



Shepherd's Link

Jan. 11, 2009

Good Shepherd • 16420 S Westland Drive, Gaithersburg, MD • 301-869-1780 • growinginministry.com

Volume 3, Issue 2

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

Senior Pastor
Dave
Sonnenberg
pastordave
@goodshepherdonline.org

Associate Pastor
Jon Hundt
pastorjon
@goodshepherdonline.org

Mission

We are called to encourage and equip each other to give of ourselves daily—serving the Lord Jesus, each other, and our community.

Vision

We fulfill our mission when we teach each other to "live under the SHEPHERD" - to "Shepherd for the Shepherd."

Discipleship

Following the "SHEPHERD" We are equipped to be God's Frontline Servant

- S - stewards (time, talent, possessions)
- H - hands on service
- E - education
- P - prayer
- H - hospitality
- E - encouraging others
- R - regular worship participant
- D - devotional life

STEPHEN MINISTRY *Keeping Confidences to Aid God's Healing Hand*

By Brenda Kessler, Stephen Leader

Confidentiality, as you may have read or heard before, is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence. Even the identity of a care receiver is kept secret (unless the care receiver chooses to tell someone).

Confidentiality gives care receivers the reassurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Ministers their deepest thoughts and feelings, details they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of innermost feelings that God can work the miracle of healing, restoring faith and hope to care receivers' lives. Without the assurance of confidentiality, most care receivers would have a difficult time opening up, which would impede the healing process.



How does this relate to you as a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church? Even if you are not a Stephen Minister, think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships.

Consider how you can improve

relationships and help people's personal healing by maintaining confidentiality when something is told to you.

When someone shares a personal feeling, a thought that is troubling them, or something for which they might feel guilty, it can be very tempting to pass that information along to someone. Even when motives are noble (for instance, wanting to pass the information along as a prayer request), it could be damaging or painful to the person who first shared the information.

If you really believe it is something that needs to be passed along – to a prayer chain, pastor, Stephen Leader, or someone else who could help — tell that to the person who shared it. Explain why you believe others should know, and encourage him or her to pass it along to the appropriate person, or get permission from the individual for you to share the information yourself.

You also can play a part in helping our Stephen Ministry remain confidential. If you hear through

(Continued on Page 4)



A double strip of LED lights (seen at right) will make it shine brightly at the busy intersection.

Step By Step

Growing Our Mission From Outside & Inside

A new bronzetone cross now hangs high on our S. Westland Drive wall, as a witness to passersby. Thank you to Special Gifts donors!



In our new kitchen, appliances are being installed, including a 10-burner restaurant quality stove (left), icemaker, freezer and microwave oven. Our refrigerator will soon move here, after serving fellowship for 18 months in the Youth Room.



We've Made Room for New Classes

There's still time to join Sunday or weekday Adult Education classes & discussion groups.

The new roster of DVD series with Bible study:

"Quiet Strength" Sundays / Tuesdays for men.

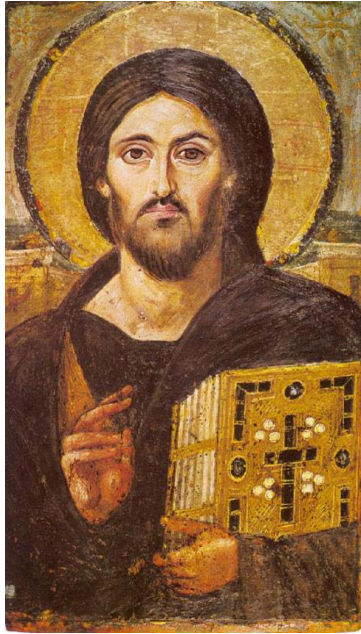
"Take It to The Limit" on Sundays for all.

"Stepping Up" & "Living Beyond Yourself" on Wednesdays and Thursdays for women.

"On the Road With Paul" available soon online, so sign up now at our "Frontline" web page.

See Page 2 for Details & Page 3 for Calendar

Learning & Serving



HE SAID WHAT?

