



The Shepherd's Call

November 2016

Vintage: Casting the Ancient Anew - Rock Bottom

Ever since I was a child, I have been a fan of optical illusions. I remember going to the Physics Department to my dad's alma mater for one of their career days and seeing an old holographic projector with a few coins in it. The projector made it look like the coins were sitting there ready for the taking when in fact they were actually about two inches lower inside the projector. I share this story because I believe there are times that we fall suspect to illusion when it comes to our faith.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to a group of people who we are told trusted in themselves and believed that they were righteous. The parable contrasts the life of a tax collector and a Pharisee, and serves as a reminder to all of us who claim the name of Christian that we don't control who God loves. Time and again in the Gospels, Jesus sits down with, eats with and welcomes the most excluded and looked down upon people of his day. The Pharisees trust in themselves, they trust in their work – in their righteousness and they look down on those who are outside, who are not like them.

Jesus does the opposite of the Pharisees. Jesus loves everyone. I wonder at times what it would take for us to love the way Jesus loves. As I shared this past Sunday, it would take us breaking down our egos and our sense of entitlement. We have very clear ideas about what we like, what is appropriate and what is inappropriate to which I believe Jesus would say to us: "Um...did you not see what I did? Do what I did."

In times like this, I am reminded of the sovereignty of God. We have been created by God in the image of God to be co-creative with God – thanks be to God; which means we have free will. Throughout the Scriptures, we hear story after story of God acting in larger and larger ways. God is clearly interested in love, in

inclusion rather than exclusion or judgment.

In the church, over the centuries, we have been less focused on divine love for all of God's creation and more focused on judgment and our limited understanding of God's righteousness. We are at a unique period in the history of Christianity in which we have the opportunity to unlearn much of what we thought was "church" in order to do as Jesus did and love the world around us.

If we embrace this opportunity, we will grow in participation and impact but it will come at a cost. I invite you to consider the cost of discipleship and to join me in saying yes to Jesus. Not yes to coming to church on Sunday morning once a week and then going about your life as you see fit, but instead, going about life as God directs you in the Holy Spirit. To that end, I invite you to consider participating in the following activities:

1. Weekly Huddle – it's like a Bible study except it is using the Bible for a life study.
2. Hosting a House Church – this goes in parcel with the Huddle but includes elements of worship and community service as well.
3. Monthly Animal Friendly Worship

After our successful Blessing of the Animals Worship, I have a continually growing list of people interested in house churches and pet friendly worship experiences. Can we let tradition and ego die enough to embrace the opportunity to welcome our fellow sinners to the table?

Blessings,

Pastor Johan Dodge

Save the Dates!



POTLUCK & CAROL SINGING ON DECEMBER 4TH!!!



Put this on your calendars
so you don't overbook yourself!!!
Are you disappointed that there are not many
opportunities to sing Christmas carols?
Well cheer up!

We are going to have a potluck supper and carol
singing on **Sunday, December 4th** at 5pm.
Invite your family and friends to join us
for a great way to start the Christmas Season.

If you are bringing a lot of people,
bring a lot of food (one big dish or more).
If it's just one or two people that are coming,
we will have enough. This is an opportunity
to show off your favorite holiday recipes.
Drinks, papers plates and others will be provided.

*"...in everything **give thanks**;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you."* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

7th – Chris Slaughter

9th – Megan Flaherty

13th – James Keller

**Please notify the office if we've missed on
any important dates!**

Church Financial Report – September 2016



Total Income	\$11,166.96
Expenses	<u>\$12,183.80</u>
	(\$1,016.84)

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

8152 McFadden Avenue
Westminster, CA 92683

Rev. Johan Dodge | Senior Pastor
Church Office: 714-897-0100
Email: goodshepherdwestminster@yahoo.com

Rev. Ase Nguyen | Vietnamese Pastor
Church Office: 714-898-9108

Ana Flores | Preschool Director
Preschool Office: 714-894-4330

For more info, visit our websites:
www.gswumc.com
vngoodshepherdumc.com
www.preschool.gswumc.com

HELP SOMEONE HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING



Since November is Thanksgiving time, we are collecting those special items this month on **November 6th** that would fit into a Thanksgiving dinner (you know what those things are). If you would prefer to contribute to the cost of a turkey, please clearly label your donation and put it in the collection on Sunday.



UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Pick up your *Upper Room Devotional* for Nov./Dec. on the narthex table. We ask for a donation of \$1.50 for the small edition and \$2.00 for the large print (this is the cost to the church, please label and put it in the Sunday offering). This edition has a wonderful weekly devotional for Advent that is a great way to celebrate Advent as a family.

