



The Shepherd's Call

October 2016

Vintage

Casting the Ancient Anew...

Where am I going...I don't know!
How am I going to get there, I ain't certain!
All that I know is I am on my way!

These are the words from one of the songs in the musical *Paint Your Wagon*. I saw this musical many times as a child and this song stuck with me over the years as a reminder of two things. One, sometimes we have to just step out in faith amidst all of the uncertainty around it. And the other is that it's important to have goals. The musical chronicles the story of a handful of people traveling to California for the Gold Rush and how their initial enthusiasm wanes over time when faced with the harsh reality that gold mining is hard work. The take away for me was twofold: first, in order to get somewhere, we need to start moving; and second, if we are going to actually get there, we need a goal.

I had the honor to participate in two conferences this week, one called Think Orange and another with author Brian McLaren. One came at ministry from a traditional/conservative perspective mindset. What I found most interesting is both were talking about the same thing, the future of the church. Both suggested that the future of the church isn't in the building or Sunday morning worship but rather is in hearts strangely warmed and lives transformed by the love of God.

When we established Good Shepherd almost from the beginning, we began to think of ourselves as "The Little Church that could." That has been our understanding of ourselves for at least several decades, maybe even from our founding. Our history is that of those who took the harder road, the road less traveled. We have put lives and dollars into the construction of our facility with the intent of establishing a church in the community. More recently, we looked at the changing demographics and

worked to establish a Vietnamese Language service as a part of our ministry. For many years, we have subsidized the Vietnamese language ministry as it was forming. Now we are at a place, where the Vietnamese language ministry is self-sufficient, and the English speaking ministry is in need of subsidy, which brings me back to goals.

Why do we exist? Why do we exist as a church community? Are we here for ourselves? Or, are we here to serve as the physical sign of God's love for the world beyond our doors?

At our Church Council meeting this past Tuesday, we received a motion from the floor to close the current English Speaking ministry. That motion was also tabled by the maker of the motion. Ultimately such a decision will come from the entire church community, so we will need your input. For now, know that this is one option before us, but it is not the only option.

As an institution, we may be nearing the end of our days, but as movement, we may be just returning to the kind of ministry Jesus was calling his first disciples to so many years ago.

Why do we exist as Good Shepherd? This is I think the deeper question, and I can't answer it for you. What I can offer, what I am offering is where you might find your answer. Starting this Sunday, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a study of the book of Acts. We will be using a book called Acts by N. T. Wright.

I am hoping to offer the class both during the day and in the evening. Look for more information soon.

Blessings,
Pastor Johan Dodge

A CALL

Almost all Vietnamese people who first came to the United States were seeking refuge in this country.

As we settled, most of us obtained US citizenship and gradually regarded this country as second homeland. Thus each one of us has two homelands and dual citizenship.

We ought to fulfill the responsibilities and duties as citizens of the US – the country which welcomed us in the first place.

Another Thanksgiving is drawing near! This event embodies a long-lasting tradition in the US whereby everyone gets a chance to give thanks to God for his protection, grace and mercy upon this country and her citizenry.

In many forms: I would like to call for acts of kindness and compassion from all God's children, which Jesus Christ would always do. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I urge that we commit ourselves to making offerings to God's ministries, partaking in evangelical and social activities, and developing local churches.

In addition, we ought to shift our focus to financially unfortunate people, refugees, and victims of natural catastrophes all over the world. Let's open our hearts through acts of kindness and compassion in order to help lessen the effects of the sufferings and losses on those in need.

Also in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we ought not to forget that we already have the citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, which will last forever. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, we also have an obligation to follow Jesus Christ's example as is mentioned in his last statement before he left for the heaven as follows:

"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4 NIV

All of us ought to pray to God for the security and prosperity of the US as well as the well-being of each family in this country.

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7 NIV

Each family and each one of us ought to return to God what we have promised Him in prayers and restart our commitment to the tasks that God assigned to us. This is the most important mission that we ought to accomplish before we all see God again.

THANKSGIVING 2016

LỜI KÊU GỌI

Đại đa số người Việt Nam của chúng ta lần đầu tiên đặt chân đến đất nước Hoa Kỳ này trong tư cách là người tị nạn.

Theo thời gian định cư, hầu hết chúng ta đều có quốc tịch Mỹ và chọn nơi đây là quê hương thứ hai của mình, mỗi người đều có hai quê hương và hai quốc tịch.

Chúng ta phải làm trọn bổn phận và trách nhiệm người công dân tốt đối với tổ quốc và quốc gia đã chào đón và cư mang mình.

