



The Shepherd's Voice

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Volume VI

Issue 7

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,
let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God
an acceptable service with reverence and awe
Hebrews 12:28*

Dear dog-day greetings to you and yours,

I am praying that the cool and comforting breath of the Holy Spirit is blowing across you and all yours at this time and forever more.

I've been thinking about us and feeling convicted that I may have been praying, asking God, "amiss" (James 4:3). Like many of you I have been praying that God would grow our church. But I believe God is showing me that I ought to pray for the growth of His kingdom.

It would be wonderful, I'm certain we all agree, if we would experience numerical growth. But far more importantly, we must seek the growth of God's kingdom. That translates in my heart into a burden for the lost; for those living in darkness. Even to the degree that that becomes for GSPC – Mission One!

Our mission must be to grow the kingdom of God, and as a result, bring Him glory. We'll do that by telling others the truth of His Word, by loving our neighbor, and by praying not only for the lost, but for divine appointments to witness and share.

Even for the one! You recall the story of the father and son walking on the beach only to observe thousands of starfishes washed ashore. As the little boy picked one up and carried it to sea, a passerby shared with the father, "There are far too many starfish for your child to help". With that the father replied, "But for that one starfish it means everything." Just one, my friend, if each of us reached just one.

Will you pray that God helps us with Mission One! May He bless and keep you always, using us to build His kingdom!

In His love and joy,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

The 69th Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 2:08 PM at the Baynai residence, by Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

Devotions and Prayer – Elder Jim Miller provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Roll & Determination of a Quorum: Present: Moderator Pastor Mike Baynai; Ruling Elders, Bill Keating, Betty Rittersdorf, Gary Lehmann, and Robert Adams; and Asst. Clerk Jim Miller. Absent: Asst. Pastor Dr. Laura Smit. *A quorum was present.*

Election of Officers – The following slate of officers was presented for election to serve during the church year June 2021 through May 2022:

Robert Adams, Clerk of Session

Jim Miller, Asst. Clerk of Session

Wilfred Keating, Treasurer (confirming congregational election)

Jim Miller, Asst. Treasurer (confirming congregational election)

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to confirm this slate of officers.

Clerk's Report –

Next Communion will be observed on Sunday, July 4, 2021; the last communion was observed Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Correspondence – The Clerk sent a response to the letter received from an ECO church (Central Church in Long Island) requesting financial aid to support their dispute with PC(USA). We respectfully declined and offered to pray for them.

Membership

Active Membership as of 5/14/2020 49

No Change

Active Membership as of 6/10/2021 49

Worship Services

Attendance 5/16/2021 38 Adults 0 Children

Attendance 5/23/2021 32 Adults 6 Children (Outdoors)

Attendance 5/30/2021 22 Adults 0 Children (Clubhouse)

Attendance 6/6/2021 35 Adults 3 Children (Library)

Treasurer's Report –

\$ 16,365	Cash on Hand as of 5/31/2021
+ 25,654	CD #1 (Northpointe Bank)
+ 15,000	CD #2 (Northpointe Bank (less following committed funds)
- 65	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
- 11,000	Building Fund
<u>\$ 45,954</u>	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes: Uncommitted funds as of the end of April were \$47,502. *Our cash LOSS in May was - \$1,548.* CD at Northpointe Bank was renewed, and a new CD was opened for \$15,000 as a result of decisions taken at last Session meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to have the Treasurer, Bill Keating, take the necessary action to add Robert Adams to our checking account as a signatory and issue him a church debit card.

Consent Agenda – Approve the Clerk’s and Treasurer’s Reports, and the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of May 14, 2021, and the Called Congregational Meeting of Sunday, May 16, 2021. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

Assistant Pastor – Pastor Mike reported that Dr. Laura Smit will be away a great deal in the upcoming 12 months on a sabbatical. She and Mike have scheduled a few dates this summer when she will be able to preach.

