

November  
2015

# the guidepost



## From the Pastor's desk...

### The Joy of Generous Giving

Preached: October 25, 2015

Scripture: Joshua 24:13-18, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12,  
Matthew 6:19-21

Four years ago I started as pastor here at Guilford Park Presbyterian. I'm so grateful I was called here. Beth and I love the church and North Carolina, also known as the Holy Land. Thank you for your many kindnesses to my family and me.

As luck or providence would have it, my first sermon to the congregation four years ago was a stewardship sermon. I remember a couple of you said, "Oh, man. That's tough. I'm sorry your first sermon has to be on stewardship." I laughed and said something eloquent like, "Yup. Sure is. Huh. Huh."

But it's been four years, so I can go ahead and admit the dirty little secret. I *love* preaching about stewardship. I do. Why? Because one of my responsibilities as your pastor is to help interpret scripture so that you can know the joy of generous stewardship. So it's not a chore. It's privilege. And we look at just three passages in the Bible for guidance, as we think about a fantastic topic.

In Joshua chapter 24, we see Israel gathered together before God. Joshua, their leader who has succeeded Moses, speaks on behalf of God and reminds Israel that God formed them as a people with Abraham as their father. Then with a mighty right hand, God brought them out of slavery to the Egyptians and their remarkably stubborn Pharaoh. Then God empowered them to whip the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, and a bunch of other ites. And now, here they are, the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey, lies before them. And what are they going to have to do?

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They are going to have to make a choice.

Joshua says to them, "Revere the Lord. Serve God in sincerity and faithfulness. Put away the gods your ancestors served, and make a choice. Serve other gods or serve the Lord." "But as for me and my household," says Joshua, "we will serve the Lord."

The first word is that the stewardship of our lives is a *choice* that flows from gratitude. Just as Joshua reminds Israel, God gives us life and lends us everything we have, including our money. Notice, I used the word "lends" us, instead of "gives" us. As Christians, we know that everything we have and all that we are, *everything belongs to God*. Our time, our abilities, our money, everything belongs to God. It's lent to us for the short time we are on the earth. And we must choose how to respond to what God lends us. As Joshua puts it, which gods will we serve? Are we going to

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serve the gods of “more stuff for myself,” “Sunday sports,” “sleeping in,” “family time without worship,” “me first” or the God who made heaven and earth, the God who provides us everything we have? Which will it be?

Theologian Paul Tillich put it this way, our God is whatever or whoever is our “ultimate concern.” Whatever or whoever is most important to us becomes our God. Maybe our god becomes our country, or house, or car, or financial security, or family, or having fun. But do not be deceived. If we choose false gods instead of the real God, then we miss the mark and we miss out on the life that God offers us. And we miss out on joy. By the word joy, the Bible does not mean mere happiness or fun that comes and goes away based on the circumstances of the moment. By joy, the Bible means that deep sense of satisfaction that comes as we try to align our lives with God's will, as we try to live faithfully. That's what joy is.

But it requires effort and even sacrifice. Jesus actually said we are to take up our cross to follow him. And Paul says, “The one who sows sparingly will also reap

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gratitude.**

sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

By the way, somebody said, “God loves a cheerful giver, but will also accept money from a grouch.” What is Paul saying? He's saying that people who are stingy with their giving to God are still loved by God, but they miss out on the joy of gratitude and the gladness of sharing fully in the good that God is doing in the world. People who are cheap with their giving to God through the church are adored by God, but they miss the joy, the glad satisfaction that comes when we're allowed to say thank you to God and we're permitted to share in the good God is doing in the world.

When I was a kid my best friend was Patrick. Patrick and I hung out together, rode bikes together, played in the junior high band together, and so on. One Christmas morning my family had gotten up early, opened presents, and eaten breakfast. I was still in my dumb-looking pajamas with the feet in the pants when the doorbell rang. It was Patrick. He handed me a wrapped Christmas gift and said, “Merry Christmas!” And I said, “Oh, wow, um, thank you. I didn't know we were ex-

**By joy, the Bible means that deep sense of satisfaction that comes as we try to align our lives with God's will, as we try to live faithfully. That's what joy is.**

changing gifts. I didn't get you anything.” And Patrick said, “That's okay.” And he left. And I felt kind of lousy.

God allows us to respond to God, to give back to God what we have received from God. **Being allowed to give back to God is a privilege. Being allowed to share in the ministry God is doing in the world is an honor.**

But maybe we think, “I cannot be generous with my giving. I just can't afford it.” And certainly a few people in our congregation



The Impromptu Christmas Pageant is a favorite way for the congregation to feel the JOY of the Christmas season.

have serious financial woes and they should give less generously until their situation improves. They should depend on the rest of the congregation to cover for them until their circumstances change. That's true for a few of us.

But not most of us. In fact, at the depth of the Great Depression, on average, Protestants gave more than 3% percent of their income to God through the church. Now, when we're much wealthier, even after taxes and inflation are factored in, many Protestants give less than that, and our congregations and our world are suffering because of it. We are capable of so much more for the kingdom of God and so much more for our individual discipleship.

How can we improve? To begin when we do our household budget we should budget for the church first. If we put God first, and set aside money for God's work in the church first, then we'll be surprised how much we are able to give and how much of a difference we'll be able to make with our lives. But if we budget for the church last, as if it were not that important, then frills and "the gods of stuff" will dominate our lives and we will never have much to give back to God.

