

# Good News from

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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November 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.**

## Gay-Straight Alliance News

Gay-Straight Alliances, often called (GSA's) are common school and/or community clubs that help to promote an end to anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) bullying, in addition to providing a safe and supportive space for youth of all sexual-orientations and gender identities.

In fact, although studies show about 8 out of 10 LGBT students have been verbally harassed at school, and about 6 out of 10 say they don't feel safe at school, GSA's have been shown to reduce both those numbers. Which is why we have started a community GSA which meets right here, at The Good Shepherd! Though the school would not let us start a GSA there, we have fortunately been given space in the youth room to have a community GSA, which we call the "Sahuarita/Green Valley Gay Straight Alliance."

Our goals are to: first, reduce anti-LGBT bullying, discrimination, and harassment in the Sahuarita and Green Valley communities and schools. Second, we hope to create a place where LGBT youth and their allies feel safe and supported. Through

raising awareness, educating ourselves, and educating the community, we hope we will be able to meet these goals. We're definitely grateful to the church for all its support, as not many churches would let a gay-straight alliance meet at their church (unfortunately). The open and affirming atmosphere here makes it a great place to meet, and we hope to bring that same inclusiveness and affirmation to the community at large.

Carly Frieders  
Good Shepherd Youth



**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
At The Good Shepherd

Join your Good Shepherd Family for Thanksgiving Dinner in the Redman Room on Thursday, November 24. Watch the church bulletin and email newsletter for the details.

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy Mayer**  
Coordinator of Christian Education: **Julie Ingham**  
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 Kinhead**  
**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**  
Membership:  
**Bob Buehring**  
Mission/Outreach:  
**Susan Hill**  
Stewardship:  
**Hathaway Cornelius**  
Worship:  
**Phyllis Hallman**

## Minister's Reflection

Recently I read a devotional written by Rev. Anthony B. Robinson for the Still Speaking Daily Devotional. Surprisingly it was the exact issue that The Good Shepherd Worship Board had been conversing about over the past months. So I thought I would share it with you, it is entitled, "Applause in Church." Clearly I believe we get it right most of the time---it is nonetheless important to have an outside perspective once in awhile. So here it goes---enjoy!

"Applause in Church"  
by Anthony B. Robinson

*I was recently in a congregation where everything was greeted with applause. Well, okay, not quite everything. People applauded the choir's anthem, the children's song, all the announcements and even the prayers of a lay leader. But no one, as I recalled, applauded the offering.*

*Is applause in church okay or not? Is it okay sometimes but not other times? I've been in some churches where thunderous applause seemed like another form of praise of God and just right. And I've been in churches where applause made it seem that worship was a performance and the congregation an audience and just wrong.*

*What I mostly noticed in the church where everything but the offering was responded to with applause is that the open and empty spaces in which God might move and get to us were all filled up. They were filled in and filled up with applause. No silence was allowed.*

*That church seemed long on friendly, but short on mystery.*

*While I have experienced times when applause in worship was spontaneous, joyful and somehow right, when applause becomes a norm or expectation it does turn worship into something it isn't, namely a performance. Worse, it fills up the spaces, the silent spaces following a powerful solo or anthem or sharing or testimony where God's presence is palpable, or might be.*

## Newsletter Deadline

**DECEMBER Issue**

**WED, NOVEMBER 16 , 2011**

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

*Another way to put this reservation about applause is to say that applause tends to move us out of our hearts and into our heads. We ask, "Did I like that?" "Should I applaud?" "Will it make him/ her/ them feel good and appreciated?"*

*One thing that gifted worship leaders do, in my observation, is they don't do too much. They lead with a light touch. They leave room for God. They hold the space. And only very rarely do they invite applause.*

—Still Speaking Daily Devotional from the United Church of Christ

If you would like to subscribe to the e-mail version of the Still Speaking Daily Devotional simply go to this link: <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/> and put your name and e-mail address. It is a great way to start your day and keep grounded in faith and scripture.