Pastor – Following items, events and dates were discussed:

- Mike reported on a visit, with Dr. Laura, to a church in Zeeland who is contemplating becoming an ECO church.
- Mike reiterated his decision to serve as his own liturgist throughout the summer worship schedule.

Worship – An extended discussion regarding our worship location took place, and the following points and actions were noted:

- Mike will publish a hand-out to sign up people to help with worship setup and tear down at the library, including setup for coffee fellowship.
- Library – Bill Keating reported that we received a complaint that we had exceeded our time limit. It was agreed that Bill would contact the library and extend our rental until noon, and we would pay the extra cost of \$55/week so as to allow sufficient time for coffee fellowship. It was also noted that because of the library’s lack of flexibility, it did not present a good alternative long term.

Brooks Memorial Scholarship Fund – Jim Miller reported that the scholarship recipients will receive their grants in July.

Next Presbytery Meeting – A blended live/Zoom meeting is scheduled for October at the Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City.

Next Session Meeting – The next Session meeting will be **Thursday, July 8** at 3:00 PM; location to be determined.

DATES

Friday (2nd) 9:30am Men’s Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans)

Sunday (4th) Worship and Communion [Clubhouse and Conversation] 10:00am; Samaritas; The Terraces – Devotions 2:30pm

Thursday (8th) 1:00pm Bilyea’s Home group meeting at BAYNAI’S

Thursday (8th) 2:00pm Session meeting – Baynai’s home

Sunday (11th) Worship and Ordinations [Library 10:00am]

Sunday (18th) Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic [Shady Side Park] 11:00am

Monday (19th) Newsletter deadline

Thursday (22nd) 1:00pm Bilyea’s Home Group Meeting

Sunday (25th) Worship [Library 10:00am]

Friday (30th) Ladies Luncheon 1:00pm Grand Traverse Pie Company (28th Street)

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES – JUNE

4 Wilfred Keating
15 Amanuel Hailemariam
26 Fikre Norcha

SERVING THIS MONTH

July 4: Musician - Maureen Sweet, Special Music – Adams Family, Preaching - Dr. Laura
July 11: Musician – Maureen Sweet, Preaching & Special Music - Pastor Mike
July 18: Special Music - Dana and Dana, Preaching - Pastor Mike, Musician – Maureen Sweet
July 25: Musician - Maureen Sweet, Preaching – Pastor Mike, Special Music - Henry Gachini and Rachel Wahome

MEMBERS/FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Linda Van Heuvelen, Jean Bailey (cancer), Barb Bailey, Joyce VanderLaan (healing from shingles), Vi Squires (cancer), Marjorie Boerema (broken wrist); and homebound members Joan Walstrom, Pat Doorn, Cathy Jo Wolters, and Bob Schaafsma

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Our July/August recipient of our Joyful Noise Offering will be Pregnancy Resource Center, a very well-known and respected ministry operating in downtown Grand Rapids. The mission of the PRC is to provide crises pregnancy counselling and prenatal screening, as well as a host of other support services for those who are in need. The PRC is a not-for-profit ministry operating in downtown

Grand Rapids (415 Cherry Street SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503), but in addition they have a store and supply outlet on 28th Street in Wyoming. You may learn more about the PRC or contact them at (616) 456-6873. Your Joyful Noise gifts are most appreciated.

PHOTOGRAPHER

We found her! Or should I say – she found us! Thanks to Cammi Adams who has agreed to serve the church as official photographer. Watch for her snap shots in the Newsletter.

LADIES LUNCHEON

You're invited to join some of the ladies of the church each last Friday of the month at 1:00pm, meeting at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on 28th Street near the Belt Line. It's a great time of prayer and fellowship as the "sisters meet with Pastor Mike (Everyone is "Dutch"). For more information contact Pastor Mike at (616) 822-9988.

HOST A HOME GROUP

For more than four years now we have been blessed as a result of Dana Bilyea opening her home to a church group for fellowship and prayer. It's called the Bilyea Home Group and we generally meet every other Thursdays at 1:00pm. If you would like to host a Home Group of your own, I would be thrilled to join you and offer my assistance in building your group and developing a format. The church could use another Home Group, and God, of course, gets all the glory. Please consider opening your home up for this kind of ministry.

