



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

A publication of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

April May 2010

[Click on names to email from this document.](#)

Guatemala Mission Trip Update

Thanks to your generosity, we are getting closer to raising the funds needed for our mission trip to Guatemala in July. The goal has been to raise \$6,000 to support the team of 13. This will cover the cost of airfare for the team members. Each team member will raise an additional \$950 with \$250 of this going to the cost of supplies to build an actual stove.

As team member Cole Evans has stated, "The idea of being able to travel with people from Good Shepherd to another country and perform mission work excites me. I want to go so that I can experience the differences between their culture and the one I am used to, but I am really looking forward to spending time with my Good Shepherd family as we try and help the people in Guatemala."

How can you help? You can support the mission team financially and with prayer. Here are some ways you can help financially:

Purchase a BBQ Chicken Dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Men in support of the Guatemala Mission Team. Order chicken dinners ahead and pickup between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 25. \$20 for a

"family meal" includes 3 halves with sides. \$7 for a half chicken dinner with sides. \$5 for a quarter chicken dinner with sides. Meals must be pre-ordered. Purchase tickets through April 19 at the church or on our website.

Buy Mom A Stove for Mother's Day - The Guatemala Mission Team invite you to give your Mom something unique this Mother's Day. Buy a stove or a portion of a stove in her honor and help build a stove for a family in Guatemala. It costs \$250 to build a stove. You can purchase a gift certificate between services through May 2.

Purchase A Brick or Portion of One— you may have noticed a mock stove in Wistar Hall. Each brick costs \$120. You can purchase a portion of a brick of any amount.

Pray for our team—Before, during and after our trip, we welcome your prayers for strength, protection, and safety. Our mission team:

Chrissy Ammons
Tyler Biggins
Alex Britt
Hunter Crosby
Sara Eddleton
Aaron Elmes
Cole Evans
Theresa Hayes
Lindsay Higginbotham
Brian Lynch
Johnette Overton
Jordan Truda
Kendra Woodley

For more information, contact [Sara Eddleton](#).



Mission Team members at the Bowl-A-Thon.

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Church Staff and Leadership

Edward R. Walker, Pastor
walker.ed@gmail.com

Karen O. Albro,
Office Administrator
karen.albro@verizon.net

Tom Heaton, Minister of Music
musicmantom@verizon.net

Jon Marshall,
Contemporary Worship Leader
gsmail@gmail.com

Roz Blankenship, Accompanist
buildsets@aol.com

**Lisa McGehee, Min. of Adult
Discipleship and Communications**
lisa.mcgehee64@verizon.net

Sara Eddleton,
*Min. of Youth Discipleship and
Missions*
eddltonsb@gmail.com

Jodi Bischoff,
Min. of Child Discipleship
msbisch@verizon.net

Susan Mongold, Council Chair
mongold3@verizon.net

Barry Hewitt, Council Co-Chair
barry@hewettproperties.com

Ellen Smith,
Staff Parish Relations Chair
wmsmithuva@verizon.net

Carol Walker, Treasure
carolkwalker@verizon.net

**Jim Branscome, Financial
Secretary** jimrich99@gmail.com

**Sonny Rea, Stephen Ministry
Leader** erea97@aol.com

A Note from Pastor Ed

Where did February go? Despite its status as the shortest month of the year, for me it usually feels like the longest month of the year. Daylight is at a premium and the cold weather just doesn't let go. But this year I seem to have lost February. Where did it go? We missed worship due to snow on the last Sunday in January; we had one service on the first Sunday in February, again due to snow. But it feels like we missed more than two Sundays. In fact we did. The snow kept many people indoors and off the roads. Night meetings were canceled. It is as if this year we just crawled into a cave awaiting better weather. Fortunately, March was much warmer and daylight saving time is making it feel more like spring already. But the impact is felt even now as I try to catch up, if that is even possible. I'm all out of sorts!

