



Shepherd Life

Volume 53/Issue 8
August 2014

The Monthly Newsletter for
Shepherd of the Hills Congregational UCC

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

A DREAM COMES TRUE

by Missy Shackelford



On Monday, July 14, Austin Shackelford realized the fruits of his dedication and determination and his aspiration to follow in his Grandpa Ellis' footsteps as he began his Dental School experience at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health at A.T. Still University in Gilbert with the traditional

White Coat Ceremony.

The evening opened with the national anthem being performed by trumpeter Jesse McGuire, PhD of Diamondback fame and Dean Dillenberg, DDS, MPH introducing distinguished guests and speakers. Family and friends learned the heritage and legacy of the school, along with its mission and purpose to educate community-responsive health care providers. The highlight for the Shackelford family was to see Austin walk across the stage and receive his white coat, symbolizing his commitment to the obligations of his new profession. The ceremony concluded with the public swearing of the Oath to the Profession that acknowledges each student's responsibility to their new profession and future patients.

Thank you, dear Shepherd family, for sharing our joy and for being such a significant part of Austin's journey with your loving, caring support.

MEN'S BREAKFAST RESUMES

Calling all guys...the Men's Breakfast resumes on the second Tuesday of each month (August 12th) at 7:00am. We meet at [Randy's Restaurant & Ice Cream \(7904 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale\)](#). We gather for Christian fellowship, food, and frivolity.

Join us for this no-host monthly gathering.

SAY "CHEESE!"

As work continues on the updating of the Shepherd Church Directory, photos will be taken after Worship throughout the month of August.

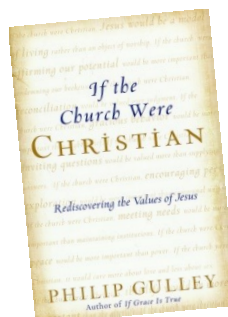
If you'd like to have your church picture updated, please meet in the Memorial Garden after Worship.

Also, please check the draft directory in the lobby/narthex to make sure phone numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses, and birthdays are all correct for you and all the members of your family.

To view the directory online please click on the following link:

<http://directory.instantchurchdirectory.com/73909986/booklet.pdf>. You will have a window open up to save the directory on your computer, click "save", and a window will open for you to enter the password. The password has not changed, but if you don't remember it, please email the office (sohucc@gmail.com) to obtain a copy of the password.

Please email the church office with any corrections that need to be made.



WEDNESDAY WANDERINGS GROUP STARTS NEW BOOK STUDY

Join us in August for our new study as we wander again.

During August and September, we will be reading Philip Gulley's book, *"If the Church Were Christian."*

This study is about rediscovering the values of Jesus for the church today. Books are available for purchase from the church office, or from your favorite book retailer. Share with us every Wednesday morning at 9:00am in the Parish House Conference Room.

MEMBERS GET UPDATE, PROVIDE INPUT ON LANDSCAPE PLAN

by Lew Shaw

A second meeting to exchange updated information and ideas regarding the proposed campus landscape plan was held July 20 following Church services and afforded the Congregation a further opportunity for input since the initial meeting in May.

The Council has hired Logan Simpson Design Landscape Architects to come up with recommendations of ways to make the campus more attractive, accessible and welcoming as well as more efficient to maintain. [\[Click here to see the idea boards.\]](#)

There was considerable discussion about the fairly immediate need to replace the irrigation system that was installed more than 40 years ago. While there was a desire expressed for more shade and seating on campus, the viability of adding and maintaining 40 trees as proposed by Logan Simpson was questioned.

Creation of a larger shaded plaza between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall as a welcoming and gathering place would be the focus of the plan.

Other elements include upgrading the playground area for the Pre-School, settling on a drop-off area, and the possibility of incorporating desert landscaping and relocating the air conditioning equipment from the north side of the Sanctuary.

Buildings & Grounds chair John Schneeman acknowledged that there are other elements on campus (such as the Sanctuary roof) that need attention and that any landscaping improvements would be integrated as part of a master plan. The project will be discussed at the Council's August retreat and that an overall campus repair and improvement plan, including cost estimates, will begin to take shape that can be presented to the Congregation in the early Fall.

THE HILLS SCHOOL PARENT POP-IN AUGUST 18TH

Monday, August 18th will be the first day of Pre-school at the [Hills School & Atelier](#).

To celebrate, we are sponsoring a "Pop-In" from 7:30am to 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall to offer support, refreshments, and encouragement to the parents as they drop off their little ones for the first day of school.

