



GVPC Happenings

MARCH 2021

Hope in a Time of Fear

I will never forget the remark of one person on the first day of Lent this year: “I’ve had a year of Ash Wednesdays.” How was I to respond? In a year filled with unexpected challenges, heartaches and loss, it was as if this woman was speaking for all of us: “We’ve had a year of Ash Wednesdays.” A pandemic which defined much of our lives for the past twelve months, managed to remind us daily of our human limitations. In a culture like ours, we want to believe that with new technological advancements, we can determine our future and have the upper hand over all of life’s challenges. However, loss – in all of its forms – forced us to look deeply into the mirror of human mortality.

As we mark the upcoming first anniversary of the pandemic, how comforting it is to know that we, as a people of faith, are preparing to celebrate history’s biggest game changer: the joy and victory of Easter morning. The Scriptures assure us that because of the Empty Tomb, death has been defeated; and through faith in Jesus Christ, we have a hope beyond anything this world could offer.

The Apostle Paul speaks of this glorious hope in his Letter to the Corinthians as he poses the question: “*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?*” It is a rhetorical way of underscoring a theological truth: We have hope both in this life and in the life to come. Even in a year filled with Ash Wednesdays, we know that death no longer has the last word. That is why I am so eager to celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter with you this year. I hope you will make plans to join us as we observe, remember, celebrate, and give thanks as we walk through the events of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

March 28 – 9:00 and 10:30 am

We will hear the story of Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem in Scripture and in song as we begin our observance of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

April 1 – 7:00 pm

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion as we remember the night of Jesus’ betrayal.

Good Friday, **April 2 – 12:00 pm**

Our afternoon service will feature a Reading of the Passion and music focused on the cross of Calvary as we contemplate the depths of God’s grace.

Easter Sunday, **April 4 – 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am**

We will have three identical worship services in the Sanctuary with brass, organ and vocalists as we celebrate the joy and glory of Easter. *Please note the change in worship schedule to accommodate as many people as possible.*

Please make plans to join us this year for Holy Week and Easter. I truly believe that in a year filled with Ash Wednesdays, all of us can find hope and strength in the message of Easter morning: Christ is Risen!

Celebrate with us this Easter!

Pastor Adrian

Monthly Money Matters-March 2021

The Financial Statement for February 2021 displayed below shows that the income of \$159,136 exceeds expense of \$103,799 for a net positive cash flow of \$55,337. Expense for the year is \$24,216 lower than the 2021 budget. The major savings in expense versus the budget is staff positions not filled. Due to our Worship and Christian Education programs pretty much in a pause, those committees have spent very little of their budget. We are also experiencing a savings in our utilities versus the budget.

Since paying off the mortgage for the Christian Education Building in 2018, our annual income has exceeded expenses. This resulted in an increase in the balances in our checking accounts and investments. The \$258,128 shown as the balance in our Operating Fund Checking account (which does not pay interest) is the equivalent of

approximately four months' worth of average monthly expense. This reserve provides for any unexpected major unbudgeted expenses in 2021.

We have investments with the Synod of the Pacific which pay interest. The Custodial Demand Fund as shown below of \$318,088 pays interest on an annualized basis of 1%. This fund is similar to a money market account in the secular world that pays far less than the 1% we earn. We also have invested in three three-year Mission Development Certificates (MDC) with the Synod with a current value of \$79,066 that pays on an annualized basis 2.35% in interest. These are somewhat similar to a three-year CD in the secular world that pays on average 0.40% in Nevada.

The Mission Development Certificate Fund is used by the Synod to make loans to new churches and existing churches that are constructing, renovating, or repairing their

buildings. One caveat to the high interest rate received is that during the three-year life of each certificate, we cannot cash the certificate out. We have staggered the due dates for each of our three MDCs to end in October of each year over the next three years. At the end of each three-year cycle, we can choose to renew the certificate for another three years or transfer the money to the Custodial Fund.

It should be noted that all three of our buildings on campus was funded with a mortgage from the Synod of the Pacific. So, I guess you could say that we are now "paying it forward".

Dave Tyrrell, Co-Chair
Administration Committee

Financial Statement -- February 2021					
Current Income & Expense			Building Fund Income & Expense		
	Year- to-Date				
	Actual	Budget			YTD Actual
Offerings	\$157,311	\$161,182	Offerings		
Cell Tower Utilities	\$1,817	\$2,017		Building Fund	\$500
Other Income	\$8	\$0	Total		\$500
Total Income	\$159,136	\$163,199	Expenses		
Total Expense	\$103,799	\$128,015		Building Fund	\$1,722
Net Income/(Loss)	\$55,337	\$35,184	Total		\$1,722
			Income Over/(Under) Expense		-\$1,222
Temporary Restricted Funds	<u>February</u>	<u>2021</u>	BF Checking Account Balance		\$41,793
Beginning Balance	\$76,452	\$78,450			
Restricted Income	\$8,364	\$13,642	Custodial Fund Balance		\$318,088
Restricted Expense	\$8,463	\$15,739	Mission Develop Certificates		\$79,066
Ending Balance	\$76,353	\$76,353	Total Synod Investments		\$397,154

One Great Hour of Sharing

100% of GVPC offerings for
OGHS in 2021 to
Presbyterian Disaster Relief

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the largest way Presbyterians come together to provide mission and ministry alongside those who are experiencing great need. One of the three ministries supported through OGHS is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which assists communities adversely affected by crises, catastrophic events, and natural disasters. This year,

congregations may designate all offerings received through OGHS to PDA, which provides not only immediate, but long-term disaster recovery to strengthen families and communities hurting by a disaster or displacement impacting their lives. In the wake of seemingly endless disasters across the US, and following a round of recent, unprecedented arctic storms that has left a devastating impact on the lives of many in Texas and other southern states, the Executive Committee of Session voted to designate all OGHS offerings received through GVPC to the PDA.

