

Shepherd's Journal

C H U R C H O F T H E G O O D S H E P H E R D

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Letter From Russia pg. 5

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PASTOR'S NOTES

A lady who depended on others for transportation was upset when no one came to get her for the Church Picnic. When someone called at the last minute, she said "It's too late. I've already prayed for rain."

Does God heed our prayers to manipulate nature?

What about those who claimed hurricanes and earthquakes were God's judgment on New Orleans or Haiti?

Imagine a two-year playing in his yard. The sprinkler system comes on suddenly and he runs away - right into the fence. He's mad at the water and the fence, not realizing that the water grows the grass he loves and the fence protects him from the street traffic.

The Bible teaches us to enlarge our perspective, to gain understanding of God's ways, which are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55). As we grow in knowledge, we also increase our appreciation for the mysteries yet to be revealed, and experience gratitude that God is in charge.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<u>March 01</u> Zachary Foster	<u>March 10</u> Erin Bolyard Korey Rucker Harrison Maier	<u>March 18</u> Cole Toth	<u>March 28</u> Nancy Work Kevin Murphy Allison Iapallucci
<u>March 02</u> Katereni Coffman Valerie Wood	<u>March 12</u> Jodie Skinner	<u>March 19</u> Ruth Breedlove	<u>March 30</u> Krista Toth
<u>March 03</u> Kassandra Shay-Diez	<u>March 14</u> Rachel Murphy Jaimee Upton Peters	<u>March 21</u> Bill Smith	<u>March 31</u> John Coffman Bob Rucker
<u>March 04</u> Marie Fawcett	<u>March 15</u> Rosilee Bartlett Howard Kuhnes Cindy Steenstra Rachel Knotts	<u>March 23</u> Kara Toth Amanda Smith	
<u>March 06</u> JoAnna Pratt	<u>March 17</u> Andrea Stolzenfels	<u>March 26</u> Connie Elsey DJ Dawson	
<u>March 08</u> Freda Gillespie Wilma Bowman		<u>March 27</u> Jesse McDaniel Wynne Proudfoot	
<u>March 09</u> Richard Warne Jean Bennett			

Heifer Project - Reminder - As you celebrate your birthday, think of those that are less fortunate by placing 1 penny for each year of your age in the Birthday Church. The wooded church is located in the Narthex of our church. Happy Birthday, Nurture Committee



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

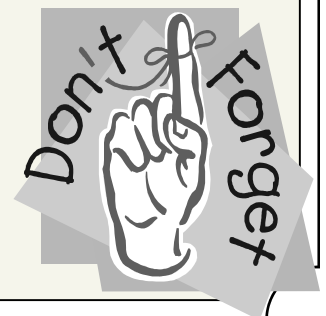
<u>March 02</u> Frank and Jo Parsons	<u>March 26</u> Debbi and Francis Nestor
<u>March 22</u> Bob and Phyllis Leonard	<u>March 28</u> Heather and Denver Chambers

MARCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 8 - Trustee Committee Meeting 7:30

March 16 - Finance Committee Meeting - 6:30

Administrative Council Meeting - 7:30



SPOTLIGHT ON THE FLOCK - CONVERSATIONS WITH CARLA

This month I talked to Wilma (Billie) Bowman. Her family started calling her Billie and now everyone else does the same. She has lived in Grafton all of her life. Billie has a sister Bobbie, and a brother, Bob. She met her husband, Richard, when they were in high school and they started dating when he returned from Vietnam. They have been married for thirty-nine years. Richard has recently retired from CSX Railroad with forty-two years of service, despite some health problems. Since he has retired he has been busy catching up on forty-two years' worth of honey-do lists. I bet he is really busy.

Billie graduated from Grafton High School and Morgantown Business College. She worked at the hospital for several years and then for Dr. Santibanez. Her family owned Runner's Florist and she worked there when it was on Maple Avenue. Mom said that she is a wonderful floral designer and has donated things that she has created to the church.

