

Good News from

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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<http://www.TheGoodShepherdUCC.org>



May 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.



we revisit Passover with Jesus and his disciples and 'Remember Jesus Often' and Day 4 we learn about the Festival of Weeks and Pentecost and 'Celebrate God Forever'.

So come and join the fun, June 6th-9th 6:00-8:30 pm. Registration will be available online at our website and on Sunday mornings. It's a great way to start your summer!

Worship Time Change
Sunday, MAY 1st--10:00am

Shake It Up Café – is this year's theme for our Vacation Church School. Kids and adults will celebrate biblical festivals and learn how the Bible is filled with recipes to help us live out God's Word.

Each day we celebrate a festival with a gathering time featuring our Chef and Scraps the Raccoon, storytelling, music, crafts, science, an adult class and much more. And of course we start the evening out with an excellent dinner.

Day 1 we begin with Passover and 'Be Ready for God', Day 2 we learn about Festival Celebrations of the Israelites and 'Give Happily To God', Day 3

Don't forget that we will be moving to one worship service at 10:00 am on May 1st. It is always nice to have everyone together for a while and have a blended worship experience. So don't show up early or late---show up right on time!!!!



The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy Mayer**
Coordinator of Christian Education: **Julie Ingham**
Assistant to the Minister: **Noel Andersen**
Director of Music: **Scott Glysson**
Music Coordinator: **Jessica Thomas**
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: **Penny Pestle**
Moderator-Elect: **Connie Aglione**
Council Secretary: **Drew Mason**
Treasurer: **Bonnie Sondrol**

Board Chairs/Co-Chairs:

Christian Education:
Carolyn Hubbard
Facilities:
Wayne Carlson
Finance:
Steve Smith
Membership:
Cynthia Dean
Mission/Outreach:
Susan Hill
Stewardship:
Hathaway Cornelius
Worship:
Jane Eubank



Youth Mission Urban Immersion

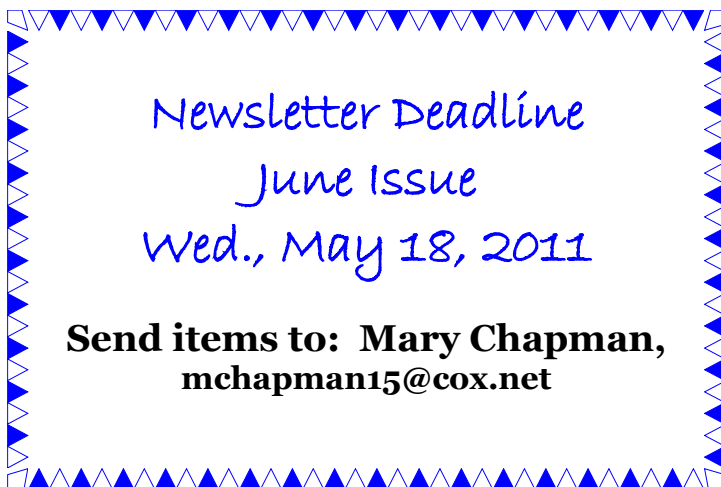
The Youth Summer Mission trip is this month! Our High School Youth have much experience doing mission work in the Southwest and Mexico, but they're very interested in learning more about contexts different than their own, especially in urban settings.

This year we will be going to the San Francisco Bay Area to work with several urban ministries including The City of Refuge UCC, and the Chinese Congregational UCC in Chinatown where we can have exchange with other youth groups and learn from their unique ministries.

We will also work with Habitat for Humanity in Oakland, serving food at Glide Memorial United Methodist in San Francisco, meeting with Communities United Against Violence to GLBTQ communities, and learn from an Interfaith Organizer serving local hotel workers.

Thanks to the wonderful support of the congregation we have done very well raising mission funds which will take financial stress off the families. Thank you for your support, I know the youth are very excited about this opportunity to learn more about our faith in the context of urban ministry, solidarity work and mutual service with the groups we are visiting. Saludos!

