

Ways to Give at GSP

Online Giving

At GSP, we pledge to continue to be good soil for your generosity. We exist to see those far from God raised to life in Christ and we would love for you to join us in that mission. Over 60% of our church gives online. It's simple and secure.

Givelify

The Givelify mobile giving app pinpoints your location and intelligently identifies the GSP worship service you're attending, effectively eliminating the need to search for it. Mark GSP as your home church so that you can easily find and make mobile donations as frequently and as generously as you'd like, even when you are thousands of miles away. Givelify lets you easily see your complete history of donations. You can also accurately track your donations for your taxes without needing to hunt down receipts, bank statements, or acknowledgement letters. Givelify is available on the App Store and Google Play, and it costs nothing to download or use.

Smart Giving

Smart Giving is a fast and safe way to give at GSP. Simply text GSPBC to the phone number 71441. You will get an instant response on your phone with a link to information about our church and a donation page. There you can donate with a credit or debit card easily and securely. Simply follow the sign up link, enter your credit or debit card information, and submit. It's that simple. Smart Giving uses industry-leading security to protect your personal information and save your card info so you can now give on the go. Smart Giving is never charged to your phone bill and your phone number is safe with us.

Weekend Worship Experiences

Place your check or cash in the offering during any weekend worship experience. For your convenience, offering envelopes are available for your gift. You can place cash or checks (payable to Greater St. Paul Church) in one of these envelopes and put it in the offering during any weekend worship experience, or mail it to Greater St. Paul Church and we will apply your gift. If you would like offering envelopes, contact our Finance Office at finance@gspbc.org call (510) 452-0803, or mail to us at 1918 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, CA 94612.

Automatic Bank Pay

This is an easy and effective way to systematically give through your checking or savings account. Simply log onto your individual bank account and follow your bank's instructions to set up GSP as a new payee.

Welcome to
GREATER ST. PAUL CHURCH

November 2015

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Greater St. Paul Church | Bishop Joseph E. Simmons, Senior Pastor
1827 Martin Luther King Jr. Way | Oakland, CA 94612
510.452.0803 p | 510.452.1904 f | www.gspbc.org

Commitment to Thanksgiving

Giving thanks is God's will for our lives. Giving thanks to God and others is what pleases the Lord. As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, there are three simple things I'd like us to consider about thanksgiving. *We have it so good.* Although we may desire certain things we don't have, we've got it good. Think this isn't so?

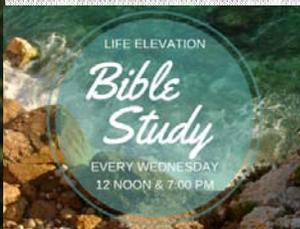


We are not to focus on the gifts, but rather the Giver of the gifts.

Stop and count your blessings. It will change your perspective. *We enjoy it so much.* God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment and we often enjoy it too much! Some of us are taking in too much TV, video games, etc., and probably enjoying too much food as well. It's all right to enjoy the blessings of

God; but, not to the point where this is our main focus! We are not to focus on the gifts, but rather the Giver of the gifts. *We express it so little.* Some years ago, the cartoon pictured Charlie Brown bringing out Snoopy's dinner on Thanksgiving Day. But, it was just his usual dog food in a bowl. Snoopy took one look at the dog food and said, "This isn't fair. The rest of the world today is eating turkey with all the trimmings and all I get is dog food. Because I'm a dog," he said, "all I get is dog food." He stood there and stared at his dog food for a moment and said, "I guess it could be worse. I could be a turkey." Thank you for being here today, and "Happy Thanksgiving"! - Bishop Joseph E. Simmons

Christian Growth



The Bible: Too Hard to Understand?

