

February 2018

Shepherd Life

DUO LOGOS

Our Annual Congregational Meeting falls on Feb. 4 this year, when we will receive the Annual Report for 2017 and approve our 2018 church budget.

February also finds us beginning the season of Lent on Feb. 14. I can't remember the last time Ash Wednesday fell of Valentine's Day. Looking it up I found it to be in 1945! World War II ended, my parents were married, and the Detroit Tigers won the World Series.

So I found the perfect way to celebrate Feb. 14 this year ... take your valentine to church!

I have always avoided playing the competition game between church worship experiences or activities and secular events i.e. our Annual Meeting falls on Super Bowl Sunday. I have a colleague in ministry who always cancels worship whenever Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. I've also wondered why we Protestants tend not to worship on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Are they not days when we are especially thankful for what God has given us, and would worshipping not be appropriate?

Somewhere along the line the secular celebrations began to overshadow the sacred ones. The commercialization of Christmas and Easter are good examples. But such it is in our times.

I pray we people of faith never forget the reasons for the seasons, and not allow the almighty dollar to cloud our purpose: to give praise to God and to love one another.

Pastor Jim



THE SEARCH HAS ENDED!

The Search committee is pleased to inform the congregation that their search for a full time Senior minister is over. We are recommending to the congregation that Rev Rock Fremont join our staff as our next Pastor. We have mailed out a letter to the congregation providing a full in depth biography on Rev. Fremont, and a letter describing why the Search committee selected him. On Feb 17th, the congregation will have a Meet and Greet for Rock. He will preach on Sunday the 18th of Feb, followed by a congregational vote. If affirmative, Rev Fremont will join us full time on March 11th. Should you have any questions, you may contact me.

-Bill Janiga



ICM

Even though our weather is warming, nights and mornings are chilly when you have inadequate heat or are trying to get the kids to school. Many of our clients are elderly and quite a few are caring for grandchildren. Any warm clothing, blankets, shoes and socks would be greatly appreciated.

GOOD EARTH GROUP

Check out the Good Earth table before and after the service February 4. There will probably be produce in addition to chocolate and coffee. Remember, Valentine's Day is right around the corner!

GOOD EARTH RECYCLING NEWS

The Good Earth Committee has been collecting and recycling batteries for a number of years. Here's the City of Phoenix policy:

Non-recyclable: Alkaline and carbon zinc batteries are non-hazardous. These are the common A, AA, AAA, C & D plus hearing aid batteries. Bag in plastic and throw into the regular trash.

Recyclable: Nickel cadmium (NiC), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) and lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries are recyclable. Place these in the tub in the narthex and they will be recycled for you.

As a rule of thumb, rechargeable batteries should be recycled. We'll improve the earth together!

TRUTHSEEKERS COVENANT GROUP

Our group is continuing a dialog on gun control and what we can do to effect change. We are researching groups that are active in this area to see if we would like to join their efforts. Americans for Responsible Solutions, the non-profit Super PAC founded by Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly is such an organization.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Bill Hadley's memorial service will be held at King of Glory Lutheran Church on February 19 at 2085 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, AZ 85282. His family members are out of state trying to coordinate arrangements. They've asked John Clark to help them give an idea of the number of Shepherd friends might be attending. Carpooling may also be available that day. Contact the church office of John Clark for info.

From the Desk of the Moderator...

By Laura Minnick

What a term, plus, serving as your Shepherd of the Hills Moderator. I have a grateful heart, you the members and friends of SOH, have shown up, reached out and supported this Church, Leadership, and each other in numerous ways. I've come to know each of you, and appreciate the strength of this faith community – and your friendship. Reverend Meadows has been a steady Leader, with his commitment to Shepherd, his experienced and rich spirit, his works outside of Shepherd that walk and talk our values in Mission and Outreach, and respected connection with the Southwest Conference. The time I've served as your Moderator has been in collaboration with Rev Meadows, and the Council Members, Staff – ultimately with you.

I invite you to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4th, 2018 after worship – where we will pass the balanced budget proposal for 2018. This is a time for the congregation to gather, celebrate the past year and look towards the new year. Also, at this meeting, the congregation will elect new members of the Council – where applicable. I hope to see you there.

