



The Shepherd's Voice

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MINUTE WITH MIKE

You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
John 15:16

My dearest brothers and sisters in Jesus our Christ,

February greetings to you and yours! Praying that the valentine month will truly be a month of sweets and love!

I have been reflecting still on our theme verse for 2020 (above), and it has caused me to redouble my efforts in the area of prayer. Let's pray, and then pray some more. I don't believe there could be anything more important (except perhaps worship) than for God's children to pray. And a very large part of praying is asking!

The Bible says we have not because we ask not (James 4:2). I want to challenge us all to ask of God this year. Ask Him for wisdom, strength and joy for yourself. Ask Him for health and healing and protection for your family. Ask Him for growth and nurture for our church community. Ask Him for godly leaders for our city, state and nation; even the nations of the world.

1 John 3:22 says we ask *and* receive because we keep His commandments. Well, one of His commandments is that we pray. What do you suppose God would do if we all together poured out our hearts in a year-long season of prayer? I think what He would do is answer our prayers! Let's pay attention to private prayer time. Let's develop marital and family prayer time. Let's lead our extended families in the things which are pleasing in His sight, namely, prayer!

I call us to a year of prayer, my friends, with an excitement and a holy confidence, that we will in fact "receive!"

Bless you now and forever more!

In His love and joy,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

The 53rd Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 6:07 PM at the Beacon Hill meeting room by Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

Treasurer's Report

\$ 24,830	Cash on Hand as of 12/31/2019
+ 25,321	Certificate of Deposit (Fifth/Third) (less following committed funds)
<u>- 11,000</u>	Building Fund
\$ 39,151	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds as of the end of December last year were \$32,100. *Our cash gain during 2019 was \$7,051.*
- A check for \$772.16 was sent to Forgotten Man Ministries for Nov/Dec Joyful Noise offerings matched with Mission funds.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

2020 Budget – The Treasurer presented Version 2 of the budget for discussion. The following changes were agreed upon:

- Add \$60 to Children's fund.
- Add \$500 to Families for August.
- Add \$130/month in a new line item – Contingencies.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve this budget with agreed upon changes. This constitutes the final, approved budget to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting for approval. A copy of the final revisions will be sent out to the Session within a few days.

Terms of Call – Revised Terms of Call for Pastor Mike were reviewed, which incorporated the following changes:

- Pastor Mike's benefits for 2020 will include \$37.24/month to cover Life Insurance and Short & Long-term Disability; and commencing March 1 \$319.16/month for Medicare benefits.
- Terms of Call – Pastor Mike's salary and housing compensation will be adjusted upwards to make up for the savings in health care benefits.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the Terms of Call, as amended and presented, and to present to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.

Assistant Pastor – The addition to the budget was discussed and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with Dr. Laura and advise her of the details of the \$600 expense allowance set aside for her to draw on as needed.

Pastor – Pastor Mike offered the following for consideration and discussion:

- Session & Church Spiritual Retreat – will be scheduled for Saturday morning, January 18, from 9:30 AM to Noon; to be held in the Seminary Auditorium pending CTS approval (subsequently obtained). Mike has retained the services of a prominent pastor to lead the retreat. See December newsletter for details. He is bringing 10 people in addition to our group.
- Elder Fellowship – a Session lunch w/spouses was agreed to by common consent for Saturday, Feb. 22; details to follow.
- Annual Report & Congregational Meeting – Jim Miller is responsible for preparing the report with several sections to be provided by Pastor Mike and Elders. Jim will have sufficient copies prepared for all church members in attendance, which will be passed out at the end of the worship service.
- Mike discussed a study opportunity at a Byron Center church coming up; details to follow.

Other Business –

- Personnel – to develop new Terms of Call (see notes above).
- Nominating Committee – to be headed up by Gary Lehmann and Betty Rittersdorf as co-chairs. Members-at-large to be elected at the annual congregational meeting.

Next Presbytery Meeting – It was noted that the next meeting will be February 4-6 at the ECO National Gathering. Henry Gachini was previously elected as the church’s voting commissioner at the National Gathering. The spring 2020 meeting will be April 25, 2020, in Cincinnati, OH.

Next Session Meeting(s) – The next Stated Session meeting will be on **Thursday, February 13**, at 6:00 PM at Beacon Hill, Betty’s residence.