Mùa Lễ Tạ Ơn Chúa sắp trở về trên quê hương này. Một truyền thống tốt đẹp mà hàng năm bất cứ người dân Hoa Kỳ nào cũng bày tỏ lòng biết ơn Đức Chúa Trời vì sự quan phòng, chăm sóc ban phước cho đất nước và dân tộc này. Qua nhiều hình thức: Tôi kêu gọi con dân Chúa trong Hội Thánh tích cực bày tỏ thái độ nhân từ và thương xót giống như Cứu Chúa là Cha chúng ta đã thể hiện. Trong tinh thần tạ ơn Chúa qua sự dâng hiến cho công việc Chúa, truyền giáo, những sinh hoạt xã hội, cộng đồng và sự phát triển của Hội Thánh địa phương.

Đồng thời quan tâm đặc biệt đến những người nghèo khổ, tị nạn, là nạn nhân của thiên tai bão lụt, động đất đã xảy ra nhiều nơi trên đất nước và trên thế giới. Hãy mở lòng ra bằng những hành động thực tế hầu xoa dịu phần nào những đau thương và mất mát đang cần sự giúp đỡ.

Song song với tinh thần của Sự Tạ Ơn, Chúng ta đừng quên vinh dự mình đã có quốc tịch vĩnh viễn của Vương Quốc trên trời. Là công dân của nước Đức Chúa Trời, Chúng ta còn có bổn phận làm theo gương của Cứu Chúa Jesus là Cha chúng ta trước khi về Nhà Chúa đã tuyên bố

"Con đã tôn vinh Cha trên đất và hoàn tất công việc Cha giao cho Con làm." Giăng 17: 4

Hãy cầu nguyện cho sự an nguy của quốc gia Hoa Kỳ, sự hưng thịnh của nền kinh tế và đời sống của gia đình hạnh phúc có ý nghĩa.

"Hãy tìm cầu sự thịnh vượng cho thành mà Ta đày các con đến. Hãy cầu nguyện với Đức Giê-hô-va cho thành ấy, vì sự thịnh vượng của nó là sự thịnh vượng của các con." Giê-rê-mi 29: 7

Mỗi người, mỗi gia đình hãy quyết tâm hoàn trả những gì đã hứa nguyện cùng Chúa. Tái cam kết thực hiện sứ mạng mà Chúa giao cho. Một nhiệm mạng trong yếu cho mỗi người chúng ta cần phải hoàn thành trước khi gặp mặt Chúa.

MÙA TẠ ƠN 2016

- Pastor Ase Nguyen



2nd, Terry & Linda Priester

5th, James Munroe

7th, Mark Richelieu

9th, Beth Sterkenburg

11th, Phil & Diane Maggs

27th, Keith & Nannette Bjelland

Please let the office know if we've missed any important dates!

Upcoming Events/ Announcements

Blessings of the Animals

Sunday, October 16th, 10:30 a.m.



This special service is being held in the front play yard since you are invited to bring your pets for a special blessing. Please be sure to bring your pets on a leash or in a secure container.

The Scout Troop will set up shade so everyone will be comfortable. We hope to have some pets available for adoption after service. Special refreshments including animal treats are planned. This is your opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors come and enjoy this special morning.

If you would like to help with refreshments or some other way, please contact Linda Priester.

Contact Info: 714-531-0504 or topriester@dslextreme.com

Church Financial Report – April 2016

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Income	\$11,678.59	\$95,160.32
Expenses	\$10,801.48	\$99,928.96
Income-Expenses	\$877.11	(\$4,124.64)



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Jesus

Mark your
Calendar



Nov 6th
Nov 13th
@ 10.30am

Oct 30th

After Worship
Stay to learn how we will go into the world and what we will, and won't be saying

Nov 6th

After Worship
Stay to learn how we will go into the world and what we will, and won't be saying

Nov 13th

@10.30am
We will gather into our teams, pray together and then "Go" out to our neighborhoods.

Let's Support the Food Pantry

We are designating the first Sunday of the month as Food Pantry Sunday. We are asking everyone to bring one or more items that are high in protein on the first Sunday. This includes tuna, canned meats and chicken, stew, chili, and other nonperishable foods.

Perishable food like cheese, milk, eggs and meat can be put directly in the refrigerator. Please label any refrigerated food as "Food Pantry" so we know to distribute it.

Many times we have people in our own congregation that can use some help. We appreciate the donations of boxed food.



Rada Cutlery Fundraiser



Pick up a catalog after Sunday service and help sell Rada Cutlery, cookbooks, special mixes, stoneware and candles. Proceeds will go to help pay the bills.

This is the best fundraiser that we have seen and has been very successful in the past. All the items are practical and make wonderful gifts as well as giving you an opportunity to upgrading your cutlery needs. (Do you have a great vegetable peeler or tomato knife? No? Buy yourself one and see the quality products that are available!)

