

# *The Shepherd's Staff*

Volume 54, No. 2, February 2018



## Lent B E G I N S

### **Agape Meal**

February 11

12 Noon

Soup & Ice Cream

Please Register.

### **Ash Wednesday**

February 14

### **Pinewood Derby**

The Pinewood Derby will be hosted by the Cub Scouts on Saturday, February 3 in the fellowship hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### **Scout Sunday**

Scout Sunday will be held February 11. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will attend the 10:30 a.m. service, assist with ushering, and lead the congregation in the pledges to the American and Christian flag.

### **Scout Charter Banquet**

The annual Scout Charter Banquet will take place on Friday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. Among the evening's activities will be the announcement of this year's winners of the Steltz Award and the Clara Gross Award, both merited by excellence in Scouting.



**Cub Pack #291** meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. from September to May.

**Scout Troop #291** meets Monday nights, 7:00 p.m. year round.



Greetings, Shepherd! I hope this finds you blessed and well. I wanted to take a minute and share with you a little of what we're planning for this year. If you remember, in 2017 we announced a theme of "Connecting." We wanted to connect with each other, our community, and our God in a deeper way. We did that! As you probably remember, last year we launched some new ministries and outreach events designed to do that very thing. Things like our luau, Bible College, and others were all done with the theme of connecting.

This year, I am excited to announce our theme: "**Grow!**" Peter said, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:9, ESV). We want to help you **Grow!** in your faith, your relationships, your abilities; just **Grow!** And to do that, we're planning some great things to equip you with the tools you'll need!

You probably know by now we're launching a home group ministry called "Connect Groups." The idea is that by being part of a smaller, more intimate group of believers you'll be able to not only **Grow!** in your faith but also your relationships with others in our church. Groups will be formed with geographical needs in mind so, hopefully, you don't have to travel too far to be part of your local group. Our goal is a big one: **100 people in a Connect Group by the end of the year!** With that in mind, I'd like to personally encourage you to sign up to be a part of this ministry, and if you're interested in hosting a group to meet in your home, let us know – we will need all the help we can get! You can sign up on the sheet at the information desk. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Charles at the church since he is overseeing this ministry.

Then there's Financial Peace University (FPU). Most people have to manage money in life and often wish it went farther. Statistically speaking, it isn't they don't make enough, usually the problem is they haven't been given the tools to make their money go as far as it can. Well, with the theme of **Grow!** in mind, we want to equip you with those tools so you can become a better manager of God's financial resources. FPU lasts 9 weeks and starts March 9<sup>th</sup>, and will be held on Fridays at 7:00 pm at the church. You can sign up on the website: [www.soth.church](http://www.soth.church). Hope to see you there!

In addition to these, we're continuing our Bible College and are examining adding a second program: a **Diploma of Christian Theology**. If you've been through our Certificate of Christian Ministry program, or if you have some previous Bible class experience (and Bethel WILL count for this) and want to continue your Bible education, please let us know, we'd love to help you **Grow!** If you're interested in this, give me a call and I'll be happy to go over it with you.

I pray this year will be a fruitful one for you all, and that through it you will develop a deeper relationship with Christ than ever before. As always, if you have any questions, my door is always open. God bless and have a great week!

Blessings, Pastor Collin



## Prime Timer Activities

No regular activities for SOTH Prime Timers or the Montco-Berks Golden Age Club during January and February.

### Did You Know... ???

♦ **Our Scouts** collect Redner's tapes as a fundraiser and get a 1% return for them? Deposit your Redner's tapes in the folder on the Scout bulletin board in the upper corridor.

♦ **2018 Sponsorship Charts** are posted outside the church office door. Sign up to sponsor bulletins or altar flowers on the special dates in your life. Altar flowers are \$25 per vase; bulletins are \$20 per week.

♦ **A Clothing Drive** is being sponsored by the Preschool on Saturday, April 21. Drop off times will be announced later.



**Feb. 4**

Bloodmobile

**Feb. 11**

Scout Sunday

Agape Meal

**Feb. 23**

Scout Charter Banquet

## Missions Commitment

Jorge and Rosa Gutierrez serve with Globe International Ministries in Mexico. Their many-faceted ministry includes a feeding program for children, church planting, and a budding health clinic program. The loose change we collect every Sunday is sent to support the children's breakfast program. In addition to food the children receive

teaching about Jesus, socialization, and essentials such as shoes and blankets.

