

Shepherd Life

The Monthly Newsletter for
Shepherd of the Hills Congregational UCC

Volume 55/Issue 3
March 2016

Shepherd of the Hills is a faith community which seeks to learn, to love, and to serve together.



EASTER LILIES

The Worship & Music Committee invites you to remember/honor a loved one by sponsoring an Easter lily. The cost is \$15.

Forms will be available in the narthex, in the Church Office and in your Sunday bulletin for the next few weeks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS REMINDER

If your address has changed in 2015 please let the church office know via email at sohucc@gmail.com or by phone at 602-840-3130. Yearly contribution statements went out last week and some are being returned due to incorrect addresses.

WISE GUYS

Wise Guys Covenant group will meet Tuesday, March 8th, 2016 at 7:00PM at the home of Darrell & Mary Kay Smith.

TRUTHSEEKERS

Truthseekers Covenant group will meet on Tuesday, March 15th at 1:00PM in the Shepherd Hall.



BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 17th at 11:00 AM in the Parish House library/conference room. Please note the new location and time. All are welcome. Bring a lunch and a beverage. Come join us to share a favorite book!



by Liz Mullen

ICM is now serving 130 - 150 families each day. Food supplies from St. Mary's are usually adequate, but clothing and personal care items are always in demand. Clothing for men and older kids (7 - 14) is in a critical shortage. It's hard to tell people there are no pants or jackets or sweatshirts or shoes. Blankets and housewares the same thing. If you can share any of these items with ICM, it would be greatly appreciated. We can always use bags of any size and see-thru pill bottles. Donation receipts are clipped to the collection bin. Thank you!

LOST & FOUND

Many lost and forgotten items have been found both in the Fellowship Hall Pantry and in the Sanctuary. If you're missing any bowls or serving containers, please check the Pantry. If you're missing any reading glasses, wraps, earrings, or other small items, please check the basket in the Sanctuary Narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Many slots are still available to sign up to provide Altar flowers in 2016. See the sign up board in the Sanctuary Lobby.

HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

Please sign up to provide Sunday morning Refreshments. Sign up on Usher podium in Sanctuary Lobby.

THE HILLS PRESCHOOL REPORT

By Nola Enge

Through the years I've studied *tribes*, groups we belong to that offer a sense of community. For most of us, our first tribe is our family of origin. Then we have a bit wider circle which, in my case, included the descendants of Swiss immigrants, mostly Methodists, mostly dairy farmers. Then we all have our town and schools, friends, and so forth.

I bet many of you, like me, seek that feeling of belonging in this big city. Many of us find it in our faith community. As I write this, I *feel* community: A request late last night for host families for the Ugandan Kids Choir gleaned many eager responses from our preschool families. As parents with young children, the emotions are quick to surface; their Ugandan community differs so much from our privileged one! To travel without parents, to not *have* parents is difficult to get one's mind around. My family adopted 4 times; all of my sisters joined our family via international adoptions. But what can we do for only two nights? Can we make a difference? Yes! Shepherd can share community - be community - during our short time together. See you at this *community* concert, April 10!



GOOD EARTH NEWS

By Liz Mullen

The Good Earth Committee will sell coffee, chocolate and probably produce Sunday, March 6. Please stop by after church and stock up!

BEANIE BABIES



ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN:

In the spirit of what spring and upcoming events stand for, for all children who attend Sunday services in the months of March & April, each child (from ages 1 to 18) may pick a beanie baby of their choice from a basket that an usher at each entrance of the sanctuary will have. A multiple of homeless and never been loved or played with beanie babies are in need of a loving home to love and care for. There will be a variety of different beanie babies for you to choose from. Better yet, you may adopt one at each service attended, up to 4 Sundays during March & April services. How cool is that! From a friend at Shepherd of the Hills! Blessings to all God's children...

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- March 1-Church Council meeting
- March 6-Good Earth Coffee, Chocolate and Produce sales
- March 7-Good Earth Meeting
- March 8-Men's Breakfast
- March 8-Wiseguys Meeting
- March 12-Second Saturday Covenant Group Meeting
- March 15-Truthseekers Meeting

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

By Laura Minnick

Our last service with Rev. Aurand was February 14, 2016. We shared one last hour of worship with her, in our Sanctuary, and celebrated with her "new beginnings" in Montana at a gathering over at Fellowship Hall. Lunch, cake, an appropriate gift of the Southwest, and Shepherd, and many cards were offered. Thanks to all whom gracefully participated, and made this goodbye a memorable one.



Also, welcoming Kyle Langer into our Shepherd Family – what a gift it is to share in his journey to live, love and serve. Please take time to get to know Kyle, and Chad, and their wonderful children. Kyle and Chad usually sit in the front section of our Sanctuary, right side of the Pulpit. Kyle has been a large part of our mission work with Family Promise – that could be a conversation starter.



We've begun inviting Visiting Pastors (both from the Southwest Conference, and other) to share with us on Sunday's beginning February 21. We are booked through March, and have a couple lined up

for May. We've received Bio's from 4 possible "Interim" (cannot hire these pastors, they can only serve in the interim) and "Designated" (could serve, and if it was a good fit, we could hire) Pastors, whom would love to serve at our Church. Our next step is to pull together a Search Committee, and start a simple, quality, search. Our hope is to find a Pastor whom already lives in AZ, and would have a love of the Southwest, energy, youth (can be defined in many ways), passion, and desire to call Shepherd of the Hills home. We have choices, and let's take the time to see what fits for us all. I'll be sure and keep you informed as we make progress toward our search committee, and toward our next Spiritual Leader.

Easter Sunday at Shepherd will begin at 9:45 with and Easter Egg Hunt, then follow in the Sanctuary, Service Lead by Rev Bill Lyons, our Southwest Conference Designated Pastor, and following service, your SOH Council will serve you breakfast. Please consider bringing a friend to share with us.

