

GVPC Happenings

NOVEMBER 2022

Expressions of Gratitude and Love

Have you ever had that moment when you could not wait to share something? To give something? To let someone know that you treasure them as a person? Maybe it was a gift you chose on a vacation. Or maybe it was something you knew a friend had been wanting or needing? Your gift was an expression of your love, a way of saying, "I really do care about you." Recently I was on the receiving end of one of those gift-giving moments. My friend, Ashot, and his wife could not imagine me leaving Israel without some gifts to remind me of our time together. I could visibly see the excitement and joy in their eyes as they presented me with a few presents to pack in my suitcase: a Christmas ornament, a jar of mulberry jam, medjool dates, a vase, and assorted candies. When I opened their gifts upon my arrival home, I was reminded of our friendship and our mutual gratitude for the gift of God bringing our families together.

Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35). Whenever I ponder these words, I can't help but think about the joy our Lord wants us to experience when we share our lives, our talents, our gifts, and our expressions of love with each other. Giving conveys what we feel inside – things we are often unable to say with words. It's the same whether we are talking about human relationships or our relationship with God. The more we love God, the more we want to share our blessings and the more we want to give to the work of God's kingdom on earth.

Recently, I learned about a custom within many churches in Zimbabwe. As the offering is received in church on Sunday mornings, the congregation erupts into applause: an expression of gratitude. It is their way of saying, "Thank you God for everything you've given. I am so thankful I have something I can give back to you." Can you imagine just how much joy there must

be in that moment of the service?

This month we are in the midst of our annual stewardship campaign. It's that time of year when our Session begins to prepare a budget for the upcoming year and we examine our expenses, projected income, and future ministry goals. A pledge card might seem like a piece of paper with some numbers written on it, but in reality it is so much more. It is an expression of gratitude to God for His work of grace in our lives. I hope you will join other members and friends of GVPC as we express our gratitude for all that God has done in our lives through this year's 2023 Stewardship Campaign. My prayer is that all of us will experience the joy of which Jesus speaks as we dedicate our resources to the work of Christ through the ministries of this church we love. Your giving will make an eternal difference.

Yours in Gratitude and Joy,
Pastor Adrian

Save the Date

Ladies Bible Fellowship

Wednesday, November 2 & 16 ~ 10:00 am
Conference Room

Ladies Luncheon

Thursday, November 3 ~ 11:30 am
BJ'S Restaurant, 9520 S Eastern Ave.

Pageeturners Book Club

Thursday, November 10 ~ 1:00 pm
Conference Room

GVPC Concert Series

Violin and Piano Duet

Sunday, November 13 ~ 4:00 pm
Sanctuary

Bunco

Thursday, November 17 ~ 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Grief Share - Surviving the Holidays

Sunday, November 20 ~ 1:00 pm
Conference Room

Men's Lunch

Tuesday, November 22 ~ 11:30 am
Barley's Casino

Advent Event

A Night in Bethlehem

Sunday, November 27 ~ 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

GVPC Concert Series

Messiah

Wednesday, December 7 ~ 7:00 pm
Sanctuary

Monday Evening Bible Study

Mondays ~ 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

KnitWits

Tuesdays ~10:00 am
Conference Room

Men's Study Group

Saturday's ~8:00 am
Conference Room

Monthly Money Matters

While the financial reports are showing the actual offerings are greater than the budget through the first nine months on the chart below, pure numbers can be deceiving. As explained in the August edition of the GVPC Happenings, we reduced our 2022 General Operating Fund Offerings Budget from the 2021 actual amount by \$35,656 to \$751,000 for the year. We received a number of pledges later that increased our outlook on expected income for the year. We really need to show a year-to-year comparison instead of a budget to actual comparison.

On a year-to-year basis our General Operating Fund Offerings received has fallen from \$590,722 in 2021 to \$578,302 for the first nine months in 2023, down \$12,420. Looking at those who submitted pledge cards for 2022,

many have contributed more than they had pledged. Unfortunately, it was not enough to offset those that have underpaid their pledge. This resulted in a shortfall of \$8,477 as of the end of September. We understand that the cost of living is up and the financial market is down but we ask those that are able, to fulfill their pledge in the next two months.

The Session is in the process of preparing the 2023 Budget and concerned about what we will be able to spend next year given this trend in contributions from the congregation. Our current outlook is that our General Operating Fund Income will remain relatively flat since 2021 in the year after the pandemic: \$786,656 in 2021, \$782,290 in 2022 and an optimistic \$787,000 in 2023.

Our operating costs will increase significantly in 2023 in several areas.

One example is that the total cost of electricity is expected to increase from \$28,450 in 2022 to \$36,000 in 2023 if NV Energy continues to increase their rates every quarter at the same pace that they did in 2022.

Thank you for your continued support of GVPC.

Dave Tyrrell, Co-Chair
Administration Committee

Financial Statement -- September 2022					
Current Income & Expense			Building Fund Income & Expense		
Year- to-Date					
	Actual	Budget		YTD Actual	
Offerings	\$600,266	\$579,110	Building Fund Offerings	\$1,931	
Cell Tower Utilities	\$8,216	\$7,500	Building Fund Transfers	\$0	
Other Income	\$263	\$1,260	Total Income	\$1,931	
Total Income	\$608,745	\$587,870	Expenses		
Total Expense	\$546,822	\$617,474	Building Fund	\$15,510	
Net Income/(Loss)	\$61,923	(\$29,604)	Total Expense	\$15,510	
			Income Over/(Under) Expense	(\$13,579)	
Temporary Restricted Funds	Sept.	2022	BF Checking Account Balance	\$28,255	
Beginning Balance	\$78,031	\$98,712			
Restricted Income	\$6,406	\$113,690	Custodial Fund Balance	\$322,540	
Restricted Expense	\$7,335	\$135,300	Mission Develop Certificates	\$82,098	
Ending Balance	\$77,102	\$77,102	Total Synod Investments	\$404,638	
Checking Account Balances					
	Operating Fund	\$400,669			
	Restricted Funds	\$77,102			

Missions Committee Update

Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, the Missions Committee is helping sponsor Noura Eid during her pursuit of a Masters of Divinity Degree at Columbia Theological Seminary. The Committee wanted to share her inspiring personal walk of faith with GVPC.

