

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY
ANNUAL REPORT**

2016

*Showing the way to Christ...
living the love of Christ*



Pastor's intro

Grace to you and peace!

It is my honor and pleasure to report to you on these first six months of ministry together as Shepherd of the Valley. To provide some structure, I have pulled out a form called "Definition of Compensation, Benefits and Responsibilities." This is the addendum to my letter of call - a generic, though meaningful, description of our mutual expectations – which names some specific mutual responsibilities. So, I begin by expressing my thanks and appreciation for your encouragement and support through:

- An attitude of welcoming; caring (prayer) for me and my family; orientation to the community;
 - For the welcome basket, the installation, coming to our house blessing, informal conversations about all things local, spending time with Grace and Richard, and your extraordinarily generous Christmas gift – THANK YOU! Your continued welcome is more than just an attitude – it comes through in concrete actions!
- Strong lay leadership and fellowship;
 - As we are working through making changes in our congregational structure to reflect the way we actually function, it has become apparent that the majority of the congregation leads in some way (even if not in an official role) and that you enjoy opportunities for fellowship. The following pages of this annual report reflect the way that so many of you live out this commitment.
- Faithfully giving of your treasures, time and talents to meet financial and spiritual needs;
 - Stewardship happens at SOV year-round and your generosity extends far beyond the needs of the congregation, touching the broader community. I am greatly encouraged that we ended the year in the financial and spiritual position we are in: new people worshipping with us regularly, receiving your feedback regarding your spiritual needs and encountering the many gifts (some that you haven't yet shared I'm sure) present among us.
- Attending and participating in worship and ministry
 - I've never shown up to a worship service or ministry event and been the only one there! While it is true that where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, he is there... it's great to see so many people on Sunday mornings, at Advent Wednesday prayer services and doing ministry around the community.
- Supporting me in maintaining a healthy work/life balance
 - When the needs of my family required me to be especially present, I could trust that things at SOV would not fall apart. I've had the incredible privilege of knowing that sometimes my mere presence has been appreciated and valuable. I also feel that we are building a sense of trust so you know that you can count on me and I know my time is respected. Nothing can feel more supportive. Thank you.

Your encouragement and support has allowed me to give special attention to items named as priorities for SOV:

- Outreach and Evangelism to the community to grow our congregation and ministries
 - Outreach and Evangelism meetings have been spiritually nourishing, a space where differing opinions and ideas always seem to come together into a plan and a grounding time to remind us of why we are church. During the in-reach and out-reach events reported on in the report submitted by Cathy Mitchell, I've been learning what is important to SOV and what are some of our growing edges. Growth is important numerically, as well as in terms of depth.
- Meaningful and inspiring worship; preaching with life applications; fostering spiritual growth
 - I have heard pastors bemoan the fact that they find it hard to worship themselves when they are leading worship. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services work together for me to be able to preach the gospel in ways that apply to what people may be dealing with in their lives. I listen to what strikes people from the upcoming reading and then listen for how God is inviting me to speak words of law and gospel. This results in an experience each Sunday of hearing how much God has spoken through me to you. I pray that you are growing spiritually through worship and conversations that follow as much as I am!
- Support of ministries and leaders, providing concrete connections between ministries
 - It's become clear to me that the connection between ministries and a connection to the overall mission of SOV is deeply needed. I have spent a good amount of time learning the ministry structure and providing support as needed for each one. Many, of course, operate smoothly as they have become well-oiled machines. Yet some continue to function because of the hard work of one or two. My desire for the upcoming years is to foster the practical connections (like scheduling) as well as the spiritual connection to SOV as a whole.
- Spiritual care, connection and encouragement of our congregation members
 - When I set my ambitious goal of meeting with each member/family before Advent of 2016, I was relatively confident that I could accomplish it. Then, of course, life happened, and my time for these visits became much more limited. Yet I'm grateful to have had conversations (either scheduled visits, ad hoc individual conversations, pastoral care encounters or small group interactions) with just about every regular worshipping member. I'm still striving to have an intentional visit or conversation with each of the 96 confirmed voting members of SOV. Stay tuned!
- Support of longer term mission of finding/developing a more adequate home for SOV
 - I meet about once a month with pastors of some area congregations (Union Congregational Church in Groton, Christian Union in West Groton, St. Andrew's in Ayer, Federated Church in Ayer) not only to build collegiality but also to explore possibilities for SOV's next home. Through these relationships, we've been able to rule out some possibilities, brainstorm about ideas I wouldn't otherwise know about and gain perspective on Church in this neck of the woods. All of these will help to inform future conversations and decisions about our space.
- Participation in and support of youth mission trips, VBS, GrotonFest and similar outreach activities

