



January 2021

The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-5353

From Your Interim Pastor :

We ring in the new year with signs of hope. At least two vaccines may help us get this pandemic behind us. We've managed to hold things together, but what a challenge it has been. Your church council leadership is incredibly grateful for your ongoing financial support and encouragement. We started 2020 with lots of optimism but this virus brought closures and unusual adaptations when we did start having in person worship. Our service ministries were curtailed for months, as well as all those social and educational events that bring vitality and joy to our faith lives. Our hopes for new visitors and former attenders returning took a huge hit and visitation of members has been suspended, given the risks. 2020 was not what any of us envisioned. While at least seven members of our Good Shepherd community have contracted the virus, thankfully all have recovered.

There have been brighter moments. Our portico became a very workable outdoor setting as we tried to keep everyone safe. We're still using it to allow for some limited singing that is strongly discouraged indoors. We've been able to do a few events like "trunk of treat" and a few children's activities. Confirmation resumed with 3 teens and 3 adults---a really fun combination. And as you'll read in the treasurer's report, generous giving has allowed paying back significant past borrowing to stabilize the church's finances.

One member asked me when we were going to release the "Alleluias" from the box by the altar. Remember that we put away the alleluias back at the start of Lent in 2020. The plan was to release them on Easter, when we could sing them joyfully again. Well, Covid happened and Easter happened in lockdown mode.

All this year it has seemed inappropriate to release those shouts of joy in the midst of such pain. As it says in Psalm 137:4, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" Those words come from when the Israelites were captive in Babylonian exile, yet they seem strikingly appropriate for the exile we've felt from one another, homebound or masked and restrained.

The day is coming when we'll sing without masks, welcome back the immune compromised, and open our doors to all. The days are coming when the women and men will be cooking up delicious meals, when we'll hear the sounds of Wonderful Wednesdays, Special Gathering will feel safe to reconvene, and the box will be opened! In the meantime, we hold fast to staying safe. We keep reaching out to one another. We have made it this far---we'll get to the alleluias soon enough!

Pastor Craig

Did You Know :

As the Christmas season comes to an end and you are busy taking down your decorations, have you ever wondered why we put them up each year?

What a Christmas Tree Represents :

Did you know that chopping down a Christmas Tree represents the death of Christ, and putting it up again represents the resurrection of Christ.

Did you also know that the wreath that we hang is the never ending circle that represents eternity? Candy canes were made to look like a shepherds hook and the colors red are for Christ's blood, and white is for his purity. The gifts represent the three gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. So the next time that you find yourself running around trying to find that perfect gift, "stop, take a deep breath and remember, we have been given the perfect gift".

Jesus Christ was given to us to remove all our sins. So have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



Sunshine News :

We will start a **new prayer list** in January. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue to have someone on the prayer list, please fill out one of the forms found on the table in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. You can also email your prayer requests: thewickers@lowcountry.com



Included in this newsletter is a copy of **the membership data form** for our upcoming yearbook. Please take time to review the data in last year's yearbook and add, subtract or update the information for you and your family as you would have it listed in the Yearbook.

Sign-up Sheets for various volunteer opportunities in 2021 are now in the narthex. Please check them out and consider volunteering.

The first **Red Cross Community Blood Drive** of 2021 will be here at Good Shepherd on Monday, January 11, 2021, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment to give the gift of life!

Our loose and special designated offering for January will support **Lutheran Homes of South Carolina**. After more than a century, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina's ministry continues to evolve and set standards for a comprehensive continuum of care and services for older adults. Lutheran Homes is also the managing agency for **Lutheran Hospice**. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help LHSC by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**Lutheran Homes of SC**" on your offering envelope.

The Sanctuary Candles for the month of January are given to the glory of God by Janet Szymanski.

**** Note:** The cost of Sanctuary Candles is \$20 per month. Please place a check in the offering plate to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church designated "**Sanctuary Candles**".



Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee will meet after worship on Sunday, January 17, 2021. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming Lenten season.

Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias this year. They always add a festive touch to the sanctuary decorations. If you have not picked up your poinsettia, please do so soon.

Christian Education:

A total of eleven children and five adults met on Saturday, December 19, to decorate the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary and to make various Christmas crafts to take home to their families. The morning's activities ended with a light lunch.

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, January 9, at 10:00 am via Zoom. Part of the discussion will be about starting back the Wonderful Wednesday program, possibly in February.

Thank You!

To the folks of Good Shepherd,

I'm afraid this past Sunday, December 27th, I was caught kind of speechless at the kind sentiments and very generous monetary gift from the congregation. Georgia and I have been truly blessed by the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor and by the many friends we've made. I know you are eagerly looking forward to finding the right person to call and I'm pleased to be able to lead you until that time comes. Again, thank you so much for the congregational gift and the various other items we received this Christmas.

Pastor Craig

SERVING IN JANUARY

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Lay Reader | Charles Rister |
| Communion Assistant | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Acolyte | <i>Volunteer Needed</i> |
| Grounds Care | Doug Brinson Garrett Brinson |
| Council Devotions | Jon Carpenter |
| Ushers | Ushers will be selected by Council for the return to indoor worship services |

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In December !!!

***Note: If you are unable to serve during your month, please be responsible and ask someone to substitute for you.*

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, the family of Buddy Carter, Frances Barton, Ted and Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, the family of Mary Lommen, Frank Wilson, Margaret Juttner, Gloria Ferris, Gail and Carl Lindstrom, Ron Szymanski, Eleanore Gloeckler



Friends and Family

Evans Simons (Winfield Simons), Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, the family of Lisa O'Quinn, Grace LaRoach, Michelle Rousch (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Diann Tuthill (Lisa Mezell), DeeDee Eason Burns, Tammy Long, the family of Clyde Frazier, William Cummings, Ashlyn Johnk (Kathie Whetsell), Kim Hutson (Tara Brinson), Lenora and Robert Godwin (the Risters), Hugh Murray (Kevin Wicker)



DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Wallace Fund

Given by:

John & Linda Gilgen
Charles & Faye Rister
Doug & Ellen Brinson

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter
Buddy Carter
Don & Wilma Brinson

Social Ministry Fund

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Doug & Ellen Brinson
Kevin and Diane Wicker
Alex & Kim Perri
Kevin and Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter
Helen Infinger
Helen Infinger
Arden & Mary Lommen
Buddy Carter

General Fund

Given by:

Betty G. Bowers
Olin Fralick, Jr.

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter
Mrs. Beverly Fralick

Given by:

Edd Wicker
Emmett Wicker
Edwina Wicker
Lee & Anna Sease

In Honor of:

Kevin and Diane Wicker
Kevin and Diane Wicker
Kevin and Diane Wicker
Kevin and Diane Wicker

Building Fund

Given by:

Doug & Ellen Brinson

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter

Food Pantry

Given by:

Donald & Janet Carter

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter

Given by:

Shannon Guess

In Honor of:

Hailey & Riley Guess

Scholarship Fund

Given by:

Gene and Kathie Whetsell

In Memory of:

Buddy Carter

Financial Corner

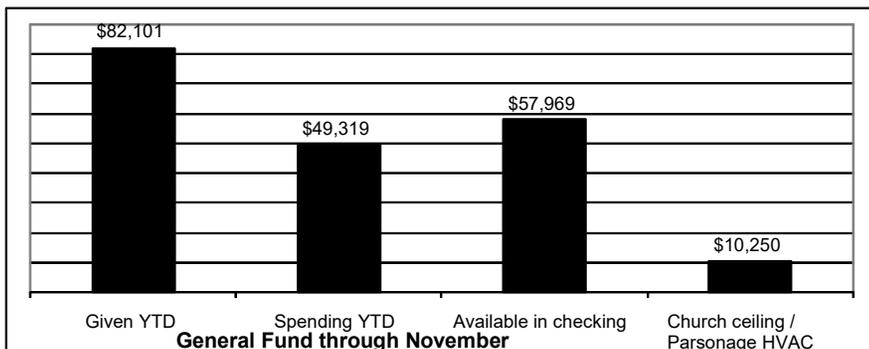
At their meeting in December, your church Council approved moving \$26,700 from the checking account to the **Margaret Wallace Fund** to “pay back” the Fund for the money we took in 2014, 2016 and 2017 to support the operating expenses of Good Shepherd. This is only possible because, despite the challenges of 2020, you have been strong and faithful in your gifts to Good Shepherd. Your gifts are significant because we needed to build a cash reserve for the ministry and operating expenses of Good Shepherd, but also because we have expenses facing us to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the parsonage and to replace the church air conditioning and heating units. You may also note in the graph below that we are making good progress in “paying back” the Wallace Fund for the church ceiling damage repair in 2015 and the parsonage HVAC unit in 2017.

