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The Sheep follow the shepherd, for they know his voice.” – John 10:4

GSUCC Annual
Thanksgiving Potluck Feast

By Kathy Boyer

Please join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast.

Day: Thursday, November 28
Time: Gather 12:30 p.m. – Blessing and Feast, 1:00 p.m.
Place: GSUCC Sanctuary
Attire: Elastic waistbands

Bring a favorite dish or two from your traditional Thanksgiving meal, or any dish that means “Thanksgiving” to you. Meet us at church at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, November 28. We’ll plan to eat about 1:00 p.m., after everyone has arrived.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex, just so we have an idea of how many people are interested, but last minute changes in plans are also welcomed; no previous reservations needed. If you know what you will bring, you may list that also so that others can decide what may be missing that they would like to contribute.

For more information, call Kathy Boyer at 919-460-8146 or email to nckathyb@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

(1)
Church Council
Stewardship Structure Update

By Amy Murray

Your Church Council continues its work with the new Stewardship structure and is making adjustments to better serve the congregation and our community.

Each Stewardship leader and Associate has been working diligently to set up areas to work in the most efficient and common sense way.

We have all been working on creating Vitality Goals to guide our work. Below is the over-arching Vitality Goal that is guiding the work of the Church Council:

This year, as we transition from 60+ to only 19 elected positions, the Church Council goal is to create and support a more nimble, open ministry structure that allows people to connect and serve more easily and to work more efficiently.

If you are interested in reviewing more details and the specific Vitality Goal statements from each Stewardship, you can see them by clicking here:

Also, as of our September Church Council meeting, three specific changes were made. Those changes include the following:

1. Staff Relations (formerly under Relationship) will now fall under Church Council.
2. Open and Affirming (formerly under Relationship) will now fall under Mission and Outreach.
3. Stewardship and counters will now fall under the Office of the Treasurer.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach Amy Murray, Church Council Moderator at: amyomurray@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship of Worship

The Pastor’s Corner

By Carla Gregg-Kearns

In our Wednesday morning class, we have been exploring identity, belonging, and community for foundations in our anti-racism work. When we understand who we are, we can more fully appreciate and engage the stories of others.

As we come to the Thanksgiving holiday, it gives us time to ponder our own family traditions and national celebrations. The three-day harvest festival of 1621 that the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag tribe shared has over the years morphed into our current holiday. While this festival was an actual event between Native Americans and colonists, so were the many battles, deaths, and betrayals that we don’t as a nation name often. Why has a day of thanksgiving instead of a day of mourning become our national holiday? If we still tell the story of the festival of 1621, what other stories will we tell alongside it?

These are important questions as we reflect on our own culture and identity. Where and who we come from, the stories we have been told and now pass on have in some measure shaped who we are. I pray in this season that we will take the time to ponder our own stories so that we can more gracefully encounter the stories of others.

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The worship committee is in the process of writing a grant to the Calvin Institute to enhance worship at GSUCC through the arts with a focus on scripture in worship. There are so many possibilities! As we think about bringing more arts into worship, please take this short survey (and your kids can too!) to tell us what artistic expressions would be most meaningful to you. In addition we’d love to talk to you about our plans and hear your feedback. Mike Rowland will be leading a conversation after worship on November 11 in the sanctuary.

On November 3, in worship we will take time to remember those who have passed away and those who are the roots of our growing faith. As we turn in our pledge cards for the 2020 budget, we will have the opportunity to name those who fed and nurtured our faith. We know we did not get where we are by ourselves. As we look to our shared future, we also recall our ancestors in the faith and give thanks for their lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 30, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Hanging of the Greens in Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 1, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Worship, Dwelling in Hope, and Toy Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 8, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Worship, Dwelling in Peace, and Toy Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 9, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Reflective Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 14, 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Cary Christmas Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 15, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Worship, Dwelling in Love, Christmas Cantata Pageant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 22, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Worship, Dwelling in Joy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 22, 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Caroling with Covenant Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 24, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 29, 10:30 am</td>
<td>5th Sunday Worship, Dwelling in Christmas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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By Carla Gregg-Kearns
It’s almost that time again—time to order poinsettias to be used to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22, and the Christmas Eve service.

