



GVPC Happenings

JANUARY 2021

Trusting God for the New Year

During the unusual 2020 holiday season, a friend and I took a few moments to check in with each other. Given the realities of last year, I wasn't expecting our conversation to be one of enormous encouragement. Ironically, our time together transpired into an inspiring reflection on the realities – the blessings and the hardships – of the past year. I was wanting to encourage a friend who experienced the negative effects of corporate downsizing, but he was the one reaching out to me with his positive assessment of 2020. "This has been a tough year for a lot of us," he said. And then he continued, "It's been a tough year for me; but, there have been so many blessings as well." Without being prompted, he quickly worked his way through an entire list of things for which he was thankful: the blessing of friends, the benefit of part-time work, the opportunity to develop new job skills, and most importantly, the assurance that God is working in his life for good.

Since our conversation, I find myself looking back with increased gratitude for the many ways God blessed us and sustained us at GVPC during an unexpectedly challenging year. Thanks to your continued and faithful giving to Christ through the ministries of GVPC, we not only ended the year in a strong financial position, but we continued to support our local, national, and international mission partners in significant ways. Additionally, we embraced social technology in new ways allowing us to share and expand our outreach to our membership, community, and world. Who would have thought we would have people joining us from as far away as Australia, Kenya, and across the United States each week for our livestream worship services?! How thankful I am for the gift of technology and the decision of our church leadership to invest in this important area as we position ourselves for future growth. It has been a blessing to know that some of our members who moved across country are still choosing to worship with us weekly.

As we look to the New Year, so much is unknown. The calendar has yet to be filled with the normal activities to which we are accustomed at GVPC, but I am confident that we will experience the assurance of God's hand of blessing even as we walk into the New Year. This January, as in years past, I draw inspiration from words by the English poet Minnie Louise Haskins and quoted by King George VI in his Christmas Speech of 1939:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

My prayer and hope is that all of us will find strength, hope and peace because we've placed our hands in the hand of the One who knows each step of our future.

With Gratitude and Joy -
Pastor Adrian

Stewardship Update

How amazing the ways the Holy Spirit works through all of us at Green Valley Presbyterian Church! Pledges towards the church's 2021 operating budget now exceed the pledges received last year by approximately \$500.00. God has spoken to your hearts and you have responded, what a blessing you are!

Although we have wrapped up the "Gratitude for Today, Hope for Tomorrow"

Stewardship Campaign when the pledges for 2021 were dedicated on November 15th, there is no deadline when one feels moved by the Lord to give of their time or donations to their church. We are merely caretakers who continue to do God's work here on earth in gratitude for all He does for us.

A special thank you to the Stewardship team over the past 4 years: Pastor Adrian Doll, Carol Johnson, Haesook Kim,

George Lange, Pastor Al Moreau, Allen Randle, Ted Rauenbuehler, Carolann Reich, Kurt Ricketts, Ken Sohocki, Andrea Tierney, Dave Tyrrell, and John and Pam Yates. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with all and the Session members, to glorify our amazing Lord.

Peace,
Connie Mulick

Money Matters-2020

You all are aware that 2020 has been a year of chaos and uncertainty. The church has held more services livestreamed than in-person which raises obvious questions about the church's financial health. We are grateful to be able to report that it remains strong. As you will see in the spreadsheet below our income came close to matching the budget while expenses were well under budget. Thanks to all who have so faithfully supported your church.

The good financial situation we are experiencing has allowed us to implement some positive changes in the face of this unprecedented pandemic situation. We have made some prudent reductions in expenses but have not had to take any drastic measures.

God has led us in some new directions; directions that we may not have traveled except for the pandemic. He does work in mysterious and wonderful ways.

We have quickly implemented and

developed livestreaming capability so we can continue worship services for our congregation and others who join us from around the world.

We have continued support of our mission partners including:

- Care for Aids in Eastern Africa.
- One Another Missions in Costa Rica.
- Victory Christian Fellowship in Jamaica.
- Missions of the Nevada Presbytery.
- Friends in the Desert.
- Salvation Army of Southern Nevada food program.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Las Vegas Rescue Mission.
- Henderson Food Bank.

We have also been able to perform some needed maintenance of the buildings and grounds. These include repairs to the Sanctuary roof and continued replacement and upgrading of the landscaping. The Property Committee is planning additional projects including mitigation of the uneven areas in the sidewalks, sealing and

restriping the parking lot and repairs to the roof of the Multi-Purpose Building.

