

Good News from

The Good Shepherd
United Church of Christ

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<http://www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org>



January 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.

Stewardship Letter

We of The Good Shepherd are a welcoming and caring congregation, courageous as followers of Jesus through community and worship. Our willingness to generously fund our programs designed to meet the needs of our congregation, our Santa Cruz Valley community, and the wider world speaks loudly as to who we are!

Our annual stewardship campaign, "Seek Joy in What You Give", commences this month, and culminates with Dedication Sunday January 22nd and the pledging of our financial commitments. Our goal is to raise near \$380,000, a slight increase over 2011, to meet our projected 2012 operating needs. Near 40% of our budget supports our celebration of worship and music. Another 30% furthers our commitment to both our local and global communities. Close to 20% goes toward providing spiritual support to our members, and the significant remainder supports the continuing Christian education of our youth and membership. New or enhanced programs for 2012 include adding to our ministerial staff through hiring our full-time Intern/Youth Minister, implementing the Stephen Ministry program, and enhancing our music program.

About 14% of our anticipated contributions comes from unpledged giving. Are you part of this group? If so, would you consider pledging for 2012? Not only does pledging allow our church to better plan the programs we support, but it is also indicative of the committed support of the pledger. Please consider courageously stating your support and make a pledge this coming year!

You will shortly receive your invitation to participate in this year's stewardship campaign, plus a 2012 pledge card. If you are unable to offer it Dedication Sunday, you may mail it to, or drop it off at, the church office. Have you considered 'eGiving' through either the UCC StillSpeakingMoney or your bank's direct-debit program? This is a 'win-win' for both yourself and for our church. You can 'file & forget' and the church receives a consistent cash flow. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact either the church office, the church Treasurer, or the Stewardship Board.

God has been outrageously gracious and generous to us. The impact of this abundance echoes in the words of St. Francis' prayer: "For it is in giving that we receive." So... how much should I pledge? Perhaps a reasonable answer would be that of Albert Lewin: "Don't give until it hurts - Give until it feels good!" Best wishes for you this season of sharing!

Hathaway Cornelius
Chair, Stewardship Board

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 Bruskiwicz & Pete Hagen

Finance:
Steve Smith
Membership:
Bob Buehring
Mission/Outreach:
Susan Hill

Stewardship:
Hathaway Cornelius

Worship:
Phyllis Hallman

Greetings,

It is always strange to step over the threshold into a new year. There is something that became kind of comfortable about last year, and yet on second thought it is probably best to let go and set the sights a little higher for the coming year. My, oh my there are great possibilities for 2012, the sky is the limit as we start out with a blank canvas ready to envision and create with a splash of color here and a little texture there. It is going to be fun to see how it all comes together as we create a year of ministry and mission together. But it does take everyone's effort and attention, their time, talents and treasures.

In our house we have a painting on the wall that was created at a summer birthday party. We just put out a canvas and over the course of the evening, adults and children would pass by and add a flower or a figure, some pink here some green there. In the end it didn't end up how anyone would have imagined, especially with so many ideas and hands getting in on the fun, but it ended up absolutely beautiful. As I look at our year ahead I see the same possibilities---but it does take everyone jumping in and getting in on the action and fun. 2012 will be the best year yet, I can just feel!!!

With you on the Journey,

Randy

Newsletter Deadline

JANUARY Issue

WED., JAN. 18, 2011

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

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at
11:15am on New Year's Day**

Every seven years, Christmas Day and New Year's Day end up on a Sunday. The Worship Board talked about it and decided it would be best to have just one worship service on those days---so please note in your mind and calendar that January 1st worship will begin at 11:15 am.

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Save the Date!

*You are cordially invited to
the service of ordination of
Noel Andersen*

at
The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church of the
United Church of Christ
Saturday, January 28, 2012

2:00 pm

A Reception will follow

Please come and celebrate the new ways
we can be faithful to God's call in our lives.
Clergy are invited to wear a celebration stole.

*Eighth Annual
Border Issues Fair and Concert
January 13 and 14th*



The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ will once again host the 8th Annual Border Issues Fair, with two keynote speakers and plenty of good music.

Holly Near and John Bucchino will kick off the fair with a concert on Friday evening, 7:00 pm. Holly is a well known activist and an impassioned singer/songwriter.