~ Noel Andersen, Assistant to the Minister



OWL update

Sexuality Education Committee and Owl Leaders will meet Sunday, May 22nd at 11:30 am to discuss possible new projects. The highlight of the meeting will be to hear the four OWL Leaders give us a report on the OWL classes which will be finished by that time. Others interested in this report are encouraged to attend as well as youth who attended their classes.



Javarita Coffeehouse

presents

Steve Smith/Chris Sanders Trio

Friday, May 20th, 7:00 pm

The Coffeehouse has been a big success this year. We will be closing the season out with the Steve Smith/Chris Sanders Trio who have recently had a song on the Billboard Hit Charts. This trio can deliver a divine offering of profound lyrics, passionate instrumentalism, silky harmonies, and witty stage banter. Their music lights up any room as they perform original gospel songs, old standards, bluegrass and folk. They will take us on a journey that we won't want to end. www.desertnight.com

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. Any net profits made from the concerts during the year are given to the Sahuarita Food Pantry. Contact Randy Mayer at 625-1375 if you have any questions.



Summer
Spanish
Classes

Mis amigos, the summer Spanish classes are going to begin May 10 at 10 am, then every week at the same time. If we have more than 2 students, we will meet at the church. If we have 2 students, than we can meet at my house or their houses so we can save some gas. Call your maestro Carlos Henriquez at 648-9947

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

Stewardship

Well, the Stewardship campaign for 2011 is officially completed! 141 of our members generously pledged \$288,770 toward supporting the mission, programs, and ministry of The Good Shepherd as we strive to make a difference for our congregation, the peoples of the Santa Cruz Valley, and our wider community. Thank you very much!

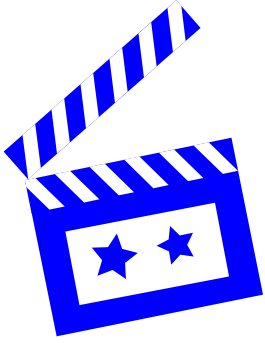
So, what will our church do with these monies? Besides the obvious - paying salaries and keeping the lights on, we will continue to support important programs such as Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), plus start new initiatives that our congregation enthusiastically endorsed via our recently approved Long Range Plan. Over the next few months I'd like to help introduce these programs - programs that are only possible as a result of your generosity.

The Church Council at the March meeting authorized initiation of a Stephen Ministry program at The Good Shepherd. This program provides congregations with the structure, training, and resources to set up and administer a complete system for lay caring ministry, drawing from human resources within the congregation. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one confidential Christian care to the bereaved and others facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministry helps pastors and congregations provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

Your annual pledges, as well as significant financial support from the Women's and Men's Fellowships, will fund the development of the Stephen Ministry program. Initial start-up costs include: enrollment of our church in the program, training of Stephen Leaders at a seven-day Stephen Series Leaders Training Course this summer and program materials. Stephen Leaders will provide comprehensive training of Good Shepherd Stephen Minister lay caregivers beginning in the fall. Thank you for making this happen!

Hathaway Cornelius
Chair, Stewardship Board

Eye on Latin America



Maria's Story A Documentary Portrait of Love & Survival in El Salvador's Civil War

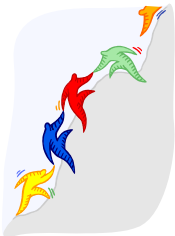
Saturday, May 21, 4:00 pm at the church

This award winning documentary chronicles the life of Maria Serrano, a wife and peasant leader during the civil war in El Salvador. Twenty years after the war's end, the film makers returned to El Salvador to follow up on Maria's story. After the war, she was elected as a member of the Salvadoran Congress. Later she did not run for reelection because what she most wanted was to continue her studies and to be close to the humble people.