Her son, Chris, graduated with honors from Fairmont State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He works at the FBI and just recently bought a house near Meadland along Rt. 50 West. One of her favorite memories was when Chris was knighted in the Golden Horseshoe So-

ciety. This award is given to students who make the highest grades on a test on West Virginia history that is given in the eighth grade. Chris and his father enjoy drag racing their 84 GT Mustang. Chris is the driver and Richard the chief mechanic.

She keeps busy helping care for their great-nieces, and Chris's chocolate lab, Joey. She also enjoys planting and caring for flowers in her yard. Billie likes cooking and baking and watching WVU basketball. Her favorite food is spaghetti. She always reads the Reader's Digest and recently purchased Abby Reynolds's book.

She feels blessed to have so many caring friends at Good Shepherd. Billie tries to call or send a card each week to someone in the church that has been ill or hasn't been here in a while, just to let them know that they are missed. Isn't that a wonderful idea! She has been attending Good Shepherd since the first service that was held here. She told me that really tells her age. She has previously served as a Sunday School teacher and Bible School teacher. She has also been the Sunday School secretary, the secretary of Administrative Council and has helped in the office. Billie now helps the Crisis Committee prepare and serve meals after funerals. She also helps with the Nu2U

yard sales. She calls herself a member of the back row pew-fillers. She appreciates all the music programs of the church and the many hours of dedication by everyone who participates in them.

Her favorite song is Give Thanks; she also likes the Serenity Prayer. Her favorite Bible passage is I Corinthians 13:4-13, because these verses talk about love.

"She has been attending Good Shepherd since the first service that was held here."

Pastor Bert will be serving on a Kairos Prison Ministry Team March 18-21.



WOULD YOU BAKE COOKIES AND PRAY FOR A KAIROS WEEKEND?

Only Home Baked Cookies are Used

100 dozen cookies are needed by March 14.

- Cookie mixes, pre-mixed cookie dough (tubes or tubs) from your supermarket, or "frozen cookie balls" from food wholesalers are easy beginnings.
- Chocolate chip, oatmeal, cookies with M&Ms or butterscotch bits, plain sugar cookies are easy to make and popular. Rice Krispie bars and brownies are special.
- Allow cookies to cool before packaging; otherwise they may stick together.
- **No raisins, fruit, powdered sugar, or icing please.**
- Package them in one gallon zipper-lock bags (no metal ties), 1 dozen per bag. Mark each bag - "1 doz." So the dozens can be easily counted.
- **Pray** for the KAIROS inmate participants as you bake and package your cookies, asking God to use the "agape love" cookies and the team as instruments for his love, sharing, forgiveness, healing and Christian renewal.

Cookies are shared with the inmate participants during the weekend to help express Christian love and concern with these residents. Participants are given dozens of cookies to take back to their cells to share with fellow inmates while they discuss and answer questions about the weekend. Also, all inmates not participating will receive 1 dozen cookies to let them know something special is happening within the prison walls.

Contact Pastor Bert for information.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nursery workers need to arrive at 10:30 to receive children. Guidelines are posted in the narthex and outside the nursery door. Weeks can be traded with other volunteers if a conflict arises.

March 7 - Angie & Rick Hanshaw

March 14 - Jennifer & Rebecca Smihal

March 21 - Mindy & Shawn Thorn

March 28 - Julie Reneau & Sarah & Kirsten Reneau

LENTEN SERVICES

All services begin at 6:00 p.m.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>
Janet Bucklew	March 7	Good Shepherd
Mary Fox	March 14	Trinity
Ruth Haught	March 21	Thornton
Judy Messenger	March 28	Flemington

Easter Flowers For Sale

This year we are offering a choice of White Lilies, Yellow Daffodils, or Purple Hyacinths. The cost for the flowers is \$14.00 each. They can be picked up after Easter Service on April 4th.

Please have your order turned into the church office by
March 28th.

