



The Shepherd's Voice

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Issue 9

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*"And Jesus said to them, 'Render to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar,
and to God the things that are God's'".
(Mark 12:17)*

Dearest ones in the Lord Jesus,

September greetings to you and yours. May this time of year find you at peace, healthy and living a holy life.

As we approach the next national election (November 8), I hope you are already praying that God would move upon our community, state and nation through the election of God-fearing men and women; people who hold to a Christian world-view. It is, after all, our Biblical responsibility to be good citizens and involved in civic matters. The thirteenth chapter of Romans even commands us to pray for government leaders and to submit to the authority thereof. I for one would much prefer to pray for and submit to persons who know, love and trust God first and foremost.

Much is at stake as ideologies wrestle for prominence in our nation. Will we be a people who value life, a people who believe in Biblical marriage, a people of law and order, a people who embrace sound and responsible economic principles? Our faith speaks clearly about all these issues and as God ordained citizens of this nation, it is our duty to be involved in shaping this great nation.

So as football season returns and we begin to watch for the changing colors of the trees, might we also be about watching for God to revive this nation and call us all back to confession, repentance, and holiness?

Blessings to you and yours, now and forever,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

Stated Meeting of the Session Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church August 18, 2022

The 80th Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 7:30 PM on Zoom, Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

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

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

Clerk's Report

Next Communion will be observed on Sunday, August 21, 2022; the last communion was observed Sunday, August 7, 2022.

Membership

Active Membership as of 7/7/2022	43
• Barb Bailey passed 7/15/2022	
• Al Schumaker passed 8/2/2022	
• Mercy Kamau joined 8/18/2022 by reaffirmation	
Active Membership as of 8/18/2022	42

Correspondence

- None.

Miscellaneous

- Sent out inaugural Fellowship Feast invitations. The Baynais will host on August 19. The Adams' are planning to host soon.
- Facebook ads were created to promote the women's study of the book of Esther, as well as the Lunch and Learn with the Heckmans. To date, the church has spent about \$50 on each one. According to Facebook just under 2000 people viewed each ad. The women's Bible study had 26 responses, while the Lunch and Learn had 12 responses.

Worship Services

Attendance	7/17/2022	42 adults and 2 children at GSPC
Attendance	7/24/2022	26 adults at GSPC
Attendance	7/31/2022	31 adults and 2 children at GSPC
Attendance	8/7/2022	33 adults at GSPC
Attendance	8/14/2022	25 adults at GSPC

Treasurer's Report 7/31/2022

+\$30,494.94	Cash on Hand as of 7/31/2022
-0-	CD#1 (Northpoint Bank)
-0-	CD#2 (Northpoint Bank)
<u>\$30,494.94</u>	<u>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</u>

(LESS FOLLOWING COMMITTED FUNDS)

-\$63,00 Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
-0- Building Fund (Summary below)

\$30,431.94 **Uncommitted Funds Available**

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds, as of end of June, were \$28,427.54. Our GAIN in Jul was \$2,004.40.
- We cancelled the move of the piano from New Jersey, but we have not received a refund check from moving company.

BUILDING FUND EXPENSES (as of July 31, 2022)

ALL COSTS HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL

Potential Additional Costs: Camera (Dana – TBD), Raised Verse letters (paid in full, but Session should reimburse Jim ½ of cost = \$537.50 due in future), Air filtration (Not needed?), etc.

Consent Agenda – The Clerk and the Treasurer have moved to approve their respective reports, and to approve the minus for all session and congregational meetings (as amended) which have been held since the last session meeting. **The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Pastor – Mercy Kamau was unanimously accepted as a member by common consent.

Leadership Training - Elders are asked to review the sample mission statements created at the first leadership training session, and to come up with one or two possible mission statements. The Session will call a special meeting in the near future to discuss.

Pulpit Supply - Mike will be gone September 4, October 9, and October 16. Jean Segasinde, Carolyn Cammenga, and Wan Lee have agreed to fill the pulpit on those days, respectively.

Brooks Memorial Scholarship - A scholarship was awarded to Henry Gachini to support his Pastoral Lay Training.

Bailey Fund - A scholarship/fund in memory of Barb Bailey has been created and will be officially announced at a future worship service. The bylaws for this fund were approved by common consent.

Road Sign - Session voted to renew the rental of a sign across the street from Horrocks. The responses it generated for the Beth Moore Bible Study makes us hopeful that it can be effective in drawing people to our Sunday worship service.

Fellowship Feasts - The Baynai's will host the first Fellowship Feast on Friday, August 19. The next Fellowship Feast will probably be sometime in September.

Neighborhood Walk - Mike expressed interest in seeking help walking a neighborhood near the church. He will create a sign-up sheet.

Dishwasher - Session considered a kind offer by Boerema's to purchase a dishwasher so that reusable mugs could be used instead of disposable coffee cups. Unfortunately, the church simply doesn't have space to store cups/mugs for everyone in the congregation.

Next Presbytery Meeting — October

Next Session Meeting — The next session meeting will be **Thursday September 22, 2022, 7:30pm on Zoom.**

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer; adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Adams. Clerk of Session

DATES – SEPTEMBER

1st Thursday: Bilyea's Home Group meeting at 1:00pm
2nd Friday: Men's Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans) – 9:30am
4th Sunday: Worship
7th Wednesday: Beth Moore Study – 1:30pm
7th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
10th Saturday: Walk the neighborhood – 10:00am
11th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am
11th Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:00pm
14th Wednesday: Beth Moore Bible Study 1:30pm
14th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
18th Sunday: Worship and Communion service at 10:00am
18th Sunday: Devotional at Grand Village at 2:00pm
19th Monday: Newsletter deadline
21st Wednesday: Beth Moore Study at 1:30pm
21st Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm
22nd Thursday: Lunch-n-Learn 11:30am
22nd Thursday: Session meeting – 7:30pm (Zoom)
24th Saturday: Fellowship Feast
25th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am
25th Sunday: Devotional at Brook Crest (Joan's home) at 2:30pm
28th Wednesday: Beth Moore Study at 1:30pm
28th Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm
30th Friday: Ladies Luncheon at 1:00pm [New location TBA]

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

6 Donna Baynai

7	Dana Lehmann
8	Turah Adams
	Don/Joan Walstrom (Anniv.)
10	Alem Tekalgn
15	Yesem Hamilemariam
17	Richard Soward
19	Diane Solomon
21	Leesa Lehmann
28	Rose De Young
30	Jaxson Vanderberg

SERVING

Week of 4th:

Greeting: Bill & Sandee
Sound Booth: Adams
Musician: Marjorie
Special Music: Adams family
Liturgist: Robert Adams
Preaching: Rev. Jean Segasinde
Fellowship Host: Joyce VanderLaan
Cleaning: Henry & Mercy

Week of 11th:

Greeting: Bettye & Marilyn
Sound Booth: Lehmanns
Musician: Marjorie
Special Music: Pastor Mike
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Fellowship Host: Diane Solomon
Cleaning: Bev, Mike & Donna

Week of 18th:

Greeting: Roger & Marie
Sound Booth: Lehmanns
Musician: Maureen
Special Music: Dana Bilyea and Dana

Lehmann
Communion - Bread: Rachel / Elder
Officiants: Henry & Robert
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Fellowship Host: Sandee Keating
Cleaning: Rachel

Week of 25th:

Greeting; Henry & Mercy
Sound Booth: Adams
Special Music: Mercy
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Fellowship Host: Dana Bilyea
Cleaning: Bill & Sandee

MEN OF THE CHURCH

The Men of the Church meet every **FIRST FRIDAY** of the month at 9:30am at Bob Evans (Kalamazoo Ave. at M6). After a brief devotional and prayer, the gents enjoy a breakfast and great conversation. All are welcome to join us.

MEMBERS/FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Bob Schaafsma, Joan Walstrom, Linda Van Heuvelen, Vision and growth in starting our new church.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Are you wanting to pour out your heart before the Lord? You have an opportunity to do so each week on Wednesday at 7:00pm. Join Pastor Mike, Dr. Laura and others as together we, "pour out our hearts before Him".

Dial-in-number: 1-602-580-9612

Access Code: 6914064

LADIES LUNCHEON

You're invited to join some of the ladies of the church each **LAST FRIDAY** of the month (new location TBA) at 1:00pm. It's a great time of prayer and fellowship as the "sisters meet. (Everyone is "Dutch"). For more information contact Elaine Miller or Betty Kay.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERINGS

The Joyful Noise Offering for the months of September and October will be given to the Grand Rapids based ministry known as WAR (Women at Risk).

Women at Risk, International (WAR Int'l) is a Michigan based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, established to create circles of protection around those at risk. Through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects and partnerships, we provide safe places to heal from abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and more. Our passion is to empower survivors to live and work with dignity and hope.

Our programs and partnerships span the globe, reaching over 40 countries, including the United States. Each month, additional projects and partnerships are formed, increasing our ability to offer the rescued and at-risk a "hand-up" instead of a handout.

Women at Risk, International unites and educates to create circles of protection around those at risk through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects.

For more information or to contact us directly we can be reached Monday-Friday (8am-5pm EST) by calling: (616) 855-0796 or toll free: (877) END-SLAVERY (363-7528). And please visit our shop and coffee house at 2790 44th Street in Wyoming, Michigan.

PRAYER SHAWLS

By Dana Bilyea

Dana Bilyea reports that she has thirteen consecrated prayer shawls in a tub in her downstairs cubicle. She indicates, "I am now thinking that some of the members might have a friend or family member who could use one. They certainly aren't doing any good being where they are. If so, please contact me to let me know what you are thinking. I don't answer the phone between 3:00 and 4:00 pm." - In His love, Dana

FATHER IN HEAVEN PRAYER

Father in heaven, grant to your children mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing love to unite us, grace to redeem us, Father in Heaven, Father our God.

Jesus, Redeemer, may we remember

Your gracious passion, your resurrection;
worship we bring You, praise we shall
sing You, Jesus Redeemer, Jesus our Lord.