Blessings,

Allen Randle & Connie Mulick
Administration Committee

A Personal Note: I have been watching the finances of GVPC for the last 20 years. During that time our economy and our town have gone through several economic downturns. We know many churches struggle financially during these times. By God's grace, our church has occasionally had to postpone some discretionary expenditures but have never had to forego anything that was vital to our ministry. This past year is yet another example of this happening. I thank each of you and thank God for your faithfulness.

Allen Randle

Financial Statement -- Year end 2020					
Current Income & Expense				Building Fund Income & Expense	
	Actual	Budget		Actual	
Offerings	\$751,106	\$757,000	Offerings		
Cell Tower Utilities	\$9,262	\$7,400	Building Fund	\$4,515	
Other Income	\$516	\$3,500	Audio Fund	\$3,647	
Total Income	\$760,883	\$767,900	Total	\$8,162	
Total Expense	\$647,718	\$767,900	Expenses		
Net Income/(Loss)	\$113,166	\$0	Building Fund	\$4,466	
			Audio Fund	\$8,733	
			Total	\$13,199	
			Income Over/(Under) Expense	(\$5,037)	
Temporary Restricted Funds	<u>December</u>	<u>2020</u>	BF Checking Account Balance	\$43,015	
Beginning Balance	\$77,314	\$78,045			
Restricted Income	\$12,296	\$120,350	Custodial Fund Balance	\$317,815	
Restricted Expense	\$11,160	\$119,945	Misssion Development Certificate:	\$78,907	
Ending Balance	\$78,450	\$78,450	Total Synod Investments	\$396,721	
Checking Account Balance					
	Operating Fund	\$202,792			
	Restricted Funds	\$78,450			

Friends in the Desert

The pandemic has NOT slowed GVPC down from continuing to provide hot meals, sack lunches, toiletries, and clothing items on the 2nd Saturday of each month to Friends in the Desert throughout 2020! Although the dining room is closed at FITD, our friends are still served carryout meals each day, except Sundays. The GVPC hot meals are prepared by the 7 meal co-chairs, who take the food to the FITD kitchen at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in downtown Henderson, where it is boxed and served by the staff at FITD. The sack lunches, prepared by the loyal "Lunch Brigade" are brought to GVPC on the

2nd Friday, and are then taken to FITD by sack lunch coordinator, Kurt Ricketts. The sack lunches are distributed along with GVPC's hot boxed meals. Each month we have been serving 85-100 of our friends in need. The clothing coordinator packages the toiletries and purchases clothing items, which are also distributed on that same Saturday.

God bless and thank all of you who continue to support this wonderful GVPC mission with your food, clothing, service, and financial donations for the homeless and food insecure. Volunteers are always welcome to join this fun and fulfilling outreach! If you are interested in

volunteering, please contact Carol Johnson in the church office at (702) 454-8484 or caroljohnson@greenvalleypres.com. You can also donate to FITD by mailing a check to Green Valley Presbyterian Church and noting "FITD" in the memo line or giving on-line through GVPC's website.

Thank you,

The Friends in the Desert Team

Congregational Meeting Update

As you may know, the by-laws of Green Valley Presbyterian Church call for two congregational meetings each year. One is to be in October for the purpose of electing officers to take office in the following year. The second is to be in January for the purpose of approving the Pastor's terms of call, receiving the annual report and the budget for the year. The two items that are vital for the church to function are election of officers and approval of terms of call.

Given the risks of holding large gatherings, neither meeting was held as required. This presents a problem since our polity requires election of officers and approval of terms of call be done by the congregation. Of course, neither the Book of Order nor the GVPC By-laws anticipated a pandemic so provide no guidance on the matter. Nor has the denomination addressed the issue. The Presbytery has made an attempt but assumes there are provisions in each church's by-laws that address the issue.

Given the above situation, the

Executive Committee appointed Allen Randle and Doug Small to recommend a solution. The recommendation was that the Session take the place of the congregation to elect officers and approve the terms of call with the proviso that the congregation ratify those actions when a congregational meeting is possible.

The Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation and forwarded it to the Session for approval. The Session unanimously approved the plan and has acted on the business at hand.

