



the Shepherd's Voice

"The Shepherd's Voice" is an official publication of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

November/December 2010

THIS ISSUE...

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Pressin' On

There's a song by Bob Dylan entitled *Pressin' On* that conveys the commitment to continue and to persevere in the journey of following Jesus Christ despite personal doubts, discouraging comments from others, and even past failures to be faithful. But, as the refrain drones in that inimitable nasally Bob Dylan voice: "But I'm pressin' on... I keep pressin' on... to the higher calling of my Lord."

There is no escaping the fact that we are facing unusual times – recession, increasing frustration and distrust of government, uncertainty about the economy, and continued stresses on marriages and families. In times like these, fortunately, we are able to keep *Pressin' On* because of the fact that God is present, is our sustainer, and cares for us.

Good Shepherd has a wonderful history of ministry that has impacted lives here and around the world. We are blessed to be able to provide three distinct worship settings. We are blessed with a wonderful church staff – a highly-gifted and self-giving group. And, we are experiencing God's presence in powerful ways. In short, we are walking with Jesus – through challenging times – and experiencing transformation in our inner being, deepening of our trust in him, and impacting the lives of others in significant ways. When I reflect on this congregation, its leaders, and our staff team, I recognize my deep love for you all and the depths of God's love for us all.

Together we are called to keep *Pressin' On* to the higher calling of our Lord. We exist to form disciples who Connect with God, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love. It is a high calling. To help us strive toward it, our Session is working on how we can focus on key ministry priorities, better integrate our congregational life around fewer foci for ministry, and become even more effective in our calling to form disciples. This means we will be evaluating ways we can be more together and focused on ministries that help you Connect, Grow and Serve. It means being more focused in ways we serve our community and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. It means being more focused in how we serve in other parts of the world in order to form disciples and alleviate disease and poverty. And it means ensuring that we are using resources – people, facilities, money, time – in a responsible and effective way.

I am enthused about the future of Good Shepherd as we keep *Pressin' On* in our worship of the Triune God, in our trust in Jesus Christ, and in our call to form disciples here and beyond.

As we move through this fall season and into Advent, please pray for our Session in this focusing process. Ask God to deepen your conviction to be a faithful follower of Jesus and more transformed into his character. And pray for God's Spirit to guide us and continue to use us to draw others to Jesus Christ.



In the Adventure of Faith,

Pastor Jim

Reverend Doctor James R. Wilson
Assoc. Pastor Paul T. White
Assoc. Pastor Curtis A. Bronzan

www.gspc.org

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New (and Old) Opportunities to Grow in Faith



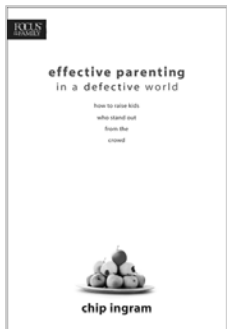
At Good Shepherd we try to provide different opportunities for people to be formed spiritually and to grow in their faith. We have small groups that provide a more intimate learning and growth experience; we have adult education classes that fill our heads and hearts with knowledge and inspiration; and we even have one-to-one spiritual direction available for individuals.

If you would like to learn more about any of this, please contact me or log on to our new church website, www.gspc.org, and click on the "Grow" button.

In the new year, we will be offering three new opportunities to grow in faith and be formed spiritually. Take a look below for details and watch the church bulletin and website for updates and further information.

God's Grace to You,

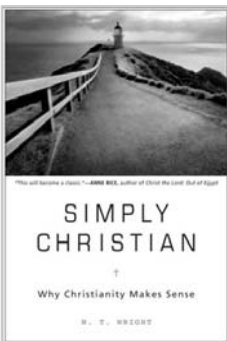
Pastor Paul



Effective Parenting in a Defective World:
How to Raise Kids Who Stand Out from the Crowd

Wednesday nights,
beginning January 19, 2011

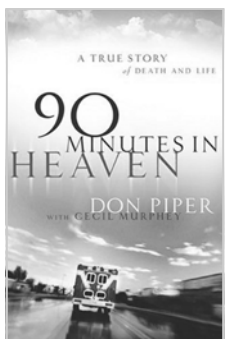
6:30-8:00pm
GSPC Sanctuary



Simply Christian:
Why Christianity Makes Sense

1st & 3rd Tuesdays,
beginning January 18, 2011

7:00-8:30pm
Location TBD



90 Minutes in Heaven:
A True Story of Death & Life

Sunday mornings,
Beginning January 23, 2011

9:00-10:00am
Round Room, Room 4

Deacon's Corner

Cards Ministry

In his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul encourages believers to "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15).



