THE SHEPHERD LIFE

SEPTEMBER

2017

DUO LOGOS

September promises to be a busy month, as usual, around Shepherd of the Hills. Sunday worship moves back to the 10:00 hour. Our choir is re-grouping to begin singing on September 10th, which is the first day of our week hosting Family Promise. Our Clean Up week runs from Monday, Sept. 18 – Saturday the 24th. Numerous projects will be available for you to choose from for sprucing up our church. We will be participating in the Diaper Bank of Central AZ's diaper drive this month. Remember to bring diapers to church, especially size 6. Our Pastoral Search Committee continues its important task, with conference calls and interviews.

What a summer it has been around our nation. Civil protests, threats of nuclear conflict, devastating hurricanes and floods, political power struggles … we are living in troubled times. We can't help but ask, "Where is God in all of this?" There have been many moments in history when this question has been asked, when pain and injustice seem to carry the day, and those leaders we rely on to provide the answers appear ineffective and may even contribute to the chaos.

It is in these times that faith in God's presence becomes our best hope, and perhaps our only hope. We trust that God is in the midst of the confusion and fear, reminding us we are always in greater hands that our own, and that the best minds among us are puny next to God's wisdom. It becomes our task, then to put our trust in God and God's greater purpose.

~Pastor Jim

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The summer is traditionally a time for vacationing and getting some rest. Not true for the Search committee. We meet weekly and sometimes twice weekly. We started receiving candidate

(continued on next page)

resumes in April and to date have received 26 candidate profiles. Of these, we have several we considered potential ministers for SOH. One in particular was of interest to us. We invited the candidate out to Phoenix for a weekend in July. Needless to say, he was impressed with our church. His words were "I have reviewed over 40 churches and SOH was in the top 3". We made a very good offer to the candidate but he felt called to a different position. We are back reviewing candidates and have a few the we are reviewing as possibilities. Our original timetable was to call someone in the 4th Quarter of 2017 or 1Q of 2018. We are still sticking to that timeframe. We will inform you of any changes as they occur.
~The Search Committee

DIAPER DRIVE

Chris and Gabi Young will be holding their 2nd annual Diaper Drive at their house on October 14th from 9am-1pm. Light refreshments will be served. Donations will go to the Diaper Bank of Central AZ. Tax receipts will be available upon request. Donations can also be dropped off at the church any Sunday between now and then or in the church office during the week. Most charities are looking for size 6 diapers at this time. There is a collection bin in the narthex.

SHEPHERD LIFE

Pastor Jim, Emma and Mason Watkins (grandkids of Sue and Mike Spahle) and Beth Sposito and a furry friend

Michael Talerico and Xuelai Wu with their daughter Clara

If you have pictures you would like published of our church family in the "Shepherd Life" email them to the office at sohucc@gmail.com. If the pictures contain people, please note their identities so we can gather permission to use them in the publication.

Share the Love
FOOD DRIVE

The Islamic Speakers Bureau of Arizona and their Food Drive Partners are planning a 6th Annual Multi-faith Food Drive. This will be the 5th year that Shepherd of the Hills has participated in this valley wide event. A list of suggested donation items will be available in the church narthex and the office. You can also find more info at www.isb-az.org/fooddrive. There is a collection bin in the narthex.

FAMILY PROMISE

We are slowly filling up the assignments for Family Promise which occurs Sept 10-17. We are still in need of people to sleep over a night and there are spots open for greeting the people at the church when they get there at 5:15pm. If you are interested in either of these jobs, you can contact Bill Janiga or sign up on the White Board in the Lobby of the Sanctuary. Thanks.

SPONSOR AN ANTHEM

Dedicate it to a loved one or someone special. A label will be added to the back cover with your name on it and who it was dedicated to. We are looking to order 30 copies of the anthem at a cost of $100.00. No need to have a title in mind as Xuelai and the committee will be choosing the new music. You may also make a donation to the Music and Worship team. Any amount will help us to do special music at the Holidays and enhance our altar and worship services. We will be including an envelope in the Oct 1st bulletin. Thank you in advance, Your Worship and Music committee.

COME ONE, COME ALL and join the Shepherd Choir!