The officers elected to serve are:

Elders

Class of 2021 - Allen Randle

Class of 2023 - David Ashby, Rich Baker, Bob Brewer, Molly Pope, Diane Schurr and Dave Tyrell

Deacons

Class of 2021 - Regina Golenkov

Class of 2023 - Bug Bond, Rosemary Curry, Amy Iskenderian, Betsy Johnson, Jeremy Mueller and Linda Pardue

The incoming Elders will be installed during the livestream service on January 17th; the Deacons on January 24th.

Please extend your thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve in this unusual time.

Pastor Adrian was granted a 3% increase in his Effective Salary (cash plus housing allowance). His PCUSA Medical/Pension/Death & Disability payment, (which is a percentage of his salary) and his SECA allowance increased as well. All other terms are unchanged from 2020.

Full disclosure: Both Regina Golenkov and Allen Randle are serving a seventh year on the Board of Deacons and the Session even though the Book of Order limits individuals to six consecutive years in either position. The unique circumstances of this past year have limited opportunities to develop individuals for these jobs. The Book of Order does allow the Presbytery to grant exceptions to the term limits which it did at its September meeting.

Allen Randle
Administration Committee

Christian Education Highlights

As all of us adapt to the unique needs the pandemic has brought, we look forward to the day when we can meet again in person. Please keep our children, youth, and their parents in your prayers as they navigate these unprecedented challenges.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION - Weekly ZOOM meetings are held on Sunday afternoons. The youth group also has a Facebook page. Contact Kerry Radke at youth@greenvalleypres.com for more information.



SUMMER CAMP 2021 - Save the date for summer camp 2021 and join us in prayer that the program will be possible. Registration information will be announced in January.

DATES FOR 2021:

- July 11 - 16 for Elementary
- July 11 - 16 for Junior High
- July 18 - 23 for High School

Calvin Crest is an amazing summer camp ministry on secluded 340-acre grounds surrounded by the Sierra National Forest. It is an ideal place to rest, worship and connect with God in the majesty of His creation. Go to www.calvincrest.com for more information on the camp.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS - Children's Worship Bulletins that coordinate with the weekly worship service are posted online and through the email group. Print them out for use either during the online worship service or at any other time. A fun online game is included!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - Age-appropriate Sunday School material is mailed weekly. The mailings coordinate with a fun Sunday School video lesson with Kaymen Carter. The video is posted each week on the church website and the link is emailed to the families. To be included in the weekly mailing, please email children@greenvalleypres.com.

As we patiently wait for the time when we can gather on campus, please call the church office or email children@greenvalleypres.com or youth@greenvalleypres.com with your questions, comments or to volunteer to help with these programs.

Katherine Rowley, Elder
Christian Education Committee

2020 Hoodie Drive Truly Blessed



Thanks to the touching generosity and help of our GVPC congregation during this challenging time, this year's Hoodie Coat Drive was truly blessed in being able to provide 555 Hoodies to children and youth in need at eight local Elementary and Middle Schools and Basic High School. More blessings of warmth were also shared with the donation of over 200 beautiful and cuddly scarves in myriad colors lovingly knitted by our KnitWits and organized by Mary Pierce. A grateful thank you to all you ladies.

During this tumultuous year with school closings, we could not have done this without the phenomenal coordinating efforts of Cheryl Wagner,

who works for the Clark County School District. Cheryl contacted the schools for hoodie needs and with the assistance of Rick Wagner and granddaughter Kinsey, made all the deliveries to the schools! A big thank you also goes out to Anita Brewer, Jackie Baker, Lynn Brintle, Johanna Eggen and Ruth Kinney, all who helped sort and package the Hoodies for each school. Additionally, we would like to thank Pastor Adrian and Carol Johnson for encouraging participation in the Hoodie Drive in announcements at our virtual services and in the weekly bulletins. Also, thanks to Kurt Ricketts for unloading the 32 boxes of hoodies received!

From the heartfelt appreciation of the school counselors, administrators and teachers, to the many students who will

be a bit warmer and know that the community cares for them, spirits have been lifted and the love of Christ has been multiplied and spread well beyond our church. We give grateful thanks for the vaccine sparking a fresh hope of a return to normalcy in the near future and where "back to school" will be met with shouts of joy! Thank you again to our caring and generous GVPC congregation for bringing smiles and Christmas joy to the children.

Wishing you a Safe and Blessed New Year!

Susan L. Walker, Elder
Missions Committee,