Your customers can order using the catalog, please collect payment at the time of the sale. Check should be made out to Good Shepherd UMC or customers can go to www.helpourfundraiser.com to shop online. **Our Rada customer number is 168835 and the password is gsumc for online shopping.** This is the preferred way to shop as we do not have to handle money and customers have their order sent directly to their home. It is also a great way for family and friends who do not live locally to help support our fundraising.

When Would You like to Attend a Daytime Bible Study Lead by Pastor Johan?

We would like to start a new Bible Study at the church for those who prefer to come to meetings during the daylight hours. Please cut out this form and put it in the offering plate (or send it to the office). The day of the week and time of day will depend on when people would like to attend.



I would be interested in more information about a Bible Study during the day.

Name _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Preferred Day/Time _____

Dedications of Memorial Trees

Many thanks to Bill Wilson, Jane Butler and Terry & Linda Priester for donating funds for the memorial trees, it is greatly appreciated. They're just small bushes now but they will grow into beautiful evergreen trees. The red seed pods look like strawberries when they are hanging on the trees, that's why the name is *Arbutus unedo* or "Strawberry Tree".

Terry and Linda are remembering their good friend, Nathan Glidewell, Nathan's wife, Carlene, and Linda are best friends since the 5th grade and they just added on husbands in high school. Nathan was always delighted with life and enjoyed having a huge number of friends and the love of his family.

Jane Butler is giving her tree In Memory of the EUBANKS FAMILY:
My Parents - Frank and Lessie Eubanks, Frank 1896-197, Lessie 1900-1986
My Brothers - Charles Truett Eubanks, 1922-2009, James Allen Eubanks, 1927-2009
My brothers and I grew up during the Depression, but my parents made sure we always had adequate food and clothes.
My mother took us to the Munger Street Methodist Church every Sunday.



Bill Wilson is remembering his wife, Ginny, with his tree:
"My beloved wife of 59 years, when God joined as one He enriched my life far beyond words can express. Thank you Lord, and thank you, Ginny, Bill and children."



Virginia R. Wilson

February 7, 1935 – May 19, 2016

Known to her friends as Ginny, she was born in Elora, Tennessee. She graduated from Flintville H.S. in 1952. Her mother died when she was twelve and she was raised mostly by her aunt and uncle. Her father worked on the railroad and was away during week days.

She then traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, to study for an airline job but later accepted a job in civil service working for JAG in D.C. There she met me. Our first date was in Oct. 1956 and we were married in Feb. 1957 at Annapolis, Maryland.

We left the Marine Corps in Jul. 1957 and moved to Detroit, Michigan. Three children were born there, William III, Mary R. and Lou Anne (born prematurely and only lived a few hours).

We decided that civilian life wasn't for us and went back to the Marines. We were stationed at El Toro. Within a few months, I was on my way to South East Asia and Ginny was stuck with a new house and raising a 3 and 2 year old. Later we moved to Kingsville, Texas where our son, Charles was born. Two years later, back to California and another tour of Southeast Asia. Again she stayed home and cared for three children. We left the Marine Corps in Jun. 1967 and settled in California.

There are now six grandchildren (five boys and one girl) and three great grandchildren (two boys and one girl). Hopefully there will be more.

Ginny contracted breast cancer in 1994 and had a mastectomy. She was cancer free for twenty years and the ovarian cancer struck her. She endured several years of chemo until May when she passed. Her main concern during the time was for me and the kids.

She passed at home under the care of hospice with all of the kids, family and friends. Just before she passed she opened her eyes. They were a bright blue with what seemed to be a light behind them, a light and glow that I had never seen before. She is with those who loved and nurtured her, and made her, her.

Jesus Christ told the thief on the cross, "this day you will be with me in paradise". She is there and will have the welcome home party ready when I get there.

I will always believe that God brought her in this world just for me. She was my rock and solid foundation.

- *Bill Wilson*

Something to Consider

At our last Church Council meeting, I proposed combining our current English language ministries with another local United Methodist Church. The Council has not acted on this proposal yet, and has scheduled a special meeting on October 4 to discuss the issues further.

Those who have been attending Good Shepherd for many years have noticed our long, slow decline in numbers. I feel this decline has reached a critical point. We currently have 40 to 45 people in worship each week. This is no longer enough members to support our pastor, let alone do any significant ministry to our local community. In the meantime, our Vietnamese ministry has been growing and thriving, with close to 150 people worshipping each week, along with multiple outreach ministries to the community around us.

Financially, we are dependent on support from the conference and our Vietnamese ministries to pay our regular monthly bills. Our Vietnamese ministry is thriving here as well; collecting more than enough to pay for their pastor and all of the ministries they have.

My biggest fear is that the decline will continue, with people slowly drifting away from Good Shepherd. We would lose the friendship and fellowship we share with each other. Without these personal connections, some may stop attending a church altogether. I believe this is what will happen if we don't take a bold action very soon.

By combining with another local UMC, everyone involved can benefit. Our English language members would benefit by being refreshed in a new place, free to tackle whatever ministry God is calling each of us to instead of forced to fill the administrative positions necessary to maintain the facility and prepare a weekly worship service. We would also maintain those personal connections we have come to treasure over many years, while also enjoying new connections with the existing members of the congregation we join.

Our Vietnamese members will be free to expand their successful ministries further, bringing the Gospel and Christ's love to more people. The congregation we join with will be renewed by the addition of new members ready to join in their existing ministries and begin new ministries.

Embarking on this bold plan will involve some risks. And there will certainly be feelings of loss and grief. The transition plan would include space for each of us to deal with these feelings. But I believe that God is more than able to guide us through this difficult time and through our grief. I believe God will be with us and allow us to become part of a new vital ministry, just in a new place.

- *Peter Thelander*

Good Shepherd Preschool News October 2016



The New School Year has gotten off to a start. The school is ready to welcome the community and to show God's love with those families that choose Good Shepherd to care for their most precious creation.

The best kind of advertising is by word of mouth. Also please keep on helping us by liking our Facebook page or rating our school on Yelp. Your support and continuous prayers are greatly appreciated.

Lately, we have been keeping to improving our environment/learning by using the Nature Explore Curriculum and we are just a few steps away to get our school certified with the Nature Explore Curriculum. We have been continuing to grow organic vegetables and fruits, and help monarch the butterfly population.

Special thanks to...

Pastor Johan and Scott Pulver for being a part of our back to school night on Sept. 22, **Tracy Jones**, one of our moms that is volunteering to help with our fundraisers and searching for community helpers to come visit our school, **Michael Boyd** for choosing our school to do his eagle scout project at our school, and **Terry Priester** for his tireless work to help us keep our environment nice and safe.

Our school is in need of new tricycles and sand for our 3 sandboxes. Any kind of donations/support would be greatly appreciated.

Your continued prayers/support for the school is greatly appreciated.

Plant Sale Saturday, October 8th, 9am-3pm



Make sure to come and support us next Saturday!
Come early before everything is gone.
Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors.

Preschool Work Day Saturday, October 15th, 8am-12pm



Preschool Trunk or Treat Time It's a Party! Monday, October 31st, 4-5pm

The Preschool is hosting a Trunk or Treat Time in the back parking lot. Join the festivities, decorate your trunk and bring candy or other treats to give to the children of the preschool, church and the neighborhood. This is a fun activity for both adults and children and is a good outreach for our church. (Trunks should be decorated and ready by 4.)

We will have grilled hot dogs, popcorn, apples, and lemonade. That way, children can get some real food down before they start eating candy. You are invited to come eat this yummy repast, too.

If you can help with food preparation and serving, please contact Linda Priester at 714-531-0504 or topriester@dslextreme.com



October 2016

Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Computer Class 2pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
2 10am World Communion Service	3 7pm Troop Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study	4 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7pm All Church Meeting	5 6:30pm Zumba	6 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	7 6:30pm Zumba	8 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Computer Class 2pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
9 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	10 7pm Troop Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study	11 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba	12 6:30pm Zumba	13 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	14 6:30pm Zumba	15 7am Zumba 8am Preschool Work Day 9am Viet. Computer Class 2pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
16 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Blessing of the Animals (Eng. Service)	17 7pm Troop Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study	18 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba	19 6:30pm Zumba	20 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	21 6:30pm Zumba	22 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Computer Class 2pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
23 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	24 7pm Troop Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study	25 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba	26 6:30pm Zumba	27 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	28 6:30pm Zumba	29 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Computer Class 2pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
30 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service 11:30am Training for Surveying Neighborhoods	31 4pm Preschool Trunk or Treat 7pm Troop Meeting 7:30pm Bible Study					

Vietnamese Congregation Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 13th, 3pm – Thanksgiving Service for 20 Year Anniversary at Linda Vista UMC San Diego
- Nov. 20th, 8am – Thanksgiving Worship Service,
11:30am – Thanksgiving Luncheon: Vietnamese & Anglo Congregations
- Nov. 24th, 7pm – Special Thanksgiving Service and Thanksgiving Dinner
- Dec. 18th, 8am – Christmas Sunday Worship & Bible Contest
- Dec. 24th, 7pm – Christmas Service & Santa Gives Presents to Children
- Dec. 25th, 8am – Christmas Sunday Worship & Christmas Luncheon



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Ana Flores | Preschool Director
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For more info, visit our websites:
www.gswumc.com

Sunday Worships:

English Service, 10:30am

Vietnamese Service, 8am