

The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November, 2020

The Shepherd's Crook
is published for GSPC
members and friends.
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GRATITUDE as ACTION with a small CHALLENGE thrown in...

I have come to understand that I do not need to feel grateful in order to be grateful. Unfortunately, too often in our society terms like “gratitude” and “love” come to be understood or perceived primarily as emotional experiences or responses. Also, from this perspective, if things seem to be going badly for us, it’s difficult to be grateful.

I ended up having an epiphany of sorts on this subject. I was having a conversation with a friend of mine...she happens to be a recovering alcoholic in Alcoholics Anonymous - who told me in response to a comment I made about feeling grateful that gratitude is an action and something we practice. I learned that it didn’t matter or depend on whether I was feeling grateful. While it is perfectly appropriate and important to verbally express my gratitude to God or others, it means very little if I’m not showing or living it. I am also learning and experiencing that it’s more meaningful and rewarding when I do something as an act of gratitude-or love-without expecting some kind of response or reward.

I discovered the quote by Thomas Merton on gratitude, which I also found quite helpful: “*Gratitude is more than a mental exercise, more than a formula of words. We cannot be satisfied to make a mental note of things, which God has done for us, and then perfunctorily thank God for favors received. To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything God has given us...and God has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of love; every moment of existence is grace, for it brings with us immense graces. Gratitude there fore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder, and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference...gratitude is therefore the heart of the Christian life.*”

(continued)

*So come play with me and Teddie and join us in the
Attitude of Gratitude challenge!*

In the 25 days leading up to Thanksgiving, I invite you to name the people, experiences and gifts for which you're most thankful. Please post a new I'm grateful/thankful for and/or send a picture too...on Good Shepherd's Facebook page or send to office@thegoodshepherd.org or to me at Revmo25@gmail.com and we will post for you. Sometimes all we need is a little reminder to count our blessings.

With Gratitude for all of you ~ Pastor Sheri

Here are a few more ideas to keep your attitude of gratitude going:

- Wake up every day and express to yourself what you are grateful for.
- Start a gratitude journal – Express gratitude in this journal every night by noting the things that you are grateful for, proud of, and excited about.
- Acknowledge yourself for what you have done and accomplished in the last day/week/month/year. Instead of comparing yourself to others, give yourself credit for the big and small things you have been doing!

Acknowledge other people and thank them for inspiring/helping/supporting you – oftentimes people wait their whole lives to be acknowledged (and yet it happens far too infrequently)!

<http://gratitudechallenge.com/downloads/gratitude-calendar.pdf>

<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=gratitude&c=apps>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-to-have-an-attitude-of-gratitude_b_8644102

-Pastor Sheri

WHY I VOTE

People I have known over the years offer many reasons for not voting, from “the whole system is corrupt” to “my vote doesn’t make any difference.” Others vote as if democracy depends on it. Low voter turnout is generally a sign of a demoralized society, and people of power feed on that demoralization, knowing that they can then easily gerrymander, suppress and limit voting rights, and give elections to the rule of money and lobbyists...and there is little outcry, because there is so little trust or even interest in the whole system. As Richard Rohr, Spiritual writer and Franciscan Friar writes, “The powers that control society are quite happy that it’s always minorities of all stripes that first feel this powerlessness and this demoralization. Since the early days of representative government, it’s been believed that democracy would only work if there were a truly free and informed citizenry. We presently seem to lack both in the U.S. This is why voting is a deeply moral act for me...in rebuilding confidence and encouraging and intelligent and hope-filled society. It’s also a decisive act of Christian faith that I matter, society matters, justice matters, and others matter.”

I vote because if I don’t, I will have failed to do my part in contributing to a better tomorrow. Voting is an imperative for faithful citizenship and Christian discipleship. Adam Russell Taylor wrote; “It’s both a weapon for how we combat injustice and a renewable resource for how we restrain evil and advance the common good.” Abdicating this civic right and religious responsibility dishonors those who fought so hard for it and jeopardizes our very future. For those of you who are disillusioned with your choices remember that a non-vote is actually a vote for the status quo. We are always faced with imperfect choices, and the kingdom of god is never on the ballot. But we must use our spiritual discernment and prudential judgment to chose candidates who we believe most share our values, embrace our priorities, and will be best able to implement policies that prioritize those in need.

Congressman John Lewis said, “The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society.” We must all not only utilize this powerful tool, we must use it wisely so that together we elect leaders capable of and committed to advancing liberty and justice for all and transforming our nation’s broken politics.

-Pastor Sheri



Guatemala Mission Partnership – Virtual Fundraiser November 7

The 2nd Annual GMP Celebration & Fundraiser is a virtual video this year! We're celebrating two successful water partners. And raising funds to install a water purification system for [Camotan Medical Clinic](#). This busy clinic serves the rural small town and the poorest of the poor in the mountain villages. The patients and families are in need of clean and safe water to combat serious water-borne illnesses.

We invite you to contribute early starting Friday October 30 on the [GMP website](#). You'll also see a sneak video peak of the local doctor who founded the clinic. The entire video premieres on YouTube and Facebook on Friday November 7.

Your contribution will help us to bring clean and safe water to the thirsty. You're invited to change the health of these communities for generations to come.



A Message from the Office

Peace and blessing to you all!

It's nice to be back in the office in our newly completed building. I'm now working in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 am - 2 pm and on Tuesday from 9 am to noon. I'm working from home on Fridays from 9 to 2 and on Sunday morning during our service and coffee hour times. - Teddie

The Food Bank needs donations of pet food, toilet paper, laundry detergent, large-size diapers, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and holiday food items.



Prayer Needs

Bill and Gayle Hoffman, Sue Holland, Michelle Watson
Our military men & women
Our first responders & health care workers
Clients of our Food Bank
Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care (HCOC) in Zimbabwe
Guatemala Mission Partnership
Highlands Camp and Retreat Center
Our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.



November Birthdays

Maria Bond	11/7
Deborah Hubner	11/8
Paul Coleman	11/11
Debbie Rouse	11/13
James Steward	11/20
Mary Ann Gines	11/23

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Worship 10:00 a.m. online on Facebook and
www.thegoodshepherd.org



To bring the love
and teachings of Christ
to our community by:



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcoming all,
Serving together, and
Growing in faith.



Mission Statement
Revised and Adopted September 2018