Finally, that you for encouraging me, allowing me to serve Shepherd of the Hills

OUTREACH NEWS

- ⇒ In January we collected a total of \$303 for Sojourner Center. We also received two checks totaling \$50 made out directly to them that will be forwarded on to them as well. Good job SOH!
- ⇒ Our special outreach offering in February will benefit VIP. We will collect this offering on February 11th and hear a little about VIP during the Worship service. Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) is a broad based, non-partisan organization of dues-paying member congregations, schools, unions and non-profits committed to building relational power through organizing people for sustainable social and economic improvement. This is done through institution-based leadership development; the building of relationships within and between institutions; the identification of and research on issues of mutual self-interest; and disciplined, organized action. Through this organizing strategy, VIP develops a constituency of leaders to become citizens in the fullest sense: participants in democratic decision-making and agents of the creation of a more just society through the exercise of relational power. Valley Interfaith Project is affiliated with the Industrial Areas (IAF), the oldest and largest national organizing and leadership development network in the United States. Immediately following service we will move the conversation to the Fireplace room. Please plan on attending!
- ⇒ Mark your calendar! Our next scheduled Blood drive will be Sunday, March 25th. More info will be available as we get closer to that date.



VIP MEETING

Everyone is invited to participate in a VIP "Listening Meeting" in the Fireplace Room following worship on Sunday, February 11. All will have the opportunity to answer the question, "What's keeping you awake at night?" Bring your cup of coffee and share in this hour-long conversation.



February Birthdays

February 1st
Ginny Coltman
February 3rd
Joan Reynolds
February 5th
Christopher Murphy
Willy Janiga
February 8th
Val Trickel
February 9th
Val Wallace
Laura Murphy
February 12th
David Keene
February 19th
Ceili Olney
February 21st
Seth Janiga
February 22nd
John Forster, II
February 23rd
Hank Craig
February 24th
Betty Hipke
Alice Rice
February 27th
Demi Drake
February 28th
Peter Schmidt





The National Council of Church's (NCC) is inviting its covenant partners, including the United Church of Christ, to call the nation to heal from the wound of racism on the National Mall, April 4, 2018. Sharon Watkins, Director of the NCC Truth and Racial Justice Initiative issued a call to prayer for the event last week:

January 3, 2018

From: Sharon Watkins, Director NCC Truth and Racial Justice Initiative

ACT Now: Unite to End Racism

To the NCC Governing Board, the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force, Partners in the ACT Now challenge, those chairing and serving on committees, beginning to mobilize, arranging for buses, making airline reservations, to all who will be tuning in on Facebook, or supporting the effort from afar...

Our First Act – Pray!

We've already been praying, of course. Now let's step it up with a scheduled time when our hearts and souls can meet in the mind of God.

From now till April 5 (at least!) let's agree to pray for the ACT Now: Unite to End Racism challenge every Thursday morning at 7AM your local time. It will be a rolling wave of prayer as 7AM dawns from time zone to time zone across the country and around the world.

Let's pray that our country will:

A – Awaken to the truth that racism hurts us all

C – Confront the ways in which we have been complicit, complacent, or coerced

T – Transform – as stories are shared and truth is revealed, as we name the ways we can change and be transformed: as individuals, families, neighborhoods, communities of faith, and society as a whole

Let's pray that we will UNITE to end racism!

Let's pray for all those who are planning the April 3,4,5 launch – that it will be inspiring, motivating, challenging, equipping and safe – and that it will become part of a mighty current of healing and wholeness, justice and peace in our land.

Let's pray every Thursday. 7AM Local Time.

ACT Now: Unite to End Racism... Pray!



Balanced Budget – Search Progress

By Lew Shaw

While the main thrust of the January 21 Church membership gathering was Treasurer Joe Coltman's usual comprehensive presentation of the Church budget, it was Bill Janiga's update of the Search Committee's progress in recruiting a settled pastor that caught the Congregation's attention.

While the Search Committee chair has kept the Congregation informed of the Committee's deliberations throughout the 18-month search process, his remarks at the conclusion of the budget hearing were the strongest indication to date that a worthy candidate has been identified, and negotiations are ongoing with that individual to become Shepherd of the Hills's eighth settled pastor in its 59-year history.

Passage of the 2018 budget on February 4 authorizes the compensation package that will be presented to the candidate, who will then send a letter of acceptance to the Congregation. If this timetable holds, the Congregation will vote on the candidate in late February or early March, and hopefully the new leader would be in the pulpit on Easter Sunday – April 1, 2018.

