



The Spirit of Shiloh

FEBRUARY 2012

Shiloh Presbyterian Church

Vol. 2012 / No. 2

IN TUNE WITH THE DIVINE

What would it be like for a congregation—especially Shiloh’s—to be in tune with the Divine? To be on the same page as God? To be fulfilling God’s wish or desire for us as a group? What would that look like? What would it feel like? Would it be the same thing as doing God’s will? Or the result of it? After all, Jesus told his disciples to pray: “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” So if that were the case—if God’s will was done—would it be “heavenly”?

Just before those words in the Lord’s prayer inviting God’s will to be done, Jesus told his disciples to pray, “Your kingdom come.” Might we infer that when and where we do God’s will, we would be in the kingdom...that is, would doing God’s will be the same as thing as living in the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven?

Some observers claim that doing God’s will is the whole point of a congregation’s existence. In the popular series entitled *Companions in Christ: A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation*, Wendy Wright says:

Ideally, the entire church should be a community of spiritual discernment. In a sense, that is what the church is meant to be—a community focused on discerning and doing the will of God. Unfortunately too few people experience the church this way. Church activities tend to focus on evangelism, church growth, fund-raising, teaching and learning groups, programs for children and youth, or crisis intervention for families and individuals in need. These are all significant and necessary functions. Yet they leave many people empty, departing from classrooms, fellowship halls, or sanctuaries with their spiritual hunger unmet.

Ouch! Do you think this might be true? And if so, what can we do about it? In her book *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers: A Handbook*, Joan Gray says with what seems to me great irony, “Most Christians today would agree at least in theory that doing God’s work should somehow involve God, but in practice God tends to be a distant or even absent partner.”

Why is that? If we agree that God’s work should involve God but then leave God out, what’s going on? Why do we not make discernment—or something like it—a focus of what we do in our congregations? Why, before we reach decisions, do we ask all kinds of questions except the right one? What is it about discovering the will of God that we find so unreasonable or impractical? What does the word *discernment* mean, anyway, and how would we “do” it if we wanted to?

We have begun a new sermon series called, “What Is the Real Question?” It takes seriously our desire to pursue God’s will, both finding out what it is and then doing it. It recognizes that there are some common ways of thinking that tend to block our path to finding God’s will, including some trick questions based on what we usually call common sense.

I hope we all learn a lot from this new series, especially me!

Carl



OPERATING BUDGET NOTES

Jan. 1—Jan. 23 2011

Income \$ 14,887



February 2012 Circle Meetings:

Earnest Workers, Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 10 a.m.
at the church, Dot Clapp, Chair

Friendship Circle, Monday, Feb. 13th , 7 p.m.
w/ Teresa Kellam, Lisa Kluttz, Chair

Bible Lesson #6

“Greatly Honored are the Pure in Heart”
Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24: Psalm 51:1-12

Dates to remember:

Wednesday, Feb. 15th: “Be Heart Smart:
Heart Health after 50”.

Kernodle Senior Center, 1535 S. Mebane St.,
Burlington: 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. or 6-7:30 p.m.
Space is limited, reservations are accepted
on a first come, first served basis. Call Ala-
mance Elder Care at (336) 538-8080 to
register.

Feb. 25th—Spiritual Enrichment Day.

Theme: “Generations of Women”

Host church: Parkway Presbyterian Church
1000 Yorkshire Rd. Winston-Salem, NC

Information/Registration Form is available on
table in sanctuary, deadline is Feb. 17th.

March 4th—”Celebrate the Gifts of Women”

11 a.m. worship service will honor women of
Shiloh who have contributed their gifts to
the church and community.

All Women of Shiloh are invited to join one of
our two circles. Earnest Workers meet on the sec-
ond Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the
church and the Friendship Circle meets on the sec-
ond Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the home of
one of the circle members



Please pray for the following members of our con-
gregation....Margie and Ralph, Ray Hawkins,
Jeannie and Beth, Richard and Wilma, for Marilyn
and Jerry, Helen, Frances, Cleo Bartlett, Bonnie
and Sara.