Taizé



The last Taizé service of the season will take place on May 11 at 6:00 pm. If you're one of the lucky ones who gets to stay for the summer, and/or will still be here in May, we hope you will attend. It's good to have many voices and to experience the silence together. If you must return to other climates, we hope to see you on October 12. Either way, blessings on you and have a safe summer.



Micro-Loan Update

This month there was a record number of people who paid off their loans - 21. Since most were from Mexico and South America we were able to give to that part of the world 12 new loans for a total of \$1200. We have given out a total of 328 loans of over \$31,000 since the Micro-Loan Project was begun. Thank you !!!

Kudos to the Altar Team

In the annual report an altar team was mentioned but unnamed. Irene York is part of the ongoing team and Ginny Wing graciously substitutes when the two regulars are unavailable. Thanks to both of you, Irene and Ginny. Your skills are greatly appreciated.

~ Rosemary Stoltenberg

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Maya

On May 11, we will be in Cincinnati celebrating the first anniversary of Maya's successful bone marrow transplant! This is a very exciting time for our family. Her parents, our son, Sam, and Mina, are treating it as her "new birthday." We wish to thank all of you at Good Shepherd for your many prayers and expressions of concern over the last one and a half years. We believe your prayers, along with many others, have made the difference in her recovery thus far. Her prognosis is optimistic at this point, although this very rare blood disease (HLH) is very unpredictable and can have unanticipated consequences months, or even years, after a successful bone marrow transplant. We thank you so much for your support. It has meant everything to us. Please join us in a prayer of thanks on May 11!

Sharon and Bob Chamberlin

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.

Men's Fellowship News

By Hack McCall

When you read this Newsletter I might be on the way back to Minnesota. The past six months have been successful and rewarding for our Men's Fellowship Group. Thank you for all your help! Also speaking for your committee: Vern Wing, Cliff Grindy, Jim Furber, Wayne Carlson, Ron Simon, Donn Higley, and Jim Barrett. Until we meet again.
Hack

PANCAKE BREAKFAST was a success due to the cooking skills of Bill Cochran and others and the organizational skills of Donn Higley and Vern Wing and their crew.

MONDAY BREAKFASTS AT LA PLACITA continue at 8am. When the numbers drop, we might move to the Chicago Deli. If you doubt the location, check with Donn Higley, Vern Wing, or Harvey Holter.



Bookworms News

Bookworms, the women's evening book group, will conclude the current season on May 16 with a discussion of *The Forgotten Garden*, by Kate Morton. We will meet at Martha Belle Fray's, 940 W. Quail Drive. Summer reading selections are: June 20, *Menonite in A Little Black Dress*, by Rhoda Janzen; July 18, *My Own Country*, by Abraham, Verghese; August 15, *Body Surfing*, by Anita Shreve. The location for summer sessions will be announced.

Fall selections are: September 19, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards; October 17, *Master Butchers Singing Club*, by Louise Erdich; November 21, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; December 19, *Caramelo*, by Sandra Cisneros. We hope to reserve Caboodles (a box of copies) from the library for the fall selections. For more information: Sandra Rooney, 625-5962, srooney8@cox.net.

Afternoon Book Group

On May 24, at 1:30 pm, the Afternoon Book Worms will discuss *The Nineteenth Wife*, by

David Ebershoff, at the home of Jan Mason, 727 W. Calle del Regalo in Green Valley, phone: 625-3013. Shirley Heaphy is the discussion leader. If you enjoy reading and would like to meet with our group, please give Jan a call for information, and let her know you are coming. New faces are always welcome.



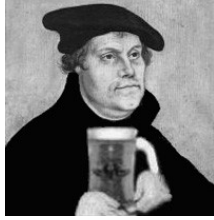
Quilters' News

The Good Shepherd Quilters have ended a very productive season. It is a great group of women and through their efforts 71 quilts are giving comfort to sick, abused, and frightened children in our area plus to young siblings or children of service people killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The quilts are distributed through the Tucson Chapter of Project Linus.