Second, when we make a pledge to the church, we ought to do so by calculating what percentage of our income we're actually giving. We can use the handy dandy chart in the stewardship mailer we received. The elders who are serving on our leadership body, our session, have pledged to give at least 2% of their income to the church in the coming year, and they're challenging you, the congregation, to join them. Many of the elders are giving significantly more than that. Some of our elders are giving a biblical tithe, 10% of their income or more to the church. Why? Because we made them feel so guilty, of course! No. They're giving 10% out of gratitude to God, because they want to share in God's ministry in the world, and because they want to grow spiritually. Because giving is a spiritual discipline that will cause us to live more simply. Like a number of you, Beth and I have been tithers for many years. We find it to be a challenging but rewarding spiritual discipline.

Maybe in the coming year, you could calculate what percentage of your income you've been giving to the



The children, middle school and high school youth each have the opportunity to lead worship one Sunday in the year.

church, and then try to increase. If you've been giving 1%, then give 2%. If you've been giving 2%, then give 3%, and so on. Try to increase each year until you're tithing or beyond.

What if you make a pledge and something happens and you find you cannot meet your pledge? Don't worry. Due to budget constraints we've fired all the stewardship police. Nobody will come to your house and bug you if you cannot complete your pledge.

But Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." So not only is generous giving a way to say thanks to God and find joy, a path for sharing in God's ministry to a needy and hurting world, it's also an avenue for spiritual growth. Jesus says our heart naturally follows our investment of money.

Whatever we truly invest in, our heart will follow.

So God not only wants our money to do the work of God, but God wants our time and abilities. Everybody in the church ought to have at least one ministry that you're involved in. And you ought to be

here on Sunday mornings worshiping and studying. But giving our time and abilities is *not* a substitute for giving our money. God wants time, abilities, and money, because God wants our heart. God wants to be our "ultimate concern," not our "I'll get to you, if there's anything left over." God wants us to know the joy of intimate relationship that comes from committed discipleship.

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You may have noticed, I have not said a peep about the church's budget. You probably know the church is running a large deficit and if the pledges don't increase dramatically, we will make adjustments in programs, mission, and staff. We'd hate that. But frankly, though it's important, the church's budget is not nearly as important as the decision each member of this congregation makes, the *choice* each of us makes. Suppose somebody came and dropped more \$600,000 on us and said, "Don't worry about giving. I've covered the budget this year." (Feel free to do that, by the way.) Suppose somebody did that. Then each of us would still have the same opportunity and responsibility to give generously of what we have received from God. It would not change that at all.

Of course, occasionally it's good to paint a picture in our mind of where the budget money goes. So we see little children playing on the playground during pre-school and we hear the laughter of little ones filling these hallways on Sundays. We watch our youth get on the church's bus with Kim, our paid Christian Educator, and go do mission in New York City or head to Montreat or Massanetta to have their lives changed. Our retirees hop on that same bus and travel to new adventures and build relationships. Clergy and our Congregational Nurse, Janet, visit the sick and lonely. The lights, heat, a/c, water, insurance, building and grounds maintenance all happen through the magic of giving. On Sundays we gather for worship and study. Brian and Jordan and the YES choir and guest musicians lead the early service.

Bill and the chancel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and youth choir and our paid section leaders lead music in the second service. Instructional materials are bought for Sunday School. Tens of thousands of dollars go right out these doors to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, welcome the stranger, mentor young men in transitional housing, work for justice, pay electric and water bills and rent of the needy. And that's just scratching the surface. Last year, one of our members, a banker, said, "I never knew our church did so much with so little." Yes.

**God wants time, abilities, and money, because God wants our heart. God wants to be our "ultimate concern," not our "I'll get to you, if there's anything left over." God wants us to know the joy of intimate relationship that comes from committed discipleship.**

**And God is calling us to do more, because we are a people who have received so much. All that we have. Life itself. God's love poured out for us in Jesus Christ who gave his life for us that we might give our lives back and know joy.**

I attended a stewardship conference in Dallas a few years ago and heard this true story from another Christian. He said, a few years ago a pastor approached a wealthy member of his congregation and asked him to give generously. And the member said, "All I ever hear from the church is 'give, give, give.' The pastor thought a moment and finally said, 'I have never heard the Christian message put so pristinely. Thank you.'"

In the name of God who is our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer. Amen. ©Jeff Paschal



The YES Choir leads music each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. under the direction of Brian Fitts and with Jordan Hart accompanying.

## A Note from Jo

*When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.*

Tecumseh

Last week was the furnace's annual check-up from the heating and air guys at my house. Words like leak, freon, and carbon monoxide were thrown out. Clearly, the furnace did not pass the check-up. Neither did the air conditioner, for that matter. Annnnd, the duct work is pretty disgusting and needs to be cleaned.

Sigh.

This news is never what you want to hear, but it was not unexpected. The furnace (which should last 15-20 years) is 22 years-old. The AC is so old it doesn't even have a date (the best guess is ~30 years)!

And while the cost of the repairs will seriously dent our savings and our living expenses for the near future, we still had much to rejoice over:

That both the furnace and the AC lived long and productive lives, with no extra maintenance in the

5 years of our owning the home.

That we caught the need for repair before carbon monoxide flooded the house.

That the house's previous owners put on a new roof and installed a state-of-the-art hot water heater within a year or two of us buying the house.

That we both have jobs that support us, emergency savings set aside, and the ability to tighten our belts a bit more.

It is easy to give thanks through the joyful times. How are you at giving thanks during the hard times? How are you at giving thanks at all times?

