

## Upcoming Events Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center



<b>February 17 - 18</b>	<b>Leaders in Training</b>
<b>March 15 - 17</b>	<b>Youth Retreat</b>
<b>April 19 - 21</b>	<b>Scrapbookers Retreat</b>

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## Sunset Hills Church February 2024 Newsletter



I realize it's a bit cynical to even suggest this, but...well...Valentine's Day often seems like a hotbed of bribery to me.

Now having said that, I must confess that I am chief within that number. Forty-four years ago, I gave Annie stuffed Sesame Street characters and chocolate, hoping to secure a Valentine's Day date. I had studied what made her really light up, and that was the primo combination of gifts for Annie. That was on a Friday. By Saturday night, I was proposing. By Sunday, I was driving back to Glenwood on a quick turnaround visit to let my family know that there was a permanent change coming that summer.

Understand, that weekend was the culmination of nearly three years of courtship. And I was almost ready to give up hope just a few weeks before. So at Christmas I gave Annie roses and a stuffed Grover (furry and loveable) in hopes that the gifts would keep the communication pipeline between us in operation. They did.

Bribery. I had friends who used fancy dinners, or jewelry, or a date to a concert at a Chicago theater to move ahead in relationships. I bypassed the norms and went straight for Annie's Achilles heel, chocolate and Sesame Street, two holidays in a row. She listened long enough to consider spending her life with me 44 years ago, and we "put a ring on it" a few decades before Beyonce was even born.

And suddenly, my attempts at bribery transformed into promise. Commitment will do that. Who knows the value of a married partner until you commit, anyway?

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So stop for a moment today and thank God for the spouse who committed to you. Then thank your spouse. Gifts at your option.

*<sup>10</sup>An excellent wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.*

Amen and amen!

--Steve Wamberg

### Upcoming Sermon Schedule

February 4	Hope and Atonement	<i>Romans 5:6-21</i>
February 11	Hope and Salvation	<i>Acts 16:25-34</i>
February 18	The Decision at the Crossroads	<i>Mark 8:27 – 9:1</i>
February 25	Stewards of the Mystery	<i>1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Colossians 1:24-29</i>

### *Prayers for Health, Healing, and Strength*

Carol Von Forell	Amber Dale	Ray Marine	Maple Crest Staff
Ron Reed	Matt	Anji	Desmond
Diana LaCroix	Carol Lorenzen	Natalie Vankat	Deanne Caughey
Antonittie Johnson	Terry Anson Family	Bob Molby	Patty Martin
Phyllis Meyer	Nancy Berney	Kim Wille	Rev. Rick Wheatley
Norma Larsen	Jack & Carol Welch	Mark & Ruth Steele	Barb Ganey
Glenn Kilpatrick	Dan & Marge Todd	Nancy Quinnette	

On-going prayers of well-being for shut-ins and military personnel.

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 prayers are very important.

February 24 is ABMen's National Day of Prayer and Sunset Hills will hold a prayer breakfast for the men in the congregation beginning at 8:00 a.m. Watch for more details. Helpers (cooks, servers, table setters, cleanup, etc.) will be needed. Contact Pastor Jason for more information.

### January Business Meeting

A brief meeting was held after church on January 7, 2024.

- Moderator, Diane Workman, reviewed the goals for the various ministries.
- Doug Larsen, Treasurer, gave an updated finance report.
- Rev. Steve gave an overview of his plans and goals for 2024.

Here are a few Bible verses to reflect on for Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster. **Joel 2:12-13***

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. **Hebrews 12:1-3***

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. **Luke 9:51-53***

Date	Attendance	Giving
December 31	63	\$4,823.29
January 7	62	\$4,767.82
January 14	Services	Cancelled
January 21	68	\$4,536.17
January 28	TBD	TBD

### SHBC Financial Scoreboard

**December Income**      \$ 18,276  
**YTD Income**            \$205,783  
**December Expenses**    \$ 14,383  
**YTD Expenses**         \$169,856

### Stewardship Ministry Update - Ron Reed

The Stewardship Ministry Team met on January 25 to begin the process of reorganizing the ministry into sub-ministries with leaders for those sub-ministries, and a Stewardship Ministry Leader who will work with all sub-ministry leaders. This will serve our Lord and church so much better.