Sending cards to those who are "rejoicing" or "mourning" is one way to follow the apostle's advice. Shawna Escovedo is our Deacon for this Ministry. Shawna sends cards for a variety of occasions, including Get Well, Encouragement and Sympathy.

Birthday cards are also sent to those who are eighty years and above, and anniversary cards are delivered to those celebrating fifty or more years of marriage.

If you know someone in our church family that we could rejoice or mourn with through our Cards Ministry, please call or email Shawna at shaw.escoco@gmail.com or (562) 596-2537.

*Our Cards Ministry is
another way that GSPC serves in love!*

Our Prayer Partners are Praying for You!

In August we completed praying for our Congregation and started over again! Thanks to the 34 Prayer Partners who have been praying for you. Your family will continue to receive a letter from our Pastors the month before you will be prayed for. We invite you to make known any requests, joys, concerns, etc. for you and your family. Just write the request on the back of the letter and drop it in the Prayer Box in the Narthex or simply send it by email to PrayerPartners@gspc.org. Your Prayer Partner will pray for you and your family for the entire month.

These requests will be kept confidential.

Questions? Please contact:

Pastor Paul at paul@gspc.org;
Deacon for Prayer Ministries, Lauren Johnson at
ljohnson545@att.net; or
JoAnn Wall at joannwall@verizon.net.

**Want to join the Prayer Partner Team?
Email Pastor Paul, Lauren, JoAnn or
PrayerPartners@gspc.org,
and we will include you as a Pray-er.**

Stephen Ministry



Please take a look at our new BLUE referral cards for Stephen Ministry. You can find them in the pew racks in the Sanctuary or on the back table at the Bridge service.

If you are lonely, sad, or discouraged, or you know someone who is, please contact Pastor Paul or Marie Crenshaw.

Stephen Ministry ...
another way that Good Shepherd
Serves in Love!

Library News

Barbara Mackewicz, Library Ministry

Night of a Million Miracles: The Inside Story of Project Pearl

by Paul Estabrooks

“Project Pearl was a bold expedition, executed with military precision,” says Time Magazine.

“It was one of the most unusual and successful smuggling operations of the 20th Century,” says David Aikman, author of Jesus in Beijing.

Out of the ashes of death and destruction in China’s Cultural Revolution rises a purified, renewed and fast-growing church. The need for one million Chinese Bibles is urgently requested, and Project Pearl is initiated by Open Doors Ministry. Using a tugboat and a specially designed barge, twenty men clandestinely delivered one million Chinese Bibles (232 tons) in one night to thousands of Chinese Christians waiting on a beach in southern China. The untold story is the million miracles that occurred in getting to that night of delivery. These ordinary men respond with a strong faith in an extraordinary, miracle-working God . . . believing nothing is impossible for Him.

New Veggie Tales DVD for Kids!

Sweetpea Beauty-A Girl After God’s Own Heart
(A Lesson about True Beauty)

Sweetpea Beauty knows that what is on the inside is what matters most, but insecure Queen Blueberry cannot see past her own reflection. Will Sweetpea save the Queen from the lies of the tricky mirror and help her to understand that she is special just the way God made her? Plus there is Snoodlerella, who is a self-conscious star of the ball after getting an extreme makeover. Yet her life of glamour will be short-lived as the clock strikes midnight and her glasses, braces and insecurities return. Will she be able to see herself as the good King sees her - as unique, beautiful and perfect - just the way she is?

Come and check out adult and children’s Christmas books and DVD’s in November and December!

