

Good News from

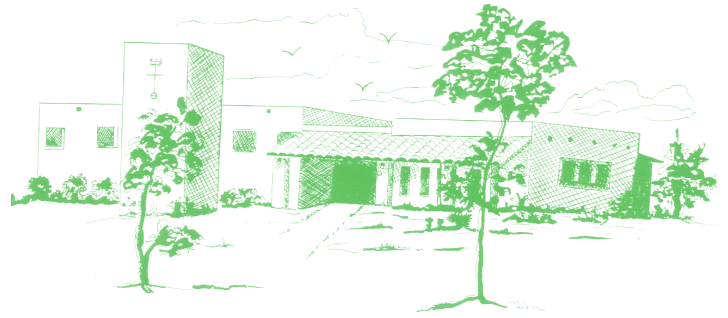
The Good Shepherd
United Church of Christ

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<http://www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org>



February 2012

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.

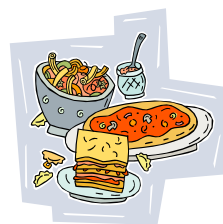
Living the Questions ...
Continues with
First Light



First Light, Jesus and the Kingdom of God, narrated by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan illuminates the pre-industrial, agricultural world into which Jesus was born. Many people believed that a Messiah would be a warrior-king who liberates his people from imperial oppression. This DVD was filmed on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem. We presented the first two sessions in Adult Forum in January. Because of the wide interest in this DVD we are going to continue to offer the DVD and

discussion. If you did not see the first two sessions there is more to learn. The titles of upcoming sessions include, *God's Great Cleanup, Parables as Lures, Jesus as Lord, Demonstrations in Jerusalem, Resurrection as Resistance and America as the New Rome.*

Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. We will continue the DVD-discussion series on Tuesday, January 31 at 2:00 pm and conclude on Tuesday March 20 .



Pasta Night
Feb. 17, 6 pm

Men's Fellowship will sponsor a PASTA NIGHT on Feb. 17 at 6:00 pm. Lasagna plus the trimmings will be served! Due to limited seating in the Redman Room, we'll be selling only 88 tickets and unable to accept "walk-ins." Anyone (male, female, adult, youth) who would like to help with this dinner, please contact Hathaway Cornelius at 404-2523.

Jesus Seminar on the Road Is Coming!

See the enclosed flyer. Registration is easily done at www.westarinstitute.org Go to Events, Jesus Seminar On the Road in Sahuarita, AZ.

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Minister's Reflection

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:

Facilities:
Donn Bruskievicz & Pete Hagen

Finance:
Steve Smith
Membership:
Bob Buehring
Mission/Outreach:
Susan Hill
Stewardship:
Hathaway Cornelius
Worship:
Phyllis Hallman

Greetings,

If you haven't figured it out---we have entered our busy season at The Good Shepherd. Isn't it fun! On top of the busyness of the season I need to let people know of an additional responsibility that I have put on my shoulders during the height of our year. Many of you know that I have been working on my Doctor of Ministry, in fact I am in the final phase of a three and a half year journey. The final phase is to write and conduct a final project or dissertation that needs to be 80 to 120 pages. So over the summer and on my days off I have been reading, writing and working behind the scenes. It is a project that is very much connected with the church and our ministry along the border. It is entitled, "A Church on the Border: Pushing the Edge of Faith" and focuses on the Gospel of Mark and Jesus teaching his disciples the "Way" which was a model of life and serving the other.

The connection with The Good Shepherd is our teaching and living out Jesus', "Way" in the context of the border and our Samaritan Ministries. It has been fascinating to research and the writing has been rather invigorating. I am in the home-stretch and can see the finish line. My deadline for the rough draft to be in the hands of my faculty committee is March 4th. From where I sit right now, six weeks out, I think it is very attainable. But it is going to take some steady stretches of writing, so over the next month I will be spending some significant time at home writing. I still plan to be in church on Sunday's, although I do have a few guest preachers lined up. I also will make it to a few meetings and if there are any emergencies I will be available. The main point is that I can see the horizon---and I just need to hunker down and get the work done. If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail or contact me.