With you on the Journey,

Randy

## New Good Shepherd Web Site



It has taken a lot of work but it looks like we finally have an up-to-date Good Shepherd Web Site that has close to 40 pages of information. It is amazing how well it captures all of our activities, programs and the spirit of our congrega-

tion. A big thank you goes out to the Membership Board, our Good Shepherd Staff and Peggy Ice who was our web designer. Be sure and check out the web page---weekly if not daily. The address is: [www.thegoodshepherducc.org](http://www.thegoodshepherducc.org). If you have comments or suggestions please send them to Rev. Randy Mayer [bienshphrd@aol.com](mailto:bienshphrd@aol.com) or call the church office 625-1375.

## Women's Fellowship Welcoming Potluck Luncheon

**Tuesday, November 15 at 11:30 am  
Redman Room**

Calling all Good Shepherd women! Let's gather for this fall's Women's Fellowship Welcome Luncheon on Tuesday, November 15 in the church's Redman Room for a potluck lunch.

There will be a short presentation about activities sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and the charities we support. It is an enjoyable time and a great chance to visit with Winter Residents who have returned to the valley.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up for a casserole, salad, or dessert. Beverages and bread will be provided. Questions? Want to help? Call Dee Johnson, 625-3759 or Mary Chapman, 625-1375

## 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.



## You Are Part of a Caring Congregation!

One of the best ways to tell that our congregation cares is by our commitment to Stephen Ministry. This is an important way that we express God's love to those around us. Is God calling you to take a more active role in Christian caregiving? Then Stephen Ministry may be just what you're looking for. To find out more, contact Judy Holcomb (608) 214-6832, Linda Redfield 306-2049, Connie Aglione 203 7557, Veronica Johnson 203-7933.



## Taizé

What a wonderful Taizé service we held on October 12! Our new cantor, Bethany Johnson, was excellent and with 31 of us adding our voices to hers, the music was especially moving.

The next service will be on November 9 at 6:00. We expect to have the new chairs and a different Taizé seating arrangement. Please plan to sit in the front 5 rows so we can gather our voices. We look forward to having winter visitors with us. See you there--with friends and neighbors.

## Stewardship Letter

One of the earliest sermons regarding stewardship that I remember was entitled 'If Money Talks... What is Ours Saying?' It was a takeoff on the popular 80's advertisement, "When E. F. Hutton speaks...people listen". The gist of the sermon was to invite listeners to reflect on the question of what their money says about who we are and what we believe.

As individuals and as a community of faith - how, where, why, and on whom we spend our money speaks volumes about our core values, what we believe and what are the important issues in our lives.

For some, giving to the church and to other charities falls into the discretionary category. For my wife and myself, it does not - it is an essential expression of our gratitude to God for the blessings in our lives. Determining our commitment, choosing wisely the charities and nonprofits that do the most good with the least resources, and then giving generously are essential to our understanding of being a steward of the resources with which we have been blessed. I am hard-pressed to name another organization that does as much with our monies toward making a difference for our community - both congregationally and locally - as does The Good Shepherd.

Soon we will be asked to consider our financial commitment to our church for the upcoming year. As you do, I invite you to reflect on the values you hold most deeply and the beliefs you cherish most dearly. And then, to ask yourself, "what does my giving say about what I believe and value?"

Best regards, Hathaway Cornelius

## Books, Books, Books

Books Books Books will meet on November 30th when Joan Ernst will lead us in a discussion of Hamlet's Blackberry by William Powers. We welcome anyone who is interested in discussing this book. The place will be announced.

One reviewer says this about the book: "Always connected. Anytime. Anyplace. We know it's a blessing, but we're starting to notice that it's also a curse. In Hamlet's Blackberry, William Powers helps us understand what being 'connected' disconnects us from, and offers wise advice about what we can do about it.... A thoughtful, elegant, and moving book."



## Christian Education

The month of November is just the start of the busy season at The Good Shepherd! Advent begins on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> and of course Christmas is a short 4 weeks after that. The youth and children will be a special part of the service on December 11<sup>th</sup> and the family service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Since Christmas fall on Sunday this year, we will have 1 service at 11:15 on Christmas Day and the same for New Year's Day. So mark your calendars now.

The season of Pentecost (the longest season in the church year) draws to a close with focus scriptures from Matthew all of them parables of Jesus responding to the disciples questions about the "end of the age". On November 6<sup>th</sup> Matthew 25:1-13 the parable of the ten young bridesmaids. 5 of the bridesmaids were not prepared for the groom, they did not have enough oil for their lamps and 5 were prepared and they were admitted into the wedding. This parable opens conversations about being ready for God's reign and tending the gift of the spirit which God gives to each person. Be ready to shine your light into the community.

