

Missions and Outreach Ministry – Terry Anderson

The Missions and Outreach Ministry team members discussed how to continue current projects while considering new proposals, including having something designated for each month. These would include the four annual special offerings, the backpacks, warm-weather gear and reading programs at Pine Elementary, disaster hygiene kits, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and Angel Tree gifts for Maple Crest Care Center residents. The new monthly fundraiser at Don & Millie's at 108th and West Center begins February 2 and will continue on the first Sunday of each month; be sure to mention Sunset Hills when ordering. February's focus also will be on signing up and getting background check clearance to read to pupils at Pine on March 3-7, then scheduling when, what and to which class to read. We will provide the meal on February 26 for staff at Pine during parent conferences; check with Cindy Combs to see if any volunteers are needed to prepare the food.

Fundraiser Sunday

February 2

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Sunset Hills Baptist
9416 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68114

Contact us at:
402-391-0820
www.sunsethillschurch.org
sunset@sunsethillschurch.org



Sunset Hills Baptist Church February 2025 Newsletter



LENS CHECK

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. (Ephesians 1:16-19)

Marty Dunleavy was probably my best friend for two summers at the camp we both attended. He was easy to be around -- no whining, no need to be first in line every time we lined up. Marty could catch and throw a baseball like a guy who was two years older than we were, liked the same activities I did. We had a pretty laid back relationship – until I met his older brother Billy.

I don't think Billy and I were jealous of each other's relationship with Marty. We were just determined to make each other's life miserable. I don't think anyone could have helped Billy and me think rationally about treating each other like regular human beings. What I do marvel over half a century later is that Marty had us figured out in just a few days.

For Marty, it was pretty simple. He knew that I was a sucker for science experiments. He also knew that I had heard about being able to use eyeglass lenses to start fires but had never seen it. He also knew that Billy was probably the absolute best nine-year-old at starting eyeglass fires in a hundred-mile radius, and had walked around with thick eyeglass lenses at the ready at least since he was four months old.

So, five of us gathered one fateful afternoon in an inconspicuous (?) circle to watch Billy out-science our Saturday morning hero Mr. Science, if he could. Two of us were armed with glasses of water to douse any flames that looked threatening should the experiment prove to be fruitful.

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Marty took a handful of dry grass and prepared a bed for the dry leaves in his other hand. "OK, Bill. Better get on it before a counselor shows up." And to me: "If nothing happens, Bill and I give you our evening snack for the next three days."

Bill growled under his breath, "One. One day, not three." But Marty just pointed at the pile and said to me, "Watch."

Bill angled his glasses until their light focused and joined on one spot, maybe a quarter-inch around, which I noticed was turning the leaf a dark brown. Then suddenly, a flame appeared and consumed the leaf in just a few seconds.

Not even a minute. Impressive indeed.

While our two companions with the water panicked and yelled and spilled their water on anything but the fire, I joined Marty and Bill in a demonstration of maturity and ground the embers beneath the soles of our Red Ball Jets into a harmless paste of might-have-been evidence. No longer at each other's throats, Billy Dunleavy began detailing for me his list of experiments that would be very cool for to me see during the remaining days of camp.

Thankfully, there was no need to explain the meaning of "statute of limitations" to us that year.

But there is a great need to practice our privilege of using the eyes of a renewed Jesus follower. We need to start looking at things (people, too!) with new eyes, seeking God's heart on how to use the gifts and insights He brings to bear to equip us in the immeasurable greatness of His power for us who believe.

This month, we'll look together at the need we have for a fresh "lens check" on some familiar topics. Hope you'll join us on Sunday!

-- Steve Wamberg

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

Feb. 2	LENS CHECK: ETERNAL LIFE	<i>John 3</i>
Feb. 9	LENS CHECK: THE KINGDOM	<i>Matthew 20</i>
Feb. 16	LENS CHECK: THE CROSS	<i>Matthew 8:27-9:1</i>
Feb. 23	LENS CHECK: THE GOSPEL OFFER	<i>John 20:31; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph.1:16-19</i>

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.

Adult Sunday School February News

You are invited to join us on February 2 for the study of the late Dr. Charles Stanley's six-part series on **The Promises of God**. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 in the lower-level doubles classroom and would welcome you with open arms.

Learning with each of you, Ron Reed

Sunset Hills Baptist Church January 19, 2025 Annual Business Meeting

Annual reports were handed out to all in attendance. Moderator, Diane Workman, opened with an update on the leadership shift. Doug Larsen will be working with Ron Reed as Stewardship leader. Becki Pike will shift to take over as treasurer.