On Saturday at 8:00 am we will hear from Dr. Jason De Leon, a professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and director of the Undocumented Migration Project, an ethno-archaeological and ethnographic analysis of the economics of undocumented migration in southern Arizona and northern Mexico.

The other keynote address will come from Margo

Cowan who is a Pima County Public Defender, Sanctuary Movement leader, Board Member of Derechos Humanos and co-founder of the group No More Deaths. For more than 25 years, Margo has been an outspoken defender of migrants and has a keen awareness and experience in border and immigration policy and law.

Throughout the day there will be great music from Pablo Peregrina and his Band as well as displays from: BorderLinks, Just Coffee, No More Deaths, Humane Borders, Samaritans, Border Action Network and various Border Artists.

Suggested Donation:
\$10.00 for Border Issues Fair
\$20.00 for Holly Near with John Bucchino Concert (For ticket availability call the church office)

If people are interested in learning more about immigration, the US Border crisis and the multiple humanitarian projects that The Good Shepherd is involved in, a more in-depth experience can be offered. For more information, contact us at: 520-625-1375 or Email at seeyou@thegoodshepherducc.org.

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.

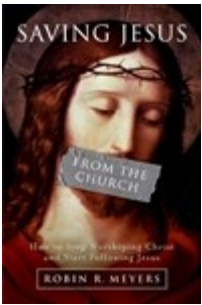
And if you have already made provision for the Church in your estate planning, please notify Randy or Amy that you have done so.

Taizé

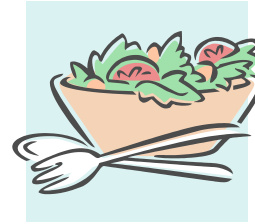


With the holidays behind us and the pace a bit slower, it's a good time to include Taizé in our schedule. January 11 at 6:00 pm will be here before we know it, so do put the date on your calendar. Why not invite a friend to join you? Many are now coming because someone invited them the first time. Some members of other churches--even those with their own Taizé--would like to attend such a service more often so would be open to trying ours. To sing together, to pray in silence and to rest in candlelight can calm the soul. Hope to see you.

Saving Jesus from the Church Book Study



Well the books finally arrived and from what I have been hearing—everybody is thoroughly enjoying the book and saying—"Hey, that is what I believe!" From what I hear there are a few spontaneous books studies that are beginning to organize---if we can get the information about them we will try and pass that on. The hope is that this book will stimulate lots of different groups and possibilities at The Good Shepherd. We will have a few organized gatherings to talk about the book at The Good Shepherd on Thursday, Jan 5th at 9:30 am and at 6:00 pm as well as on Thursday, Jan. 19th at 9:30 am and 6:00 pm. I do plan to use the book in a couple of sermons in January and I have had some conversations with the author Robin Meyers---who is very interested in coming to The Good Shepherd and speaking and spending some time. We most likely won't be able to make that happen this Spring---but hopefully some time before too long. If anyone has any questions or would like to speak with me about the book please contact me; Randy Mayer 625-1375



Women's Fellowship Welcoming Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday, January 11

at 11:30 am

Redman Room

Calling ALL Good Shepherd women! Let's gather for a Women's Fellowship Luncheon on Wednesday, January 11 at 11:30 am in the church's Redman Room for a *potluck* lunch—the more salads the better!

Helen Henderson will give us an update on Green Valley Assistance Services.

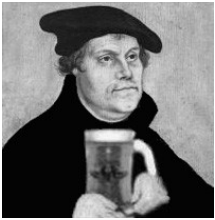
Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up for a casserole, salad, or dessert. Beverages and bread will be provided. Helpers Needed! Call Heidi Geroux at 867-8805.

Dear Good Shepherd Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful cards, thoughts and prayers after my dad's recent death. Your kind thoughts and actions have made this time easier for me and my family. I am truly blessed and grateful to be part of this community of caring.

Sincerely,

Amy Dillemath



Theology on Tap
 Tuesday, January 17th,
 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.

Javarita Coffeehouse
 January 13th, 7:00pm

Holly Near with John Bucchino

This will be one of our best concerts ever. 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, please call 625-1375 for ticket availability)



A Sweet Success

Thanks to all the bakers, knitters and shoppers who helped to make this year's Holiday Sweet Sale a big success! The final total of \$1,537.50 has been given to the Women's Fellowship treasury. The majority of their budget goes to support of charitable organizations. This year we had a donation of candy, prepared by our Good Shepherd youth under Stevie's leadership. The yummy caramels, each individually wrapped, were their creation.

