



*Echoes from the Hills*  
*April 2018*  
*Shepherd of the Hills UMC*  
*St. George, Utah*



***Knowing Christ and Making Him Known, Serving Christ by Serving Others***

**MICHAEL'S MUSINGS**

Easter season has drawn to a close, the time of Lent and its spiritual preparation is beginning to fade. What was it all about, one might ask? Well, being made ready to go to work on behalf of Jesus. Standing arm in arm with the Disciples of Christ, opening up paths of grace and hope for all to discover! Now, it is time to carry the light and love of Jesus to the world.

**The coming days will find us in the usual spaces of service, but there will be so many other opportunities to grow, to learn, to pray, to give and to stand on behalf of Christ with the saints of SHUMC!** Challenges await. Shifts in grace and need lie before us. But I am ready to celebrate these challenges **because I believe in the many people who say yes to the call of Christ upon their lives.** It is in these people I trust to help witness to our city, our nation and the world, the love of Christ at work!

The witness of those who made our Holy week so inspiring is a great place to start, like **the Choir and its leader, Lily Alo.** They were a busy collective, and everywhere they served the praises of Christ, even in his darkness, were lifted up. **The Wesley Ringers sure got it done!** Practicing often two times a week, with several members driving great distances to be a part of this group makes it a group of dedication and sacrifice. **The guys who built the Bell cart** for the Ringers which will make transporting the many bells and tables a much easier task. **The Worship team and the Last Supper guys and gal didn't just show up on Thursday;** they had several practices and the hours the Worship Team put in on this endeavor are to be celebrated. **The Missions Team stepped into the duties of grace by helping our youth raise money for their SSP journeys.** Over a \$1000 actually. And that means **thank you to all the wonderful folk who came to that breakfast, freely sharing and giving so that our youth can go and serve as our lights of hope!**

Week in and week out, so many offer so much to make our ministry vital and active. Yes, there is a core who tend to be very present (rule of thumb, 20% usually do 80% of the work of the ministry), but when we are at our best the Church shines because all of us are sharing and grateful for the work being done at SHUMC! Thanks to all who have, who are and who will be making our ministry not just a better place, but also a glorious witness to Christ and his work of love!

See you in worship,  
Rev. Michael

## MESSAGE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

After three months, I feel that I am finally getting my legs under me and have a better understanding of the role of Lay Leader. Attending most of the ministry team meetings, as well as serving on SPR, Finance and the Administrative Council, I am seeing the strength, talent, and determination of not only the team leaders, but each member as well. There are so many loving and caring individuals at SHUMC who give unconditionally.

There is so much energy in our community at SHUMC! In the teams, the small groups, the staff. And most importantly, the congregation. So many times at our team meetings I hear the questions: What do we do well? What do we need to improve upon? Are we serving the needs of our congregation? How do we tell our story to the St. George community? Above all, are we equipping those who want to know Christ and make him known and to serve Christ by serving others.

I ask you this: if SHUMC is fulfilling your needs, please tell Michael and the staff. They eat, sleep, and breath this. If you feel there are needs that are not being fulfilled, please let me know. I have been called to be your liaison and have committed to Christ to fulfill that calling.

Help us make those who are looking for a place to worship feel restored, reminded, and remembered. And let us offer hope, life and love of others.

Steve Fassler

## CONDENSED FINANCE REPORT - February 2018

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b><u>February 2018</u></b>	<b><u>YTD 2018</u></b>
Pledges & Loose Plate	20,029.00	43,775.00
Designated UMCOR	35.00	109.00
Income -- Other	1,541.47	2,995.35
<b>Total Ordinary Income</b>	<b>20,064.00</b>	<b>43,884.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,605.47</b>	<b>46,879.35</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Finance	5,850.45	17,038.14
Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00
Education	1,052.26	1,134.06
Evangelism	585.60	728.76
Missions	450.00	669.85
Music	87.56	349.01
Worship	531.92	1,142.11
Staff Parish	14,637.61	35,214.34
Trustees	4,998.80	14,971.63
Other Expense	1,611.63	4,421.18
<b>Total Ordinary Expense</b>	<b>28,194.20</b>	<b>71,247.90</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>29,194.20</b>	<b>75,669.08</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>- 8,130.20</b>	<b>-27,363.90</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>- 8,200.36</b>	<b>- 28,789.73</b>
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE</b>	<b>\$293,125.58</b>	



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018**

Our own Jan Blain will be presenting the program this month. If you like, bring a hygiene item for the women or children at the Dove Center. We'd love to see lots of new faces at our UMW meetings, so if you haven't tried this group, please consider doing so. Call Karen at 925-708-3655 for more information.



The next meeting of the United Methodist Men is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8:00 am at the Village Inn.