In Memory of _____

In Honor Of _____

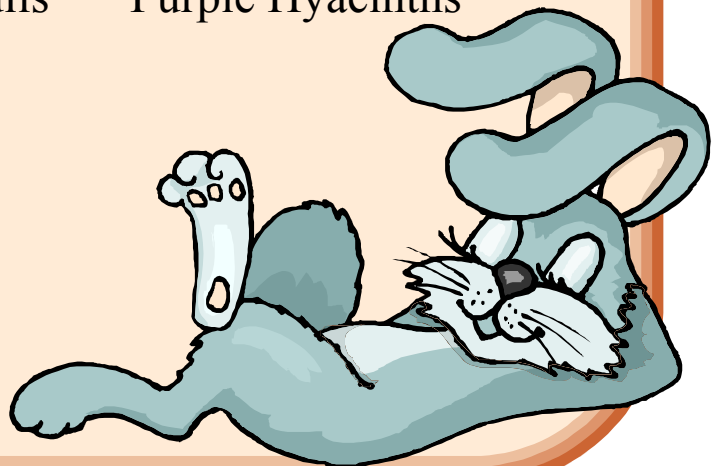
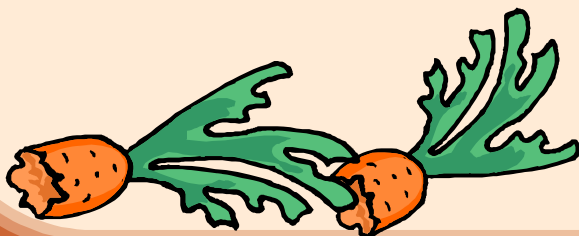
From _____

Please circle your choice:

White Lilies

Yellow Daffodils

Purple Hyacinths



*4th Annual
Good Shepherd Church
Bake Sale &
Grafton Rotary
Buckwheat Cake
& Book Sale*

Where: Good Shepherd Church

When: March 12th & 13th

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Donations are needed. Any home-made items would be appreciated. Items need to be dropped off at the church on March 11th by 1:00p.m.

Thank you for your help.



Church Website www.cogswv.org

Our new church website is up and running. We're experimenting with formats and content to make it easy to use and useful to read. We post the bulleting, newsletter, Abby Reynolds's blog, current events schedule and helpful links. Our goal is to add video of our worship services. Check it out and help us grow our presence in cyber-space!



Operation Christmas Child 2009 Report

As you read these numbers, please remember that each shoebox represents a child!

Our Bridgeport Collection Center collected 9,473 shoeboxes. This was our first year as a Collection Site for Harrison, Taylor and Lewis Counties. The West Virginia Region collected 93,113 shoeboxes!

In the United States 5,198,657 were collected - an increase of 317,080 from 2008!

The total amount of shoeboxes collected from all giving countries was 8,157,904!

What a privilege it is to be a part of what God is doing on the earth today!

WATCH FOR A DATE FOR A BOOK SIGNING

Abby Reynolds' book *The Reporter Wore Petticoats* has been released and is available to purchase. The historical novel relates events before and during the Civil War, centering around a woman reporter who is always in the middle of the excitement.

FUNDRAISING COLLECTIONS

GoodSearch paid us \$117.30 for last year. Thank you to those who click to search and shop.

We also raised \$32.25 from our Printer Cartridge recycling. Thank you to all who donated.

THANK YOU

To the Church of the Good Shepherd,

The Grafton High Football Team would like to thank you for the pregame meal and devotional you gave us. Thank you, Mark Yoho, Grafton High Football

CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

RT. 4 Box 284
Grafton, WV 26354
304-265-1705
shepherdwv@comcast.net

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SEE YOU IN CHURCH

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"Remember last summer when we
prayed for cooler weather, Mommy?
I think we overdid it."

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"I hope the pastor of that church
doesn't have to start a vehicle this
morning. She couldn't possibly
have the vocabulary for it."

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