I know . . . we didn't really lose February this year but it does make me aware of what life is like for persons who are homebound not only in February but in any month of the year. They -- are unable to get out, are cut-off from others, worry about how to get to appointments, the grocery store and the drug store. The overall impact for them is isolation that can lead to depression and even physical illness. They, too, probably feel very out of sorts.

The good news is that a church is larger than any one of its members. We are a part of the body of Christ and, as such, sensitive to the loneliness that many of our members feel day in and day out. We reach out -- and if not, we need to reach out -- with notes, phone calls and visits to our homebound persons. By so doing our church and community are strengthened and the isolation of being homebound is relieved for a while.

So, if you are feeling out of sorts like me, then let me encourage you to use this as an opportunity not to delve into feeling sorry for yourself, but as an incentive to reach out in love to others who feel this way throughout the year. I assure you that you'll quickly realize you're not alone.

Blessings,

Pastor Ed

New to Good Shepherd?

Sometimes when we are on a journey the most often question asked is "What's Next?" If you are new to Good Shepherd you may be asking yourself this question. If so, Starting.Point can help you answer this question, discover our history, learn how to get started on your discipleship pathway and much more. **Starting.Point meets monthly on the second Sunday from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.** in the Conference Room. Nursery is available. Contact Pastor Ed for more information.

Expression of Gratitude

Dear Friends and Family of Good Shepherd,
Since 2001 you have been with me as I lost my brother, my Dad and my Mom. I am also losing Lake Junaluska as my home. I am still grieving terribly over this loss of home and family.

How long this grief will last I do not know but I do know that your cards and prayers have been very helpful during this process. I thank you for your kind words and for the present of your presence. I am thankful to be a member of Good Shepherd where good times can be shared and sad times can be embraced. Poems, Prayers and Promises to all,
Mur Nease

Dear GSUMC,

Thank you all so much for the support you have provided my family our during our time of need. You have helped us in many different ways. It is a great comfort to know you are there. You are a wonderful church family and we are grateful to be a part of this community.
Mike Apel and family

Thank you for allowing Longan Troop #207 to host Girl Scout World Thinking Day at Good Shepherd. More than 50 Girl Scouts from our area attended the event and had a wonderful time. The girls made 10 blankets for Project Linus and collected more than 20 pounds of food for the LAMB's Basket. We were entertained by a Chinese Dance Club and "traveled" to six different countries. We could not have done it without your support. I am so proud to be apart of this community.
Vickie Marandina



Finance Update

Through the end of February, our actual year-to-date income amounted to approximately \$90,000 and our actual year-to-date expenses amounted to approximately \$93,000. Accordingly, we have experienced an unfavorable (negative) cash flow of approximately \$3,000 to date. During this period, we had at least one Sunday when all of our services were canceled due to the inclement weather and another where only one service was held (for the same reason). In addition, we incurred some unexpected repairs and experienced higher than normal utility expenses to heat both our facility and the little house due to the very cold temperatures in January and February. With all considered, I think we fared pretty well given those circumstances. If you've fallen behind in your anticipated giving because of the weather or otherwise, please consider making up those gifts in the next couple of months. I also offer my continued thanks and gratitude to all for faithfully supporting Good Shepherd and its missions.

Continuing a positive trend, for the first two months of the year, we paid down approximately \$17,300 of the Church's mortgage, leaving a balance at the end of February of approximately \$168,100. We're still on track to pay off the mortgage by the end of 2011.

Thank the Lord and blessings to all!

Ron Britt, Finance Committee
Chair

Save the Dates

Vacation Bible School – Sunday, June 27 – Thursday, July 2 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Come discover the meaning of Jesus' Parables as we travel to a tropical rainforest!

The Great Adventure at Westview on the James—This 3 day/2 night mini-mission camp is for rising 3rd–6th graders from August 22nd – 24th. Be on the lookout for more details coming soon!

The Kaleidoscope Experience – a Music & Worship Arts Week for children entering grades 3-6. This camp will held in Blackstone, Virginia from August 2-6. One chaperone per 5 children is needed. Brochures can be picked up at the Welcome Desk or on the web at www.k-scope.org.