During the month of November, one of my spiritual practices is to name my blessings each day. I invite you to join me in "30 Days Thankful". All our families with children will receive a thankful guide and fall leaves to write their blessings on. Additional thankful guides will be available to all (minus the leaves unless requested) at the Information Table in the gathering area.

Blessings,  
Jo

## Adult Ed

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Feasting on the Word: This class incorporates the *Feasting on the Word* commentary to explore one of the lectionary passages. Each lesson provides comprehensive, accessible biblical background from four perspectives and invites leaders and learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year.

**Led by: Jeff Paschal and Kit Schooley**

Advent Study: *The Stories and Symbols of the Nativity*.

The Christmas story may be the most familiar story from the Bible, yet if asked to tell it, most people would get many details wrong! The story most of us "know" often represents an amalgam of biblical and secular tales. Explore the details of the nativity story to inform and enhance your appreciation of the season of Advent. **Led by Jo Owens beginning November 8.**

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### Creative Bible Study

Do you love the Bible? Do you want to know God's Word on a deeper level? How about markers, poetry, and paint? All these things are combined in our weekly Creative Bible Study. This class is designed as a drop-in, so any week is the perfect week to start coming. Sundays at 5 p.m. (*childcare is available*)

#### Advent Devotion Guide

Be a part of this Guilford Park tradition by writing an Advent devotion to prepare the congregation for the coming of the Christ Child. Devotions will be published in a book and will also be distributed electronically. More details soon!

## Children and Youth

### KIDSJAM

November 6

First Friday Movie and pizza night at the church, 5:30-8 p.m.

November 14

Saturday Hotdog/Hayride at Camp GuilRock 4:30 p.m.

November 21

Service project Saturday - TBA

November 22

Hanging of the Greens family activities and soup supper.

*For more information on these 3-5 grade fellowship activities, check the children's bulletin board or contact Suzi Shackelford([suzishackelford@gmail.com](mailto:suzishackelford@gmail.com)) to get on the email mailing.*

### YOUTH

November 4, 11, 18,

High School Wednesday Bible Study, meet in the common patio by Ben & Jerry's Shoppes at Friendly Center, 5-5:30 p.m. (indoor location: Geeksboro Coffee)

November 1, 8

Middle school youth meet at church, 5 p.m. prepare for worship leadership

November 1

High School youth help with Partnership Village Fall Festival 2pm-5pm; meet at church at 1:30 p.m.

November 15

Middle School Youth lead worship at 9am and 11 a.m. Meet at the church at 8:00 a.m.

November 22

Youth participate in Hanging of the Greens and Soup Supper, 5 p.m. at church

*For more information on youth fellowship grades 6-12 please check the youth bulletin board or contact Kim Row ([krow@quilfordpark.org](mailto:krow@quilfordpark.org)) to get on the email reminder and updates list.*

## Sunday, November 22

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

**5-6 p.m.** This is the time to bring the family and join the congregational effort to decorate GPPC for the Christmas celebration of Advent. We need enthusiastic workers to adorn GPPC. Please be there to kick off the Advent season .



### SOUP SUPPER

**6-7 p.m.** Everyone is encouraged to donate ingredients for soups prepared by our soup chefs. Sign up sheet is on the Fellowship board. If you have a favorite soup recipe you would like to make put your ingredients on the sign up and let Hallie Smith know. On the evening of the Soup Supper those people with last names beginning with A - M please bring a dessert to share and those with last names beginning with N - Z please bring bread or crackers. Contact Hallie Smith at 301-2321 with questions.

## Sanctuary Improvements

In October the hardwood flooring in the chancel area was refinished last week and all the pew cushions were replaced. Monday, November 2 laminate (looks like wood) flooring will be laid throughout the sanctuary. The lighting in the chancel will also be updated to new LED lights. Thank you to the Worship Committee who has spent months looking at flooring, pew coverings, and making decisions to update the Sanctuary. Thank you to the Property Committee for their guidance and their work on the lighting and for overseeing the project as it moves forward.

## Fellowship

**ALMANAH WOMEN** (widow support & fellowship)  
**Lunch:** Wednesday, November 11, 12:30 p.m. at Bravo Cucina Italian.

**HOTDOG HAYRIDE** Enjoy some Good-Old-Fashioned-Fun (GOFF) on Saturday, November 14 starting at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to Camp GuilRock (531 Beville Rd, Reidsville, NC 27320) for hotdogs, games, and of course the hayride. Sign-up or let Jo Owens know that you're coming so we're sure to have plenty of hotdogs. Cost is \$5 per family.

**THE GUILFORD TRAVELERS** (adult travel group) are going to Myrtle Beach, SC to the Alabama Theatre to see "The South's Grandest Christmas Show" on November 18-19. See the Fellowship board for more information on our upcoming trips.

**GEEZERS' BREAKFAST** All men 55+ are invited to join us at Oakcrest Restaurant for good food and fellowship. Wednesday, November 18 at 8:30 a.m. acquainted with others, and enjoy the company of long time friends.

**PRIMETIMERS** Thursday, November 19 at 12 p.m.  
**Lunch:** Contact Ann Shelton at 288-4336 for more information. Cost: \$6 (cash only). A gentle reminder: You will be responsible for the cost of your meal if you do not cancel within 24 hours of the meeting. Please contact the church office if you need to cancel.