STATE OF THEOLOGY SURVEY

The 2020 State of Theology Study (STS) was conducted by LifeWay Research. The objective of the study is to quantify among a national sample of Americans indicators of theological understanding today. The project was designed with a large sample to allow for comparisons between groups within the Christian church and those outside the Christian faith.

The project was sponsored by Ligonier Ministries to ascertain the state of theological awareness and belief among Americans, including several subsets of Americans (particularly Evangelicals).

The quantitative survey of American adults was conducted using a large national online panel. Quotas were in place to ensure the sample was demographically balanced, and slight weights were used to ensure the

sample matches the population on gender, age, ethnicity, income, region and religion. 3002 surveys were completed March 10-18, 2020. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +2.0%. Margins of error were higher in sub-groups.

Ligonier Ministries identified specific doctrines and heresies to test. LifeWay Research helped refine these questions to ensure the following principles were followed throughout the questionnaire.

- Each doctrine or heresy was tested by stating it as fact and asking the respondent to indicate their level of agreement.
- Phrasing that can introduce bias was excluded.
- Questions in which the desired response is agreement and questions in which the desired response is in disagreement were mixed throughout the survey.
- Wording choices sought to use words that would be understood by the typical American.

Statement # 10: The Holy Spirit can tell me to do something which is forbidden in the Bible.

10% Strongly Agree, 10% Agree, 20% Not sure, 13% Disagree, 47% Strongly Disagree

The Evangelical or Orthodox response to the above statement is “Strongly Disagree”. God is not a God of confusion, but rather a God of peace, consistency and care; “For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). Thus, God cannot contradict Himself. And since the Holy Spirit is God, and since God is the divine author of the Bible (Acts 5:3-5 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17), the Holy Spirit will never contradict that which is contained in the Bible; the very written Word of God.

[From Moody Bible Institute] The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son and is of the same essence. The Scriptures attest to the deity of the Holy Spirit. He is spoken of as God and is identified with the title of Jehovah. The Christian who is indwelt by the Spirit is indwelt by God. The Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of deity, such as omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence and eternity. He does works only God can do, such as creating, regenerating and sanctifying. He is equally associated with the other members of the Trinity. Yet He is also distinct from them. Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in personal terms, not as an impersonal force, when it says that He teaches, guides, comforts and intercedes. He possesses emotions, intellect and will.

The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament differed somewhat from His work in the New Testament. The possession of the Holy Spirit by the believer was not permanent in every case. The Holy Spirit had a ministry of restraining sin and in the creation of the world. Conversely, the Holy Spirit today plays a major role in the application of salvation to the individual. It is the Spirit who brings conviction to the unbeliever and causes him to see the truth of the gospel in a clear light. Those who respond to this conviction, and place their faith in Jesus Christ, receive eternal life and a new nature. The Holy Spirit then unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ, which is the church. He also unites the believer with Christ in His death, enabling him to live victoriously over sin.

The Holy Spirit controls the believer who yields to God and submits himself to God's Word. When these conditions are met, the believer lives in the power of the Spirit and produces the fruit of the Spirit. Thus, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer permanently. While the child of God may sin and grieve the Spirit, the Spirit will never leave the true believer. Absence of the Holy Spirit is the mark of the unsaved. The Holy Spirit instead seals the believer. His ministry and work guarantee the security of the believer "until the day of redemption.”