Thank you all so much for your continuing support of the ministry of Good Shepherd. As always, if you have questions concerning the finances of Good Shepherd, please give me a call.

Until next month: peace, joy and good health. And, I hope to see you in person or on-line for church. Kevin

November offering and gifts :

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| General Fund | \$8,557 |
| Wonderful Wednesday | \$ 50 |
| Flowers | \$ 90 |
| Candles | \$ 30 |
| ELCA World Hunger | \$ 100 |
| Wallace Fund | \$ 160 |
| Social Ministry/Food Pantry | \$ 205 |
| Poinsettias | \$ 175 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 60 |



Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the **Good Shepherd Women** will be Monday, January 4, 2021, at 6:30 pm. The meal will be provided. The women will be discussing plans for their spaghetti dinner fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2021. Watch the newsletter and the bulletin for further information.



Altar flowers for January

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| January 3: | Charles and Faye Rister |
| January 10: | <i>Open</i> |
| January 17: | Janet Szymanski |
| January 24: | Angela Crosby |
| January 31: | <i>Open</i> |

Please complete a “Flowers for Sunday” form, located in the narthex, at least one week prior to your designated week. Cost of flowers is \$45 each week. Place a check in the offering plate to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church designated “flowers.”

The Shepherd’s Staff is published by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 May Street, Walterboro, SC 29488. Phone : (843)549-5353. Any Sunshine News or other information that you would like to include into the newsletter should be mailed to the church or given to Doug Brinson. Doug can be contacted at 538-8219, DJBrinson@Yahoo.com or by leaving it in his box in the robing room. This information needs to be received no later than the **22nd** of the month so that it can be included in the monthly publication and sent out on time.

December Council meeting notes : 12-13-2020

The meeting was opened with prayer by Garrett Brinson.

1. Council approved transferring \$26,700 from our checking account to the **Margaret Wallace Fund** to reimburse the Fund for operating expenses taken from the Wallace Fund in 2014, 2016 and 2017.
2. Council heard a report from **Property Committee** chair, Carl Lindstrom, on the condition of the church HVAC and options for replacing those two units. After much discussion, Council directed this back to the Property Committee with guidance to proceed with acquiring bids.
3. Carl Lindstrom also reported that the Property Committee is planning replacement of soil in the parsonage back yard after the first of the year.
4. Council approved Christmas gifts for Linda Gilgen, Glenn Williams and Diane Wicker.
5. Jon reported that the **Mutual Ministry Committee** has completed the one-year assessment of the Pastor and will be presenting that to Pastor Craig soon.
6. Amy Rusnak reported on the Christmas gift buying spree, by members of the **Good Shepherd Women of the ELCA**, for needy children in the community in conjunction with Bethel Presbyterian Church.
7. Council approved the transfer of Ms. Kim Miller's membership from Good Shepherd to Bethel Presbyterian Church.
8. Pastor Craig and Jon Carpenter reported that they have spoken with Bishop Aebischer regarding **the Call Process**.
9. Council discussed the **2021 Spending Plan for Ministry**. Kevin Wicker will provide more information for the January meeting.
10. Council recognized, and thanked **Angela Crosby** for her service on Council for the past six years. Angela has served as Secretary and Vice Chair of Council, and has been a member of the Executive Committee and Mutual Ministry Committee during her time on Council.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Angela Crosby.