A Tip from our Health Ministry...

Sticker Shock

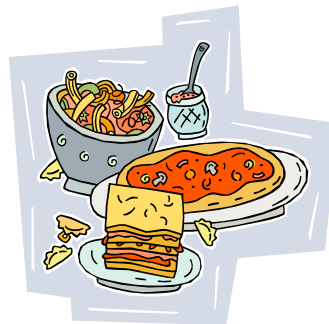
When you buy an apple or a banana or any other piece of fruit, check out that little sticker. It has a secret to share with you.

Each sticker has a code that reveals this very useful information...

- * Conventionally grown produce has a four-digit number on the sticker.
- * Organic produce gets a five-digit number that begins with a 9.
- * And produce items that are genetically modified also get five digits, but they begin with an 8.

Those stickers can be annoying when they're almost impossible to remove (yes, we're talking to you, stickers on thin-skinned fruit). But that's a small price to pay to avoid GM foods.

Pasta Night—Feb. 17, 6 pm



Men's Fellowship will sponsor a PASTA NIGHT on Feb. 17 at 6pm. Tickets will be \$8 and sold in late January. Due to the limited seating in the Redman Room, we will be selling only 88 tickets and unable to accept "walk-ins." Anyone who would like to help with this dinner please contact Hathaway Cornelius at 404-2523.

Bulletin Bloopers...

Thursday night--Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.



Christian Education

This Season after the Epiphany calls us into action and reflection. The beginning of a New Year gives us the opportunity to think about the past year and plan what we want to achieve in the year ahead. The liturgy for this month reminds us that God is the one who calls us and leads us. God gives us the choice to hear God's voice and to lead us in a new direction. Take some time this New Year to listen to God, to feel the Holy Spirit sweeping through you and listen to Jesus' words calling us into action. As I write this change is happening in my family, our kids are coming home for Christmas for a short 3 weeks and then they will be off again. Change is also happening in our church family with some of us moving out of the area and the passing of some of our cherished friends. It is hard to appreciate change or to revel in it but I believe God calls us to change and into action, we need to listen for the voice within beckoning us towards new beginnings.

January 1st- Matthew 2:1-12. For Matthew it is not the shepherds who come and find Jesus but magi. Magi were a priestly caste in ancient Persia and Babylon who interpreted signs using astrology, astronomy and dreams to advise the powerful. These 'Wise Ones' were Gentiles and they spread the birth of the King of the Jews to many nations.

January 8th – Mark 1:4-11. The writer of this gospel presents the baptism of Jesus as an acknowledgement of Jesus' relationship with God and as a starting point of his ministry. Mark is the oldest, the shortest and the most direct of the gospels and does not include a birth story but gets right into the heart of the action of Jesus' ministry. Jesus is the one identified as divine, he is from the lowly town of Nazareth, ironically the savior comes not as a King but one of the working class.

January 15th – 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Samuel was taken as a boy to be raised in the temple at Shiloh, a common practice of this time where children did

not belong to their parents but were viewed as gifts from God. Samuel slept in the room with the Ark of the Covenant and after hearing someone calling him, Eli the priest figures out it is God who is calling Samuel. God's message was one of major change for the country, they would no longer be ruled by judges but by kings.

January 22nd – Mark 1:14-20. Jesus calls his disciples. These are fishermen who hearing the good news that Jesus proclaims give up everything to follow him. This story connects with us today, we can be called to move forward and to let go, in situations of our own choosing or not.

January 29th – Mark 1:21-28. Jesus speaks with the authority of one who is sent by God, he demonstrates a divine authority that people had never experienced before. In this story he drives out an unclean spirit and this healing amazed the people who saw it. Jesus shows us the way to be instruments of peace and healing in our world today.

Thanks to Weze Davis for teaching the 5th-8th grade Church School class and her compassion and empathy for our youth as they grow in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian and follow Jesus.

Please be sure to check out our website for church school activities, resources you can use at home and of course pictures from our events.

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

Youth Group Update



In preparation for the Border Issues Fair, I'll be taking a group of interested people on Friday, January 13th to observe the **Operation Streamline Court Proceedings**. Operation Streamline happens every weekday at 1:15 at the Tucson Federal Courthouse. Operation

Streamline processes about 60-75 people a day, pleading guilty to a criminal charge of "illegal re-entry." This process takes place in five other cities across the US, and really showcases some of the hidden complexities in the push for "easy answers" in our broken immigration system. Join us at the church at 12:15pm on Friday, January 13th to caravan together to witness the court-proceedings, followed by a talk with a Federal Public Defender as we try and unpack what we will have just experienced. There is no cost, but please RSVP to Stevie at stevie@thegoodshepherducc.org.

