

# Good News from

## The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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July/August 2017

### 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.**

### Minister's Reflection

Greetings,

You would think that 115 degree weather would slow us down here in the Santa Cruz Valley and yet, lots of things are getting done.

Pablo has been working hard on an extravagant flagstone splash guard in the Church Lobby/Narthex area that incorporates the Santa Rita Mountains and a nice little stream of cool blue water. It is definitely an eye catcher that draws attention to life giving water. Predictions are that people will be lining up to get a drink of water just so they can look at this piece of art. All of this is a good thing.

Technicians have been working on installing digital cameras and recording system so that people will be able to watch our worship service LIVE on Facebook. Check out and like our page-- the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. We also are working on getting them up on a YouTube channel and the Good Shepherd web page. Keep checking!

Staff transitions at the Good Shepherd: over June and July we will be saying goodbye to our Director of Christian Formation Julie Ingham and to our Choir Director Ben Hansen. They have both done incredible work at the Good Shepherd and we thank them for creating a strong foundation

for these programs to continue to grow. In August we will be welcoming our new Choir Director Jeff Vanderlee and our Assistant Minister Nathan Watts will be expanding his job responsibilities as he takes on the work of the Christian Education programs.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> after a year of hard work and lots of stress, Eva Reyes Cruz and her four children were granted Asylum by the US Immigration Courts. After attending the brief court hearing in the morning, we came back and had an emotional fiesta celebration at the Good Shepherd.

June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup> the United Church of Christ national gathering called General Synod will be taking place in Baltimore, Maryland. Out of 5000 churches nationally, the Good Shepherd will be the only local church to have a booth and table in the convention center. We will be sharing info about Common Ground on the Border and other events and activities at the Good Shepherd as we stand behind a new banner that says: Don't Build a Wall---Build a Bigger Table!!! We will have a good group of folks there to enjoy the festivities and talk about the Good Shepherd---including: Randy Mayer, Nathan Watts, Rebecca McElfresh, Jim Armstrong, Noel Andersen, and even Marta Bernardini our friend from Italy will be there.

**The Good Shepherd  
United Church of Christ**

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy J. Mayer**  
Assistant Minister: **Nathan Watts**  
Faith Formation Director: **Julie Ingham**  
CWS Immigration Organizer: **Rev. Noel Andersen**  
Commissioned Minister of Faith & Money:  
**Nancy Ackley**  
Music Director & Coordinators: **Ben Hansen**  
**Lisa Otey-Van Deurzen**  
**Diane Otey-Van Deurzen**  
Pianist: **Kay Jean Moore**  
Custodian: **Severo Rivas**  
Administrator: **Amy Dillemath**  
Newsletter Editor: **Mary Chapman**

**Newsletter Helpers:**

**Jan Bennett, Darlene Clement, Carlos Henriquez, Judy Holcomb, Bill & Marge Kinkead, Beverly Myers, Nancy Linthicum, Marilyn and Tom Regnier, Carrie Scheufler and Kathy Zweig**

**Executive Committee**

Moderator: **Tom Wilsted**  
Moderator elect: **Judy Bischoff**  
Treasurer: **Sam Dyer**  
Council Secretary: **Leslie DeGrassi**

**Administrative Area Facilitators**

Facilities: **Ray Hebert**  
Finance: **Nancy Bowen**  
Stewardship: **Hathaway Cornelius**

**Program Area Facilitators**

Welcome and Inclusion Team:  
Intentional Caring Team: **Barb Eyre**  
Mission Service and Justice Team:  
**Dennis St. John**  
Spiritual Growth Team: **Susan Hill**

*The Long Road To Asylum:  
A Case of Collateral Compassion*



Last June the Good Shepherd and the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans agreed to accompany a Honduran Family that was getting ready to present themselves to immigration officials at the US/Mexico Border. Some of our folks had gotten to know Eva and her 4 children at the Jesuit-run Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico where we volunteer every Tuesday. At the time, we knew it would be a long, hard journey---but I don't think any of us knew all the hoops, heart wrenching experiences, and joy that would transpire over the year.

It takes a village to accompany an Asylum Family of five. There are medical and psychological issues that need to be taken care of for all of the family members. There are housing and furniture issues that need to be provided. Everyone need to be enrolled in school---which then required tutoring and English classes. Transportation needed to be provided since Eva couldn't get her driver license. Food---4 growing kids eat a lot of food. Legal issues needed to be worked on so that Eva would make all of her court hearing and so that a strong case could be developed. And of course emotional, spiritual support. So many folks stepped forward to help out, not because they were asked but because their hearts were open and there was lots of work to be done. Thank you to any and all that helped out or just gave a few dollars or said a prayer. It all worked.