In addition to comforting young people, the gift of the quilts lifts the spirits and courage of caregivers who are encouraged by finding there are others who care.

We hope those who give this personal gift of their time and work enjoy doing this quilt ministry.

Theology on Tap



Tuesday, May 17th 6:00pm

on the Patio of El Charro's

in Sahuarita

Theology on Tap has become a great place for folks to gather in a casual setting and have some very deep and meaningful conversations about important religious topics. In fact it almost makes us feel like modern day Martin Luthers of

a new era, sipping a spirited beverage and challenging each other on a new reformation movement in the church. Come and enjoy the conversation and fellowship.

FOCUS Worship

Saturday, May 14th

6:00 pm

FOCUS Worship---A contemporary, meditative service using secular music in a sacred setting. Come and Focus yourself and engage in a meaningful worship experience that will include: good music, candles, a thought provoking topic, some engaging images and a great fellowship all led by our Young Adult Volunteers.

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
MAY 22	Jane & Burt Eubanks Veronica Johnson	Drew Mason	Joyce Barker-Cook
MAY 30	Flo & Dick Mayer Vera Stirsman	Angie Morris	Rosemary Stoltenberg
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

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.



Christian Education

What an energetic time we have at Easter, so much is happening in our lives and that of the church. In the church season of Easter which spans the weeks after Easter until Pentecost Sunday the focus scriptures are about the community of believers after Jesus' death and resurrection, and the sharing of bread which is really all about community then and now.

May 1st - In John 20:19-31 Jesus breathes on the disciples after he appears to them as they are hiding behind locked doors. God's spirit is given to them and the word used for "receive" the Spirit is the same word used in Communion - "take" and eat.

May 8th - Luke 24:13-35 is the story of Jesus appearing to two disciples as they are on the road to Emmaus. As they invite him to share the evening meal, Jesus takes on the role of the host and blesses and breaks the bread, they recognize the risen Christ. It is good news that Jesus appears not to just the eleven disciples but to other followers as well.

On May 15th - Acts 2:42-47 a community lives their life together waiting for Christ to return in glory. These people sell everything they have and live a common life together. It is a powerful message that then as today the church's witness is not just the words that are spoken by its members but also the way a Christian community conducts its life together.

May 22nd - Acts 7:55-60 is the stoning of Stephen. The early followers of Jesus were challenged by the society they lived in and their beliefs. Their witness calls us to our strong belief in the Good News of God's love. May 29th - John 14:15-21 is the first of four teachings in John's gospel about God's spirit. Spirit comes as a gift from God. This group of disciples is a community of prayer and a community that practices inclusion. The eleven disciples and the brothers of Je-

sus and certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, the first disciple, are in this community.

Please join us on Sunday May 15th for graduation Sunday. It is a day on which we celebrate the end of a phase of schooling and a new start for our graduates. It is always amazing to hear their stories of what The Good Shepherd has meant to them and lots of tears are always shed.

I want to thank April Million for teaching our older kids in April. May brings a lot of changes with the summer vacation starting, we will have activities for children each Sunday.

Adult Forum has been going strong with a number of interesting speakers and topics that have been covered. The forum runs through May 22nd and then takes a break for the summer. In May our topics range from May 1st - International Workers Day, to learning about the garden, to Long Range Planning and the Stephen Ministry and a change in schedule on May 22nd where I will be introducing EfM a class that will start in the fall. Please come to all and remember the time change to 9:00.

Our Vacation Church School is coming up very soon! We are always looking for volunteers to help run this program. If you are interested please call me. 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

May 2011: A New Way is Possible...

A Mission Story from Global Ministries of the UCC & Disciples

Written by Tim Rose

Go, stand in the temple court and tell the people the full message of this new life. Acts 5:20

The prison of Basse-Terre has been making the

French news lately, unfortunately, for the wrong reasons. It was ranked the worst prison of France. Tim Rose, Global Ministries missionary in Guadeloupe says, I am assigned as both prison chaplain and "reinsertion" counselor at the prison of Basse-Terre.