Genesis 1:2, 6:3

Psalms 51:11, 139:7

Isaiah 6:8-9, 11:2-3, 40:12

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Zechariah 4:6, 12:10

Joel 2:28-32

Matthew 28:19-20

John 3:3-7, 14:26, 16:8-11

Acts 5:1-4, 8:29; 15:28, 28:25

Romans 6:1-10, 8:9, 8:14, 8:26, 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 2:10-14, 3:16, 6:19-20, 12:11-13

2 Corinthians 1:22, 13:14

Galatians 5:16, 5:22-23

Ephesians 1:13, 2:22, 4:30, 5:18

SCOTLAND'S OLDEST BOOK (Submitted by Cammi Adams)

I am the newsletter editor for the Grand Rapids Scottish Society. I used to be a member of the Memphis Scottish Society when I was younger. My dad is still a member. The current newsletter editor in Memphis is an old bagpipe band buddy of mine, George Malone. He and I share our newsletters and ideas. Recently he published the following article in *Grace Notes*, the official newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society. I thought our church members might find it interesting seeing as how the Presbyterian church came out of Scotland.

The article references the *Book of Kells* in Dublin. The book is from the 9th century and is primarily the four Gospels. Robert and I have seen it a couple of times inside Trinity College, Dublin. I sure hope the public enjoys viewing the *Celtic Psalter* and that the historians choose to put it on permanent display like the *Book of Kells* in Ireland.

- Cammi

Celtic Psalter, Scotland's Oldest Book, Goes on Display By Guy Whyte

The oldest book in Scotland is going on public display for the first time in its history. The Celtic Psalter dates from the 11th Century and contains hand-written psalms in Latin, with Celtic and Pictur-ish illustrations.

It has been kept under lock and key at the University of Edinburgh and has been available to only a few scholars. But for the next three months the public will have the chance to view the book at the university's library.

The psalter, which is thought to be almost 1,000 years old, has been described as Scotland's version of the famous Book of Kells in Dublin. It contains a handwritten copy of the Psalms of King David in Latin, and has ornate pictures of dragons and beasts.

Edinburgh University's rare book librarian, Joseph Marshall, said: "People have been reluctant to show it, but now we have a special display case, and really this is the book's first public outing in 1,000 years. The great thing about it is we think it is the oldest Scottish book still in Scotland, so it is one of our greatest national treasures, and people haven't really known about it. We are hoping people will recognize it for what it is, one of the most precious documents in the country."

The origin of the psalter is a mystery, but experts believe it was probably produced by monks in Iona, who were also associated with the making of the Book of Kells. It is thought that the book was written for someone of major importance, with one possibility being St. Margaret, who was Queen of Scotland around the time it was produced.

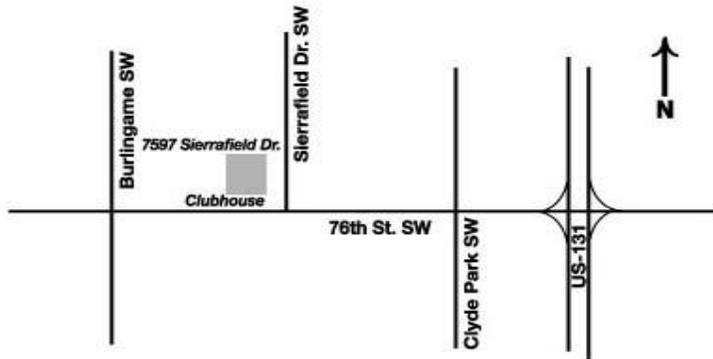
CELTIC SALTER PHOTOS:



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Summer Worship Schedule

- June 27 Kentwood Library; 4950 Breton Road SE, Kentwood, Mi. 49508 10:00am
- July 4 Clubhouse; 7597 Sierrafield Drive SW, Byron Center, Mi. 49315 10:00am



- July 11 Kentwood Library; 4950 Breton Road SE, Kentwood, Mi. 49508 10:00am
- July 18 Shady Side Park; 7343 Hammond Road SE, Dutton, Mi. 49316 **11:00am**
 Community picnic to follow worship
- July 25 Kentwood Library; 4950 Breton Road SE, Kentwood, Mi. 49508 10:00am
- August 1 Calvin Theological Seminary Chapel (*tentative*) 10:00am

For questions or more information, please contact Rev. Mike Baynai
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