

# Cycles of Discipleship

## Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

### A Word from the Pastor

We are beginning a new adventure – a new stewardship program that is different from anything we have done in the past. The purpose of this newsletter is to introduce this program, called *Cycles of Discipleship*.

In this new stewardship program, we will not be talking about money or our church budget. We have talked about an unusual approach to the idea of stewardship since I arrived at Good Shepherd: Stewardship of all of our resources, not just our finances. So, it makes sense that we would begin to focus on what we are really doing here, described as our *Budget of Ministries*.

Too often we think of the church as an organization, or an institution. But the church is a community of faith that provides a rich resource of ministries. Every day, 365 days a year, our church is ministering in many ways to members of our church family, our community, and our world.

On pages two and three of this newsletter you will find our church's Budget of Ministries. My hope is that you will be impressed – and perhaps surprised – at the scope of ministries Good Shepherd is providing.

Our stewardship emphasis during this next year will be built around our Budget of Ministries. There will be additional opportunities to update our commitments to the church – commitments of our time, talents, and treasures – over the next year.

We will have four special Sundays (see page 4), and on

*But just as you  
excel in everything -  
in faith,  
in speech,  
in knowledge,  
in complete  
earnestness and in  
your love for us - see  
that you also excel in  
this grace of giving.*

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

Discipleship Sunday we will have the opportunity to make our Discipleship Promise for the first Discipleship Cycle. You will have the opportunity to make a commitment of your time and abilities as well as your financial resources.

At the beginning of the second and third Cycles of Discipleship we will be given the opportunity to reevaluate and renew our discipleship promise.

No doubt, many will continue with their initial promises. Others, due to major changes in their lives, may decide that it is necessary to revise their promises. These times of reevaluation and renewal will help us keep our discipleship promises current with changes in our lives.

It is our intention to make stewardship an integral part of our church life, and not just something we emphasize once a year.

Prayerfully we move forward to claim God's vision for our church.

In Christ,



# Our Budget of Ministries

<b>Ministries of the Pastor</b>	<b>Events Per Year</b>
Regular Worship Services .....	98 services
Special Services (Christmas Eve, Easter).....	5 services
Weddings .....	6 services
Funerals.....	12 services
Hospital and Home Visits .....	135 visits
Counseling Sessions .....	120 hours
Pastor-led Classes (Inside Church).....	20 sessions
Pastor-led Classes (Outside Church).....	5 sessions

<b>Worship Ministries</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Regular Worship Services .....	199 worshippers per weekend on average
Special Services (Christmas Eve, Easter) – In Addition to Regular Average .....	389

<b>Ministries of Leadership</b>	<b>Events and Participants</b>
Committee and Team Meetings (Other than Music) .....	107 events
Committee and Team Participants (Other than Music) .....	103 participants

<b>Ministries for Children</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Sunday School Classes .....	16 participants
Children’s Church.....	23 participants
Vacation Bible School.....	105 kids, 77 adult and youth volunteers
Easter Egg Hunt.....	78 kids, 18 adult and youth volunteers
Super Saturday .....	38 kids, 13 adult and youth volunteers
Living Nativity .....	33 kids

<b>Ministries for Youth</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Youth Fellowship .....	14 participants
Special Youth Events .....	10+

<b>Ministries for Adults</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Insights Sunday School Class.....	18 participants
Foundations Sunday School Class (Pastor-Led).....	42 participants
TLC Groups.....	54 participants
Inner Light.....	12 participants
Women’s Fall Spiritual Retreat .....	25 participants
Game Fellowship.....	10 participants
Piecemakers.....	9 participants
United Methodist Women.....	40 participants
United Methodist Men.....	30 participants

Emmaus.....	20 participants
Financial Peace University.....	22 participants
Boundaries Class.....	8 participants
Measure of a Man Class.....	12 participants
Other Fellowship Activities, Including Potlucks.....	70 participants per event (average)

### **Ministries in Music**

### **Participants**

Chancel Choir.....	20 participants
Praise Team.....	10 participants
Handbell Ensemble.....	8 participants
Special Music (Summertime).....	20 participants
Free Music Classes.....	3 classes/week

### **Ministries to the Community**

### **Participants**

Girl Scouts.....	25 participants
Boy Scouts.....	30 participants
Community Bible Study.....	36 participants
Food Pantry.....	1034 Individuals Served in August 2007, 289 Volunteer Hours
TLC Food Ministry to Mission Medical Clinic.....	Numerous volunteers fed
40 Days Group Support of Marian House.....	350+ fed, six participants
TLC Support of Fresh Start.....	30 kids received pajamas
Spiritual Retreat Ministry – Activity Bags for Peak Vista.....	30 bags, 22 participants
Inner Light Ministry – Burritos for the Homeless (and the C.S.F.D.).....	60 burritos
Health Screening.....	40 participants
Angel Tree.....	105 received presents

### **Other Ministries in the Church**

### **Participants**

Conference Related Ministries: Annual Conference.....	1 Lay Member, 3 Equalization
Representatives to Conference Commissions.....	2 participants
Counseling Partnership.....	30 participants
Columbarium.....	18 individuals and families
Israel Tour 2008.....	18 participants so far

### **Ministries to Our World**

### **Annual Investment or Participants**

McCurdy Mission Trip, 2006.....	7 participants, many beneficiaries
Henderson Settlement Mission Trip, 2006.....	3 participants, many beneficiaries
Guatemala Mission Trip, 2007.....	12 participants, beneficiaries to be determined
Benevolence Offerings (including Food Pantry).....	\$11,529 in 2006
UMCOR Health Kit Project.....	230 kits in 2006, 8 involved in assembling them

*In some cases, we approximated numbers based on overall participation numbers.  
Of course, God's ministry at Good Shepherd is even bigger than these pages indicate,  
because we are sure that we missed something somewhere!  
Our apologies if we overlooked your ministry – but thank you and bless you for your service!*

## Giving-

*a grace,  
a privilege,  
a spiritual act*

For the Christian disciple, giving is not done in response to a command; it is an act of grace and an exercise of a privilege!

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians encouraging them to contribute to an offering he was taking for the needy Christians in Jerusalem. He said *Bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.* (2 Corinthians 8:6) And he added, *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Christian disciples living in America have an abundance from which to give.

America is the most affluent society in the history of the world. The challenge to Christian disciples is to put God first in the use of their time, abilities, and financial resources.

Paul said that the proper sequence in giving is to first give oneself to the Lord. He said of the Macedonian Christians, *They gave themselves first to the Lord.* (2 Corinthians 8:5)

One of the greatest challenges facing Christian disciples in our affluent society is a materialistic lifestyle that chokes one's spiritual life.

Christians are challenged as never before to maintain a Christ-centered perspective of their time, abilities, and material possessions.

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## Did You Know?

Our current database reflects these numbers:  
Those in full membership as of 9/25/07 .....342  
Those counted as "constituents" .....266  
Those counted as "preparatory members" .....51

A constituent is anyone involved in the ministry who has not joined, and is not counted in another area (we are not including Food Pantry clients in these numbers). Preparatory members have been baptized, but have not joined.

## Four Special Weekends

**Plan to be present for these four great weekends! Each service is being planned as a time of inspiration.**

### **OCTOBER 6TH & 7TH - CELEBRATION WEEKEND**

On this Sunday we will celebrate what God has helped our church accomplish since its founding. We will celebrate the "faith story" of our church.

### **OCTOBER 13TH & 14TH - VISION WEEKEND**

After celebrating past victories, we will look forward on Vision Sunday to God's plan for our church as we move forward. Our annual Ministry Fair will start, providing a deeper look into the ministries of Good Shepherd, and helping us all to discern our place within those ministries!

### **OCTOBER 20TH & 21ST - A PLACE FOR YOU WEEKEND**

We will give special recognition to the many individuals who have accepted a volunteer ministry assignment in our church. These are the people who make our ministries possible. As the Ministry Fair comes to a close, everyone will be given the opportunity to find their place of service in the church.

### **OCTOBER 27TH & 28TH - DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND**

Our special stewardship emphasis concludes with a great service of challenge as we make our Discipleship Promise for 2008.

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## Thanks!

Special thanks to the Mission Advancement Team for their work in planning our special stewardship program this year: Their work is deeply appreciated!

[names redacted]