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- My first official act as your pastor was attending the Group Mission Trip with the high schoolers in Reading, PA. I had a week to settle in after my first Sunday before we began VBS at the Grange. As I was handing out dog bones at Groton Fest inviting our canine friends to the Blessing of the Animals a few weeks later, I had no idea that we'd have our own dog, Munchkin, by then! Grace still recalls her dad being an angel in the Follow the Star event we held before heading over to the Groton Community Tree lighting. I no longer feel as guilty for forgetting reusable bags at the grocery store because then I'll have more for crocheting mats for the homeless! These activities have served both to reach out to the community and strengthen the community of SOV.
- Participation in and support of confirmation programs, adult education class and new members class
 - While we did not hold a new members class in 2016, the confirmation classes I've taught with Janet Vesper and the Sunday morning adult education classes have been full of great faith sharing, learning and even some friendly debate. SOV is truly blessed with gifted leaders to make these happen!

This year there were no baptisms, affirmations of baptism (confirmation) or deaths in the congregation. We gratefully received Claudia Bissett into membership on Reformation Sunday, October 20, 2016. Tamara Howes transferred to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Grosse Ile, MI and Bob and Diane Guerin transferred to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Kingston, RI. I am deeply grateful for their ministry here and know the mark they left even though I've never met Tamara and only had a few conversations with Diane and Bob.

May the stories of ministry as told in the commission and ministry reports strengthen and encourage you. While at times it may have felt like there weren't enough people, I always heard a story or two of the amazing things God did with those who were gathered. The ministry to which we are all called through our baptism and which we affirm as members of SOV is a tall order:

To live among God's faithful people,

to hear God's word and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus and

to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

My call as your pastor is to support and equip you in this baptismal call. And we all can only answer our calls by God's grace. It is this grace and the peace that comes from soaking it up that I offer to you each Sunday and which God provides to us unconditionally, no matter what. May this encouragement strengthen and keep you as we do life together.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Gaeta

SPIRITUAL COMMISSION

Worship Ministry Annual Report

On Sunday mornings, our worship used the following settings:

- Epiphany: Light of Christ from Augsburg Fortress Press
- Lenten season: Setting #4 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)
- Easter season: “Now the Feast” by Marty Haugen
- Summer: Setting #8 ELW
- Fall: Setting #8 from ELW
- Advent: Light of Christ from Augsburg Fortress Press

Our musicians are Jeanne Iburg and Mary Sletten on piano, with Claudia Bissett frequently on flute since she rejoined the congregation, and joined by the choir for special anthems. Practice sessions for the choir were held on Sundays and occasional Thursdays to prepare for these offerings.

Our Transitional Pastor, Jerry Janisko, led most of our services until July, when we welcomed Susan Gaeta as our permanent pastor.

Come and Seek and Come and Be Fed services continued in suspension throughout the year.

On Feb. 7, the Congregation approved the expenditure of up to \$8000.00 to purchase a new piano. Mary Sletten and Jeanne Iburg researched the options at Darrel's Music Hall in Nashua and selected a Yamaha hybrid with the latest technology. The piano was in place by the following week.

On February 28, we welcomed back to SOV Pastor John Nieman to lead us in worship.

During Holy Week we participated in the following services:

- On Palm Sunday we focused on the theme of Christ's triumphant journey into Jerusalem, where traditionally and elsewhere the church switches quickly from Palms to Passion in the service. We stayed with the former theme throughout the service.
- On Holy Thursday, we celebrated the Lord's Supper by observing a traditional Seder meal followed by a Holy Communion Service and pot luck meal.
- The Good Friday service focused on the Passion of Our Lord, in a meditative guided reflection on Biblical events during our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion. We maintained a sense of a Tenebrae service by using candles.
- Because of the scarcity of resources and apparent interest, we suspended the Easter Vigil service this year.