The Sermon on the Mount
for 21st Century Living

Sunday Worship Series

At Good Shepherd

January 4- February 15

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Good Shepherd will hold its yearly First Communion classes on Sundays Feb. 8, 15 and 22 during the 10 a.m. education hour. Children who are at least in First Grade and are interested in participating in their First Communion are invited to learn about the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Students will participate in age-appropriate discussions, crafts and activities to help them understand why the Lutheran Church celebrates Communion. First Communion class meets in Room 101, downstairs in the education wing.

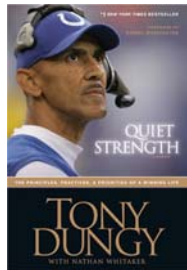
After completing classes, students will receive First Communion on Sunday, March 1. The students can receive Communion either at the 8:30 a.m. or the 11:15 a.m. worship service that day. There will be a brunch for family and friends during the 10 a.m. hour in Shepherd's Hall. A group picture will be taken as well.

Interested? Please contact office@goodshepherdonline.org to let us know if you would like to register your child for the class.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES *Today & Weekdays*

"Quiet Strength" Men's Study

Join the guys at **10 a.m. today** in Shepherd's Hall for this seven-part men's study, which digs into questions coach Tony Dungy poses, such as "How is it possible for anyone to be successful without compromising faith and family?" Using an approachable study guide, DVD clips and Dungy's inspiring and reflective memoir, men will learn and discuss how a life lived for God and family can challenge them to redefine ideas and goals of achievement. Members may choose to attend the group at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays instead.



WHEN & WHERE: 10 a.m. Sundays in Shepherd's Hall to Feb. 15. Also, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays to Feb. 17.

LEADERS: Don Kress, Mark Stewart, Brett Eaton, Marlin Strand, Andy Luther and Carl Crawford. Like to help? Contact Pastor Dave at pastordave@goodshepherdonline.org

BOOKS: Study guide is \$8. GSLC's Office has copies of Dungy's book "Quiet Strength" for sale for \$10 each.

"Take It to the Limit" Study for Everyone

In our culture, many people spend, acquire, and try to squeeze as much out of life as they can — and end up feeling empty in the process. The six-lesson DVD curriculum by Andy Stanley continues at **10 a.m. today** in Room 209, with the lesson "Downtime." No guide needed.

WHEN & WHERE: 10 a.m. Sundays in Room 209, through Feb. 8.

LEADER: Sandy Redmon has led numerous groups and lively adult studies.

If you have questions or suggestions, you can call our Adult Education Chairperson Meredith Walters at 301-540-1591 or email her at walters630@aol.com.

"Stepping Up" for Women on Wednesday

The new seven-lesson, Beth Moore course uses DVD clips to journey through the Psalms of Ascent, exploring how the major feasts of Israel and 15 psalms express feelings of fear, doubt, hope and joy. Modern-day believers can learn much from these treasured words of petition and praise in moving toward greater intimacy with God. This is the third series hosted by a warm, welcoming group of women from GSLC and beyond.

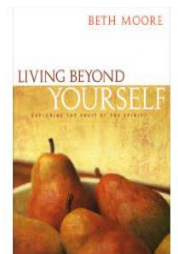


WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Shepherd's Hall. \$15 book fee includes personal guide and CD of songs chosen for this group.

LEADERS: Stephani Eaton and Kathryn Hoffpauir (above) are devoted and fun shepherds of this very approachable group study. Reserve a book: stephanieaton@msn.com or khoffpauir@verizon.net

"Living Beyond Yourself" for Sisters in Grace

This Bible study for women of all ages, "Beth Moore's Living Beyond Yourself," is a seven-part DVD series which welcomes us to know the freedom of a spirit-filled life: Galatians 5, "Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."



WHEN & WHERE: 9:45 a.m. Thursdays in Room 207. Book fee. Childcare available.

LEADER: Nancy Danielson is a seasoned and caring guide: Contact her at NFDanielson@msn.com or 301-972-5230.

