



The Shepherd's Call

September 2017

Vintage:

Casting the Ancient Anew

As I write this, it is currently 112° outside my hotel room. I'm at Bishop's Convocation, which is a gathering of clergy from our Annual Conference that takes place every two years. This year the focus of our gathering has been around a subject that has been near and dear to my heart and my calling for ministry for a number of years—transformation. Bishop Hagiya shared with us a teaching that I have been using for about 5 years now called "Theory U". At the upper left of the "U" is where we start and it's called Suspend.

We Start Here



The first step of achieving closer relationship with God is to suspend our thinking. Bishop Hagiya described it as unlearning what we have learned. It is the depth of the old church paradigm. And that can be a really scary place to be, but it is also what we must do if we are going to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus. If we are going to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus, we will have to let go of our cynicism and our anxiety over the current state of the

church both our dear Good Shepherd and the Christian church as a whole. As I shared earlier, I have been using foundational theory behind the small group process known as Huddle. I am currently in a small group with other clergies from our Annual Conference and I continue to encourage all of us to gather in small groups for our own Spiritual growth. This isn't Bible study, although you can certainly study the Bible together. Instead, Huddle offers each of us the opportunity to recognize our thinking and our actions, and then to "suspend" those actions we observe the situation with new eyes. One of our District Superintendents—Jan Wiley preached about learning to stand in a place in order to see the situation with new eyes. Once we get through the process of "Suspending" we are able to observe our lives from this new vantage point and open ourselves to sensing where God might be in a new and/or different way. Once through these three steps, we are at total emptiness; we are free from all of our preconceived ideas, all of our cynicism and fears. This is communion with God.

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Contact Information

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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Office Hours

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Tuesday 9:00am-2:00pm

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www.gswumc.com
www.vngoodshepherdumc.com
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It is a stage that I know many of us have experienced at some point in our lives. And maybe even some of us on a regular basis. It is that regular basis that we are striving for—the ability to make ourselves fully available to the will of the Holy Spirit.

Now, while I am here at Bishop's Convocation out in Indian Wells in the 112° heat my wife is in Colorado at an event called Weird Church Camp and yesterday at the start of each of our events we compared notes.

Here's how the Holy Spirit works—she was given a handout of “Theory U”. So in the coming weeks, convenient with me to shift the narrative away from anxiety over what is into excitement over what will be when we learn to let go and listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Exciting things are coming!

Blessings,

Pastor Johan Dodge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays & Anniversaries



9/6 Randy Miller
9/10 Linda Priester
9/13 Ingrid Kuemmel-Reovan
9/15 Darren Cowdrey
9/17 Pete Thelander
9/17 Hector & Sally Flores
9/18 Verna Dougherty
9/22 Keira Somsak
9/25 Sammy Christian
9/28 Mike Boyd
9/29 Regina Star Leone-Bray

Please let the office know if we're missing on any important dates!

September Meetings



Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, 9/12, 7:00 p.m.

Preschool Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9/19, 6:15 p.m.

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, 9/19, 7:00 p.m.



Ladies Who Lunch

Last Thursday, Carol Bowser, Linda Priester, Peggy Reardon and Lin Somsak went to lunch and had a great time. We decided that we should do it more often. So we are declaring the third Thursday of the month “Ladies Who Lunch” day. We will meet at 11:30 am at a different restaurant each month. Call Peggy Reardon at 714-897-5883 or perkypeggy@aol.com if you would like to join us on Thursday, September 21st. Everyone who is available is welcome. We could rename the group “Retired People Who Lunch” if some men want to join us. So mark your calendar and plan to come!

Thanks To...

A big **THANK YOU** to Terry Priester for figuring out how to install the new drinking fountain in the hallway. It was easy to say, “Let’s install a new water fountain with cold water and a bottle filler that ADA approved. It could be a memorial to Ginny Wilson,” but it was hard to do. The people who built the church never made allowances for people to come along and put a water fountain on the wall. The fact that there was a floor model fountain there before had nothing to do with what had to be done to hang the fountain on the wall. That’s why we had to open a big hole on the wall. Thank you also to Mike Dang for helping Terry and to Bill Wilson for making the funds available.