Shifts have been made due to health concerns with leaders. The new leadership model will begin on January 20, 2025, at the Ministry Council meeting. All are invited to attend.

The Discipleship Ministry still needs a leader. Pastor Steve spoke about changes that he has seen with the church and congregation; increasing in numbers, increase in participation of church activities. This is encouraging for the next year.

Rev. Jason Workman, Finance Ministry leader, presented the income and expenses report. We are in the black. The bank statement just dropped on Friday and so a few more days to get 2024 final numbers but we are well within budget for 2024.

Rev. Jason closed in Prayer.

Men's Study Group February News

We will conclude our study of **The Israel Course - Christians United for Israel** in February. Please watch for the announcement of our next study. We'd love to have you attend by way of Zoom each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 as we delve deeper into the Bible and biblically-based studies. For more information about how you may attend, please contact Ron Reed



Coming next Month!

We reached our goal and beyond for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in December; thank you. Let's do it again in March for the AFC offering.

Kevin Walden, former pastor at Judson Baptist, is in need of a kidney transplant. To read more about his personal story, please use the link below or the QR code to the National Kidney Website.

<https://nkr.org/MBW982>



Date	Attendance	Giving
December 29	NA	\$2,001.00
January 5	54	\$6,473.00
January 12	70	\$5,253.95
January 19	54	\$5,916.07
January 26	59	\$11,360.00

SHBC Financial Scoreboard

December Income	\$ 17,571
YTD Income	\$192,153
December Expenses	\$ 13,020
YTD Expenses	\$180,615

Stewardship Ministry Team February News

The January 16, 2025 Stewardship Ministry Team Quarterly Meeting was well attended. During this meeting, I shared that Doug Larsen accepted the position of Facilities Leader, and Cindy Combs is now Events Leader. **I asked that Doug be contacted about anything pertaining to facilities, Marvin about anything to do with the grounds, and Cindy anything about events and groups which meet at Sunset Hills.** I will be the backup for each of them, as I continue to teach what I have learned about their parts of the ministry. Latitude has been giving to each of them to recruit volunteers as they have need. A list of current team members was shared with everyone. We're still prayerful to fill open tasks.

In December we had a sewer line back up. Thanks to Jason Workman for dealing with it while I was out sick and to Steve Bottum, Ashley and Brian for the interior cleanup. The lower-level men's restroom urinal valve has been repaired. We thank Josh for his heart to serve our Lord with us. A repair of the outside line will need to be made soon. The expense for clearing the line, and the upcoming repair of it is a big number.

Spring clean up will be at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning April 26. Task outlines are being prepared by Marvin and Doug. The grounds work will include preparing the open ground in the lawn south of the playground for grass seeding. Steve Mikkelsen has volunteered to help lead that task for Marvin. Jess Mikkelsen, and hopefully one or two more will help with watering the seed for the three weeks that follow.

A new task has been added to the facilities responsibilities. A cycle of 90 days will be set for cleaning the window heat/ac units in the building and the units in the nursery. This is in addition to cleaning the narthex ceiling filters every 90 days.

In the love of Christ,
Ron Reed

2 Kathy Koppenhaver
7 Scott Darden
12 Rita Ray
13 Doug Larsen
17 Jason Rich
23 Jill Gilliland
23 Pat Martin
26 Lisa Bergman
26 Nicole Loeffler
28 Linda Kilpatrick
28 Jenica Nallathambi
29 Nancy Berney



Bible Study

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



Monthly Prayer Meeting
Monday, February 3
6:00 p.m.

RetroActive

Wednesday, February 12 & 26
9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Women Mentoring Women
Monday, February 10 & 24
6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Happy Anniversary!

24 Telly and Shawnda Woods 24 years

The next Family Gathering
Friday, February 7 from 6:00—8:00 p.m.
A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Sunset Hills Baptist Church Family,

We cannot thank you enough for the Christmas cards for our residents at New Cassel. The joy they brought was immeasurable. It was so kind of you to think of and remember our community.

Thank you again!

Kelly Lane,
Life Enrichment for all of New Cassel

Thank You

Sunset Hills Baptist Church,

We are extremely grateful for all of your support. Thank you for the wonderful cards at Christmas time for our residents.

Premier Estates of
Pierce
Staff and Residents



Prayer Requests and Concerns

Health Concerns

Marshall via Cheryl A.
Jan Ramy via Carol V.
Noah Hamlin
Deb Vetter
Rev. Steve Wamberg
Marshall via Annie W.
Eddy & See via. Kathy K.

Carson via Dot N.
Shirley via Jill G.
Millie via Jill G.
Linda via Cindy C.
Carol via Rita V.
Dr. Kanchan Lodhia via Nalini A.