No experience necessary and no commitment, just come when you can! ***Please join us for the Choir Retreat*** Saturday, September 9th 2:30-5:30 with a light dinner at the home of Missy and Brian Shackelford
2568 E. Vermont Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85016
RSVP by Friday, September 8
602-316-1110
missysshack@gmail.com

MAP
Directions: 24th Street and Missouri, turn to go east on Thunderbird Trail into the Biltmore. Make the first right on Denton Ln. Check in at the guard gate and let them know you are coming to Missy Shackelford's. Continue straight. The street will curve to the left, make the first right on 25th Pl., go 1 block to Vermont. House is on the northwest corner of Vermont and 25th Pl. Please park on the north side of the street only or near the tennis courts on 25th Pl. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

Dennis Murphy	1st
Lisa Keene	5th
Britt Kimball	5th
Jada Randall	7th
Jillian Forster	10th
Teddi Roper	11th
Tori Trickel	11th
Mittneen Williams	13th
Dan Wilson	14th
Judy Welker	18th
Beth Johnson	20th
Dan Marley	23rd
Carrie Hall	26th
Bruce Kimball	27th
Diana Schneeman	28th
John Schneeman	29th
Nadine Smith	30th

DON'T FORGET

Sunday Worship returns to 10:0AM on Sunday, September 3rd!!

SERMON THEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Sept 3 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Sacred Reading:
Matthew 16:21-28
Second Sacred Reading:
Romans 12:9-21
Sermon Title: "'Pray for my Enemies'? Is He Kidding?"
Sept 10 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Sacred Reading:
Psalm 119:33-40
Second Sacred Reading:
Romans 13:8-14
Sermon Title: "Clean Up You Act!"
Sept 17 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Sacred Reading:
Genesis 50:15-21
Second Sacred Reading:
Romans 14:1-12
Sermon Title: "The Man in the Glass"
Sept 24 Twenty-fifty Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Sacred Reading:
Matthew 20:1-16
Second Sacred Reading:
Philippians 1: 21-30
Sermon Title: "A Plea from Prison"

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS FALL CLEAN-UP

To prepare for the eventual arrival of our settled pastor, and taking advantage of the next scheduled bulk trash pickup, we will be having a Clean Up week at SOH during the week of September 18-24th. The following list is not all inclusive:

- Deep clean the Sanctuary and surrounding rooms
- Power wash and clean all windows on campus
- Assist Worship & Music Committee in relocating the Choir Resource room
- Clean utility closets and garage
- Remove landscape overgrowth and clean up planters

We are also looking for suggestions if there are items you see that need attention. We plan to schedule the Sanctuary clean up on Saturday when most volunteers are available. The other projects will be scheduled during weekday mornings. Sign up to help in the Narthex after Sunday service or by emailing the church office at sohucc@gmail.com or by calling 602-8-3130.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or donate candy for our annual Trunk or Treat neighbor outreach, please contact church office. There will be a light meal served, beverages available, popcorn, candy and of course tons of adorable kids in costumes!

Donation can be made online or by sending a check to the church office to be included in our donation.

Did you know…..

September is Baby Safety Month◆Chicken Month◆Classical Music Month◆Hispanic Heritage Month◆Honey Month◆International Square Dancing Month◆National Courtesy Month◆National Piano Month◆Self-Improvement Month

Some more FUN ones……

5th Be Late for Something Day◆ 6th Fight Procrastination Day◆ 6th Read a Book Day◆ 10th Grandparent's Day ◆11th 9/11 Remembrance ◆16th Step Family Day◆ 16th Mexican Independence Day ◆17th Citizenship Day ◆17th Constitution Day◆ 17th Wife Appreciation Day◆ 19th International Talk Like A Pirate Day◆ 21st International Peace Day ◆21st World Gratitude Day◆ 22nd Native American Day ◆25th National Comic Book Day◆ 28th Ask a Stupid Question Day◆ 28th National Good Neighbor Day