## Address Changes

### Email

Sara and Pete Babcock: [petesarab@att.net](mailto:petesarab@att.net)  
Bill and Gloria Fuller: [ghfuller@triad.rr.com](mailto:ghfuller@triad.rr.com)

### Phone

John Brannon: 336.279.4289

## November Birthdays

1	Sarah Harrill	15	Beth Paschal
1	Preston Watson	16	Boots Weiner
2	Sarah Keel	17	Shawn Murphy
2	Peter McKinnon	18	Glenda Miller
4	Ben Collins	19	Carter Askew
4	Charlotte Angermeier	19	Leslie Sheppard
5	Gillian Boehmer	20	Gerry Waterhouse
5	Tim Stewart	20	Robert Webster
6	Jean Sorrell	20	Anna Purdie
6	Katherine Hill	21	Jeff Lehmann
7	Katharine Hornfeck	21	Liam Padgett
7	Cora Pickard	22	Matt Hickling
7	Mary Kirkpatrick	23	John Shackelford
8	Jack Lamb	24	Melanie Jackson
9	Gary Core	24	Meg Clunan
10	Jay Hawkins	24	Steve Lacz
10	Aidan Lacz	25	Rebecca Smith
11	Caroline Scherzer	25	Melody Bivona
11	Marie Thomas	25	Zach Weiner
11	Lowry Hill	27	AB Kimel
12	Marti Randall	27	John Brannon
12	Whitley Askew	30	Melanie Rodenbough
12	Tanya Hand	30	Vance Rucker
13	Lisa Whisenant	30	Claire Biaggi
14	Emmy Biaggi	30	Leigh Peck Porter
14	Ava Spradley		

### NEW "ARRANGEMENTS" FOR LORD'S TABLE FLOWERS

During the last five months we have asked you to make the payment of \$48.04 for the Lord's Table flowers directly to Botanica Florist. Starting in November, to ensure prompt payment to Botanica Florist, please make your gift to the Flowers and Decorations fund of GPPC, and the church will pay the florist with that gift. Please make your gift in advance of your Sunday. Make checks to GPPC with flowers/decorations in the memo line. Thank you for your help in keeping our sanctuary adorned with flowers each Sunday.

## Mission

### THE GUILFORD PARK DONATION GARDEN

The Guilford Park Donation Garden through the summer sent weekly produce to the IRC to be distributed to those in our community in need of fresh produce. The six beds did not produce summer squash and tomatoes in the abundance of previous years due to the nature of weather this year along with invasions from some of our resident four-footed creatures. Weather issues created these similar issues throughout the donation gardens in our city as well. Our two butternut squash beds, however, produced in abundance: 111 squash in sizes from medium to large. Since these squash keep well and don't need refrigeration, they are especially welcome to families these gardens assist. Levina Kollar



Please continue to pray for educator Kim Row while she's on sabbatical.

### GATHER GIFT CARDS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

Guilford Park's very own Tara and Steve Sandercock are traveling to Mexico in December. During their visit, they will have a chance to meet with the missionaries we support, Jan and Pablo Feliciano. The Mission Committee would like to collect Walmart gift cards to take to Pablo and Jan. In turn, the gift cards will be used to purchase supplies for the clinic, school, Vacation Bible School, or the most pressing need in Chiapas. Walmart gift cards are easy to transport and can be useful in a variety of different ways. Please give your gift cards to Tara, Steve, leave them in the office, or the collection plate over the course of the month of November. Any and all dollar amounts are welcomed and appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the Sandercocks or any member of the mission committee. This is an easy way to continue to participate in the worldwide mission work of the church without ever leaving home! Please gather your gift cards with a grateful heart and remember those in need in Chiapas.



**HOT DISH AND HOPE**  
(serving food to the homeless)  
**Tuesday, November 13** at 5:15 p.m.  
at First Presbyterian Church. Sign-up sheet is on the Mission board.  
Please contact Peter Isakoff at 757-478-3144,  
peter.isakoff@gmail.com or  
Leslie Isakoff at leslie.isakoff@gmail.com.

### INTERACTIVE RESOURCE CENTER

The Interactive Resource Center (IRC) is an innovative day resource center for people experiencing homeless or trying to keep from becoming homeless in Guilford County. We provide a bag lunch on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month to the IRC patrons who are currently enrolled in job training classes. There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission board each month. Please call Marti Randall at 336-854-3385 with any questions.



## Congregational Nurse

### INTERNATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS DAY

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will recognize Saturday, November 21 as International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day. Congress originally passed this designation in 1999 in an effort to raise awareness about the frequency of suicide in the United States and to help promote the healing of those individuals affected by suicide-related deaths. Like so many other mental health issues, suicide is a topic that much of our population does not discuss. People often view suicide as something that affects other families and in many cases, they ignore the warning signs that typically precede someone taking his or her life. Unfortunately, suicide is much more common than most people think. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2012 almost 41,000 deaths were attributed to suicide in the United States, which equated to about one death every 12.9 minutes. Studies have shown that at least 90 percent of these cases have been linked to depression or some other mental illness. Suicide not only impacts the victims, it also significantly alters the lives of the loved ones they leave behind. "Suicide loss survivors" are sometimes left confused and are often confronted with feelings of guilt. Survivors experience many challenges as they try to come to terms and move past their unexpected loss. Let us recognize the importance of caring for those who are affected by suicide, either a victim or survivor. Please go to [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org) to learn more.

### AGING SAFELY

Concerned about your parents? Do you live alone? Are you over the age of 65? Come learn some ways to live safely at home. Janet Dawson, RN is offering two classes on Tuesday, November 17, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sign up on the new (temporary) health board.

"1 in 3 people over age 65 fall each year."



