

*Good News* from

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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June 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.**

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



## Why the Stephen Series?

The Good Shepherd has begun participating in the Stephen Series, a program that equips lay-people to do caring ministry. Why the Stephen Series? The Stephen Series trains people in the basic skills necessary for helping others. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, people learn everything from how to be an effective listener to specific techniques for ministering to grieving people. Our congregation will reap many, many blessings through our involvement in this ministry of care.



Shake It Up Café where 'We All Carry Out God's Recipe' is coming June 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. We have fun activities for all ages pre-school to adults. Join us for dinner each evening, meet Chef Basil and her sidekick Scraps the Raccoon, learn fun songs, listen to stories from our master storyteller Bette Mulley. Children and youth will have fun with crafts, science experiments, games, reflections and mission. Adults will have their own classes led by Rowland Van Es and Ed Hunt. It's not too late, register now online at [www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](http://www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org). \$25 for families and \$10 for 1-2 people for all 4 evenings of fun.

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy Mayer**  
Coordinator of Christian Education: **Julie Ingham**  
Assistant to the Minister: **Noel Andersen**  
Music Director: **Scott Glysson**  
Music Coordinator: **Jessica Thomas**  
Pianist: **Kay Jean Moore**  
Custodian: **Severo Rivas**  
Administrator: **Amy Dillemuth**  
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 Bruskievicz & Pete Hagen**  
Finance:  
**Steve Smith**  
Membership:  
**Bob Buehring**  
Mission/Outreach:  
**Susan Hill**  
Stewardship:  
**Hathaway Cornelius**  
Worship:  
**Phyllis Hallman**

## A Message from Our Pastor...

Greetings,

As the pastor of The Good Shepherd I always enjoy hearing how our members and friends reach out to each other and give support and care. Maybe that is why I hear so often that The Good Shepherd feels like a family, that there is a warm, caring spirit in the congregation. But the reality is we have grown as a congregation and there are many needs for care: people experiencing divorce, relocation, and empty nest, loss of a job, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness, and many other stresses or challenges. Yes, there is room for improvement and ways that we can strengthen our care giving to one another. It was for this reason that the Church Council decided to follow the recommendations of our Long Range Planning committee and guide the congregation into a more formal care giving program called Stephen Ministry. In order to be as supportive of this program as possible I went to a weeklong Stephen Leader training in St Louis a few weeks ago. I have to say I was very impressed by the thoroughness of the Stephen Ministry training and I am excited that we will begin this program in the Fall. Stephen Ministry is a proven program with over 10,000 congregations participating. This summer Connie Aglione and Judy Holcomb and possibly another will be going to a Stephen Ministry Leaders training and we are fortunate that new member Linda Redfield is already a certified and experienced Stephen Ministry Leader. And then this Fall we will begin to recruit people for training to be Stephen Ministers. This will give us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it. I hope you will think about being a Stephen Minister.

With you on the journey,  
Randy

**Newsletter Deadline**

**July Issue**

**Wed., June 22, 2011**

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



## Christian Education

The month of May was an exciting time at The Good Shepherd. Graduation Sunday was an amazing chance to hear from our 5 high school graduates. Their eloquence gave us all an insight into how The Good Shepherd congregation has welcomed and influenced them, some for just a short while and others for most of their life. School has ended for our children and youth and now summer is here! We will continue to have activities for children during services over the summer.

The focus scriptures for the month of June are from both the New and Old Testament. June 5<sup>th</sup> Acts 1:6-14 is the final meeting that Jesus has with his disciples after his resurrection, they wonder when “you will restore the kingdom?” The faithful have wondered this same question through the millennia. Jesus replies “It is not for you to know”. Jesus promises the disciples that they will receive the power of the Spirit for witness, God’s Spirit forms and commissions the Body of Christ to do the work of Christ. As disciples we carry out this mission today.

June 12<sup>th</sup> Acts 2:1-21 continues after Jesus’ ascension, in Jerusalem. The crowd from a variety of nations celebrates Pentecost and they are amazed when they hear the gospel proclaimed in their native languages. In Hebrew, the word for “hear” also means “obey”. The gift of the Spirit at Pentecost unleashes the Spirit’s power in the disciples, power that strengthens faithful living and witness.

June 19<sup>th</sup> Genesis 1:1-2:4a is the first creation story in Genesis. Every time I read this I discover new things. God created the earth out of the formless void, “then God said ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” Humankind was created in God’s image both male and female (Adam and Eve are in the second creation story). This is an amazingly poetic beginning to our Bible, learn something new the next time you read it.