Stevie Demarest, Youth Pastor

Talent Show Coming

January 22 will be the annual TALENT SHOW! Mark your calendars now. If you have a talent you'd like to share, email stevie@thegoodshepherducc.org

Mission Gift Fair

Thank you again, Good Shepherders, for your wonderful, amazing generosity. Our Mission Gift Fair received \$7224 to go people in need around the world. The largest amount was designated for Water Missions International, which provides safe water around the world. The rest of your gifts were pretty evenly divided between the Composting Toilets in Nogales, Sonora; the Sahuarita Food Bank; the Edna Aden Hospital in Somaliland, Africa; the Family Village Farm and Kings Matriculation School in India; and the Pachamama Alliance. Thank you again for sharing your love with people in these worthy projects.

Arizona Living Well

Arizona Living Well is a series of health promotion programs sponsored by PCOA (Pima Council On Aging) for managing one's personal health, staying fit and maintaining or improving quality of life. Two personal health programs for adults

60 years & older will be held locally beginning in January.

"Healthy Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions" If you are living with a chronic condition such as heart and lung disease, hypertension, arthritis, cancer or diabetes, this course will help you manage pain & fatigue, decrease frustration, increase fitness & solve problems. What: A six-week program for 2 1/2 hours on Thursdays starting Jan 19th at 1 pm. Contribution: \$15 or \$25 per couple includes a book. Where: La Vista at La Posada, Green Valley.

"A Matter of Balance" This program emphasizes the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle in order to reduce the risk of falling. Learn to view falls as controllable, the role of assertiveness in fall prevention, and simple exercises to increase strength & balance. Fall hazards in the home and how to get up & down safely will be presented by a guest therapist. What: Eight 2-hour classes, Tues. & Fri. for 4 weeks. Contribution: \$15 or \$25 per couple covers workbook, materials & snacks. Where: Green Valley Community Church.

Pre registration required for both programs:

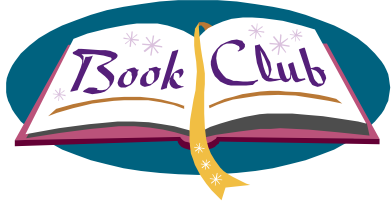
Call 790-7262 or online www.pcoa.org/arizona-living-well

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

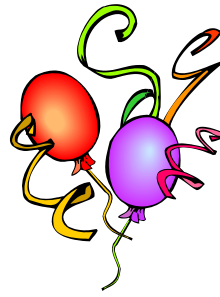
Afternoon Book Club will meet January 24th at 1:30 pm at Carrie Scheufler's home, 2865 S Calle Flamenco, 393-1992 We'll be discussing "Bless Me, Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya



Bookworms! Our evening women's book discussion group is reading "Love in the Time of Cholera," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, for our January 16 discussion.

We have a Caboodle from the library (bag of 15 copies), which is in the church office. If you're returning to Green Valley from the North the first of the year, you should still be able to pick up a copy to read. If you take a copy from the Caboodle, please sign the check-out list so Sandra can be sure to get all of them back before the February 2 return date.

We will meet as usual at Martha Belle Fray's, 940 W. Quail Dr., Green Valley. Please let her know if you plan to be there: 648-6569. We'll be selecting books for the next several months, so be thinking of suggestions. Please let Sandra Rooney know of books you'd like the group read and discuss, srooney8@cox.net. She'll try to get a list of suggestions out to all before the January meeting.



**Best Wishes
for a
Happy Birthday!**

Kit Humphries	01/02
Vern Wing	01/04
Dee Johnson	01/05
Margie Brewer	01/09
Lara Harrison	01/10
James Barrett	01/13
Jane Wood	01/13
Ian Rueb	01/15
Sandy Yahn	01/15
Ron Hays	01/16
John Aglione	01/20
Paul "Jerry" Burkhart	01/22
Marilyn Schoonover	01/25
Sally Culler	01/26
Rick Ernst	01/28
Jim Furber	01/30
Pat Leahy	01/30



**Congratulations
on Your
Wedding Anniversary**

Ken & Sue Woodward	01/02
Larry & Roberta Menefee	01/09

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

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

Quilting News



Katie is a very special eleven year old girl. After experiencing many hospitalizations and health problems she seems older than her years.