Guilford Park Presbyterian Church is partnering with Ten Thousand Villages to offer a Community Shopping Event for our congregation on Friday, November 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ten Thousand Villages will donate 15% of all sales that night to GPPC, which we will use for the Deacons' Fund. This event will be held at the Ten Thousand Villages store located at 1564-A Highwoods Boulevard across from Starbucks in the Jefferson Village Shopping Center. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit fair trade organization that markets handcrafted products made by disadvantaged artisans from more than 120 artisan groups in over 35 countries. Even though GPPC will be receiving money from this event, the artisans will still be paid their fair wage. Jewelry, pottery, linens, scarves, candles, soaps, baskets, wind chimes, frames, pillows, etc. are just a few of the many beautiful items that are handmade by the artisans.

Please join us that night and purchase gifts that give "thrice"...the gift you are purchasing for yourself or another, the support you are giving the artisans, and the gift that will be given to the GPPC Deacons' Fund (which helps others in our community in need). Over the next few weeks you will be hearing stories of some of the artisans, and you will also be able to see items available at the store. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Barrier at [dgbarrier@gmail.com](mailto:dgbarrier@gmail.com)

## Financial Update

### SEPTEMBER WEEKLY GIVING

Date: 9/6/15

Pledges-General Fund	\$12,930.00
Non-Pledge Gift	\$415.00
Church School	\$7.50
Loose Offering	\$137.00
Memorial Fund	\$250.00

Date: 9/13/15

Pledges-General Fund	\$7,378.25
Non-Pledge Gift	\$485.00
Church School	\$7.55
Loose Offering	\$178.00
Memorial Fund	\$25.00

Date: 9/20/15

Pledges-General Fund	\$10,421.00
Non-Pledge Gift	\$800.00
Church School	\$20.00
Loose Offering	\$110.25
Memorial Fund	\$75.00
Pennies For Hunger	\$154.00
Columbarium	\$50.00

Date: 9/27/15

Pledges-General Fund	\$6,756.00
Non-Pledge Gift	\$1,035.00
Church School	\$10.20
Deacons' Fund	\$314.17
Memorial Fund	\$100.00
Pennies For Hunger	\$123.43
Peacemaking	\$200.00



### PLEDGE ONLINE

Give to GPPC online. We have a PayPal button on our website. There, you can make your regular pledge payment, memorials, contributions, and any other gifts. You may set up a regular recurring amount, or make a one-time gift. PayPal lets you use all major credit cards, or you may use your PayPal account if you already have one, or create one if you don't. Check it out!

### FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

We Pledged To Give	\$378,800.28
We Actually Gave	<u>310,087.90</u>
Money Spent	\$456,573.04
Money Received	<u>356,226.17</u>
	(\$100,346.87)

## Instant Church Directory App

Now you can sync the GPPC directory right to your iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini, Android device or Kindle Fire!

Members can search for a family or member, and then email, call or text — right from their device. Plus any change you make to the online directory is immediately synced with their device.

To download the app, click the appropriate image for your device:



### Enable Mobile App Access

To enable the app feature for your members:

- Log in to your Account
- Choose Step 6 - Settings
- Enable Mobile App Access

### Who has access

You're worried about security and privacy, and so are we. Members have to register each device and directories can't be shared. Further, only members you authorize can gain access and directories are automatically "wiped" from all their devices if you revoke access.

### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS From Gratitude to Generosity

**Do I really need to participate?** Each member is invited to give in gratitude for God's abundant blessings. Every gift is important. Keep in mind that pledging is different than simply giving. Pledges enable the church to budget and plan for the coming year compared to the fluctuating nature of non-pledged giving.

**What percentage of the congregation makes a pledge?** Only about 50% of the congregation pledges to annual stewardship, and we are hoping that more members will be inspired by their generosity.

**What are the goals for the 2015 Stewardship Campaign?** Our goal is to increase our giving by 15%. We are hoping to do this by increasing the number of pledges and also increasing the amount of each pledge. This will move us towards a long-term goal of 100% participation. We have operated with a deficit budget for the past two years as we have added additional staffing and programs to our mission. The Finance and Stewardship Committee as well as the Session want to achieve a balanced budget for 2016.

**Who determines how GPPC's money is directed?** Each committee of the Session prepares a budget in the fall of the year. The Finance and Stewardship Committee then prepares a budget of the expected revenues and expenditures which is presented to the Session for approval. The budget is also presented to the congregation at a congregational meeting. The elders and staff entrusted with the work are faithful stewards. Our money is managed very well so that we maximize the impact your gift has on our ministries.

**It seems like construction is going on all the time here, with more planned over the next few months. How can we need money if we can pay for all of this work?** Most of the work being done is funded by our Capital Fund and our Memorial Fund. Some projects are funded by special donations from members. We do not use operating funds for major construction projects.

**I donate my time and talent, isn't that enough?** Thank you so much for your support of our ministries. Our active volunteers are part of what makes GPPC such a special place. Imagine the things we could do if every one of our volunteers made a financial commitment as well.

**I am only able to pledge a small amount so I feel I should not pledge at all. What difference can I make?** Every gift is important, no gift is too small. Not only do small pledges add up, but they are often the first step on a member's stewardship journey. We believe that members who make a pledge change their relationship with God in a very positive way. We also encourage pledges from our youth, so that they can learn the joy of giving and start their stewardship journey at a young age.

**Do I have to pay my yearly pledge all at once?** You can make your pledge payments in any increments you choose. Weekly, monthly all at once..it's up to you. You don't even have to indicate the frequency at the time you make your pledge. And if your life circumstances change and you are unable to fulfill your pledge, you may change your pledge at any time. We ask that you contact the church office so we may adjust our records.