DATES

2nd (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 9:00am Adult Bible Study (Child Care provided), 10:00am Worship and Communion
 4th – 6th ECO National Conference; Dallas, Texas
 6th (Thurs.) Bilyea’s Home Group meeting 1:00pm
 7th (Fri.) Men’s Breakfast 9:30am (Bob Evans – M6 @ Kalamazoo Ave.)
 9th (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 9:00am Adult Bible Study (Child Care provided), 10:00am Worship and Communion
 13th (Thurs.) Session meeting 6:00pm
 16th (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 9:00am Adult Bible Study (Child Care provided), 10:00am Worship; Sanctity of Life Sunday; Sound Booth training
 17th (Mon.) Newsletter materials due
 20th (Thurs.) Bilyea’s Home group meeting 1:00pm
 22nd (Sat.) Session luncheon 1:00pm
 23rd (Sun.) 8:30am Prayer meeting, 9:00am Adult Bible Study (Child Care provided), 10:00am Worship
 26th (Wed.) Ash Wednesday; Lent begins
 28th (Fri.) Ladies Luncheon (Grand Traverse Pie Company) 1:00pm

EVENTS

Sunday Services

2nd Samaritas (The Terraces) 3:30pm
 9th Samaritas (The Lodge) 2:15pm
 16th Vista Springs 2:00pm & 2:45pm
 23rd Brookcrest 2:30pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

2	Henry Gachini
6	Marv and Rose De Young (Anniv.)
7	Elaine Miller
24	Bob Schaafsma
28	Carrie Barrett

SERVING THIS MONTH

	Liturgist	Child. Message
2 nd	Henry Gachini	Pastor Mike
9 th	Dr. Laura	Dana Lehmann
16 th	Pastor Mike	Sandee Keating
23 th	Seamus Adams	Shauna Gipe

SERVING THIS MONTH *(Continued)*

	Preaching	Organist
2 nd	Pastor Mike	Marjorie Boerema
9 th	Pastor Mike	Marjorie Boerema
16 th	Dr. Laura	Arlene Koenes
23 rd	Pastor Mike	Arlene Koenes

	Sound Booth
2 nd	Gary & Dana Lehmann
9 th	Glenda & Christine Williams
16 th	Gary & Dana Lehmann
23 rd	Robert, Liam & Seamus Adams

	Greeting
2 nd	Marie & Roger Zoerner
9 th	Bettye Kay & Joyce VanderLaan

16 th	Elaine Miller & Al Schumacher
23 rd	Marcia Jones & Bhamia Cairns

	Children's Volunteer	Boy's Class
2 nd	Natline Kenyi	Jim Miller
9 th	Carrie Barrett	Elias Jesus
16 th	Shauna Gipe	Sandee Keating
23 rd	Rachel Wahome	Henry Gachini

Fellowship Host: Carrie Barrett
Ushers: Jim Miller, Bob Schaafsma & Marv DeYoung
Serving Communing: Henry Gachini, Rachel Wahome & Shauna Gipe

WELCOME TO THE ADAMS FAMILY

The Adams family joined GSPC in November, although many of you may remember them from their previous musical visits to John Knox and Good Shepherd. Robert is a professor of computer science at GVSU. Cammi teaches voice lessons from home and is the newsletter editor for both the Grand Rapids Scottish Society and the Edelweiss German Club, of which they are members. Their eldest daughter, Turah, is a junior at GVSU studying Hospitality and Tourism Management. Liam is a senior at Grandville High School (GHS) and will attend GVSU in the Fall. Seamus is a freshman at GHS, and Faywen is in the 6th grade at Cummings Elementary.

The Adams family love traveling and playing music. They spent the first half of 2019 living in Graz, Austria, where Robert was a visiting professor. Over Christmas they visited Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown in Virginia. God has gifted the Adams family with the ability to play music, and they often give back to the Lord by offering musical service to His church. They all sing and can play various musical instruments. If you visit them at home, you can see their diverse collection of music books and instruments which include violins, viola, cello, piano, oboe, mandolins, dulcimers, drums, guitar, banjo, accordion, harp, recorders, whistles, and bagpipes. The Adams Family truly embrace Psalms 150:1-5 "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his

mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals."

A NEW VENUE

Pastor Mike has been invited to lead devotions at Bookcrest Home (Wilson Ave. between Chicago Drive and 44th Street) on the fourth and fifth Sunday's of the month beginning this month. Devotions begin at 2:30pm, and Maureen Sweet will continue to assist Pastor at the piano. Pastor Mike's years of service to American House has sadly come to end. However, he continues to serve Vista Springs on the third Sunday of each month. Bhamia Cairns graciously assists in playing the piano for those two services.