With you on the Journey,

Randy

Newsletter Deadline

MARCH Issue

WED., FEB. 15, 2012

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



Charlie King & Karen Brandow

Present a

Special Musical Workshop

"It Isn't Nice:

A History of Nonviolence in the U.S."

February 5th, 4:00 pm

The workshop will be followed by a Potluck Dinner at church. Freewill offering.

Charlie and Karen will be recreating the history of people's dreams and struggles for a better world in PowerPoint images, dramatic readings and powerful songs, this particular presentation chronicles the inspiring history of nonviolent direct action involving dozens of social issues and people of diverse races and ages. Starts with the Boston Tea Party and ends with Iraq veterans resisting the war. Time will be set aside for provocative post-presentation group discussion. Come for the presentation and stay for the potluck (bring something hot or cold) and conversation. Check their webpage: www.charlieking.org. If you have questions please call Randy Mayer---625-1375.

Tucson Chamber Artists

On Friday, February 17, at 7:00 pm, Tucson Chamber Artists, southern Arizona's premier professional chamber choir and orchestra, presents Johannes Brahms's beloved *Ein Deutches Requiem* at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Val-

ley. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. For tickets: In Green Valley David Leege (399-9874) or www.TucsonChamberArtists.org.



Javarita Coffeehouse

February 10th, 7:00 pm

Chris Brashear & 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 person)

Legacy Program Building Steam

As the snowbirds return and activities at The Good Shepherd increase, the Legacy Program is renewing its efforts to attract more couples and individuals who wish to make a gift in perpetuity to our Church – and, possibly, to help their own financial circumstances in the process.

We urge you to consider participating in this program that is so vital to The Good Shepherd's future. Members of the committee, David Lavender, Rick Ernst, and Pres Johnson are available to discuss a variety of options with you. Give one of them a call.

And if you have already made provision for the Church in your estate planning, please notify Randy or Amy that you have done so.



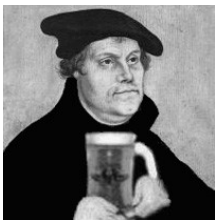
Taizé

The February Taizé service will take place on the 8th at 6:00. Folks say they are so busy they can hardly find time for everything on their calendar. That's a sure sign that a bit of candlelight, music and silence might be just what's needed. See you at Taizé--with your friends and neighbors.



Women's Fellowship News

Our Co-Coordinator for Women's Fellowship are Kay Novak and Mary Ferland. Kay and Jim Novak are making Green Valley their home base. Mary Ferland and Tom Bunicky spend half the year here and half back in New Hampshire. You can reach Kay at or by email jkno-vak62@gmail.com Mary's local phone number is 398-7178; her New Hampshire number is (603) 303-9343, email: traveler.2@comcast.net



Theology on Tap Tuesday, February 21st, 6:00pm

We will be having a spontaneous theological conversation at El Charro's Restaurant on Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 6:00pm. Last month we got into the topic of sacred space which continues to be a place of passion for many. All are welcome, whether you will be having just chips and salsa, a full dinner or a glass of wine or a draft beer. Call the church office if you have any questions or topics you would like to discuss.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join Us for Our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00pm on February 21. This will be a time to be together as we begin our journey toward Jerusalem.

Food Collection February 5

Just a reminder that we will be collecting food for the Sahuarita Food Bank, held at The Good Shepherd, on Sunday, February 5. Bring your contributions to the table in the front of the sanctuary before either worship service. They will be blessed as part of our offering from our abundance to God's service.

Rummage Sale — Big News

We now have two (2) storage areas for donations.

North of Esperanza — If you live in this area, we have space donated by Sue and Ken Woodward. Contact Tom Bunicky, 398-7178 for donations or pick up.

South of Esperanza — If you live in this area, we have space donated by Continental Self Storage. Contact Jim Furber, 399-4327 for donations or pick up.