We prayerfully ask that you consider giving to OGHS during this season of Lent, to share God's love with our neighbors in need. There are OGHS envelopes in the church Narthex where you can place your donation in the offering basket. You may also send a check to GVPC with OGHS in the memo line or donate online at www.greenvalleypres.com to "One Great Hour of Sharing"

Missions Committee

Senior Resources

BATTLING LONLINESS

Recently, I ran across an article that I had put away for possible future use which now seems more applicable than ever. The article was in the November 2019 issue of *Prevention* magazine. It is titled "A Quiet Crisis" by Jennifer Wolfe. Included in the article is a sidebar titled "6 Secrets to Feeling Connected" which concisely provides practical ideas to fight loneliness and is quoted here.

"6 Secrets to Feeling Connected"

- **Look up old friends.** They probably want to catch up too.
- **Talk to strangers.** Even 30 seconds of friendly conversation with a store clerk or cabdriver has a positive impact on mood.

- **Practice gratitude.** Focus on things in your life that make you feel fortunate: your pets, perhaps, or a nice place to live...even a sunny day.

- **Exercise and get enough sleep.** Both contribute to mood regulation and overall health.

- **Take a class.** Sign up for something you've never tried, like dance, art, or meditation. Active learning exercises your brain, and you may make some new friends.

- **Volunteer.** It's hard to feel sorry for yourself when you're helping improve the lives of others. Data shows that volunteering gives people purpose, which raises their self-esteem, in turn making them less lonely."

As we are beginning to lower restrictions and get out more,

hopefully some loneliness will be reduced but here are some additional ideas to live a full, rewarding, and connected life.

Thank you for the heartwarming responses I have received from the recent GVPC Facebook post. I count my blessings everyday that I am connected to a caring congregation and in return, I pray daily for our church and our special congregants.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rauenbuehler
Director of Congregational Care

Spotlight on Mission

Green Valley Presbyterian has supported Care for Aids since 2018. CFA is a mission centered in Kenya Africa whose focus is on preventing orphans. It does this by guiding parents infected by AIDS to a healthy and productive life. GVPC's support has allowed for the opening of a new center. This recent email from COO Molly Heacock explains the details.

"Great news! After a two-month recruitment period of searching the community for the 80 clients whose lives would be most impacted by our program, we're thrilled to let you know that the CARE for AIDS center you support in the Rural Homa Bay (Suba North) community began its journey this month!

Over the next nine months, the clients at Rural Homa Bay (Suba North) will learn the vital importance of medication adherence and proper nutrition, overcome the shame and stigma they feel because of their HIV status, and find a community that encourages and embraces them. They will meet individually and as a group with both health and spiritual counselors and learn that they were created for a life far beyond AIDS. They will learn new skills and find opportunities to provide not only for themselves but for their families. Their counselors will lead them through scripture, and they will hear the good news of Jesus.

When the program is over, we hope and believe that these clients will be healthier and happier. They will understand that

HIV is not a death sentence and that they can have a full and thriving life beyond AIDS. Most importantly, their children will rest in the comfort of knowing that they will not lose their parent to AIDS.

For these 80 clients, this is the beginning of a challenging but transformational journey. Life beyond AIDS starts now"

Sincerely,

Molly Heacock

Care for AIDS is only one of the missions supported by GVPC. The others will be spotlighted in future issues of the newsletter.

Christian Education Highlights

Presbyterian Youth

Connection - Weekly meetings are held on Sunday afternoons in the Amphitheater and simultaneously on ZOOM.

Destination Unknown – At this time, our youth will be unable to take part in Destination Unknown this summer. We will look for other activities based on current guidelines.

Children's Sunday School -

Weekly mailings of lessons coordinate with a fun video lesson with Mr. Carter. The video is posted each week on the Church website. Plans to open Sunday School for children and youth are being made.

Volunteer Teachers Needed - Full Sunday School needs 6-7

teachers each week during the 10:30 worship service.

Summer Camp 2021 – Summer camp is not being offered. Calvin Crest and Alpine are not offering residential camps.

Children's Worship Bulletins –

These are posted on the church website and sent via email.

Nursery Care– Care for infants through age 3 will be offered beginning March 7. **Volunteers are needed.**

Children's Program Contact -

Call the church office or email children@greenvalleypres.com

Youth Program Contact– Call the church office or email youth@greenvalleypres.com.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We hope you'll consider joining the team that makes an eternal impact in little hearts! Volunteers can serve just once a month for nursery, preschool class, or elementary class. Training and support is provided. All volunteers complete an application, complete Child Protection Training, and undergo a background check.

Not sure what is really involved? Please don't hesitate to ask for more information! Contact the church or Katherine Rowley 702-217-6645 or children@greenvalleypres.com.