Do you avoid reading or studying the Bible because you think it's too hard to understand? While there are some profound and difficult concepts in the Bible, in the final analysis those who beg off their responsibility to study the Bible are simply making excuses. Mark Twain put it this way: "It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that bother me,

it's the parts I do understand." The Bible is plainer than most people realize. Except for small children and those with learning disabilities, the central teachings of the Scripture can be understood by anyone who is willing to put forth the effort and who is enlightened by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Life Elevation Bible Study classes are designed to help you understand the Bible and give you the revelation of a real God with whom you can have an intimate personal relationship. Classes are held every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM.

MINISTRY MEETINGS SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 2015

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Every Monday 5:00PM: C&Y Homework Center Open 6:00PM: C&Y Dinner/Bible Lesson 6:30 PM: Children/Teen Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM: Dance Rehearsal Other Monday Mtgs. Nov. 2nd 7:00PM: Diaconate Min. Nov. 9th 7:00PM: Board of Dir. Nov. 16th 6:00PM: Prayer Ministry 7:00PM: COEM Nov. 23rd 7:00PM: Ministry Leaders SPEEDCO | Every Tuesday 6:00PM: Musi c&Arts Council Other Tuesday Mtgs. Nov. 3rd 6:30PM: Angel Choir Reh. 7:00PM: Men's Min. Cou. Women's Min. Council Men's Choir Rehearsal Nov. 10th 6:30PM: Angel Choir Reh. Volunteers Ministry 7:00PM: Men's Choir Reh. C&Y Min. Council YA Ministry Council Nov. 24th 7:00PM: C&Y Ministry Council YA Ministry Council | Every Wednesday 12:00 Noon: Life Elevation Bible Study 6:00PM: Intercessory Prayer A/V Team 7:00PM: Life Elevation Bible Study New Member Orientation Praise Team Rehearsal Other Wednesday Mtgs. Nov. 4th 1:00PM: Seasoned Saints Nov. 18th 7:00PM: Family Life Ministries Fellowship | Every Thursday 5:30 PM: Finance Team 6:00PM: Band Rehearsal 7:00PM: Adult Choir Reh. Other Thursday Mtgs. Nov. 19th 7:00PM: Greeters Ministry | Nov. 7th 10:00AM: Leadership Meeting 12:00 PM: Education Ministry Nov. 14th 10:00AM: Ushers Ministry Nov. 21st 10:00AM: USDA Food Distribution |

Our Administration Office is closed November 26th and 27th.

Coming...



Reminders

We're glad you've joined us for worship today! Restrooms are located in the Main Lobby. Parents, please use the restrooms for feeding and changing your infant child. Please don't bring food, gum, or drink into the Main Sanctuary. All worshipers should remain in their seats during prayer, Scripture reading, the sermon, the offering, and the altar call. In case of an emergency, please exit using the doors in back of the Sanctuary. Please silence all phones and other electronic devices, and refrain from using flash photography or videotaping in the Main Sanctuary. Note: Live streaming and videotaping of our Worship Celebration Services include images of the audience. If you do not wish to be seen on camera, please advise an Usher so you may be escorted to an area not generally included in the live streaming and videotaping.

Stop by the Pastor's Café for coffee, juice, pastries, and other breakfast goodies after the 8:00am Service!

The GSP Kids Nursery opens every Sunday at 11:00am for children 6 months to 5 years old.

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:45am every Sunday!

Connect and Serve! We need volunteers in every area of ministry. There's something that only YOU can do. Become a volunteer today!

Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date in the Administration Office, so you don't miss communications from GSP.

Our Greeters and Ushers are happy to assist you in finding items lost while attending our Worship Celebration Services.

Don't miss a Worship Celebration! CD's and DVD's of today's Services are available for purchase in the Administration Office following each Service. Live streaming can be viewed every Sunday at 8:00am and 11:00am at www.gspbc.org. To access live streaming or video-on-demand replays of Services, click on "Multimedia", then click "Media Center".

If you choose not to come forward...
At the end of our Worship Celebration, you will be given an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. While we encourage you to come to the altar at that time, if you choose not to come to the altar and you would like someone to pray with you privately, please inform one of our Ushers or Greeters.

