

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS 2011

- Child & Youth – Pam Hagan
264-2864
- Congregational Life – Elaine Goecke
426-3149
- Evangelism Outreach – Cathy Gray
333-1816
- Finance – Steve Helvig
338-2706
- Stewardship – Andy Grove
336-4242
- Life Formation –
- Mutual Ministry – Holly Helvig
338-2706
Margaret Donohoe
334-1592
Kirk Tucker
426-7944
- Property Committee – Jimmy Bright
(757)439-8973
- Property / Facility Planning – Bob Weis
330-7989
- Servant Outreach – Lynn Tucker
426-7944
Sarah Value
548-4169
- Worship and Music – Heather Gillespie
426-3010
- WELCA – Helen Baetz
426-5517

Congregational Handbook



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
501 INTERPATH PARKWAY
ELIZABETH CITY, NC 27909
PHONE: 252-338-6210
EMAIL: GOODSHEPHERDEC@GMAIL.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.GSLCEC.COM

WELCOME

**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH –
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN A JOURNEY
OF DISCIPLESHIP, FOLLOWING
JESUS CHRIST.**

Dear Follower of the Good Shepherd,

This brief handbook is meant to help all of us, recent and long-time member-disciples, to find information “doorways” we might need in order to more fully enter into ministry at Good Shepherd Church. This is not meant to be exhaustive in detail, but merely point you to where you can find more information if you need it. We have probably missed some points of information that you might find helpful. Please let us know if you think of manageable additions we might make.

Mostly, we hope this handbook serves as an invitation for YOU to enter ministry at Good Shepherd. Our hope is that especially the new and marginally active in our midst will become more active with their particular gifts for service of God and neighbor.

Blessings to us all in our journey of discipleship,

Pastor Vogelpohl

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2011

Kirk Tucker kirklynntuc@inteliport.com	President 426-7944
Andy Grove greybeard09@embarqmail.com	Vice President 336-4242
Stephanie Woulfe swoulfe@gmail.com	Secretary 331-2029
Lyle Wolfgang lwolfgang1941@gmail.com	426-7904
Ed Tiemann Sr. No email	338-6794
Cheryl HERNs cbulwinkle@hotmail.com	267-1799
Sarah Value cashsarah@yahoo.com	548-4169
Not a Council Member:	
Belinda Watkins nc_nucharge@yahoo.com	Treasurer 333-5530
Bonnie Wood postalbear55@yahoo.com	Financial Secretary 426-5369

KEEPING UP WITH GSLC

KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GSLC

Yes! – we really want you to know what's going on at Good Shepherd. We spend a lot of time to share information through a variety of channels.

We have learned that we can lead a horse (member) to water (info) but you will have to decide to drink.

Here is the list:

- Bulletin Boards - located throughout the church
- Church Office - give us a call at 338-6210 or email the office: goodshepherdec@gmail.com
- Congregational Mailboxes - important information will be placed in the mailboxes (located in the fellowship area)
- Ministry Team Leaders - refer to the list in this Handbook for current names and numbers
- Monthly Newsletter - Every month we create a Church Newsletter with the newest info and events
- Sunday "News notes" - Every Sunday we have an insert with current and upcoming events at Good Shepherd and other info to keep you informed
- Worship Info Slips - fill out the slip for Prayer requests and other info that you would like to share with Pastor
- Website - You can check out our website at: www.gslcec.com
- A Phone Call to Staff

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Garry Vogelpohl leads our staff and our congregation of baptized ministers. He is our main teacher and a trained counselor. He also has formal training as a Spiritual Director. His greatest joy is to join you in your journey as you allow or request him to do so.

Office Administrator – Carola Matthews holds together the many threads that help us organize our ministry efforts. She prepares most communication materials and works under the supervision of Pastor Vogelpohl. She is in the church office Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm.

Music Ministry – Karrie Chappell leads our worship music and helps us plan other worship and music elements. A full-time elementary school teacher, in her "spare time" she helps keep us in tune.

Custodian – This is a trick entry, for we have no custodian. Instead, we count on members to volunteer for property work days and for the weekly task of routine cleaning for worship on Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on a bulletin board.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Heart of our congregational life!