**How much should I pledge?** How much you pledge is a personal decision. You can look at our chart of proportional giving for an idea. Some people follow the biblical tradition of tithing (10% of a household's income) and we hope you will prayerfully consider pledging in proportion to your income.

\*If you have never pledged, we encourage you to take this step toward greater faithfulness at any amount. Become a steward of GPPC and watch your relationship with the church and Christ blossom.

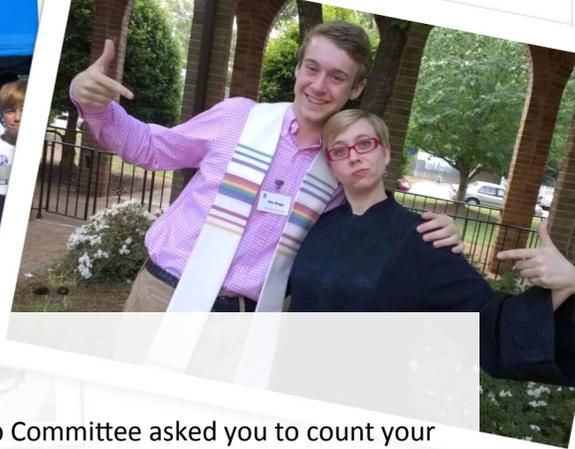
\*If you used to pledge but stopped, we invite you to pick up where you left off or pledge some comfortable percentage of that amount.

\*If you have been pledging, but are not yet at a full 10% tithe, we would ask you to consider:

-Increasing your pledge by 1 – 2 % of your annual income

**What forms can my gift take?** Cash or check, Electronic transfer from your bank account, PayPal on the Church's website, Transfer of appreciated stock

Whatever the amount of your gift, your spirit of generosity and gratitude for God's abundant love and grace are the most important elements in your giving.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the last few weeks, the Stewardship Committee asked you to count your blessings at Guilford Park. What are you grateful for here at the church? You said things like the music and preaching, children and youth activities, warm friendships, meaningful outreach, and much more.

As you consider your pledge for 2016, we hope you will move from **gratitude** for the ways God is at work to **generosity** which helps fund the mission and ministry of Guilford Park.

Stewardship is more than giving money to the church. It's about being good stewards (or caretakers) of our church, each other, and people here and around the world. What we do as a church is only possible because of the generous financial gifts from our members. We give to the church because we want our **generosity** to demonstrate our **gratitude** for all that we have been given by God.

**How much should you give?** Sometimes people have trouble determining how much to increase their giving year by year. The Percentage Giving Guide shows giving as various percentages of gross income that may help you determine what you would like to contribute as you consider your giving. The Bible encourages us to give our "first fruits" to God, not what is left over at the end of the day. To that end, we encourage you to place your pledge first in your budget, and then determine your variable expenses around your pledge and other fixed expenses.

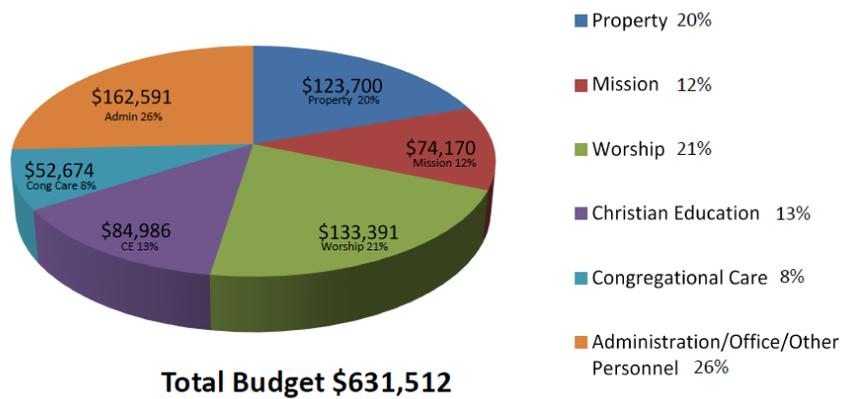
We do not expect donors to have equal ability to give. But we do expect our members to prayerfully consider forming a giving strategy. Take a look at our budget. This is a graphic picture of where your money goes: to mission work, for worship throughout the year, to educate our children, youth and adults, to care for members of the congregation and keep our church facilities up and running. It takes funds to keep our staff, programs and missions going, and it is only through your **generous** gifts that we can continue to do God's work.

Our goal for 2016 is to increase our pledges by 15%. This increase is possible if individuals increase their giving and if a larger percentage of the congregation pledges. Whatever the amount of your gift, your spirit of **generosity** and **gratitude** for God's abundant love and grace are the most important elements





### Guilford Park Presbyterian Church 2015 Budget



Annual Income	Approximate Yearly Commitment Proportionate to Income						
	10%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
100,000	10,000	8,000	7,000	6,000	5,000	4,000	3,000
75,000	7,500	6,000	5,250	4,500	3,750	2,800	2,100
60,000	6,000	4,800	4,200	3,600	3,000	2,400	1,800
50,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,500
45,000	4,500	3,600	3,150	2,700	2,250	1,800	1,350
40,000	4,000	3,200	2,800	2,400	2,000	1,600	1,200
35,000	3,500	2,800	2,450	2,100	1,750	1,400	1,050
30,000	3,000	2,400	2,100	1,800	1,500	1,200	900
25,000	2,500	2,000	1,750	1,500	1,250	1,000	750
20,000	2,000	1,600	1,400	1,200	1,000	800	600