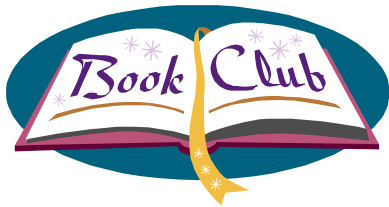
Sale Dates— March 9 & 10

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.

Afternoon Book Club

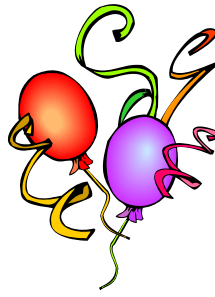
Afternoon Book Club meeting will be Tuesday, February 28th at 1:30 pm. We will be discussing "Caramelo" by Sandra Cisneros. Members will be receiving email notification of hostess and location. "New" members are always welcome. Please look in the church bulletin for further details or call Judy Tomhave or Jan Bennett



Bookworms Evening Book Group



Bookworms, the evening women's book discussion group, will be reading "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night," by Mark Haddon. It is available in a Caboodle from the library. Pick up your copy in the church office. Be sure to leave your name when you take a book. We will meet Feb. 20, 7 pm, at Martha Belle Fray's, 940 W. Quail Drive, Green Valley. For March, we will read "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," by Rebecca Skloot. It will not be available as a Caboodle, because there are already six holds on one Caboodle, so you'll be on your own to acquire a copy to read. It is available as a sound recording or e-book from the library. There are currently 21 holds on first copy returned of 74. You might want to get your name on the reserve list soon. For information about Bookworms, contact Sandra Rooney, 625-5962, srooney8@cox.net.



Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!

Linda Ott	02/01
Earl Sires	02/02
Velma Adams	02/05
Conrad Erickson	02/07
Ann Cochran	02/12
Shirley Grindy	02/15
Sue Woodward	02/16
Robert Lyngholm	02/21
Rosemary Stoltenberg	02/22
Tom Bunicky	02/22
Patricia Seitz	02/22
Drew Mason	02/23
Florence Davis	02/26
Anne Haynes	02/27
Mickie York	02/27
John Pestle	02/28



Congratulations on Your Wedding Anniversary

Jim & Aleta Brown	02/01
Patricia & Jack Seitz	02/01
Dick & Florence Mayer	02/06
Robert & Ruth Lyngholm	02/15
Don & Jan Segraves	02/28

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Hack McCall

PASTA NIGHT: February 17, 6 pm.

The Men's Fellowship listened when people talked!! Thus, the Chicken Bar-B-Q will be replaced by PASTA NIGHT.. PASTA NIGHT will feature a Lasagna dinner plus the trimmings. Tickets are \$8.00 and will be sold only in advance. Due to the seating limitations of the Redman Room we can seat only 88 people. Tickets will be sold on three Sundays between services: January 29, February 5, and February 12.

We need:

1. People to help set up, take down, and miscellaneous jobs. Please call Chairman Hathaway Cornelius at 404-2523.
2. Ticket sellers for between services. Please call Hack McCall at 625-0759.

KIVA, a men's fellowship/discussion group, continues on Mondays, 7pm in the church library.

MONDAY BREAKFASTS continue at La Placita, 8 am. Come for food and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends.

WINTER RETREAT was a great success. Thanks to Curt Ackley for the stimulating day.

RUMMAGE SALE This is our biggest revenue source. Guys—look ahead and put this on your calendar.

March 5-8
March 9-10

work week, mornings
SALE days

Parking Reminder

As the Sanctuary begins to fill up on Sunday morning, so does the parking lot. The parking lot in the school, across from the Church, is now open. We would appreciate it if a number of first service attendees would consider parking in the school lot. This would be especially helpful to visitors and late arrivers who need to park closer to the Church. Thank you for your consideration.



Christian Education

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second month of the New Year. I would like to thank all of the youth and children who participated in our Christmas Eve service. It was a fine way to enter into the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Please see our website under the events page for pictures from our Christmas Eve service.