On April 24, with Pastor Jerry away, Carol Chodorow led the congregation in a service of Word and Music.

On May 22, Pastor Susan Gaeta led us in worship and preached the sermon as part of the candidacy process.

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Rally Day was held on September 11, with a blessing of backpacks and briefcases. On the following Sunday, September 18, we returned to our 10:15 worship time.

On September 18, we also celebrated the installation of Pastor Gaeta with a worship service at 5:00pm. The congregation was strongly present, as were the ELCA clergy of the area, Pastor Gail Miller of the UCC church in Groton, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Enger Muteteke, a friend of Pastor Gaeta's. After the service, we shared in substantial finger-food refreshments. Given the hour, the refreshments were very well received and needed.

Our Blessing of the Animals Service was held on October 9 at Helene's barn. Attendance was somewhat sparse, in spite of a major promotional activity at Groton Fest. Helene has indicated that she is moving to France in the spring and we probably won't have access to her barn in the future.

On October 30, we celebrated Reformation Sunday. There were no confirmands, but we welcomed Claudia Bissett back as a member of SOV. The choir offered us a beautiful rendition of The Prayer by Sager/Foster. Then we sang the Offertory hymn, Let My Prayer Rise Up, as a round.

On Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 20, the beginning of the Worship Service (the Service of the Word), Pastor Gaeta led us in a celebration of Christ as our King throughout the Liturgical Year. The service is based on the resource, Christ is Our King, A Celebration of Christ's Reign in the Seasons of the Church, by Arden Mead ©2001 by Creative Communications for the Parish.

During Advent, we lit the Advent wreath at the beginning of the service, singing verses of Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah. We were happy to include two new families in this rite, including our Pastor and her family.

For Christmas Eve, we held a single service, with caroling that began at 4:30, followed by the service at 5:00. This single service was well attended. As Christmas day was a Sunday, we held a Christmas day service at 10:15. The attendance was somewhat larger than normally seen on Christmas day services at SOV.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Boen

Prayer Ministry Annual Report

Submitted by Karen Sheldon, Prayer Ministry Leader

Karen Sheldon became Prayer Ministry Leader in October. We Thank Margaret Doyle for her service as leader for two terms!

The Prayer List is now being coordinated by Pastor Gaeta and Cathy Drescher.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service highlights:

- The weekly prayer service used the Evening Prayer (Vespers) service found in the ELW. This was a spoken service and included the daily lectionary readings.

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- Lenten Service series was presented from Sundays and Seasons entitled “Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism”. This was structured around the Evening Prayer (Vespers) service. Patrick Doyle served as the pianist, and Carol Chodorow was cantor. The focus each week was a portion of the baptismal covenant from the ELW order for Affirmation of Baptism.
- Many in the congregation joined in reading of **Bearing Fruit: Devotions for Lent 2016**
- Summer saw the service continue with a simple format as Pastor Gaeta joined us and became acclimated. The group also began to study the upcoming Sunday Gospel passage during the Scripture reflection time in the service.
- For the season of Advent the prayer service utilized the **Holden Evening Prayer**. This proved to be quite popular and consideration is being given to using it again for Lent 2017.

Prayer Shawl highlights:

- Linda Prince continues as Prayer Shawl leader.
- The Prayer Shawl group presented fourteen prayer shawls and blankets during the year. Six of these were for our high school graduates.
- The Prayer Shawl group prepared nine care packages for our college freshmen (includes some kids who didn't get a package last year due to delaying their start of college, etc) The Prayer Ministry contributed toward the cost of musical CD's for each package.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Sheldon

FAITH IN ACTION COMMISSION

Servant Ministry

Although 2016 did not include the traditional Silent Auction, it was not an idle one for Servant Ministry.

- Thanks to the congregation's generosity, five Groton seniors got holiday baskets.
- Copious amounts of food were donated to PACH (Pepperell Aide from Community to Home) at Thanksgiving, and to Loaves and Fishes at Christmas.
- The VBS children also gave food to Loaves and Fishes in July, a notoriously skinny time for the pantry.
- 18 elementary school children received the double gifts of a necessity and a pleasure at Christmas.
- A collection taken provided RIM (Refugee and Immigration Ministry) with the needed funds to qualify our church cluster for a \$500 matching grant. The money has been used to defray Tatiana's expenses.

