

The Shepherd's Crook



JANUARY 2015

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The Shepherd's Crook is published for GSPC members and friends.
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Mary Kennedy
Noel Matthews
Mary McCarron
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Pat McCune
Marsha Morton
Sara Tyburczy
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Happy New Year from Good Shepherd!!!

First off, a word of thanks – for the paternity leave granted me by the session on behalf of the congregation. It was a total joy to be able to spend so much time with Coulter and Katie as we were growing into a family together. I look forward to you getting to know him better in the coming weeks, months, and years!

Second, in this Crook, you'll find two pieces that I've written that I encourage you to take a look at. The first is about where we are headed in the Narrative Lectionary. The second is about the good work your session has been engaged in over the past couple of months, and some things you might expect to see at our annual meeting in a couple weeks.

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas, and that this New Year brings nothing but the best in health, happiness, and spiritual growth.

Peace and Joy –

Bill



The Story Continues –

This fall we began a new adventure in worship with the Narrative Lectionary. We read famous stories of our faith: the Flood, Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt, David and Bathsheeba, and so many more. But what was missing was a Gospel reading, because all of these stories were from the Old Testament. Well, wait no longer, here in the New Year we will now focus on the story of the life of Jesus as it is told in Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew has his own way of sharing about Jesus' life to his very Jewish community. Throughout his gospel, mercy is a central theme. Mercy is central to the Beatitudes, as well as most of the interactions Jesus has with others. As we hear these familiar, and not so familiar, stories of Jesus' life, I encourage you to ask, "How is mercy present here?"

There are some great resources that I will be drawing from in my sermons. Tom Long and Stan Saunders, both former professors, have excellent commentaries on Matthew that I will reference throughout our journey with Matthew. Stanley Hauerwas, the great ethicist from Duke University has also reflected on Matthew's gospel in a great little commentary. Two other books that are influencing my thoughts as I prepare sermons on these great texts are Amy-Jill Levine's *short stories by Jesus: the enigmatic parables of a controversial rabbi* and Kenneth Bailey's *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*. Both of these books take a non-traditional view of the life of Christ and bring their Jewish and Arab heritages to interpreting the stories Matthew tells.

I look forward to introducing you to the thoughts of these great thinkers as we explore Matthew's Gospel together, trying to learn more about the ways the stories of Christ are still meaningful for us today!

Making Statements –

This past summer Session began a process of engaging and rewriting our mission statement. We began by brainstorming and then ranking words that we thought best describe Good Shepherd. We then used those words to either edit our existing mission statement, or write new statements about who we are as a community of faith and what we're about. Our next step is to finalize a new mission statement, which will be presented either at the annual meeting, or soon after.

"Why a new mission statement?" you might be asking. I think that it is helpful every couple of years, and especially after a period of transition, to look at the mission of an organization, to make sure it still accurately reflects those important who and what questions. I also find it helpful, in our culture of 140 character tweets and instant news headlines, to have a mission statement that is memorable and quotable.

It is my hope that a new mission statement will not just be new words, but continue to provide us with growing energy and enthusiasm for being the church together.



**Sunday, January 25
11:00 a.m.**

Please plan on attending!



January:

- 01 Diana Bennett
- 03 Becky Carlisle
Robin Kelly
- 04 Rob Bennett
Nate Fauber
- 07 Amalie Harvell
- 08 Taya Mendez
- 09 Jacklyn Watson
- 13 Zach Mendez
- 15 Dylan Kountz
- 17 Hunter Regan
- 23 Penny Kountz
- 26 Kira Braun
- 28 Kelly Keep
- 31 Betty Casady

Jan. 4 OPEN

Jan. 11 OPEN

Jan. 18 OPEN

Jan. 25 OPEN

Arrangements are \$20 each. Please pay one week in advance so that we can order the flowers. Thank you!



Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The Family & Friends of Birda Siani who died on December 26, 2014.