Coming soon . . . Jan Karon’s new Father Tim novel,
In the Company of Others

Children & Families Ministry

Karen Eckland (562) 493-2553, ext. 104



Sunday School

Sunday School is available at both 8:45 & 10:30 services. All children go into the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service, then leave for Sunday School after the Time for Young

Disciples at the 8:45 am service or during the Passing of the Peace at the 10:30 am service. Sunday School (Preschool thru 5th grade) and nursery care are available at both services.

Mommy & Me

Please join us on Wednesdays from 9:15-11:00 am.

Fun times for the little ones
and fellowship for the grownups!!

- November 3 Thanksgiving treats and traditions
- November 10 Bring a book to share or trade
- November 17 Make Christmas cards/discuss ways to keep Christ in Christmas

No meetings in December.
We will begin again on January 5, 2011.

Call Paula Skaugstad at (714) 828-9101
for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @GSPC

Our new program for kids called "FLIPT" is really awesome!! 1st-5th graders meet every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm. We are learning about a cool guy named Jesus who will leave their lives FLIPT!!

Special FLIPT on Wednesday, November 17th

We will put together packages for homeless people. The children will be able to take several packs home with them so they can hand them out to the homeless in their neighborhoods. We'll need gallon size zip bags, water bottles, socks, granola bars, hygiene items such toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc. You can start bringing these items on Wednesday night.

For more information, contact
Karen @ (562) 493-2553, ext. 104.



GLOW FEST

"Go Light Our World"

January 21st-23rd, 2011
4th & 5th Graders

Camp Cedar Crest is located in
our local mountains outside of
Running Springs

Registration:

\$160 by November 30th
\$190 December 1st-January 17th

Christmas Eve Services Friday, December 24th

- 4 pm Family Service
- 8 pm Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir
- 10 pm Candlelight Service with Special Music



"And there were in the same
country shepherds abiding
in the field..."

Healthcare Ministry

Marsha Stanton (562) 594-9151 or
Beth Piburn (562) 598-5136



We are here – do you need us? The Healthcare Ministry Team continues to do blood pressure checks the second Sunday of each month between services in the gym. One of the team members has been assigned for each month and will be glad to do a check-up for you.

Thank you for your support in the LifeLine screening we held September 16th in Zirbel Hall. The screenings were very successful with over 150 people tested throughout the day.

Once again our annual Flu Shot Clinic was held during October on the dates of October 10th and 31st to allow ample opportunity for everyone who was interested in receiving their 2010 injections. We appreciate the relationship with Hoag ministries and the ability to be able to provide these shots free of charge to our congregation.

Our next blood drive with the American Red Cross is now scheduled for December 5, 2010. Thank you to all those who participated in the previous blood drive. We look forward to your participation in this upcoming event. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin. Questions? Please contact Beth Piburn or Marsha Stanton.



When you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th, don't forget to set your clock back one hour!!

Local Missions

Rob Saunders, gspc.localmissions@gmail.com

During my 31 years of employment at Southern California Edison, my career provided many opportunities to see much of what others in the company had missed. One experience was my time serving as the Corporate Director of Employee Giving. This responsibility allowed me to visit many nonprofits to learn how they were serving others and to hear the stories of those who had been helped.

One experience took me to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). I knew about the good work that CHOC was doing, but I was not looking forward to seeing the pain of those in need. Upon our arrival, we were taken to the pediatric care unit of the hospital, where babies with serious illnesses were cared for while undergoing treatment. The nurses seemed almost angelic in how they cared for these tiny babies. These nurses had a great gift from God ... they were serving in love.

As we left CHOC, I was struck with how God loves us so much more, and how we are called to care for others. He has called us all to serve others who are helpless, hungry, in prison, in need of clothes or who may be in a hospital. We are called to action and to go beyond faith. I pray we seek how God wants us to serve the community - our mission field - in love. Blessings, Robert Saunders

Awaken
Our
Hearts



Upcoming Opportunity to Serve

Food Finders Thanksgiving Food Drive

Canned food donations are being accepted at the Local Missions table on the patio on Sundays through November 14th. Donations after this date can be left in the collection bin on the patio that is designated for Food Finders.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 21st

If your family would like to participate by serving as a "table host" at this dinner for Senior Adults at GSPC and the community, please sign-up at the Thanksgiving Dinner table on the patio by Zirbel Hall. Don't miss this fun opportunity to serve our community of Senior Adults. Our youth will also be participating by hosting tables and helping with the cleanup. A great intergenerational ministry!