*Newsletter Deadline*  
**SEPTEMBER ISSUE**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017**

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

So after a year---it is so satisfying to step back and see Eva and her family relieved that they no longer have to live with fear. They have successfully proven their case---which is hard to do anywhere in the United States---but especially in Arizona where only 1 in every 100 cases is granted asylum.

But it is also satisfying to step back and see a community that took a risk to walk with a family in need. You all put your faith on the line, you all gave from the depths of your hearts, expecting nothing in return, and it has made a difference--- a huge difference in this family's life. But somehow I think it has made a difference in each of our lives as well. I know that the actions of this congregation and the Samaritans literally saved 5 lives, but in the process other lives were also saved, or at least sparked back to life. I would like to coin a new word, "Collateral Compassion." Collateral compassion happens when care and concern is focused on a particular situation but in the process that compassion and care is multiplied and inflicted on many unintended targets. I have to admit that I have been one of the unintended targets in this asylum process, I have experienced collateral compassion--- maybe you have too? I am glad the Good Shepherd has experienced Collateral Compassion, may we experience it again and again and again....

Paz,

Randy



## Changes

### *Celebration of Julie Ingham our Director of Faith Formation and Christian Education*

On Sunday June 25 we celebrated the ministry of Julie Ingham our Director of Christian Formation. For the past 8 ½ years Julie has put all of her energy into nurturing and accompanying the children and families of the Good Shepherd. She has organized and planned the church school, Christmas and Easter Pageants, vacation bible school, special activities, taught adult studies and forums, and so much more. She has been a tireless advocate for children and families and has challenged the church to keep them at our core. She has helped us create an environment that is caring and nurturing for all.

Julie and Glen will continue to be active and worship at the Good Shepherd, but because the ALS has progressed, she needs to put her attention on her health and step back from her leadership role. We give thanks for all of her passion and work and commit ourselves to walk with her in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

### *Celebration of Choir Director Ben Hansen on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>*

We will be saying goodbye to our Choir Director Ben Hansen on July 9<sup>th</sup>. For the past 2 ½ years Ben has done a great job of leading our choir and providing beautiful music to enhance our worship

services. Ben is stepping down to focus his efforts on his Doctoral Dissertation and the Helios Ensemble.

*In August We Welcome New Staff Members Jeff Vanderlee and Nathan Watts*

In June our Choir Director Search Committee conducted a search for a new director and were very pleased to find Jeff Vanderlee. Jeff is a second year Doctoral student at the University of Arizona Choral Conducting program. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Texas at Austin, his master degree in Choral Conducting at Westminster Choir College---he has directed middle school, high school, college and church choirs and is excited to be hired as the Good Shepherd Choir Director.

Nathan Watts isn't exactly new to us at the Good Shepherd, but he is new to some of the wider responsibilities he will be taking on at the Good Shepherd beginning in August. He will continue to do the Youth Ministry and Assistant Ministry responsibilities but he also will be taking over the Faith Formation/Christian Education responsibilities at the Good Shepherd. In this time of transition it is great to have someone who knows our children, youth and families and can move smoothly into this position. Over the next year Nathan will also be able to continue the In-Care Process with the Southwest Conference that will hopefully lead toward his ordination next spring.

### *Help Our Asylum Family*

Eva Reyes Cruz is working cleaning houses and actively searching for regular work, but jobs are scarce especially in summer. Many folks have supported our **Asylum family**. If you are able to help financially, please write a check to the Good Shepherd and list Asylum Fund on the memo line.

## *Inquirer's Class*

We will be receiving new members at the Good Shepherd on July 30th at our 10:00am Worship Service. In order for people to learn more about the Good Shepherd and the United Church of Christ, we will have an Inquirer's Class on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> following the service in the large classroom. The gathering will last about one hour and 15 minutes. If you have any question—or want to join the church and can't make that gathering please be sure and contact Rev. Mayer at 625-1375. We hope to offer these opportunities every 2 to 3 months.

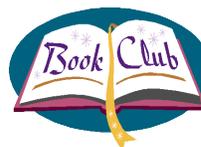
## *Bookworms News*



**Bookworms**, the women's evening book discussion group is reading ***The Underground***

***Railroad***, by Colson Whitehead for our June 19 gathering. We will continue to meet throughout the summer for those who are around: July 17, August 21, and September 18 books still to be chosen. Watch for announcements in the email newsletter and bulletin. We meet at La Posada, in the Lantana Room on the third floor of La Vista. After June 26 contact Sandra Rooney, [srooney8@cox.net](mailto:srooney8@cox.net), or 648-4264, for more information.

