

GRAPEVINE

January 9, 2019

"The Pastor's Page"

A New Year at GPC

As I was looking over my calendar for January today, I noticed that there are a number of new starts during this month.

- Most of our committees are meeting, with several under the leadership of new elders who were elected in November and ordained to office in December.
- Our Exploring Membership Class will be held on Jan. 13, and we hope to welcome new members the following Sunday.
- I'll be attending a Worship Symposium later this month in Grand Rapids, MI along with my wife, Bonnie, and Dave Conklin. My previous experiences at this event have been rewarding ones, in spite of it being winter in Michigan!
- Several mission trips are holding interest meetings this month, too.
- Our annual congregational meeting will take place after lunch at noon on Jan. 27.
- And, we are having combined worship together at 10AM on Sunday, Feb. 3.

Please keep GPC in your prayers as we seek to get off to a good start for 2019!

Pastor Dave

Inside

- Christmas in January Spiritual Retreat
- All-Church Luncheon & Congregational Meeting
- Mexico Mission Trip Informational Meeting
- Exploring Membership Class
- Dinner for 7 or 8
- Donating Your IRA Distributions to Charity
- Disciple Fast Track
- Message from Source of Life Ministries
- Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.

Fruitbelt Farmworker Mission

A big Thank You goes out to SHIP and Midship for participating in one of our church's local missions by inviting migrant workers to the youth group's annual Christmas Dinner on December 16 at GPC. In addition to enjoying an excellent meal together, they were led in Christmas songs by Lou Nyiri and Laura Pennings. After the meal, the migrant workers assembled in the sanctuary to learn more about GPC. Bill Morgan, a retired professor from Shippensburg University, served as official translator. Laura Pennings and Kelcee Keller talked about our church's outreach programs. Bill Tindall, Frank, Carson & Chloe Pennings and Mark Keller also participated in the event, welcoming the workers into our church communi-

We are sad to say goodbye to Jacob Bury, who has been running the sound for our worship services as well as for the streaming of our services. Jacob has found a full-time position in another church. We wish him the very best and thank him for his good work for us!

Special thanks to our elders and deacons who rotated off after serving several years. "Retiring" elders are Sheryl Suplee, Ron Jones, Ann Kern, and Jerry Cleaver. "Retiring" deacons are Cathy Gardner, Jerry Heeschen and Pat Lowe. Thank you for your faithful service to Jesus Christ and GPC!

Thank You!

Carpenter's Gift is a ministry of GPC that mostly builds ramps for folks in need in our community. On Dec. 29 Kevin Hollowell, Jerry Althoff, and Dave & Pat Conklin ("South Dakota Ramp Crew") built a ramp for someone in our community! Money for the materials came out of our mission budget. Thanks for your generous giving, and thanks to our builders!

Thank You All – Thank you so much for your wonderful participation in the "Reverse Advent" for SCCAP.



**We collected
1,049 items
for them!**



You are an awesome congregation.

Thank You:

To Patti Schwartz and crew for the wonderful Birthday Party for Jesus for the children, at 4:30 on Christmas Eve. There were 28 children who were guests at our party.

To Alexis Stone, Sheryl Suplee, Jim Raggets, Lydia Casteel, Chuck Teague, Bunny Toddes, Tessa Trax, Audrey Trax, Emma Kirk and Greg Trax for covering nursery so that Amanda Ott could be at home with her son on Christmas Eve. She and I both truly appreciate your helping us out.

Thank you for all the Christmas wishes, gifts and hugs. They were deeply appreciated.

Cheryl

Exploring Membership January 13, 2019 @ 12:00 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more about GPC, plan to attend the Exploring Membership Class on Sunday, January 13 at 12:00 p.m. Following a lunch together, you'll have a chance to learn more about Presbyterians and opportunities for spiritual nurture and service here at GPC, and to meet our staff. Following the class, you may meet with the Session and join the church if you so desire. Child-care is available if requested. Call the church office to register. (334-1235, ext. 5)

Donating Your IRA Distributions to a Charity

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) have been permanently extended. Individuals can donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities like GPC.

This is attractive to some investors because QCDs can be used to satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs) from an IRA without having the distribution included in their taxable income.