Worship is at 10:00am each Sunday. We celebrate using Marty Haugen's Feast and Celebration and occasionally a more contemporary non-communion liturgy. WHEN THERE IS A FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE MONTH, WE SHARE A FELLOWSHIP EVENT FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP. Our Nursery is staffed with a lead-teacher (paid staff) and a volunteer. The coffee pot is always ready, because we feel Sabbath fellowship is vital to our congregational connectedness.

Advent and Lent are times of additional worship on Wednesday evenings. A light meal usually precedes these seasonal worship times. Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and occasional times of special prayer worship or Service of the Word for Healing are other worship opportunities.

Special music from individuals or groups is always welcome. It is coordinated through our Music Director. You are urged to share your vocal or instrumental gifts individually or as part of a worship ensemble.

We welcome all baptized Christians to the Lord's Table. If you confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and believe in Christ's real presence in the Bread and Wine, you are in basic harmony with our understanding of this sacred meal. For those who prefer, when we commune using individual cups, there is white grape juice in the pre-filled glasses in the center of each tray. Children are invited forward for a blessing, but are generally not communed until they have received instruction through First Communion classes.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTANT THINGS

- **Prayer Concerns** – You are encouraged to make your prayer requests known to Pastor V or the Office so they can be included in the Sunday prayer intercessions. Typically, such names are kept on the list for 2-3 weeks. You can use the worship info slips and put any names in the offering plate during worship. Confidential prayer concerns are also welcomed by Pastor V.
- **Weddings** – Guidelines for weddings at Good Shepherd can be acquired from Pastor V. Pastor V requires at least 3 months advance notice in order to have time for pre-marital counseling and planning of the ceremony.

Marks of Discipleship:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD, I BELIEVE I AM CALLED

“to the measure of the full stature of Christ”
Ephesians 4:12

I will strive to...

- **PRAY** daily
- **WORSHIP** weekly
- **READ** the bible
- **SERVE** at and beyond Good Shepherd
- Be in **RELATIONSHIP** to encourage spiritual growth in others
- **GIVE** my time, talents and resources

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTANT THINGS

- **Baptisms** - We rejoice to share in the Sacrament of Baptism for both adults and infants. Our expectation of parents is that they are committed to being active member-disciples of Good Shepherd in order that we may keep our mutual covenant for the spiritual formation of their child. Adults are expected to spend time in instruction with Pastor and perhaps a class or conversation with a lay person of spiritual experience. Baptism is our minimal expectation for participation in the Lord's Supper.
- **Building Usage** – Our facility is available for both member usage and community use. Guidelines for such use have been formulated by the Council and are available in the Church Office. The Office Administrator keeps the calendar for building usage, so start there to see if it is available for the time you desire.
- **Memorial Gifts** – These gifts in honor or memory of loved ones are welcome at any time. There are several funds designated by the Finance Committee for such gifts. You may designate your gift or not. If you wish to donate to a special need that is not currently recognized, you are invited to consult with Pastor. All such gifts are acknowledged to both donor and honoree, unless you request otherwise.
- **Offering Envelopes** – Numbered and dated offering envelopes are distributed to member families each year. Any regularly attending worshipper is also welcome to request a set of envelopes. Quarterly giving statements detailing all donations are provided. If there are items which are missed or which differ from your records, feel free to contact the Financial Secretary through the Church Office. Any non-designated giving is credited to our General Fund from which we pay regular operating expenses.

SERVANT OUTREACH

This is a core ministry area of our congregation. You are invited to serve on the Ministry Team to help plan the implementation of our events. Here is the list of activities that this team coordinates for congregational participation.