Forms for ordering the “Christmas Flowers” will be in the bulletins on November 24, December 1, and December 8. Each plant will be $10 and flowers may be given in honor or in memory of special persons. Perhaps a “remembrance” gift for someone who is hard to buy for would be appropriate. We will be glad to send a card to the honoree. A space for addresses will be included on the form.

The hanging of the greens is an important start to Advent at Good Shepherd. Join in the laughter and the fun as we turn our sanctuary into a beautiful reflection of the season. There will be fluffing of bows, climbing ladders to hang the greens, decorating the tree, setting up the crèche and bringing out the Advent wreath.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 30, at 9 a.m.! Plan to bring the whole family to join in our creation of a beautiful place for worship and memories to last a lifetime.

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Editor’s Note: We are delighted that Allie Anderson recently joined Good Shepherd, and look forward to her becoming involved in our church ministries. At our request, Allie submitted the following information about herself so we could get to know her better.

Please introduce yourself:

My name is Allison Anderson, or Allie. I go by both. Allie is used more informally. I usually introduce myself as Allison. I recently moved here after my best friend had been urging me to move here since she arrived three years ago. She knew I grew up in San Diego and that I missed the changing of the seasons and such, since I am an avid nature girl and an amateur nature photographer.

Circumstances at my job in Miami led doors to swing wide open for me to move here in April. So that is what I did; I turned the page to the next chapter and here I am! I am currently unemployed, but fervently looking for a job. Before moving here, I spent 16 years in the licensing compliance field for a major insurance underwriter.

Tell us about yourself and your family:

Well, I am single, but I do have family! My older brother and his husband live in North Hollywood, California. My brother, John, is a very successful storyboard animator and is currently the lead on the animated series, DC Superhero Girls. His husband, Richard, is a playwright/pianist. My younger brother, Mike, lives in Springfield, Missouri. He is a registered nurse and has two children, my niece and nephew. Mom and Dad also live in Springfield. Mom is a retired OB/GYN and dad a retired civil engineer/Navy pilot. I have two aunts in Florida, and two first cousins, one of whom lives here in North Carolina, and the other lives in Tennessee. I have many other distant cousins and a very interesting and diverse family tree! I don’t get to see my family as much as I’d love to, but hopefully that can change once I get more settled here. Then there are the countless friends I know and love across the nation and world!

How did you come to Good Shepherd? Can you share a bit of your faith journey?

Before I moved to North Carolina, I did a lot of research online for affirming churches. I came from a Presbyterian background, so my main search involved finding a PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) church. My whole entire regular church going started when I moved to Miami almost 20 years ago. I really was adamantly against organized religion and churches all together after seeing countless televangelists spewing words that told me being gay was wrong and so on; I and my older brother are out. I had a

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strong belief in God, but the God I was seeing portrayed on TV from these people was not the God I thought God to be; plus, Jesus hung out with people like me! I have always had a love for all things religion-oriented, whether it was books or documentaries, etc. I was thrilled when I got to see part of the Dead Sea Scrolls when they toured in San Diego — talk about an incredible experience!

When I moved to Miami in 2001, my then-partner urged me to attend church with her and I defiantly said no, but ended up going anyway that Sunday. Riviera Presbyterian Church encapsulated all that my beliefs knew were true. They truly embraced ALL of God’s children and I eventually joined the church where I grew into church leadership and was ordained a church Elder.

Back to almost present day: When I was looking for churches, I happened upon Good Shepherd’s website. I thought it was a great church, but it wasn’t a PCUSA church, it was UCC, and I knew nothing about UCC, except that I had friends who went to a sister church in Coral Gables, Florida. I kept searching and kept being led to Good Shepherd, so I dove a bit further. I realized that GSUCC was almost exactly like my church in Miami. That’s when I decided that when I moved here, I would visit.

I happened to come on the Sunday when you all did the comedy skits, and I remember several people almost apologizing because it wasn’t a “normal” Sunday and I laughed to myself because it was PERFECT! The Sunday was just like any other amazing Sunday I experienced in Miami. That’s when I pretty much knew that God had opened my new path to learn about the UCC.