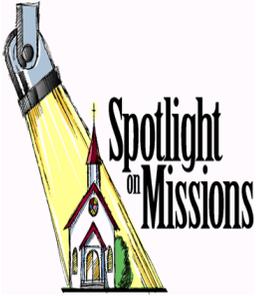
The Family & Friends of Vera Waldron who died on December 30, 2014.

Wava Vincent, whose sister recently died.

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Jerry & Jacque Noland, Patti Tyler, Sue Coleman, Margaret Butler Olive, Becky McConnell, Tonya, Betty Casady, Tom McConnell, Donna Cadwalader; Blane, Ava, & Tiffany; the Presbytery of Zimbabwe; our military men & women, clients of our Food Bank, clients of Growing Home.



As we begin the new year, the Mission Working Group would like to review the many ways in which all of us at Good Shepherd have supported mission outreaches over the past year.

Last spring we supported the annual church-wide One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which funds Presbyterian Hunger programs, disaster assistance and self-development of people.

In April we sponsored a sale of pinwheels, and planted a garden of 95 pinwheels to support Ralston House, a child advocacy center, which recently opened their third Denver-area facility in Northglenn. Ralston House works with law enforcement, human services and the community to provide a safe place to investigate child abuse and ensure victim services for those children.

In early June some of us sponsored Michael Whitman as he represented GSPC in the annual Elephant Rock bike ride to raise funds for the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership.

In September we hosted our annual Good Shepherd Mission Barbecue, with the proceeds divided equally between Highlands Camp and the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership.

In October we received a second church-wide offering, the Peacemaking Offering, which supports Presbyterian efforts toward peacemaking around the world. The portion we are allowed to keep for a local peacemaking effort was sent to Ralston House. Also in October, several of us, sponsored by many of you, walked in the annual CROP Walk to raise funds for local, national and international hunger programs. Our food bank will soon receive funds from this walk.

In November Good Shepherd supported "Operation Christmas Child", with 97 shoe-

boxes filled by members and sent to needy children world-wide.

We have just recently sponsored a Growing Home family with Christmas gifts, while the Warming Tree in the Narthex, provided by the Sunday School, is collecting hats, gloves, and other warm accessories for Growing Home families.

In addition to all this, Good Shepherd supports and staffs our own food bank which has served hundreds of local families each month for over 28 years. We also collect the 2Cents a Meal offering once each month, which is divided between the Presbyterian Hunger Program and our food bank. Then, too, we partner with Northglenn United Methodist Church to host Growing Home Families 4 times each year. And you all step up whenever asked, such as on a recent Sunday when we requested lots of help so that we could have a special reception following the joint cantata with the Boulder Adventist Church.

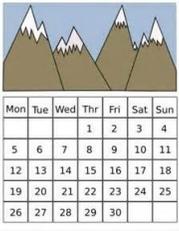
The 2014 "Year of Mission" concluded with the Christmas Joy Offering, which is collected each December to assist retired Presbyterian Church workers who sometimes encounter financial needs that are not covered by their retirement income and to support needy students at Presbyterian racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

Well done, good and faithful people! You are an amazingly generous congregation and we want to thank all of you!!

Go in peace into 2015.

—Your Mission Working Group

Are you interested in being a **Lay Reader** during the next year??? Joan Moore is working on the schedule for the next couple months and would love to add your name. Training sessions for interested (and current) readers who would like to brush up on their Lay Reader skills will be offered following worship on February 1st, and on Wednesday February 4th at 5pm. Please let Pastor Bill know if you're planning on attending.

 Need a 2015 calendar? Once again the Christian Education group is selling calendars to supplement our CE budget. These have beautiful pictures and Bible verses for each month, with plenty of space to write down appointments and schedules. They are only \$10 each and are being sold after worship in the narthex. Be sure and get a few for yourself and friends!


A big THANK YOU to everyone from the staff of Good Shepherd for your generous gifts during the Christmas season!