Of course food donations are needed and you can help! We hope to serve 300 meals this year. Please sign-up at the table by Zirbel Hall. All food needs to be brought to the church kitchen no later than 4 pm on Sunday, November 21st. Please bring your food in a disposable or well-labeled serving dish. If you can stay and help to cleanup, we would be thrilled. You will be home by 7:00 pm.



Thank you for helping to make this event possible!

Music & Worship

Contemporary Worship

Peggy Duquesnel Malbon
ext. 109 or Peggy@gspc.org



We sing familiar praise songs, learn a few new ones and offer up prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God.

All are welcome!!

Traditional Worship

Dee Abell
ext. 113 or Dee@gspc.org

“The Festival of Carols”

You are invited to join us on Saturday, December 11th, at 3:00 pm for an afternoon of Christmas Carols. The combined choirs will present carols and anthems from all ages of music in celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus at Christmas time.

The children from first to fifth grades will sing some of their own songs as well as joining with the adult choir to sing “All is Well”. The hand bell choir will be featured and, of course, the choirs and instruments will lead the congregation in some very familiar carols.

Since the concert is on Saturday afternoon, it would be a great time to invite your friends to join you and then have them over for a celebration after the concert.

If you have always wanted to sing in the Christmas Concert, it isn't too late. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30. Y'all come!

Psalm 66:1-2

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!”

Senior Adult Ministry

Marie Crenshaw, ext. 105 or Marie@gspc.org

Senior Adult Luncheons

No Wednesday luncheons are scheduled for November and December.



Premier Luncheons

November 18th 12:30 pm Zirbel Hall No cost

No luncheon scheduled for December.

A box lunch will be provided. The speaker will be a doctor or technician from Los Alamitos Medical Center. Sign-up by calling 1 (800) 548-5559 to reserve your spot.

Senior Day Trips

November 4th - Watts Towers Art Center. The Center consists of 17 major sculptures constructed of steel, covered with mortar, and adorned in a mosaic of broken glass/sea shells/pottery and tile. The towers are the work of one man, Sabato Rodia. The official name of his work is “The Watts Towers of Simon Rodia”. Sign-up for this trip at the Senior Adult table on the patio. We will meet in the GSPC parking lot and board the bus at 8:30 am. Our tour is scheduled for 10:00 am. The cost is \$45.00 per person, and lunch is on your own.

December 7th - Radio City Rockettes. This event is sold out. However there is a waiting list available in the church office.

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 21st 5:00 pm Zirbel Hall No Cost

Join us for our Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Invite your neighbors for a wonderful, home-cooked turkey dinner. After dinner we will enjoy the “Sound FX” choir from Los Alamitos High School. Please RSVP at the Senior Adult table on the patio or call the church office.

Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long

December 16th 2:00 pm Zirbel Hall

Peggy Duquesnel Malbon, our Director of Contemporary Music, will lead us in singing old, familiar Christmas carols. We will enjoy homemade cookies, hot cider and lots of fellowship.

Bridge Club

We meet in the Fireside Room from 1:00-3:00 pm on Thursdays to play American Standard Bridge.

Help Yourself to Health ... Keeping Faithfully Fit

Meets Mondays/Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Fridays at 11:00 am in the gym. Fun & free. Open enrollment at class.

Student Ministries

Werner Ramirez, Director, ext. 102 or Werner@gspc.org

Freestyle: 9th-12th Grade

Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Rush: 6th-8th Grade

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Youth Room.



Upcoming Events-Winter Camp at Forest Home

Middle School Winter Camp from January 7th-9th, 2011.
High School Winter Camp from February 11th-13th, 2011.

The cost for either camp is \$175.00. Scholarships are available.