Originally built in 1660, as a catholic convent, it was converted into a prison in 1772. Not only is the prison old and rundown, the prison is extremely overcrowded. Set up to hold 130 prisoners its current population is approximately 200 and there are only two social workers assigned to work with the prisoners.

The Protestant Reformed Church of Guadeloupe (PRCG) has a prison chaplaincy program and a partnership with a local non-profit organization, "Accolade Caraibes", to maintain a presence in the prison. I accompany the prisoners spiritually, and I help them make plans to re-enter society after their release. Through job training, spiritual support, family counseling, transitional housing opportunities and acting as a link between the prisoners and the parole board, I try to help prisoners create a new life for themselves.

Obviously the challenges are immense. Through listening, prayer and helping prisoners find real solutions to their problems, many have come to realize that God's promise of new life is possible. Please pray for the prison population of Guadeloupe and the work of the Prison Chaplains and the social workers of Accolade Caraibes.

Tim Rose serves with the Reformed Church of France as the Pastoral Assistant for Diaconal Ministries in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

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.

Green Valley-Sahuarita
Community Food Bank

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!

Committed to

Being *ONA* in their Church

and

Community



God is still
speaking,

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.

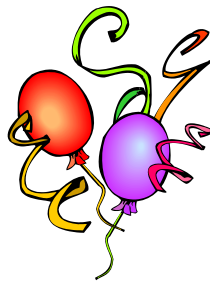
Last spring, we hosted an evening devoted to further understanding the experiences of LGBT persons, including a transgender individual who recently retired from the military, a lesbian couple from the congregation and a gay couple from our church. As in the past, this event was well-attended, with many 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.

by Penny Pestle
April 11, 2011



Best Wishes
for a
Happy Birthday!

Ray Frieders	05/02
Jane McCall	05/03
Charlie Heaphy	05/03
Adrian Sparks	05/03
Ruth Lyngholm	05/04
Jim Thompson	05/07
Carolyn Wilson	05/08
Sandy Erickson	05/10
Bette Mulley	05/10
Gail Chaffee	05/12
Jim Diers	05/12
Julie Ingham	05/14
S. Lee Sheppard	05/16
Connie Aglione	05/21
Richard Hill	05/26
Jacob Mayer	05/27
Marge Kinhead	05/28
Noel Andersen	05/29
Diane Dearington	05/31
Kathy Babcock	05/31



Congratulations
on Your
Wedding
Anniversary

Raymond & Nancy Hebert	05/20
Yvonne & Bruce Horton	05/26
Pedro & Alejandra Goycolea	05/26

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.

Community Garden

Although we did not have a large harvest last season, we did get some carrots, kale and chard and are still waiting for the onions and garlic to harvest.

We have also had numerous educational opportunities about the importance of food justice through community gardening with our Good Shepherd Youth and with Boy Scouts.

We have put a compost bucket in the kitchen where organic materials can be deposited and later brought to the compost pile in the garden, this cuts down on landfill waste and provides important nutrients to our garden soil.

In April we planted 3 new fruit trees (peach and apricot), grape vines, one bay leaf tree, one rosemary bush and many tomato plants. We have had several small work days and we are working to develop a sign up list of people to do standard garden maintenance. Please let me or Jack Kressley know if you are interested.

Noel Andersen, Assistant to the Minister

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ Council Minutes March 22, 2011

Members present: Randy Mayer, Connie Aglione, Bonnie Sondrol, Drew Mason, Jackie Smith, Steve Smith, Phyllis Hallman, Angie Morris, Julie Ingham, Jim Elliot, Bob Buehring, Hathaway Cornelius, Pete Hagen, Rex Crouse.

Randy opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:35. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Pastor's Report: Randy recounted recent activities of the church. He identified the young people currently on the premises as visiting stu-

dents from USC and Disciples of Christ youth from Albany, OR.