As always there is a lot going on at The Good Shepherd! The Bible Studio has started up again with Rev. Susan Hill on Wednesday mornings at 9:00. Rick Ernst is continuing the DVD-discussion of First Light, Jesus and the Kingdom of God on Tuesday, January 31st at 2:00 PM. Jesus Seminar on the Road is returning to The Good Shepherd on February 24th and 25th. Please see our website under the Events and Adult Education pages for complete information. We also have our Christian Ed brochure available on the website (under Adult Education) and in the narthex that lists the topics for each Sunday's presentations through April. Adult forum meets on Sundays at 10:15.

The lectionary focus for the month of February is from Mark and Genesis. February 5 – Mark 1:29-30 speaks of the starting point of Jesus' ministry. He heals Simon's mother-in-law who then ministers to Jesus. The verb diakonein used in this story is the same verb used to describe angels that ministered to Jesus in the wilderness. It casts this woman in a different light than the usual supportive role women played (or said to have played) in the early church.

February 12th – Mark 1:40-45 Jesus heals a man with leprosy who disobeys the command to remain silent. Instead he chooses to proclaim what Jesus did ignoring the second step of the healing process required by his religion. The Old Testament reading for this day is from 2 Kings 5:1-14 which also speaks of healing and power. In both stories healing comes in unexpected ways. Healing is a gift not a reward. God's healing presence

is available for all whether we choose to accept it or not.

February 19th – Mark 9:2-9 Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus' glory is revealed as God's voice addresses Jesus as "my Son, the Beloved". Jesus and the 3 disciples find themselves in a "thin place" on the mountain top. A "thin place" describes the line that divides the holy and the ordinary, or where the veil between the physical world and the eternal lifts or is thin. You might have encountered a "thin place" in nature yourself, a place where you felt God's intense presence.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. The first Sunday in Lent February 26th – Genesis 9:8-17, this story is about promise and remembering. God's covenant is with Noah and his descendants that "never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth". The rainbow is a sign from God so that God remembers this covenant.

We will be continuing the contemplative corner in the library before and between the services. Each Sunday there is an object or piece of artwork and written material to help you with your quiet contemplations.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please email me at

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

Julie C. Ingham, Christian Ed Coordinator

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



*Just Coffee To Be Served
At
Good Shepherd*

The Council recently voted to broaden their support for the Just Coffee project by serving Just Coffee at all church events. Plans are to begin serving Just Coffee at Fellowship Hour and other events early in February.

Just Coffee is a coffee cooperative in Mexico, begun in 2003 with the help of Frontera de Cristo, a border ministry of the Presbyterian Church. By managing the production and sale of their coffee through the cooperative, the coffee farmers are able to earn a decent living for their families, stay on their land, and improve their communities. Our support of Just Coffee is a direct and effective way to help prevent the need for Mexicans to migrate to the U.S. to find work so they can support their families.

Thinking of having an
ESTATE SALE?

*We're here for you...
and for your friends...*

**Good Shepherd
Estate Sale Group**

Serving Green Valley and Sahuarita since 1993

Call: (520) 625-1375

**Pick up brochures in the Narthex
& give to your friends, neighbors,
& real estate agents**

Faith and Arizona's Criminal Justice System

The first session to explore the criminal justice system held January 15 was another exciting and informative offering from the Open and Affirming/Diversity Committee. Over 50 people attended class for Criminal Justice 101!

A foundation of the legal system was delivered to give an insight into our upcoming sessions. The three presenters—prosecuting attorney, defense attorney and judge—gave outstanding and easily understood presentations.

The next session, January 29, will be an exploration of **Diverse Faith Perspectives on Criminal Justice**. Presenters will be in attendance for the following faith groups: Jewish, Buddhist, Quaker, Muslim and moderation by Rev. Randy Mayer. This session, as all future sessions, will meet from 4:30 to 6 pm in the Redmond Room. Snacks and beverages are provided.

Mark your calendars for future sessions:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| January 29 | Diverse Faith Perspectives on Criminal Justice |
| February 12 | Sentencing and Alternatives to Prison |
| February 26 | The Human Impact of our Criminal Justice System |
| March 4 | Private Prisons and Immigrant Detention Facilities |
| March 18 | Prisoner Reentry Programs |
| | How can we as people of faith, make change? |

February Is American Heart Month

From the Mission Board...

