



Shepherd
OF THE PRAIRIE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Caring For All God's Children

**Congregational
Newsletter
January 2016**

Statement of Purpose

"We care for God's children of all ages by growing disciples who make disciples."

***A Celebration of Epiphany and
Building Plan Reveal***

It's with much excitement that we invite you to the **January 6, 2016, Celebration of Epiphany**, where our architect, Paul Barribeau, will be joining us to **reveal the latest NEW Church designs (including elevations)!!**

The celebration will start at 6:30 pm. If your schedule allows, please plan to join us for dinner from 5:30 - 6:15 pm at the church. A free will offering will be received to help cover the cost of the meal. Anything received over the cost of the meal will be directed to Forward in Faith.

We would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who has participated in our "Forward in Faith" campaign. To date, \$1,550,163.49 has been received in 3 year commitments!!

We are very excited about the new plans Paul and his team have created based off all the feedback he heard from our congregation! We hope that you will be able to join us on January 6 as we continue to move "Forward in Faith"!

A Note From Pastor Mark

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever found yourself in a pitch dark place? You cannot see anything. It is difficult to sense your relationship to anything around you for you cannot see. When you cannot see, it's difficult to relate. You feel isolated and alone.

Epiphany is that moment in the church year when we discover that it is in the midst of darkness that light shines. Isaiah chapter 60 records the prophet's words, "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples" (vs. 2a).

This is a picture of hopelessness and abandonment. It describes the condition of the people of Israel as they were taken into exile by Babylon. But soon there will be hope. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).

It is God's doing and action which brings light to total darkness. The dark days of exile in Babylon will be left behind. Then the purpose of God's people will be fulfilled. All peoples will be drawn to them through the light of God. The prophet declares, "Nations shall come to your light" (Isaiah 60:3a).

Epiphany is the season of the church year when we celebrate the light that drew the Magi or Wiseman to the Christ Child. In the Christian story, people from other nations would come to see the light of the newborn child who comes to save. As we in the northern hemisphere live in a time of darkness with short winter days, we are reminded that light is what gives us hope, too.

We seek the light, both spiritually and physically. We have learned that without the light we literally become sad, even hopeless. But with light we grow strong and more hopeful.

The light of God's grace comes to us and we are reminded again that we cannot live without it.

I hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 6 (celebration service at 6:30 p.m. and dinner from 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.) We will celebrate



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Epiphany and experience an epiphany unveiling and giving light to what we are to build in order to give God glory!

Seek the light! It is essential for our life and salvation. Indeed, without the light from God's creation we would not exist. So, without the light of God's salvation, we likewise cannot live.

Faithfully,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News

What do the following words have in common: law, gospel, sin, righteousness, grace, faith, salvation, hope, heaven, hell? If your answer is that these ten words are ones we typically hear at church, you're absolutely correct! But there's something else these words have in common: they are rich in meaning. In fact, the actual



biblical words go far deeper than what we typically think of when these words are used. For example, take the word 'law'. When we use this word, it's most often understood as the Ten Commandments. And that's good. It's what 'law' means--at least on the surface. But the word gets more complicated when we ask: what did the word mean when used originally in the Old Testament? In the New? What did Jesus mean by using the word? And further, what does the law have to do with me as a human being? As a sinner? As a Christian? Does it mean the same in each instance? Or is the word more nuanced than that?

Well, you're invited to come and find out! Beginning on Sunday, January 10, at 10:20 am, we'll resume our adult study classes. And each Sunday class is repeated the following Wednesday at both 11:00 in the morning at 7:00 in the evening. If you've been with us in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. And if you haven't been a part of our classes, we'd love to have you join us. There's lots of conversation, good fellowship, and an opportunity to grow in our Christian faith.

Pastor Bill

Ministry Musings

Happy New Year! It's so hard to believe that another year has come and gone... and so quickly. 2015 was an exciting year with our "Forward In Faith" campaign, preliminary plans for a new sanctuary, so many new members welcomed, babies baptized, ministries grown and new ministries started. God has been faithful to his promises to us and enabled us to serve him.