On December 16th Katie warmed the hearts of the Project Linus volunteers gathered for the monthly meeting to collect and distribute children's quilts. She told her story with poise and grace and a lovely smile. She had been the recipient of a Project Linus blanket at the time of a surgery that did not go well. She had to go back to the hospital and her blanket went with her. Ever since then she has turned to her blanket for comfort during the difficult times.

However, Katie's story does not end with her getting and treasuring her Linus quilt.. she thought about other children who go through tough times and wanted to do something for them. She started her own foundation, TEDDIES FOR THE LOST. She has a web site and continues to collect bears that go, in her words, "to kids during troubled times".

No one knows what effects could ripple from the quilt you made or help tie as you enjoyed the company of the other women also doing it. We do know each quilt brings comfort to a child hurting physically and/or emotionally.

Won't you join The Good Shepherd Quilters at 1:00 pm, January 10 at the church? No special sewing skill or experience is necessary. If you can bring a sewing machine and make a quilt that is great. Materials will be available. However, loving hearts and willing hands are needed for tying quilts, using a donation of completed quilt tops.

The group is scheduled to meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at the church. The January meetings will be January 10th and 24th. Hope to see you there. Questions? Call Helen Clarkson at 648-2869.

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

A Vision of a World without Walls

Written by Emily Goldthwaite Fries

When he [Barnabas] came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to God with steadfast purpose.
Acts 11:23

I recently explored Bethlehem with a friend who lived there before the construction of the 30' concrete wall that snakes through the city. Back then, people generally moved freely to and from Jerusalem, just a few miles to the north. Tourists flooded the city not just at Christmas time, but year round. Farmers tended the orchards and fields that had sustained them for centuries.

Today, the separation wall and its system of permits and identification cards generally exclude Bethlehem residents from crossing to Jerusalem, and discourage visitors from entering. The wall creates a very different landscape. The main road into town is blocked by the wall, so the neighborhood which used to welcome visitors driving in from Jerusalem now resembles a ghost town. As we followed the wall around and between homes and closed-up shops we tried to imagine how it might feel to live in this neighborhood today.

On my way home from my volunteer work at the

January Is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Palestinian Lutheran schools one day, as I crossed the checkpoint to return to Jerusalem (a privilege of holding a US passport), I feared that I have little hope to offer our students, who have experienced so much trauma and humiliation. Who am I to tell them there is a better future ahead? I felt ashamed that I could not even visualize Bethlehem without the wall. In that moment, I asked God to show me a vision of Bethlehem freed from the wall. I had come to the realization that I couldn't do it myself – I did not have the answer.

Later that same week, I saw the vision I had asked for. Many visions, in fact: paintings, collages, comics, and quotes painted on the wall. The graffiti is the work of both local and international artists. One mural pictures people opening the wall by pulling down a giant zipper; my favorite portrays the giant panels of the wall falling toward the viewer, with a clear view of Jerusalem on the other side, and a ladder to heaven revealing God's love to the people. It is the work of the faithful in this conflicted land who seek God's vision above all the cruelties imposed by human hands and dollars.

We pray together, as in the old Irish hymn, “Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art.” Please, God, reveal to us the potential you see in your creation. You are what matters – we want to witness your truth in this messed up world. Your powerful vision of peace has the last word.

The Rev. Emily Goldthwaite Fries is an ordained minister of the UCC who has volunteered through Global Ministries to accompany our partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

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!

Glaucoma is a serious, lifelong eye disease that can lead to vision loss if not controlled. But for most people, glaucoma does not have to lead to blindness. That is because glaucoma is controllable with modern treatment, and there are many choices to help keep glaucoma from further damaging your eyes. Treatment cannot reverse damage that has already occurred, but it can prevent further vision loss.

Glaucoma is an eye disease that causes loss of sight by damaging a part of the eye called the optic nerve. This nerve sends information from your eyes to your brain. When glaucoma damages your optic nerve, you begin to lose patches of vision, usually side vision (peripheral vision).

There are many types of glaucoma. Often, the cause of high pressure in the eye can help tell the type of glaucoma and the best treatment for it. Doctors don't know exactly how glaucoma damages the optic nerve. For many people, increased eye pressure seems to play an important role.