Looking Ahead at Good Shepherd

Sunday, January 11

Healing Sunday

8:30a Worship
9:30a Children's Choir
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
10:00a Worship
11:15a Worship

Monday, January 12

5:30p Bells of Joy
6:45p Shepherd's Bells
6:45p GS Chimers
8:00p GS Ringers

Tuesday, January 13

GSLP Chapel
10:00a Seniors' Steering
7:00p Social Ministry
7:00p Building
7:30p Praise Band
7:30p Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14

GSLP Chapel

9:00a Quilting
7:00p Women's Bible Study
7:00p Stephen Ministry

Thursday, January 15

7:00a Breakfast devotions
9:15a Bulletin folding
9:30a Sisters in Grace
7:30p Chancel Choir

Friday, January 16

Saturday, January 17
7:30a HS & MS Snow Tubing
Noon Every Single One
Lunch & Movie

Sunday, January 18

8:30a Worship
9:30a Children's Choir
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
10:00a Worship
11:15a Worship

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day

No Public School

6:45p Shepherd's Bells
8:00p GS Ringers
Tuesday, January 20

Inauguration Day

No Public School

10:00a Seniors' Luncheon
6:30p Quilting
7:30p Praise Band
7:30p Church Council
7:30p Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, January 21

9:00a Quilting

7:00p SM Training
7:00p Women's Bible Study

Thursday, January 22

7:00a Breakfast devotions
9:15a Bulletin folding
9:30a Sisters in Grace
7:30p Chancel Choir

Friday, January 23

Saturday, January 24

Sunday, January 25

8:30a Worship
9:30a Children's Choir
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
10:00a Worship
11:15a Worship

4:00p Church Dedication

6:00p Every Single One - Dinner

Monday, January 26

No Public School

1:00, 3:00 Lord's Table
6:45p Shepherd's Bells

8:00p GS Ringers

Tuesday, January 27

GSLC Chapel
6:00p Quilting
7:00p Women's Book Club
7:00p Adult Ed. Meeting
7:30p Praise Band
7:30p Men's Bible Study

Save These Dates



TODAY: Epiphany Dinner will not be held. Watch for details from Pastor Jon about a fellowship dinner event in February for youth and families (when our kitchen is in order). To offer help, email Pastor Jon at: pastorjon@goodshepherdonline.org

JAN. 17: High School & Middle School Youth Snow Tubing.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in GSLC lot for trip to Ski Liberty for day of fun. Sign up with Pastor Jon; fee \$10. Return by 1 p.m.

JAN. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Kids' Day Out. Elementary kids in Grades 3-5 go duckpin bowling, eat pizza, do a service craft, and watch Veggie Tales' video on the day off from school. Please sign up with Pastor Jon.

JAN. 27 at 12:30 p.m. Seniors / Retirees Potluck Lunch at Epworth United Methodist Church. Please bring a dish to share and a donation of institutional-sized canned goods for the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen.

FEB. 8 at 1 p.m.: Congregational Meeting with budget overview and election of Church Council.

FEB. 21: Housing Benefit Concert. Do you have a talent to share? Contact planners about performing in this "Around the World" variety show in sanctuary. Details from Linda Patch at Patchman_20850@yahoo.com or Nancy Danielson at NFDanielson@msn.com

FEB. 24 at 9:30 a.m.: Seniors / Retirees trip to Smithsonian National Museum of American History via Metro. Please contact trip coordinator Rosemary Wolff at 301-330-4915.



Online Bible Study: "On the Road With Paul"

You're invited to participate in an online Bible study, "On the Road With Paul." The apostle is undoubtedly the second most important person in Christian history. We shall trace the development of his theology that enabled a small Jewish sect, The Way, to become a universal religion, the Christian Church.

We'll address questions such as whether Paul has been a positive or negative influence in understanding Jesus. The course will use: Short essays; readings from Acts and Paul's letters; an opportunity to blog with the teacher, Pastor Fritz Foltz, and others in the class; and daily devotions based on the readings. The study runs from February through April.