Outreach/Evangelism

The Least of These

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." –Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

Jesus is not just our Savior but also our Lord and Master, and we are to follow His example. Just as He served His Father by caring for people, so we serve our God by lovingly meeting the temporal and spiritual needs of those around us. Our Holiday Sharing Program provides you an opportunity to serve those less fortunate through your donations to the Program and by volunteering to assist where needed. We still need food and monetary donations for our Thanksgiving Food Boxes Give-Away. Thanksgiving food boxes will be distributed following our 11:00 AM Worship Celebration on Sunday, November 22nd. We need volunteers to help with assembly of the boxes on November 21st. Food donations scheduled for the remainder of the month include: packaged stuffing, gravy (package or jar) due November 1st; canned yams due November 8th; cornbread mix, canned cranberry sauce due November 15th. Frozen turkeys can be brought at any time. We still need more canned corn, canned green beans, and boxed macaroni and cheese. Toy donations for our Christmas Toys Give-Away are needed as well. Our Christmas Toys Give-Away will take place following our 11:00 AM Worship Celebration on Sunday, December 20th. Volunteers are needed to assist with distribution of the toys. Registration for Holiday Sharing 2015 Give-Aways and other information are available at the Information Table and in the Administration Office (510.452.0803).



Jesus' Commission

All who belong to Jesus are charged with the responsibility of going and making disciples of all nations through the Holy Spirit's power. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19) The Spirit comes, not to ensure our own happiness, but to make us impactful witnesses. The Lord was clear about this: "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14) Sharing the Gospel isn't optional for Christians. The Apostle Paul asks: How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard. The truth is, they won't unless we tell them. Why not make it a priority to share your faith with someone today?



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Prayer

Prayer/Sick & Shut-In

Please pray for those on our Sick & Shut-In List: Damita Barbee, Eluise Bell, Novella Benton, Helen Berry, Doris Burrell, Walter Hill, Julia Jackson, Vina Jackson, Carrie Johnson, Lenard Keith, Mae Ella Lockhart, Velma Miles, Lottie Parrott, Ernest Pierce, Anna Sampson, Luevida Shepherd, Elma Smith, Kirk Thomas, and Mildred Williams.

JOIN US FOR CORPORATE PRAYER

6:00AM & 6:00PM – Every Mon., Wed., & Fri.

Dial: 712-432-8399 Access Code: 379099

Giving

From Cheerful to Fearful Giving

For some of us, giving was simple when we were children. Taking a dime out of a dollar and putting it in Sunday School was what we were taught to do. We may have preferred to keep it to buy candy or some other treat, but we were not concerned that giving that dime would be a threat to our quality of life. As we got older, something happened. Our income increased, and there is a slight hesitancy in our giving. Giving a dime out if every dollar adds up to hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars at a time. And that feels different. When we write the check, if we're not careful, certain thoughts begin to run through our minds. *What if I need the money for something else? Am I saving enough? What if I have an unexpected expense? Is anybody else giving this much?* Our struggle may not stop us from giving 10%, but it can sure take some of the joy out of it. If we evaluate our hesitancy, we may find that our problem is not greed, but fear. We become fearful givers. We lose confidence in our belief that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He's promised to do. Under the growing pressure to make ends meet each month, we become irrational in our thinking about God, His faithfulness, and our role as stewards of His resources. When we are fearful and withhold what God commands us to give, we hoard the financial seed He intends to be sown for the financial harvest that is to come. Please give generously in the offering today.

Pastor Appreciation

November 2015 marks Bishop Simmons' 21st Anniversary as Pastor of GSP. Please continue to give your financial contributions and other gifts of appreciation to Bishop Simmons throughout this month. Take a moment and tell him how much you appreciate him. *Happy Anniversary, Bishop Simmons!*