**Dear Members and Friends of Good Shepherd,
Please complete the information below as you would like for it to appear in the church yearbook. Thank you.**

Names and birthdays of family members

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Wedding anniversary date _____

Mailing address _____

Phone numbers (home, cell, office, anywhere else)

e-mail address(s) _____

Additional information _____

Prayer List

January - March, 2021

Each week, Good Shepherd publishes a prayer list in the bulletin.

If you would like to place someone on the prayer list for longer than one Sunday, please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. If you prefer, you can email your request to thewickers@lowcountry.com

To be prayed for:

Requested by:

Condition:

Please remove:

A **new** prayer list will be started every three months.

JANUARY 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 New Years Day! <u>Birthday :</u> Madison Strickland <u>Anniversaries :</u> John & Cindy Corley Peter & Jessica Lommen | 2 <u>Birthday :</u> Jesse Carter |
| 3 10:00 AM Worship with Communion followed by Confirmation class. | 4 6:30 PM Good Shepherd Women meet. <u>Anniversary :</u> Charles & Faye Rister | 5 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 10:00 AM Christian Education Committee meets (via Zoom). <u>Birthday :</u> Addison Crosby |
| 10 10:00 AM Worship Service. 5:00 PM Church Council meets (via Zoom) | 11 1 -7 PM Red Cross Blood Drive | 12 | 13 <u>Birthday :</u> Robyn Lightsey | 14 <u>Anniversary :</u> Mike & Sandy Alberts | 15 | 16 |
| 17 10:00 AM Worship followed by Worship and Music Committee | 18 <u>Birthdays :</u> Janet Szymanski Scarlett Austyn Fralix Cody Williams | 19 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry <u>Birthday :</u> Donna Eason Burns <u>Anniversary :</u> Rusty & Lisa Mezel | 20 <u>Birthdays :</u> Gail Glover Wyatt Williams | 21 | 22 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline | 23 |
| 24 10:00 AM Worship Service | 25 | 26 <u>Birthdays :</u> Owen Crosby Olin Bishop | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 10:00 AM Worship Service <u>Birthdays :</u> Mimi Werntz Danielle Fraser | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Sanctuary Indoor Worship Guidelines during Covid-19

1. All participants will be required to wear masks, which cover mouth and nose, to be admitted to the sanctuary and for the duration of the service.
 2. If you do not feel well that morning, please do not come to church.
 3. If anyone who attends worship, and thereafter tests positive within a week, they should notify Council Chair Jon Carpenter or Pastor Craig.
 4. An usher will be present to do a temperature check of each person at the door and to offer hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.
 5. Members and friends will be asked to stay outside until admitted to the sanctuary by the usher.
 6. The ushers will constantly monitor the narthex and the sanctuary during the service to greet people who may enter during the service, check their temperature, offer hand sanitizer, take them to a suitable socially distanced seat, and to take care of any needs of the congregation.
 7. Social distancing will be observed with seating in designated pews with assistance from an usher. (Pew cushions will be removed and selected pews will be marked off.)
 8. There will be a table in the narthex where bulletins will be available for pick-up and an offering plate for the placement of offerings.
 9. The water fountain will be closed, but water bottles will be available.
 10. Interior doors will be left open to eliminate the need to touch doors and door handles.
 11. Each worshipper is responsible to use the spray sanitizer provided in the restroom after each use.
 12. Outside doors will be left open, as weather permits, for better air circulation.
 13. There will be no singing during the service while in the sanctuary. “Humming” will be encouraged.
 14. Every effort will be made to keep the length of the service to 40 minutes or less.
 15. Worshipers will be asked to turn off their smartphones WiFi feature or place them in “airplane” mode so as to not use the limited WiFi that we’ll be using for Zoom.
 16. The sanctuary will be closed for 48 hours following each service.
- Note:** The ushers will need to arrive 20 minutes before worship to check those in attendance as they arrive and direct them to their seats.