Brooks via Dot N.
Cheryl Arnold
Ruth Steele
Jenny via Annie W.
Dave via Rita V.
Dot North

Brenda/Keith Baker
Ron Reed
Dan Allman
Brenda via Kathy K.
Shirley via Rita V.

Other Concerns

Continue to pray for those in mourning.
Continue to pray for those with ongoing mental and physical health problems.
Pray for safe travels for those who are traveling now and for those who travel for a living.
Continue to pray for those suffering from hurricane and fire and other disasters.
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.

**Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Ministry Council Minutes
January 20, 2025**

Attendees: Rev. Steve Wamberg; Moderator, Diane Workman; Church Clerk, Becki Pike; **Growing**, Rev. Jason Workman; **Caring**, Gary Peterson; **Operations**, Ron Reed; Visitor, Bob Molby

Devotion/Prayer – Rev. Wamberg - *Proverbs 13:6-9*

Operations – Ron Reed

- Finances: Jason Workman - interim
- Stewardship: Ron Reed
 - ◊ Spring Cleanup will be April 26. Doug Larsen is helping take over Stewardship. Cindy Combs has accepted the position of event coordinator.
- Safety and Security: Jason Workman
 - ◊ All cameras have been installed except the one for the back door.

Caring – Gary Peterson

- Shepherding Ministry - Amber Dale
- Pastor/Staff Relations Ministry - Gary Peterson
 - ◊ Nancy Berney is taking time off from helping with ministry.
- Prayer Ministry - Dot North

Growing – Rev. Jason Workman

- Discipleship Ministry – Vacant
 - ◊ Going to start vigorously finding someone to head this ministry.
- Worship Ministry – Rev. Jason Workman
 - ◊ A meeting is scheduled with Pastor Steve to talk about the Easter service, then the ministry will plan accordingly. The ministry is also asking that nobody touch anything on the chancel.
- Mission/Outreach Ministry - Terry Anderson
 - ◊ Terry and Jason plan on meeting to talk about all donations for the year and try to make sure they are spread out through the year.

Topics For Tonight:

Finance update – Rev. Jason Workman

- Power Church was supposed to be up and running by February 24, 2024 and we are still waiting for this to be completed. Communication was not very productive and training for Doug did not happen. The goal is to have the zero-balance budget ready to go by the end of January. PowerChurch will need to be backed up with all financials from 2024. Since we have been waiting for PowerChurch to be fully operational for two years, a motion was made to abandon PowerChurch and find another program for the size of our church by Gary Peterson and seconded by Jason Workman. The motion passed. In December a \$10,000 C.D. was taken out with plans to open three more. Money will come from Capital Projects for \$10,000, Dappen for \$10,000, and Miracle Hills for \$8,000. In the past \$5,000 has been moved from the Dappen gift and put into the General Fund. A motion was made to stop

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doing this by Becki Pike and seconded by Gary Peterson. The motion passed.

- New Leadership Structure – Pastor Steve and Pastor Jason
 - ◊ Understanding overall operation of the team
 - ◊ Communication

Closing Prayer: Rev. Jason Workman

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**Ministry Board
Mode of Operation
(Pilot Program Only for Now)**

Meeting monthly, 3rd Monday of the month – Time will change to 6:00 p.m. going forward.

Main reason for restructuring:

- Streamlining the leadership
- Provide less burden on current leaders and foster healthier engagement.
- Optimizing leadership availability and ministry engagement

Understanding each of the roles:

Pastor – Remains the same. (Does not vote on budget or finances.)

Moderator/Vice Moderator – Remains the same.

Church Clerk – Remains the same.

Board members:

1. Responsible for engaging in critical decision making of church ministries, finances, encouraging and supporting the ministries in motion.
2. Be committed to praying for each of the ministries, leaders and the board.
3. Must meet with each of their assigned ministry leaders (weekly, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly) to support, guide and ensure appropriate ministry is taking place.
4. To help ministry team leaders be proactive in planning and implementation of ministry.
5. Ensure communication is clearly understood and how to communicate through the leadership.
6. Ensure ministry leaders are engaged in the ministry, help them to learn, re-think, or discover innovative ministry.
7. Yearly, help each ministry leader budget for their yearly budget, present to the finance committee/stewardship team to draft the next year's budget.
8. Help support and communicate the overall ministry focus of the church.

Leaders:

1. Maintain the current role of leading their ministries.
2. Shifting away from ministry council role and more hands on in the ministry.
3. No longer voting leaders.
4. Not required to attend monthly meetings, can attend if so desired as can any other person in the church.