

Thank you to all who donated Christmas cards and helped to distribute them to the local senior centers. We had a total of 1,200 cards donated! The following shows how many cards were delivered to area centers to help make the holidays merry for many residents.

Josie Harper Hospice House	26
New Cassel Retirement	210
Crown Point Senior Living Center	140
Maple Crest Health Center	155
Florence Home Healthcare Center	80
Westgate Assisted Living	58
Royal Oaks House of Hope	108
Keystone Villas (Skyline Manor)	205
Brookstone - Papillion	98
Premier Estates of Pierce	40
Fountain View	80



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Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Newsletter
January 2025



BACK TO THE BASICS

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. *(Hebrews 6:1-3)*

This is one of the most difficult passages for a pastor to bring to the pulpit. Why? Because if you're not careful, you'll end up making following Jesus a challenge to your brain rather than a challenge to your heart. The point here is not so much an encouragement to get all fancy and high-falutin' in your theology. It's to remind the early church, and us, that deeper faith shows itself in getting beyond mere doctrines of the head into practicing the hard stuff. You know, like loving God with everything you are. Loving your neighbor as yourself. Making disciples within your spheres of influence and beyond. Trusting Jesus enough to walk in Him.

Oh yeah. That stuff.

For a few months, long ago, it was my privilege to work with several NFL veterans on a book of their testimonies. As part of their introducing themselves, the defensive linemen in the group showed me the ins and outs of exactly one fundamental move to combine with other finesse skills to get to a quarterback. None of them simply ran over opponents. There was strategy in every step. I learned the mechanics of one such series. Count 'em; one.

There were good reasons for the early church leaders to lay out some basics doctrinally. But in the end, the real challenge was for the fellowship to embed those basics into everyday life.

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One basic move does not make an Iowa farm boy into a starter on Sundays. It takes a firm grip on the basics and beyond to make the Christian life a pathway that honors Jesus. And the scorecard for all of us is how, and how often, we show the evidence of honoring the basics by growing in Christ.

I'm exceedingly glad we're on this journey together!

--Steve Wamberg

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

January 5	Why Communion Matters	<i>Revelation 3:20</i>
January 12	Why Jesus Matters	<i>John 1:17-18; 3:16-17</i>
January 19	Why You Matter	<i>Psalms 8:4-6; Hebrews 2:8b-9</i>
January 26	Why the Bible Matters	<i>John 5:39-40</i>

Prayer Requests and Concerns

Health Concerns

Rob via Carol/Cheryl	Annie Wamberg	Brooks via Dot N.	Emily via Cheryl A.
Brenda/Keith Baker	Marvene via Jill G.	Shirley via Jill G.	Diane Workman
Noah Hamlin	Millie via Jill G.	Nina Little	Michael Darr
Ruth Steele	Deb Vetter	Dan Allman	Doug Larsen
Linda via Cindy C.	Brenda via Kathy K.	Rev. Steve Wamberg	Unspoken Prayers

Other Concerns

Pray for those with issues with co-workers and/or family members
 Continue to pray for those with ongoing mental and physical health problems
 Continue to pray for those in mourning
 Pray for all teachers, including Sunday school teachers and home-school teachers
 Pray for our church family and our Pastor and church leaders and groups
 Pray for those seeking employment opportunities/advancements
 On-going prayers of well-being for shut-ins and military personnel
 Pray for our country.

Confidential prayer requests may be left in the prayer box on the wall in the narthex.
 Reminder: There is a box for praises and any ideas on your heart next to the confidential box.

For regular prayer requests, please text or call and leave a message for Dot North at 402-658-6401, emails may not be seen in a timely manner. She will confirm that your request was received, and it will be sent out to the prayer chain. Your requests are very important to us.

(Ministry Council Minutes Continued from Page 5)

- There were a couple of donations from outside the church totaling \$1,600. Those donations will be moved to Capital Projects along with a \$50 music director fund. A motion was made by Rev. Jason Workman and seconded by Gary Peterson. The motion passed.
- If there is a shortfall for the 2024 budget, money from the Verizon Tower will make up the difference to start 2025 with a zero budget. A motion was made by Ron Reed and seconded by Doug Larsen. The motion passed.
- Rev. Jason and Scott Darden are also looking to put some of the church's money into CDs at the bank so money can be earned on funds not being used.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Jason Workman

Next Meeting – January 20, 2025

Vision Statement

Communicate the love of God so all may experience the joy of a relationship with Christ.

