

Good News from The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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October 2011

Our Mission Statement:

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ welcomes all as we strive to be disciples, boldly living as God's witnesses and celebrating our intergenerational and multicultural life together. The Good Shepherd is an Open and Affirming Congregation.

Noted International Bible Scholar To Visit The Good Shepherd

Dr. Greg Jenks will be speaking at The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ on Tuesday, November 15. (Times will be posted soon.) Dr. Jenks is the author of the recently released book: *The Once and Future Bible, An introduction to the Bible for religious progressives*. His book will be the basis of three presentations:

Tuesday, November 15

Afternoon program:

(1) *Kingdom come!*

(2) *From ash heap to Golgotha*

Evening program:

Taking the Bible seriously but not literally

Dr. Greg Jenks is Academic Dean at St Francis Theological College in Brisbane and teaches biblical studies in the School of Theology at Charles Stuart University. He has been an Anglican Priest since 1979, and has served in a number of parish and educational ministries. He has worked in colleges and universities in Australia and the Middle East.

Dr. Jenks was awarded a PhD in Studies in Religion by the University of Queensland for his research into the origins and early development of the Antichrist myth. His particular research interests are focused on second temple Judaism and Christian origins, including historical Jesus research and Galilee in the first century of the Common Era. Current teaching areas include NT Greek, Synoptic Gospels & Acts of the Apostles, and Judaism & Early Christianity.

Dr. Jenks is a Fellow of the Westar Institute. (He is a Fellow of the Jesus Seminar and served as Associate Director of the Westar Institute, 1999–2001.) Greg Jenks is one of the founders of the FaithFutures Foundation, and serves as the Executive Trustee. Within the Foundation, Greg's particular interests lie in the area of biblical studies—particularly historical Jesus research—and the application of critical scholarship to the faith and practice of local Christian faith communities. He has been especially responsible for development of the Jesus Database project.

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy Mayer**
Coordinator of Christian Education: **Julie Ingham**
Assistant to the Minister: **Noel Andersen**
Intern/Youth Minister: **Stevie Demarest**
Music Director: **Scott Glysson**
Pianist: **Kay Jean Moore**
Custodian: **Severo Rivas**
Administrator: **Amy Dillemath**
Newsletter Editor: **Mary Chapman**

Newsletter Helpers:

Jan Bennett
John & Ginny Fridlund
Carlos Henriquez
Bill & Marge Kinkead
Beverly Myers

Your Council:

Moderator: **Connie Aglione**
Moderator-Elect: **Jackie Smith**
Council Secretary: **Drew Mason**
Treasurer: **Bonnie Sondrol**

Board Chairs/Co-Chairs:

Christian Education:
Angie Morris
Facilities:
Donn Bruskiwicz & Pete Hagen
Finance:
Steve Smith
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Bob Buehring
Mission/Outreach:
Susan Hill
Stewardship:
Hathaway Cornelius
Worship:
Phyllis Hallman

A Message from Our Pastor...

Greetings,

We have had a flurry of activity around The Good Shepherd over the last few months. Everything from a new sign out front, a new web-site launching at the end of September, a new Intern/Youth Minister Stevie Demarest, a new roof in October, and a whole lot of planning and programming are now in place for the next several months.

One thing we have learned through our Long Range Planning process has been that people want to participate in the life of the church and want to give their time and talents to a task, but aren't always able to be on a committee or board.

In order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the life of the church we will be having a **Service Rally on October 23** following each of the worship services. There will be tables set up and sign-up sheets ready in the Redman Room where people can sign up for all sorts of tasks for the next few months.

Some of the tasks will include: ushering, greeting, hosting a coffee hour, working on a Power-Point for worship, being a "super greeter," and so much more. The whole idea is to get everybody involved and everybody doing something. So come with your calendars and be ready to sign up for a task or two---remember many hands make light work and a very happy church!

With you on the Journey,

Randy

Newsletter Deadline

NOVEMBER Issue

WED, OCTOBER 19 , 2011

**Send items to: Mary Chapman,
mchapman15@cox.net**

Worship Service Shift- Sunday, Oct. 2 9:00 am and 11:15 am

It is that time of year when we will be changing our worship service times. On Sunday, October 2nd the first worship service will start at 9:00 am--this is our classic traditional worship service with our church choir and time-honored style of worship. At 11:15 am will be our second worship service that is more contemporary with great vocal and instrumental music and audio-visual accompaniment. Please note that the second service will start at 11:15am---this is to give fifteen more minutes to our Adult Forum and for transition time. Adult Forum will start at 10:10 am.

New Chairs Are Coming

The first week of November will be an exciting time at The Good Shepherd UCC as we anticipate the arrival of our new chairs.

Worship is at the heart of our congregation and having a worshipful atmosphere, including comfortable chairs, is important. We want our sanctuary to reflect a welcoming atmosphere for those who come to worship with us.

The Sauder *Vantage Chairs* will be a nice complement to our worship space. To see an example of the chair go to www.sauderworship.com. Click on Protestant & Evangelical, then click on Products, then click on Chairs, then click on Vantage. It is the basic Vantage chair. The fabric is called Shire, the color is Tigerlily.

We ordered 240 chairs, all chairs will have an under seat book rack and will be connected with a radius interlock. Some of the congregation has asked not to have arms on the chairs while others have requested arms. (What is the famous saying, "You can't please all the people all the time but... you can please some of the people some of the time") So the committee hopes... all are pleased, as half the chairs will have arms. If alternated, all chairs will have access to arms, if needed. The

first and second rows of the choir chairs will have rear hymnal bookracks as well as under seat racks.

The projected cost was \$32,000. To date we have received about \$1,300 more than the projected cost which has allowed us to increase from 75 chairs with arms to a total of 100 chairs with arms. We were also able to purchase a universal cart (dolly) to move the stacked chairs.