**What are your hopes and wishes to support Good Shepherd since becoming a member?**

I love to be challenged in my faith and I love to learn. There are several ways to go about this, but I have found that stepping out of a comfort zone; asking questions of which sometimes you do not have the answers; listening to our still, small voices; trying to place ourselves in the shoes of our adversaries; and walking our faith as honestly as we are able, helps us and challenges us to learn to be better Christians. So far, from what I have seen through interactions, conversations and such from the people of GSUCC, I know this journey will be fruitful.

I want to be able to support GSUCC in any way I can. I love the involvement and ministries you have, and I am working towards getting the Let’s Go outings up and going again, and do things like hike, see plays, movies and stuff. Stay tuned!

**Anything else you’d like to share?**

Just a section of a poem by Mary Oliver entitled, *I Walk Close to Morning*,

“Why do people keep asking to see God’s identity papers when the darkness opening into morning is more than enough?”

I love that line because it reminds me of each time I see nature of any kind — trees, sunsets, sunrises, birds, leaves, insects and all — I am certain of God.

**Info Session**

By Carla Gregg-Kearns

On November 10 and 17, at 9:15 a.m., in the library of the Christian education building, Pastor Carla will hold a two-part information session for those interested in learning more about GSUCC. The first one is about the United Church of Christ and the second one is about Good Shepherd.

Following the info sessions, we will have a time in worship to receive new members. However, you do not have to be planning to join in order

**Newcomer Coffee**

If you are new to Good Shepherd, we invite you to coffee and light refreshments with Pastor Carla, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary on December 8. It’s an informal time to learn about the church and its ministries.

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Cards and Prayers Group

By Charlotte Speltz

As a part of the Congregational Care Ministry of Good Shepherd UCC, a specific group devoted to sending cards and offering prayers was formed on October 7. Charlotte Speltz is facilitating this group under the guidance of Stewards Barb Eilers and Linda Lahre. The members of the group are Mary Ellen Deeds, Connie Holleman, Linda Lahre, Walter Ludewig, Diane McPherson, Janice Meyers, Dot Scrimgeour and Fran Straeffer.

The group meets the first Monday morning of each month at Charlotte’s home, and anyone who wishes may become a member. Several people have graciously donated cards, some of which are beautifully custom-crafted. The group will appreciate additional cards, especially blank ones or “thinking of you.” The cards may be given to any group member.

Each month the group compiles a list of persons to whom they will send cards that month. Other names are added during the month as situations arise.

Each month the group will pray for designated persons at Good Shepherd UCC. Pastor Carla will notify those persons before the meeting. The group also prays especially for those who have requested prayers in the church bulletin.

During the month, any special prayer requests may be placed in the offering plate during worship or may come to Pastor Carla Gregg-Kearns or Associate Pastor Linda Velto. When appropriate, prayer requests will be forwarded to Charlotte Speltz, who will contact the prayer group immediately by email. Members will keep all prayer requests confidential.

Stewardship of Faith Formation

What's Going on in Children’s Faith Formation?

By Jon DePue

Sunday school is well underway at Good Shepherd, with Pre-K to K and 1st-5th grade classes being offered—as well as childcare—in the education building. These classes begin just after the children’s message and end at the same time as the service. Just a reminder for parents to please walk over to the education building to retrieve your child at the end of service/Sunday school unless other arrangements have been made.

During part of Sunday school time this month, the children will be working on pictures for our Advent bulletin covers corresponding with the theme of “Dwelling in Advent”—so dwelling in hope, peace, love, and joy. We look forward to seeing the amazing art that our children will create!

As we transition into our “new” Christian education space in light of Aspen’s recent absence, we are looking for toy donations for the Pre-K to K and childcare rooms. Please contact Jon DePue to ask about toys you would like to donate.
What’s Going on in Youth Faith Formation?

By Jon DePue

The next youth group meeting will be on November 17, at High House. All middle and high schoolers are invited to meet Jon and Stephanie on the patio after service to walk over to High House together. Lunch will be provided, and youth group will conclude at 1:30 p.m.