November 13<sup>th</sup> Matthew 25:14-30 the parable of the valuable coins. 3 servants are given coins to manage while their master is away. This parable for some is a mandate to takes risks in following Jesus, for others it is not to live your life in waiting but to use the gifts that God gives us. Some think though that the 3<sup>rd</sup> servant is the right one, he stood up to his boss by not taking advantage of others and not increasing his already wealthy master's accumulation of money. This servant embraces God's reign of justice and equity.

November 20<sup>th</sup> Matthew 25:31-46 Judgment of the nations. After Jesus helps the disciples imagine preparing for God's reign, he moves into an explanation of the 'final judgment day'. At the end of this age nations will be separated based on whether they have fed the hungry, clothed the na-

ked and took care of the sick. How do we as individuals and as a church approach those who are in need? Do we see ourselves as "us" helping "them"? The encounter is the heart of the message, by helping others who are in need we encounter the living Christ in them which we are in need of just as much as they are. I am reminded of the stories from the youth mission trip this summer where they saw the faces of Jesus in those they were helping.

November 27<sup>th</sup> The first Sunday in Advent Isaiah 64:1-9 the people of Judah returning home from their exile in Babylon. This is part of a larger poem that describes how a gulf has opened up between the exiles and God. The prophet remembers when God was among them, now God has disappeared, the sins of the people have caused separation. "We are the clay, and you are the potter. All of us are the work of your hand." The prophet calls on both the people and God to become connected again so their community can be reborn. Do we see God missing from our communities? Our prophets call upon us to become reconnected with God as well.

A lot of food for thought in theses passages. The time of Advent is for preparation, preparing for the birth of a new child, preparing for the Messiah. I have an Advent Calendar poster that is called 'Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!' that may help you and yours prepare for this season. Please see me if you would like a copy it is fun to read and reminder of the true meaning of the season.

I would like to thank Wez Davis for teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade Church school class this month. Wez and her partner Arlyne are new members of The Good Shepherd.

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

## The Health & Wellness Spotlight

### Health Ministry

November is American Diabetes Month

American Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. In the United States, 24 million people are living with diabetes and 57 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Over time, if it's not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like heart disease, stroke, and blindness. You may be at risk for type 2 diabetes if you:

- Are overweight
- Exercise less than 3 times a week
- Are over 45 years old
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Are African American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American or Pacific Islander
- Have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes

You can do a lot to lower your chances of getting type 2 diabetes by:

- Eating healthy.
- Watching your weight.
- Being active.
- Controlling your blood pressure and cholesterol.

You can do a lot to prevent diabetes, such as eating healthy and getting active. Learn more: <http://1.usa.gov/jHA3ZH>.

50 Ways to Prevent Diabetes: <http://bit.ly/jBTBg1>. American Diabetes Association can be contacted at 795-3711 in Tucson or online <http://www.diabetes.org/>



### Youth Group News

We said, "see ya later" to Noel Andersen this past Sunday, and "howdy" to Stevie Demarest at the end of September. Over the fall break in October, we had an Ice Cream Social, complete with homemade ice cream, homemade pizza,

homemade brownies, and lots of relay races.

For mission trip fund-raising, we have a lot going on: At each Javarita Coffeehouse, the youth will be selling coffee and snacks. On Sunday, November 13th, the youth will be providing yummy treats for the fellowship hour following each service, and donations collected will go to the Mission-Trip fund.

Every second Sunday of the month, the youth will be the worship leaders! Contact Stevie to sign-up!

We'll be back to every other Sunday for Jr High and Sr High youth group beginning Sunday, November 6th. Given the new start time for the later service, youth group will now go 'til 2:30pm.

Upcoming Dates:

October 30th- Lunch then to Tucson to watch Drew Freiders in Beauty and the Beast

November 6th- Jr High Youth Group

November 11th- Javarita Coffeehouse- youth selling snacks

November 13th- Sr High Youth Group

November 20th- Jr High

November 27th- Sr High

Questions? Contact me at [sldemarest@gmail.com](mailto:sldemarest@gmail.com)

Stevie Demarest, Youth Minister

### 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 encoun-

ter 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, 4:30 pm**, 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!