As we begin 2016, we have many exciting things and challenges ahead of us. But we know that God is present with us and leading us as he led the children of Israel. May we follow him as he leads and finds new and exciting ways to work together to bring the kingdom of God to the earth here and now.

Donna Kelly

—Lay Ministry/New Member Coordinator

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

If you have been worshipping with us for a while here at SOTP and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We will be offering the gathering twice, once Sunday January 31st from 3 – 5:30 pm and again Wednesday, February 3rd from 6 – 8 pm. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family.



We will welcome new members on the following Sunday, February 7th. If you have any questions, please contact either Pastor Mark or Donna Kelly through the church office.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Church Council of Shepherd of the Prairie has set the date for the Annual Meeting of the Church. The date will be Sunday, January 24 immediately following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. All confirmed members of the church are encouraged to participate in this very important meeting of the church.



Annual Reports will be available for you to pick up on Sunday, January 17.

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT

For those of you that have turned in your Annual Reports to Donna Kelly already, thank you!

If you haven't turned your report in yet, please contact Donna Kelly at Donna@sotpmail.com as soon as possible.

JANUARY MUSIC REHEARSALS

- * Adult Choir: No rehearsals in January, resuming in February
- * Adult Bells: No rehearsal January 5th, resuming January 12th.
 - * Adult Beginning Bells: Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:05 pm
 - * Prairie Ringers: Tuesdays 7:15 - 8:15 pm
- * Children's Choir & Bells: no rehearsal January 6th, regular schedule resuming January 13th



Children's Choir & Bell Rehearsals

- 4:30 - 5:00 pm, Jubilate Ringers (*grades 3-5*)
- 4:30 - 5:00 pm, Treasures Choir (*grades 1&2*)
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm, Joy Ringers (*grades 1&2*)
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm, Cherub Choir (*2½-5 year olds*)
- 5:15 - 6:00 pm Blessings Choir (*grades 3-5*)
- 5:15 - 6:00 pm, Jubellation Ringers (*middle school*)

- * Youth Band, rehearsals January 10 & 17 at noon, playing at 10:45 am worship January 24

Trends **SEXTING**

Researchers at Drexel University are reporting that sexting among young people is actually more prevalent than was previously thought. More than half of those young adults surveyed reported that they when they were minors they exchanged sexually explicit text messages, with or without photographic images. The study also found that the majority of our kids are not aware of the legal ramifications of underage sexting. In fact, most respondents were not aware that in many places, sexting among minors can be considered trafficking in child pornography, which is an offense that can be prosecuted. Nor did they realize the extent to which prosecution can go, with many offenders having to serve jail time and/or register as a sex offender. Of course, our first responsibility is to help our kids see their sexuality as a good gift from God that should only be indulged within the context of a monogamous, heterosexual marriage. In addition, we must warn them about



Latest Research **OUTDOOR PLAY**

Those who track the health and well-being of our children and teens are regularly reminding us that fewer and fewer kids are involved in self-organized play. In addition, many kids stay inside, engaged with media and video games. Consequently, they don't get outside for recreation and exercise with their friends. And, we are constantly being told that childhood obesity is a national epidemic. A recent study of Canadian parents and teens reflects a shift in outdoor play and recreation that's taking place south of the Canadian border as well. Teens are spending only 7.9 hours a week being active outdoors. In contrast, their parents grew up spending about 17.5 hours outside each and every week. The benefits of outdoor activity to their emotional, physical, and even spiritual health are significant. Leading a sedentary lifestyle takes a toll on the body and the brain. Encourage your kids to care for their God-given bodies through exercise and play.

QUICK STATS

- Every day more than 4,750 American kids aged fifteen and under take their first alcoholic drink.
—*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
- Underage drinking is estimated to account for between 11% and 20% of all the alcohol consumed in the United States.
—*Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth*

Sexual Integrity

More Reasons You Need To Talk About Sex

The world around you is already talking about IT.