June 26<sup>th</sup> Matthew 10:40-42 – Jesus gives instructions to his disciples. Jesus tells his disciples that they must be fully committed to him. If you believe in Jesus you will also believe in the message that those who come after him deliver and you will be rewarded for your belief and faith.

If you are interested in learning more about our faith stories and how your faith and beliefs are lived out every day in your life ask me about EfM. EfM is a new class that will be offered starting in September at The Good Shepherd. This class has become an amazing part of my faith journey in the two years I have been involved. EfM is a nine month class that gives you the opportunity to explore your adult faith.

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [Julie@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](mailto:Julie@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org) or call me 909-4561.

Julie C. Ingham, Christian Ed Coordinator



## Youth News

Graduation Sunday was a joy to see how much the Youth Group and the work of our congregation has impacted our youth in their spiritual and social development. As we send them off as future leaders, The Good Shepherd will keep working hard to expose youth to the principles and ethics of welcoming all and doing the work of social justice from a faith perspective. This month the youth program is focused on the High School Mission Trip Urban Immersion as we travel all the way to the San Francisco Bay Area, but will be stopping in Los Angeles to also visit Homeboy Industries, a gang prevention ministry started by Father Greg Boyle. We will also have the opportunity now to meet with Pedro and Alejandra at their church, Eden UCC in Hayward. By coincidence, Shura Wallin from Samaritans, will be in Berkeley at the same time and will be taking us to the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House she helped found. I look forward to sharing more

about this journey with you all when we return. At the same time, I'm preparing for the Middle School Mission Trip, which will involve a local service experience and learning more about the value of building interfaith relationships.

Noel Andersen



## OWL Hoots

The Good Shepherd OWL (Our Whole Lives) classes for Middle and High School have concluded. The Christian Ed Board would like to thank the teachers of these two classes for all their hard work and dedication. They went through intensive training and then committed themselves to five months of classes. Our youth have learned a lot about themselves, their feelings and attitudes, how to deal with situations that occur in real life through role playing and games.

The OWL classes reports/evaluations will be on Sunday, June 5th at 8:30 am. The Sexuality Education Committee, Christian Education Board, OWL leaders and OWL teen/ youth participants are encouraged to attend. This will be a time of looking at what was positive about the program and what might be changed.

It will also be a time to thank Bob and Debbie Buehring, Kelly Frieders, and Glen Harrison for their leadership. Coffee, juice and rolls will be provided.

Martha Belle Fray, OWL Coordinator.

## Bookworms



**Bookworms**, the evening women's book group, is continuing through the summer. Summer reading selections are: June 20; *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*, by Rhoda Janzen; July 18, *My Own Country*, by Abraham Verghese; August 15, *Body Surfing*, by Anita Shreve. In June we will meet at Martha Belle Fray's, 940 W. Quail Drive. In July we will meet at Sandra Rooney's,

725 S. Los Rubies Circle. In August we'll be back at Martha Belle's. If you want to read ahead for September 19, the schedule was changed and we will be reading *Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Louise Erdich. For more information: Sandra Rooney, 625-5962, [srooney8@cox.net](mailto:srooney8@cox.net).

## Micro-Loan Update!

To date over 330 people have re-paid their loans; a percentage of over 99%. Here is one story.

**Yuryi Isak of the Ukraine** thanks everyone who donated money for his loan. He used it to buy construction equipment and supplies he needed in his business. This equipment is of great help for him now and he even won the bidding for municipal construction. So, now he works for the town council.

## Summer office hours

As the temperatures rise and some folks return to their Northern dwellings, the pace of work in the church office shifts. As a result, **the office will be closed Mondays starting June 6.** The regular Monday-Thursday schedule will resume August 15. Please call 625-1375, or email [SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org](mailto:SeeYou@TheGoodShepherdUCC.org) with any questions.

**Have you included The Good Shepherd Church in your will or estate plan?**

**You are invited to become a part of the Church Legacy Circle supporting the long-term mission of the church.**

## 6th Guatemalan Spanish Immersion Program March 29 – April 15, 2011

Twenty-four people participated in this year's travel, language study and cultural immersion program, following up on similar church sponsored programs of 2002, '04, '06, '08 and '09. Participation for all six trips has totaled 120 people.