Eligibility

A qualified charitable distribution may be made:

- When the IRA holder is age 70½ or older
- Directly from the IRA to qualified charity
- From a traditional or Roth IRA

Qualified charities

Generally, a qualified charity includes most public charities that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions - including religious institutions, certain veterans' organizations, fraternal societies and community foundations that provide scholarships.

Limitations on distributions

Restrictions set on QCDs include the following:

- \$100,000 maximum per person per year
- Distributions transferred to the charity no later than Dec. 31 of the current tax year
- Must be a direct IRA distribution from the IRA custodian or trustee to a qualified charity
- Not all charitable organizations qualify, but GPC does!
- Applicable only for traditional and Roth IRA distributions (excludes SEP and SIMPLE IRAs)

Making a QCD provides an opportunity to make a charitable contribution that you might otherwise not have been able to make and/or receive potential tax benefits for charitable contribution that you are already making. You should consult your tax advisor and estate-planning attorney about your situation.

Key Benefits

- **For those who give larger gifts**
Deductibility limits do not apply to QCDs, which means the QCD can be made in addition to other charitable contributions that may be limited by the annual maximum deductible percentages of income or phase-outs of itemized deductions.
- **For those who don't itemize deductions** - if QCDs are used as the funding source for charitable donations, the donor will receive tax benefits when there otherwise would have been none due to the use of the standard deduction.
- **For those whose income level subjects them to tax on Net Investment Income, or phase-out of personal exemptions or itemized deductions** - A QCD made in lieu of an RMD will result in lower Adjusted Gross Income for the IRA holder, which may lessen the effect of this tax or applicable phase-outs.

Mexico Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for all those interested in this year's trip on

Sunday, January 27

@ 7:00 p.m. in
the MacAskill Room.



No pressure!
Come and learn more!

Trip dates are July 8 - 15

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

January

January 13	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 20	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 27	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship

MidSHIP Schedule

January

January 13	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 16	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
January 20	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 23	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group
January 27	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
January 30	2:45 - 5:00	Small Group

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you. We are only a phone call away.



The transportation Deacon from December 10 - January 13 is Jerry Heeschen at 717-334-3788. and January 14 - February 10 is Kelly Jones at 717-752-0668.

Abundant Living; Cheerful Giving

Stewardship 2019

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge for the 2019 Stewardship Campaign.

If you have not made a pledge, there is still time.

Please place them in the offering plate on Sunday morning or turn them into the church office at your earliest convenience.

“Calendar of Giving”

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization.

For the month of:

January

We will be collecting items for

The Gettysburg Soup Kitchen: Chef's knives, LARGE serving trays (from a Kitchen Supply Store), reams of printer paper, Mr. Clean floor cleaner, Dawn dish detergent, V-8 or similar vegetable juice (NOT tomato juice), deodorant, paper napkins, pot holders, dish towels, gift cards for Kennie's or Giant, and gas cards (bring gift cards to the church office).

Envelopes & Contributions

Please pick up your 2019 contribution envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. This will save the church time and money since those not picked up are mailed out individually.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Bonnie Wright on the recent death of her aunt.

Barry Simon on the recent death of his mother.

Ken Ball on the recent death of his sister.

Carol Eyler on the recent death of her brother.

2019 Chancel Flowers

The new calendar is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to sign up for the Chancel flowers in 2019.



All-Church Luncheon & Congregational Meeting - January 27th

The meeting begins with lunch at 12 Noon, followed by the Congregational Meeting at 12:30 for the purpose of reviewing the annual report, and approving the terms of call for the pastors. Please do the Fellowship Team a favor and let us know how many will be attending from your family so we have enough food for lunch. You can let us know by leaving a message in the church office (717-334-1235, ext 4), returning the slip below via offering plate, snail mail, or e-mail to Rev. Lou Nyiri (gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)

Suggested donation of \$3 per person is requested.

* * * * Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, January 23, 2019 * * * *

----- Tear off -----

All Church Lunch & Congregational Meeting

Name _____ will be attending the lunch and meeting.

I will have _____ in my party.

Adult Elective Sunday School Class

Angels!