HOMELESS HOUSING



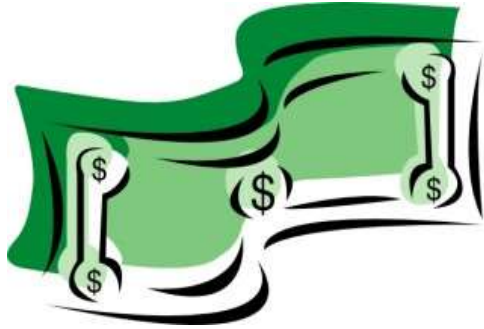
Pastor Johan and I toured the new Homeless Disabled Veterans Housing built by American Family Housing on Jackson St., just a couple blocks from the church. They are made from steel shipping containers and there will be 16 studio apartments, an assembly room with a full kitchen, laundry facilities and a courtyard with bbq. This facility is a partnership between private and government groups. Using shipping containers for low-cost housing is a new concept and communities all over the country are looking to see if this will work in their towns too. There will be many opportunities to volunteer there.

The Church Council at their meeting voted to support this Disabled Veterans New Housing as our "Christmas Project". Steve Harding, Director of External Relations, has asked if we can help with new linens for the apartments. The December newsletter will have more information.

Linda Priester

Ch. Church Council

FROM THE TRUSTEES



We have received a generous memorial gift that is to be used for repair and upkeep of the church. The Trustees are making a list of things that we would like to see happen in the buildings and they would like to hear from you. If you have an opinion on what this money should be used for, talk to one of the Trustees before their meeting on November 8th.

Julie Munroe

PRESCHOOL NEWS



The big event in November is our Thanksgiving Feast on **November 18th** at **11:30am**. The parents will bring the food and the children will make Pilgrim and Indian hats to wear. This is always a fun activity for the preschoolers.

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Parents' Workday. We got some needful things done that were added to our wonderful playgrounds. Parents changed woodchips, installed a new sunshade and painted the ABC caterpillar.

We are sad to say that Ms. Elaine is leaving us. We pray that she has a good retirement. Please pray that we find the right person to hire in her place.

The enrollment is picking up in both the preschool and in the afterschool program. Please help our wonderful school by spreading the word and telling your family and friends about our Facebook page — Good Shepherd Preschool (Good Shepherd School). We know that parents want to leave their children with excellent teachers, a loving Christian atmosphere, a curriculum that prepares their children for kindergarten and great outdoor play yards. And chickens, don't forget the chickens.

You Are Invited!!!
**Thanksgiving Luncheon,
Hosted by the
Vietnamese Congregation
November 20th, 11:30am**



RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER



The Rada Cutlery fundraiser is off to a slow start as their website needs work. The easiest way to order is to use the catalog and order taker form that is in each catalog. Give the order taker form to Linda Priester when you are finished selling to your friends and family and she will order everyone's orders. Your order will be distributed at church unless you want to come by Linda's house to pick it up. Be sure to get payment at the time of the order so we don't have to try to collect when you deliver your orders to your customers. This is the old fashioned way.

The online order taker will work if you follow these directions. (Caution: There are many people selling Rada on the internet, if you want our church to receive credit for your order, you must use this website.)

- When you type in "helpourfundraiser.com", many sites selling Rada will appear. Scroll down until you see "Storefront Commerce Login" and click it. You should come up with "Rada Internet Fundraising".

- Put in the customer number **506455** and password **gsumc** (all lower case), then sign in.
- Use the keyword or catalog item number to order your items.
- Use the "order pad" on the extreme right hand side if you have more than one item.
- Click "add to cart" when you have listed all your items.
- Click "check out".
- Be sure to fill out the contact information completely or the site won't work. Complete the rest of the form.
- When you fill out the "e-mail contact information" and submit it, it will direct you to a link to fill out your credit card information.
- Complete the form with shipping information and click "recalculate total".
- Click "continue".
- You should get a summary of your order.
- Your order will be shipped to whatever address you listed on the shipping information.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser. Every little bit counts toward our bottom line. If you have any questions, call Rada or Linda Priester at 714-531-0504 or topriester@dslextrême.com



November 2016

Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	2 6:30pm Zumba	3 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study Night 7:30pm AA Meeting	4 6:30pm Zumba	5 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
6 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service 11:30am Therefore Go – Training Session for Neighborhood Outreach 2pm – Leadership Meeting	7 7:30pm Bible Study	8 6:30am Election Day 9am Shepherd's Hands 7pm Trustees Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	9 6:30pm Zumba	10 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study Night 7:30pm AA Meeting	11 6:30pm Zumba	12 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
13 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service / Therefore Go – Neighborhood Outreach	14 7:30pm Bible Study	15 9am Shepherd's Hands 7pm Church Council Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	16 6:30pm Zumba	17 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study Night 7:30pm AA Meeting	18 6:30pm Zumba	19 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
20 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service 11:30am Thanksgiving Luncheon	21 7:30pm Bible Study	22 9am Shepherd's Hands 7:00pm Charge Conference 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	23 6:30pm Zumba	24 7pm Viet. Thanksgiving Service/Dinner	25 6:30pm Zumba	26 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
27 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	28 7:30pm Bible Study	29 9am Shepherd's Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	30 6:30pm Zumba			

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 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