## *Afternoon Book Club*



AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB will meet at 1:30 on Tuesdays July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss: ***Return to Sender***

by Julia Alvarez . (rsvp to Liz Symington, 207-3318) and ***This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind*** by Ivan Doig. (rsvp to Kay Novak , 262-6970)



## Capital Campaign Corner

## Strengthen the Church Offering Results

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In April we received donations of \$8,055 for our capital campaign—Room for the Future. No expenses were incurred or paid. During May, we received donations of \$1,132.50. We paid expenses of \$300 for a Technology consultant. We now have a balance of about \$43,262 in reserve. Although activity is much slower the summer, we continue to move ahead forming a committee to plan sanctuary enhancements. New cabinets are also being created for altar supplies and to meet other storage needs.

*Thank you all for your generous support of our expansion and improvements allowing us to further our missions and programs.*

Dear friends and members of Good Shepherd Church. Hopefully your summer is bringing you joy wherever you are currently. On Sunday, June 4th, we celebrated Pentecost and in so doing, collected a special offering for the U.C.C.. It is called "Strengthen the Church." The money, in part goes toward starting new churches. (We were once the recipient of this gift). I am thrilled to announce that your generosity brought in \$841.25 !!! This is a great increase from last year's gift of \$568. How proud we should all feel to pass this blessing along to other churches longing to spread the Good News to future generations.

### Thought for the Day

Beyond the supernatural promise of an incredibly bright by and by is the human potential that can offer an even brighter future in the here and now. When we are brutally honest with ourselves, we see that the promises we looked to God to fulfill were never realized in any accountable way. I, for one, am not prepared to bet our lives and the future of this planet on such inconsistent results. But I am prepared to put my best effort into creating the potential for good to develop and grow in the world. We are all able to do that. If we consistently choose to do that, we can make an incredible difference. Gretta Vosper



### Summer Hours at Church Office

The church summer hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 8am-2pm, and Tuesday and Thursday from 8am-11:30am.

### Men's Fellowship News

MONDAY BREAKFASTS will continue, 8 am, at Old Chicago Deli. All men of the Good Shepherd are WELCOME!

### Fellowship Hours

#### May through September

Sticking with tradition, we will have helpers each week provide ice water and lemonade for all after the 10 am service each Sunday. If anyone wants to bring goodies for that time, please do so! However, please clean up afterwards and sign the log on the refrigerator that all was left tidy and clean!

Thank you so much from the Kitchen Krew.

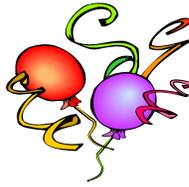
## Volunteers Needed

### Do You Have Wheels?

If so, please consider helping out with summer transportation for Eva Reyes Cruz and her four children. Eva is madly studying her AZ drivers manual, in hope of soon having a driver's license (and car).

Until then, however, she and her kids will need to catch rides from us to local appointments and activities. If enough people pitch in periodically, this will be a light load for all. If you are available to help out, please contact Cynthia Dean, [cyndeanaz@gmail.com](mailto:cyndeanaz@gmail.com) or 520-310-1526.

Thank you!



## Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Randy Mayer        | 07/01 |
| Christie Furber    | 07/03 |
| Donn Higley        | 07/03 |
| Stephen Little     | 07/05 |
| Christian Griessel | 07/06 |
| Cornelia Bayley    | 07/11 |
| Bernie Kuehn       | 07/13 |
| Aleta Brown        | 07/18 |
| Carol Littlejohn   | 07/28 |
| Dick Mayer         | 07/30 |
| Carlos Henriquez   | 07/31 |
| Hathaway Cornelius | 08/04 |
| Ginny Fridlund     | 08/05 |
| Penny Pestle       | 08/05 |
| Harlin Schanz      | 08/08 |
| Kathy Zweig        | 08/08 |
| Jan Mason          | 08/10 |
| Bonnie Sondrol     | 08/10 |
| Joyce Barker-Cook  | 08/13 |
| Judy Bischoff      | 08/14 |
| James Armstrong    | 08/14 |
| Susan Eaton        | 08/17 |
| Dale Hoot          | 08/19 |
| David Kellermeyer  | 08/21 |
| Darlene Clement    | 08/21 |
| Vera Stirsmann     | 08/25 |
| Bobbi Menefee      | 08/26 |
| Nancy McCormick    | 08/27 |
| Helen Henderson    | 08/28 |
| Pete Hagen         | 08/29 |
| Don Saiser         | 08/29 |