Prior to the start of Spanish classes at the Probigua Language School on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 16 of the group spent a few days at Lake Atitlan and visited several of the Mayan villages around the beautiful lake and volcanoes. Another member spent time visiting the famous ruins in Tikal.

The two-week immersion program in Antigua found the 24 participants living and sharing meals in 12 local Guatemalan family homes. As well as taking 20 hours of Spanish language classes each week, in a 1-1 setting with their teacher during the mornings, afternoons presented opportunities for educational /cultural trips in the vicinity and visiting exciting school and library facility projects either supported by or administered by Probigua.

The week-end trip, between school weeks, was again made to Lake Atitlan to visit other Mayan pueblos around the lake and to attend the famous Mayan market at Chichicastenango.

This year's Guatemalan experience included six participants from Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Columbus, Ohio, and Minnesota.

One of the program highlights of the trip centers around the meeting with young people and their parents who are receiving scholarships for the current school year and presenting The Good Shepherd UCC scholarship check to Probigua. This year's contribution of \$5,000 is the largest amount given over the eight year period that The Good Shepherd has contributed to the Probigua Scholarship Fund. Over the eight years, contributions amounting to \$20, 008 have supported this scholarship fund. The \$5,000 church gift this year will support 23 Guatemalan youth in furthering their education beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and represents gifts from 135 people.

In the months ahead the 23 young people receiving scholarships for 2011 will be introduced with photos and thank-you letters to the church, posted on the narthex bulletin board. Here is a good opportunity for the hundreds who have taken church Spanish classes over the years to practice their Spanish reading skills!

Translation of the April 14<sup>th</sup> letter from:  
Reyna de Zamora, Coordinator  
Probigua Scholarship Program,  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Members of The Good Shepherd UCC,

I greet you warmly, hoping for each one of you health and well-being in your lives. I wish to thank you with all my heart, for the donation of \$5,000 dollars that you have given to Project Probigua this year. This gift will cover 23 educational scholarships for young people from a variety of communities in the Highlands of Guatemala that are continuing their studies at the Junior and Senior High School level. Thanks to you, these young people have the opportunity to better prepare themselves to enter areas of available work on completion of their studies.

Many thanks, again, and may God bless you.

Warmly,  
Reyna de Zamora  
Probigua Scholarship Program Coordinator

## Santa Cruz Community Foundation/FESAC

Empower a community to invest in itself and create solutions to its unique problems. That is what the Santa Cruz Community Foundation and its partner in Nogales, Sonora, Fundacion del Empresariado Sonorense, A.C., are all about. Together these organizations are addressing problems that result from the unprecedented population growth in Nogales, Sonora; the resulting economic crisis; and the impact of immigration on the schools, neighborhoods and environment. By working together, this cross-border partnership makes grants to Nogales non-profits that can transform local communities. Training, technical assistance, and leadership development support the local organizations to become self-sustaining. We can do more for our region by supporting such collaboration across the border. Go to [sccf@cfsoaz.org](mailto:sccf@cfsoaz.org) or [www.sccfaz.org](http://www.sccfaz.org) for more information.

## Theology on Tap



Tuesday, June 21st, 6:00pm  
on the Patio of El Charro's  
in Sahuarita

We have been having great theological conversations on the patio at El Charro's the third Tuesday of each month. It is amazing what a more casual, real life setting will do for the depth of the discussion. All are welcome

Green Valley-Sahuarita  
Community Food Bank  
Located at 250 E. Continental Rd.  
in Green Valley

## BARE SHELVES!

ALL OUR COLD CEREAL AND CANNED  
FRUIT HAS BEEN PUT OUT ON THE  
SHELVES

PLEASE HELP US IF YOU CAN WITH  
DONATIONS OF THESE ITEMS

Donations of these items will help all of our clients, particularly children, with breakfast.

Donations can be dropped off between 7:00 and 2:30 Monday through Friday. Please knock if front door is locked or take donations to the warehouse door and ring bell.

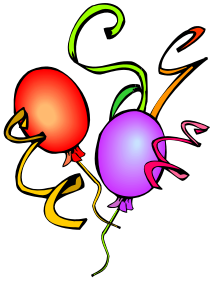
Thank you!

## FOCUS Worship

Saturday, June 11

6:00 pm

Come for a powerful contemporary evening worship service that is mixed with secular music, bright images and an interesting slant on faith and prayer.



## Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!