MONSOON MICROBURST MAKES AN IMPACT ON SHEPHERD CAMPUS



A July 14, 2014, micro-burst surprised the neighborhood and gave the church grounds a big wallop. Nearly all of the trees in front of the Parish

House were knocked over and/or severely damaged. The Mesquite in front of the Parish House was lying on the Parish House. Also the cement block wall next to the Parish House handicapped parking space was blown over. Wow!

Fortunately no one was injured at Shepherd during or after the storm. The insurance company has been called, but prayers are requested for everyone in Arcadia (and Phoenix metro) impacted by weather related damage or injury. More pictures are at our website:

<http://www.learnloveserve.org/storm-damage-2014>

THE SECRET TO A RICH LIFE

By Nola Enge

"The secret to a rich life is to have more beginnings than endings." David Weinbaum's quote makes me think of teachers and students who have the pleasure of starting anew with each school year. What a gift, if you really stop to think about it!

For our beginnings on **August 17**, please join us for **Preschool Sunday** during regular Worship. This is our opportunity to welcome new and returning young families and show off a bit of what makes Shepherd special. We'll have introductions all around as we open our community to parents full of anticipation for good things to come for their young children. I'm biased, surely, but a child's first school is likely their most important school. If parents feel a sense of belonging, their children will, too. Thank you in advance for welcoming these earnest young families and helping them feel they belong here at Shepherd.

While we ready for our shiny new school year, we invite you to come and [visit our little school](#).

All you need is a little bit of time and a lot of heart for children. We'll help you find your volunteering talents and can almost guarantee that you'll enjoy it. That all-important "village" so many talk about for raising children is, well...each of us!

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS: MY SUMMER VACATION

By Mary Benin

I just returned from a once-in-a-lifetime vacation, a safari to South Africa and Botswana. We rode in open jeeps with guides, and it was amazing how many animals that we were able to see and how close we were able to get to dangerous predators.

We learned about the wonderful eco system and all of the animals' roles in keeping a delicate balance. Nothing is wasted in this eco system.

Sadly, there are problems in this eco system, and the major ones are all human caused.

For example, in one area there were too many elephants causing a lot of destruction to the vegetation. The problem was that some of the safari camps had dammed up the delta to keep sufficient water there year round so that the animals would stay and the camps could remain open to tourists. The problem is that by keeping water around and enticing these migrating animals to stay, the vegetation was not getting a break from the animals and having a chance for regrowth. Other problems were caused by poachers.

This one-year old white rhino is lucky to be alive because his mother was killed by poachers. You can see from the multiple scars on his sides and stomach that he has survived attacks by lions – attacks which never would have occurred if his mother were alive.



In thinking about the problems that humans cause in the African safari and elsewhere, I reflected on Pastor Patti's current sermon series on *10 Rules for Life*. Pastor Patti reminds us that these rules are not just about being good Christians but good citizens. When we think about all of the damage that humans have done to the environment, is it an example of violating the "Respect God" rule? God directed us to be caretakers of the earth. Have we decided that we'll hunt or wear the fur of endangered species, or drive a gas-guzzling car because doing so makes us feel special? Is having a trophy head on the mantel or trophy car in the garage an example of paying homage to ourselves?

If we really put God first, would we make different choices?

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE INTERDEPENDENCE ARTICLE

(An EPIC Initiative)

By Maribeth Bohley

Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, NM

At Church of the Good Shepherd in Albuquerque, we recently participated in a youth pilgrimage. Our young adults, twelve through seventeen, made a trip, for the second year, to a sister church in the Southwest Conference, "Iglesia Congregacional la Trinidad," in El Paso, Texas. We returned with a new sense of connectedness, compassion, inspiration and respect for our family at Iglesia Congregacional and for our calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world- to **do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)**.

Our pilgrimage included repairing homes, attending community activities, and capturing historical knowledge in a documentary about the church, Saul Sustaita and the Chicano civil rights movement.

We saw, first hand, and processed in group discussions, the results of discrimination, racism, and profiling that still exist in our world. We also talked about how helping with more mundane things, like repairing a house, can take the burden and worry off of peoples shoulders so that they can focus energy and time on doing more for their families or the work of the church.

We learned from Saul Sustaita that the church was, and still is, a center for the Chamisal (border) community. In the 1960s, Iglesia Congregacion was a meeting place for the "Brown Berets" who were Chicano civil rights leaders. At one point during the height of the Chicano civil rights movement, Saul recalled during our videotaping, the city of El Paso condemned the solid rock church building for having a crack in the wall (and making too much noise about equal rights for all) and bulldozed it to the ground. The United Church of Christ rebuilt it!

Iglesia Congregacional is still committed to "justice for all". It may not be a headliner church in our Southwest Conference – not number one in tithes or membership numbers – but this small and mighty church will always hold a special place in the hearts and minds of our youth. They experienced first- hand how one small effort toward justice can have a ripple effect - that we can all make a difference no matter how big or small we are - and that leaning on each other is a great way to make it all work.

faithQuest

A UCC Confirmation Experience for 7th-9th Graders

Shepherd of the Hills UCC and Scottsdale Congregational UCC will be combining efforts to offer a joint Confirmation program, consisting of **three Friday-Saturday retreats** during the 2014-15 school year.

➤ **Stories of Faith Retreat:**

November 7-8, 2014 - This retreat will deal with Bible "basics" – history, how it was compiled, how to find things, different versions, key themes and concepts.

➤ **Practices of Faith Retreat:**

January 2-3, 2015 - This retreat will look at how we incorporate our biblical understandings of faith into daily practice. Topics may include different types of prayer and individual spiritual practices, along with corporate practices of generosity, stewardship, social justice and mission outreach.

➤ **Community of Faith Retreat:**

March 6-7, 2015 - This retreat will explore what it means to be part of a particular community of faith, fundamentals of the United Church of Christ, meaning of the sacraments and covenantal relationships, and relationships with other Christians and other faiths.

All retreats will be from 7 pm Friday through 4 pm Saturday. Locations TBA.

➔ If you are interested in taking part, contact, [Revs. Patti and Chuck Aurand](#) for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that early-ballot voters in Arizona have a way to track the status of their ballots?

All you have to do is visit:

<https://voter.azsos.gov/VoterView/home.do> and click on "Early Ballot".

WITH SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathies to the **family of Steve Swanson** as they mourn his death on July 18, 2014 from colon cancer.

Those left cherishing his memory include his wife, Sharon, and sons Kyle and Jared. Funeral and burial services were held at Shepherd of the Hills on July 26, 2014.

We extend our sympathies to the **family of Roger Burritt**, father of Ellen (Bill) Janiga, as they mourn his July 16, 2014 death. Services were held in Connecticut.

WITH CELEBRATION...



Photo: Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

We rejoice with the Hite-Devine family as they've gone from being a family of three to being a family of five! In July, Dominick's and Angel's adoptions were finalized. They join big brother, Ricky, and dads Mason and Chris.

Congratulations!

MARSHALLESE MINISTER TO BE INSTALLED AUGUST 31



Flag for the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Please join us in the Shepherd Sanctuary at 1:00 pm on Sunday, August 31, 2014 to celebrate with our Marshallese friends as they install Pastor Tarbwij Charley.

Pastor Charley is the leader of a Marshallese (those from the Marshall Islands) congregation in formation.

Currently, their faith community meets Sunday afternoons in Fellowship Hall on the Shepherd Campus.

All are welcome to join in the festivities both in person and in prayer!



VIP ACCOUNTABILITY FORUM SET FOR AUGUST 14

The Valley Interfaith Project has scheduled a VIP

Accountability Forum with Candidates for Legislative Districts 23 and 28.

The forum will take place **Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 PM** at:

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
4455 East Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

This is *not* a debate. We will be asking specific questions of each candidate to learn that person's attitude regarding our VIP agenda issues:

- Education (K-12 and College)
- Medicaid Expansion
- Arizona Career Pathways (Job Force)

Find more about VIP at

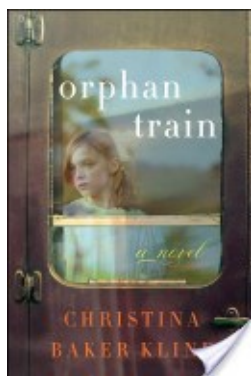
<http://valleyinterfaithprojectaz.com/>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS TRAINING SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Shepherd is preparing for a new year of Sunday School by hosting a "Teachers' Orientation" for all those interested in teaching this year.

The meeting is in two parts: 9:00am - Noon and 12:30pm - 3:00pm with a catered lunch provided. [Please RSVP with the church office](#) so that we can have a lunch ready for you.

BOOK CLUB BOARDS "ORPHAN TRAIN"



The next gathering of the Shepherd Book Club will take place at Noon on Thursday, August 21 in the Fireplace Room of Fellowship Hall.

Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches and their impressions on the August book pick: "*Orphan Train*" by Christina Baker Kline.

This group is open to anyone who enjoys reading and discussing literature.

SHEPHERD ARTIST'S WORK FEATURED IN EXHIBITION

"*Visions of Possibilities*", a fine art exhibition by Gayla R. Bonnell, Phoenix, and **Barbara Lacy**, Paradise Valley, award-winning local artists, will be on display through Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at the Beatitudes Campus Town Plaza, 1610 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Viewing hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

The Exhibition is part of the Arizona Artists Guild's mission to continue its long-standing tradition of art leadership in Arizona by promoting quality artwork for public viewing and appreciation. The Beatitudes exhibitions rotate quarterly. Bonnell and Lacy are juried members of the AAG.

Bonnell is a water medium artist with many award-winning works to her credit. Her art is in private and corporate collections throughout the US and Europe. She is a juried member of the Arizona Artists Guild and the Arizona Watercolor Society. Primarily, she paints abstracts but also does portraits and landscapes.

The Arizona landscape is Lacy's inspiration for her colorful canvases. Naturally, they are bright as if the sun is shining directly on them. Her playful animal canvases show another side of her work.

Lacy was a journalist for 40 years, writing for the Arizona Republic and Scottsdale Magazine among others; ending her writing career in public relations for the Maricopa Community Colleges. She now paints fulltime, takes art classes at Scottsdale Community College and helps teach a watercolor class at Life Care Center of Paradise Valley.

Lacy is represented by the Wild Holly Gallery, Cave Creek, AZ.

HOSPITALITY HELPERS NEEDED

In our efforts to better reach out and support our community, we are looking for **hospitality helpers** (bakers and "welcomers") in anticipation of hosting Maricopa County Elections on the Shepherd Campus from 6am - 7pm on Tuesday, August 26.

On Election Day, we'd like to thank area voters for participating in the democratic process with cookies and beverages (after all, voters are "smart cookies"). We have checked with the County Recorder, and not only is this allowed - it's encouraged!

Please contact Patti (at 480.432.7978 or revaurand@gmail.com) if you'd like to help☺.



WOOLGATHERING

10 RULES FOR LIFE: SUMMER SERMON SERIES

By Rev. Patti Aurand

Throughout the summer months, we're using our time in Worship to focus on the "**10 Rules for Life**" (aka the Ten Commandments).

Stephen Prothero, author of "*Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know - and Doesn't*" makes the point that a working knowledge of religion in America is imperative not just for people of faith (regardless of their religion of choice), but that it's imperative for every American. After all, so much of our nation's history has been influenced by the Bible and its practitioners.

To that end, we're focusing on the Decalogue (a fancy way of saying "Ten Words") and the Decalogue's relevance in the 21st Century. While we're spending a bit more time looking at the Decalogue as found in Exodus 20:1-21, we're also looking at it from the perspective of Deuteronomy 5:1-22 (the differences are small, but significant).

The Commandments can be divided into two categories. The first set deals with our relationship to/with God. The second set deals with our relationships with one another.

So far we've looked at four of the ten rules.

We began the first Sunday in July with **The Rule of Reflection** (*I, the Lord, am your God; you shall not have other gods before me*) where we were reminded to reflect on our priorities, on where we've created idols, and where God fits into the grand scheme of things.

From there we looked at **The Rule of Respect** (*You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain*) where we were reminded that this rule is about way more than cursing. It's about taking the power of God's name and using it unwisely (such as when we presume that God is on *our* side rather than us seeking to be on *God's* side).

Next came **The Rule to Remember the Rest** (*Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day*) where we found that the focus of this commandment in Exodus is on remembering that creation requires recreation; at that Deuteronomy's focus is on justice as the Sabbath is for *everyone* (and that the Sabbath means everyone is equal – if only for one day a week). Not only is this the only commandment that offers guidance in the ways of Worship, this commandment is the first known appearance of the concept of Sabbath in *any* culture. This is also one

of two "bridge commandments" – meaning that they apply both to our relationship with God and to our relationship with each other.

On the last Sunday in July, our focus shifted from the first set of commandments to the second set of commandments as we focused on **The Rule of Caring** (*Honor your father and your mother*). We were reminded that this rule extends beyond blood relations (think of how Ruth and Naomi took care of each other) and to any family created by love. We also were reminded that "honoring one's parent" is not the same as "obeying one's parent". This is a rule about caring for the generations (and not about being a travel agent for guilt trips).

This Sunday, we'll shift a bit more from the "Do's" – the positively worded commandments to the "Don'ts".

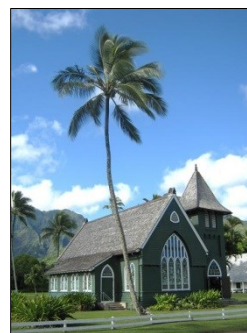
First up is **The Rule of Life** (*You shall not kill*).

In subsequent weeks we'll also look at **The Rule of Commitment** (*You shall not commit adultery*); **The Rule of Sharing** (*You shall not steal*); **The Rule of Speech** (*You shall not bear false witness*); **The Rule of Self-Control** (*You shall not covet your neighbor's partner*); and **The Rule of Assurance** (*You shall not covet your neighbor's belongings*).

Our series will conclude by looking back at the first and second rules of love (so stay tuned!).

For further reading, check out Joan Chittister's book, "*The Ten Commandments: Laws of the Heart*" (whose influence may be found in the naming of the "rules" during this sermon series).

OLDEST UCC CHURCH IN HAWAII



Bill Hadley, our *Shepherd Life* editor-emeritus, has become our roving ambassador, visiting UCC churches hither and yon.

In July, he attended [Wai'oli Hui'ia Church](#) in Hanalei on the north shore of the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

Established in 1834 by missionaries, it is believed to be the oldest UCC church in Hawaii. The Sanctuary seats about 100, and half of the service is conducted in Hawaiian, a language that originally came from Polynesia. The original church was a pole and thatch meetinghouse. The current shingled building was constructed in the American Gothic style in 1912 and has a belfry tower that houses a mission bell acquired in 1843.

**Shepherd of the Hills Congregational
United Church of Christ**
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Phoenix, AZ 85018
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Email: sohucc@gmail.com
www.learnloveserve.org

August 2014

is a great time to learn, love, and serve!

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
(and by appointment)

Shepherd's Staff:

Rev. Patricia Aurand, Sr. Pastor
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Church Council:

Mary Benin, Moderator
Laura Winnick, Vice-Moderator
Joe Coltman, Treasurer
Austin Shackelford, Clerk
John Schneeman,
Buildings and Grounds
Cari Trickett & Nancy Splain,
Worship and Music
Joan Reynolds, Diaconate
Chad Stevens, Stewardship
Bill Janiga, Membership
David Hart, Outreach
Katy Kohner, Education
Joel Johnson, At Large

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Kool Kids will be held during worship each Sunday, except on Preschool Sunday, August 17th.</i>						
3 10:00am Worship & Communion 11:15am Adult Study 1:30pm Marshallese Worship in Fellowship Hall	4	5 6:00am Early Birds Exercise	6 9:00am Wednesday Wanderings in Parish House 10:30 am Open House Group in Library	7 6:00am Early Birds Exercise in Fellowship Hall Pastor's Day Off	8 9:00am Coffee Klatch 10:00am Bridge	9 8:30am Hatha Yoga 10:30am Second Saturday Covenant Group in Fireplace Rm
10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Study 1:30pm Marshallese Worship	11	12 6:00am Early Birds Exercise 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Randy's Restaurant	13 9:00am Wednesday Wanderings 10:30 am Open House Group in Library	14 6:00am Early Birds Exercise Pastor's Day Off	15 9:00am Coffee Klatch 10:00am Bridge	16 8:30am Hatha Yoga
17 Preschool Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Study 1:30pm Marshallese Worship	18 7:30am-10am Preschool Parent Pop-in In Fellowship Hall	19 6:00am Early Birds Exercise 6:30pm PPRC	20 9:00am Wednesday Wanderings 10:30 am Open House Group in Library	21 6:00am Early Birds Exercise Noon-Book Club Pastor's Day Off	22 9:00am Coffee Klatch 10:00am Bridge	23 8:30am Hatha Yoga 9:00am CE Teacher Training in Parish House
24 Membership Team Mtg after Worship 1:00pm Marshallese Installation Service in sanctuary 31	25 Noon Newsletter Deadline	26 Primary Election voting in Fellowship Hall 6:00am-7:00pm	27 9:00am Wednesday Wanderings 10:30am Open House Group in Library	28 6:00am Early Birds Exercise Pastor's Day Off	29 9:00am Coffee Klatch 10:00am Bridge	30 8:30am Hatha Yoga

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Address Correction Requested