In presenting a balanced budget for 2018, Treasurer Coltman opened his remarks, stating, "The budget reflects what the Pastor and Congregation want to accomplish in the coming year. 2017 was an incredible year for the Church and is a tribute to the continued high level of support forthcoming from the membership. Our overall operations produced a \$30,505 surplus, of which \$25,000 will be carried forward as income into the current year, and \$5,505 will be applied to the replacement fund."

The 2018 budget calls for projected income of \$271,000, which compares with actual 2017 income of \$291,207. Of the 2018 total, \$145,000 comes from 54 pledges, \$6,000 from the payout from the annual payout from the Endowment Fund, and \$40,000 from Preschool rent and usage fees.

Staff compensation and benefits totaling \$165,050 represent 60% of anticipated 2018 expenses, along with \$83,450 to support the work of Church committees, and \$22,500 for Outreach programs. Compensation for the new minister is in line with what the Church has been paying the interim pastor.

Joe Coltman noted, "2017 was a tough year for Buildings & Grounds with a number of unanticipated expenses, the major of which required \$5,000 to repair the air conditioning system, the installation of new glass-and-aluminum main entry doors for Fellowship Hall, and purchase of new refrigerator in the kitchen. Thanks to the good work of Chairman John Schneeman and his committee along with the staff, the overall B&G expenses were slightly less than the budgeted figure."

"There are still major replacement projects that need to be addressed, such as further upgrading of the air conditioning system in the Sanctuary (at a projected cost of \$25,000 and taking a month to complete), repairing the organ (which currently is inoperative), a new dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall kitchen, and repairing and restriping the parking lot. We may have to consider a capitol campaign to fund some of these projects, but that decision will be deferred until the new Pastor is on board."

Shepherd of the Hills Council Meeting Minutes

1/2/2018

Council Members in attendance: L. Minnick, C. Shaw, J. Meadows, J. Coltman, B. Franco, S. Fuller, A. Rice, S. Spahle, J. Schneeman, L. Schweizer

Council Members absent: A. Shackelford, J. Roper

Opening with prayer offered by Rev Meadows.

December meeting minutes approved by mail, and available to all SOH Congregants in Narthex.

Committed Reports:

Mission and Outreach/Beth: The following are the amounts for Special Offerings in December:

- Christmas Fund (UCC)- \$1048
- Ministry at the Doorstep- \$811

I can't find the e-mail I got on the blood drive results, but I think we did not meet the goal this time. One idea I had to improve our recruitment: I would love to have a banner we can post and change the dates when we are hosting drives to better invite the neighbors around the church.

January will have Sojourner Center offering 1/21 and hosting a week of Family Promise.

Buildings and Grounds/John:

1. Held off removing oleanders along sanctuary entry walk. Decided to wait until we can plant lan-tana in March. It is frost tender and can kill new plants. Next bulk pick up is in March.
2. Have not had contact with dishwasher repair. I am guessing that the part is no longer available. I called and left a voice mail today but have not yet heard back. We may need to discuss options – use what we have and manually turn on and off or order new unit for about \$3,000. For now, I have posted instructions on the dishwasher with the disclaimer that if the person using the dishwasher forgets to turn off the valve and the floor floods, they are responsible to pay for cleanup.
3. Sign lights/outside sanctuary lights under the cross – there is no longer power to the low voltage transformer that operates the sign lights. My guess is that the 120 volt underground line was broken when the outdoor light on the front of the sanctuary under the cross was excavated and propped back up. We received bid to install low voltage LED lights (2) with new dusk to dawn timer on the front of the sanctuary under the cross for \$1,120. Parts cost about \$400 - \$500. I am planning to install but have not had the time to do so yet. It is now on my list. I should be able to repair circuit to the sign lights at the same time.
4. Fluorescent light repair in Fellowship Hall. I authorized Abraham's friend to replace the ballast. He has done repairs on our riding mower and has done good work. It is something I can do but I am no longer comfortable standing on the top of a 10 foot step ladder.
5. Pilot light for sanctuary heater was out and needed to be relit. Dave Martin said that the supports attached to the ceiling had come loose and would not allow his workers under the unit until it was safe. They installed jack stands to prop it up and relit the pilot. Works fine now.
6. Pilot light for Fellowship Hall heater was also out and was relit without any problem. Working fine now.
7. We are having problems with access to the Fellowship Hall pantry. Things are missing. I have heard discussion regarding moving the Marshallese supplies to the choir room for storage and rekeying the pantry. I have also had reports of many Marshallese kids running unsupervised in the kitchen. We may be concerned about liability issues.
8. New projector stands were installed in Sanctuary but I am going to attach an additional anchor on each.