## Congratulations on Your Wedding Anniversary

Prescott Johnson	06/04
Barbara Mavis	06/04
Mary Shirk	06/06
Thelma Thornton	06/08
Judy Jacobson	06/08
Jane Morgan	06/09
Willis Schellberg	06/10
Brian Brock	06/10
Don Segraves	06/11
Barbara Gilso	06/12
Earl Chambers	06/14
Barry Park	06/14
Norma Mayer	06/15
William McHaffie	06/16
Marilyn Roberts	06/18
Evelyn Collins	06/21
Veronica Johnson	06/22
Nyisha Harrison	06/23
Bill Van Dusen	06/23
John Bartholomew	06/25
John Lindell	06/27
Linda Schwabe	06/27
David Lavender	06/27
Ruth Barrett	06/28
Robert Littlejohn	06/28
William Shirk	06/28
Cheyenne Herd	06/28
Dale Jones	06/29

David & Marian Kellermeyer	06/01
Jim & Anne Haynes	06/04
Charlie & Shirley Heaphy	06/05
Noell & Merrill Reinhiller	06/06
Bill & Ann Cochran	06/06
Bob & Carol Littlejohn	06/07
Del & Margie Brewer	06/09
Steve & Jackie Smith	06/11
George & June Daum	06/11
Rowland & Judy Van Es	06/14
John & Jeanne Lindell	06/16
Jerry & Carol Lewis	06/18
Jim & Ruth Barrett	06/19
Ron & Myrna Simon	06/19
Kim & Sue Gillett	06/20
Richard & Susan Hill	06/20
Signe & Lee Spletstooser	06/21
Jim & Shirley Hyatt	06/21
Kevin & Cheryl Caswell	06/22
Hack & Jane McCall	06/23
Mary Ferland & Tom Bunicky	06/24
John & Ginny Fridlund	06/27
Jim & Connie Woodbrey	06/30

## Receiving New Members

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

New Members **are received on the last Sunday of each month** at the end of the morning worship service. If you feel you are ready to unite in faith with The Good Shepherd Congregation you are invited to join. Questions? Please call Rev. Randy Mayer at 625-1375

## Calendar for Worship

Below is a Calendar of leadership opportunities for our worship services during May and June, drawn up by the Worship Committee from last year's lists. If your name appears, you will receive a letter from the Worship committee explaining the trial process and including guidance for ushers, greeters, and worship leaders.

	USHERS	GREETERS	WORSHIP LEADER
JUNE 5	Margie & Del Brewer Velma Adams	Bill & Irene York	Kit Humphries
JUNE 12	Children & Youth	Children & Youth	Children & Youth
JUNE 19	Chuck & Judy Tomhave Penny Pestle	Virginia Timmons	John Pestle
JUNE 26	Gail & Paul Chaffee Julie Franzone	Martha Belle Fray	Sandra Rooney

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



**Committed  
to Being ONA  
in Their Church and  
Community**

April 11, 2011  
By Penny Pestle

### 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.

Since voting to be an Open and Affirming congregation, the Open and Affirming/Diversity Committee at The Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona, has continued to identify new opportunities to educate the congregation and ourselves on ways to be intentionally welcoming to those in the community who express and represent their humanity in different ways.

The congregation has just completed a 9-month long range planning process that identifies "Being

Extravagant in Welcome and Inclusion" as one of four areas of focus. The ONA/Diversity Committee will be an important resource in meeting this goal.

Last spring, we hosted an evening devoted to further understanding the experiences of LGBT persons, including a transgender individual who recently retired from the military, a lesbian couple from the congregation and a gay couple from our church. As in the past, this event was well-attended, with many questions asked and answered. The event also sets the stage for a future event that will focus more specifically on transgender persons and issues.

Last November, we convened a panel of persons knowledgeable about issues of homelessness and under-housing in the Tucson area. This event included a simple supper, such as one that might be served at a soup kitchen. As we had planned, this event launched an more detailed exploration of homelessness south of Tucson, with the intention of its becoming a community-led project. At least 6 churches and community organizations have come together for needs assessment and problem-solving.

In cooperation with the youth program at The Good Shepherd, the ONA/Diversity Committee is developing an approach and is researching programs on the prevention of bullying for local middle schools. The use of anti-gay language and actions will be a particular focus.

Finally, we are in the initial planning stages for a comprehensive learning and discernment process on the criminal justice and immigrant detention systems in the United States and in Arizona. This likely will include sessions on crime rates, sentencing and detention policies, corrections and detention facilities, offender reentry programs and social justice implications.