Spirit descending, grant us Your blessing,
strength for the weary, help for the
needy; sealed by adoption, we are God's
children; Spirit descending, Spirit adored

CREATION CARE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

How can our small congregation show respect and good stewardship for God's creation? We alone, of course, can't stop or slow global warming or save the oceans from plastic pollution, but we can be faithful with what we do and not be contributors to earth's degradation.

One easy way is to recycle the material we use. Any paper product will break down so our cardboard coffee cups and plates can go into the recycle bin. Food waste can be composted. We have containers in the kitchen to collect coffee grounds and other food, which will go into the Boerema compost bin.

Even better is to arrange our life here to eliminate the need to throw things away. Reusable dishes and cutlery would cut down on the amount of discarded material. This would necessitate the use of a dishwasher or for us to each bring our own items. I'm not sure if that's practical; does anyone have any **other** ideas?

We can all reduce our use of (particularly single-use) plastic. Given the overwhelming preponderance of it in our society, it isn't possible to avoid it completely, but thoughtful choices and habits can cut down the amount we add to the disaster. We can educate ourselves via videos and articles on the state of the environment. This can be a great motivator.

The "four R's" are still a good guide for personal conduct: Refuse (to buy things we don't need, to take a plastic bag for 20 minutes of use

from the store to home, etc.), Reduce (waste of any kind), Reuse (items that can be reused), and Recycle.

FALL HARVEST

Fall is upon us and what is fall about besides football games, falling leaves, trick or treaters, and apple cider?? However, ask any farmer and they will tell you it's about the harvest! I don't think there is a farmer among the members of our church, but we all are called to be harvesters of people! Jesus said, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest." (John 4:35 NASB) I particularly like the Message's translation, "Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you." God is asking us to take part in a Fall harvest!

So, on Saturday, September 10, we begin the work of "bringing in the sheaves." We will work in a subdivision that's right in front of us (actually, it's right down the street from the church). This is not the job of our Pastor, the Elders, or the Deacons! It is the job of the Pastor, the Elders, the Deacons, **AND** all of us! Together, we are His church, and we have work (His work) to do! "He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37, The Message). Yes, we are few, but together we can make a mighty difference for the Kingdom if we just step out of our comfort zones and become harvesters!

So, let's go church! We need every able-bodied person to sign up to walk the Old Farm Estates subdivision. **And** we need every able-bodied (non-walking) driver to do the same. Please sign up by September 4th so that routes can be thoughtfully mapped out. Routes will be given out when we meet at the church on the 10th at 10am.

Verse 38 of Matthew 9 says, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." It is time for us to answer that call.

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church,

25th August, 2022

I hope you Good Shepherd Church folks, Rev. Mike, and Dr. Laura, are doing well! Thank you very much for all love that you gave me in Grand Rapids through your prayers, words, actions, and financial support. I will always remember how God showed me God's mercy through Good Shepherd Church.

Thankfully, just last Friday I was able to finish the German Summer language course, and I am getting used to new life in Princeton little by little.

This week, the orientation for incoming students starts, and in the first week of September my class will begin. This semester I will be able to explore my research interest—American Church History. So, I am excited about my new study. Also, I am now looking for the new Church. I wish I would be given a good church fellowship in Princeton like I had in Grand Rapids!

I would appreciate it if you would pray for my new class and new church life in Princeton. I am also committed to praying for blessings on Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,
Ken Miyagi

PHOTO ALBUM



On Sunday, August 21, Barb Bailey's son Rob and his wife Tami were guests at our church and made several presentations: Their old church Bible from Gethsemane Lutheran Church which recently had to close; Gethsemane's gold communion service; and a check from the estate of Barb Bailey for \$10,000 to fund the new Bob and Barb Bailey Memorial Fund, which will be a benevolence fund administered by our church.



Our dear long-time Elder and joint founder of our church, Betty Rittersdorf, receives a plaque from the Session commemorating her appointment as an Elder Emeritus.



Two great friends; Elaine Miller and recently departed Al Schumacher.

Lunch-n-Learn

Thursday - September 22, 2022 - 11:30am

(Subway sandwich luncheon with chips, drink and dessert - \$5.00)

Rev. Carolyn Cammenga

Missionary, Pastor, Author, Teacher, Speaker

Visit with Rev. Carolyn Cammenga who will be previewing her ten-week Bible Study of Paul's epistle to the Philippians titled **Jump for Joy**. The study, which will begin on Wednesday November 9 1:00pm, will encompass material gleaned from her graduate dissertation "A Study of Joy in Paul's Epistle to the Philippians", and her recently published book, **Jump for Joy**. Copies of her book, along with a study guide, will be available. Rev. Cammenga is a retired pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and currently resides in Grand Rapids at Breton Woods.



at

This event will be held at:



an ECO (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians)
community of reformed faith.

Pastors Rev. Mike Baynai and Rev. Dr. Laura Smit.

4472 Breton Road - Kentwood (Across the street from Horrocks' Market)

For more information or to make your reservation, contact Pastor Mike

at RevMCB@hotmail.com or (616) 822-9988