A Small Group Defined

“A Defining Opportunity for You
on Your Spiritual Journey”

Submitted by Barbara Bannister

Webster’s dictionary defines a small group as a “gathering of people who meet to offer mutual acceptance, support for one another’s goals and encouragement for life’s challenges”. If you sometimes wonder what your purpose in life is, would like to know more about prayer, how to read and understand the Bible more fully, and live your faith day to day, a small group may be the answer for you. In a small group, it’s OK to talk confidentially in a warm environment with others who are on a similar journey. Chances are that in listening you’ll find out more about yourself, learn more about who God is and discover resources that will energize your life.

Colossians 3:16 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.”

The Bible encourages us toward worship with one another. Would you like to gain more understanding of God’s word? Meet and enjoy the fellowship of others who are on your same spiritual path? Pray for each other and learn about how you can serve more fully with God in a warm environment?

Then maybe a small group is a
“defining opportunity” for you.

For further information contact Pastor Paul at (562) 493-2553/ext. 116 or Del Black at (562) 594-6304.

Praying for Our Communities and Our Schools

We invite you to pray for our local community schools on a daily/weekly basis. We know that the Lord is fully able to provide for and bless our community schools when we call upon Him, offer prayers to Him, and wholeheartedly seek Him.

Our schools, as a whole, are in crisis on many levels, and our prayers are much needed!!

- Prayers for the moral compass of our schools during these difficult times.
- Prayers for the moral fiber of our communities to be restored - returning to our historical and Biblical roots which honor Godly principals and the true ethics that teach our students and future leaders right from wrong.
- Prayers for the integrity and daily decision-making of the administrators, teachers, staff and all those who lead and influence our children.
- Prayers for the financial survival of our educational systems.

Please join this group as we send up our prayers and petitions for our community schools. You can pick up the monthly list at the Visitor Kiosk. If you would like to have the list emailed to you, send a note to Lauren Johnson.

Do you have any questions, concerns or other ideas for this ministry? Please let us know by either emailing Pastor Paul at paul@gspc.org or Lauren Johnson, Deacon of Prayer Ministries, at ljohnson545@att.net.

Church Office Schedule During November & December

Thanksgiving

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26.

Christmas

The office will close at noon on Friday, December 24 and will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2011.

End-Of-Year Offerings

Offerings must be received on Sunday, December 26 or postmarked by December 31, 2010.

Women's Ministries

Louise Liewald louise@liewald.us or JoAnn Wall joannwall@verizon.net

2010 Women's Retreat

Thanks to Emily Randle and her Team for creating just the right environment for the Lord to bless. There was time to listen, time to pray, and time to be with others in a beautiful location. Thanks again, Team!!

Christmas Brunch - "Unto Us"

Please join us on Saturday, December 4th at 11:30 am. Kelly McDonald will be speaking from Isaiah 9:6 - "Unto Us". We are currently looking for table hostesses and bakers. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available November 7th. For more information contact Carol Jaeger at (714) 995-8375.

Annual Head Start Party

Our party is on Wednesday, December 8th, and we would love to have you help in the celebration. Stop by our table in November to help by purchasing fabric for a blanket for each child (\$4 each). You can also help on December 7th by coming to wrap gifts for the kids. We expect to have over 100 children attend this year and invite you to take part. Questions? Contact Sue Gilmore at (714) 891-8741.

Christian Literary Women - Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday each month in the Fireside Room from 9:30-11:00 am. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome. You do not have to read the book. Contact Barbara Purucker (562) 597-5953 for information.

November 13th - "Land of Wonders" by Lesley Kagen. Karen Sanford will lead the discussion.

December 11th - Annual Christmas Coffee at the home of Virginia Osmera (3222 Kempton Dr.I, Los Alamitos). Please RSVP to Ginny at (562) 431-0984.

Fellowship Circles

Women's Circles welcome all the women of Good Shepherd to join or visit us. Please feel free to call any leader for more information.

Sarah Circle - We will be meeting on November 11th and December 9th at 7:00 pm in the church library. We are a group of working women finding time to grow and share in Christ. We would love to have new members or visitors. Questions? Call Judy DiPiazza at (562) 430-9918.