### Pastor Staff Relations Ministry Update - Ron Reed

The committee communicated in January and had no topics to address. Our next meeting will be in April. We are all blessed as we experience the positive changes and growth happening at Sunset Hills with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

- 2 Alainah White
- 3 Jack Welch
- 7 Scott Darden
- 12 Rita Ray
- 13 Doug Larsen
- 17 Jason Rich
- 23 Jill Gilliland
- 23 Pat Martin
- 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 5

6:00 p.m.

Gary & Joan Peterson will lead the prayer time on Hope.

### Adult Sunday School - Ron Reed

The adult Sunday school class is continuing to watch *The Chosen*. Please join us for these powerful, historical presentations. We meet on Sunday mornings in the lower-level double classroom from 9:00 to 10:00. Please contact Dot North for more information.

24 Telly and Shawnda Woods 23 Years



### Women Mentoring Women

February 12 & 26

6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

### Men's Study Group Update - Ron Reed

Men, you are welcome to join us as we go deeper in biblically based studies and open discussions. Please contact Don Zak, Bob Molby, Marvin Vanosdall, Steve Wamberg, Rick Wheatley, Bob Slechta (see church directory to contact Bob S.), or Ron Reed for the Zoom meeting link.

We are currently studying the late Dr. Paul Welter's, *What Would Jesus Ask - How To Use The Jesus Method* Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. Please see Ron Reed for a copy of this book.

**Family Gathering**  
**Friday, February 2**  
**6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



Thank you to those who helped set up and serve for George Meyer's funeral reception.

We appreciate your support during this difficult time in our lives.

They Meyer Family



**Sunset Hills Baptist Church  
Ministry Council  
January 15, 2023**

**(Meeting Cancelled Due to Weather – Written Reports Submitted)**

- **Monthly Treasurer Report:** Doug Larsen – No report provided.

**Business:**

- **Financial:** Terri Rich – Terri Rich has joined the Ministry team.
- **Safety and Security:** Jason Workman – New members to the team, date of meetings changing to first Thursday of the month.
- **Music and Worship:** Jason Workman – Meeting on January 28 after church. Very good Christmas Eve service and Watchnoon Prayer Service.
- **Pastor/Staff Relations:** Ron Reed – The PSRM committee communicated by way of email for this quarter. All are encouraged by what we, as a church, are experiencing in positive Spirit-led growth.
- **Shepherding:** Amber Dale – No new updates. Plan to meet with Pastor Steve to discuss our shut-in members.
- **Missions/Outreach:** Terry Anderson – Volunteer readers needed for Pine Elementary. Plan to provide a meal for the Pine Elementary staff during conferences. An Easter egg hunt coordinator is needed. Consider designated missionary support, start planning for VBS promotion, consider SHBC day at Omaha Storm Chasers game. Telly Woods reported that the new website should be up and ready.
- **Prayer:** Dot North – Watchnoon Prayer Service was a success.
- **Discipleship:** Vacant – No report or updates – Still looking for a coordinator for VBS.
- **Stewardship:** Vacant (Ron Reed interim) – Our team had to postpone its January 11 meeting to reorganize. It is now scheduled for January 25.
- **Ministry Council:**
  - ◇ **Leadership Training – Scheduled for January 22 at 4:30 p.m.**
  - ◇ **Quarterly Business Meeting and Potluck April 28, 2024**

**Next Meeting** – February 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

**Missions and Outreach - Terry Anderson**

Our efforts during February will focus on two activities. In conjunction with the ABMen National Prayer Breakfast, we will have a men's breakfast on Saturday, February 24 beginning at 8:00 a.m. We also will prepare for Volunteers Read Across America Week at Pine Elementary School. Most time critical will be getting volunteers from our congregation registered with Omaha Public Schools by February 5, so they can read to the children at Pine during the week of March 4-8.

Our ministry also plans to help feed the staff at Pine during parent conferences in late March, and to promote our various Easter activities the last week of March.

Longer range plans include promoting Vacation Bible School and organizing a group outing for an Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park. We will continue to consider other missions and outreach opportunities.

**Coming in March**

**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024**  
**GRACE upon GRACE**

**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.