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There has been a steady trickle of supplies (cleaning supplies, school backpack items) going to Transitions at Devens.

Thank you, all of you,

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Martel

Care Giving Ministry

The Care Giving Ministry does not have specific members. Members of SOV come forward when they hear of a need that they can fulfill.

This year we started a new ministry of making mats for the homeless from plastic grocery bags. We met 4 times to prepare the bags to be crocheted into mats.

1. at Stefanie Heiter's home
2. at the Grange, inviting the community (we had 4 visitors)
3. during a prayer shawl ministry meeting –thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their support
4. as part of a Valley Girls evening

The intention was to have many mats ready to bring to CityReach in January 2017. We learned, though, that the mats take more time to create than anticipated. We have 3 mats finished and are talking about possibly donating mats locally.

We will be continuing this ministry, as many are still interested and eager for a next get-together. The plan is to donate mats when they are finished, to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Drescher, Care Giving Ministry Leader

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry 2016 Annual Report, submitted by Margaret Doyle

Sunday School Highlights:

- During the first half of 2016, we completed our Jesse Tree curriculum, a series of two week units in which we explored the Bible stories through skits (Week 1) and the crafting of Jesse Tree ornaments

(Week 2). [The name is taken from Isaiah 1:1 in which Jesus is referred to as a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, the father of David. Through the lineage of his earthly father Joseph, Jesus is a descendant of both Jesse and King David (Matthew 1).]

Our study units included: Joseph, son of Jacob (coat of many colors), Moses (baby Moses in a basket), King David (harp), and Joseph, Jesus' earthly father (carpenter's saw).

- At our end-of-year Pancake Breakfast celebration on June 19th, we honored SOV's fifth grade graduate Raika Kamalaraj. The children also received Jesse Tree stands (on which to hang the ornaments) crafted by Glenn Weiland.
- In the fall, we began a series of Old Testament lessons using the "Witness" curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress.
- On December 4th, we bid farewell and Godspeed to the Ramsey family, just prior to their move to South Carolina. Andrew Ramsey (5th grade) has attended Sunday School at SOV since his preschool years.

Other Events (in participation with SOV's Outreach Ministry and Youth Ministry):

- March 19th: Twenty children (two from SOV) and their families attended our 10th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Cathy Mitchell told the Easter story using enlarged pictures of scenes from Holy Week. She invited the children to come forward and identify certain things in the pictures.
- July 24th – 29th: At "Egypt" VBS (our 17th annual program for the community), we journeyed with Joseph "from prison to palace" in ancient Egypt. There were twenty-two children in attendance (three from SOV) and twenty-one youth/young adults on staff along with about a dozen adults. As we studied the story of Jacob's son Joseph, we learned that God gives us hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness and a family. During the closing celebration on Friday, we honored the Groton Police Department as part of the extended family which is our community. Detective Rachael Mead and Deputy Chief James Cullen were in attendance. We thanked them for their service and presented them with a special over-sized Tree of Life card complete with the children's thumbprints as leaves on the tree. In conjunction with the congregation, we did two VBS service projects – a food drive for Loaves & Fishes, and a spare change collection for ELCA World Hunger which totaled \$200.
- December 4th: several children and their family members attended our 2nd Annual "Follow the Christmas Star" event for the community in which we told the nativity story through a pageant with audience participation. Following the pageant, the children made star-shaped ornaments and enjoyed star-shaped cookies and other goodies.

Youth Ministry

NEW is the definitive adjective for this year's youth ministry. Our NEW pastor went on the high school mission trip to Reading Pennsylvania, even before she began preaching at Shepherd of the Valley. Our

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middle school group served in NEWark, NEW York with Week of Hope. Thanks to Stefanie Heiter, we had a brand NEW and very colorful fund raiser, decorative plates.