Two out of every three shows on TV include sexual content. Only one in ten of those shows speak of the risks or consequences associated with early sexual activity. Further, the average age youth are first exposed to pornography is 11 years old. You may think you are protecting your child by monitoring what they watch or listen to, but even if they only watch the evening news, your son or daughter is receiving a sex education.

If YOU don't, someone else will.

More than half of 7th to 12th graders say they have looked up health information online in order to learn more about an issue affecting them or someone they know. In addition, the websites teens turn to most have inaccurate information or communicate values different than what their parents would share if given the opportunity.

God is not quiet on this subject – you should not be either.

Genesis 1 ends the creation story by saying, “God saw all He had made, and it was very good.” In the original language the closing line is melodic. It has a rhythm to it. It’s as if God is singing over his brand new world – it is very good. Sex is a part of this creation. Often we can forget this and treat it as something different or set apart, but it too was very good. Over and over again this is how scripture speaks of and protects the boundary of this gift by communicating its purpose within the covenant of marriage.



FROM THE WORD...

James reminds Christ's followers of this truth: "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). Sadly, our me-centered culture feeds an all-too-often accepted mutation of true Christian faith that is me-glorifying and self-centered, rather than God-glorifying and other-centered. Equally sad is how this self-centeredness manifests itself at the very time when we celebrate the birth of the One who told us that it is "more blessed to give, than to receive." This Christmas, why not battle the materialism of the age by encouraging your children and teenagers to help others by getting involved in a social cause or missions endeavor as a family. By modeling selfless involvement in mission and service projects, you will grow a desire in your kids to make a difference through service to others in the name of Christ. As their interest grows, enable them to take opportunities to participate in short-term mission projects on a local, national, and international scale. Experience shows that one of the most effective ways to build and cement the faith of teenagers is to involve them in missions and service. As a family, bring your faith to life by putting it into action.

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

—John 1:14

(THE MESSAGE)

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. CHANGE THE WORLD.

HOT QUOTE

"You know, I don't do any Internet. I do zero social media because I think that's where losers go to feel important and significant."

—Charles Barkley, in an interview on ESPN Radio's "Mike & Mike," November 19, 2015



YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

NEW FOR 2016!!!

PARENTING CHRISTIAN KIDS NEWSLETTER

If you find it a struggle to raise strong Christian kids in a troubled world, then this newsletter is for you. Each Parenting Christian Kids Newsletter is packed with: Articles, parenting principles, pointers and more—all focused on a relevant, monthly theme. You'll find: Scripture woven throughout; Power Source—a prayer guide; Teachable Moment—a family activity tied to the theme and to Jesus; Current cultural trends and stats that provide insights for parents.



The Parenting Christian Kids Newsletter is available online at www.sotpyouth.com

We will also provide printed copies available in the Crossroads area at SOTP.

—John 1:14

TALKING ABOUT ALCOHOL WITH KIDS

Over the years, we've seen how emerging youth culture realities have harmed our kids. In many cases, issues like social media, television-viewing, and body image pressures have led the American Academy of Pediatrics to offer guidelines to physicians. For example, two years ago the AAP directed pediatricians to challenge parents to keep screens of all types away from kids during the first two years of life. Now, the AAP is instructing pediatricians to encourage parents to talk about the dangers of alcohol use and abuse by the age of nine. Surveys indicate that children start to think positively about alcohol between the ages of nine and

thirteen. And, the more they are exposed to alcohol advertising, the more likely they are to drink. We commend this recommendation as alcohol is the substance most frequently abused by kids in the United States. Help your kids understand God's will and way regarding the health of their bodies, the dangers of alcohol abuse, and obeying the law.