Update on Thelma Sleight



Thelma Sleight has moved to assisted living care. Her new address is Westminster Villa, 13881 Dawson St., Garden Grove, CA 92843. Thelma’s room is #257. Dawson is the next light on Westminster Blvd. as you go East (toward Saddleback) past Brookhurst Street. It’s a left hand turn and then about 1 block on the right. She would love to have you visit or text her. Texting is better than calling as she doesn’t hear well on the phone. Large print reading material is always appreciated, she likes Westerns.

UMCOR & Hurricane Harvey Relief

Please pray for all people of TX and LA affected by the storms, all those helping with the rescues, the churches in the area who are responding to the needs and all the shelter workers.

Hurricane Harvey damage in TX and LA is so distressful. We want to help as much as possible and the United Methodist Committee on Relief gives us a good opportunity to make a difference. There are a variety of ways to help. We will be collecting donations on Sundays in September. If you want to make an offering, please mark your envelope "Harvey Relief" so your contribution is sent on. Your entire donation will be used for relief as UMCOR administrative cost are covered by One Great Hour of Sharing.

Check the site at UMCOR+Harvey+Relief to see other ways you can help. Hygiene kits, flood buckets and school supplies are especially needed. Please be sure to follow the directions for assembling the kits. The address to send the kits is on the website.



**Please visit www.umcor.org
for more information!**



5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

Please pray for those whose lives have been impacted by Harvey. Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators, and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

Make relief kits. Download the packing list and shipping label at umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts: U.S. Disaster Response, **Advance #901670** at umcor.org/donate.

Donate only those items requested. (To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources **Advance #901440** at umcor.org/donate.)

Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.



The United Methodist Committee On Relief is grateful for your relentless prayers and support.

Good Shepherd Preschool News

Good Shepherd School is anticipating a promising year in 2017-2018. So many blessings have been provided by our Lord in recent months to confirm for us that our ministry at the school is loved by God.

For the new school year, we will continue incorporating the "Nature Explore" curriculum to our preschool program. We will also continue using, the State Foundations, Core Knowledge Curriculum structure, and Zoo Phonics. The children will be exposed to a more natural learning environment that will prepare them for their elementary years and help them to appreciate God's creations. Besides the physical development the children will be exposed to the love of God throughout their time at school. It is the sharing of God's love and God's creations that make Good Shepherd School different from other schools.

Our After School Program will also incorporate gardening/animals, science, art, cooking, etc. to the daily routines. We are also going to continue offering help with homework.

Tell your friends to check our program out and discover that at Good Shepherd they will find a place where they will feel loved.

Just a reminder you are always welcome to come spend time with the children. They really enjoy having visitors to share their stories or to read a book to them. **Thank you Bill Somsak and Mary Boyd** for visiting and reading to the children.



Special Thanks To...

Michael Boyd

for building the great gates for our school



Terry Priester

for fixing our window's screen

Terry Priester & Scott Pulver

for building a nice table for our garden

Paul Snider

for building a new sign for our entrance



Thank you so much for keeping our school in your prayers. Please come and visit our school and see how our environment has changed.

-Blessings-



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study @ Member's House	2 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
3 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	4 Labor Day 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	5 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	6 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	7 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	8 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study @ Member's House	9 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
10 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	11 Patriot Day 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	12 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Trustees Meeting	13 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	14 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	15 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study @ Member's House	16 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
17 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	18 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	19 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:15pm Preschool Board Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	20 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	21 11:30am Ladies Who Lunch 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	22 Autumn Begins 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study @ Member's House	23 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
24 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	25 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	26 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	27 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	28 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	29 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study @ Member's House	30 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice