



# Shepherd's Staff

*Shepherd of the Hills Church*

Volume 53, No. 2 • February 2017

## Lent B E G I N S

Ash Wednesday  
March 1

Agape Covered Dish  
Luncheon  
February 26  
12 Noon  
Please Register.  
Bring a dish to share.

*The greatest  
love of all*

On Valentine's  
Day, we remember  
that God is the  
source of all love  
in the world. His  
perfect love for us  
has made all human  
love possible.

**T**he Pinewood Derby will  
be hosted by the Cub Scouts  
on Saturday, February 4 in  
the fellowship hall begin-  
ning at 9 a.m.

**Scout Sunday** will be  
held February 12. 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.

The annual **Scout Charter Banquet** will take place on Friday,  
February 24 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.



## From the Pastor

Hello Shepherd! I trust you all had a great holiday season and you are now settling back into your regular routine. For us, the Christmas tree is down, the ornaments are boxed, the house is back to its usual look, and we are getting ready for the things we are looking forward to in 2017. In January, Owen turned six. In February, Sierra will turn three. And in March Noah will turn one-year-old. Melisa and I will celebrate our ten-year anniversary; Owen will begin first grade and Sierra, preschool. Like many of you, there are things we are looking forward to this year.



And the same goes for the church! Last year was a great year. As a church, we did a lot and if I had to classify 2016 I would say it was a complete success! But 2016 is behind us and we're looking forward to 2017. We enjoy what has happened in the past and it gives us encouragement as we look to the future. So, I would like to take a minute to outline some goals and visions for this year.

This year, I am announcing a theme for our church: "**Connect.**" Basically, I want to challenge us to **Connect** better, in three ways. First, we want to **Connect** better with each other. We want to encourage you to develop closer relationships with others in our church. This means we will be looking at new ways to encourage fellowship, service and relationship building within our congregation. It also means we may expand upon already existing ideas. The thing to remember here is, it is all intended to help you **Connect** with each other.

Second, we want to **Connect** better with our community. We want to remind them we are a *city on a hill* where they can come and be loved. This means we will be looking at several ways for our church to reach out to our local community. One idea is "Ministry Spotlight" videos. These videos will bring awareness to local ministries that impact our community. Another idea is "**BFF**" (**B**ring a **F**riend **F**ellowship) Sundays. Studies have found people are more likely to invite and bring a friend to church if they have a specific day in mind, so I want to give you that opportunity. These days will likely be normal Sundays but with special information about our church like handouts, fliers, bulletin inserts, etc.

Third, and most important, we want to **Connect** better with God and this starts with a doubling-down on our verse-by-verse Bible teaching that so many of you love. The apostle Peter wrote, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* (2 Peter 3:18) I want each of you to come out of 2017 closer to God than ever before and that starts with studying His Word. With that in mind, you have no doubt seen by now the new pew Bibles we invested in. These are tools to be used for your growth in your faith to help you **Connect** with God.

**Connect** with each other; with our community; and with God – this will be the theme of 2017 and I hope it will become your personal theme as well. I am very much looking to spending 2017 with you all. If you have any ideas we can use to help us **Connect**, please let me know. Until then, God bless and we will see you on Sunday!



## SUNDAY CLASSES

### Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

#### Children & Youth

Toddler-K - Room 14

Grades 1-3 - Room 24

Grades 4-6 - Room 25

Grades 9-12 - Den

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8) -

Library

#### Adults

Adult – Music Room

Discussion - Parlor East

Spiritual Growth - FH

### Children's Church

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



Miller-Keystone Bloodmobile

Sunday, February 5

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Bloodmobile will be parked in  
the north parking lot.

Appointments may be made by  
contacting Gail Berger.