Registration is open for the 2020 Winter Youth Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, NC! This year’s theme and conversations will be focusing on what we as a faith community believe about God’s love for us, how we see that love manifest, and what love does and doesn’t look like for others. The theme verse, 1 John 4:11-12, was chosen by this year’s speaker, Alicia Crosby; and her experience as a minister, educator, writer, and all-around creative person will undoubtedly lead to conversations on faith and love that will benefit the youth of Winter Youth Retreat for long after the weekend. Please do not register on your own but let Jon DePue know if you are interested, as he will register your youth as a group.

The 2020 UCC National Youth Event: UNITE! will be held at Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana) July 22-25. This four-day event is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering, often bringing 4,000 participants. The time together will be centered on faith, leadership, service, and social justice in order to empower youth. All young people who have completed 6th through 12th grade are invited. The cost for each youth is $375. Please contact Jon DePue if you are interested in attending this great opportunity to meet and learn with UCC youth from across the country.

What’s Going on in Community Group?

By Jon DePue

Community Group normally meets every second and fourth Wednesday from 7-9 p.m., at High House. This fall, we will be focused on discussing “Big Questions”—from the Bible and evolution to life after death. Because of Thanksgiving, though, our November group meetings will be on the 13th and the 20th. Please contact Jon DePue if you are interested in joining the discussion!

Wednesday Morning Spirituality Group

Allied Faith: Learning Anti-Racism with Children’s Literature

By Carla Gregg-Kearns

On Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., at High House, we will continue in our Allied Faith series using children’s literature to explore anti-racism. There will be no class on November 27. On December 4, we will begin a three-week Advent series led by Rev. Yvonne Riddick.

| November 6 | Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Became Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz – Race and Identity |
| November 13 | Undocumented: A Worker’s Fight by Duncan Tonatiuh – Racism and Response |
| November 20 | Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey – Racism and Response |

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The GSUCC Book Club is meeting Tuesday, December 3, at 7 p.m., at High House. We will be discussing Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others, in which Barbara Brown Taylor reflects on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions. Please join us.

Our book selections for the upcoming months are:

- January - Wild Swans: three daughters of China by Jung Chang
- February - The Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II by Liza Mundy
- March - The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
- April - Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Stewardship of Mission and Outreach

Food Drive for Dorcas Food Pantry

By Stephanie Herold

There is an immediate need to restock the Dorcas Food Pantry. Their supplies are very low, and the holidays are coming. They are in need of:

- Rice
- Bisquick
- Saltines
- Sugar
- Flour
- Fresh potatoes, onions, celery, carrots, apples and oranges

Women’s Fellowship is sponsoring a food drive for Dorcas during the month of November. Please bring a food item to church each Sunday until Thanksgiving to help restock the shelves at Dorcas so others in our community can provide a bountiful Thanksgiving meal for their families too.

Shopping lists are available in the narthex to help remind you of Dorcas’ needs when you do your shopping this month.

Community Organizing Update

By Linda Velto

Wake County Sponsors held an Internal Assembly this week, gathering nearly 200+ representatives of faith communities and organizations from all over Wake County. Eight people from Good Shepherd were there to cast our votes on the broad issues that will form the first action agenda for Wake County Sponsors. Two issues were selected at this gathering: affordable housing and education. Specific action items related to these issues will be developed by research teams during the next few months.

The assembled representatives committed to having more listening sessions in November to seek input from more Wake County residents. A second Internal Assembly will be held on Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m., where we will vote on two more broad issues for our action agenda. To learn more about this citizen-led action, talk to Linda Velto.
Collecting New Toys For The Christmas Store

By Beth Crews

New Horizons Fellowship will be hosting their annual Christmas Store again in 2019. The Christmas Store allows Wake County families who are struggling financially to be able to buy gifts for their children. In previous years, The Christmas Store has served over 1,100 children!

To donate, please bring a new unwrapped toy and drop it in the bin located in the narthex. The bin will be available from December 1-8. Any toy appropriate for children from birth to age 14 would be welcome. The collected toys will be dropped off in time for The Christmas Store shopping, scheduled for Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14. For more information about this event, click here.