## Congratulations on Your Wedding Anniversary

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Paul & Pat Larson                   | 07/01 |
| Chuck & Judy Tomhave                | 07/01 |
| James Armstrong & Rebecca McElfresh | 07/03 |
| Harvey & Ruth Holter                | 07/11 |
| Dick & Dolores Degen                | 07/21 |
| Harlin Schanz & Carolyn Wilson      | 07/30 |
| Bill & Irene York                   | 08/05 |
| Jim & Jan Diers                     | 08/07 |
| Bill & Nancy McCormick              | 08/10 |
| Drew & Jan Mason                    | 08/12 |
| Dave & Kathy Zweig                  | 08/13 |
| David & Anna Dethmers               | 08/13 |
| Randy & Norma Mayer                 | 08/16 |
| Jim & Christie Furber               | 08/17 |
| Carlos Henriquez & Mary Chapman     | 08/21 |
| Dick & Ann Setter                   | 08/27 |
| Anna & Scott Griessel               | 08/30 |

If you have not seen your special day (birthday/anniversary) in the newsletter, please contact Amy if you would like to update your record.

## UCC News...

### **Commentary: Sanctuary Rising: Lifting up hope in times of fear and hate**

May 25, 2017

Written by **Noel Andersen**

**WITNESS**<sub>for</sub>  
**JUSTICE**

Every day we face a new story of a family being separated and children torn from their parent. This is the result of an outdated immigration system and a President who rode a wave of xenophobia all the way to the White House. As people of faith who are committed to loving our neighbor we must inspire hope and take action to push back against the harsh and inhumane policies being pushed by the Administration.

How is the faith community reacting? It's reacting in ways both big and small. For 86 days Jeanette Vizguerra sought protection from deportation, taking up residence in the First Unitarian Society of Denver. She was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people for lifting up her prophetic voice and taking leadership in the Sanctuary Movement. Thanks to her courage and enormous public pressure, she was offered a stay of removal for two years; a huge victory for her family and for the community that supported her.

Shadow Rock United Church of Christ was recently featured on 60 minutes to highlight the case of Sixto Paz, who has been living in sanctuary for nearly a year. At the same time the congregation is mourning the loss of Marco Tulio Coss, a father of three, whom the congregation had helped get a stay of removal in the past. He was deported after ICE misled his lawyer and the community, urging him to report to ICE offices under false pretenses where he was abruptly detained and deported.

People of faith across the country are helping thousands of asylum seekers and undocumented people find safe refuge and legal service support. Pilgrim UCC in Buffalo is even helping asylum seekers find their way to Canada where the government is actively welcoming them at the border because they have a credible claim of fear of persecution.

Every day I hear from congregations who want to know how they can accompany the immigrant in our midst. Any congregation can become part of the **Sanctuary Movement**. Already, more than 800 congregations have joined, more than half since the 2016 election. Many of these communities are prepared to house someone fighting a deportation order if needed. However, congregations who might not have the space, or are concerned about legal risk, can still be part of this movement through a spectrum of solidarity activities including assisting with legal services, fundraising for families in need, and engaging in advocacy to stop deportations. With our partner denominations we hope to assemble more than 1,000 Sanctuary congregations to demonstrate to the administration and the broader public the power of the faith community and the depth of our concern about these harsh policies, which are hurting families in our community.

Together, we must also continue to confront our decision-makers in Congress to push back against the massive cuts to social safety nets. Want to do something right now? Stand up for a just budget. We cannot steal from the poor in order to pay for the wall, increase border militarization and immigration enforcement. Congress controls the power of the purse, not the administration. Contact your congressperson today: <http://p2a.co/7dVvFoo>.

***Noel Andersen is National Grassroots Coordinator for the United Church of Christ.***

## Southwest Conference News...

### *Rev. Talitha Arnold Going to Iraq to Work with Women Refugees*

Rev. Talitha Arnold, Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (a United Church of Christ) is part of a 3-person delegation to the Kurdistan region of Iraq in early June. She will visit the refugee camps around the city of Erbil, home to more than 200,000 people who have fled their villages and cities in other parts of Iraq. The delegation will document the work of various women's empowerment programs that are focused on providing income and jobs for the most vulnerable refugees--women who have lost their husband, sons, brothers in the ongoing wars and therefore are without the means to support themselves or their children. The women's cooperatives produce candles, jewelry, and other items that are sold internationally. They also teach business administration and marketing skills.

Current estimates put the number of "war widows" at 1.5 million people, over 10% of the women in Iraq. In the Kurdistan region alone, over 2 million people, most of them women and children, are internal refugees.