We still have a number of other projects on the to do list:

1. Figure out how to record services and post on our website.
2. Clean out old audio equipment. Any value?
3. Clean out garage.

4. Clean out pre-school utility room.
5. Clean out choir room. Store Marshallese and United Art supplies.
6. Gopher problem.

Diaconate/Carol: Reba Craig is home, if she needs support/food, Carol will let us know. Doc is home. A Job Description has been written and submitted for our Funeral Coordinator/Linley.

Education/Stephen and Alice: Sunday School has been offered when there is a need, however, we are losing Cindy Loewen as a teacher. Her work and life commitments are more than she feels comfortable committing to SOH SS at this time. She would welcome a call to check in how she is doing and keep up with SOH. There is a need for another Volunteer for teaching SS, when there is a need. Current teachers/volunteers are Alice and Stephen.

Worship and Music/Sue: Happy to report feedback from the Holiday services were very positive. There are some folks that find the music video, modern offering at the beginning of the service too much – the committee is considering this feedback and will continue to adjust, find ways to bring in a more uplifting contemporary experience in our services.

Pastors Report/Jim: Visits:

- Hospital and rehab: 4
- Office: 2

Coming Up:

- Ordination next Sunday for Jim Alexander
- Memorial Service for Shirley Siner (home) on Jan. 8
- Memorial Service for John Thompson on Jan. 13
- Saturday evening worship at 5:30 pm on Jan. 13
- Family Promise Jan. 21-27
- Confirmation Class meets

Miscellaneous:

- Confirmation for 3 in February?
- Officers for 2018
- Search Committee Update
- Budget Hearing is Jan. 21
- Annual Congregational Meeting is Feb. 4
- Annual Reports deadline Jan. 22

Budget/Treasurer's Report/Joe: Reported that we will end 2017 on budget, balanced with a little surplus. Moving onto next year's budget, pledges have come in and will support our proposed needs – therefore, will present a balanced budget to the Congregation, considering the budget line item for the prospective Settled Pastor, that has been presented by the Search Committee.

Membership/Jeanne: Nothing to report per text communication.



“Newest greeters at Sunday’s service in January, Beth Sposito and her new puppy, Isla.” Beth has been a Shepherd usher for about 2 to 3 years now. Thank you, Beth! Written by: Diana Schneeman, Head Usher



**DON'T FORGET!
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

SOH will be hosting a Flea Market on Saturday, February 24th from 8:00am to 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Anyone with donations or wishing to volunteer should contact Diana Schneeman or Liz Mullen.



To register email your RSVP to:
doug.bland@azipl.org

ARIZONA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

February 3, 2018
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Community Christian Church,
1701 S. College Ave., Tempe, AZ

Sponsors: Arizona Interfaith Power & Light,
Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Franciscan Renewal Center

To register,
email doug.bland@azipl.org
Free, donations welcome

A Climate (for) Change

What shall I do? How shall I be?

Join us for deep dialogue around navigating social and environmental justice challenges of our time.
We view these challenges as opportunities to transform our culture.

Opening message: Dr. Sonja Klinsky,
Senior Sustainability Scientist, ASU

**Mini workshops on...
What shall I do?**

- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Divestment/Reinvestment
- Food Justice
- Learning from Mother Nature

**Mini Workshops on...
How shall I be?**

- Franciscan Spirituality
- Respectful Conversations
- Practicing Sabbath
- Creative Expression

photo credit: Cicoma Visuals

The following article is from January's Arcadia News. Not named in the paper are Judy Eighmey and Bill Janiga. Judy and Bill have helped in numerous ways, from carpooling to teaching Rohullah how to drive.

Refuge family welcomed to Arcadia neighborhood

By Mallory Gleich

Jill Thomas and Nola Enge have been very busy.

Thomas had just returned from her seventh trip overseas delivering baby carriers and necessities to refugees in Greece.

Enge was running the preschool program at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Arcadia.

Both women were continuing their careers in education. But late last year, they decided it was time to do more.

Thomas and Enge, along with another friend from Shepherd of the Hills, decided to join the church in sponsoring and welcoming a refugee family to the Arcadia neighborhood. Since the family's arrival, the ladies have helped them grow and blossom into their new lives.

Thomas works as the baby bed coordinator for Carry the Future, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for infants in Europe and the Middle East. Since its inception two years ago, 50,000 baby carriers and 600 baby beds have been donated to refugees.