Good Shepherd is going to have an entry in the Cary Christmas parade again this year! We will be decorating Dave and Kate Yuska’s truck, and young children or those who can’t walk will ride in the back and others will walk beside it. This is an excellent way for us to make our community aware that we welcome everyone, regardless of who they are or where they are on life’s journey.

There are lots of ways you can help if you wish to be involved with this church-wide project:

♦ Decorating the truck, loaning garlands or other decorations to be used
♦ Participating in the parade: riding in the truck, walking beside it, carrying a banner or poster, handing out candy to spectators
♦ Donating candy to be distributed to spectators, especially if you have any candy left over from trick or treat that doesn’t include a Halloween theme.

Those interested in decorating the truck and/or being in the parade should meet at a to-be-designated place in the parade line-up at 1 p.m., on Saturday, December 14. The parade will start at 2 p.m. If you are interested in helping with our entry or have suggestions about this fun activity, please contact Lindsey Gregg-Kearns at lindseykearns@yahoo.com.
The letter below was received by Good Shepherd from Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry in appreciation for our July 28-August 2 mission trip work with their agency.

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Save The Birds!

By Anne White

With extinction in the news, I have been watching for bird data of interest. Many feed on insects that are disappearing at an alarming rate. Many feed on seeds that are abundant in meadows and forests. But the abundance of meadows and forests is being threatened, not just by urban development, but by incursion by corporate prospectors into our federal lands, thanks to efforts to tap as many for-profit resources wherever they can be found and by deregulation and encouragement by politicians. Many suburban yards are planted with ornamental species of little value to birds, even though there is much information on the internet on plant species of most benefit to birds.

But while birds remain everywhere, people are actually seeing far fewer of them than just 50 years ago, according to a new study. It estimates that North America is home to nearly three billion fewer birds today compared to 1970—that’s more than one in four birds that have disappeared from the landscape in a mere half century. This site also lists plants that attract birds.

Live lightly on the Earth. Add backyard bird feeders, fresh water, plants to nest and rest in, and nest boxes. Incorporate plants that feed birds. Winter is coming, and so are birds that winter over in North Carolina.

Fortunately, we still have trees in residential areas, and pine and maple attract many birds, as these photos show. Dogwood and redbud also provide bird food. All photos are by Jeff Lewis, my special friend, who was head gardener at the Elizabethan Garden when I worked there. His Flicker account is stunning! If you sign up for Flicker, there are lots of Jeff Lewis photographers on the site, but his photo is the face of a red fox and his user name is Jeff.

Creation Corner

Check out the scarecrow in our garden, as well as our fall vegetables. We are still collecting compost every Sunday in the breezeway. Click here to learn more about what to compost. Click here for the Home Composting Made Easy website.

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Recently, Wake County Solid Waste Management sponsored some information sessions at their convenience centers around the county to provide information about their recycling programs. It was very eye-opening to me. Although we can recycle just about everything, not everything can go into our curbside bins. Each community has things that they will take that others will not. For example, Raleigh has curbside fiber recycling for clothing and other fibers, but Cary does not. Morrisville has a place where you may recycle Styrofoam, but it must be taken there. Raleigh has a place that will recycle plastic clam shell containers and other thin plastic items, but they cannot be placed in your bin—they must be taken to their center. Almost all of the convenience centers will take things that cannot be put into the bins.

You may wonder, “If they recycle it somewhere, why can’t I put it in my bin?” And the answer is that it all depends on the machine that sorts the items where the bins are taken. The machine sorts things by size and volume. If a thin sheet of plastic comes through, the machine thinks it is paper, and then the plastic contaminates the paper recycling. Thinner plastic containers can break up and cost time and money for the workers to sort them out and clean up the mess. The number on the plastic item is the number for the polymer that is used in the product, but that does not mean it can be recycled in your bin if a plastic bottle has the same number. Things that we put in our curbside bins that aren’t accepted cost the program time and money to remove and make it less efficient.