Kids With Purpose

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19.

We concluded our Winter Session in mid-February. Unfortunately, we were only able to meet four of our six weeks due to the snow, but we shared God's love with neighbors, the elderly, and animals. We played games with grandparents and several of our senior congregation members, made dog treats and cat toys for the SPCA, made horse treats for Wings of Hope, had a visit from Canine Companions for Independence and made fleece blankets for children receiving medical care, snack bags for parents of infants at the St. Mary's NICU, and cold packs for new moms at St. Mary's. We also were able to have a bake sale for the Guatemala mission team. Thanks to the congregations generosity; we raised \$126!

Stop by our bulletin board in the Education Wing to see us in ACTION! We are the hands and feet of Christ. We look forward to being together again next fall. Registration will begin in August for the fall and winter session.

Contact **Jodi Bischoff**,
Minister of Children's
Discipleship
for more information
about any of the
events and activities on this
page.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Even though we were rained out, we send a big THANK YOU to **Beth Wikingstad** and **Jessica Martin** for coordinating our Annual Easter Eggstravaganza.

Youth News

A busy time of the year is fast approaching for our youth. From spring sports to proms to dance recitals to concerts, their lives will be pulled in many different directions. My prayer for the upcoming months is that even though they will be busy, we will make a commitment to stay involved at church and to grow in our faith and knowledge of Christ.

During April and May, the youth will be involved in some local mission projects. We will be in the community helping with yard work, painting, cleaning, etc. We look forward to this time as a way to give back and to serve others.

Our Guatemala Mission team will be working to raise funds for our trip in July. The United Methodist Men are sponsoring a chicken dinner with all proceeds going to the Guatemala team. The dinner will be on April 25. Tickets will be available for the 2 weeks prior. We will also be doing the “Buy a brick/stove for Mom” drive on April 18 to May 2. You can purchase a brick in honor/memory of mothers. Please see a mission team member if you are interested.

Please continue to keep up to date with the youth mid-week emails and text messages.

Grace and Peace,

Sara

Youth Save the Dates

April 14: Small Group

April 18: Youth meeting

April 21: Small Group

April 23: Middle School Night:
Game Night

April 24: Spring Mission Day

April 25: UMM Chicken dinner
supporting Guatemala and
Youth meeting

April 28: Small Group

May 8: Yard Sale
High School Camping Trip

May 30: Stop Hunger Now
Meal Packaging event



Eating contest during Youth Lock-In

For information about our
Youth Ministry, contact
Sara Eddleton, Minister of
Youth and Missions
via email or
270-7613, 839-7195

Women's Book Groups Reading List

Below is the 2010-11 reading list for the Women's Book Groups. We have included books that are coming-of-age stories, deal with social issues, a story of a missionary and his family living in the middle of the Congo, the role of relationships (human and animals) in our lives and much more. Book groups are an excellent way to connect with others. Come when you can. If the times listed do not work for you, let Lisa McGehee know. We are always ready to start new groups.

We will all read the same books but the Wednesday morning group will begin at one end of the list and the Thursday evening group will begin at the other. We are mindful that your budgets are tight and it may not be possible to purchase all of the books. It can also be difficult to check them out of the library. By beginning at different ends of the list, we can share books with one another. For those who are willing to share their books we have a bookshelf in room 118 designated for the Book Group books. We will not meet in June or January.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Wed A.M. Group - July 2010
Thur P.M. Group - May 2011

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
Wed A.M. Group - Aug 2010
Thur P.M. Group - April 2011