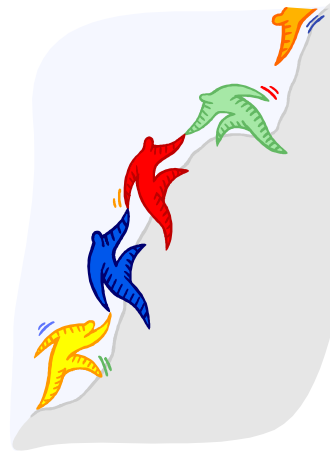
Did you know? Heart disease, including stroke, is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. American Heart Month is a time to battle cardiovascular disease and educate Americans on what we can do to live heart-healthy lives. You are at higher risk of heart disease if you are:

- A woman age 55 or older
- A man age 45 or older
- Or a person with a family history of early heart disease

Heart disease can be prevented. To keep your heart healthy:

- Watch your weight
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy
- Talk to your doctor about taking aspirin every day if you are a man over the age of 45 or a woman over 55
- Manage stress

The Center for Disease has an excellent website with resources at <http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/>. As does the website women'sHealth.gov at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/heart-disease.cfm>.



THANK YOU'S
We have received several thank you letters from organizations to which we contributed through our Mission Gift Fair. The thanks belong to you so here are two of them:

From Water Missions International:

“On behalf of those we are serving with sustainable, safe water, we thank you so much for your recent gift! Our hope is that no person should perish for want of safe drinking water or an opportunity to hear the Living Water message. Thank you for joining with us to help turn this hope into reality for the millions who need our help!”

From Global Ministries for support of the Family Village Farm and Kings Matriculation School:

“This letter coming in gratitude for your recent gift of \$1,240. As you have requested, it will be used in its entirety for ministries at the Family Village Farm and Kings Matriculation School in India. Global Ministries recognizes your special effort which this gift represents and with it your desire to support important ministries which enrich lives around the world.”

Electronic Giving

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!

Stewardship Letter

T'was the Nite before Dedication Sunday, and all through the House... Were you ever in the situation of having to write your Christmas 'thank you' notes BEFORE you opened the gifts? Well, here I am on Wednesday preceding Dedication Sunday. So, I'll just take my best stab at it!

Dear Uncle Gaspar, Thank you for your gift of support for our new Stephen Ministry. Your generosity has allowed us to commission four Stephen Ministers who will provide one-to-one Christian care to persons in need on behalf of our congregation.

Dear Uncle Melchior, Thank you for your generous gift that will allow us to hire a handbell choir director and a pianist for the Contemporary Service. Music is certainly one of the most important aspects of our church worship experience!

Dear Uncle Balthasar, Thank you for your generosity in providing funding for our Intern Youth Minister. Helping our young people develop a firm understanding of Christianity and how the principles of Jesus can become important guiding stars in their lives is truly one of our most important programs.

And, of course, Uncle Bob. I see your note under the tree that you haven't quite yet figured out exactly how you wish to support our church for 2012. However, I know you'll be generous - I just hope you can send your gift soon so the Finance Committee can know what our overall support for the mission and programs of our church will be!

My dear uncles, thank you all! Without your continued generous support, The Good Shepherd could not continue to be the light it is for the Santa Cruz Valley! Your respectful nephew,

Hathaway Cornelius
Chair, Stewardship Board

A Global Ministries Mission Moment from Turkey

Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples is often able to step in with critical assistance where it can really make a difference in someone's life. This story from missionaries Betty and Ken Frank is just one example:

A village boy in Turkey -- let's call him Murat -- was born deaf. His father is an unskilled day laborer, and the family income is limited. Murat is unusually bright and persistent. As a small boy, he worked out a sort of sign language that he forced his family to learn. They not only communicated with each other in this way, but family members could translate for him with outsiders. Murat was lucky because he was identified in a survey of the handicapped in local villages in his area. His pluck and skills enabled him to win a place in a special primary school for the deaf. There was only one catch -- it was a boarding school some distance from his village, and his family didn't have the money needed to support him there. Our Turkish partners brought this opportunity to us. We responded by using some of the funds from our UCC-Disciples churches to provide scholarship help to Murat.

Over the years Murat showed his worth, graduating from primary school with distinction. This qualified him to win a coveted place at a vocational-technical high school for the deaf, where he continues to excel. His interest is earthquake preparedness from the standpoint of the deaf. For example, in rooms where hearing impaired persons live or work, there should perhaps be a system of colored lights to communicate emergency situations. We are glad that through our churches we have been able to support Murat. He is someone using his personal success to be of help to others.

Ken & Betty Frank serve with the American Board in Istanbul, Turkey. They share the job of General Secretary of the American Board and follow closely the historical institutions now managed by SEV, the foundation in Turkey, which

now carries the responsibilities for former missionary-run institutions. They also serve on the board of the Istanbul Interparish Migrant Program (IIMP) and work in its programs.

The Good Shepherd UCC Council Minutes December 20, 2011

Members present: Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Drew Mason, Stevie Demarest, Rex Crouse, Nancy Bowen, Hathaway Cornelius, Phyllis Hallman, Steve Smith, Jackie Smith.

Randy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report:

Randy announced that Saving Jesus From the Church books have arrived and that he plans to hold two church wide groups to discuss the book and other groups will be encouraged.

He said the Christmas Extravaganza featuring the Mariachi band was highly successful, and that the group has asked to return to perform at Noel's ordination on January 28th at 2:00 pm. It was also agreed that the Council members present would bring refreshments for the event and each recruit two others to do the same.

On April 20-21 The Good Shepherd will host the UCC Southwest Conference. Professor Miguel de la Torre will speak. A large attendance is anticipated.

Planning for the Border Issues Fair is underway and Holly Near, will be featured at the Javarita Coffee House on Friday evening to begin the event.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer was absent but the Finance Chair, Steve Smith reported that the Board had prepared the budget for the upcoming year and presented the figures to the Stewardship Com-

mittee in preparation for the annual Stewardship Campaign.

Board/Committee Reports:

Finance: No additional report.

Christian Ed: Reporting for the Board, Stevie said the Youth had been practicing for the Christmas Program and it was looking good. The annual youth Mission Trip is scheduled for San Antonio, TX next July. The annual Talent Show is scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd.

Open and Affirming: As follow up to the first Criminal Justice Forum held last November, on January 15, from 4:30 to 6:00, a program entitled "Criminal Justice 101", will feature a panel consisting of a judge, a public defender and a prosecuting attorney who will give an overview of the judicial system. A subsequent event scheduled for January 29th will feature members of different religions to discuss different faith perspectives.

Membership: It was announced that a New Member Dinner is scheduled for January 21st.

Stewardship: Hathaway advised that in preparation for the Stewardship Campaign, two speakers and an audiovisual presentation will be scheduled.

Facilities: No report.

Worship: No report.

Mission: No report

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

.....Drew Mason made a brief presentation to the effect that The Good Shepherd should use Just Coffee for church functions instead of buying coffee locally. He put that in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Steve Smith. After a brief discussion the question was moved and passed without opposition.

.....Moderator Connie Aglione explained the

plan for the new model of managing the activities of the church. The form of this change follows the Long Range Plan, which was confirmed by the congregation last March. The “Outline for Proposed New Working Configuration” is attached [to the Council’s meeting documents]. The Council voted to recommend the plan to the congregation. The Nominating Committee will use the new framework as it carries out its work. A report with a description of the new model will be distributed to the congregation prior to the annual meeting.

Hathaway explained the need for proof of the church’s tax exemption in order to satisfy the requirements of grant proposals that may be made in behalf of the Food Bank.

Randy presented and discussed the Four-Way Ministry Covenant The Good Shepherd is joining with the Southwest Conference and the Church World Service in behalf of the ministry of Noel Anderson.

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

Drew Mason, Council Sec’y

Rummage Sale News

Rummage Sale Week Is Early:

March 5-10

Sign up sheets are being posted in the Narthex, so plan to help with the Rummage Sale—always a great opportunity for fellowship and fund raising, not to mention the shopping!

Gather your donations and if they don’t need to be picked up, bring them to the back patio of the church in the mornings on Monday-Wednesday, March 5-7.

The setup crew does their magic on Monday, Volunteers begin on Tuesday-Thursday, and the Sale days are Friday and Saturday mornings.

Amigo Open Invitation— Mush! Mush! Save the Date! Monday, February 20 at 2 pm

Our very own Donn Bruskiewicz will show a one hour PowerPoint presentation entitled, *Iditarod 2010: the Last Great Race on Earth*.

Donn who is a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee and a certified Iditarod dog handler, will take you from the pre-race experience, to the Ceremonial Race Start in Anchorage, then to the Official Race Start at Willow Lake, all of which he experienced in the year 2010.

Get to know the mushers and their dogs in Anchorage and at Willow.

From Willow, we will travel to and spend time in the Alaskan interior at Athabaskan Villages/race check points.

We will experience the care and feeding of the athlete-dogs and gain insight into the musher’s strategy at this, the one third point of the race.

Get out your arctic pack boots, zip up your parka and don’t forget your gloves.

This is guaranteed to be education and fun. See you in Anchorage!!! (via The Good Shepherd)

The Mid Abrego Amigos will be hosting this wintertime adventure and invite all church friends to join us. We will be meeting in the sanctuary for Donn’s presentation, so there is room for interested neighbors as well.



JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD



Sahuarita, Arizona

February 24-25, 2012



THE SOCIAL WORLD OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

ART DEWEY & JOANNA DEWEY

Lecture

From Jesus to Constantine: From Disunity to Unity

The myth of Christian origins maintains that early Christianity was a unity, a loving community. But far back into the mists of emerging Christianity, what we see is conflict and controversy. In this lecture we will examine the plurality and diversity in early Christian belief, why Christianity grew, why it succeeded and how Constantine imposed unity on the believers. (Arthur Dewey)

◆ Friday evening, 7:30-9 P.M.



Joanna Dewey (Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union) is the Harvey H. Guthrie, Jr. Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is the author of several books, including *Mark as Story* (with David Rhoads, 1999).



Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, co-founder of the Healing Deadly Memories Program, and co-author of *The Authentic Letters of Paul* (with Roy Hoover & Lane McGaughey, 2010) also co-author of *The Complete Gospel Parallels* (with Bob Miller).

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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Jim Furber

(520) 399-4327
furber@spacestar.net

Jackie Smith

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jackiesmithaz@aol.com

Workshops

Social World of the Roman Empire and its Christian Communities

We will examine the social/economic structure of the Roman Empire and the place(s) of women and slaves within it. We will survey the various roles women played in early Christian communities. The session will include a performance of "Women on the Way," a rendition of the Gospel of Mark, as Artemisia, an imaginary late first century woman, might have told it. We will also look at the roles of slaves in early churches. Finally we will explore the forces that resulted in the increasing subordination of women and slaves in some Christian communities. (Joanna Dewey)

◆ Saturday, 9:30-noon

Imperial Images in Stone and Song

The dominant power in the ancient world was Rome and its Emperor. This dominance was not just military and political, but also ideological. Rome set the terms of debate. The recognition of this imperial influence is important in understanding the emergence of the Christian movement. We will examine imperial images to understand the meaning of the Roman Empire and then explore the early Christian hymn embedded in Paul's letter to the Philippians for its imperial imagery. Finally we will turn our attention to how Constantine turned the church into an empire. (Arthur Dewey)

Implications for Contemporary Christianity

What does the active role of women and slaves in early Christianity tell us about the possible configurations contemporary Christianity might take? How might we begin to learn from the diversity of the past? From its strengths and its weaknesses? How might we respond to today's "empire?" (Joanna Dewey and Arthur Dewey)

◆ Saturday, 1:30-4 P.M.

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