## Coming Events

**Mar. 12** – Daylight Saving  
Time begins

**Apr. 9** – Palm Sunday

**Apr. 16** – Easter Sunday

# MISSION REPORT

## Missions



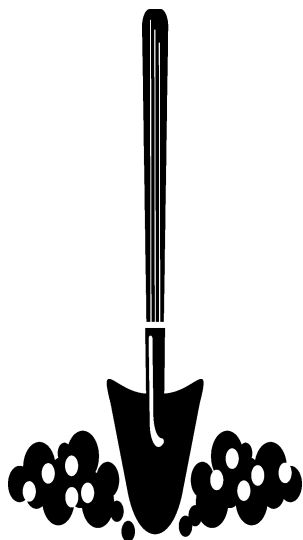
*Rosa and Jorge Gutierrez*

The **Mission Commitment Project** for February is Jorge and Rosa Gutierrez who serve with Globe International Ministries in Mexico. We support them as missionaries of the month in February as well as provide year-long support of their feeding program for children through a loose change collection every Sunday. Recently a new helper was brought into the children's ministry who is a teacher. She has brought new excitement and expectations to the program.

The February **Vision Project** is to support the fundraising efforts of Derrick Whitmore as he prepares for a career move with Shattered Studios under the umbrella of mission agency Reliant, located in Orlando, Florida.

!

## Start Digging!



Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

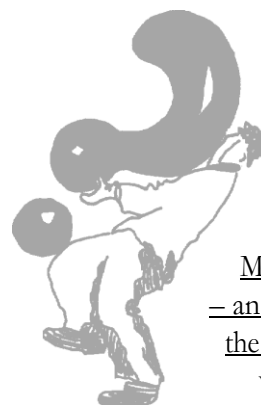
Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

## AlphaSession Scheduled

Mondays, 6:00 p.m.

February 27 – May 8



The basic course, The Meaning of Life – an introduction to the Christian faith will be offered.

Also offered will be:

- The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization, based on a book by Vishai Mangalwadi
- Developing a Faith that Works: Book of James Volume 1 and 2, a Rick Warren study

Register in the Sunday bulletin or by calling the church office.



Saturday, Feb. 11

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Appetizer

Salad

Entrée

Dessert

Cost: \$50 per couple  
Benefits the Summer Mission Team



## Bits and Pieces

**Prayers of sympathy** are extended to:

- Shirley Trumbauer on the death of her son, Mike Royston
- Bill Wilkins and family on the death of his mother
- Evelyn Shafer and family on the death of her husband, Raymond Shafer

**2017 Consistory Officers are:**

John Oister, Pres.; Paul Yonkovitch, Vice President; Jim Jessum, Secretary; Vaughn Miller, Treasurer.

**2017 Logistics Officers are:**

Mark Fryer, President; Jeannette Korchowsky, Vice-President; Paul Little, Secretary.

**2017 Spiritual Council Officers are:**

Colin Monger, President; Jim Jessum, Vice-President; Keith Leonard, Secretary.

**The 2017 Budget** was approved at a congregational meeting on December 18. The projected General Fund budget for 2017 is \$436,612 and the projected Designated Budget is \$64,550.

**Hospitalizations** are often not known to our pastoral staff. Because of HIPPA laws hospitals no longer call the church to report admissions. Please call the church office to report hospitalizations if a pastoral visit is desired.

**Winter weather cancellations** will be announced on WBYN (FM 107.5) and Channel 69 (WFMZ). Please check these resources if the weather is questionable. Note: Channel 69 will have delay or closing information on their web site (/www.wfmz.com) www.wfmz.com) at all times, but church information will be on television only when severe conditions occur on a Sunday morning. As a general rule during the week we follow the closures of the Boyertown Schools. If they are closed or have early dismissal, we cancel also.

**Special note:** When you go to WFMZ.com for Shepherd's snow closing information, click on the Weather tab, select School & Business closing, then select Church, Worship & Library closing. Then you must scroll down—you cannot use the alphabetical index at the top (it will flip you back to "schools"). All the libraries are listed first, followed by the churches.

## Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.

Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service

Feb. 5 *Communion*

Feb. 12 *Scout Sunday*



## Pastoral Staff

Dr. Collin Monger  
*Senior Pastor*

Derrick Whitmore, John Brown  
*Associate Pastors*

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

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