Ruth Circle - You are invited to join us on the third Wednesday each month in the Round Room (Room #4) at 9:30 am. We enjoyed meeting with two of our missionary families in September and October. We have corresponded with these missionary couples for many years. Our next meeting is on November 17th. In December we will have our annual Christmas luncheon at the home of Roberta Hester. Questions? Call Margie Faircloth at (562) 596-4929.

Mary-Martha Circle - You are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm. Our upcoming meetings will be on November 17th at the home of Ann Pray and on December 15th at the home of Virginia Osmera for our Christmas celebration. For more information contact Judy DiPiazza at (562) 430-9918.

Rebecca Circle - For GSPC Leisure World Residents. No meeting in November.

December 6th - Belgium Waffle Brunch, 11:00 am, at the home of Carol Benstead. Please RSVP to Carol at (562) 431-6921.

Quilters

Blankets of Love meets at GSPC on the first, third and fifth Mondays from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Round Room (Room #4). They will not be meeting on November 29th or in December.

Wednesday Quilters meet on the second Wednesday each month at 10 am in the Round Room. Their next meeting is November 10th. They will not be meeting in December.

The volunteers who meet do sewing, knitting, crocheting and quilting to create blankets (with love) for needy kids. You are invited to come and handiwork or just to see what goes on. If you are interested, please call Pauline Willems at (562) 498-8982 or email to pwillems@fastmail.fm.



Newsletter
DEADLINE

December 9th for
the January/
February Issue

Worldwide Missions

Kirk Brown (562) 598-7157 or stmci@ix.netcom.com

In this country, Islam is the major religion; per capita income \$939; literacy rate 59%. GSPC missionaries are teaching English and helping handicapped men produce agricultural products thus generating income. These men would be begging on the streets without our missionaries.

Active Christian persecution; per capita income \$3,600; forced labor. GSPC missionaries are in an administrative role supporting missionaries who are in the field. Think Lydia from Acts.

Everyone deserves a Bible written in their native language. GSPC missionaries are on the cutting edge in Bible translation by developing software that is projected to allow every person to own a Bible in their native language by 2025.

'What is Jesus? Is it a man, a god or an animal?' GSPC missionaries who are on college campuses answer this question and bring the word of God to inquiring minds.

Creating Bible study materials in Europe, GSPC missionaries bring the word of God to the 98% of Europeans who do not follow Jesus.

Can't read? You can hear the stories of the Bible in your native tongue from our GSPC missionary in Africa as he develops teams to tell the story of God's

love and grace. On a parallel track, our GSPC missionary teaches the word of God through song and teaches others to do the same.

GSPC mission projects include drilling wells in Kenya to provide potable water. Near the wells, churches are planted and disciples are made. To follow events related to the dedication of the well in November (Dave Swidrak is attending), check out the website KenyaPartnership.org (East Africa Partnership/Programs/Water Wells).

We support training Christian teachers in Ethiopia and help provide schooling where no schools existed; disciples were baptized. We combat HIV/AIDS in South Africa with a Christ-centered education program directed at junior/senior high school students.

Jesus tells us, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me . . .'" Heifer Project provides a means to feed people, clothe people and help people provide for themselves. Heifer does what Jesus asks.

Worldwide Missions exists to make disciples in every nation using people and projects to help fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave to us all.

Your support makes this possible and helps to make disciples.

Prayer for the Persecuted Church



Make "IDOP" a "Banner Day"!

Practicing the "IDOP" (International Day of Prayer)? Step up in faith! Do the IDOP on behalf of Persecuted Christians worldwide on Sunday, November 7th.

Look for the banner stating the theme, "Free to Believe". Free spiritually in Jesus and free publicly to fellowship and worship. Pray, pray, pray. Here in America, we are yet "Free to Believe" and to worship our faith in Jesus, but millions of Christians are not. They are persecuted night and day. Please pray for:

- The Lord's covering, guidance, and provision for these suffering Christians.
- God's particular care of children who are impacted by the trauma that their parents experience and for their retention of faith.
- Believers to discover meaningful ways to worship together.
- Non-believers' hearts to be softened and receptive to God's truth as written in the Bible.