Mission Statement

Build disciples by empowering each church participant to practice personal and congregational mission to reach people in our everyday lives.

Sunset Hills Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 19
After Worship Service

Women Mentoring Women

Monday, January 13 & 27
6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**The next Family Gathering
will be on Friday, January 3**

**from
6:00—8:00 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

**Monday, January 6
6:00 p.m.**

Dear Sunset Hills,

We wanted to thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement at mom's service.

She absolutely loved her Sunset Hills Family!

God Bless,

Williamson and Meyer Families



If you would like to meet with or talk to Rev. Steve during the week, please feel free to call or email at 719-330-3536, stevewamberg@yahoo.com You may also call the office at 402-391-0820 Monday-Friday from 8:00 - 1:00 to make an appointment.

Convenient times include Saturday mornings or Sunday morning after the worship service.


Date	Attendance	Giving
December 1	59	\$5,324.00
December 8	63	\$9,351.95
December 15	61	\$2,515.00
December 22	82	\$3996.95
December 29	TBD	TBD

SHBC Financial Scoreboard	
November Income	\$ 16,452
YTD Income	\$164,735
November Expenses	\$ 12,476
YTD Expenses	\$167,595

- 4 Marge Todd
 - 11 Dan Todd
 - 12 Joy Okoruwa
 - 21 Jacque McDuffie
 - 22 Linda Wheatley
 - 24 Vicki Loeffler
 - 24 Lou Riggs
 - 29 Braden Craig
- 

Bible Study

Join Rev. Steve on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for Bible Study. All are welcome.



Dear Sunset Hills Baptist Church Parishioners,

We are grateful for your generosity of hats and gloves. Our supply is low, so we have truly needed them.

We appreciate the support from our community. We wish you the best during this time of the year.

Sincerely,

Thank You!

Adriana Vargas, Principal
Rose Pope, Counselor
Pine Elementary

Wednesday, January 8 & 22
9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

RetroActive

“Youth Group for Adults”

Missions and Outreach Ministry
Terry Anderson

We are starting to map out our activities and projects for 2025. Most will be familiar, some

could be new, others may get adjustments.

This ministry is more apt to take on projects with short notice as events happen. And we're always open to ideas for missions and outreach.

One new mission project, starting in January, is supporting a missionary with a \$50 monthly stipend. This is included in the 2025 church budget and will not be part of a special offering.

Stewardship Ministry Team News for January 2025

In December we had some maintenance issues to address in the lower-level men's restroom. Thanks to all who helped to remedy the problems.

We will have our first 2025 quarterly team meeting by the end of the 2nd week. Please contact Marvin Vanosdall; Grounds Leader, Cindy Combs; Events Leader, or myself to learn how you may contribute occasionally to serve our Father with us. Happy New Year!

Ron Reed

Men's Study Group News for January 2025

Our study of *The Israel Course - Christians United for Israel* is in later stages. After the holiday pause, we will begin to meet again starting January 7th. We would love to have others join our group. We meet by way of Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. Please contact Don Zak, Bob Slechta (see church directory), retired Rev. Bob Molby, Marvin Vanosdall, retired Rev. Rick Wheatley, Judah Anaya, Rev. Steve Wamberg, Gary Peterson, Don Mummey, Kooper Webb, or Ron Reed to learn more.

Adult Sunday School News for January 2025

Ron Reed

In January we will begin a new biblically-based study series. Please watch for that announcement in the church bulletin.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your care, cards and concern during my recent surgery. The outpouring of love and your prayers mean more than I can say...and the Thanksgiving/New Members meal leftovers were yummy and so helpful!

I am so very blessed to be a part of this church family, and so honored to call you friends. Thank you for all the love!