The women's empowerment programs are sponsored in part by the "Week of Compassion," the ongoing international aid and development agency of the progressive Disciples of Christ, a global partner with the United Church of Christ (United of Santa Fe's parent denomination) in similar programs around the world.

The delegation will be based in Erbil, Iraq, an international center for diplomats, non-governmental agencies, and aid groups. Erbil is also one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, dating back 8000 years. Erbil is also 60 miles from Mosul, and therefore has been receiving ongoing waves of refugees from the conflict in that city.

The United Church of Santa Fe has been involved in immigration and refugee issues throughout its nearly four decades as a progressive Christian church in Santa Fe. In the early 1980's, the congregation raised funds and advocated for Salvadorans fleeing the war in their country. During the 1990s, the church also raised funds and supplies for the refugees of Rwanda and Kosovo. Since the mid-1990's, church volunteers have worked in several Santa Fe public schools with large immigrant communities. Most recently, United Church has helped organized the new Interfaith Immigrant Justice coalition and is considering becoming an official "Immigrant Welcoming Congregation" of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Arnold's commitment to refugee work also dates to the early 1980's when she was a Associate Minister for a United Church of Christ congregation in Connecticut and co-led a major Cambodian refugee resettlement project that served as a pilot project throughout New England. She also did documentary work in the Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee camps along the border in Thailand, similar to what she will be doing in Iraq.

"It is important to see a human face behind the headlines," Rev. Arnold affirms. "Refugees have not always been "refugees" or lived in camps. They are people just like you and me who had lives, homes, jobs, families, and hopes for their future and for their children. I hope our work will offer that, not only to my congregation but to others."

*The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ*  
*Administrative Team Meeting*  
*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

Present: Tom Wilsted, Judy Bischoff, Leslie DeGrassi, Sam Dyer, Randy Mayer, Dennis St. John, Nancy Bowen, Terry Linthicum

Visiting: Penny Pestle, Curt Keim

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Tom Wilsted at 7:09 p.m.

1. Minutes of the last meeting—Leslie DeGrassi

MOTION (Judy/Sam): To approve the minutes as distributed was made, second, and passed.

2. Update on Sahuarita Food Bank activities and discussion of ongoing communication between the Food Bank and the GS Admin. Team—Tom Wilsted and Penny Pestle

- The impact of the SFB on the church was described as 1) heavy use on Thursdays and Saturdays, 2) telephone impact is not significant, and 3) administrative help from Amy is not overwhelming.
- A communication strategy between the admin team and the SFB was discussed. It was noted that the minutes of the SFB are complete and very useful to the admin team. However, it was agreed that the SFB should briefly report quarterly at admin team meetings.
- The possibility of appointing a liaison from the SFB to the admin team was discussed but no decision was reached.
- A question was raised about whether the SFB has written policies? Curt reported that the FB follows church policies, including financial.
- ACTION: Curt will provide the SFB bylaws and policies to the admin team.
- The \$4500 payment from the FB has increased over the years and can be revisited in the future. That prompted a discussion of where these documents live. Should some of them be posted on the church website? No decision was reached.
- Report on “From Insufficiency to Self-Sufficiency Project” which boasts community-wide participation of 15 organizations, and has received several grants. A Success Coach has been hired.

3. Facilities—Terry

- New water fountain in the narthex is installed, and a new toilet tank lid was found.

4. Program—Dennis

Earth Day Sunday was very successful, and three different marches had participants from TGS. Eight adult forums are lined up for the coming year, and five gift fair tables have committed.

5. Treasurer—Sam

Income was very close to the average over the past six years. We are going into the next 4-5 months looking very good.

6. Update on revising the Good Shepherd Personnel Policy—Tom

Mary Martin and Margaret Nagle, both with personnel or HR experience, have agreed to review the 2005 church personnel manual. After they finish, Randy will review, and then share with the admin team.

7. Other—All

- The Capital Campaign has \$42,000 at this point. Still need a monitor in the narthex and one in large classroom and Redman Room.
- Luis and Rahn have made a proposal for a video system for live streaming and recording worship services. At this time about 50 people watch live each Sunday.
- MOTION: Recommend to Capital Campaign committee that we install cabinets in the music room up to \$4000. (Judy/Sam). Motion passed.

8. Pastor's Report—Randy

- Personnel: Ben Hansen, music director, has resigned to pursue other opportunities. His last day is in mid-July.
- Julie Ingham's last day of employment is June 25.
- A committee is needed to assist with personnel transition.
- Randy will be attending General Synod in Baltimore June 30-July 4 with Nathan Watts and Rebecca McElfresh.
- He has been invited to an immigration conference in Palermo, Sicily at the end of September.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie DeGrassi, Administrative Team Secretary