## Serving in Worship

### November 1, 2015

*All Saints' Sunday*

**9:00 Ushers:** Kay Cheshire and Kregg Kinnear

**9:00 Sound System:** Michael Boulton

**9:00 Liturgist:** Stephanie Kurtts

**11:00 Ushers:** Jay Jones, Ryan Morgan, Brandon Inscore, John Shackelford

**11:00 Liturgist:** Corey Johnson

**11:00 Sound System:** Gene Campbell

**Opening/Closing:** Kregg Kinnear, Tim Peck

**Bread Delivery:** Jan and David Heywood

**9:00 Communion Preparer:** Barbara Sasser

**9:00 Communion Servers:** AB Kimel, Pat Kimel, David Hamilton

**11:00 Communion Preparer:** Mary Bruce

**11:00 Communion Servers:** Bo Rodenbough, Bob Kollar, Emily Thompson, Mary Kirkpatrick

**Home Communion Servers:** Sandy Scherzer (Lois Crabtree), Robert McClellan (Abe Jones), EB Taylor (Peg Lukens), Tim Peck (Loa Morris), Karen Berg (Rose Sharpe)

### November 8, 2015

**9:00 Ushers:** Kathy Kimble and Louise O'Shea

**9:00 Liturgist:** Martha Higgins

**9:00 Sound System:** Steve Drew

**11:00 Ushers:** John Parker, Doug Campbell, Bo Rodenbough, Steve Dixon, Ed Bonkemeyer, Logan Key

**11:00 Liturgist:** Doug Campbell

**11:00 Sound System:** Steve Sandercock

**Opening/Closing:** Bob Ewalt, Kenny Thompson

**Bread Delivery:** Leslie and Blake Sheppard

### November 15, 2015

*Middle School Sunday*

**9:00 Ushers:** Ed and Jaime Hendricks

**9:00 Sound System:** Bob Nordbruch

**11:00 Ushers:** Hallie Smith, Skip Bailey, Becky Stump, Buddy Milks, Beth Milks, Susan Thomas

**11:00 Sound System:** Steve Lacz

**Opening/Closing:** Steve Gordon, Jim Tosco

**Bread Delivery:** Jean Thompson

### November 22, 2015

**9:00 Ushers:** David Wyrick and Gary Parker

**9:00 Sound System:** Gray Amick

**9:00 Liturgist:** Donna Barrier

**11:00 Ushers:** Steve Sandercock, Scott Moore, Jukka Kayhko, Kenny Thompson, Ralph Lawrence

**11:00 Sound System:** Rick Cromer

**11:00 Liturgist:** John Parker

**Opening/Closing:** Don Olson, Jason Beale

**Bread Delivery:** Carolyn and Dick Sherrick

### November 29, 2015

**9:00 Ushers:** Bob and Ashlyn McClellan

**9:00 Sound System:** Don Yelton

**9:00 Liturgist:** Jenny Hamilton

**11:00 Ushers:** Buddy Milks, Woody Reese, Scott Berg, Paul Aycok

**11:00 Sound System:** Dylan Lewellyn

**11:00 Liturgist:** Anthony McLean

**Opening/Closing:** Michael Jackson, Ralph Lawrence

# November 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>2:00 PM</b> HS-Partnership Village Fall Festival <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir (K-1st) <b>5:00 PM</b> MS Youth <b>5:30 PM</b> Children's Choir (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Handbells	<b>2</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Treasurers-Library <b>10:00 AM</b> Simple Gifts W2 <b>1:00 PM</b> Prayerful Yoga W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:30 PM</b> Companions In Christ YL <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (FH)	<b>3</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Cong RN - L <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Well Life Vision L <b>7:00 PM</b> YES Practice <b>7:30 PM</b> NA (FH)	<b>4</b> DC Adult Mission Trip <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel S <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>5:00 PM</b> HS Bible Study at Friendly Center <b>5:30 PM</b> Zumba F <b>6:30 PM</b> Congregational Care L <b>7:00 PM</b> CYMC <b>7:00 PM</b> Property Com W1	<b>5</b> DC Adult Mission Trip <b>9:15 AM</b> Pilates W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Guilford Guys FH <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> DC Adult Mission Trip <b>5:30 PM</b> KidsJam <b>6:00 PM</b> Moore Basketball FH	<b>7</b> DC Adult Mission Trip <b>9:00 AM</b> HS: Neighborhoods Tree Planting
<b>8</b> DC Adult Mission Trip Stewardship Dedication <b>9:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir (K-1st) <b>5:00 PM</b> Creative Bible Study w/ Childcare L <b>5:00 PM</b> MS Youth <b>5:30 PM</b> Children's Choir (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Handbells	<b>9</b> GUM Dinner <b>8:30 AM</b> Treasurers-Library <b>10:00 AM</b> Simple Gifts W2 <b>1:00 PM</b> Prayerful Yoga W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:15 PM</b> Insight Mtg W2 <b>6:30 PM</b> Companions In Christ YL <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (FH)	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Circle #3 W <b>10:00 AM</b> Cong RN - L <b>1:00 PM</b> Preschool Staff W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>5:15 PM</b> Hot Dish & Hope <b>6:00 PM</b> Well Life Vision L <b>7:00 PM</b> YES Practice <b>7:30 PM</b> NA (FH)	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Almanah Lunch <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>5:00 PM</b> HS Bible Study at Friendly Center <b>5:30 PM</b> Zumba F <b>6:30 PM</b> Mission Mtg W1	<b>12</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Pilates W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Guilford Guys FH <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Moore Basketball FH	<b>14</b> <b>4:30 PM</b> Hotdog Hayride