SIMPLY GIVING



Have you thought about using Simply Giving, electronic fund transfer program for your offering? It's simple and easy to enroll and is monitored by the Church office. You have the option of electronically transferring your offering weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. It's a safe way to make sure you don't get behind on your offering.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

- 1) There are still over 80 boxes of offering envelopes that haven't been picked up. We will not be mailing them this year.
- 2) If you are enrolled in "Simply Giving", you were assigned envelopes for "special services" and accounting purposes.
- 3) Please put your name on the envelope.
- 4) Please don't tape the envelope shut.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas Free Will Offerings have been divided equally between the following:

- * **Turning Point** – a domestic violence agency with a mission to confront violence against women and children in McHenry County.
- * **Home of the Sparrow** – provides housing and other services to homeless women and children to help them overcome homelessness.
- * **Transitions Hospice** – serves their patients and their families in Kane and McHenry Counties through physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of life's final transition.

STEWARDSHIP TALES



Stewardship of reciprocity. That's an awkward way to put it, but the question is whether we put a limit on our sharing. Is it one way? Are we happy to give, but reluctant to accept love and favors and help? Or are we a cheerful receiver, but a tightwad with our own affection, money, and energy?

Stewardship is not just a question of checkbooks, but a question of how a person lives day by day. We're all stewards of God's bounty, including love and consideration, helpfulness and even courtesy. Stewardship embraces a sort of volunteer attitude.

Stewardship is a natural characteristic of Christians, but it takes practice and awareness. It is liberating, the precise opposite of personal constriction. It is an opening of the grasping fist, a healing of what might be called a paralysis of the conscience. It is required of a Christian, but it feels good, too.

2016 PLEDGES

As of
December 15, 2015
here are the totals
for 2016
General Fund and
our Forward in Faith
fund

Grand Totals--Pledges		
Fund	Amt	Count
General	\$534,866.00	215
FiF Pledge	\$1,550,163.49	201

*Just a
friendly
reminder...*

**IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN
YOUR 2016 PLEDGE CARD,
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.**

You can still turn in your pledge card or participate in online pledging.

Our online pledge link is available through our web site by selecting "**Pledge Commitment Form**".

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Collection weekend is **January 2 & 3**, before all services.



Needs this month -----

- * Cereal
- * Deodorant
- * Cookies & Crackers
- * Ready to eat soup
- * Cooking Oil
- * Shampoo

And, as always, checks made payable to SOTP with Food Pantry noted

"FORWARD IN FAITH" WEBSITE

We have released a companion website which will cover our "Forward in Faith" Capital Stewardship Appeal. This site will focus on the Stewardship Appeal with content on background and vision, planning, architect renderings and tracking progress. In addition, we have a "Frequently Asked Questions" section as well as forms for your comments and suggestions.



To see the "Forward in Faith" website, visit <http://goo.gl/JD8C0p>.

SUPPER CLUB SIGN UP

SupperClub
FOOD & FRIENDS

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM.
START YOUR NEW YEAR RIGHT
AND EAT, MEET AND GREET
IN FELLOWSHIP WITH
OTHER "SOTPers"

Once again, Winter season Supper Club is almost upon us.

Four (4) times During January 2016 through April 2016 we will be sharing hospitality and food within small groups of 6 to 8 people. Groups are made up from the sign up list. Singles are welcome.

Each group determines what, when and how they will meet. Often one home hosts the main meal while others bring salad, desserts, etc. Some groups decide to "eat out" or "order in" for one or all of their meals. It is up to the folks in that particular small group.

Sign up as soon as you can. There are two ways to sign up:

- * Yellow signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Cross Roads area.
- * Sign up online by visiting <http://goo.gl/ULRGWL>

Groups will be determined by mid January. For more information or questions please contact Sandy Hupert, phone 224-569-6041 or e-mail sandyhupert@gmail.com

2016 FLOWER REQUEST



Is there someone that you would like to recognize in 2016? Maybe a High School/ College graduate, Birthday, Wedding or special Anniversary. Or a remembrance of a very special family member or individual. The flower order sheets are available on the bulletin board in the Crossroads.

Please indicate if you will be taking the bouquet home following the weekend service or if you would like the bouquet to be delivered to a shut-in. Bouquets are still only \$25.00. When payment is made, please be sure and mark "flower payment" on the offering envelope.

Thank you,
Worship Ministry Team

WHY COFFEE HOUR?



Coffee Hour is an important part of our service as it gives all of us an opportunity to know one another better, as well as to make visitors feel welcome and to get acquainted with them.

The goal of coffee hour is to embody the welcome Jesus gives us to his realm. Its goal is intimacy, ordinary intimacy. It is kitchen talk.

If you find yourself always glued to the same comfortable person for the entire hour, every week, have you ever considered something different? Circulate. Move. Make it a point to speak to different people. Really speak to them. Remember something about them. You never know, you may make a new friend in Christ (*maybe even bridge a generational gap*).

In order to keep coffee hour going and allow SOTP the comfort of this "kitchen talk", we need your help. Please consider signing up with friends or as a mission team to host coffee hour either by dropping off treats, serving or cleaning up (*or both*). Please sign up in the Crossroads on the "Mission Possible" board. Contact the church office or Carol Waxenberg at cwaxenberg48@gmail.com or Marty Bergman at bergym@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

POSTCARDS FOR CHILDREN



As you travel (or just go to Chicago) please buy some 4 x 6 postcards. Mission Team will have a project to send postcards to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Try to select postcards that are eye appealing to children. As you know, children enjoy receiving mail, even the old fashioned way. Look how happy this young girl was made from receiving postcards.

Soon GEMS will provide a postbox in the cross roads area where postcards can be placed, or give them to Sandy Hupert or any member of the Mission Team. They can also be put into Mission Team's mailbox inside the office.

The project will be "Send Kids the World". Feel free to go online to learn more about this program, <http://www.sendkidstheworld.com>. As Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another."

LITTLE LAMBS

We are now accepting registrations for the 2016-2017 school year.

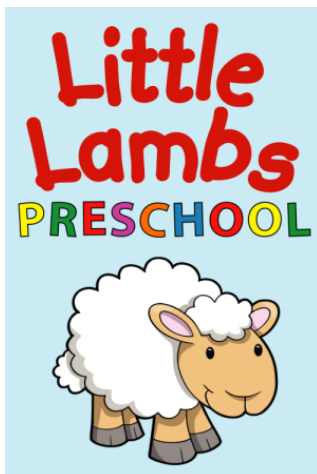
Our program is Bible-story-based and includes developmentally appropriate structured time (*craft, music, calendar, learning activities, etc.*), as well as free play. We have programs for children ages 2 - 4 by September 1, 2016.

Children do not need to be potty-trained.

Our class sizes are small (*not more than 10 children in the 1 day classes on Wednesdays or 12 in the 2 day classes on Tuesday and Thursday*). Classes meet from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Our classes are open to members and non-members of SOTP.

For more information, availability, and tuition/registration fees, see our "Registration" page on our website www.sotp.org or contact Jill Gillming at LittleLambs@sotpmail.com.



GIVING TREE ~ THANK YOU

SOTP Family & Friends,

Because of your generous donations, 25 families will have a joyful Christmas. Grafton and Turning Point are so thankful for all your gifts. Thanks to all the helpers who sorted and other helpers who packed the car and drove to deliver the gifts.

A Happy New Year to all,

Barb Hoppensteadt.



NURSERY



We need more volunteers to serve in the nursery during worship services once a month.

The nursery provides a safe, fun environment for children under four. We would appreciate your help in caring for the youngest members of our SOTP family! Contact Jen Powe (847-331-1423 or jen330@gmail.com) for more information.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

God's calling you again. The Mission team has committed 60 volunteers for the NIFB. We certainly hope that you will be able to respond to his call as you so willingly have in the past. With so many volunteers gone for the

winter, we really need everyone who is able to step up. The trip last October was a huge success with everyone having their "God's Work, Our Hands" yellow shirt on. We hope to repeat that on Feb. 27th. We will have more shirts available for those who did not go last time.

FYI, in the 11 previous trips you have repackaged over 80,000 lbs of food which has provided over 75,000 meals. Unbelievable! What a difference we can make with our hands.

If you can help, or have questions, please let Sid Sorensen know atsorensensid@comcast.net or 224-858-4168

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

JOIN WITH US
to sort and pack food for
our hungry neighbors
FEBRUARY 27, 2016

sign up today

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

ALTAR GUILD

Saturday (setup).....Becky Tuzik & Sue Mattiucci

Saturday (take-down).....Tom & Darlene Polzin

Sunday (9:00 a.m. setup & take down)

..... Marilyn Schnake & Jackie Elkin

Sunday (10:45 a.m.—take-down)

Jan. 3 Sandy Hupert & Merrily Burkland

Jan. 10 Jan & Don Koerner

Jan. 17 Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette

Jan 24Darren & Pam Walloch

Jan 31 Marlene Boehler & Barb Beaudette

BULLETIN ASSEMBLERS Date (Fridays for the weekend)

Dec. 30 (for Jan 2 & 3) June Kobler & Annette Carlson

Jan. 8 Marlene Tresp & Marian Mesenbrink

Jan. 15Jan Burseth & Deanna Moore

Jan. 22 Elaine Neukirch & Barb Krmpotich

Jan. 29 Elaine Mucibabich

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS

Saturdays

.....Joanne Klingler

Sunday

Jan. 3 Nancy Ottinger

Jan. 10 Michelle Saletta

Jan. 17 Sandy Martin

Jan. 24 Sue Wehnes

Jan. 31 Jen Powe

COUNTERS: Warren Brody, Ralph Wehnes & Donna Turner

GREETERS

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 2Stevie Massei

Jan. 9 Karen Eckert

Jan. 16Stevie Massei

Jan. 23Dolly Cardascio

Jan. 30Elizabeth Anderson

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 3 Terry Halpin, Ann Lehman

Jan. 10 Terry Halpin, Ron & PJ Knudsen

Jan 17 Terry Halpin, Joanne Klingler

Jan. 24 Terry Halpin, Wayne Schmidt

Jan. 31 Terry Halpin, John Arneson

Sundays 10:45a.m.

..... Bob & Caroline Malm

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES *(cont)*

NURSERY

Date	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Clean
Jan. 3	Jen Kolcz	Jen Powe	Jen Powe
Jan. 10	Judie Symbal	Blue Geller	Blue Geller
Jan. 17	Jen Powe	Betty Farina	Judie Symbal
Jan. 24	Judie Symbal	Mary Lee Rishel.....	Mary Lee Rishel
Jan. 31	Jen Powe.....	Sandy	

USHERS

5:00 SAT	Denis & Carol Minutillo	Steve Murphy, Ron Mudge	Dan & Cheryl Mandro	Scott Wintersteen & Doreen Drinan
9:00 SUN	Jerry Bergman Marty Bergman Waren Brody John Jensen Walter Lemke Wayne Schmidt	James Blanchard Jack Conti Sammy Harris Chris Hinde Merlyn Thompson Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	John Arneson Roy Rankin Walter Roth Carol Roth Darrel Thompson Dan Wentzloff	Jim Henley Jeanne Henley Jim Malczewski Sid Sorensen Rich Willie Arlene Willie
10:45 SUN	Bob McDuffee John Richardson Paul Ross Chris Swanson Michelle Saletta	Patrick Fleener, Mark Frendreis, Charlie Powe, Drew Szekely	John Boehler, Don Koerner, Adam Walloch & Darren Walloch	Vik Bekeris, Dick Gerhardt, Carl Hupert, Bob McDuffee & John Richardson

WELCOME CENTER (Sundays)

Jan. 3	9:00am.....	Cliff & Linda Dungey
	10:45 am	Helen Fenzan & Marty Jacobsen
Jan. 10	9:00 am	Nancy Ottinger & Cheryl Adams
	10:45 am	Noretta Walker & Debbie Lindquest
Jan. 17	9:00 am	Jan Suski & Joyce Thompson
	10:45 am	Elaine Neukirch & Judy Petropolis
Jan 24	9:00 am	Warren & Elaine Brody
	10:45 am	Victor & Kathy Pizarro
Jan 31	9:00 am	Carol & Frank Cesario
	10:45 am	Joanne Bychowsky