These risk factors may increase your chance of having glaucoma:

- Age – The older you are, the greater your risk.
- Race – African-Americans have glaucoma four to five times more often than others. African-Americans are also likely to have glaucoma at a younger age.
- Family history – If you have a parent, brother or sister with glaucoma, you are more likely to get glaucoma too. If you have glaucoma, your family members should get complete eye exams.
- Medical history – diabetes, previous eye injuries, eye surgery or long-term steroid use can increase your risk of glaucoma.

Anyone can get glaucoma. Glaucoma affects one in 200 people age 50 and younger. The rate increases to one in 10 over the age of 80. Find more information at this website: <http://preventblindness.org/glaucoma> The Adult Vision Risk Assessment is on this website as well.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Hack McCall

WINTER RETREAT: January 18

THEME: "Abundance: When all you have is more than you can imagine."

PRESENTER: Rev. Curt Ackley, member of our congregation currently an interim pastor in Sun City

DATE: January 18, 9 am-3 pm

WHERE: Coyote Grill, at San Ignacio, 4201 Camino Del Sol

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION? Sign up in the narthex and place a \$20 check in the envelope. The check guarantees your reservation. Deadline, Wed., Jan. 11. Check Payable to The Good Shepherd UCC

WHAT IS INCLUDED? Coffee and treats upon arrival, lunch of chicken fajitas and a marvelous day!

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

MONDAY BREAKFASTS continue at La Placita, 8 am. Come for food and fellowship.

A BIG MF THANK YOU TO—

- Cliff Grindy and Vern Wing for spearheading the Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Donn Higley, Vern Wing, Kim Gillett, and Robert Lyngholm for "heading up" the Italian Dinner

Start to plan ahead—How can you help with the Rummage Sale? See the notice elsewhere in this newsletter. If you can help Jim Furber or Tom Bunicky with the collection of merchandise [please call them.](#)

NOTE: We are always looking for "new" members for our Men's Fellowship activities. Questions? Call Cliff Grindy, 648-5485, Vern Wing, 648-0931, or me, Hack McCall, 625-0759.

2012 DATES TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR:

- January 18—Winter Retreat
- February 17—Pasta Night
- March 5-8—Work week for Rummage Sale
- March 9-10—Rummage Sale

Nominating Committee: We Need Your Time and Talents

As you might remember, many hours were devoted to the Long Range Planning (LRP) for the Church. Out of those efforts came new ways of looking at how we carry out the goals, objectives of the Church. One of the new learnings from the survey was that people would rather serve on a short term basis than a long term commitment. They would also prefer to focus on a team/task approach to addressing the needs of the Church.

Therefore, in 2012, the Nominating Committee is hoping to begin transitioning into some of the new models that were generated by the LRP. The Church Council has recommended to the Congregation a new working configuration that will be comprised of 4 Programmatic Teams plus an Administrative Team:

1. The Four Programmatic Teams Outlined in the LRP

Welcome and Inclusion
Mission, Service and Justice
Church Community Care
Spiritual Growth

2. The Administrative Team

Executive Committee
Facilities
Finance
Stewardship

Areas that the Nominating Committee will be looking for Congregational assistance are the following:

- Welcome and Inclusion - Membership: 5-6 people
- Mission, Service and Justice: 6-8 people
- Spiritual Growth - people needed for :
Communion, Special Services (Advent, Easter, etc.)
Meditation Opportunities, Retreats
Christian Education: 4 people
- Stewardship: 5 people
- Facilities: 3 people

The focus of each of these teams was outlined in the LRP Document dated February 24, 2011. If you need a copy of the document please contact Amy. Over the next several months, the Nominating Committee will be looking to fill the above areas. If you are interested in any of the open positions please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Thank you for looking how you might assist in the important work of the Church.

Nominating Committee:

Judy Bischoff, Chair
Shirley Heaphy
Jurine Shellberg
Jackie Smith
Chuck Tomhave
Donna Worland

*Faith and Arizona's Criminal Justice System:
Our in-depth 6-Part Series begins on Sunday, January 15*

Many Good Shepherd members and friends attended a panel in November that provided a foundation for six learning sessions, to be offered on Sunday evenings from mid-January through March.