<b>15</b> Guideposts Articles Due Middle School Sunday <b>9:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>3:30 PM</b> Finance Mtg L <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir (K-1st) <b>5:00 PM</b> Session W <b>5:30 PM</b> Children's Choir (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Handbells	<b>16</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Treasurers-Library <b>10:00 AM</b> Simple Gifts W2 <b>1:00 PM</b> Prayerful Yoga W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:30 PM</b> Companions In Christ YL <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (FH)	<b>17</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Cong RN - L <b>10:00 AM</b> IRC <b>1:00 PM</b> How to Live Safely at Home Class W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> How to Live Safely at Home Class W <b>6:00 PM</b> Well Life Vision L <b>7:00 PM</b> YES Practice <b>7:30 PM</b> NA (FH)	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Geezers' Breakfast <b>10:00 AM</b> Guilford Travelers <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel S <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>5:00 PM</b> HS Bible Study at Friendly Center <b>5:30 PM</b> Zumba F <b>6:30 PM</b> Adult Ed L <b>6:45 PM</b> Membership Com W2 <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship W1	<b>19</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Pilates W <b>10:00 AM</b> Guilford Travelers <b>12:30 PM</b> Prime Timers W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Guilford Guys FH <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Moore Basketball FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Ten Thousand Villages shopping night	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir (K-1st) <b>5:00 PM</b> Hanging of the Greens <b>5:30 PM</b> Children's Choir (2nd-5th) <b>5:30 PM</b> Handbells <b>6:00 PM</b> Soup Supper	<b>23</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Treasurers-Library <b>10:00 AM</b> Simple Gifts W2 <b>1:00 PM</b> Prayerful Yoga W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Personnel L <b>6:15 PM</b> Insight Mtg W2 <b>6:30 PM</b> Companions In Christ YL <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (FH) <b>7:00 PM</b> PW CT Meeting L	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Preschool F & K <b>9:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Cong RN - L <b>1:00 PM</b> Almanah Movie P <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Well Life Vision L <b>7:00 PM</b> YES Practice <b>7:30 PM</b> NA (FH)	<b>25</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Church Office Closes	<b>26</b> Office Closed THANKSGIVING	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>5:30 PM</b> Handbells	<b>30</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Treasurers-Library <b>10:00 AM</b> Simple Gifts W2 <b>1:00 PM</b> Prayerful Yoga W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:30 PM</b> Companions In Christ YL <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (FH)	<b>1</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Cong RN - L <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Well Life Vision L <b>7:00 PM</b> YES Practice <b>7:30 PM</b> NA (FH)	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel S <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>5:00 PM</b> HS Bible Study at Friendly Center <b>5:30 PM</b> Zumba F <b>6:30 PM</b> Congregational Care L <b>7:00 PM</b> CYMC <b>7:00 PM</b> Property Com W1	<b>3</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Pilates W <b>2:00 PM</b> Walking to Bethlehem FH <b>6:00 PM</b> Guilford Guys FH <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> KidsJam	<b>5</b>

## Session Highlights from November 18, 2015

- Elders present unanimously agreed to pledge 2% or more of their income to the church's operating budget for 2016 and encourage GPPC members to do the same.
- Heard an update about the sanctuary renovations.
- Accepted the gift of a praying hands carving from the family of Ernie Skillman.
- Approved Gathering Area oak tree photo, tree sculpture shelving, and request for use of space forms.

### GPPC Staff

**Pastor:** Jeff Paschal

[jpaschal@guilfordpark.org](mailto:jpaschal@guilfordpark.org)

**Associate Pastor:** Jo Nygard Owens

[jnowens@guilfordpark.org](mailto:jnowens@guilfordpark.org)

**Parish Associate:** Kit Schooley

[christopher.schooley@mac.com](mailto:christopher.schooley@mac.com)

**Children & Youth Educator:** Kim Row

[krow@guilfordpark.org](mailto:krow@guilfordpark.org)

**Organist & Director of Music Ministries:**

Bill Allred [ballred@guilfordpark.org](mailto:ballred@guilfordpark.org)

**Contemporary Music Director:** Brian Fitts

[bltfitts@triad.rr.com](mailto:bltfitts@triad.rr.com)

**YES Accompanist:** Jordan Hart

[thatfridaynightthing@gmail.com](mailto:thatfridaynightthing@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator:** Lisa Boxley

[lboxley@guilfordpark.org](mailto:lboxley@guilfordpark.org)

**Financial Administrator:** Jane Sharpe

[jsharpe@guilfordpark.org](mailto:jsharpe@guilfordpark.org)

**Webmaster:** Mark Gordon

[zosimov21@gmail.com](mailto:zosimov21@gmail.com)

**Congregational Nurse:** Janet Dawson

[janetydawson@gmail.com](mailto:janetydawson@gmail.com)

**Preschool Director:** Debbie Huneycutt

[dhuneycutt@guilfordpark.org](mailto:dhuneycutt@guilfordpark.org)

**Missionaries:**

Tim & Marta Carriker in Brazil and

Pablo & Jan Feliciano in Mexico

### ATTENDANCE

	9:00	11:00
September 27	108	123
October 4: one service		196
October 11	58	114
October 18	104	98
October 25	72	84

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **December** Guidepost deadline is **NOVEMBER 15**. Please submit articles to Lisa Boxley at [lboxley@guilfordpark.org](mailto:lboxley@guilfordpark.org).



Jill Moore was the winner of this year's Trunks o' Treats and took home the Golden Pumpkin.

### GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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