What sort of images does your mind conjure up when you hear the word, "angel"? A very beautiful woman in long flowing robes and gossamer wings playing a harp? Maybe chubby little cherubs flitting to and fro? Or perhaps we envision a beloved someone who has died, and now they're their perfect self, but with an amazing pair of wings. Are angels even real? Why does the Bible mention them? During the Sundays in January, the Adult Sunday School class, led by Susan Kolmer, will explore the topic of angels: the question of their existence, what they are, how they differ from human beings, and what their roles are. Come and join us as we delve into this fascinating topic!

Dinners for Seven or Eight

- Join us for dinner!! The GPC program Dinners for 7 or 8 provides an opportunity for sharing a meal and fellowship with your fellow church members. Three casual, adults-only dinners will be held in March, April and May in the relaxed atmosphere of individual homes.
- Those agreeing to host a dinner at their home are asked to prepare the main dish, and notify the other participants in their group of 7-8 so they may bring an appropriate vegetable, salad or dessert, as assigned on the schedule. Rather than have all participants meet on a fixed date, the host for each month is asked to coordinate the best date in the month for their group.
- We particularly encourage new members to participate as an easy way to get to know your new church family. Although the option is offered to only substitute if needed, we encourage everyone to be a regular participant as groups are often full and substitutes are not called.
- Participants are requested to sign up for the program by 20 February 2018, so that Group Schedules can be sent out by 25 February. You are encouraged to send your information via email to the Dinner Coordinator, but you may also fill out the paper Registration Form and leave it at the church office, or call the Dinner Coordinator with your information.
- Coordinator: Randy Smith (717)398-2414 rksmith71@comcast.net

**Dinners for Seven or Eight
Registration Form 2019**

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS : _____
 ADDRESS : _____
 TOWN: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE: _____

Service normally attended: ___ 8:15 ___ 9:30 ___ 11:00
 I WISH TO BE A: ___ Regular ___ Substitute Only
 I WISH TO HOST: ___ March ___ April ___ May
 Place a 1/2/3 to prioritize the month you prefer.

I can host more than one month, if needed: ___ Yes ___ No

Disciple Fast Track New Testament

Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study*, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. *Fast Track* groups meet for a total of 12 weeks covering the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes.

Any one interested is welcome to join.
The group begins Monday, January 14
at 10 a.m. in Sewing Room
with Bob Bigham as facilitator.
All are welcome.

See Cheryl if interested to order a book
at a cost of \$13.00.



CHRISTMAS IN JANUARY

Every Christmas we celebrate God's greatest gift, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life of service, was crucified, and rose from the dead to proclaim that nothing, not even sin and death, can separate us from God's living presence.

The Holy Spirit has given each of us unique gifts that God uses to help others see and experience Jesus' love. Many of us, however, have never unwrapped or discovered our spiritual gifts. That's why our congregation is offering the course, *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*.

Now you can sign up and embark with others on a journey of discovery and ministry in a weekend course developed by Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, founder of the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry and the author of many books, including the best-selling *Christian Caregiving--a Way of Life*.

This course is biblically based and answers questions such as these:

- To whom are spiritual gifts given?
- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- How can I be sure that I have a particular spiritual gift?
- What does the Bible say about each spiritual gift?
- What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

We have scheduled a weekend retreat here at GPC on January 18th 6:00-9:00 p.m. and January 19th 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The cost of materials is \$17. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Prayer List

On Sunday mornings we will be praying for the following people/groups that we support. Please consider including them in your own prayers!

- 1/13** Presbyterian Homes provide a variety of living places for Seniors.
- 1/20** Camp Krislund supported by three presbyteries, including ours. Summer camp programs for children and youth, year-round retreat facilities.
- 1/27** Dori Hjalmarson Our newest missionary! She is serving in Honduras, partnering with Presbyterian Churches there.
- 2/3** Honduras Ministry Tomas Ramirez helps coordinate medical mission trips and does Spiritual counseling with all the patients who come.

December 22, 2018



SOURCE *of* LIFE MINISTRIES

sourceoflifeministries.com

Rescuing impoverished children of Haiti

Dear Pastor Dave and Presbyterian Congregation,

As we near the end of 2018, I want to take this time to thank you very much for your continued financial gifts this past year to Source of Life Ministries! Your gifts have helped enable us to continue ministering in Haiti. We could not continue this ministry without your support! I pray for the blessings promised in Psalm 41:1-3 to come upon you!