It was very clear that our congregation has great interest in a faith-based examination of our criminal justice system. As nearly 80 of us attended the first panel. Many asked questions and made comments which have helped guide the ONA/Diversity Committee's choice of the topics that are listed below.

Please *mark your calendars* for these sessions, which will always occur *from 4:30-6:00 p.m.* on Sundays in the Redman Room. There will be one or more presenters who will speak briefly, allowing ample time for your questions and comments. Note that snacks and beverages will be provided for each session.

January 15, 2012 Criminal Justice 101

This session will provide an overview of the legal and judicial systems and will feature a prosecutor, public defender and judge. They will also explore what changes they would like to see in Arizona.

January 29, 2012 Diverse Faith Perspectives on Criminal Justice

Our speakers will present their perspectives from the Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and Quaker faith traditions.

February 12, 2012 Sentencing and Alternatives to Prison

We will concentrate on the impacts of Arizona's mandatory sentencing and truth-in-sentencing, alternatives to incarceration including veterans', drug and mental health courts, and Teen Court.

February 26, 2012 The Human Impact of our Criminal Justice System

Presenters will bring us their experiences as crime victims and those who have served time in a state correctional facility.

March 4, 2012 Private Prisons and Immigrant Detention Facilities

We intend to explore why private state prisons and private federal detention facilities have proliferated and the debate about their appropriateness. Speakers will include representatives of BorderLinks and the American Friends Service Committee.

March 18, 2012 Prisoner Reentry Programs

How Can We, as People of Faith, Make Change?

98% of prisoners come home. Effective prisoner reentry programs can ease the return of the formerly incarcerated to their families and communities and can reduce recidivism.

And as a wrap-up of the series, we will delve into the various opportunities to make change and will provide ways for congregation members to engage right away.

2012 Spanish Program Schedule

Plans are in place for the 16th consecutive eventful year of Spanish classes, related program events and exciting additions at The Good Shepherd.

A. Classes:

1. Beginner, Intermediate and Conversation classes will be held for 5 weeks, Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM – Noon, January 23rd to February 22nd at church. Registration forms are posted in the church for the three classes. Please take note that for all classes, church members and friends have priority for placement in the classes. Further, class size for Intermediate and Conversation will be limited to 20 students each class. For these reasons, if you plan to participate in Spanish classes you are advised to register early! Those considering Intermediate or Conversation level for the first time, the following may be helpful.

Intermediate Spanish – class will be conducted in a mixture of Spanish and English.

Conversational Spanish – class will be conducted in Spanish only. Movement between any of the three classes can be made during the first week, if desired.

2. Class Instructors for 2012 :

Dee and Pres Johnson - Spanish I

Stevie Demarest - Spanish II

Reyna Interiano - Conversation

Un bienvenido caluroso a profesores nuevas

Reyna Interiano, from Antigua, Guatemala, is co-founder of the Probigua Language School in Antigua which is highly regarded around the country for not only its language school but even more so for its work in developing community rural libraries and computer centers, providing mobile libraries to many schools, and administering a large private rural school, among other on-going educational projects.

Reyna is the administrator of the Probigua Educational Scholarship Program that The Good Shepherd has supported since 2004 with funding for scholarship for young Guatemalans to continue their education beyond the 6th grade. In 2011 our church is sponsoring 23 students with its gift of over \$5,000.

Reyna is invited and sponsored by The Good Shepherd for the 5 weeks of Spanish classes and will have the opportunity to live in local homes, speak to the congregation and its component groups about Guatemala, Probigua and its many educational endeavors around the country, including the scholarship program. Plans are also being made for Guatemalan cooking classes at the church.

Many of the 120 who have participated in the 6 The Good Shepherd Spanish Immersion Programs in Guatemala since 2002 know Reyna. She is looking forward to renewing acquaintances and making new ones on this trip. Arrangements have been made for Reyna to live in five church member's or friend's homes during her stay. Other members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to host Reyna for a meal, a church or community event, visits to area places of interest, etc. Ability to speak Spanish is not a criterion as Reyna wishes the opportunity to speak and perfect her English. If interested, speak with Dee or Pres Johnson.

Stevie Demarest is the new staff person at The Good Shepherd. She will be bringing her energy, enthusiasm and experience to leading Spanish II. Stevie has extensive service in working with Latin American and Hispanic cultures and is fluent in the language. She will be adding this teaching assignment to other varied responsibilities at The Good Shepherd, including the youth group's program coordination.