LADIES LUNCHEON

The Men of the Church have been enjoying a time of fellowship and devotion around a breakfast each first Friday of the month for some time now. Some of the ladies in the church have asked about replicating such an event for them. So, beginning this month, on the last Friday of the month (February 28) Pastor Mike is inviting all the ladies of the church to dine with him at the Grand Traverse Pie Company (3224 28th Street – south side of

28th Street and about two blocks west of the Belt-line). We'll meet at 1:00pm and miss the luncheon crowd. There are plenty of tables, a fireplace, fresh and tasty food, and it's always quiet. Please feel free to contact Pastor Mike if you would like more details or would like to arrange for a ride (616) 822-9988.

MISSIONS TEAM

Our Presbytery, the Presbytery of the Great Lakes, has a number of standing committees one of which, the New Church Plant Committee, is chaired by Pastor Mike. He organized a "gift shower" for our newest church plant, Legacy City Church in Cleveland, Ohio. All of the churches of our Presbytery participated in this shower held at the October 5th Presbytery meeting. Our church, Good Shepherd, has pledged the financial support of the entire Joyful Noise Offering from January and February. Additionally, we have pledged to pray for Legacy City Church as they are now on our weekly prayer list. Please pray that God would lead them as they seek to form a new family of faith.

ADULT STUDY BEGINS AGAIN

There will be a new Adult Study class offered before worship beginning on January 12 at 9:00am. This study will walk us through the book of Hebrews. This New Testament book reads a bit like a statement of faith or a constitution for a newly formed Christian church or community. *Child care will be provided.* The class will be led by Pastor Mike, but it is designed to be extremely interactive. No study guides are required, just your Bible. For more information about this 30-minute class, please speak with Pastor Mike.

SONG OF THE SEASON

Many of us are still savoring the wonderful Advent season we've just completed a few weeks ago. The theme focused on the many Biblical Songs surrounding our Lord's birth. Zacharias' Song, the Benedictus (blessing), is found in Luke 1:67-79. Mary's Song, the Magnificat (magnify), is found in Luke 1:46-55. The Angel's Song, the Gloria (glory), is found in Luke 2:14. And Simeon's Song, the Nu Dominus (I have seen), is found in Luke 2:29-32.

As we celebrated these great songs or prayers, Pastor invited members to write their own song. This month we feature a song written by *Marilyn Potgeter*. Other submissions will be included in future newsletters.

*When I look into Your just-born eyes, I can already see Your majesty;
You are the Messiah, come to earth. I can see by Your sweet demeanor
that You will love those who are unlovable.
Your tiny fingers will
raise the dead, heal the sick, and change the world for good. My Jesus,
my Child, I will love You forever. Alleluia and amen!*

MEMBERS/FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Jean Bailey, Angie Wiley, Vi Squires, Lois Stevens, two members for healing of a kidney, and homebound members Pat Doorn, Joan Walstrom, and Cathy Jo Wolters

PEW PADS

The pew pads are a useful tool for the church. They assist in tracking members who suddenly appear to be missing for unknown reasons. Even more importantly though as we try to grow our church, they help us reach out to new people in attendance. The Session and staff need your help in doing this. If you're sitting next to someone new, please try to encourage them to sign the pad. Sometimes new people come in a few minutes late after the announcement about the pew pads has been made or it's been passed. Please make an effort to pass it to them and tell them we'd appreciate it if they would sign it. So many of those people not only sign the pew pad but also indicate they would like to receive the church emails. That helps us promote the church. And as Pastor Mike indicates in his announcement, it is also a vehicle to let your needs be known.

FROM “The Upper Room”

With the animosity and hatred in our country and the world today there can be little doubt of the need for prayer. The following devotional reading is from “The Upper Room” and is written by Edward Mitchell Jr.

Read Matthew 26:36-41

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
--James 5:16 (NIV)*

At the beach one Saturday, I was doing some fishing while watching the sun rise. The brilliant colors seemed to pop out. This awesome sight caused me to pause to thank God for another day in this beautiful creation---to enjoy the waves, the breeze, the birds, and the fish I was expecting to catch. As I finished giving thanks for the many blessings of the morning, a fishing buddy showed up, and we spent time talking about prayer. He admitted that he found it hard to find the time for consistent prayer because of his busy schedule. He asked me how I found the time.

I explained that a long time ago I discovered an easy method after reading Jesus’ instructions to the disciples to watch and pray. I decided that every time I looked at my watch to see what time it was, the time was right for me to pray. I made it a habit to pray for whatever was on my mind or what was going on at that time. Soon I was praying at least ten times a day. My buddy tried it and found that he had more time to pray than he had realized.

Other methods could be to pray during commercials while watching a TV program or on our morning commute. With some creativity and intention, we can always find time to pray.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to share our petitions with you anytime, anyplace, and for anything. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Prayer Focus: To Make Time to Pray



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Every day I have unlimited
Opportunities to pray
And give thanks