Please continue your appreciated and needed "IDOP" prayers so they can last all year and beyond. Join us on Monday, November 1st and December 6th from 7:00-7:45 pm in the Choir Room. Questions? Please call Ken and Ann Purucker at (562) 594-6026.

Check the website: www.opendoorsusa.org

Spiritual Growth @ GSPC

The love of God is a transforming love; it's a love that enables us to grow, mature, and develop as disciples of Jesus—by the power of the Holy Spirit. Below are some of the opportunities for spiritual growth at Good Shepherd.

Small Groups

Small Groups are a place where followers of Christ deepen their relationship with God and with one another. The following groups are open for new members.

Mixed Groups

The Gospel of Mark / Sundays 7:30 am

This group meets weekly in the Fireside Room to discuss the weekly sermon passage.

Faith & Doubt / Wednesdays 6:30 pm

This young couples group meets weekly in Rm. 3.

Shepherding A Child's Heart / Mondays 7:00 pm

This young couples group meets weekly on campus.

Women

Many Women's Covenant Groups and Circles are open for new members on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Please contact Pastor Paul for more info.

Men

A Day at a Time / Tuesdays 6:00 am

This group meets once a week on campus.

Meditations for the Road Warrior / Thursdays 6:30 am

This group meets once a week at Coco's in Garden Grove.

The Truth Project / 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:15 pm

This group meets in various homes.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Offers ongoing encounters with the living Word of Scripture. Our learning *about* God leads us to *knowing* God in a more real and vital way.

Bible Studies

The Chronological Bible / Sundays 9:00-10:00 am

Diane Wood, Teacher, Fireside Room. Study the events of the O.T. through the lenses of history, literature, and culture.

I, II, & III John / Sundays 6:05 pm

Kirk & Sue Brown, Facilitators, Fireside Room. Study the three letters of John. New members welcome!

The Bible Plain & Simple / Tuesdays 10:00 am

Dr. Bill Creasy, Teacher, GSPC Sanctuary. Dr. Creasy leads this verse-by-verse study, working through the entirety of Scripture. \$65/qtr.

Precept Bible Class / Wednesdays 7:00 pm

Talbot Jaeger, Teacher, Round Room (Rm. 5). Study of the book of Revelation. Contact Jack or Debbie Knutzen (562) 596-3603 for info.

Community Bible Study (CBS) / Fridays 9:00-11:00 am

GSPC Sanctuary. CBS is studying the book of Revelation. CBS is a Bible study for women of any age, any depth of knowledge, any denomination and for those seeking to understand the Bible. CBS also offers pre-school/elementary programs for kids. Space is limited. Registration is \$25/year for adults and \$10 for children. Questions? Contact Sherrill Razor at (714) 828-8216.

Pastor Paul White, (562) 493-2553, ext. 116 or paul@gspc.org
Del Black, Elder for Small Groups, (562) 594-6304 or
Diane Wood, Elder for Adult Spiritual Formation, (562) 430-4610

Support Groups

Cancer Support Grp, Carol Wasson, RN, Facilitator, meets every other month on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:45 am in the Round Room (Room #4). Our next meeting is November 21st. If you have a need prior to the next meeting, Carol is available.

Alcoholic Anonymous

- Thursday Group: 7:00-8:30 pm, Youth Room
- Friday Group: 8:00-9:30 pm, Choir Room
- Saturday Group: 9:15-11:15 am, Room #5

Al-Anon

- Saturday Group: 9:15-11:15 am, Room #2
- Thursday Group: Noon to 1:30 pm, Youth Room
- Saturday Group: 4:00-5:00 pm, Room #3
- Saturday Group: 5:15-7:00 pm, Room #2

More Spiritual Formation

These are intentional times to seek to allow God to form us more fully into the people we were created to be.

Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group meets the last Saturday of every month in the library at St. Hedwig, next door to GSPC, from 9:30-10:30 am. Next meeting is 12/18 at GSPC Rm. 5. Call Patti Macdonald at (714) 761-7180 for more info.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP!

Breaking the Chains of Addiction - This Christian 12-step recovery group will meet every Monday night in the Choir Room beginning November 1st. Contact Pastor Jim for more info @ x112.

