
7<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) Men's Breakfast (Bob Evans – M6 @ Kalamazoo Ave.) 9:30am  
8<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) Barb Bailey's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party!  
9<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) Pentecost Sunday: 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship; Meeting of the Congregation immediately following worship: Election of Church Officers, LOVE Team (Worship) meeting after worship  
12<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Softball game #1 6:30pm  
13<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) Session Meeting 6:00pm  
15<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) PRC's Life Walk at 9:30am  
16<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship and Ordination/Installations; LEARN Team (Children and Adult Education) meeting after worship  
18<sup>th</sup> (Tues.) Baynai's Home Group meeting, 7:00pm  
19<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Softball game #2 8:30pm  
20<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer, 10:00am Worship, LIVE Team (Mission & Media) meeting after worship  
26<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) Softball game #3 8:30pm  
30<sup>st</sup> (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 10:00am Worship; Rev. Dr. Smit preaching; Board of Deacons meeting after worship

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

5 Scott and Shauna Gipe (Anniv.)  
9 Barb Bailey  
10 Jaicilynn Vanderberg  
15 Arlene Koenes  
24 Ayla Lehmann

## JUNE EVENTS – Sunday Services

2<sup>nd</sup> - Samaritas (Terraces) 3:30pm  
9<sup>th</sup> - Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:15pm  
16<sup>th</sup> - Vista Springs 2:00pm & 2:45pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> - American House 3:00pm

## SERVING THIS MONTH

Children's Message:	Children's Volunteer:
2 <sup>nd</sup> – Jared Swanson	Natlina Kenyi
9 <sup>th</sup> – Dana Lehmann	Carrie Barrett
16 <sup>th</sup> – Sandee Keating	Shauna Gipe
23 <sup>rd</sup> – Shauna Gipe	Rachel Wahome
30 <sup>th</sup> – Dr. Laura	Angie Wiley

### Greeters:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Roger & Marie Zoerner  
9<sup>th</sup> – Bettye Kay & Joyce VanderLaan  
16<sup>th</sup> – Al Schumacher & Elaine Miller  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Keatings  
30<sup>th</sup> – Dana Bilyea

### Liturgists:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Miller  
9<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Laura  
16<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Laura  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Shauna Gipe  
30<sup>th</sup> – Henry Gachini

### Sound Booth:

Williams'  
Henry & Toni  
Williams'

### Serving Communion:

5<sup>th</sup> – Rachel Wahome, Henry Gachini, Jim Miller,  
Rev. Dr. Laura Smit, Rev. Mike Baynai & Rev.  
Dr. Joo

## DON'T FORGET...

- The monthly men's breakfast at Bob Evan's (Kalamazoo Ave & M-6) at 9:30 on Friday, June 7.
- Photos for first Good Shepherd Picture Directory – still need some (See Pastor Mike if you haven't had your picture taken yet.)

## NEW ADDRESSES

### Angie Wiley

Grand Traverse Pavilions  
1000 Pavilions Circle Room 63  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 932-3727  
E-mail: awiley125@gmail.com (?)  
(Temporary Address)

## Shirley Stretch

388 W. Durbin Circle  
Bellville, Ohio 44813  
(616) 304-5265

## SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

This year's team includes Pastor Mike, two former JKPC members Steve Deer and Henry Kotsier, a Calvin Seminarian, and two Calvin college students. All games are played at the Christian Athletic Center (formerly the CRC Recreation Center) on the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Stauffer (behind the Wedgewood Home).

- June 12 @ 6:30pm – diamond 1(away):  
Woodlawn CRC  
June 19 @ 8:30pm – diamond 1(home):  
Madison Square CRC  
June 26 @ 8:30pm – diamond 1(away):  
Sunshine Church  
July 10 @ 7:30pm – diamond 1(away):  
Rodriguez Tire  
July 17 @ 7:30pm – diamond 1(away):  
Sunshine Church  
July 24 @ 8:30pm – diamond 5 (home):  
Second Byron CRC  
July 31 @ 8:30pm – diamond 1 (away):  
Woodlawn CRC  
August 7 @ 8:30pm – diamond 5 (away):  
Church of the Servant

## YOU'RE INVITED

Barb Bailey and her family invite you to join them for Barb's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday open house celebration, Saturday, June 8th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm; Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3152 Clyde Park SW, Wyoming, Michigan. Barb has requested no gifts. Instead, please consider donating to your favorite charity or Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (6751 Avalon Drive, Caledonia, Michigan 49316).

## ESTATE PLANNING

Many of us are at the point in our lives when we are actively engaged in estate planning and the necessary decisions that must be made regarding the disposition of our assets at the time of our demise. We urge you to consider the future of your church in this process. As you plan for your individual situation and family needs, please have positive and prayerful thoughts about making a bequest to Good

Shepherd in your memory. This can be a specific cash donation, the bequest of a named investment or other asset, or a percentage of your estate. In addition, it is well to consider whether you would want to designate your bequest as simply a donation for the operation and missions of the church, or to be used for some specific purpose you would name. We urge you to pray for discernment of the will of God during your considerations.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS: Our current church By-laws call for a Session of Ruling Elders numbering six in total; two elected each year, for a three-year term. Our Current Session is this:

### Class of 2019

Shauna Gipe

### Class of 2021

Jim Miller

### Class of 2020

Gary Lehmann

Henry Gachini

Angie Wiley

The Class of 2019 will "rotate" off Session this month, and newly elected officers will begin their terms. Those being nominated to the class of 2022 are Betty Rittersdorf and Bill Keating.