It also helps to have things at least rinsed out, or they will have to be cleaned onsite at the recycling center. Labels may remain on and any plastic screw cap may remain on plastic bottles. Snap-on lids tend to pop off and mess up the works, so they are not accepted. If you wanted to recycle an aluminum can lid, put the lid inside the can and crimp it so that it will go onto the aluminum recycling instead of the paper area.

So, I was mostly interested in what we recycle in Cary at church, and it seems that we put a lot of things in the bin that are not accepted. They will not accept paper or plastic cups or plates, used napkins, plastic utensils, plastic containers that are not bottles, or tubs, (such as for butter or whipped topping). No used aluminum foil, plastic grocery bags or any cardboard that has grease or food on it. Any place that takes film plastic, like grocery store bags, will take other film type plastic too, like bubble wrap, plastic wrap (food free), plastic mailing envelopes and bread bags. And of course, you can go online to see what the different recycling centers will take.

I asked about how we are affected by China’s discontinuing taking our paper and plastic and was told that it mostly affected the west coast. Our paper and plastic recycling stays mostly in our community.

But recycling does cost money and time, and since we tend to produce so much waste, it can get expensive; but it still is the right thing to do for the environment. So, if we can help keep it efficient by recycling the proper things in the proper places, we are helping all involved and being good stewards of our environment.

To see what Cary recycles, click [here](#). For Raleigh, click [here](#). You can go [here](#) to navigate recycling programs and find out about them.

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Please mark your calendar for our semi-annual all-church workday to be held on Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. until approximately 4 p.m. No experience required. Lunch will be served.

The past seven years have been a struggle to renovate our High House property to meet the Town of Cary’s requirements for a church office. Along with redecorating High House, we have had to:

- Rezone the property
- Adjust the lot lines
- Make the lavatory handicap accessible
- Replace the deck
- Move the septic tank
- Widen the driveway
- Create a handicap parking space
- Add a walkway from the street to the deck ramp
- Install a bike rack
- Do other minor things

We are now seeing light at the end of the tunnel. The only major thing left is to plant trees and shrubs to screen the property from the neighbors. Building and Grounds Stewardship (formerly Property Ministry) contacted a number of landscape companies to request bids on the landscaping. We have selected Leapfrog Landcare to do the work. They will provide the trees and shrubs and will plant them to meet Town of Cary requirements. We expect they will start in the near future, and it will take about two to three days to complete their work after the Town approves the location of the plants.

To reduce the cost of landscaping, Building and Grounds Stewardship will be asking people to clear some of the existing vegetation that is inconsistent with the approved site plan. The date and time of the workday will be announced in the near future. In addition, Sofia Sands will lead our efforts to install a drip irrigation system for some of the shrubs. The trees and the other shrubs will need watering, and we may be asking for help with the watering.

If you have any questions or want to help, please see Dave Stonefield or Dave Sniffin.
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GSUCC & UCC Info Session
November 10 & 17, 9:15 a.m.
Library

Community Group
November 13 & 20, 7:00 p.m.
High House

Youth Group
November 17, 12:00 p.m.
High House

Women’s Fellowship
November 21, 7 p.m.
Sanctuary

Church Work Day
November 23
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens
November 30, 9 a.m.
Sanctuary

Thanksgiving Potluck Feast
November 28, 12:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Book Club
December 3, 7:00 p.m.
High House

See Newsletter articles for more details...
Finances First

Offering Status as of September 30, 2019

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<td>$150,340</td>
<td>$184,916</td>
<td>-$34,576</td>
<td>-18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>$32,508</td>
<td>$18,135</td>
<td>$14,373</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for 2019</td>
<td>$182,848</td>
<td>$203,051</td>
<td>-$20,203</td>
<td>-9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes prior year pledge payments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mortgage</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Monthly Payment (Interest &amp; Principal)</th>
<th>Additional Principal Payment</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Estimated Payoff Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>$1,616.89</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$207,617.24**</td>
<td>12/1/2038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance will increase as reimbursement money is requested.