Enjoy the new worship space! And a huge Thank you to all who have made this possible.

On behalf of the chair task force,
Jackie Smith

Service Rally—October 23rd

Come one and all to our first church-wide SERVICE RALLY. Here you will find many ways that you can be involved in the life of the church as you participate in helping create an atmosphere of ***Extravagant Welcome and Inclusion*** at The Good Shepherd. The rally will be held in the Redman Room after each worship service on Sunday, October 23rd. Meet you there!

Legacy Message

Have you made provision for The Good Shepherd Church in your will or estate plan? What better way to leave your permanent legacy to the church which has grown to mean so much to each one of us.

You are invited to become a part of the growing Church Legacy Circle, supporting the long-term mission of the church. Please review the church legacy brochure for the variety of different ways you can choose to be involved and become a Legacy Circle member.



Pumpkin Patch

It's that time again as the days are getting shorter and the nights longer, Halloween will soon be here and with it our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch! All ages are welcome to make the trip to the Forever Yong farm in Arivaca on October 23rd. We will meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 pm, it takes about 30 minutes or so to get to the farm from Sahuarita. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner hosted by the Rueb's. Pumpkins (which you get to pick) and a variety of produce are offered for sale. Printed directions will be available in the narthex. Plan to join us!

Thanks from the Barretts

A big thanks from the Barrett's to all Good Shepherd friends for your many encouraging notes and cards during Jim's recovery from Heart Surgery. He is doing great, involved in a rehab program which will end in mid October. We are looking forward to returning to Arizona in late October.

Jim & Ruth

"SIGN and DINE"

Mark your calendars for October 21st for an evening with friends for dinner and fellowship.

Sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. Please indicate if you will host the dinner or wish to be a guest. Other guidelines are on the sign-up form.

To plan ahead... the next Sign and Dine is scheduled for November 18th.

Inquirer's Class

We will be receiving new members at The Good Shepherd on Oct 30th at both worship services. In order for people to learn more about The Good Shepherd and the United Church of Christ, we

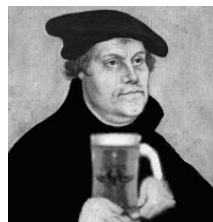
will have an Inquirer's Class at 12:15 on October 9th following the second worship service. The gathering will last about one hour and 15 minutes and some light snacks will be served. Child care will be provided. If you have any questions—or want to join the church and can't make that gathering please be sure and contact Rev. Mayer at 625-1375. We hope to offer these opportunities every 2 to 3 months .

Taizé Returns



A touch of fall is in the air, temperatures have dropped and Taizé is about to begin. Our first service will be on **October 12 at 6:00** in the sanctuary. We have a new cantor and I'm certain our voices will blend with hers as we sing the now familiar music. Perhaps friends or neighbors have been considering joining you for a Taizé service. Why not invite them and provide transportation? With all of the unrest in our country right now, a quiet time of music, candlelight, prayer and silence may be just what we need. See you there!

Theology on Tap



Tuesday, October 18th, 6:00 pm

In the tradition of the protestant reformer Martin Luther, we gather at El Charro Café in Sahuarita to have an engaging conversation about theology, scripture and God's presence/non-presence in current events. All are welcome, some have a beer, some have water and most have a few chips and salsa or even a burrito.

The Jug in the narthex is a good place for your loose change. This money helps with our summer campers. (Dollar bills also accepted!)

The Good Shepherd Has a New Web Page

The Membership Board asks you to check out The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ web page at: www.thegoodshepherducc.org I think you will be impressed by the new look and the updated information---(there is still more to come). In fact you might be so impressed that you will want to learn more about this incredible congregation doing great things in the Santa Cruz Valley.

Hunger is a Justice Issue

Have you ever really looked at that oval symbol of the United Church of Christ? The words going around the bottom of the logo are based on a prayer of Jesus found in the gospel of John (17:21): "That they may all be one." As human beings around the world, we are indeed all one. The hungry people living in poverty are our brothers and sisters. Jesus also commanded us to love these neighbor as ourselves.

In talking about the parable of the Good Samaritan, Martin Luther King, Jr. said:
"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

What will happen to our hungry neighbors if we don't love them as we love ourselves? Here are some world-wide hunger and poverty facts from Bread for the World:

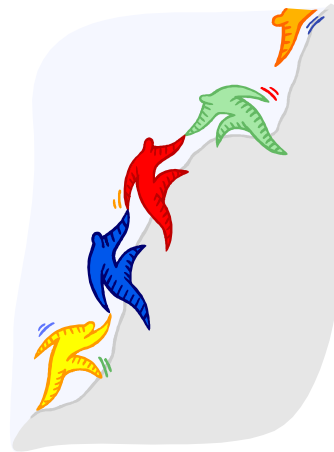
- Despite years of progress against hunger, in 2010, it is estimated that 925 million people suffer from hunger.
- In 2005 (the latest year for which data is available) 1.4 billion people in developing countries lived on less than \$1.25 a day.
- In 2008, nearly 9 million children died before their 5th birthday. One third of these deaths are due to hunger and malnutrition.

The organization Feeding America has compiled

statistics for this country:

- In 2009, 43.6 million people (14.3) were in poverty.
- In 2009, 15.5 million children under 18 were in poverty.
- Among members of Feeding America, 74% of pantries, 65% of kitchens and 54% of shelters reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.

Hunger is a justice issue. Hunger is a Christian issue. Hunger is an issue for The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. Hunger is an issue for each one of us as we remember that we are all one in the inexhaustible the love of Christ. Support the Mission:1 campaign as described in this newsletter "that we may all be one."



Micro-Loan Update

This last month we had a record 14 loans that were re-paid in full. Below is and update from one of our paid in full loans.