Friends and Connections...Johnsie Brannon and
family in the passing of Warren, the family of
Hazelene Coble in her recent death, Cameron
Barfield, Robert Bullis, Holly, Tammy, Frances
Kellam, Jeannie, David, Benita Hicks, Dave,
Donna and family, Chris Keeter and family,
Tammy Smith, Ben Tyler, Tyler Carmichael,
David Jr., Ann Isley, Betty Boman, Yvonne Loy
and Skip Loy, and Lala Ward, sister-in-law of
Bert Mckinney.

If you know of someone that needs to be put on
the prayer list, always ask their permission first,
then call the church office at (336) 524-9900 and
leave a message.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 02 William Doles
- Feb. 02 Kitty Farmer
- Feb. 03 Anna Rose Marino
- Feb. 05 James Watts
- Feb. 05 Hoyle Vickrey
- Feb. 06 Carolyn Martin
- Feb. 06 Anne Hackney
- Feb. 09 Allen Keeter
- Feb. 12 Priscilla Vickrey
- Feb. 15 William Fryer
- Feb. 15 Elsie Andrews
- Feb. 15 Cleo Bartlett
- Feb. 19 Jason Kluttz

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 12 Hoyle & Priscilla Vickrey
- Feb. 27 Robert & Judi Holsinger

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	2	3	4
<i>5</i> 9:00 am Chimes 9:45 am Mass Class 11 am Morning Worship 4 pm Choir	<i>6</i> 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts	<i>7</i> 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	<i>8</i> 10 am Earnest Workers' Circle 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	<i>9</i> 6 pm Shiloh Prayer Weavers 6:30 pm Autism Group	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:00 a.m. Chimes 9:45 am Church School 11 am Morning Worship 4 pm Choir 5:15 pm Session	<i>13</i> 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Friendship Circle	<i>14</i> 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	<i>15</i> 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9:00 a.m. Chimes 9:45 am Church School 11 am Morning Worship 4 pm Choir	<i>20</i> 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts	<i>21</i> 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	<i>22</i> 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit	<i>23</i> 6 pm Shiloh Prayer Weavers	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 a.m. Chimes 9:45 am Church School 11 am Morning Worship 4 pm Choir	<i>27</i> MEALS ON WHEELS WEEK 4 pm Boy's Choir 7 pm Cub Scouts	<i>28</i> 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #19	<i>29</i> 10 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Boy's Choir 6 pm Food for Body & Spirit			

February Health Points 2012

February already! Super Bowl Sunday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, and Ash Wednesday all in one month. It's also National Heart month so I looked up some of the information I had been hearing about related to new studies showing a relationship between vitamin D and heart disease.

It seems that if vitamin D deficiency is treated with supplements it may help prevent or reduce a person's risk for cardiovascular disease. Heidi May, Ph. D., a cardiovascular clinical epidemiologist with the Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute and one of the study's authors, says the link between low levels of vitamin D and increased risk for a variety of diseases is significant. It was very important to discover that the "normal" levels are too low. The last article that I wrote about vitamin D indicated that recommended amounts are increased, but you need to see your doctor and have your status evaluated by a blood test before you increase your intake.

The normal level of vitamin D is 30ng/ml. During the study, the patients increased their level to 43ng/ml of blood or higher had lower rates of death, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, heart attacks, heart failure, high blood pressure, depression and kidney failure. Increasing vitamin D intake by 1000 to 5000 international Units (IU) a day may be appropriate, depending on a patient's health and genetic risk,

says Dr. Muhlestein, Director of Cardiovascular Research at Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute. In addition, there is another study that showed that inadequate levels of vitamin D may significantly increase risk of stroke.

I guess the bottom line here is that we need to know what our vitamin D level is and get started treating it with vitamin D. This supplement is available in grocery stores and drug stores and is relatively inexpensive.

I take D3 especially in the winter, and the small gel caps are very easy to swallow. I found this information on the internet at "Science Daily" if you would like to know more, and there are some links to other studies there as well.

I hope this is good information for you to take to your doctor and see if you could benefit from vitamin D. Sometimes you have to pay to get this test done because Medicare does not usually pay for it. However, if your doctor can determine some condition that might be related to low levels, it might be covered.

Good luck! Have happy event days in February, and take care of your heart.