Group has a variety of ways in which youth can show the love of Christ through serving. In Reading this year, Group partnered with a local aid association for veterans, so that all the homes where our 14 high school youth and 4 adult leaders painted, plastered, and built ramps belonged to veterans. Those participating were Lauren and Justin Duhamel, Sam Ferraro, Greg, Geoff and Scott Kidger, Laura, Amanda, Alex and Scott Wilson, Jenna Bailey, Caitlin Tobies, Mitchell Clark-Heiter, Nicky Lambert, Olivia Hunt, Kaitlyn and Kathleen Avison, and Pastor Gaeta. In July the middle schoolers went to NEWark, NEW York to do community service with Week of Hope. Sean Doyle's crew worked at a private residence. Gavin Duhamel served at a nearby Vacation Bible School. Patrick Doyle got to use his piano skills at a local nursing home and with the worship band. Andy Sheldon and Janet Vesper planted flowers, weeded beds, and did a lot of watering at Trail of Hope, a completely handicap accessible community garden.

In 2017 the high schoolers' totally NEW site will be NEWark Valley, NEW York, which surprisingly is 102 miles from NEWark, NEW York where the middle schoolers were in 2016. Pastor Gaeta will lead the middle schoolers in urban ministry in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of the Steinbruck Center. Here is their mission statement:

The Steinbruck Center is a ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church that provides transformative urban immersion experiences for groups through a combination of education, direct service, experiential learning, critical analysis, and reflection. We accompany people on their social justice journey by providing opportunities and spaces for meaningful service and mutual transformation. We seek to inspire participants to engage in self-reflection and become agents of change to address root causes of poverty in their home communities.

Big House is our high school youth group. It is open to all local youth in grades 8-12. We meet at one of the youth's homes for learning, fellowship, games, and, of course, food. The leaders are Pastor Gaeta, Wayne Twombly and Stefanie Heiter.

Confirmation class welcomes all youth in grades 6-8. This year's curriculum is the NEW Testament. Our NEW approach, introduced by Pastor Gaeta, is to do a study of each book in the NEW Testament.

Not everything the youth did this year was NEW. Once again, we collected a trailer-full of clothes to distribute to the homeless of Boston through City Reach. In February we had fun in the snow on the Ski Weekend at Camp Calumet and King Pine Resort, while in May we worked for our supper raking the beach and toting the boats at the Spring Clean Up Weekend. Our two spring fund raisers were the Spaghetti Supper in April and the car wash in May. At the beginning of December, we had a marathon morning filling 103 jars and decorating over 30 plates.

Reformation Sunday this year marked the start of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The confirmation class invited the entire congregation to join them in viewing the film, *Luther*.

It's nothing NEW that it takes a whole church to run a youth ministry program. You have opened your homes to us for meetings and activities, made our sauce and cooked our pasta for the Spaghetti Supper, driven us to Calumet, Boston, NEW York and Pennsylvania, bought our jars of soup, brownies, dog biscuits and bath salts, and most of all prayed for us throughout the year. Thank you on behalf of the entire Youth Ministry Team and all the youth and friends of Shepherd of the Valley.

Blessings,

Janet K Vesper for the Middle and High School Youth Leadership Teams

Adult Discipleship

Fall 2015: The group studied the lesser prophets from the last 6 books of the Old Testament starting with Nahum, Habakkuk, Zepaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Complementary materials is taken from The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Minor Prophets vol. 1, 2, and 3.

Advent 2015: The group study included some of the lesser characters involved in the birth of Jesus. Materials were taken from the book Characters Around the Cradle : by Tom Houston. We studied the Shepherds, the Magi, and Luke's role in writing the Gospels, before taking a hiatus for Christmas and New Year's.

Winter - Spring 2016: The group engaged in a 12 study series of Daniel by Douglas Connelly Spiritual Living in a Secular World. We completed the last study on 4/10/2016. Spring until summer hiatus, the group completed lessons taken from the fruit of the Spirit devotional series by Robert Strand.

Summer 2016: Hiatus

Fall 2016- Advent: The group studied completed a nine study series by Juanita Ryan, The 23rd Psalm, The Lord, Our Shepherd.