GOGO SAMUELU - Samoa

Gogo Samuelu is a member of Faleula Fogaa center running an ice cake business. She has been doing this business for a year. Gogo is a very good member; she repays her loan on time, always attends her weekly meetings, and is enthusiastic about expanding her business. She has used her previous loan to purchase cordial, sugar, foam cups and pay electricity used for her business. She says that the Kiva loans and SPBD loans are not only helping her business grows, but also helping her pay her children's school fees, feed her family better, and improve her housing. She earns a weekly profit of 150 Tala, but not all weeks she'll be earning this, some weeks she would earn 70 Tala only. Already paid back her loan in full, and she's working on improving her business.



Christian Education

The month of Creation was a great success in Church School this September. We talked about how God is involved in all that we do and explored forests, the earth, deserts and rivers.

We go back to our 2 classes starting this month and thanks to Kelly Frieders for teaching the 5th-8th grade class.

Please be sure to pick up the Fall Christian Ed brochure on the table in the narthex. It lists the topics for the Adult Forum each Sunday as well as other activities. Adult Forum moves to 10:10 October 2nd.

The focus scriptures for the month of October are all in the old Testament this month and they are stories that we are very familiar with.

October 2nd – Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 and 12-20. The Ten Commandments; God spoke to the Hebrew people directly, not through Moses and at the end God sent thunder and lightning to test the people, perhaps to see if they were paying attention. How are we paying attention to these commandments?

October 9th – Exodus 32:1-14. Moses has left his people to meet with God, often as is the case with these wandering Hebrews they get anxious and decide to worship on their own. God gets upset and says “I have seen these people, how stiff-necked they are.” (One of my most favorite lines) Moses has a dialogue with God and is able to remind God of the promises made to Abraham. Once more the Hebrew people are forgiven.

October 16th – Exodus 33:12-23. God is still mad at the Hebrew people for building the golden calf and has refused to accompany them on their journey. Moses and God speak together as friends and God tells Moses that he has “found favor in my sight and I know you by name”. How

extraordinary to have the creator recognize Moses this way, isn't this our deepest wish as well?

October 23rd – Deuteronomy 34:1-12. God shows Moses the land that he has promised his people, Moses has been the leader on the journey but he will not lead his people into the promised land. He dies and is buried in the land of Moab. Joshua becomes the leader. Moses is 120 when he dies and has led an amazing life, his relationship with God unequalled among men.

October 30th – Joshua 3:7-17. Joshua is the newly chosen leader. God confirms this by having the Hebrew people cross the Jordan river into the promised land. They cross the river on dry ground, affirming that they are the chosen people of God.

How wonderful it is to re-read these stories. Each time I spend reading and thinking about them I am amazed at the wonder that is God and how much we learn about ourselves and our world.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Julie@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org or call me 909-4561.

Julie C. Ingham, Christian Ed Coordinator

Gals, Save this Date!

The Women's Fellowship will hold its annual Welcome Luncheon on

Tuesday, November 15.

Watch for more information in the November newsletter.

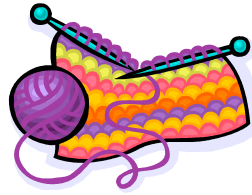
Transitions on Our Faith Journey

Coming off a summer full of inspiring solidarity education and service experience for our youth summer mission trips we now enter a new school year and prepare for the transitions and transformations that are surely ahead of us at The Good Shepherd. The Middle School Youth group met for the first time this year, and Carly Frieders is working diligently on creating a Gay Straight Alliance Club for the local schools that will be hosted by the Good Shepherd UCC. We had our first GSA meeting on September 17th and it was a great success. On October 2nd there will be a Youth BBQ/ Picnic at Anamax Park starting after church where we can kick off a new year together and welcome Stevie Demarest, the new Youth Director.

Although its very difficult to move on from The Good Shepherd because of the close ties we have built in this ministry, I feel I'm being sent out to share the energy of love and extravagant welcome I've felt from The Good Shepherd in other ministries that need new leadership. The good news is we have a great new Youth Director, Stevie Demarest, who is coming on staff this month. Stevie is a friend of mine through the BorderLinks community where she just finished one year of service as a Young Adult Volunteer for the Presbyterian Church-USA. She has some great experience as a youth leader and teacher, she is fluent in Spanish and has a background in Communications and Latin American Studies. I know The Good Shepherd UCC will be a great place for her to grow as she discerns the future possibilities in discerning a call to seminary and vocational ministry while at the same time continuing to develop our youth program further.

Noel Andersen

Good Shepherd Knitting Ministry/ Prayer Shawl Ministry



It's hard to believe that six years have passed since the first meeting of The Good Shepherd Knitting Ministry. The main objectives have been to provide and encourage friendship, share knowledge, ideas and inspiration and to combine talents for those less fortunate.

We have become a "close" group but not "closed"; new members are always welcome. We have all grown in knowledge and skill from shared ideas. We have contributed knit (or crocheted) hats, scarves, small blankets, bears, lap robes and shawls to charities in our community and Mexico. We knit cacti that we sell at the annual church bake sale. Monies earned are donated to the Women's Fellowship.

Personally I would like to see the Knitting Ministry move in the direction of becoming a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Prayer shawls or "mantels of comfort" knit, crocheted, or quilted bring immeasurable joy and blessings to both the giver and receiver. I'm sure there are many stories to share. Recently a neighbor, friend, of mine that has cancer called me to come to her house to see a prayer shawl she received. The shawl was beautiful, simple, with a prayer attached. She was overwhelmed that someone she didn't know would knit a shawl for her.

I always have several projects on my needles at a time; one is always a prayer shawl.

If you are interested in learning more about a Prayer Shawl Ministry please contact Irene York (520 777 7710). You can knit (crochet) at home or with the group.