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth; and Thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou will make all his bed in his sickness."

We are so grateful that during the year 2018, we were able to complete a number of projects:

- *First student from our home, Source of Life, graduated from High School, Clauder*
- *Completed the Security wall project*
- *Purchased panels to build the Guest House*
- *Built the children's Pavilion*
- *Completed the basketball concrete pad for the children*
- *Completed storage/depot*
- *Two additional children started their High school level, Gabrielle and Woodson.*

As we look forward to 2019, with God's help and the continued support of people like you, we hope to accomplish much more:

- *Rescue two children from immediate danger*
- *Finish the guest house project*
- *Bring teams to Haiti to work on the Guest House and other projects*
- *Ship a container over with the supplies for the Guest House*
- *Improve the kitchen for the ladies*

I want to extend an invitation to you to visit our children's home and church in Gressier, Haiti during the year 2019. I promise you, your heart will be full as the result of spending time with our children, and your eyes will be opened in a new way as you see Haiti with your own eyes!!!

May God Bless You!

Jacques Merine

ADDRESS: TSM/Source of Life Ministries c/o Mr. Jacques Merine, Founder • P.O. Box 96 • Hanover, PA • 17331
PHONE: 717-334-5405 • CELL: 717-586-8710 • EMAIL: jmerine@sourceoflifeministries.com

ThirstySouls Ministries (TSM) is a 501(c)3 registered charity.

GPC Seeking Hosts for Gettysburg CARES

It's time to prepare for GPC's participation in **Gettysburg CARES**, the local organization that provides warm shelter for homeless people in our area during the cold months. We provide shelter from February 4-17. During that time, we supply GPC Hosts, who will greet the homeless residents each evening and help them get settled in for the night. If you haven't been trained, CARES training is scheduled for Monday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. James Lutheran Church library located on York Street. It's about an hour and a half session. Additional training dates are February 25 and March 18. All begin at 6:30 at St. James.

Hosts during the two-week period in February must have the training. They will arrive nightly by 8:00 and can leave by 9:30 p.m. Major responsibilities include: Setting up a table with hot water, instant coffee, tea and hot chocolate (provided by CARES), signing guests in and conducting a short devotional if you are comfortable with that.

If interested in serving as a Host, please contact Bill Tindall at agpr4you@yahoo.com or 717-357-1281.

The doors to the church will be closed and it's lights out at 10:00 p.m. Night volunteers are responsible throughout the night. Wake-up is at 6:15 a.m. and the guests leave by 6:45. Volunteers tidy up and leave by 7:15 a.m. Overnight Volunteers sign up directly through CARES and must also receive the training.

GPC members hosting at our church in February are invited to the St. James training session on Jan. 14 that begins at 6:30. Host information is included at the beginning of the session, then you can leave. This is not mandatory, but will serve as a refresher if you feel you need one.

C.A.R.E.S. at the Greater Conewago Presbyterian Church

As in past years, GPC will provide transportation for homeless residents of Gettysburg to the Greater Conewago Presbyterian Church from March 4-17. Drivers are needed to transport them in the church van. No training is required, just a driver's license and willingness to share your time. The van picks up the residents on York Street at 8:30 p.m. each evening and transports them to Hunterstown. Then, they are picked up again the following morning and are brought back to Gettysburg for a drop off at the Soup Kitchen for breakfast. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Create an
Atmosphere of
Acceptance
Reassurance (of God's love) and
Encouragement.



If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister who "caares," please contact Lou at the church office 717-334-1235, ext. 4.

Divorce Care Support Series

A 13-week video driven, faith based, non-denominational program BEGINS TODAY. The group will run on Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The group will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Tassin and Leslie Casteel. The cost is \$15.00 which includes a workbook (confidential scholarships available.) Childcare is available upon request. Questions or to sign up for the group – please contact Susan at susantgpc@gmail.com. You may also sign up by calling the church office at 717-334-1235, ext. 4 (Rev. Nyiri).

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Wednesday, January 24, 2019**

**January / February 2019
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

January 13	Mission Emphasis Sunday
January 20	What is Forming You?
January 27	Buz Myers will preach! 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
February 3	10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service Communion