Submitted by Kate Aragon

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Hospitality Ministry

Throughout 2016, as Hospitality Ministry Leader, I continued to support events that provided hospitality to our congregation as well as to our community. My primary goal was to always have the items we need to serve refreshments, that is, keeping the SOV kitchen cabinet, as well as the bathrooms, stocked with necessary items. Being mindful of SOV's Hospitality budget, I have continued my communication with my Grange contact person, Brad Smith, requesting their continued sharing of supplies that are used mutually by SOV membership as well as the growing number of other people renting the Grange. (supplies needed for the kitchen and the two bathrooms, dish soap, paper towels, hand soap, TP) I

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continue to have a good relationship with Brad working together to address any issues that arise. As a result of our discussion last year of securing a smaller coffee pot to prevent wasting coffee, Carol Chodorow generously has "temporarily" donated a smaller percolator for our use. I believe this has helped us use and waste less coffee each Sunday.

Hospitality Ministry helped coordinate finger foods for our 2016 congregational meetings (February 7, May 22, October 16, 2016) requesting finger foods from the congregation, setup and clean up. Additionally, helped secure the Groton Senior Center for a meet and greet for our potential new pastor: Pastor Gaeta and her family (May 21, 2016). We had a wonderful pot luck dinner which our membership contributed to with wonderful, diverse food items. Coordinated set up and clean up with help from members. At Pastor Gaeta installation as our new Pastor I coordinated the set up for the catered event as well as the cleanup with help of our membership.

An additional responsibility has been and will continue to be contacting my Grange contact, Brad with "extra" rental date requests from our SOV ministries, such as Easter Egg Hunt, Progressive dinner, etc. or a change in scheduled date (IE council meetings). With any additional rental time, it has been requested that I ask Brad what the extra rental charge will be so the financial officer can send the correct rental amount monthly.

For 2017, Hospitality will continue to purchase needed items at the best price possible always being mindful of our limited budget.

Respectfully Submitted, Denise Boyd

Evangelism Ministry

Evangelism Outreach Annual Report 2016

Googling "Evangelism" I came up with the following: Winning or revival of personal commitment to Christ; the process of preaching or sharing the Gospel.

A search of the word "Outreach" gave this definition: We connect with God about people and He uses us to communicate the good news of salvation to people.

This is a huge and ongoing project which requires the efforts of the entire Church- both on an individual level (inviting people to join us) as well on a more Global level ...many people, especially the youth, while not members of the committee are certainly spreading Christ's love thru all their acts of care and giving.

Thank you to all the people who work so hard to share God's love through both in Church hospitality activities that bring us closer together as a Church and the activities that reach out into the community.

We have been thrilled to welcome some new members into our Church. We hope to work to be able to welcome many more.

Evangelism/Outreach promoted or assisted with the following:

- Basics for women at Transitions- providing personal and cleaning material for women who move in hastily; English instruction for people who speak foreign languages.
- Assistance with the Easter Egg Hunt for children within our church and in the community
- Assistance to Cathy Drescher with the Mat Program- for the homeless- helped with a Saturday morning event in June to work on mats.
- “Follow the Star” Advent program for children
- Groton Fest
- Back Pack Program- weekend food for needy school children in Ayer/Shirley

In Church activities to promote fellowship: Valley Girl’s event at Stefanie Heiter’s: Pot luck and discussion of readings, scriptures that were meaningful to attendees

- Progressive dinner
- Church picnic at Mirror Lake
- Valley Girl’s event at Kathy Johnson’s - catered dinner, discussion and work on mats for the homeless

Respectfully submitted,
C. Mitchell

RESOURCES COMMISSION

Stewardship Ministry

We started the stewardship drive on November 13th. This year the theme was “Live the One”.

Three members of the congregation presented “Temple Talks” sharing how someone they helped changed and enriched their life. Dedication Sunday was December 4th. This year we have 29 pledging families. Members also completed Time and Talent forms volunteering their time to ministries in the congregation.

Glenn Weiland

Building Committee Report

No activity this year.

Facilities Report

For 2016 my main responsibility has been to contact the Grange (Brad) with reports of animal activity (or evidence of) in various locations in the building-predominately the kitchen area. In late fall it became apparent that there was a larger animal (squirrel,etc) that had made its way into the back area of the first floor via a large whole in the floor and chewed on our alter. As a result the Grange set up traps in the basement and did capture the culprit.

Also at one point during the year the front door lock was no longer locking and so I requested a new

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lock or a repair be completed in order to secure the Grange. This was completed by the Grange membership.

Respectfully submitted Denise Boyd

Memorial Report

None.