The Knitting Ministry will resume meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, from 1 to 3 PM at the home of Irene York (2326 E. Spurwind Ln. GV.) The October dates are Thurs. 13 and Thurs. 27. ~ Irene York

O&A Save the Date.....

The **Open & Affirming/Diversity Committee** is planning a dinner presentation **November 13** to begin this year's focus from our committee:

Faith & Justice: Exploring our Criminal Justice System

Plan on joining us for a kick-off dinner with a panel presentation to set the groundwork for a series of follow-up meetings to break apart the complex criminal justice system that we encounter both locally and nationally.

The November 13 dinner will frame this issue with a panel of three: Randy Mayer will present the moral, faith-based perspective on this issue. The second panel member will be Susan Maurer, former head of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Completing the panel is Jim Elliot, chaplain of the federal corrections site in Tucson and a member of The Good Shepherd.

The follow up to this dinner will be five to six Sunday evening sessions exploring several factors that contribute to this complex system. Special guests and presenters who live in this area will share information and respond to audience questions and concerns. These sessions will begin Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Potential topics for these follow-up meetings are:

- What composes our criminal justice system: federal, state and county?
- What is prison life like? Programming and rehabilitation, or the lack of rehabilitation.
- Comparisons with other "developed" countries as well as those that are not as "developed".
- Recent crime data—how many incarcerated and the composition by socioeconomic, gender, race, ethnicity, education level, etc.
- Trends over the years and the lack of cost effectiveness and effect on support and sustainability of other social programs.
- Studies of "injustices" including racial/

ethnic disparities in legal representation and sentencing.

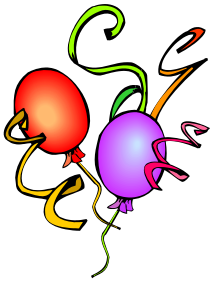
- Moral/faith-based analysis of the meaning of justice, role of punishment, possibility of retributive justice.
- The prison/industrial complex and its impact on criminal justice policies.
- Examples of/and potential for criminal justice and sentencing reform and positive results.

This evening is sure to be very informative and educational for The Good Shepherd community. Our awareness of and concern for the Criminal Justice System will provide us with a bigger sense of understanding of current policies and practices and the background and knowledge to help explore potential action for change and reform to this system.

Mark this date, **November 13, 2011, 5 p.m.**, on your calendar and join the O&A/Diversity committee for an exciting evening of information, education, community and, of course, a wonderfully tasty meal!

Books Books Books will meet on October 26, 2011 at 7 pm at the home of Bill and Marge Kinkead 867 Temporal Gulch Drive to discuss His Excellency: George Washington, a biography by Joseph Ellis. We welcome anyone who is interested in discussing this book. Please let the Kinkeads know that you plan to attend by either calling 398 2364 or emailing mbkinkead@cox.net.

One reviewer says of this book, "His Excellency: George Washington attempts to free Washington from the frozen icon/monument status that has gathered around his name, and presents him to the reader as an approachable, flesh and blood portrait. Joseph Ellis accomplishes this goal admirably."



Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!

Jessica Thomas	10/01
Ferne McHaffie	10/02
Kendra Kuehn	10/03
Delle McCormick	10/04
Rex Crouse	10/06
Kim Gillett	10/08
Anna Griessel	10/11
Carolyn Hubbard	10/13
Jane Eubank	10/15
Jim Woodbrey	10/16
Karen Kressley	10/16
Alejandra Goycolea	10/18
Helen Thompson	10/20
Mary Chapman	10/20
Ann Setter	10/21
Jean McIver	10/21
Daniel Holter	10/21
Doodee Backstrom	10/27
Ina Beach	10/27
Yong Rueb	10/28
Georgette Valle	10/31



Congratulations on Your Wedding Anniver- sary

Conrad & Sandy Erickson	10/04
John & Penny Pestle	10/11
Shirley & Cliff Grindy	10/15
Cynthia & Peter Dean	10/16
Ray & Kelly Frieders	10/17
Hathaway Cornelius & Nancy Bowen	10/23

If you have not seen your special day (birthday/anniversary) in the newsletter, we may not have a complete record for you. Please contact Amy if you would like to provide this information.

Stewardship Letter

Writing from our Oregon summer home this rainy day I'm starting to refocus my thoughts on The Good Shepherd and its Christian involvement in the Santa Cruz Valley. Considering my support for the mission and activities of our church, have I personally been faithful to the pledge of financial commitment I made this past January? Have I considered the other financial ways I can assist our church, our denomination and our community? Have I considered the special appeals that come time-to-time - expressions of unplanned need? Have I been unabashedly generous?

This year's national UCC stewardship theme is "Count Yourselves Blessed". However, I wonder if they've misspelled? Didn't they mean to say, "count OURSELVES blessed"? When I think of what our church does for our community, for our congregation, and for each of us personally, I think we definitely are!

I'm working my way through Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church, by Kennon Callahan. He makes the point that of the 'motivators' for stewardship, 'compassion' and 'community' are the real 'sellers'. Looking at all our involvements, I believe this is where our church really shines. Can't we count ourselves [really] blessed? I think so!

Hathaway Cornelius
Stewardship Chair

MISSION:1

11.1.11 - 11.11.11

Mission:1 is coming! It's coming to all United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human services agencies. That means us - The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. For the first 11 days in November, all of us will join together in a collective mission campaign, focused on feeding the hungry and confronting food related injustice. The national goals of this campaign are:

- To donate more than 1 million items of healthy food to local food banks
- To raise more than \$111,111 for the Neighbors in Need offering
- To write more than 111,111 letters to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. Foreign assistance to more effectively help people living in poverty.

From these goals, the Mission Board and the Church Council have established goals for The Good Shepherd.