Judi

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

Come Sunday afternoon, Jan. 29, at 2:00 p.m. for a planning and work session on projects for the year. We are looking forward to at least three major events in 2012 to benefit our benevolent causes. As a woman of Shiloh, you can add your voice, your creativity, and your effort to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God in this place. Let's make 2012 a really special year!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Lots will be going on at Shiloh on Feb. 5:

9:45 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship and Mass Class celebrating Troop 19's 50th year

11:00 a.m. Boy Scout Sunday observance and Souper Bowl Offering

12:15 p.m. Souper Bowl lunch in the Sanctuary

THANK YOU

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to my church family at Shiloh for each one who came for visitation and the funeral, all the thoughts and prayers, phone calls, emails and cards sent during the recent loss of my Dad.

The donation made to Give2theTroops in memory of my Dad was such a beautiful gift of love to an organization that is so close to my heart.

Each expression of sympathy and kind word spoken during my bereavement was heartfelt and I just want to say "thank you".

Priscilla

To my friends at Shiloh: This church family has been such a comfort to us during Warren's extended illness and death. You have shown much love through prayers, cards, flowers, visits, prayer shawl and phone calls. The family and I so deeply appreciate all your support during such a difficult time. God Bless You All!

Joknsie & Family

Richard and I would like to say thank you to our blessed family at Shiloh for all the support that you have given us during this past difficult year. You will never know how much this has meant to us and how it has helped us face each day. May God Bless each and everyone.

Richard & Wilma

A very heartfelt thank you to each member of my Shiloh church family for the food, prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during my recent hospital stay and a special thank you to Barbara for helping in the office. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Jean

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

These sentences supposedly appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (Carl is doubtful because more than a few of them sound like they came from professional comedy writers). But anyway, here they are:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM — prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Thanks to Judi Holsinger for passing these along for your annoyance.

CLEARER COMMUNICATION

Shiloh is in the process of setting up a new software system that will allow us to communicate more clearly the monthly operations of the budget. Below is a listing of expense items grouped by category. We want the names of the items to be as clear as possible. Please review them and submit your recommendations to Carl or anyone on the session as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING	Maintenance Janitor Electric Power Gas Water Telephone Sprinkler Monitoring Alarm Monitoring
EQUIP., OFFICE	Copier Rent. / Maintenance Computer Maintenance
FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP	Materials & Postage
GROUNDS	Yard Equip. Maintenance
INSURANCE	Property / Liability
OTHER	Administrative Misc.
PERSONNEL	Salary Pastor Housing Pastor Pension Pastor Continuing Ed. Pastor Mileage Pastor Salary Secretary Salary Organist Salary Choir Director Staff Workers Comp Staff SSCI Staff Bonus
SUPPLIES	Building Supplies Janitorial Supplies Computer Supplies Grounds Supplies Kitchen Supplies Office Supplies

DISCIPLESHIP

CHILD EDUCATION	Curricula Materials / Supplies
ADULT EDUCATION	Curricula Materials / Supplies
SMALL GROUPS	Curricula Materials / Supplies

FELLOWSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL CARE	Flowers / Cards
FELLOWSHIP	Events

LEADERSHIP

SESSION	Officer Training Retreats
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MINISTRY MOBILIZATION*

LOCAL	Local Mission Pastor's Discretionary Fund Special Offerings / Projects
GLOBAL	Global Mission Special Offerings / Projects
OTHER BENEVOLENCES	Scholarship Fund Other Benevolences

MISSIONAL ENDEAVOR*

REACH*	Materials / Supplies Postage
HOSPITALITY	Supplies
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES	Scouts Other Participation

WORSHIP

PROCLAMATION	Pulpit Substitutes
MUSIC	Anthems / Music Chime Music Instrument Maintenance Seasonal Supplies Other Supplies Soloists / Musicians Organist Substitutes
SACRAMENTS	Sacrament Supplies

Shiloh also maintains a Capital Building Fund in a savings account that is used for major purchases, repairs and development beyond the day-to-day operations.

*These are Acts 16:5 terms we have been using over the past three years. "Ministry Mobilization" refers to how we put our money and efforts to work outside the church walls in the larger world. "Missional Endeavor" refers to efforts to attract people to Shiloh. A "Reach" event is a program or project designed to acquaint the community with who we are and what we do: the Christmas concert, the yard sale, the food drive, the men's breakfasts, etc.