- Blue Jean Servant Sunday – we worship in work clothes and afterwards we go out in small teams to various sites to serve our neighbors
- Food Bank of the Albemarle – We collect designated food items and donate them monthly, and we participate in the annual Walk-for-Hunger
- Nights of Hospitality - We feed the homeless on the first and third Thursday of every month. Nancy Grove (252-336-4242) and Bobbie Moritz (252-335-5477) are always looking for volunteers to provide needed food items and volunteers to help serve.
- Ministry of Encouragement – We visit area service organizations and agencies to offer a word of recognition and encouragement for the ministry that they provide in our community
- H.L. Trigg Alternative School – We help with fundraisers, proctoring, prayer support and staff encouragement

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Our **Congregational** Life Ministry Team works to plan regular fellowship times which are vital to the health and unity of our congregation. Such times are:

- Weekly Worship Fellowship – Stay after the 10:00am worship on Sundays. Donuts and beverage are ready. If there is a special occasion, feel free to bring a goodie yourself to share in celebration. You may do well to check with the chair of the Congregational Life Team as well.
- Potluck meals – These happen regularly when a month has 5 Sundays (after the 10:00am worship) and preceding Evening Worship times during Lent and Advent (usually Soup Suppers).
- August Congregational Picnic – Currently held on our property following worship. An informal time with special music and fellowship.
- Movie Nights – Just a good time to share popcorn and watch a movie together – maybe you want to sponsor one and pick the movie!
- Your Choice – YOU are also urged to create a fellowship time of your design – just a reason to gather and enjoy laughter. Maybe a trip to enjoy the Rocky Hock Theater or a ball game or camping time or another golf scramble....

NOTE: Occasionally there is a small fee or perhaps an advertised registration cost for an event or activity – adult or youth. This fee is never meant to be a barrier to participation of any person. Whether summer youth camp or an adult retreat time, PLEASE DO NOT let cost prohibit your participation. A private word with Pastor V is all that is needed to secure some confidential help or a scholarship.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Their Mission

One of the quickest ways to feel part of the life of the congregation is to join one of the Ministry Teams that helps carry out our congregational mission. Generally, Ministry Teams meet on Monday evenings at least every other month for about 90 minutes – a minimal investment. Here is the list of our Ministry Teams.

- Child & Youth – plans & coordinates Child & Youth activities and programs
- Congregational Life – oversees fellowship & the “Care Team” network
- Evangelism Outreach – invitation, hospitality, and integration of new members
- Finance & Stewardship –
Finance- financial oversight;
Stewardship- quarterly emphasis (time & talent, future giving, discipleship living, and financial commitment)
- Life Formation – plans & forms classes and small groups for Prayer and Support
- Mutual Ministry - Congregational communication facilitators, staff relations, visioning
- Property Committee – facility care and long-range planning for building site
- Servant Outreach – plans & coordinates servant activities in our Communities & Church - at - large
- Worship and Music – plans and coordinates worship events and music program

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

We depend heavily on the generous gift of volunteered time - MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER- in order to make our ministry happen.

Through the sharing of your time and talents, you make the difference in whether basic needs are met and whether our programming is enriched. Here are just a few of the ways you can help by donating your time and energy.

- Altar Flowers – The sign-up chart is on the bulletin board near the church office door. Go to your florist, grocery store, or garden and choose a flower stem, or two or three for the vase. Don't think in terms of "arrangement" as you used to know it - be creative. Pick a Sunday to honor a special person or event.
- Church Office – Bulletin prep, newsletter assembly, help with mailings, and other assorted tasks await your willing service.
- Council Member – These are for two year terms with the option of a second term. Inform the Council President of your willingness to serve or indicate it on your Time and Talent page at Ministry Fair.
- Evangelism – We have several ministries that are totally lay-led. **Fishers** are teams of persons who make a brief front porch call on those who visit us in worship for the first time.
- Ministry Team Chair or Member – Contact Pastor V or talk with a Council Member in order to receive a written “ministry description.”
- Property Work and Church Cleaning – You can choose a week to volunteer to clean the church by signing up on the sheet near the coffee pot. Other work days in our rented space and at our property site will be announced.
- Child and Youth Programs – Our children's education program includes Club of Discovery program, nursery service, and Youth Group adult sponsor to name a few. You can volunteer or get more information by talking to the Child & Youth Ministry Team chair.
- Worship Assistants – Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Music Maker, Crucifers, Communion Aide, Reader, and Altar Guild – these are the servant roles that make our worship happen. The Worship & Music Team chair can get you into the rotation. Talk with Pastor V if you have energy and ideas for other worship enrichment.