Ugandan Kids Choir Performance

April 10 at SOH

The Ugandan Kids Choir, a group of ten talented Ugandan children, will be performing at Shepherd of the Hills at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2016. The Ugandan Kids Choir is a ministry of Childcare Worldwide, which has empowered children in the developing world since 1981. Childcare Worldwide brings hope to children in need by providing them with an education that will break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

The choir (ages 8-12) will delight us with singing traditional African songs, play authentic African instruments and dance in their colorful African attire.

SOH's Worship and Music Team is looking for host families (4 to 5) to assist with housing of the ten children and four adults for the nights of April 10 and 11. Hosting would also include providing some meals during their stay. They will be at SOH during the days for schooling and rehearsals. Please contact **Jeanne Roper** at ropersaz@gmail.com if you can assist with the choir during their stay.

Bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors to this performance by the Ugandan Kids Choir!

SUNDAYS AT SHEPHERD

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT SHEPHERD

Sunday, March 6, 10 am worship - Lisa Laurro,
Worship Leader

Sunday, March 13, 10 am worship - Rev. Kristina
"Tina" Campbell, minister

Palm Sunday, March 20, 10 am worship - Choir
Cantata *Wondrous Love*

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7 pm Tenebrae
Service with Communion

Good Friday, March 25, 9 am – 3 pm Sanctuary
will be open for individual meditation

Easter Sunday, March 27

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 am on Church grounds
Easter Service at 10:00 am Rev. William
Lyons, UCC Southwest Conference Minister

THANK YOU, REV. LEWIS

We were blessed by Rev. Thomas Lewis, our fellow Shepherd of the Hills member, as he led us in Sunday worship on February 21st and 28th, inspiring us with his timely message "Beginnings-Moments of Creation". Thank you, Rev. Lewis, for being with us. We are grateful.

(For those of you who were unable to attend either service, here is information about Rev. Lewis from our Feb 21 worship bulletin insert:

Rev. Thomas Lewis joined Shepherd of the Hills Easter Sunday 2015, after visiting several local churches. He has a psychotherapy practice in Phoenix. He became a member of a UCC church in the late 90's after visiting Trinity UCC in Chicago, and hearing Rev. Jeremiah Wright preach. Rev. Lewis retired from the USAF in 1979 and from the State of Colorado in 1995. He earned his M. Div. from Iliff School and his D.Min. from The Denver Seminary. He has four children and 2 grandchildren and is married to Bennie Allison-Lewis. Visit Rev. Lewis's website at www.thefamilyministry.org)

THANK YOU

Dear Shepherd Friends,

"Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings." It may be odd to reference a line from the classic Christmas movie "It's a Wonderful Life" during Lent, but that's the sentiment that comes to mind every time I hear the lovely tone of the Cosanti Originals bronze bell that now graces our backyard.

Thank you for wonderful reception following worship and for the beautiful Paolo Soleri bell that serves as such a delightful reminder of the wonderful flock at Shepherd. Each time the Spirit breathes on the bell, I give thanks for every angel I encountered during my time with you.

I will cherish the many memories we made together and especially those we made on Valentine's Day. It was a joy to welcome Kyle Langer into the fold; and it was touching to have so many participate in our service of confession and reconciliation as we let go for good. Finally, to have the choir sing such a beautiful acapella blessing at the end of the service was simply ethereal.

May God continue to bless each of you as you blessed me and my family during our time together.

Peace,

Patti Aurand

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YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM ... HE'S
NEW TO THE FAITH AND THIS IS HIS
FIRST EASTER



March 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Sundays 9:00AM Choir 10:00AM Worship 3:00PM Marshallese Worship 4:00PM Meditation Group		1 6:30PM Church Council Meeting	2 10:00AM Wednesday Wanderings 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4 10:00AM Bridge Club, Fireplace Room	5 8:30AM Hatha Yoga
6 Good Earth Coffee, Chocolate and Produce Sales Communion	7 7:00PM Good Earth Meeting	8 7:00AM Men's Breakfast 7:00PM Wiseguys @ Doc & Mary Kay Smith's	9 10:00AM Wednesday Wanderings 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10:00AM Bridge Club, Fireplace Room	12 8:30AM Hatha Yoga 10:30AM Second Saturday Covenant Group
13	14 ICM bin pick up	15 1:00PM Truthseekers	16 10:00AM Wednesday Wanderings 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00AM AZPW meeting in Fellowship Hall 11:00AM Book Club 5:30PM Girl Scouts	18 10:00AM Bridge Club, Fireplace Room	19 8:30AM Hatha Yoga
20 Easter Cantata	21	22	23 10:00AM Wednesday Wanderings 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service & Communion	25 Good Friday Church Office Closed 9:00AM-3:00PM Sanctuary Open for Meditation	26 8:30AM Hatha Yoga
27 Happy Easter!!	28 ICM bin pick up	29	30 10:00AM Wednesday Wanderings 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	31		

Shepherd of the Hills Congregational
United Church of Christ
5524 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85018-4599

Address Correction Requested

Through our ministry of hospitality, we provide space to the following:

Sun. - 3:00pm	Marshallese Worship in Fellowship Hall
Sun. - 4:00pm	Meditation Group in Parish House
Mon. - 8:00pm	AA Group/Al-Anon Group in Hall
Tues. - 6:30pm	AA Group, Al-Anon, ALA-Teen in Hall
Wed. - 8:00pm	AA Group in Hall
Mon.-Sat. - 7:00am	First Light AA Group in Fireplace Room
Sat. - 8:30am	Hatha Yoga in Hall

Parish House Office Space ~ Rebel & Divine United Church of Christ