**MISSIONS NEWS**

**Pinecliff:** Be sure to sign up for Pinecliff before you leave on your summer travels. Save the date on your calendar: **August 24-August 30**. A signup sheet is available in the narthex. Watch for more information in May and June, or contact Gregg Freeman at screggly@gmail.com.

**SHUMC's FIRST CAMPING TRIP**

We have put together our first camping trip, one of which we hope will be many. **The dates we are planning are April 6-April 9**; but you can come and leave anytime. This is a very relaxed camping trip. The campground we are going to is first come, first served, so plan to be there early in the afternoon. Friday evening we will have potluck (Dutch oven BBQ chicken will be provided).

We are going to **Echo Bay, Lake Mead Recreational Area**. The Recreational Area is operated by the National Parks Service so the senior pass gets you in the area free and the campground fee is \$10/night. Without the pass it's \$20 per vehicle to enter then \$20/night. **Credit cards are not accepted - cash only**. The lower campground is an RV Park run by a concessioner and has full hookups. **The upper campground has no hookups and is first come, first served. There are toilets and water spigots. There is also a dump station. We are going to the upper campground.** If you have questions, contact Mike at 435-272-4577 or mscummins63@gmail.com or Keith at 801-879-0592 or keithhelen@msn.com.

**UPCOMING MISSIONS ACTIVITIES:**

Switchpoint Food Pantry	April 4 and April 18
Short Creek Food Pantry	April 11 and April 25
Utah Food Bank	April 14 at 9:00 am
Switchpoint Dinner	April 19
Soup Kitchen	April 27
Pinecliff Missions Trip	August 24 - August 30

**During the summer we often need help with some of our ongoing programs.** If you are here in the summer please consider helping with any of the above. Signup sheets are available in the narthex each month.

## **MISSIONS TEAM ARTICLE - APRIL 2018**

by Gregg Freeman

Several months ago during church the question was asked “When was the last time that you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?” It seemed like a simple question at first. I pray. I read the Bible. I attend church regularly. But the more I thought about it, those activities were about my relationship with God. Where was the Holy Spirit in my life?

I thought about the question for several days, baffled that the answer didn’t come more easily. One evening my wife Toni and I delivered dinner to two of our elderly neighbors who were ill and homebound. We visited for a while and they were so gracious and appreciative, not only for a home cooked meal, but for the fellowship involved. As we left and walked towards home, a small voice told me “well done.” I realized that by serving others without expectation, we were fulfilling what Christ asked all of us to do here on earth.

In the weeks since, I have watched our SHUMC volunteers as they cooked and served meals to the homeless at the Soup Kitchen and local homeless shelter. Among the clatter of pans and bustle of filling plates for the hungry, it’s often difficult to find time to pause and reflect. I think that had our volunteers been able to step back and truly experience the moment, then they too would have heard that small quiet voice saying “*Well done. You are doing God’s work here on earth.*”

The Missions Team would like to extend our sincere thanks to our current volunteers, who freely give of their time and talent to help the less fortunate in our community. Ann Frank once said “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Our volunteers are improving the world by each single act of kindness that they perform.

For those members of the congregation who have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer for missions activities, over the next several weeks we will be updating volunteer lists to hopefully give anyone who is interested an opportunity to serve. We have spots for all ages and ability levels, and invite you to join us in our Christian outreach. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex, or you can contact Gregg Freeman (425.760.8122) or any member of the Missions Team for more information.

Erma Bombeck has long been one of my favorite writers. When pondering the meaning of her time here on earth, Erma candidly said “*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’*” Let’s put our talents to work!

### **SHUMC COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The SHUMC Trustees have approved the use of the old children’s playground area behind the Education Building for a Community Garden. The area can be broken down into eight 10’x20’ garden plots. Plots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Plot-holders will be responsible for clearing, prepping and tending their own plot. The harvest from each plot will be used as the plot-holder chooses (either for their own use or donation to the needy).

Plots may be reserved immediately by contacting the Church Office at 435-627-8638. If you have technical questions, please contact Trustees Chairperson Kim Riley at 435-414-3662 or Willis Digman at 330-704-0652

# TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND ATTENDED THE 2018 LIVING LAST SUPPER PRESENTATION:



## ONLINE GIVING

We want to make sure that everyone knows that Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church offers a variety of options for giving. . . just pick the one that's right for you!

—One way of giving is during worship when the offering plate is passed; cash, checks, and coins are all acceptable. These offerings are counted at the end of the second worship service, and then deposited in the bank's night deposit box; the deposit is verified by the bank the following day.

—Another option some people use is Bill Pay from their checking or savings account. Online bill pay services, through your bank, will cut and mail a check to the church. Be sure to allow extra time and plan ahead (usually five business days) for the check to be cut and mailed. When the check is received at the church, it is saved to be counted with the offerings that are counted at the end of the second worship service, and then deposited in the bank's night deposit box; the deposit is verified by the bank the following day.