## Noted 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 are below) 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

**3:00-5:00 pm**

*Kingdom come!*

*From ash heap to Golgotha*

**5:30 pm** Dinner

**6:30 pm**

*Taking the Bible seriously but not literally*

\$15 per person includes dinner

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.

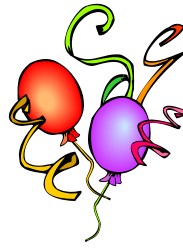
Dr. Jenks is a Fellow of the Westar Institute. (He is a Fellow of the Jesus Seminar and served as Associate Director of the Westar Institute, 1999–2001.) Greg Jenks is one of the founders of the FaithFutures Foundation, and serves as the Executive Trustee. Within the Foundation, Greg's particular interests 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.



## Good Shepherd Knitting Ministry/ Prayer Shawl Ministry

“Shawls have been made for centuries; they are universal and embracing; they comfort and enfold, wrap and warm; mother and hug; shelter and beauty. Those who knit and receive shawls are loved and blessed.”

The Good Shepherd Knitting Ministry is expanding to include a PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY for those of you that would like to participate in the knitting or crocheting of prayer shawls or “mantles of comfort” but don’t have time for “another meeting”. Yarn and patterns will be supplied. Individual members of the Knitting Ministry are available to help you get started. Finished prayer shawls will be given to Pastor Randy and the Care group for distribution. Prayer shawls are a powerful, tangible way of saying “we care”.



## Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!

Marilyn Townley	11/01
Ken Woodward	11/02
Constance Coles	11/03
Taylor Carroll	11/04
Helen Fenner	11/05
Paul Chaffee	11/06
Jan Diers	11/06
Ren Davis	11/06
Kelly Frieders	11/07
Perk Stanko	11/08
Barbara Schoepflin	11/09
Clare Renoux	11/12
Pedro Goycolea	11/16
Bill Cochran	11/16
Ruth Holter	11/17
William Kinkead	11/18
Sandy Roberts	11/18
Ruthanna Higley	11/19
Sharon Chamberlin	11/19
Sue Gillett	11/20
Cheryl Caswell	11/20
Suzanne Schinkel	11/21
Dick Setter	11/23
Donna Worland	11/30
Barbara Buesing	11/30



## Congratulations on Your Wedding Anniversary

Ann & Warren Nechodom	11/04
Connie & John Aglione	11/06
Glen Harrison & Julie Ingham	11/15
Rick & Joan Ernst	11/19
Chris & Jessica Thomas	11/19
Donn & Ruthanna Higley	11/26
Paul & Gail Chaffee	11/28

If you have not seen your special day (birthday/ anniversary) in the newsletter, please contact Amy if you would like to update your record.

# Javarita Coffeehouse

## Concert Series

Our Javarita Coffeehouse got off to a great start. We even stepped things up a notch and are serving some good fair trade coffee, cool beverages and sweet deserts that help support our Youth Missions. Our aim is still to bring the best acoustic, roots music to the Santa Cruz Valley that not only honors the well worn grooves of the past while moving us further down the road where great harmonies are not just sung but emit a purpose. The Javarita concert series challenges the major concert halls with variety and talent and the ticket price can't be beat. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 and season tickets can still be purchased this month for \$50.00 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.

### **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)

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

## **Remember the Migrant: A Prayer Service for Those That Have Died in the Desert**

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm—Pauper's Field—Evergreen Cemetery (1015 North Oracle—Tucson)

Sponsored by Local Faith Leaders.

More than 182 people have died crossing the desert this last year. Join other people of faith as we commemorate these sacred lives with an ecumenical prayer service. In the tradition of the Día De Los Muertos, after the service there will be a reception with mariachis, pan dulce and chocolate caliente.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Hack McCall

MONDAY BREAKFASTS continue at La Placita, 8 am. This is a great way to start your week during this beautiful month.

FALL RETREAT will again be held at Madera Canyon on Saturday, November 12, 10 am-2 pm. There is no cost for the retreat; you bring your lunch. Also, bring a lawn chair and put a Golden Eagle on the dashboard of the car. We will meet at Whitehouse Canyon area—the 1st area on your right with covered tables. Sign up sheet is in the narthex — arrange your own carpool.