Total Year to Date Income and Expenses as of September 30, 2019***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Budgeted YTD</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>Delta %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$196,199.96</td>
<td>$222,844.50</td>
<td>-$26,644.54</td>
<td>-12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$183,139.32</td>
<td>$217,317.00</td>
<td>-$34,177.68</td>
<td>-15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$13,059.74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Does not include special capital expenses or special income.

Alert Us to Changes

If your financial situation changes during the year and you need to make changes on the amount you have pledged for the year (up or down), please contact me: Gordon Welles (treasurer@gsucc.org).

Thank You!

Thanks to all of you not only for your monetary gifts but also for your gifts of time and talent.

If you have any questions about the church’s budget or anything provided in this report, please contact me.

Gordon Welles

treasurer@gsucc.org

Have you considered including Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in your will?
Dear Members and Friends of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ,

As part of the GSUCC family, we have experienced much growth this year! Through staff and volunteers, much support has been given to those who are part of our church and the wider community. With our donations last year we were able to repair and improve our facilities, participate more fully with the community at large, and even help facilitate the reunion of an ill child with her mother. With our time, our presence brought support to others; and hopefully lightened the work and lifted the spirits of those around us. All these things helped us as a church family grow our faith in our Lord and in one another.

The Stewardship Campaign’s theme this year is, “Growing Our Faith.”

As our church has grown, so will the things we accomplished this year increase; like welcoming refugees, cultivating gardens to support the food pantry, conducting ministry and grief counseling, offering vacation bible school, undertaking mission projects in the wake of hurricanes, and supporting the building of affordable homes. We are transforming our church community and beyond with this growth. Now is the time to make a prayerful consideration of what you can pledge in 2020. Your donations will support the 25% increase we need to fully fund our budget of building and staffing needs as our church membership grows. Your pledges will ensure we fulfill our mission.

It is our hope that this year we can do paperless pledges and complete them online. This can be done very easily by visiting gsucc.org and clicking on the link that says “2020 Online Pledge Form.” The pledge form is confidential and only the Treasurer will see the entries. A hard copy pledge card is provided for those who prefer doing their pledge offline.

During Sunday’s worship on November 3, there will be a special time to dedicate all your pledges, and those that choose to paper pledge can submit them at this time as well. If you cannot attend worship on that day, please mail your pledge card to Good Shepherd as soon as possible or send your pledge information to the confidential email treasurer@gsucc.org by Sunday, November 3.

Your timely pledge allows the Stewardship Ministry to present accurate information to the Council, who can then make any adjustments during the budget meeting in November. The final version will be submitted to the congregation on the first Sunday in December for approval.

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry, please accept my thanks for your consideration. I pray that you will be able to make a pledge for next year and that the 2020 budget will allow Good Shepherd to Grow Our Faith and meet your spiritual needs.

In Christ,
Gordon Welles
GSUCC Treasurer
Welcome to Charlotte (Charlie) Isabella Blount, who was born to Katherine Gleason and Xavier Blount, on October 5, 2019. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Katherine and Xavier thank everyone for their prayers and support, especially the meals in the first week home. They’re so grateful for all the love and care from our Good Shepherd family!

Our November Birthdays

2  Emily Gleason  
8  Camden Lee  
9  Cindi Bristol-Kerr  
13  Bill Velto  
18  Barbara Bouvier  
24  Bill Cole  
26  Elia Perez  
27  Russ Oliver  
29  Sam Stinneford

If you have a birthday in November and it is not listed, please call (919) 481-1441 and let us know.

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ  
1050 NW Maynard Road  
Cary, NC 27513  
Phone: 919-481-1441  
Website: www.gsucc.org

Staff

Ministers: The People of Good Shepherd  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Carla Gregg-Kearns  
Associate Minister: Linda Velto  
Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Jon DePue  
Moderator: Amy Murray  
Secretary: Robin Miller  
Pianist: Linda Velto  
Choir Director: Carla Gleason  
Praise Team Director: Chris Alberti  
Custodian: Supreme Cleaning  
Newsletter Editors: Kathy Boyer & Susie Oliver

Office Hours:

Senior Pastor: W 10:00 am — 2:00 pm  
Secretary: M, T, W 9:30 am — 12:30 pm

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Visit us online and see what’s new at: http://www.gsucc.org/