Knowing the refugees who arrive in America need a great deal of support, Thomas decided to pair up with Enge, as well as Welcome to America and Refugee Focus, to bring another family to Phoenix.

The ladies were matched up with a family from Afghanistan that included a single mom and her four children. They had been living in Pakistan for five years and had survived the tragic accident of losing their father and husband.

"The only thing we knew about this family was their ages," Thomas said. "It really put a face on the refugees I've worked with."

Zakia, Razia, Abdul, Rohullah and Zabi Mohammadi arrived in Phoenix in March of 2017. They were able to move into an apartment in Arcadia, and with the help of Enge, Thomas and Shepherd of the Hills, have settled into their new lives.

Two of the children, Rohullah and Abdul, recently started working at the Safeway on 48th St. and Indian School.

"The boys are amazing and have worked up to their potential here at Safeway. Working through their transition was not troubling at all and they are so helpful," said Manager Robin Clemens.

Rohullah and Abdul started work in September and although it's been a big change, they really like their work.

"We do bagging and cart checks. The language barrier was hard, but once we got used to it, everything is good," Abdul said.

One of the most important parts of acclimating the Mohammadis into the culture was education. Before arriving in America, Rohullah and Abdul hadn't been to school in four years.

"The boys have a really strong work ethic and really wanted to start working when they arrived," Thomas said.

With that in mind, the family entered into intense English language classes. Thomas and Enge knew it would be important for the boys to work in an environment where they would be speaking English.

Thomas and Enge also wanted the community to help get the family accustomed to their new lives. With the help of Shepherd of the Hills, the family was provided with necessities for their home, rides to work and school, as well as classes to continue their education. This is the third family that Shepherd of the Hills has sponsored in the past 20 years.

"We really want to continue to encourage others to do this. Anybody can do this and there is a great need," Enge said.

For more information about donating, sponsoring and how you can help, visit learnloveserve.org and carrythefuture.org.



The Mohammadi family arrived in Phoenix and moved into an apartment in Arcadia in March of 2017 and are settling into their new lives. (right) Rohullah and Abdul Mohammadi work at the Safeway on 48th St. and Indian School. Although their language barrier was a challenge, they are learning English quickly and enjoy their work at the store.

February

2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 10:00am Bridge, Parish House	3 8:30am Yoga 1:00pm UAA Classes
4 10:00am Worship with Communion Good Earth Sales after Worship Annual Meeting after Worship 1:30pm Marshallese Worship 4pm Meditation	5 9:00am ICM pick up 7:00pm Good Earth Meeting	6 6:30pm Church Council, Parish House 6:30pm AA & Alanon @ Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Alateen in Library	7 10:00am Wednes- day Wanderings 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 5:30pm Girl Scouts	9 10:00am Bridge, Parish House	10 8:30am Yoga 10:30am 2nd Satur- day Covenant Group, Fireplace Room 1:00pm UAA Classes
11 10:00am Worship VIP Listening Meeting after service 1:30pm Marshallese Worship 4pm Meditation	12	13 6:30pm AA & Alanon @ Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Alateen in Library	14 10:00am Wednes- day Wanderings 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 11:30am Book Club	16 10:00am Bridge, Parish House	17 8:30am Yoga 1:00pm UAA Classes 4-6:00pm Open House to meet and greet pastoral candidate
18 10:00am Worship Candidacy Sunday 1:30pm Marshallese Worship 4pm Meditation	19 Office Closed President's Day 11am Bill Hadley Memorial Service In Tempe, AZ	20 1:30pm Truthseekers, Covenant Group Fireplace Room 6:30pm AA & Alanon @ Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Alateen in Library	21 9:00am ICM Pick Up 10:00am Wednes- day Wanderings 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 5:00-9:00PM Private event, Fellowship Hall	23 10:00am Bridge, Parish House	24 8:00am- 2:00pm Flea Market Fellowship Hall
25 10:00am Worship 1:30pm Marshallese Worship 4pm Meditation	26	27 6:30pm AA & Alanon @ Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Alateen in Library	28 10:00am Wednes- day Wanderings 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00am Monday-Saturday 1st Light AA Meets in Fellowship Hall		

CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Diaper Bank Of Central Arizona. Come in to the Chipotle at **21001 N Tatum Blvd.** in Phoenix on **Sunday, February 18th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Diaper Bank Of Central Arizona.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

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

Address Correction Requested