—Online giving is another option available and there are two ways to accomplish this:

1) One option is to access the church website and set up your online giving. It is an extremely easy option. This option allows you to have complete control to set up the online giving and make any changes, if necessary, whenever you want. You can choose your checking or savings account or your credit or debit card. Your payment is processed within two business days of the day you schedule your withdrawal and the money is deposited directly into the church account.

2) You can fill out an EFT (electronic fund transfer) form, and turn it in to the Finance Secretary, who will then enter the information in order to start your online giving. Your payment is processed within two business days of the day you schedule your withdrawal and the money is deposited directly into the church account. Any time that you need or want to make changes you will have to contact the Finance Secretary.

If you have any questions regarding these options, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Wisecup, Finance Secretary, or Deb Looker, Finance Administrator.

## HOLY HUMOR

These statements actually appeared in church bulletins or were  
announced at church services:

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast on Sunday.

Our Eighth Graders will be presenting Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 pm at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

## SHUMC YOUTH BOWLING ACTIVITY



## APRIL TIDBITS FROM KIM RILEY

The Daniel Diet group has concluded with the regular Friday night dinner and fellowship. Many of us have learned new recipes; some have lost weight, all especially enjoyed getting to know one another better. We have agreed to meet monthly and encourage other congregants to join us to learn and share fellowship.

Of course Reverend Michael was his usual enthusiastic self, knitting together the many connections the Daniel Diet authors made between God, exercise, health, our relationships, and healthy food.

Little did I know that our Methodist Elders have included a section of food safety in *The Book of Discipline*. Paragraph 160, section (g) page 109, supports policies that protect our food supply and call for testing and inspections to determine levels of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and drug residues from animal antibiotics, steroids or hormones. It calls for clear labeling of all processed foods and genetically modified organisms (GMO) foods, along with supporting a policy of transitioning to sustainable organic agriculture.

Companies fighting against the labeling are, to name a few, Monsanto, Con Agra, Land O Lakes, Pepsi, Nestle, and DuPont. Twenty-six are listed on the Internet with Monsanto spending the most \$5,374,411 in lobbying against labeling. Six states have tried to pass laws on labeling and all but Vermont were defeated with millions of dollars spent by these 26 companies. Incidentally, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Treaty would have allowed all signers to import food to the United States without testing or inspections. Policies of the treaty would have destroyed the intent of the *Book of Discipline* to protect our health.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Jane Vowles.....	1
Jim Boston.....	6
Bob Stoll.....	7
James Phillips.....	10
Judy Caffall.....	11
Anita Chormicle.....	12
Bonnie Humason.....	12
Gary Broomhead.....	14
Myra Nicklas.....	14
Larry Lynn.....	14
Lee Stevens.....	18
Kathy Hentosh.....	21
Eileen Drake.....	23
Betsy Prevost.....	23
Trudy Wooden.....	28
Myrtle Matheny.....	29



*Happy Anniversary*

<i>Wiley &amp; Laura Thompson.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Tell and BJ Wade .....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Ari and Lily Alo.....</i>	<i>9</i>



**FUN FOR LUNCH BUNCH**

The April Fun for Lunch Bunch gathering will be held on **Wednesday April 18, 2018 at 11:30 am**. Details to follow later in the Church bulletin pullout.

APRIL 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship Gathering 8:30 & 11 am  Easter Sunday Concerts	<b>2</b> 9a Sewing Session	<b>3</b>     6p Praise 7p Choir	<b>4</b> 9a Stitchin' Bunch   4p Evangelism 5:45 Education  <b>No Bells</b>	<b>5</b>   1p Prayer/Med   6p DSUMC Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b> Worship Gathering 8:30 & 11 am	<b>9</b> No Sewing	<b>10</b>   4p Worship  6p Praise 7p Choir	<b>11</b> 9a Stitchin' Bunch  1p UMW  3p Missions 4p SPR  7p Bells	<b>12</b>   1p Prayer/Med	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  9a Utah Food Bank Work Day
<b>15</b> Worship Gathering 8:30 & 11 am	<b>16</b> 9a Sewing Session  1p Care Group	<b>17</b>   6p Praise 7p Choir	<b>18</b> 9a Stitchin' Bunch  11:30 Lunch Bunch  3p ERT  7p Bells	<b>19</b>   1p Prayer/Med  4p Trustees	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  8am UMM
<b>22</b> Worship Gathering 8:30 & 11 am	<b>23</b> No Sewing   5p Finance	<b>24</b>   6p Praise 7p Choir	<b>25</b> 9a Stitchin' Bunch   6p Ad Council 7p Bells	<b>26</b>   1p Prayer/Med	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship Gathering 8:30 & 11 am	<b>30</b> No Sewing					