CHILD AND YOUTH MINISTRY

The mission of Child and Youth Ministry is to be a joyful partner with parents in the faith formation of their children. JOY is both the manner of our participation and an outcome of the ministry. All kids are “our kids” as we pray to be open to any child Jesus sends to us. We especially want to reach the unchurched.

We like to reach out to “little ones” in the Nursery with songs, games and stories. We welcome children age 4 and under in our Nursery. Our Nursery is staffed with a lead-teacher (paid staff) and a volunteer, that have a passion for children.

CLUB (Christ Loves Us Because...) is a program consisting of Bible Study, worship skills, recreation/craft, and snack. We invite children K-6 to attend the program on Wednesday afternoon from 4:30pm - 6pm. Check with the church office for session dates.

Middle school students are participating in catechism class with Pastor as scheduled.

The Senior High youth of the church is a small group that meets for servant outreach and fun activities. Other events that are held each year are summer camps. All are invited to join our ministry team...you do not need to have a child in order to work in this ministry! All are welcome to help plan and nurture the children.

LIFE FORMATION

Study for the sake of increased spiritual growth.

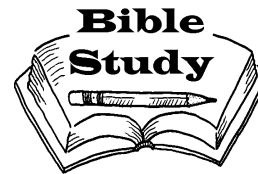
We are committed first of all to the education and growth of adults who in turn share responsibility for the spiritual formation of those children entrusted to our care. It has been noted that Jesus taught adults and played with children, an ironic reversal in too many congregations. Our Disciple-Member covenant is specific in an expectation that all adults will seek to participate in learning events as a means to grow in spiritual understanding and in order to be better equipped for ministry according to their gifts and passions for service.

Following are regular learning opportunities at Good Shepherd.

- Vital Christianity – This 7 session class is offered 2-3 times yearly. It is the introduction to our mission vision and our core faith beliefs. It is asked that all new members take this class within the first year of their joining our congregation. It is a requirement for any who would serve in a leadership position at Good Shepherd, meant to create a shared vision among us.
- Bible Beginners Class – An 8 session study ABOUT the Bible. This is not a Bible study, but is meant to acquaint and prepare for Bible study those with little or no Bible background. 2 rules of the class: nobody asked to read aloud and questions go only one way – from class to Pastor.
- Crossways Bible Study – Divine Drama – A 30 session mid-level study in two parts, “The Biblical Narrative” and “Our Narrative.” An excellent class for gaining a more confident grasp of what Scripture’s narrative sweep is about. This class is expected of those who would teach at Good Shepherd.
- Parables – A 10 session study of Jesus’ favorite teaching tool, the parable.
- First Communion Instruction – This pre-confirmation instruction is offered to all in the year they reach their 10th birthday. Class is split between parental instruction and pastoral interviews.

LIFE FORMATION CONT.

- Catechism – For us, this is a 2 year course of study in our core Lutheran beliefs beginning in 7th grade. Confirmation is typically on Reformation Sunday, after the completed study and the student’s expressed affirmation of readiness.
- Small Group Ministry – currently we have three groups meeting for prayer, study, and mutual support. These groups are open to any interested person. New groups will be formed according to expressed interest and appropriate leadership. Our Office Administrator keeps the calendar and location of group meetings.



ALL CLASSES ARE OPEN TO
ANY PERSON INTERESTED
IN FAITH GROWTH.

Call the Church Office with your questions or ideas please.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WELCA is the women’s organization of the 4.8 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This network of nearly 500,000 participants in 64 geographical areas (called synods) in the United States and the Caribbean exists for mutual support and bold action on participants’ faith in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

All women of the church are encouraged to join with us as we begin to form small groups. One such small group is meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Join us as we study the lesson, which is featured in the monthly issue of Lutheran Women magazine. The current Bible Study is titled “The People of God” and the fall study is titled: “To Lead and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark”. For more information contact the WELCA Chair person listed on page 16.