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Wed A.M. Group - Sept 2010

Thur P.M. Group - March 2011

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Wed A.M. Group - Oct 2010

Thur P.M. Group - Feb 2011

29 Gifts by Cami Walker

Wed A.M. Group - Nov 2010

Thur P.M. Group - Dec 2010

Velva Jean Learns to Drive by Jennifer Niven

Wed A.M. Group - Dec 2010

Thur P.M. Group - Nov 2010

Peace Like A River by Leif Enger

Wed A.M. Group - Feb 2011

Thur P.M. Group - Oct 2010

Evensong by Gail Godwin

Wed A.M. Group - Mar 2011

Thur P.M. Group - Sept 2010

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Wed A.M. Group - Apr 2011

Thur P.M. Group - Aug 2010

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gilbert

Wed A.M. Group - May 2011

Thur P.M. Group - July 2010

Fall Disciple I Bible Study

Disciple I Bible study classes are designed to help you understand the Bible and how it guides our lives as disciples of Christ. This 32 week courses meet each week for 2 1/2 hours and members commit to regular attendance and 30-45 minutes of daily preparation. Classes are limited to 12 people and begin mid-September. Cost: \$35. If you are interested in Disciple I, contact [Lisa McGehee](mailto:Lisa.McGehee) or 270-7613.

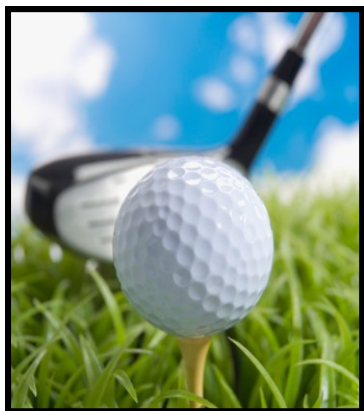
3rd Annual Swing Fore Missions

Sunday

June 6, 2010

Tee-time TBA
Sycamore Creek
Golf Course

For more info,
contact [Mark Nedervelt](#)



Cruisin' 4 A Cause

We are getting together a team called "**Cruisin' 4 A Cause**" in honor of Good Shepherd's autistic members and their families for the **5K run/walk for Autism**. The run/walk is **Saturday, May 29** at 8 a.m. in Innsbrook. The proceeds go to the **Autism Society of America Central Virginia Chapter**. If you are interested in participating email [Barb Ledford](#) or call her **360-7418**. No athletic prowess required, just a big heart and big desire to have fun!

Fifty-five Plus

April 20
Lunch-covered dish with American Flag Program
Noon at Good Shepherd

May 18
5:30 p.m. Dinner at Topekas

May 26
Picnic at Westview on the James Carpool from Good Shepherd

For more information, contact **Jean Deal** at 270-3520.

Men's Softball

It's that time of year again! We are organizing our men's softball team. The season begins at the end of April. If you would like to play on the team, contact [Tracy Simmons](#) or call **747-6144**.

Build a Wheelchair Ramp

The United Methodist Men (UMM) invite you to help construct and install a **wheel chair ramp** for a handicap person in Ashland on May 15. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot. Tools will be supplied. Contact [Dave Bennett](#) or 338-4531 for more information or to sign up.

Merchant Cards

If you use merchant cards for your personal use or to give as gifts, consider purchasing them through Good Shepherd. We have \$25 or \$50 **Food Lion**, \$10 **Panera Bread**, \$10 **Starbucks**, \$10 and \$25 **Cracker Barrel**, \$10 **United Artist**, and \$100 **Wal-Mart** cards on hand. A portion of your purchase price is returned to our general fund and supports our ministries so we can share hope with others. Cards can be purchased at the FOV table in Wistar Hall. The form is on the [website](#) and at the table. Contact [Carol Walker](#) for more information.

Coffee, Chai and Chat

Pastor Ed looks forward to visiting with persons new to Good Shepherd for a "Coffee, Chai and Chat" at 6:30 p.m. monthly on the fourth Sunday at the Panera Bread at the corner of Staples Mill and Parham Road. This is an informal way to get to know Pastor Ed better and for him to answer your questions. To sign-up, visit the Welcome Center in Wistar Hall, contact [Pastor Ed](#) or call the church office at 270-7613.



The Shepherd's Call

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
Edward R. Walker, Pastor
9155 Hungary Road, Henrico, Virginia 23294
(804) 270-7613 www.goodshepherdumc.us

Worship

8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages ~ Nursery 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.