DEACONS: Our Board of Deacon works much the same way as our Session, except that the church elects only one Deacon per year. Currently the Board of Deacons is:

### Class of 2019

Bettye Kay

### Class of 2021

Elaine Miller

### Class of 2020

Joyce VanderLaan

The Nominating Team will nominate Bettye Kay to "come back on the Board" to serve as Deacon, class of 2022.

Please plan to attend the very brief meeting of the congregation immediately following worship on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2022. This year's Nominating Team has been Gary Lehmann (Chair), Henry Gachini (Elder-at-large), Vi Squires, Dana Bilyea and Norm Sharp (members-at-large).

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## FROM ECO'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

As ECO began, our desire was not simply to create another denomination but to truly be a movement that recaptures the best of our Presbyterian and Reformed heritage in order to saturate our broken and hurting world with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. We are committed to reaching a new apex in our next decade of ministry by envisioning 1,000 planted, revitalized, and flourishing ECO congregations and micro-expressions by 2030. To make this passion a reality, we must aggressively recruit, train, retrain, and deploy 1,000 vocational leaders and 10,000 highly invested lay leaders. In doing so, we see hundreds of thousands of movement-equipped people emerging for a daily Gospel influence. Like a child who blows a dandelion into the wind, the Holy Spirit scatters us into our communities to plant the Gospel. Imagine worldwide, millions or more people linked into the surprising goodness of God, loved through tangible acts of kindness, lifted by the compelling good news of Jesus, and lavishly adopted into a new and better kind of family.

### FREED FROM THE PAST

(Submitted by Joyce Vander Laan)

No one heard her singing there inside,  
Though her heart was beating just the same;  
And all because we thought she was too little,  
She never got a name.  
She could have been a poet, or a dancer, or a wife;  
She might have taught your Sunday school,  
Or simply touched your life.  
Her voice too quickly silenced,  
Yet Jesus heard her well---  
As we pushed her out of this world,

He caught her as she fell.

And I know I hear a choir of children, singing out  
their joy.  
In God's arms there's always room for another girl  
or boy.  
Each child has a special place,  
Because He knows, like them,  
What it's like to be sacrificed  
For the selfishness of man.  
No one saw him moving there inside,  
Though his hands were forming just the same;  
And all because we thought there was no room,  
He never got a name.  
He could have been a farmer, or a writer, or a dad;  
He could have been your brother or the best friend  
that you had.  
He never learned to clap, to drive a nail, or blow a  
kiss;  
When we pushed him out of this world,  
Jesus caught him up in His.

And I know I hear a choir of children, singing out  
their joy.  
In God's arms there's always room for another girl  
or boy.  
Each child has a special place,  
Because He knows, like them,  
What it's like to be sacrificed  
For the selfishness of man.

*In light of the current controversies of Right to Life versus Women's Right to Choose, the above entry seems appropriate along with the fact that the Women's Resource Center Annual Walk for Life is Saturday, June 15. The above was included in an entry as a Story of Faith by a young woman who herself had an abortion. The Title of the Book was Renewed Hearts Changed Lives.*

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## FAREWELL TO SHIRLEY

Shirley Montgomery Stretch was born in Pennsylvania on May 12, 1932. During her youth, her family moved to Ohio. It was there during high school and college that she and our Dad, Ray Stretch, had a relationship, and after mom left college (one course shy of graduating) they were married. In 1955, Linda Sue was born, 1958 Cindy Lou was born, and in 1969 Joe Stretch surprisingly appeared!

Our family (minus Joe) moved to Bellville, Ohio, in 1960. Mom took a position at the local church camp as the kitchen manager/cook. She worked at the camp from early 1960's until she and dad moved to Pennsylvania in 1976.

After 4 years in Pennsylvania, Dad transferred with Westinghouse to the furniture division that was located on 36<sup>th</sup> St. in Kentwood at that time. Mom stayed in Pennsylvania while Dad came to Kentwood to search

for a house. After the first week, Dad went as a visitor to John Knox Presbyterian Church and that afternoon called Mom and told her he had found a church for them to attend. Mom's reaction at that time was, "That's nice, but where are we going to live?" Dad then found the house in Princeton Estates, and as most of us know, they did join John Knox Church. They sang in the choir; Dad played the organ a few times, and (I better mention my brother!) Joe played his trumpet numerous times to Mom's delight. When Dad passed away in 1988, his Memorial service was performed at the church.

Mom found a job and started at Bob Evans near Patterson and highway 96 and worked as the opening cook in the kitchen for about 10 years. She made the biscuits by hand, sausage gravy by the bucket loads and numerous other things that now come into the restaurant pre-prepped.

Over the years in Michigan, you could find Mom volunteering in the original pantry at John Knox. As she was there longer, she managed the kitchen area where all the donations came in. After several years of volunteering, she was asked to be the interim director as the current one left without notice. She accepted and started covering the position. After about 6 months, her now dear friend, Cindy Burri, joined her and they became co-directors. They both worked there until they both retired.

Volunteering wasn't the only thing that kept Mom busy. She was one of the early members (I can't remember, but she may have been a founding member) of the Kentwood Women's Club. She attended the monthly meetings and outings as they were held.

Mom became a member of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church with the first reaffirmation of faith group when we were still meeting at the Kentwood Library. As she moves on to be by my sister in Ohio, she will be returning to the Presbyterian Church that our family attended while living in Bellville. She and Dad sang in the choir, and Linda and I played bells and sang in the junior choir.

I know that I have missed many things about Mom while she has been in Grand Rapids, but these are the ones I remember most. If you see her before she leaves for the next chapter in her life, please give her a hug and one more for me.

Blessings to all,

Cindy Stretch Cook

