



Sunset Hills Baptist Church
January 2024
Newsletter

Happy New Year! There *Is* Something New Under the Sun!

Now and then someone will ask what I read for devotional times. I have several sources including the Oswald Chambers classic *My Utmost for His Highest*, an Anglican prayer book adapted by Robert Webber for easier use by the modern reader, and a number of daily reading sources including a new-to-me volume by N.T. Wright.

Dear friends gifted me with a book of daily meditations by Henri J.M. Nouwen entitled *You Are the Beloved*, and I think I'm going to really like it. Let me share with you some thoughts from its January 1 entry:

We must learn to live each day, each hour, yes, each minute as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity to make everything new. ...The problem is that to allow our past, which becomes longer and longer each year, to say to us: "You know it all; you have seen it all, be realistic; the future will just be a repeat of the past. Try to survive it as best you can." There are many cunning foxes jumping on our shoulders and whispering in our ears the great lie: "There is nothing new under the sun... don't let yourself be fooled."

When we listen to these foxes, they eventually prove themselves right: our new year, our new day, our new hour become flat, boring, dull, and without anything new.

So what are we to do? First, we must send the foxes back to where they belong in their foxholes. And then we must open our minds and our hearts to the voice that resounds through the valleys and hills of our life saying: "Let me show you where I live among

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my people. My name is 'God-with-you.' I will wipe all the tears from your eyes; There will be no more death or mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone" (Revelation 21: 2-5).

It is a fitting thought as, together, we approach the topic of hope in early 2024. Finding new potential in the life God gives us through Jesus Christ is crucial to our growth in depth and breadth at Sunset Hills. It is a new year with new things joining the familiar. Let's not despise the power of small beginnings. Let's nurture it.

-- Steve Wamberg

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| January 7 | Hope Finds a Home | <i>Romans 5:1-5</i> |
| January 14 | Hope Has a Host | <i>Titus 2</i> |
| January 21 | Hope and Redemption | <i>Galatians 4</i> |
| January 28 | Hope and Atonement | <i>Romans 5:6-17</i> |

Prayers for Health, Healing, and Strength

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mason | Kenny & Julie Vorm | Cheryl Arnold | Maple Crest Staff |
| Anji | Kamla Pala | Desmond | Diana LaCroix |
| Carol Lorenzen | Natalie Vankat | Deanne Caughey | Antonittie Johnson |
| Terry Anson Family | Bob Molby | Patty Martin | George & 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.

Prayer Ministry Team December 2023 Update – Dot North

The prayer meeting for January will be on January 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the church instead of the usual first Monday of the month, due to New Years Day. Guest leaders for January will be Joan and Gary Peterson. It's about Hope!

A reminder to those who might be new at attending Sunset Hills: There are two boxes in the Narthex. One is for confidential prayer requests, and one is for suggestions or comments. The Confidential Prayer Box is a place for prayers that are private and confidential. They are not looked at or read, and they will be burned or shredded after being prayed over. The Suggestions and Comments Box is just to the right of the Confidential Praises and Prayers box. Both boxes are hanging on the wall just beside the bulletin board over by the entrance to the women's restroom (to the right of the coffee/snack bar.)

Volunteers are needed to help with projected activities and projects of the Prayer Ministry. Projects that could use your help as coordinators and/or one time volunteers: Prayer Chain Coordinator; Leader of a Monthly Prayer meeting (first Monday evening of the month); "Sitting With God" Prayer Service (every 3-4 months if possible); Baptist World Day of Prayer - International Women's is the first Friday in March and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries; National Day of Prayer – Annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the US Congress when people are asked to "turn to God in prayer and meditation." Special emphasis prayer gathering(s) and/or prayer study ideas.

Please contact Dot North, Pastor Steve Wamberg, or place your ideas and suggestions in the Suggestions and Comments Box, if you, (or someone you know), would like to help or has a spiritual gift to share.

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Missions and Outreach Ministry by Terry Anderson

The congregation completed a very busy season before Christmas with several successful projects: the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, the warm clothing accessories for Pine Elementary School and the Angel Tree gifts for Maple Crest Care Center.

Because of those efforts, we won't have any special project during January. Instead, there are several in-house reasons to focus on, including the capital projects or the Cabin 9 remodel at camp.

| Date | Attendance | Giving |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| December 3 | 76 | \$6,902.84 |
| December 10 | 74 | \$5,068.82 |
| December 17 | 82 | \$1,114.82 |
| December 24 | 114 | \$2,395.35 |
| December 31 | TBD | TBD |

| SHBC Financial Scoreboard | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| November Income | \$ 13,390 |
| YTD Income | \$187,488 |
| November Expenses | \$ 17,192 |
| YTD Expenses | \$155,472 |

Pastor Staff Relations Ministry January Update - Ron Reed

We welcomed Ashley Rhedin to our staff as our new church custodian. She began work on December 14 following the retirement of Maverick Rushing, who had been our custodian for many years.