From Our Southwest Conference...

## Boycott Ends

The SWC Justice and Witness Committee have announced an end to the boycott of Arizona that was called for at our Annual Meeting last year.

The Chambers of Commerce of Arizona are reporting significant losses to the economy of the state. Glen Hamer, president of the AZ Chambers of Commerce, and with whom I spoke at a summit on Immigration just two days ago, had this to say: "What we did not see when (SB 1070) was moving forward was the significant national and international reaction during a really difficult economic time in this state. There was simply no way to expect that level of reaction. It's now clear to the mainstream business community that there are consequences to going it alone on immigration."

Kristin Jarnigan, vice president of the Arizona Hotel and Lodging Association, had this to say: "We had companies paying \$60,000 just to cancel their meetings and not have it here. It wasn't because of cost savings. It was a perception problem that had a devastating effect on our industry."

And anyone who still doubts that these dynamics had a profound impact on the future of immigration politics in the state of Arizona need only read the headline of the March 17 edition of the azfamily.com website:

***"All 5 controversial immigration bills defeated in Ariz. Senate"***

We are happy to report both that the boycott had its intended outcome and effect, and that the boycott has been ended. In addition, we are pleased therefore to report that **next year's Annual Meeting will be hosted by The Church of The Good Shepherd in Sahuarita, AZ.**

Blessings to you all.  
Humbly yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer

# SAHUARITA FOOD BANK

Serving the communities of Sahuarita, Vail, and Corona de Tucson  
The Good Shepherd UCC  
17750 S. La Canada  
Sahuarita, AZ 85629  
520.625.1375

Hours of Operation Thursday 3 – 5 pm & Saturday 10am—Noon

Our Mission: To provide nutritious food for people in need.

The Sahuarita Food Bank stocks government commodities, including meat when available. Other food items include milk, eggs and bread. Commercially prepared non-perishable food: canned fruit and vegetables, soups, pasta and tomato sauce, rice, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, cereals, baby food and formula are usually in stock. Non-food items include toilet paper, diapers, detergent, and soap.

Food delivery is available for those unable to come to The Good Shepherd. Call the church office at 520. 625. 1375.

Donations of food and money are accepted during the week from Monday through Thursday. Non-perishable food is also welcome on Sundays between 9 and 11 am

How to participate:

1. Donate food and non-food items suggested in the first paragraph.
2. Donate money. Make your check out to The Good Shepherd UCC and put Food Bank on the memo line.
3. Volunteer
  - a. We need drivers who can deliver food to people unable to come to the church.
  - b. We need people who can manage the Food Bank during the open hours on Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning.
  - c. We need people to pick up boxes from the Tucson Community Food Bank
  - d. We also need people who can shop for food and non-food items.

Please call Marilyn Hosea to volunteer for any of these positions 520.777.4371.

The Sahuarita Food Bank is affiliated with the Community Food Bank of Tucson. Their phone numbers: 800.950.8681 or 520.622.0525.

**Good Shepherd  
United Church of Christ**

**Council Minutes  
Apr 27, 2011**

**Members present:** Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Bonnie Sondrol, Drew Mason, Jackie Smith, Susan Hill, Steve Smith, Phyllis Hallman, Angie Morris, Bob Buehring, Judy Bischoff, Pete Hagen. Randy opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**Pastor's Report:** Randy reviewed the many activities of Holy week. The choir gave a presentation of Schubert's Mass in G on Palm Sunday. At the Maundy Thursday service we shared a meal of Middle Eastern foods, a walk to the "Garden of Gethsemane" in our Columbarium for prayers, and then music by the choir in the sanctuary. On Good Friday a mid-day Service was held. Easter morning began with a lakeside service followed by the two regular Sunday services. The ushers estimated that, in all, 450 people attended our Easter Sunday services.

Randy met with the Music Committee, which unanimously recommended that Scott Glysson be offered the position of Music Director. Scott will take on all responsibilities of this position and commence officially on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Randy continues to review candidates and work with the Ministry Intern search committee in finding a replacement for Noel Andersen, who will leave in July or August.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bonnie reviewed the financial condition of the church and advised that all is well...the income for the month exceeded expenses by nearly \$4000.

**Board/Committee Reports**

Mission: Susan commented that the Mission Board is the sponsoring unit for the Community Garden and reminded the Council that the purpose of the garden is twofold: to provide produce for the Food Bank and to serve as an education tool. Volunteers are needed to share in regular monitoring of the garden this summer. There is

also a need for help with short-term garden projects.