He discussed the need for a varied worship experience offered by the church and to this end he announced that the Young Adult Volunteers are preparing an alternative Focus Service for Saturday, April 9th at 6:00pm.

He also announced that the seminaries he had contacted for references regarding Noel's replacement are responding with the names of prospective ministry interns. Noel will leave in July.

Treasurer's Report: Bonnie announced that "Expenses are on track. Giving, both pledged and non-pledged, is up." The church is \$5,796.47 ahead of anticipated income as of the February report.

Board/Committee Reports

Finance: Steve had no new business to report.

Worship: Phyllis announced that the Worship Board would henceforth meet at 5:30 in order to have more time with the Pastor.

Christian Ed: Events are being planned to include the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and a Contra Dance to be held from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 27th.

Youth Program: Reporting for Noel, Julie announced that 6 of our youth would visit San Francisco on May 21st for a mission trip. Graduation Sunday will be May 15th, with 6 grads participating. ... Noel's Ecclesiastical Council Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9th at 2:00 pm. All members of the congregation are invited.

Missions: Jackie reported that work continues on the development of the Food Pantry at The Good Shepherd.

Membership: Bob said that advertising at the movie theatre would be shown during the Easter period and again in the fall. They will begin addressing the parts of the LRP related to Membership.

Stewardship: Hathaway announced that to date

\$286,242 had been pledged against the 2011 goal of \$282,500. It is anticipated that a few more pledges will be received.

Facilities: Pete sought approval to modify the wiring in the Redman Room in order to avoid the problem of overloaded circuits when using multiple outlets. He also announced that designs were being considered for the new signage in the front mid-point of the church property. He will provide an estimate soon.

Open & Affirming/Diversity: Rex submitted a written account of the Board's business.

Long Range Planning: Connie encouraged the council and all of the church boards to consider the focus areas of the Long Range Plan as proposals and decisions are made. The LPC committee will meet with and support different boards as needed to begin implementation of the LRP. The first focus area to be addressed will be: Becoming an Intentional Caring Community.

Old Business:

Stephen Ministry: Eight members of the Congregation attended a workshop and presentation by Stephen Ministries in Sun City on March 12th. The Moderator explained the program and offered her opinion that it is a service that the church should offer its congregation. She presented a handout and a video that served to answer most of the questions of the Council. Randy supported the idea, saying "...the church needs a program like this in order to provide a higher level of quality care to our congregation."

Steve Smith moved, "The Good Shepherd UCC should adopt the Stephen Ministry program." Jim Elliot seconded the motion, which carried without opposition. In other business The Moderator asked for suggestions for the Nominating Committee so that The Council could proceed in naming the new members of the Committee.

New Business

There will be some significant departures over the next few months.

Chris Thomas, who has been on temporary leave,

has submitted his resignation and accepted a University appointment. Chris and Jessica will be leaving early in the summer.

The Music Search Committee will meet with Randy. Scott Glysson continues as interim music director.

Noel Andersen will be leaving us in July. The Moderator and The Pastor will appoint a committee for selection of a Ministry Intern

Randy expressed the congregation's mixed feelings re. the anticipated goodbyes. It is hard to lose those who have become part of us and who have contributed so much to our church community. Yet, we have become a place where people can come, grow and develop their talents. We then can celebrate with them their moving on out into the world.

Church Vehicle possibility: The Samaritans have offered our church the first option to buy a van they recently were given. The Council agreed that The Good Shepherd has no need for a vehicle and turned down the offer.

Phyllis Hallman initiated a discussion about the Columbarium and Memorial Gifts. The Columbarium garden area can use sprucing up. Not all members are aware of the Columbarium and information needs to be made available to the congregation. There is presently no Memorial Committee tasked with acknowledging gifts. The Moderator and the Pastor will follow-up and look for members who can help in these areas.

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

Drew Mason, Council Sec'y

Receiving New Members

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