3. Registration Fee

\$35.00 per person. \$25.00 of the fee goes to the Probigua Scholarship Fund and \$10.00 to the church operating budget

4. Other Related Spanish Program Dates:

International Luncheon - Wednesday, February 22nd
Puerto Peñasco, Mexico cultural trip—February 28, 29,
March 1.

2011 Probigua Scholarship Recipients Posted

You are invited to view the second set of pictures and letters, posted in the narthex, of gratitude from the 23 Guatemalan Scholarship recipients being supported by The Good Shepherd in 2011. Pictures and letters will be rotated every three weeks until all 23 students are presented. Here is an opportunity to test your Spanish reading skills! The church's gift of \$5,000 in 2011 has brought the eight year contribution to \$20,300, helping some 75 young Guatemalan with a continued and specialized educational opportunity for employment that would be impossible to attain without financial assistance. Kudos to The Good Shepherd members and friends for their continued understanding and support!

2012 Annual Probigua Scholarship Campaign

Sponsored by the Spanish Program of The Good Shepherd UCC

2012 will be special as it will be the first time that The Good Shepherd will present its yearly gift to Probigua here at church, rather than in Antigua, Guatemala. This will take place on Sunday, February 19th, during morning services and presented to Reyna Interiano, Administrator of the Probigua Educational Scholarship Program, prior to her departure on February 23rd. Reyna will be a guest of The Good Shepherd for 5 weeks this winter and will be the instructor for the Conversation Class in 2012.

As has been the custom each year since 2004, members and friends of the church have been faithful in making personal gift contributions to the church' Probigua Scholarship Fund, as a personal gift , through The Good Shepherd's annual Mission Fair on two occasions or a combination these two. Since the Scholarship Fund was not included in the 2011 Mission Fair, you are invited and encouraged to consider including a gift prior to mid-February, 2012. Checks are to be made out to The Good Shepherd UCC, noting in the memo line, "Probigua Scholarship Fund", and placed in the Sunday offering baskets. Your continued support and caring are gratefully appreciated for this worthy church educational mission cause in Guatemala that has provided \$20,300 scholarship dollars to some 75 Guatemalan youth over the past 8 years.

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.

Good Shepherd UCC

Council Minutes

November 22, 2011

Members present: Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Bonnie Sondrol, Drew Mason, Steve Smith, Julie Ingham, Susan Hill, Judy Bischoff. 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' Report was wide ranging, including no less than 15 important activities that encompass the life of the church and his ministry.

Treasurer's Report:

Bonnie explained that unusual expenditures, coupled with the expected slow month for income has resulted in a deficiency. She anticipates that much of the shortfall will be made up by "planned income".

The Treasurer provided the Council with a supplement entitled Council Notes that more completely outlines the condition of church finances.

Board/Committee Reports:

Finance: Chair Steve Smith deferred to the Treasurer for the report on the financial condition of the church.

Christian Ed: Julie Ingham commented that the number of kids on Sunday continues to grow and outlined her plan for youth participation in upcoming 2nd services as well as the Christmas Eve service. She also brought the Council up to date on the progress of the upcoming Christmas Extravaganza.

In response to requests, plans were outlined for the establishment of "a quiet place" in the Library, available for those who might require "a moment for quiet contemplation" on a Sunday morning.

Open and Affirming: No report.

Membership: No report.

Stewardship: Judy Bischoff announced the theme for the upcoming Stewardship Drive will be "Seek Joy in What You Give", with the kickoff scheduled for Jan. 8th and Dedication Sunday Jan. 22nd. She also announced that we have 175 participants in the E-Script program.

Facilities: No report.

Worship: No report.

Mission: Reporting for the Board, Susan Hill announced that the Mission One Project succeeded in 2 of its 3 components: the church accounted for \$1,750 toward its goal of \$1,111, and 1,277 pounds of food toward the goal of 1,111 pounds. There was no report on the number of letters written,

It was suggested that Red Bags be made available in the sanctuary on the last Sunday of the month to emphasize the need to bring food for the Food Bank on Communion Sunday following.

The Alternative Gift Fair has not approached the success of previous years and the reasons will be analyzed in order to make adjustments.

New Business:

The Moderator announced that Bill Kinkead has resigned from the Policy Review Task Force for personal reasons and asked the Council's permission to appoint Larry Menefee to replace him. Permission was granted.

Old Business:

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

Drew Mason, Council Sec'y