Our Missions Commitment support is used to help sustain the Gutierrezes in ministry and for their outreach efforts.



Jorge & Rosa Gutierrez

### The Vision Project for February

We are supporting Willie Mpasuka, working with Rays of Hope in Malawi. Rays of Hope is a subsidiary of Urban Promise International, which started in Camden, New Jersey and later expanded to several foreign locations.

This ministry encourages students to stay in school and gives them tutoring and scholarship help. The hope is that with education they will have better opportunities in their adult life.



### Escape Shepherd

H2O Youth Fundraiser  
Saturday, March 3  
\$20 per person

## Youth Club

Wednesdays, 6:15- 8:30 p.m.

4 years to Grade 6

Term II will conclude on April 18

The format this year is for everyone to gather in the fellowship hall for worship at 6:15 p.m. This is followed by a lesson, craft time, game time, a snack at 8:15 p.m.

Dismissal is from the lower level at 8:30 p.m.

## H2O Youth

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Shepherd's Den

## Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. service.

## Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Toddler—2 years—Room 14

3 years—K—Room 12

Grades 1-3—Room 24

Grades 4-6—Room 25

Grades 9—12—Den

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8)

Library

Adult—Room 22

Discussion—Parlor East

Spiritual growth—FH



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."





**2018 Consistory Officers are:** John Oister, president, Paul Yonkovitch, vice-president, Jim Jessum, secretary, Vaughn Miller, treasurer

**2018 Logistics Officers are:** Mark Fryer, president; Jeannette Korchowsky, vice-president; Paul Little, secretary.

**2018 Spiritual Council Officers are:** Collin Monger, president; Jim Jessum, vice-president; Jeff Moser, secretary.

**The 2017 Annual Report** is being compiled. Members will receive a copy in the mail along with a notice of the congregational meeting for the receiving of this report—scheduled for February 25.

**Financial Peace University** will offer a 9-session money-management course at SOTH, beginning Friday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$109. The link to register can be found on the church website.

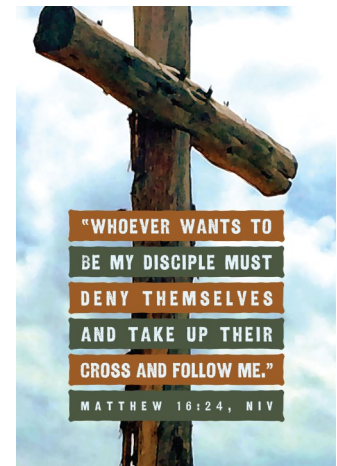
## Sunday Services

**8:00 a.m.**  
Traditional Service

**10:30 a.m.**  
Contemporary Service

## Wednesday Service

**7:00 p.m.**  
Magnify!



**SPOT-  
LIGHT  
ON...**

## The Assistance Fund Committee

The Assistance Fund Committee was established 10 years ago for the purpose of evaluating requests for aid and directing disbursement of funds donated for this purpose. Prior to that the assistance fund monies were administered directly by the Consistory but their monthly business meetings didn't allow the time necessary to do the job well.

Needs that are brought to the Committee's attention are evaluated on an individual basis—often including personal interviews. Financial counseling may be encouraged in some cases. Assistance is not limited to members.

The Committee meets monthly to consider needs presented to them. Communication with the committee may be initiated by speaking to any of the committee members, or through the church office or pastors.

As a church we seek to minister to the whole individual, working to meet both spiritual and physical needs. The Assistance Committee and the funds it manages are part of that goal.



Sybilla Greiner, Mary Beck, Bill Mest, Dale Bangs

## Pastoral Staff

Collin Monger

*Senior Pastor*

Charles Rowden

*Executive Associate Pastor*

Lucas Hahn

*Associate Pastor of Youth*

James Jessum

*Associate Pastor of Visitation*

Shepherd of the Hills' regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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The Shepherd's Staff is published ten times a year by Shepherd of the Hills Church.