All staff employment agreements for 2024 were completed last month.

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Stewardship Ministry 2024 Team January Update - Ron Reed


In January your team will meet to begin a reorganization of the ministry into a few sub-ministries with leaders managing them. The Stewardship Ministry Leader will work with the sub-ministry leaders and represent the ministry while serving on the Ministry Council. There will be leader and task openings for each of you to consider as we come together to serve God in the care of His building and grounds.

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| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 4 Marge Todd |  |
| 7 Amanda White | |
| 11 Dan Todd | |
| 12 Joy Okoruwa | |
| 21 Jacque McDuffie | |
| 22 Linda Wheatley | |
| 23 Aaron White, Jr. | |
| 24 Vicki Loeffler | |
| 24 Lou Riggs | |
| 28 Doug Hamlin | |
| 29 Braden Craig | |

Bible Study

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



Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monday, January 8

6:00 p.m.

Adult Sunday School January Update - Ron Reed

On January 7 we will begin the series showing of *The Chosen*. "A Show That Explores Jesus Through the Eyes of Those That Knew Him." (Angel Studios) "A show tens of millions of people won't stop talking about". 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.

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Women Mentoring Women

January 8 and 22

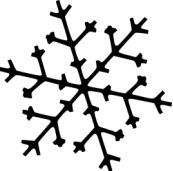
6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Family Gathering

Friday, January 5

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.




Men's Study Group January 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.

Thank you so very much for the generous love gift for Pastor Appreciation month, totally unexpected. And, as well, for the meal brought to us back in August when I had my fall. We were grateful.

Pastor Rick and Linda Wheatley



Sunset Hills Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 7

Following the morning Worship Service

**Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Ministry Council Minutes
December 18, 2023**

Attendees: Rev. Steve Wamberg; Music/Worship and Security/Safety, Rev. Jason Workman; Moderator, Diane Workman; Prayer, Dot North; Church Clerk, Becki Pike; Shepherding, Amber Dale; Missions/Outreach, Terry Anderson

Devotion and Prayer: Rev. Wamberg - *Numbers 24:16 & 17*

Monthly Treasurer Report: Doug Larsen had printed off a report in his absence

Business:

Safety and Security: Rev. Jason Workman

- Lighting downstairs has been fixed. Jason is talking to all groups that use the church to make sure that they are cleaning up after themselves and that all doors inside are locked when they leave. Looking at changing our current internet provider.

Music and Worship: Rev. Jason Workman

- New Years Eve service is planned and just looking for scripture readers. Looking at a sound system to use outdoors for when we have service outside.

Pastor/Staff Relations: Ron Reed

- In November we initially had four people expressing interest in the Church Custodian position. Two did not follow up. Two were interviewed but one felt they needed more pay than Maverick was receiving, which was at the top of the pay scale locally and regionally. The other was Ashley Rhedin. Both had past experience.
- Our PSRM Committee was informed about the two who interviewed and agreed that Ashely would be good for the position. Ron met with her to complete the employment agreement, and later for orientation. She will work 3 hours per week on either Thursday or Friday early evenings. Doug Larsen and Ron Reed met on December 9 to enter her into the payroll system.

Shepherding: Amber Dale

- Bob Molby has joined the group that visits members and visitors not able to attend service in person.

Missions/Outreach: Terry Anderson

- Terry will meet with Rick Wheatley to discuss outreach ideas.

Prayer: Dot North

- Going forward someone different will lead the prayer meetings held once a month. Going to put reminders in the newsletter and bulletin for *Chosen* Study starting January 7 in Adult Sunday School Class.

Ministry Council:

- Plan January Annual report/meeting after church January 7 - will be held in sanctuary
- Review Pastor's plans and agenda for the coming year. He has a list of seven areas that he would like to work on and improve.
- 2024 Goal - Review Church Constitution and policies for all ministries. Council will be working on updating these next year.
- Set Yearly Agenda (dates, times, etc. for Sunset Hills activities)
 - ◊ Tentative date for VBS is June 8, 2024 and Trunk or Treat October 27, 2024
- Review old programs, what should be kept and what are new goals?
- January, February, March Council/Ministry preparations

Discipleship: Vacant

- We need to find a leader for VBS next year.

Stewardship: Vacant (Ron Reed interim)

- The team met last month to discuss the serious need for a new ministry leader. Many shared thoughts about how the ministry can be better managed. The Holy Spirit's presence was experienced. Ron was asked to inform them of all the Stewardship Ministry's responsibilities, and relative details of those responsibilities. It was shared that no one person wants to do all of this. Our goal is to meet in January to reorganize the Stewardship Ministry into Stewardship sub-ministries, with volunteer leaders and team members for each. The Ministry Leader will work with the sub-ministry leaders to better manage the responsibilities and represent the ministry while serving on the Ministry Council.
- It has been suggested that the Safety and Security Ministry should have the building's alarm system and security code responsibilities.

Prayer

Next Meeting – January 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

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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.