CLUELESS

About ten years ago I was on the staff of a mid-size mainline church in the South where the long-range planning committee was gathering ideas for a much-needed campus overhaul. They agreed that the architects should submit designs for gutting and completely redoing a 75-year-old general purpose building used for adult education and offices. In addition, they agreed to an elevator for the convenience of an aging membership, and to the creation of more kitchens, bathrooms and workrooms for staff and committees. But what about a chapel?

The church's 600-seat sanctuary had been renovated half a dozen years before and was in good condition, although very traditional in its layout and appointments: high ceiling, tiny platform, large pulpit, fixed pews and the usual organ and choir loft. It is true that when we held a small wedding or funeral, the few dozen people in attendance were dwarfed by the room's capacity.

A large activity room, often referred to as "the chapel," existed in a semi-basement directly beneath the sanctuary. With a low ceiling, it was poorly lit and hard to cool. The walls were nothing more than painted cinderblock, and the furnishings consisted mostly of brown metal folding chairs. If a plaque existed to honor the preservation of church decor from the '50s, this room deserved it.

For years though, members imagined that somehow this room could be fixed up to become usable as a chapel, thus its name. From time to time, memorials and other donations arrived in the church office designated for its remodeling. A chapel fund had been established, and, by the time planning began for the campus make-over, about \$4,000-5,000 had been received for a chapel—hardly enough to take seriously, and up to that point, no one had.

A committee of long-range planners were in conversation with the architects, and among those members were some of the congregation's ablest leaders. A few of them felt strongly about the need for a chapel, either yes or no. Most were not so sure, but they were willing to listen to the debate.

"We need a chapel."

"No, we don't. Anything that would be done in a chapel can be done in the sanctuary."

"But it's downright embarrassing for a family when there's a small turnout for a funeral. The size of the sanctuary makes it look like nobody cared about the deceased."

"We don't need a chapel just because of how some occasions look."

"And the youth would have a place to worship."

"The youth can worship in 'the chapel' we have now."

These discussions were always civil and responsible. No real threat to the cohesion of the group ever emerged, but then...neither did a solution. Ultimately, the planners decided to have the architects draw a chapel into the design, estimate the construction costs, and put the question to the congregation as part of the fund-raising campaign. This seemed like an eminently reasonable way to find an answer to the question.

Only it wasn't. Not that imagining what a chapel would look like and what it would cost is unreasonable. What is unreasonable is the assumption that we know what we need!

And "need" is not the only unreasonable question that congregations try to answer when they face decisions about the future. Among other things they usually get around to asking are "Do we want it (whatever it is)?" and "Can we afford it?"

But, wait a minute, you might be thinking. What's wrong with these questions? Aren't they normal? Wouldn't we ask them if we were running a business or an institution or any organization the survival of which depended on wise planning and good judgment? The answer is clearly "yes."

Well then, shouldn't a congregation or any other kind of faith group do the same? In fact, don't congregations get into trouble when they aren't run in a business-like way? However much you may be tempted to think this is a reasonable approach, don't. The answer may not be what you think.

That's because the most important question—the question that should have been asked first—and, as we will see, the *only* question that is reasonable, indeed the only question that truly can be answered, is usually never asked. And it was never asked by members of the above congregation.

Don't look at me. I did not ask it either, because I was clueless. I shouldn't have been clueless, but I was. What's more, I had been teaching the answer for a couple of years and didn't know it. It sounds crazy now, but the truth is that I did not understand the very thing I had been teaching. Not really. So what is the REAL question we need to ask?

CUT THIS OUT AND POST IT!

- SUNDAY FEB 5** 9:45 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship and Mass Class
 11:00 a.m. Boy Scout Sunday and “Souper Bowl” Offering
 12:15 p.m. “Souper Bowl” Lunch
- TUESDAY FEB 7** 9:00 a.m. Salem Presbytery Meeting at First Winston-Salem
- SUNDAY FEB 12** 5:15 a.m. Session Meeting
- SUNDAY FEB 19** 11:00 a.m. Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday + Communion
- WEDNESDAY FEB 22** 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

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2638 Grand Oaks Blvd.
Burlington, NC 27215

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