My name is Noura Eid. I was raised in a Christian family in a village not too far from Damascus. At the age of 14, the Syrian crisis began. My village became increasingly isolated from the rest of the world as Islamic militant groups surrounded and blockaded any food from entering. For more than three years, there was neither electricity nor internet. In spite of the violence and hardships that I witnessed, I also experienced God's providence — we are still alive, after all — and my faith grew.

During this time, significant events happened that changed my heart to pursue the path of ministry. I was influenced both by the powerful and persuasive voices of women in

the church, and also was encouraged into roles of service when the Egyptian pastor returned with his family to his own country, leaving the church without a leader.

Since that time, I have been committed to Christ's church through teaching Sunday school, leading youth meetings, and helping in Bible studies. Later, at the age of 17, I was encouraged by leaders in my community to pursue ministry. Each step I took towards studying theology was filled with challenges, yet I felt God was with me in each obstacle overcome. I was successful in achieving a scholarship to study theology in Beirut at the Near East School of Theology.

As it is now, my vision was to become a minister to communicate God's unconditional love and help people live it in their daily life as I grow alongside them. After I completed my BA in Beirut, I received another opportunity to pursue

further studies in Belgium. In September 2020, I moved to Leuven where I completed an MA in theology at Evangelical Theological Faculty, Leuven.

My theological training and practical experience in Beirut and Leuven have confirmed my call to be a minister and an educator. I believe I am called to serve God in the world by working directly with people. For this reason, I decided to pursue an MDiv in CTS to be better equipped for this journey of service and growth.

The Missions Committee thanks you for your continued support of GVPC's mission partners - locally, nationally, and internationally.

2023 Stewardship Campaign

"We Are His Hands" is the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign in support of the ministries and mission of Green Valley Presbyterian Church. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we read:

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal through us."*

Every fall the Session begins to plan for the year ahead. We ask for pledges to help us build a budget that supports GVPC's current and future ministries and operating expenses.

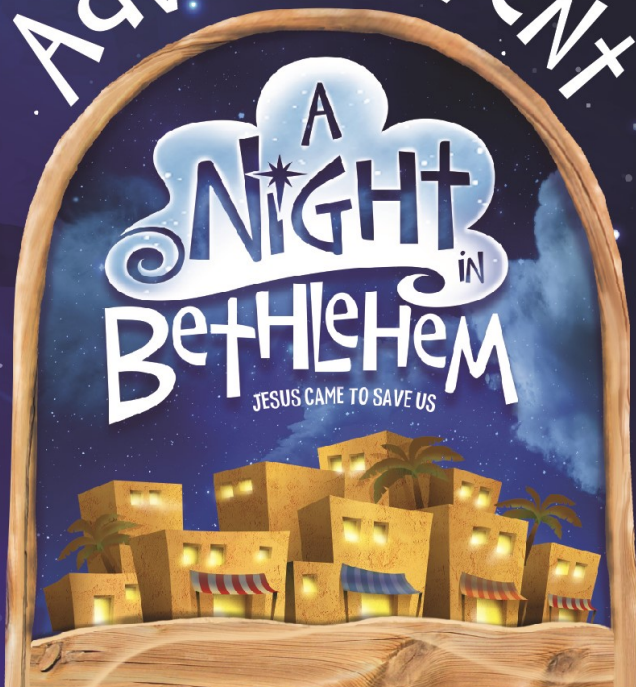
Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicked off on Sunday, October 16. Pledge cards will be dedicated on Sunday, November 20. You may bring your pledge card with you on Dedication Sunday, mail it to the church office, drop it in the green pledge box located in the Narthex, or put it in the offering plate on any Sunday. Please submit a new pledge card, even if you're not making changes to your 2022 pledge.

We ask that you pray about how **your hands** will help fulfill our mission with your time, talent, and treasure as we endeavor to *Glorify God, Grow in Christ, and Generously Share God's Love and Grace.*

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and our church. We are grateful for the privilege of partnering together as we share the truth and grace of the Gospel in Henderson, the Las Vegas Valley, and throughout our world.

The Stewardship Committee

Join us for a special
Advent Event



Sunday
Nov 27
3PM-6PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
TO EXPERIENCE THE BUSTLING
BETHLEHEM MARKETPLACE, &
DISCOVER WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE
WHEN JESUS WAS BORN!
CREATE UNIQUE KEEPSAKES &
INTERACT WITH SHOPKEEPERS
WHO WILL SHARE THE
CHRISTMAS STORY. VISIT MARY
& JOSEPH IN THE STABLE & HEAR
ALL ABOUT THE MIRACLE OF
JESUS' BIRTH!

For more information, contact
donnarorer@greenvalleypres.com

A benefit concert for
**THE
HENDERSON
FOOD BANK**



Handel's
MESSIAH
SING-ALONG

WED | DECEMBER 7

7PM

*at Green Valley
Presbyterian Church*

Featuring
THE CHANCEL CHOIR,
GUEST SOLOISTS, AND
MEMBERS OF THE
LAS VEGAS SINFONIETTA