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3:00PM EVERY Sunday- Marshallese Worship Service in Shepherd Hall	**EVERY Mon-Sat 7AM 1st Light AA**	**EVERY Tuesday 6:30PM AA & Alanon 7PM Alateen**	**8:00PM EVERY WEDNESDAY AA-Shepherd Hall**		10AM Bridge- Parish House	8:30AM Yoga 1:00PM United Art of AZ
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10AM Worship with Communion Ushers: Caroline Mills & Ginny Vaules Hospitality: Beth Sposito	7PM Good Earth Meeting OFFICE CLOSED	6:30PM Church Council Meeting Parish House	10AM Wednes. Wanderers		10AM Bridge- Parish House	8:30AM Yoga 10:30 2nd Saturday Covenant Group 2:30PM Choir Retreat 1:00PM United Art of AZ
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10AM Worship Family Promise → Ushers: Becky Boyd & Beth Sposito Choir returns	9AM ICM Pick up		10AM Wednes. Wanderers	5:30PM Girl Scouts	10AM Bridge- Parish House	8:30AM Yoga 1:00PM United Art of AZ
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10AM Worship Kick Off Sunday- events TBA Ushers: Sally Shackelford & Marian Hoff	Church Clean Up →		10AM Wednes. Wanderers	11:30AM Book Club- Parish House	10AM Bridge- Parish House	8:30AM Yoga 1:00PM United Art of AZ
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10AM Worship Ushers: John Clark & Nadine Smith	9AM ICM Pick Up		10AM Wednes. Wanderers Shepherd Life Newsletter Deadline		10AM Bridge- Parish House	8:30AM Yoga 12:00PM K2 Kids 1:00PM United Art of AZ

Shepherd of the Hills UCC
Council Meeting
August 1, 2017

In attendance: Sue Spahle, John Schneeman, Rev. Jim Meadows, Carol Shaw, Laura Minnick, Jeanie Roper, Stephen Fuller, Beth Franco, Austin Shackelford, Alice Rice. Not in attendance: Joe Coltman, Lauren Schweizer

Opening Prayer: Rev. Meadows 6:40 PM

Approval of Minutes: Review and posting of the May and June 2017 are pending.

Committee Updates:

Personnel-Rev. Jim Meadows and Laura Minnick. Our groundskeeper, Abraham, is in a difficult situation with hours and being eligible for healthcare plans. Different options will be discussed to make the optimal situation for him and his family. This may require a reduction in hours or payment via different methods.

Worship & Music- Sue Spahle. Xuelai will be back August 13th. We are looking to clean out the choir room and see if the space can be used more effectively. We are also looking at doing a call for new music which would entail reaching out to the congregation for donations to purchase new anthems. Approximate costs are $100-200. Alter décor-will look to update for when services move back to the Sanctuary.

Pastor's Report- Rev. Meadows. One of the main topics to discuss is the date of our fall kick off service. For our information the pre-school will start August 21st. It looks like the best dates would be either Sept 10th or 17th.

Buildings & Grounds- John Schneeman.

- **Action item:** Abraham has discussed with me the prospect of purchasing a new blower. It would increase his efficiency by a few hours. ***Motion by John Schneeman*** approve up to $400 for the purchase of a new blower. **Second** Stephen Fuller. ***Motion passed*** via unanimous approval.
- Revisiting Abraham's situation. Reduction in Abraham's work hours for healthcare benefits OR increase budget.
- Abraham is going on vacation so John has volunteered to take care of what needs to be done.
- Sanctuary air has been down for three weeks now. There have been multiple parts that have failed and need replacement. The company is waiting on parts and should have the AC running this week. The costs associated with the repairs are in the hundreds of dollars. If a new unit is needed costs could be in the ballpark of $3-40K.
- Utility room in the Sanctuary has been cleared out. There was a build up of non-essential items causing a fire risk.
- Fellowship Hall doors continue to fall apart. Revitalized talks with Vortex Doors. Estimate $6K. John will check on other companies for more bids.
- Black asphalt crack on sidewalk due to splitting of the gas line. Now the Church has three meters instead of one. Southwest Gas is supposed to fix the cement soon.

Membership- Jeannie Roper. Will look to start up greeters again and more will be done in September once choir starts. 45 attendees in Church this past Sunday. Average summer attendance has been about 50-55 people.

Diaconate- Carol Shaw. Main report is that with the passing of Bob Hipke, Betty and the diaconate committee are putting together a reception in Fellowship Hall after the service on August 12th.

Christian Education- Stephen Fuller/Alice Rice. Still offering Sunday School throughout the remainder of the summer. Cindy and Alice have been amazing. They have a great curriculum and the kids have enjoyed the program.