**Youth Group resumes
January 11 at 6:30 pm!**



The Baby Shower for Bill, Katie & Baby Coulter, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 8, following worship.

WARMING TREE
Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Warming Tree at GSPC. We collected and donated to Growing Home: 70 hats, 42 pairs of gloves, 19 glove/hat sets, 14 pairs of socks, 7 pairs of mittens, 5 headbands, 3 scarves, 2 pair of slippers and 1 pair of ear muffs. Thank you again for sharing the gift of warmth to so many.



Items needed for the Food Bank for January: Mac and cheese, canned soups, toilet paper and bar soap. Please place items

in the bench in the Narthex or bring to the Food Bank. During December the Food Bank gave out 151 orders to 110 households, serving 381 people, including 146 children. Thank you for your continued support for this important mission to our community.

!!! Save the Date !!!
**Tuesday,
 March 24th, 2015**

**Denver Presbytery
 Assembly
 @ Good Shepherd**

**Stay tuned for
 more information
 in the New Year!**



Dave Blount would like pictures of events of our church and our people sent to him in a timely manner so we can show those things happening each Sunday at church on the screen. If you don't know how to e-mail pictures, Teddie, Bill or Dave can help you. Dave's e-mail is: heartwood23@gmail.com

Support Good Shepherd when you buy groceries

King Soopers cards are available from Good Shepherd for an initial cost of \$25.00, and Safeway cards are available for an initial \$10.00 cost. Both cards are reloadable at either at the customer service counter or the check-out lane of your local grocery store. When Good Shepherd reloads reach \$5,000 from each store, Good Shepherd receives a rebate check for 5.00% of all associated reloads. The Albertson's Community Partners program uses a free card, available from Good Shepherd. The shopper scans at the card at the cash register. Once a quarter Albertson's sends Good Shepherd a check based on the amount of groceries purchased usually about \$20.00 to \$25.00. While these aren't huge amounts of income to Good Shepherd, every bit helps and there isn't a cost to you. You may use either a credit card or a check to reload your grocery card. Let Mary Archuleta know if you want a grocery card (or cards) and she will order them for you. Support Good Shepherd when you buy groceries.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 OFFICE AND FOOD BANK CLOSED	3 SH 12:30-6:30pm
4 Communion Un-Hang Greens Mission 11:15am SH 10 am-4 pm	5	6 EPIPHANY	7 FH Highland Dev. Comm. 2-5 pm Bible Study 3:30pm NO Choir	8	9 Sanctuary Reserved 6-9 pm	10 Vera Waldron Service 10:30 am SH 12:30-6:30pm
11 W & M 11:15am Guest Preacher: Rev. Tom Sheffield Youth 6:30 pm SH 10 am-4 pm	12 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE INTO CHURCH OFFICE	13 SESSION 6:30 pm FH	14 Bible Study 3:30pm Choir 7 pm	15 Staff Meeting 11:30 am Sometime Circle (FH) 1 pm	16 Annual Reports Available on Web site	17 SH 12:30-6:30pm
18 SH 10 am-4 pm	19  OFFICE CLOSED	20 Retired Nurses (FH) 8am-noon	21 Bible Study 3:30pm Choir 7 pm	22	23	24 SH 12:30-6:30pm
25 ANNUAL CONGREGA- TIONAL MTG. 11 AM SH 10 am-4 pm	26	27 Church Women United (FH) 9 am-1 pm	28 Bible Study 3:30pm Choir 7 pm	29	30	31

The Shepherd's Crook

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Northglenn CO 80234

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Children's Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Adult Classes 8:30 a.m.
Worship: 10 a.m.
Nursery provided all morning



**The purpose of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
is to receive God's unfailing love with gratitude
and to pass on what we have received from God in Christ
to our community, nation, and the world
with excitement, reverence, and holy love.**



**-We receive nurture for discipleship through worship,
teaching, fellowship, and mutual support.
-We then live out our faith in God by serving others
in the power of the Holy Spirit through mission and outreach.**