In Jesus,
Annie

Thank You

Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Ministry Council Minutes
December 16, 2024

Attendees:

Rev. Steve Wamberg; Moderator, Diane Workman; Safety/Security, Worship, Finance Interim, Rev. Jason Workman; Pastor/Staff, Gary Peterson; Prayer, Dot North; Shepherding, Amber Dale; Stewardship Interim, Ron Reed; Treasurer, Doug Larsen; Church Clerk, Becki Pike; Visitors, Scott Darden, Rev. Rick Wheatley

Devotion and Prayer – Rev. Wamberg – *Luke 2:8-17*

Business:

Shepherding – Amber Dale

- All cards and postage have been purchased for next year and will be handed out to team members soon.
- Christmas cards were sent out to the shut-ins.
- Flowers were ordered for the funeral of Phyllis Meyer.

Missions/Outreach – Terry Anderson

- The only remaining activity for 2024 is the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.
- Serving as a polling place for the November general election went well, drawing about 450 voters from the Regency neighborhood and 10 poll workers. Two incidents ended without extended confrontation. One of the incidents involved removing campaign signs from church property; apparently, this violated our contract with the election commissioner's office. We will need to clarify that in the future. The Prairie Pastors Conference will prevent us from serving as a polling place for the city primary on April 1. It's unknown if we'll be needed for the general election in May.
- Kaylee Rich has agreed to help update the message on the street sign. Problems opening the east side of the sign were solved, at least for now, by using a vice-grip instead of the wrench that came with the sign.
- The ministry board will consider adjustments for projects in 2025.

Prayer – Dot North

- Dot provided a hand-out that showed the breakdown of how many prayer requests by month and the total for the year. The list also included deaths, births, and praises for answered prayers.

Stewardship – Ron Reed (Interim)

- No Report

Safety/Security – Rev. Jason Workman

- We have a camera installed outside with flood lights activated by motion at night. The second camera will be installed soon, facing the north, back parking lot area. We will be taking extra precautions during the Christmas Eve service.
- We were informed that our oldest AED unit is more than 10 years old and will need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. This is not budgeted for 2025 as we were not aware of the need to replace it, so we may need to revisit this soon.
- We will hold a child abuse and neglect training in January or February.

Music/Worship – Rev. Jason Workman

- Dan and Marge will be out until after the first of the year, spending time with family. The team is covered in various ways until their return.
- The TV monitor in the narthex was experiencing issues for a few months. The issue has been resolved and the monitor is now working correctly.

Pastor/Staff Relations – Gary Peterson

- No Report

Finance – Rev. Jason Workman (Interim)

- The 2025 budget is set and ready for the first of the year. Ministry members please be ready to keep track of your ministry's finances and budget.
- Becki Pike will meet with Scott Darden to get up to speed regarding treasury duties. Doug Larsen has had some medical issues that require him to take on less stress effective immediately. Becki will be the point of contact for any treasurer issues, bill paying, payroll, reimbursements, etc. She will then work with Scott or Doug (as minimally as possible) to ensure that all matters are handled correctly and in a timely manner.
- I am actively looking to step away from this interim leadership role. As a pastor, I should not be in this role but have only done so to get us through a critical period (stewardship campaign and budget formation for 2025).
- Jason and Terry Anderson are working on getting an estimate on what goes out in Missions. This includes Angel Tree, Christmas card donation, warm weather items to Pine Elementary, etc. given throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report – Doug Larsen

- The monthly finance report was given. We will be sending money given for Cabin 9 to Camp Moses Merrill.

Ministry Council:

- Leadership Training – Each ministry needs to prepare how they are going to keep track of their budgets and not rely on the treasurer to give reports. All expense forms need to be signed by the ministry leader before being turned in. Ron Reed will keep track of the budget for both inside and outside expenses for Stewardship.
- January 1 will begin the trial year of the new leadership structure. Each ministry will still send reports for council meetings. These reports will be sent to Diane Workman and Becki Pike. Each leader will work on making a list of all duties and descriptions of what they do. This should be in the by-laws but may need to be updated. Each ministry leader will work on how the chain of command will work.
- Review Rev. Steve's plans and agenda for the coming year.
- Discipleship is working on material that may be branded as Sunset Hills.
- Looking at training by Everyday Discipleship that is six sessions long.
- Appoint representative to ABC Biennial (odd numbered years). This will be held in Omaha in 2025. The cost is \$218 and will be held the weekend of July 4. Diane workman volunteered and Traci Gilmer will be asked to be the second delegate.
- Ministry monthly tasks and the yearly agenda (dates, times, etc. for Sunset Hills activities) was handed out. Please let Diane know if anything needs to be changed.

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