The theme will be “The Golden Years—Are They Tarnished?” This will be an interactive retreat where everyone contributes. Our leaders will be Cliff Grindy, Donn Higley, and Rich Hill. Let's have a great turnout!

USHER OPPORTUNITY. Men's Fellowship will provide the ushers for Sunday, November 13. This will be a “kick-off” for our Fall season. Call me if you would like to usher and tell me which service you prefer. 625-0759. We also need a worship leader for the second service.

ITALIAN DINNER — look ahead. Friday, December 2 at 6 pm. Cost is \$8 per person. Tickets will be available between services.



### Eye on Latin America Documentary Films

#### “Argentina: Hope in Hard Times”

**Saturday, November 5 at 3 pm**

Let's get into this extraordinary documentary film and see how the Argentine people solved their problems during economic crisis.

“Que se vayan todos!” Chants echo off the skyscrapers, burst through the plazas, and clamor down the streets of Buenos Aires. “Throw them all out!” shout legions of frustrated Argentine housewives, students and lawyers, weaving their way through the city one summer evening, banging on pots. What would you do if you lost your job, they closed the banks so you couldn't access your saving, and the government seemed unable to help? In Argentina they stormed supermarkets for food; the police gunned down 30 people in just one day. But what happened next was truly extraordinary. This is a particularly timely film in light of Occupy Wall Street and the ongoing economic crisis that afflicts Americans.

# MISSION!

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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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. 30<sup>th</sup>, 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. 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 **November 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 Redmond 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](http://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.

## Mission Fair Gift Projects

November 13, 20, 27 and December 4

### COMPOSTING TOILETS

Many homes in Nogales, Sonora, lacking connections to potable water supplies and wastewater collection systems, use open pits for the disposal of human waste. These overflow during times of heavy rain and raw sewage runs directly into the communities. One solution to this problem is the use of composting toilet systems. These work by providing a closed area for human waste, adding sawdust, and then relying on bacteria to turn the waste into safe and valuable compost. Contributions to this project help provide these toilet systems for those who cannot afford them, and thereby improve the health of the whole community.

### SAHUARITA FOOD BANK

The Sahuarita Food Bank at The Good Shepherd provides monthly assistance to families in our community who need help now more than ever before. In addition to a government-provided box of staples, our pantry offers a wide choice of vegetables, fruits, pasta, cereals and paper products. Your donation helps families, singles and elders who are hungry.

### EDNA HOSPITAL

The primary mission of the Edna Adan (not for profit) Hospital of Somaliland in East Africa is to improve Maternal and Infant health care (Somaliland has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world) and also to fight the practice of Female Genital Mutilation which is endemic throughout the region. Fees are kept to an absolute minimum and the poorest patients receive free care. Prolonged civil war virtually destroyed Somaliland's healthcare system and private donations are much needed to supplement aid from governmental and international organizations.

### FAMILY VILLAGE FARM

The King's Matriculation School is part of Family Village Farm in India. The world-wide United Church of Christ supports this mission project. The farm is a home for both very poor children

and homeless elderly people, who live together to make families. It has a bakery and cows and chickens. The school is in need of a school bus, so other needy children can attend the school and all the students can go on field trips. A donation to this project will help buy that bus.

### WATER MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

There is a water crisis in the world. Each day 5,500 people die from the lack of safe water and proper sanitation. Water Missions International provides safe water to those who have none, both in developing countries and disaster areas. Through one-of-a-kind engineering innovations, WMI is transforming communities and changing lives. The average American uses about 80-100 gallons of water each day, but in developing countries, five gallons can meet the daily water needs of one person. Your donation will help to supply that five gallons.

### THE PACHAMAMA ALLIANCE

The Pachamama Alliance empowers indigenous people of the western Amazon basin to defend their territories and cultures. Its work extends over tens of millions of acres of one of the most pristine and biodiverse ecosystems on Earth. The Alliance actively researches and implements sustainable economic alternatives to the main threats to their lands—oil drilling, mining and logging. Ecotourism and improved agriculture and aquaculture are the current alternative practices. Your donation to this cause will support these alternatives.