Outreach- Beth Franco.

- Duet will be the organization for the special offering for the month of August.
- The special offering for July was for Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS). A total of $466 was raised by the congregation.
- The blood drive was another success with 45 total donors. Mark your calendar for another drive October 1st, 2017!
- Family promise will be coming in September and the sign up chart will be up at the time of Sunday services.

Other business- Search Committee Update – Austin Shackelford

- The search committee has narrowed down their field and are in discussions with a candidate about a Call. The process would be for the council to discuss the budget with the Treasurer then make a financial offer to the candidate. This offer also includes a benefits package and responsibilities. If the candidate accepts, then there would be a Call Weekend. The Congregation needs 2 weeks' notice for the Call Weekend. Pending congregation approval the candidate would be officially called as the new pastor.
- The most important task pending the call to the candidate would be the formation of a personnel committee. Their first job would be to have a job description ready for the new pastor.

Treasurer's Report-Joe Coltman. Joe is out of town and will be in discussions with council regarding a possible call proposal.

Adjournment- Next meeting will be Tuesday September 5th, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully and Enthusiastically Submitted,

Austin J. Shackelford, Clerk

Shepherd of the Hills UCC
Council & Search Committee Joined Meeting
Re: Call Offer
August 6th, 2017

In attendance: Diana Schneeman, John Schneeman, Rev. Jim Meadows, Laura Minnick, Sue Spahle, Bill Janiga, Stephen Fuller, Beth Franco, Alice Rice, Joe Coltman, Austin Shackelford, Carol Shaw Not in attendance: Larry Wilson, Beth Sposito, Judy Eighmey

Opening Prayer 10:12 AM by Bill Janiga

Discussion of Prospective Offer to Settled Pastor: Main points of today are to discuss the package and the financial health of the church.

Summary of search: 20 profiles, 5 viable candidates, 3 interviews, 1 candidate has visited. The candidate in discussion today is from the East Coast, just graduated from seminary, and would be undertaking his first full time pastor calling. He has outstanding references and experiences and he performed very well during his in person interview where he also preached at a neutral pulpit. The Search Committee is recommending this candidate to be considered by the Council and by the Congregation.

2 main tasks for today:

1) Not to exceed package: Motion: Bill Janiga to not exceed a compensation package of $90K. Second Stephen Fuller
Discussion: Recommendation from the council as a negotiation of $80-87 total and let the candidate know. John proposes to offer a few thousand less than the candidate's proposal. John says to come in $3K lower, Laura says $5K less than offer. Laura agrees. Another idea is to not pay his SS for the first year and then paying it the following years. Joe-offer lower salary but put a front end signing bonus. This would help next year. Laura mentioned that we could look to spend from the reserves. Joe agrees with John in that the time to invest is right now-an opportunity like this does not come along often.

Motion amendment: Laura Minnick- Council approves to bring Rev. Tim Seery to a call weekend. Negotiations for Rev. Seery's compensation package are not to exceed $89,933. The offer will be $61,700 per conference guidelines for cash salary and housing allowance with a total compensation package of $86,433. If candidate does not acquiesce we are authorized to offer a one time bonus up to the before mentioned limit.

Second: Beth Franco

Vote: All in favor. **Motion Passed**

2) Timeline: SOH bylaws indicate 2 weeks in preparation to announce the weekend. We could announce as soon has we hear a response from the candidate. The Church would pay for Aug 27th candidate weekend. Once the congregation votes and he accepts the call, there would be $4500 to be used to help him with moving. Council believes there should be a special fundraiser

to help cover the moving costs. If the candidate makes a decision soon, there is a possibility he would begin by the end of September.

Treasurer's Report-Joe Coltman. One of the items to emphasize when looking at the budget for next year and the following years is a projected deficit. If we hire any pastor, not just the candidate we are discussing today, this is a reality. The main reasons are for Rev. Meadows' flexibility and generosity to SOH regarding salary and benefits. As a Church we would need to increase our pledging to make up ground on the deficit.

Adjournment-Sue Spahle moves to adjourn. Second by Bill Janiga. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Austin J. Shackelford, Clerk

AMERICAN STATES

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