Those already participating in "Frontline" daily E-devotions, hosted in part by Good Shepherd, need only follow instructions to come via email by Feb. 1. Others should enroll now: http://www.goodshepherdonline.org/Devotion/Frontline_Devotions.htm

In addition, Pastor Foltz will offer an "On the Road With Paul" Adult Education series here on the five Sundays in March. Classes will be at 10 a.m., room to be announced. Good Shepherd members as well as Frontline E-subscribers can use these classes as a face-to-face supplement for online offerings.

Community

Cozy Shawls, 92 Caps Created With Prayer & Care

Thanks to efforts of our Creative Crafts Caring and Sharing Ministry, more Good Shepherd members are being warmed by cozy shawls. Seen at right with our crafter, the handmade items are created with special prayers for people who are in a time of need or in celebration of a special event.

This week, 92 knitted caps for newborns were shipped to Save the Children for its worldwide ministry. CCCSM meets at 10 a.m. Sundays in Trailer 1. Join leader Vicki Schmidt and the crafters today, or contact her for details at vickschmidt@goodshepherdonline.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Keeping Confidences

(Continued from Page 1)

the grapevine who a particular Stephen Minister's care receiver might be (because a care receiver has revealed this), remember the Stephen Minister's pledge to confidentiality and the important reasons for it. Refrain from asking a Stephen Minister about the caring relationship, or from making comments or observations (however helpful they appear) about someone you suspect is a care receiver.

It puts the Stephen Minister in a very difficult spot when someone asks about a care receiver (whether or not it even is the Stephen Minister's care receiver). If you have questions about how a possible care receiver might be doing, ask that person him- or herself. A personal expression of concern from you likely would make that person feel good, because it would show that someone else really cared.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by – not just those who are involved in our Stephen Ministry. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds one another up, and encourages healing in a Christian community.

Solomon says in Proverbs 12:18, *“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

Today for Teens: Wise \$ Management

How do you prevent identity theft, keep your head above water as you handle your money, and spot rip-offs, aka deceptive practices, when you're young? And why worry about having a good credit score? Teenagers should know!

Speaker Rosemary Hill will give Senior High students the 411 on how to best handle their money at **10 a.m. today** in the Youth Room. Any college students still home on vacation also are invited to attend.

Building Dedication Celebration Sunday, Jan. 25 at 4 p.m. Let the People of Good Shepherd Rejoice!

Please plan to join us for a special worship service to dedicate our new sanctuary and facilities. We're inviting our Gaithersburg neighbors as well as nearby churches and synod clergy. Richard Graham, Bishop of the Metro DC Synod ELCA, also will be here to help us celebrate.

Special music will be offered, and we'll gather afterward in Shepherd's Hall for a time of food and fellowship. We hope you'll come and be part of this historic moment at GSLC.



Coming Up in Small Groups

— Women's 4th Tuesday Book Club

The club is ready to launch its fourth year! The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. Contact Beth Cole at bwcole75@hotmail.com to get extra information and more details about meetings.

Our current book list includes:

January: "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks.

February: "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant.

March: "When You Are Engulfed in Flames" by David Sedaris.

April: "Einstein's Dream" by Alan Lightman.

May: "Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister" by Gregory Maguire.

— Every Single One

We're gathering on Saturday, Jan. 17 for lunch and movie at Washingtonian Rio Center in Gaithersburg. Meet at Good Shepherd at noon. To RSVP, please contact Joy Freund at 301-527-8719 or GSEVERYSINGLEONE@HOTMAIL.COM

On Sunday, Jan. 25, join us for dinner at Red Lobster. Meet first at Good Shepherd at 6 p.m. To RSVP, contact Joy.

Supporting Our Fellowship Breakfast



Now that we have a larger lobby to stretch out in on Sundays, we're ready for Lutherans' favorite indoor sport: Coffee Hour! Our Continental Breakfast spread and coffee is an important way to say: "Gather & Connect at Good Shepherd!"

So, please keep us stocked and thriving: Look for the brown box to make a donation, when you're sweetening your coffee or cream-cheesing a bagel.

Shepherd's Link

Email news or photos for the next Shepherd's Link newsletter to link@goodshepherdonline.org. Each week we highlight special areas; ie: Pastor's column, Green Ministry, Youth, Seniors, etc. Deadline is Tuesdays.