Local Missions Update on Rising Tide

\$5,000 CHALLENGE TO GSPC MET!!

Thank you GSPC for contributing over \$5,000 to Rising TIDE in September. Rising TIDE is the after school program at Covenant Presbyterian Church in downtown Long Beach. The funds were matched by our GSPC donor. Thanks for keeping kids off the street and on the path to academic success!

SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT GSPC Defends Its Title-Best Team

On September 17th, Rising TIDE held its annual Scrabble Tournament. Everyone had a fun time! For the third year in a row, GSPC had the winning team. Winners were Christy and Bruce Coy, Carl Fraytet, and Nicole Smith, a Rising TIDE student. Christy also tied for individual high scorer.

With Love and Gratitude from Sandi

God's call in our lives can be very clear if we have ears to hear and are willing to obey. Almost 15 years ago, I heard such a call to come to Good Shepherd as the Business Manager. It was not coincidental that Ric and I were able to accomplish a house sale and cross country move in one week. God is faithful.



In the same way, I knew it would be just as clear when it was time for me to leave . . . that time has come so I will be retiring at the end of January.

Much has changed during our time together. Change is inevitable and, hopefully, the changes I have been able to participate in have made a positive difference in some way. BUT perhaps the greatest change during my tenure here has been in *me*. Those who know me well know that I struggle with feelings of inadequacy. Through my striving to be good enough, I have allowed stress to compromise my health. Did I mention that I am stubborn and that I need to learn lessons repeatedly? This past year, my mom's illness, death and subsequent sale of her home in Canada involved many visits while trying to juggle job responsibilities during the busiest time of the year. That put my stress level over the top, forcing me to listen to God's "still, small voice" to take extended time to rest and heal. As difficult as this lesson has been, however, it has also been the greatest blessing. During the past year, God has shown me-through the outpouring of your love-that His love is unconditional and certainly not based on what I "do".

I believe God called me here to show me that when I am weak, He is strong. My life's verse has always been: "Everything does not depend on what I want or *do* but only on God's mercy." (*Sandi's translation*) My time at GSPC has given me first-hand experience in learning this . . . again! Who says you can't teach an "ol' gal!"

My years on staff have been the most exciting, challenging, rewarding and faith-stretching experience ever!!! I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of participating in ministry with this loving church family. It is a little scary to step into the unknown but God promises to direct our path so . . .

"It's all good".

From Forgiving to Blessing Those Who Hurt You

Saturday, November 6th, 9:00 am-Noon
GSPC - Fireside Room

Pastor Vicki Orr leads this 3 hour seminar to help participants experience the steps from forgiveness to blessing. Pastor Vicki has worked with hurting people for over 20 years and has helped many to experience forgiveness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You must signup in order to receive the extensive handout package. You may signup in the Fireside Room on Sundays from 10:00 am to 10:30 am, contact Elder Diane Wood at (562) 715-1529 or email Diane@LifeInTheDash.com, or call Ellie Brandyberry in the church office at (562) 493-2553, ext. 200.



Heifer Sunday

Mark your calendars for
November 14th!

Heifer Project is a non-profit agency whose mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

You will have an opportunity to purchase animals that will be sent to families in third-world countries. The idea is to give them a source of food . . . not just short-term relief. This effort also gives them an opportunity to help their neighbors.

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

11600 Los Alamitos Boulevard
Los Alamitos CA 90720

Sundays...

Worship Schedule

8:45 am Praise Team worship with
communion monthly

10:30 am Choir-led worship with
communion monthly

10:30 am [the Bridge] Emerging
worship with praise band in
Zirbel Hall with communion
weekly

Children's Ministry

Sunday School (Preschool thru 5th
grade) and nursery care are
available at both services.

All children come to the Sanctuary
for the beginning of the service,
then leave for Sunday School after
the Time for Young Disciples at the
8:45 service or during the Passing
of the Peace at the 10:30 service.



Experiencing Christ in Our Midst • Sharing Christ With Our World

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church exists
to make disciples of Jesus Christ who:

Connect with God

Grow in Faith

Serve in Love



Good Shepherd
Presbyterian Church