## Bookworms-- A Change of Book for November

Bookworms, Our Caboodle from the library for "Love in a Time of Cholera" will not be available until Nov. 8. However, "Caramelo," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, is available now. It is in the office at the church, where you can pick up a copy. So, we'll read "Caramelo" for November 21 and "Love in a Time of Cholera" for December 19.

## Border Journey— Josseline's Shrine

Dear friends,

I visited the shrine for Josseline Hernandez during a hike along the migrant trails on October 8. Josseline was a 14-year-old girl from El Salvador who was traveling with her 10-year-old brother. They were going to Los Angeles to reunite with their mother. After crossing Guatemala and the entire length of Mexico, they hiked 20 miles in the desert of southern Arizona.

Josseline became ill and they were still 20 miles from the pick-up spot. The “coyote” (guide) left her behind because he had to get the group there on time to meet their ride. Her brother didn't want to leave but she told him “You have to keep going and get to Mom.” Josseline died in the cold of winter in the desert on February 20, 2008.

Focusing my attention on the task of taking photos allowed me to ignore any feelings about what had happened there. I pulled out the plants that were obstructing the view of the cross so that I could get a clearer picture. Then I started removing a few of the plants that had grown up behind the cross and I remembered watching Isabel cleaning the grave of her brother Reyes for the Day of the Dead in El Salvador. It felt as if I was doing something for Josseline but it was more about soothing my own emotions.

I took the photos and put the camera back in my pack. That's when it hit me and I started to sob. Sonia, Josseline's mother, wrote a poem that is inscribed at the base of the cross:

“When you feel that the road has turned hard and difficult don't give up in defeat. Continue forward and seek God's help. We'll carry you always in our hearts.”

Josseline died alongside a dry streambed in a small canyon. As we were hiking up the hill, I looked back and was struck by the beauty of the scenery. The contrasting emotions of the sorrow

for her death and the peace from that view are still with me.

The sorrow also alternates with anger about the policies that killed Josseline. Sonia was unable to find work in El Salvador and she went to Los Angeles to earn money to send back for Josseline and her brother. She had worked for years in L.A. and finally saved up enough money to bring her children there. Her dream turned to tragedy when Josseline became the victim of a militarized border created by successive administrations in the U.S.

Bill Clinton began the policy that would lead to the death of Josseline and thousands of other unauthorized immigrants. He pushed the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) through congress in 1993 and that destroyed the livelihood of more than two million small farmers in Mexico.

His administration then started building border walls and placing more Border Patrol agents to block the flow of migrants through Tijuana-San Diego; Nogales, Sonora–Nogales, Arizona; and Ciudad Juarez–El Paso. This policy of “deterrence” funneled migrants away from the urban areas and into more remote and hazardous terrain. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, this militarization was escalated by George Bush and Barack Obama with the justification of “securing the border.”

Not a single terrorist has been caught crossing the border from Mexico into the U.S. Yet, the government continues to “deter” people that are seeking work, or to be reunited with their families, by pushing them into the deadliest terrain along the border. That's a political objective which is pursued through the use of armed force and causes large numbers of civilian casualties – including 14-year-old girls from El Salvador.

With love and solidarity,  
Scott

*Scott Nicholson, a member of University Congregational UCC in Missoula, Montana, serves with BorderLinks in Nogales, Mexico as a volunteer at the Community Center.*

## The Good Shepherd UCC Council Minutes

September 28, 2011

Members present: Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Drew Mason, Steve Smith, Julie Ingham, Penny Pestle, Phyllis Hallman, Susan Hill. Jackie Smith, Moderator -Elect was also in attendance.

Randy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report: Randy reported that:

Stevie Demarest began her duties as full time Ministry Intern today.

The signage on La Canada was nearly complete and looking good.

Stephen Ministry is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Javarita Coffee House program has been completed. He provided the new brochure and noted that the series had been reduced from 8 programs to 6. Some of the visiting artists will also participate in border related activities while in Sahuarita.

The Border Issues Fair arrangements have been firmed up with Jason de Leon as the featured speaker.

Treasurer Bonnie Sondrol is on the road and will be returning in a few days. She will provide an updated financial report next month.

Board/Committee Reports:

Finance: Steve Smith reported that our financial situation is strong.

Christian Ed: Julie Ingham commented that the number of kids on Sunday is growing. There are regularly from 4-6 in the Nursery, and last Sunday there were 12 older children in attendance. She was very enthusiastic about the prospects of a growing membership/attendance.

Open and Affirming: Penny Pestle announced that the O & A Board will kick off a study on the Criminal Justice system; on November 13<sup>th</sup> an ONA/Diversity Committee sponsored panel enti-

tled "Faith and Justice: Exploring our Criminal Justice System" will be presented. In January O & A will host several evenings of discussion on related topics.

Membership: Randy showed the new Good Shepherd website which was initiated by the Membership Board.

Stewardship: Penny reported for Ann Cochran, who was not in attendance, that the Stewardship Board will provide an opportunity for members to sign up and/or renew their E-Scrip Memberships on October 2 and 9 in the Narthex.

Facilities: Reporting for interim Chair Pete Hagen, Randy noted that a correction to the wiring in the Redman Room to resolve the problem of blown fuses was recently completed.

Worship: Phyllis Hallman noted that Charlie Heaphy and Marge Kinkead were continuing to prepare communion for the first and second services respectively and consider it a meaningful privilege to do so. She gave special attention to the upcoming World Communion Sunday on October 2nd.

Long Range Planning: On Sunday, October 23rd, the LRP team in conjunction with various boards will provide an opportunity for members of The Good Shepherd to sign up for specific ways to serve the church. This is an implementation of one of the goals of LRP as envisioned by last year's deliberations.

Mission: Susan Hill outlined Mission 1, a national UCC food justice campaign taking place 11/1/11 – 11/11/11. The Good Shepherd will participate in all three components of this collective mission project.

1) UCC Neighbors in Need offering with focus on projects addressing hunger and poverty..... Our Goal: \$1,111

2) Support of the Sahuarita Food Bank ..... Our Goal: To secure 1,111 items for the Sahuarita Food Bank at The Good Shepherd

3) Letters to Congress ..... Our Goal: To write 111 letters to elected officials asking Congress to revamp foreign aid to do more to combat hunger

and poverty.

A brief video presentation of Mission 1 will be shown during announcements at worship 10/23.

To follow up on Mission 1, a plan to identify the first Sunday of each month as Food Justice Sunday was supported by the Council. Ways in which to incorporate Food Bank donations into the worship service will be developed.

Alternative Gift Fair gifts have been selected and include local, regional and worldwide projects. Arrangements for the fair itself, being held on 11/13,20,27 & 12/4, still need attention.

#### Old Business:

It was announced that the new chairs will be delivered sometime around the 1st to the 4th of November. Chair of the Chair project, Jackie Smith, said that the old chairs would be contributed to the UCC SW Conference. Randy added that The Good Shepherd would retain 100 of the old chairs. Money raised for the project is in excess of \$33,000.

#### New Business:

The new Policy Review Task Force met. John Pestle has been proposed as chairman of the group. The Council gave unanimous approval to his appointment.

Jackie Smith presented a proposal made by Ms. Ann Striker that Ann enter into an agreement with Good Shepherd to have use of the kitchen for the production of meals for her personal business. This would entail selling meals off-premises for delivery to families and individuals in Green Valley and Sahuarita. She would use the facility approximately three days a week for six hours a day and schedule her time around previously scheduled functions in the church. She would pay \$600 rent per month for use of the kitchen, on a three month trial basis to commence on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, Ann would provide meals to The Good Shepherd, at cost, which would be distributed by our Care Team to individuals with im-

mediate needs, such as recent discharge from the hospital.

The moderator pointed out that Finance Board member, Attorney John Pestle, had reviewed our insurance policy with our agent and concluded that The Good Shepherd would be adequately protected from untoward events occurring on and/or off the premises. John Pestle has agreed to prepare a lease agreement if the plan were to go forward.

Ms. Striker will pursue at her own cost getting the kitchen licensed. If obtained, this will give the Boy Scouts the certification needed for using our kitchen for their events.

A motion to accept the proposal was made by Penny Pestle and seconded by Julie Ingham. After further discussion a vote was taken. The motion carried with no objections.

There being no further business, Randy adjourned the meeting with a prayer.

Drew Mason, Council Sec'y

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

### 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!