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report

Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of November 30, 2015:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 508,581.45	\$ 507,551.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 482,277.96	\$ 519,918.00
Net Income:	\$ 26,303.49	\$ (12,367.00)

General Fund Notes: Through November, operating income was more than expenses by \$26,303.49. Member contributions are over budget by \$2,822.83. Expenses are under budget \$37,640.04. Overall General Fund Income is more than Expenses to Budget YTD \$38,670.49 primarily due to unfunded Provision Accounts \$14,212.00 and reduced staffing costs of \$16,852.30. We continue to encourage the restraint of staff and mission teams in their spending in the various expense categories.

Building Fund Year-to-Date as of November 30, 2015:

Building Fund Begin Balance 11/01/2015:	\$ 68,931.49
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 32,806.75
Building Fund Donations:	\$ 170,786.86
Forward in Faith	\$ 53,131.45
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 329.63
Memorial Donations Building Fund	\$ 1,100.00
Building Fund Income/Donations:	\$ 258,154.69
Loan Principal Payments:	\$ 116,941.83
Loan Interest Payments:	\$ 17,130.17
Principal Only Payments:	\$ 34,490.85
Capital Campaign Expenses	\$ 39,759.45
Architectural Expenses	\$ 12,934.22
Building Fund Expenses:	\$ 221,256.52
Net Income(Loss):	\$ 36,898.17
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 105,829.68

We continue to accumulate funds in the Building Fund account per Council direction and Congregation approval on future building expansion requirements.

The November month end building loan balance is \$536,482.71. Loan payments beginning 10/01/2015 adjusted to \$5,503.00 per month. Thank you for your faithful tithing as we continue to cover our mission operational costs, funding our building loan obligation, and our future building expansion.

Jim Henley
SOTP Treasurer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Date

- 1 Tom Keane, Caitlin Ross
- 2 Mel Kling, Evan Reincke, Ava Allison
- 3 Vik Bekeris, Phil Casablanca,
Jessica Panella, Gretchen Rossman,
Riley Dobrolinsky
- 4 Mark Miley
- 5 Sandy Petersen
- 6 Nel Quam, Elaine Neukirch,
Denis Minutillo, Jacqueline Petersen
- 8 Liss Kundich, Elizabeth Rojas
- 9 George Sebastian, Linda Murphy,
Aidan Conway, Michael Parmele
- 12 Lanita Palermo, Jack Trevino
- 14 Evelyn Olbrich, Robert Petersen,
Larry Newbanks, Kurtis Arndt
- 15 Joyce Thompson, Dinah Lindsey
- 16 Tom Eberly, Nancy Zunker,
Steve Conway
- 17 Rick Behm, Emilie Ulmer,
Christian Kasal
- 18 Joan Smith, Steven Brown,
Connor Martin
- 19 Jeff McNeal, McKenzie Fulcer,
Eliott Burg
- 20 Loretta Brindell, Pam Luedtke,
Tim Torkelson, Daniel Hibbeler
- 21 Shannon Mejdrich
- 22 Tracy Blanchard, Melody Emery,
Bill Berens, Katie Torkelson,
Shayne Piskule, Hailey Trudeau
- 25 Claudia Morgan, Kevin Hennessey
- 26 Sophia Burian
- 27 Marilyn Schnake, Pamela Walloch
- 28 Audrey Schmidt, Bradley James
- 29 Matthew Vitner, Justin Prather,
Brayden Riebock
- 30 Patrick Fleener

STAFF AND CONTACTS

Pastor Mark Boster

847-515-2713 (Home)
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Pastor Bill Waxenberg

Director of Adult Education
pastorbill@sotppmail.com

Greg Dowell

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator
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