Food Bank

We have a food bank right here at the church. But it is not just The Good Shepherd food bank; it is the Sahuarita food bank, serving the whole community. Our goal is to collect 1,111 food items. That's 5 items per person. We will have special display tables set up in the sanctuary on October 30th for you to put your food offerings; they will be dedicated and blessed to the work of God in the service on Nov. 6. You may also bring food for the food bank to the church anytime.

Sahuarita Community Food Bank Current Needs List

Canned Fruit

Tomato Products - Canned, Paste, Sauce, Diced,
Whole Cereal, Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat

Baking Products - Flour, Sugar, Baking soda, Baking Powder

Corn Bread Mix, Corn Meal

Dry Beans, Pasta, Rice

Sugar-Free Products and Gluten-Free Products

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken needed)

Laundry and dish soaps

Personal Care Items are Always Welcome!

Toilet Tissue, Paper Products

Bar Soap

Feminine Hygiene Products

Shampoo

Baby Food, Infant Diapers -All Sizes

For distribution we can accept canned food up to 1 year past date on can and up to 6 months past date on packaged food.

At the Adult Forum on Oct. 30th, Jackie Smith will tell you more about the Sahuarita food bank.

Neighbors in Need and Hunger Offerings

There will be an offering envelope in the bulletin on Oct. 23rd for you to contribute to this offering. We hope to raise \$1,111 for this ministry of compassion. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. These Justice and Witness Ministries will focus in areas of hunger and poverty.

Letters to Congress

We hope that people of The Good Shepherd will write 111 letters asking Congress to revamp foreign aid to do more to combat hunger and poverty. The most effective letters are hand-written and have personal stories. Write your name and address at the end of the letter and on the envelope. If you are a part-time resident, please use your Green Valley/Sahuarita address.

Address your letters to:
Sen. John McCain/Sen. Jon Kyl (2 separate letters)
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Here is a sample letter:

Date
Dear Senator _____ or Representative _____
I am a member of _____, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, and we are passionate about the need to sustain funding for programs for hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. My church is committed to serving hungry people in our community, but I also expect the U.S. government to take a lead in addressing hunger in systemic ways.
I am deeply concerned about some of the budget cuts Congress is considering. We need to cut the federal deficit, but we must not do it on the backs of poor people. We need to form a circle of protection around the people who benefit from these programs - struggling women and children in developing countries. Poverty-focused foreign assistance is less than 1 percent of the federal budget, so chopping it would do little to reduce the deficit.
At the same time, we need to make sure every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely.
More efficient U.S. foreign aid programs will ensure that our tax dollars are used effectively and that the aid we give is what local people in poor countries really need. These reforms will help foster economic growth and opportunity and contribute to our own national security as well. As Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has stated that helping countries develop "is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers."
Please protect families and children from cuts that cost lives, and support reforms to U.S foreign aid so that the world's most hungry people are the ones who actually benefit from our assistance.
Sincerely, Your Name Your Address

Bring your addressed, stamped letters to the basket in the church on Nov. 6 where they also will be dedicated to God's work in the world. If you forget to write, there will be a table, pen and paper available in the Redman Room after the service.

There is a separate article in this newsletter about hunger as a justice issue that will reinforce how important this mission opportunity is. On their website www.ucc.org/mission1, the national church will publish total figures for food and monetary donations and for letters written. Let's make The Good Shepherd a big part of those totals.

Alternative Mission Gift Fair

With an alternative Christmas gift, you honor your loved ones and make a difference in the lives of people around the world at the same time. These gifts don't get returned because the recipient already has one. Instead the return comes with knowing someone has been helped in your name. Alternative Christmas gifts are perfect for the person who has everything.. Even children will smile then they know they have helped a child have a home or go to school.

Here are the projects that The Good Shepherd is supporting this year at the Mission Gift Fair, to be held on Nov. 13, 20, 27 and Dec. 4 after both worship services.

Santa Cruz Community Foundation/FESAC - building capacity of selected projects under way in the Nogales, Sonora community.

Family Village Farm - a home, community and school for children and adults without families and homes in India. (A Global Ministries Project)

Edna Hospital in Somaliland, East Africa - a hospital dedicated to improving maternal and infant health care, and to fighting the practice of female genital mutilation.

Composting toilets - being built in areas of Nogales, Sonora which have no sanitary facilities and where open sewage runs in the streets.

Water Missions International - an engineering organization that serves the water and sanitation needs of people in developing countries and disaster areas.

Pachamama Alliance -works in South America to preserve the earth's tropical rain forests by empowering its indigenous people.

Composting Toilets in Nogales, Sonora A Mission Gift Fair Project

Many homes in Nogales, Sonora lack connections to potable water supplies and wastewater collection systems. Households lacking connections to the sewer system were found to use latrines or

open pits for the disposal of human waste. These overflow during times of heavy rain and raw sewage runs directly into the communities. It ultimately flows through Nogales Sonora, Nogales Arizona, and other parts of Santa Cruz county. The raw sewage also dries on open spaces such as roads and parking lots, With the wind, it becomes airborne particles that are breathed in by people and pets. Several children also drown in the open pits each year.

One solution to this problem is the use of composting toilet systems. These work by providing a closed area for human waste, the addition of a carbon additive (usually sawdust) and then relying on aerobic bacteria and fungi to turn the waste into safe and valuable compost, just like happens in backyard composters.

The composting toilet project was begun in 2002 by Borderlinks Mexico. It was later evaluated and a decision made to expand in 2008 under the leadership of a Binational Advisory Board, which includes representatives from government, academia, business, and not-for-profit organizations. To make the project resources go further, one of the requirements for the households receiving the toilets is that they contribute materials and/or cash equivalent to US\$200 toward the cost of their toilets.

One of the concerns of the project and community leaders is that some of the poorest households have been unable to obtain a toilet because they cannot afford the \$200. With daily wages as little as US\$7, \$200 is simply out of reach for many families. The project leaders have been writing grants to both US and Mexican organizations. The Friends of the Santa Cruz River (FOSCAR) have also been seeking donations, and it is through them that our donation will be processed.

From the beginning, this project has been overseen by Dr. Diane Austin from the U of A. Here is her assessment of the immediate work to be done:

We will begin by working to finish some toilets that were begun in Mascarenas, a community right along the Santa Cruz River, with funds from the Mexican government but then were not

finished because they ran out of money. We will also be making repairs in some of the toilets that were completed in the first wave of government-funded toilets when a new group of workers was just learning how to do them. And we will be finishing a manual and website and holding community workshops to help people build their own toilets.



Eye on Latin America

The documentary, ***Plan Colombia***, examines the US supported drug war in Colombia which has been accompanied by *increasing* drug exports to the US. James Jordon, National Co-Coordinator for the Alliance for Global Justice will be available to answer questions after the film showing. **Saturday, Oct. 1, 4pm at the church.** Free admission.

11th Annual Javarita Coffeehouse Concert Series

Like a good pair of boots, this annual concert series has slowly been broken in, and is getting better each year. Our aim is to bring the best acoustic, roots music to the Santa Cruz Valley that not only honors the well worn grooves of the past but also moves us further down the road where great harmonies are not just sung but emit a purpose. Our concert series not only challenges the major concert halls with variety and talent but also content and character. The concerts are held at The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona. All shows begin at 7:00pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 to \$20 (please see below), or season tickets can be purchased for \$60 per person. Any net profits made from the concerts during the year are given to the Sahuarita Food Bank. Contact Randy Mayer at 625-1375 if you have any questions.



October 14 Dusty Buskers

This band is just as much fun to watch as they are to listen to as they kick up the jig. Their fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and banjo pump out their Urban/Celtic bluegrass with a punk attitude and a subversive comedic slant. (\$10 per person)

November 11 Sparky and Rhonda Rucker

Come for the music or come for the stories, either way you will be taken on an educational and emotional journey that ranges from tales of slavery and war, to an amusing rendition of a Brer Rabbit yarn, or their witty commentaries on current events. Sparky and Rhonda come from the mountains of Tennessee and their music includes a variety of old-time blues, slave songs, Appalachian music, spirituals, ballads, work songs, Civil War music, cowboy music, railroad songs, and their original compositions. (\$10 per person)





December 9th Mariachi Christmas with Azteca Del Sol

The presence of fine Mariachis will help us ring in the season with the sound, style and spirit of Mexico. And at some point in the evening we are guaranteed to be swept up in the traditions of the “Posada”. But the night won’t be all about the music, we will also have lots of other activities for children and adults as well as our Annual Sweet Sale. So come and enjoy yourself and get ready for the holiday season in southwest style. (\$5 per person/\$10 per family)

January 13th Holly Near with TBA

Holly Near is a unique combination of entertainer, teacher, and activist. An immense vocal talent, Near’s career as a singer has been defined by an unwillingness to separate her passion for music from her passion for human dignity. She is a skilled performer and an outspoken ambassador for peace who brings to the stage an integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery, and theatricality.

(\$20 per person)



February 10th Chris Brashear and Peter McLaughlin



Chris and Peter have been performing together since 1992. Their shows feature sibling-like harmonies, intricate arrangements and stunning instrumental virtuosity. Though steeped in bluegrass tradition, they perform many original songs and draw from a deep repository of acoustic roots music. They have carved a unique place for themselves in the grand tradition of duet singers and in the larger world of acoustic music. All of that plus they are just great guys who like to play and sing. (\$10 per person)

March 16th Rick Nestler

Rick will make his way to Arizona from Mystic, Connecticut where he is the Captain of the schooner *Argia*. Ricks has appeared in coffeehouse, low waterfront dives and institutions of higher learning across the country and while he was the captain of the *Clearwater*, Pete Seeger dubbed him the “The Terror of the River---raffish Rick Nestler.” Rick’s voice is a whiskey baritone that suits the sea chanties, folk and old Irish music, which will be perfect to get us in the mood for St. Patrick’s Day.

(\$10 per person)



The Good Shepherd UCC * 17750 S La Canada * Sahuarita, AZ 85629 * 520.625.1375

Service Rally—October 23rd

Come one and all to our first church-wide SERVICE RALLY. Here you will find many ways that you can be involved in the life of the church as you participate in helping create an atmosphere of ***Extravagant Welcome and Inclusion*** at The Good Shepherd. The rally will be held in the Redman Room after each worship service on Sunday, October 23rd. Meet you there!



Stephen Leaders Attend Training Event

New Stephen Leaders, Veronica Johnson and Rev. Judy Holcomb, were among hundreds of participants from around the country who attended a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course (LTC) over the summer. Linda Redfield attended a similar LTC when she was active in Stephen Ministry at her church in Connecticut. Rev. Randy Mayer attended the course in May, and Connie Aglione will attend in February.

Stephen Leaders direct Stephen Ministries in the congregation. They are the ones who recruit, train and supervise Stephen Ministers, and they match people with needs for care with a Stephen Minister. They also build awareness regarding Stephen Ministry in the congregation.

"Stephen Leaders are trained members of the congregation who teach Stephen Ministry skills," explained Veronica Johnson. "I became involved because it is a way for me to give back to The Good Shepherd and I believe in the work Stephen Ministers do. Stephen Ministry is invisible but powerful."

The training at the LTC differs from the 50 hours of Stephen Minister training in the congregation because the LTC focuses on the administrative and supervisory aspects of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister training that will be offered at The Good Shepherd will focus on the actual caregiving skills Stephen Ministers will use in their confidential caring relationships

Linda Redfield shared, "God cares for us - We care for each other", is from a banner that hangs in the sanctuary of my former church. I truly believe that, and one of the ways I have found to live

out that reality is through Stephen Ministry. I have been a part of Stephen Ministries for over 22 years, first as a Stephen Minister and then as a Stephen Leader. I have seen over and over again that Stephen Ministers do make a profound difference in the lives of those they help. Ministers support individuals who are facing a life crisis such as loss of a loved one, depression, illness or any of the other human experiences that so many people eventually experience. There is no greater privilege than walking with another in their life journey for awhile and helping them find hope for their tomorrow."

Rev. Judy Holcomb is on vacation now in England. She will return to Arizona late in October and join the other Stephen Leaders in outreach and planning for our first Stephen Minister's Training. Judy is an ordained UCC minister and the rest of the team is grateful for the experience, gifts and strengths she will bring to the program.

"We looked into Stephen Ministry when it was suggested by several members during our Long Range Planning process," said Connie Aglione. "The Stephen Ministers training program is top-notch. The skills our Stephen Ministers will learn and practice will prepare them to provide a very high level of caregiving. The training will be intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it will also be a growth producing and enjoyable experience."

When our pastor Randy Mayer returned from the LTC he said, "There are many needs for care – people experiencing divorce, relocation, and empty nest, loss of job, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness and many other stresses and challenges. This fall we will be recruiting people to be Stephen Ministers. This will give us a larger pool of people with gifts, skills and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who need it most. I hope you [all] will think about being a Stephen Minister."

If you would like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister please contact any of the Stephen Leaders. The 10-week Stephen Minister training program will begin on Friday, January 6th. An application and conversation with two Stephen Leaders will be required before attend-

ing the training. For those who will not be in the area before January, an application can be mailed and a phone interview can be arranged.

Prayer from Kenya

God of all life, like the Baobab tree of the African Savannahs you are the provider of shelter, food and water. We come to you in praise and with heart full of thanksgiving. We depend on your protection like the elephant shielding its calf and an eagle providing food for her eaglet.

It is our prayer that your children will never allow the sin of starvation and hunger to live amongst us. Therefore God we pray for those living in Eastern Africa who is feeling the pains of hunger while others are staving to death because of the famine and drought in Eastern Africa.

Ngai, help us to deliberately live our life as stewards of your resources you have given us, consciously knowing that whatever we do has an effect on others. We pray that no one will go without food because of drought. It is our pray that the heavens will open up and send down rain.

Nyasaye, we come to you as an empty calabash waiting to be filled so that we can go out and serve others. We come to you whose authority is like the thunder roaring across the skies of Africa, give us the authority to confront and call out by name the evils that cause some to have while many go without.

Teach us to pray and live out the true meaning of the prayer that you taught your disciples, ... "give us this day our daily bread.." Holy Sprit, develop in us a conviction that bread is not for just a few but for all, enables us to take responsibility to speak out against the structural issues that kept people in the state of hunger.

This is our Prayer in the matchless name of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Amina

Ngai is the Kikuyu name for God

*Nyasaye is the Luo name for God
Amina is Swahili word for Amen*

Phyllis Byrd is a missionary with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. This is a joint appointment with the Presbyterian Church, USA and the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. She served as a theological educator in Nairobi, Kenya.

Visitation Message

Know someone from our church family who could use a phone call, card, ride, meal, or visit? Many people and groups at The Good Shepherd are here and glad to help, but we need to be informed when such assistance is needed. Please call or e-mail the church office, leave a note in the offering basket, or inform someone at the Welcome Kiosk if you or someone you know could use our help.



Electronic Giving

This fall, consider signing up for **electronic giving**. The Good Shepherd relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details. Thank you!

The Good Shepherd UCC

Council Minutes

August 23, 2011

In attendance: Connie Aglione, Randy Mayer, Steve Smith, Jackie Smith, Penny Pestle, Bob Buehring, Ann Cochran, Pete Hagen, Susan Hill, Bonnie Sondrol (by telephone) Randy led the Council in prayer. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as distributed.

Pastor's Report: Reflecting on the summer, Randy said that there had been many little jobs and lots of new people and children, The roof repairs should be done in two weeks, followed by the annual stripping of the sanctuary floor in anticipation of the new chairs arriving in October.

Staff issues included a replacement soloist for Jessica Thomas who will start at the beginning of September to be ready for the advent of the second service which will commence in October with a change in time to 11:15.

Stevie Demarest will be replacing Noel as a full-time ministry intern. Noel's last day will be October 16th, which will allow for overlap.

As Pres and Dee Johnson anticipate handing over responsibility for the Spanish classes, a group has been meeting to discuss options for continuing with the possibility that a Guatemalan teacher from the Probigua language school will come to Good Shepherd for a six week period.

Young Adult Volunteers program has wound down. The church will evaluate the program and determine if finances are available to repeat the project.

Treasurer's Report

Bonnie led the Council through a summary of the July 2011 financials. The key number is that year-to-date net income is in the black by \$2,292 compared to the budgeted shortfall of \$2,013. Line items that were over budget included Youth where gifts are anticipated and the Caring Ministries where a refund for one Stephen Ministry registration has been received along with the pos-

sibility of additional gifts.

Board Reports

There were no reports from Finance, Christian Education, Youth, and Worship

Open and Affirming: Penny outlined the next series of programs, which will center on criminal justice. This will be a six week series on Sunday nights concentrating on the Christian Perspective, How the Prisons Operate, Sentencing Reform, Re-Entry Issues, and Private Prisons. A preliminary session is scheduled for November 13.

In response to a question about the homeless project, Penny said that the issue was raised and researched but there is no movement at this time. There is under-housing but no visible homelessness. Interfaith Coalition of Tucson, which had been interested in working in our area, has ceased functioning.

Food Bank: Jackie stated that the Sahuarita Food Bank at Good Shepherd is moving along smoothly under the able leadership of Marilyn Hosea feeding 20 to 25 families a month. The anticipated food bank at the planned community center in Sahuarita will not happen due to the economic conditions facing the county. If there is to be expansion of the Food Bank to further serve the region in and around Sahuarita, it will fall upon The Good Shepherd to initiate it. Projects ahead include new shelving in the storage closet and a method of cooling the closet to adhere to standards. Collaboration with the Green Valley Food Bank will allow us to pick up produce each Thursday at 9:00. Volunteers are needed.

Along with the Mission Board, the Sahuarita Food Bank at Good Shepherd will be working to coordinate with the National Church's Food Justice initiative from 11/1 to 11/11/11.

Membership: Bob related that the Board continues to work on the church's website with a completion by the end of September. The website will feature "What The Good Shepherd does best."

Stewardship: Ann noted that the sign-up for Safeway e-script donations will take place in September and October as it is due November 1. Members will be able to sign up at church.

Facilities: Pete said steel shelving for the Food Bank has been located at a cost of \$150. The workday scheduled for 9/24 has been changed to 9/17 when the trees around the new sign are to be removed. The sign is up and has been stuccoed and will be painted next week

Ken Woodward has asked the Church for permission for the Boy Scouts to build a small storage shed with a stockade fence to be located at the Southwest end of the classroom building. It was suggested that this request be forwarded to the Facilities Committee.

Long Range Planning Committee: A "Service Rally" will take place on 10/23 after each worship service offering members and friends members many opportunities to participate in creating Extravagant Welcome and Inclusion at The Good Shepherd and involve themselves in the life of the Church.

Mission Committee: Susan further elaborated on the UCC's Mission One endeavor to gather food, write letters and tie in with the annual Neighbors in Need offering. An ad hoc committee will suggest GSUCC's activities round this effort.

Old Business

Stephen Ministry has sent three people to train to be Stephen Leaders, with Connie attending in February. The next step is to locate Stephen Ministers with training to start in early December.

Chairs are ordered and \$25,000 of the \$32,000 required has been raised. They should be ready for use by the end of October.

Health Ministry: two members, Debbie Buehring and Marge Kinkead attended a workshop for Congregational Health Leaders. An ad hoc group will hold a Health Ministry meeting next week to determine initial steps for introducing health ministry to The Good Shepherd.

New Business:

A proposed Church Policy Review Task Force was outlined with the suggested team of John Pestle, Bill Kinkead, and Bev Travers. They will review the policies of The Good Shepherd starting initially with financial policies. They will be following the UCC's "Policies that Protect." It was moved by Jackie and seconded by Ann that the Task Force be authorized. The motion was carried.

Fellowship hour will be hosted by the Mission Board in September. Amigos groups will be asked to host in October. New plans for Fellowship Hour will be announced at the Service Rally for Extravagant Welcome on 10/23.

Randy announced that The Good Shepherd will be hosting English as a Second Language classes on Tuesday mornings under the auspices of the Amado-Sahuarita Adult learning Program. Some of our members already volunteer with this program. Having such classes at GSUCC is a goal of the Long Range Plan for Mission Service and Justice.

Randy also related an inquiry from two women desiring to rent the Church's kitchen to start a new business preparing meals for home delivery. Liability and licensing issues were raised as well as a possible tie in to the Food Bank and the Caring Ministry. More information will follow.

Randy led the Council in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Steve Smith, secretary pro tem

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October 2011

October 2011							November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	8	9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	15	16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	22	23	24	25	26
30	31								29	30			

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sep 25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
9/25 - 30							10:00am Sahuarita Foo 4:00pm Film; S 7:00pm AA; Redman F
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10/2 - 7	Communion Food Bank Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Forum ▼	8:00am MF Breakfast 8:00am Samaritans; S 9:00am OLLI 9:30am GVWS Felting ▼	Bulletin Deadline 9:00am GVWS; Redm; 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am ESL Classes ▼	8:30am OLLI Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts; L	10:00am Stay & Play; R 3:00pm Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm Choir Rehears	10:00am ESL; Library 1:30pm GE Band; S	10:00am Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm AA; Redman F
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10/9 - 14	9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Forum 11:15am Worship & Cf	Amy Off					
		8:00am MF Breakfast 9:00am OLLI 1:30pm OLLI Film Clas ▼	Bulletin Deadline 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Worship Boar ▼	6:00pm Taize 6:30pm Policy Task Fc 6:30pm Boy Scouts; L	10:00am Stay & Play; R 2:00pm Long Range P 3:00pm Sahuarita Foo ▼	10:00am ESL; Library 1:30pm GE Band; S 7:00pm Javarita Coffe	8:00am Church Work 10:00am Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm AA; Redman F
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10/16 - 21	Amy Off		Bulletin Deadline 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am ESL Classes 6:00pm Theology on T	Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Boy Scouts; L	9:30am AAUW Border 10:00am Stay & Play; R 3:00pm Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm Choir Rehears	Sign & Dine 10:00am ESL; Library 1:30pm GE Band; S	10:00am Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm AA; Redman F
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10/23 - 28	Pumpkin Patch 9:00am Worship 10:15am Service Fair 11:15am Worship & Cf	8:00am MF Breakfast 9:00am OLLI 1:30pm OLLI Film Clas 6:00pm EfM ▼	Bulletin Deadline 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am ESL Classes 6:30pm COUNCIL; LC	6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Policy Task Fc 6:30pm Boy Scouts; L	8:30am Newsletter M; 10:00am Stay & Play; R 3:00pm Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm Choir Rehears	10:00am ESL; Library 1:30pm GE Band; S	10:00am Sahuarita Foo 7:00pm AA; Redman F
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10/30 - 11/4	9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Forum 11:15am Worship & Cf	Halloween; United Sta 8:00am MF Breakfast 8:00am Samaritans; S 9:00am OLLI ▼					