Finance: Steve had no new business to report.

Stewardship: Judy reported that the annual pledge drive was successful and has surpassed its goal.

Worship: The Worship Board was acknowledged for creating a meaningful Maundy Thursday service. Phyllis stated that the Worship Board needs more members to manage the duties of the Board. Randy suggested that we explore finding volunteers for specific roles and planning of specific services rather than looking for new board members. The Worship Board has developed a new way of scheduling greeters and ushers.

Christian Ed: Reporting on the affairs of the Board, Angie highlighted the need for volunteers for the Vacation Church School, which will be held June 6 through 9. She also outlined plans for the future, including combining the Coffee House, Sweet Sale and Christmas Extravaganza in one big congregation-wide event.

Youth Program: Reporting for Noel, Randy outlined the itinerary for the High School Youth Mission in San Francisco and the Middle School Youth activities.

Membership: In the continuing effort to promote the church, Bob announced that the board renewed the church membership in the Chamber of Commerce, is planning to update the web site and will continue to run ads at the theater. He stressed the point that the web site needs regular attention in order to be effective. A discussion on methods of greeting visitors ensued. The board is remaining focused on addressing the Long Range Plan.

Facilities: Pete presented the plan and estimate for the new church signage on La Canada. The plan was explained and discussed. The Treasurer assured the Council that the budget could support the expense, which is not to exceed \$10,000, of constructing the sign. Steve moved that the Council approve the plan as presented. Jackie seconded the motion. After dis-

cussion the vote to approve was unanimous.

Drew suggested that the Facilities Board fashion a path through the rocks on the north side of the property for people who park their cars in the Academy parking lot.

Open & Affirming/Diversity: No report. The committee will meet this week.

### **Old Business:**

The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Council. Currently there are three vacancies that need filling. Prospective members were proposed. The moderator will contact them and report back at the next Council meeting.

### **New Business:**

The Moderator pointed out the need for hosts for the summer Fellowship Hour when the Amigos groups are not assigned. She asked that the individual Boards take responsibility for June through September. Susan Hill volunteered the Mission Board for September. The others will be determined at the May meetings of the various boards and the schedule completed at the next council meeting.

Randy raised the question of the need for new chairs in the sanctuary. After a brief discussion it was determined that a committee be formed to proceed to develop a plan to research the product and raise funds. Nominated members include Ginny Wing, Rosemary Stoltenberg, Barbara Buesing, and Drew Mason.

Randy closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Drew Mason, Council Sec'y

## **The Power of Positive Witness**

Global Ministries missionaries Elizabeth and Douglas Searles recently reported on their participation in a demonstration in Brno in the Czech Republic. Some 2000 people of goodwill turned out to oppose the ideology of exclusion that had summoned about 300 neo-Nazis to march through the Roma ghetto there on May 1.

A pre-march rally included Roma musicians pay-

ing and singing and, "there were rousing speeches against xenophobia and racism from politicians and activists. Occasional street theatre, performance art, clowning and costumes gave the day a carnival and positive feel," which helped underscore the idea of inclusion and combat messages of exclusion and hate.

An ecumenical prayer service in front of the City Hall began at noon and continued through the afternoon. "A woman priest from the breakaway Czech Catholic Church led Taizé singing and offered prayers. Pastors and priests from many denominations stood for hours while helicopters thumped overhead, often drowning out the prayer and statements against racism, xenophobia and persecution."

"The positive tenor of the day was supported by a reported 1500 police who generally were polite and responsive. . . .Some Roma women stood on the front line where a confrontation was expected, holding baskets of fragrant lilacs."

"One potentially dangerous time is almost always after a legal march or demonstration breaks up. . . .There was concern that the neo-Nazi sympathizers would revert to hooliganism and cause the kinds of damage that have been all too common in the past." Fortunately, that did not happen, probably as a result of witness of those of goodwill plus responsible police presence.

Doug and Liz pointed out that, "the saddest part is that fearful common people are voting 'populist' or 'nationalist' representatives into government. They point out that "History has not offered up the kindest of neighbors and people rehearse past hurts and many withhold forgiveness."

The Searles concluded that, "The Brno actions taught us a lot. . . ." We, too, can learn from the power of positive witness in the face of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and persecution.

The Searles are UCC/Disciples Global Ministries missionaries to Poland, jointly appointed with the Presbyterian Church USA to walk with the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland.