



The **WORD**
of the
Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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October 14, 2014

Worship Schedule for
The Church of the Good Shepherd
Sunday, October 19, 2014

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel.
Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
The Gospel Lesson is Matthew 22:15-22
The Witness is "It Doesn't Matter!"
Senior Pastor Philip Bertolo Wood, Preaching

Women's Retreat at Aldersgate.

8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Chapel.

9:00 – Bible Study – AEC

9:30 – Carol Choir Call Time.

9:30 – Chancel Choir rehearsal – MR.

9:30 – 12:30 – Childcare – Toddler Room.

**10:00 a.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary – Carol
Choir to sing in the service.**

10:00 – Sunday School after Children's Time.

11:15 – Coffee Fellowship – Jordan Hall & Patio.

11:30 – Youth Bells, open to 6–12 graders. Sanct.

11:30 – Carol Choir– grades 2-6 – Activity Center.

11:30 – Conversation with the Pastor.

3:00 p.m. – Concert in the Chapel.

4:30 – Youth Choir, 6–12 graders. MR.

6:00 – Youth Choir Dinner – (bring \$3) - JH.

**6:30 – UMYF - Open to all 6th – 12th graders. The
Advisors will be in charge of the program.**

**6:30 – Book Study on "People of the Book"
meets in the AEC.**

**8:00 – KNIGHTS – Pastor Joshua will lead to-
knight.**

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Please continue to pray for those mentioned previously in church and in the newsletter and be sure to include **Jim Kuhn** who is at Methodist Hospital and **Dave Cooper** who is recuperating at home following a procedure.

Conversation with the Pastor

On **Sunday, October 19**, we will be having the **Conversation with the Pastor** immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Services. These two one hour conversations are updated versions of our former New Member Classes. They are designed to lead one to a deeper commitment through Christ by becoming a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Child care will be provided. We will be welcoming our newest members on Sunday, October 26, 2014. Please be present to guide and uphold our new sisters and brothers as we continue to celebrate the growth of our mission and ministry in this region.

Music in Sacred Spaces
October 19, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

Music in Sacred Spaces Season opening concert is, **Sunday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Chapel. The concert will feature: **“Sketches of Spain” where Classical Guitar and Flamenco Song & Dance have an encuentro, or encounter.** This show will take a modern audience on a journey through the colorful sites of Andalucia and introduce them to the beauty of Classical Spanish music and the intensity of Flamenco, featuring: **Lauren Satiago**, Singer and Dancer; **Kai Narezo**, Flamenco guitarist; **Scott Wolf**, classical guitarist, and **Wendy Castellanos**, Flamenco dancer!

Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience great music and dance!! Requested donation of \$15 taken at the door, \$10 for students with valid ID. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to this exciting presentation.

Trunk O' Treat
Friday, October 31

On **Halloween**, Friday, October 31, Church of the Good Shepherd will host our annual **Trunk O' Treat** event at **6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** At this event we provide a safe and fun place for children in our church and community to dress-up in family friendly costumes, with friends, family, and neighbors, and receive tasty candy and treats. Come join us!

You can participate in two ways. Bring your children or grandchildren, bring the whole family and trick o'treat in our parking lot. This event is free and open to everyone! Or, bring your vehicle, decorate it in fall harvest themes, and dress-up in fun costumes to hand out candy to our children and families. Last year we welcomed about 200 guests so bring plenty of candy (we will also accept candy donations!).

We need your help! **If you wish to participate please contact Lynn Whitaker at 626-446-7860**, Pastor Joshua at the church office at 626-447-2181 or sign up after worship service at the table. We need as many cars as possible to fill our parking lot! Vehicle participants please arrive at 6:00 p.m. to set up, we will barricade the parking lot at 6:15 p.m.

FREE FLU SHOTS
At CGS in the Lounge
Sunday, October 26, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Thanks to Methodist Hospital and Health Ministries, we are once again offering annual flu shots to adults. The vaccine does not contain any live influenza virus. Each year's vaccine is made to protect against 3-4 viruses which are likely to be active that year. It does not prevent all cases of flu, and takes about 2 weeks to develop protection. The vaccine is not recommended if you have a severe allergy to gelatin, antibiotics, thimerosal, and eggs, or have ever had Guillian Barre Syndrome.

To ensure adequate supply of vaccines that Sunday, please call **Margaret Blair at 626-574-1827**, by Thursday, October 23rd, if you are interested in obtaining a free flu shot.

Take a Trip to Israel

On Thursday evening, **October 16, 2014**, **Harry Heflin** will provide a slide show and oral presentation on his recent trip to Israel. The United Methodist Men are your hosts at 6:30 PM for dinner and 7:15 for the show. All are welcome. Bring your curiosity and questions on this land and people about which we hear so much but seem to know so little. Dinner is \$5.00 unless it is your first time - then it is free.

Foundation Golf Tournament 2014

The CGS Foundation Golf tournament hosted 60 golfers at the Santa Anita Golf Course in September. Congratulations to **Team Patterson (Scott, Sean, Rex and Ron)** for a First Place finish. The Second Place team consisted of **Hatsumi Bullard, Tom Roide, Geoff Shannon, and Javier Valdez**. **Team Crosby, with Tom Crosby, Bill Crosby, Stephen Young and George Papik** was awarded Third Place. **Bob Graham, Dave Stewart, Don Carr and Andy Cabral** won the Senior Team Award.

Tournament play was followed by dinner at the Elk's Lodge with over 100 in attendance. A big thank you to all the sponsors and participants for supporting the event. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament provide the operating expenses for the Foundation. Thank you to Chairman, **Kevin Doran** and everyone that helped make this the most successful Golf Tournament ever!

Three New Studies to Begin this Month!

The month of October brings three exciting new learning opportunities to Church of the Good Shepherd. All will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Continuing on October 26, the **Parenting Group**, led by Elsa Cordero Wood, will meet to discuss and learn parenting skills. One topic is the stages of the brain of 12-24 year olds. Parents and grandparents of children of all ages are invited to come to the Parenting Group which will meet in the Lounge off Jordan Hall on 10/26, 11/9 and 11/16. Questions? Contact Elsa at: elcw25@gmail.com or 626-355-9135.

Join Pastor Phil in the Adult Education Center (AEC) on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 for a 6 week study of the novel, **"People of the Book"** by Geraldine Brooks. The study began on, October 12, and continues meeting each Sunday ending on Sunday, November 16, 2014. This book is available at bookstores and on Amazon.com.

Pastor Joshua invites us explore the foundations of our Christian tradition, grow together in our faith in Christ, and encourage each other in community. In **"Revival,"** Adam Hamilton uses his captivating storytelling talent to take us on a **six-week journey** through England tracing the life of John Wesley. Today we find ourselves in a world much like Wesley's – polarized, where faith seems to falter, and the gap between rich and poor widens. Many of us have a faith in need of revival. Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st century Christians, calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. His story is our story. It's our heritage, it defines our faith, and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion. Prior to the study, Pastor Joshua will spend a week at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection where Adam Hamilton is the Senior Pastor as a participant in the Young Pastors Network. The dates of this study: 10/26; 11/2; 11/9; 11/16; 11/23; 11/30. This book is available through Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com.

"Fill the Bowl Project"

Fill the Bowl Project is part of The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Protection Ministries program. Every year, thousands of churches across the county donate food to local food pantries and other programs that help fight hunger. Pets are a vital part of our community but are often overlooked in times of need. Through the Fill the Bowl Project, faith communities can help by collecting new, unopened cans and bags of pet food (dog and cat). One simple donation provides food for a pet and peace of mind for an owner. Donations will be collected from October 1 to November 23, 2014. Look for the Fill the Bowl Project bins outside the Children's Center Office.

Co-Weds Fellowship

Mr. Dan Ausman, President and Chief Executive Officer, will tell of the work of Methodist Hospital at Co-Weds meeting **Tuesday, October 21**, in Jordan Hall. All church members and friends are warmly invited. His talk will begin about 7:30. If you would enjoy sharing our \$10 catered dinner at 6:30, please call **Channing Lushbough** at 626-309-0270 by Thursday, October 16 to reserve space."

Brothers and Sisters,

As chair of this year's Charitable Giving Campaign, I would like to launch the campaign by voicing my objection to the notion of a Charitable *Giving* Campaign. This is not an objection to the intentions of the campaign or to the process itself, it is an objection to the use of the word "giving" because of its meaning, its implications and their effect on us. Now, I am an English major, and, at times, I am prone to excessive analysis of language, but I believe in the power of words, and, in this instance, I believe that our use of "giving" is problematic.

There are many definitions of "give", but the first I think of, particularly in this context, is, simply, to provide something to someone else. We *give* someone a hand, we *give* presents, and we might *give* someone a lift or *give* them some of our time. But beyond the definition and the usage lies an implication that when we give, we do so without expectation that we will receive anything in return except, possibly, a word of thanks. Paul teaches us about giving in Acts 20:35 when he says, "...we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'." This idea, expressed in various forms, is well known to us, and it is, I believe, an essential part of our faith. The problem is, I don't believe we view, nor should we view, our monetary contributions to the Church as gifts – money given without an expectation of some sort of benefit. If we truly consider our reasons for contributing to the Church, I think we might ultimately agree that we expect our collective contributions to provide some form of future benefit. And, as I see it, that expectation changes the nature of our contribution; we are not giving to the Church, we are investing in it. We are, in fact, making a charitable investment in the Church, this congregation, and its members.

I imagine that each one of us has benefitted from the charitable investments of this congregation as a whole – investments that have been carefully, prudently, and faithfully used by pastors, staff, and committee members past and present. Some of the returns on our collective investment are obvious, tangible. We can point to improvements and additions to the campus, we can participate in new and continuing ministries, and we see new members in our congregation. But I wonder if some of the greatest benefits are those that we overlook or simply cannot see. When Maureen and I decided to become members of Church of the Good Shepherd 15 years ago, I was an uncertain Christian who needed to grow in my faith in a church home that was warm and welcoming and patient. Our decision was made after only a few experiences here because it, indeed, felt like home. I also wanted our children to grow up in a church home – that was maybe of greater importance to me. I wanted them to grow up to not necessarily have more or to be better off than I, what I most wanted was for each of them to become a better person than I was. Over fifteen years, Connor and Madison have attended Sunday school, have sung in the choir, and have been active in youth group. And they have, through their faith grown in this church, become even better than the people that I hoped they would be. They give of themselves, they serve others without a second thought. They live their faith. I am overjoyed by who my children have become. I thank God for bringing us here; we are blessed to be a part of this congregation.

My family's experience here is just one example of what our investment in Church of the Good Shepherd brings. And like the compounding of interest in a financial investment, the return on our charitable investment in this church grows exponentially. Each one of us who is strengthened by what we experience in or through this church be it a Sunday service, or participation in a ministry, or a bible or book study, or any of the other opportunities we have for fellowship, goes into the world prepared to live our faith, to walk each day with Christ. And when we do that, we have the ability to share God's light and love with others. When Connor was in high school, some of his friends and teammates called him "church boy". It wasn't derisive. It was a recognition of who he was, his character, his values, and his faith. It was, in the strange way of teenage boys, a form of respect. And that's not a small compliment in a world that seems to place less value on matters of faith. It is possible that his friendship with these young men may cause one or more of them to seek the kind of joy and contentment Connor has found through his faith nurtured by this church. That is, in fact, what led me back to the Church, one co-worker years ago, strong in his faith and content with his life even when it was difficult. He did not preach his beliefs to me he lived them. That is perhaps one of the most significant returns on our investment in our church that we could hope for, and it is happening, even if it is happening far from here, even if we can't see it.

On November 1, pledge cards for this charitable investment campaign will be mailed, and on November 23, we will dedicate them in worship. Unlike last year, I am not going to ask you to prayerfully consider your gift. Instead I ask that you to prayerfully consider what you are willing to *invest* in the continuing growth of Church of the Good Shepherd and in the potential impact the church and its membership can have on the community, and in truth, wherever members of this congregation go. The more that we as a congregation invest the greater the return, the greater the number of people who are reached by our ministries, the greater change we can make. Last year I said that in the coming year we needed to answer the question, "Where are we going?" Considering all that has happened between then and now, I think we have answered that question. We are moving forward. In direct contradiction to statistics and reports and numbers that tell us that churches in general and mainstream churches in particular are in decline, we are moving forward. We may not know where that path will lead us, but I have faith that we will keep moving. How far forward we move and how fast we go depends on how much we are willing to invest. And as I see it the only real risk is not investing enough.

Thank you.

-Todd Sams

Upcoming Events:

Now through November 23 – 2015 Finance Campaign.

All the month of October and into November (thru the 23rd), we will be collecting new, unopened cans and bags of dog and cat food for the Humane Society's "Fill the Bowl Project." Place your donations in the bins outside the Children's Center Office.

October 19 – Conversation with the Pastor (updated version of the New Member Class) at 11:30 a.m.

October 19 at 3:00 p.m. Concert in the Chape.

Parenting Group led by Elsa Wood, Sundays at 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

Book Study led by Pastor Phil, Sundays at 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the AEC.

October 17-19 – Fall Women's Retreat at Aldersgate Retreat Center.

October 25 – Walkathon for Club 21.

October 26 – New Members received during Worship Services.

October 26 – Flu Shots in the Lounge, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

October 26 – Church Council meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the AEC.

October 26 – Book Study led by Pastor Joshua, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Library begins.

October 31 – Annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween in the church parking lot!