



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Berkeley

February 2012



*Kim Hassan
Pastor*

There is an old folk story in which hungry travelers come into a village. Weary of the strangers, the villagers who had suffered a meager harvest hid what little they had to eat. The travelers then offer to share the secret of how to make soup from stones. Soon the largest pot in the village is boiling with water as the strangers drop in three stones. "Now this will be a fine soup," said one of the travelers but added that a little garnish would improve the flavor. Up volunteers one of the villagers to go and get the salt. More of the residents are offering up carrots, beef and cream for the stone soup. Soon a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by all.

The tale of the Stone Soup is a delightful tale. I admire the creativity of the travelers and whether they intended it or not, the community that they build. It can be hard in times of "scarcity" to believe that there really is enough. Enough for our own needs but enough to reach out in hospitality.

We make stone soup all the time at Shepherd of the Hills. Some say we are too small to do all we do yet we have many thriving ministries. We bring the gifts and talents that we have together in worship and children's ministry. We create overflowing pots of handicraft and quilts, and tasty meals for YEAH. We have the people who know how to fix things, who are called to pray for things, and others who make sure it all gets paid for. All of these ingredients are important and needed in the body of Christ.

Perhaps you are thinking, you don't have anything to add to the soup. At one time or another, many of us have thought that. There are several stories in the Bible of people who thought they didn't have anything to give . . . Abraham was too old, Timothy and Jeremiah were too young, Naomi was only a widow, Gideon was afraid, Jonah ran from God and the disciples had their own shortcomings. YET, the message continued through the actions and ministry of each one of them giving who they are to God to use.

This month we will be asking you where else you feel called to add to the pot in our Time and Talents Survey. On Sundays, February 12th and 19th, we will have the surveys available at church. For anyone who doesn't fill one out during those times, we will send you one. I encourage you to prayerfully consider where you would like to do ministry. I also suggest that you feel free to be creative. What new ministries would you like to help create? Together we can continue to be a place where we care about one another and gather, a place where we are living our Baptism, and place where feel welcome.

Pastor Kim

CONTACT

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WORSHIP

Sunday 10:00 A.M.
Childcare is available.

STAFF

Pastor: Kim Hassan
Administrator: Paul Heggeseth
Music Director: Carl Bear

OFFICE HOURS

Administrator
Mon, Tues: 10 - 2 P.M.
Thurs: 9 - 2 P.M.

Pastor
Tues: 1 - 5 P.M.
Wed, Thurs: 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

ADULT EDUCATION | CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE WEBSITE, FEB. 5TH

Brianna Heggeseth will be going through some of the aspects of the new website on February 5th after the worship service during coffee hour. Please stay to hear about the new features and to ask questions or pose ideas.

STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK



The next meeting of our study of the Gospel of Mark, organized by Priscilla's Circle will be held Tuesday, February 21st, at 10 am at Carol Starr's home, 836 The Alameda, Berkeley.

We continue to use the study guide on the Gospel of Mark by Mark Allan Powell. For this next meeting we will work on Session 4 (pages 35 - 43) of the guide. This session focuses on the importance of the crucifixion for understanding God's rule of grace in Jesus

If you would like to join in this study call Candy Simonen at 510-558-8142 for information and a copy of the Study Guide which can be sent as an email attachment or as a paper copy. Although this is an ongoing study each session can stand alone. We welcome newcomers! Bring a bag lunch and be part of this study!

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

The Book Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM at Cathy Baca's house, 1213 Richmond St, El Cerrito. Please join us!

February 28 meeting: *Mighty Be Our Powers, How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War*, by Leymah Gbowee with Carol Mithers.

The author is one of the women who won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2003 she helped organize and lead the Liberian Mass Action for Peace, a coalition of Christian and Muslim women who sat in public protest, confronted Liberia's ruthless president and rebel warlords and even held a sex strike. With an army of women she helped lead her nation to peace and helped elect a new president, a woman who also received the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

March 27 meeting: *You Know When the Men are Gone* by Siobhan Fallon.

These short stories, written by an Army major's wife, introduce the reader to family life on Fort Hood as soldiers get ready to deploy, while they are gone, after they return.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our prayer ministry team has been meeting for several months with a group of people who have expressed an interest in a deeper understanding of personal and group prayer. To aid us in this purpose we have been sharing prayer in our meetings through the practice of the "lectio divina" method where we try to turn off the cares of our day and concentrate solely on a few verses of Scripture and intervals of silence where we focus on what the words are saying to us. We share these thoughts following moments of silence if we wish, and close with prayers for each other. We learn to use words when words are helpful, and to let go of words when they are no longer necessary.

Following discussions of developing prayer groups in the congregation, we talked about an email prayer group which would accept prayers for distribution to a list of people who would add them to their daily prayers. Also suggested was having a prayer book available in the sanctuary where people could add prayers for special needs as they come to worship. A volunteer would be available to accept these prayer requests and pass them on to the list, as well as to the pastor.

We have been sharing our thoughts with Pastor Kim and she feels that the season of Lent would be a good time to resume the practice of intercessory prayer with a prayer minister available during communion. In this procedure communion would be by intinction on the lower part of the chancel and following receipt of the elements, persons wishing prayer for themselves or others could go to the altar rail where a prayer minister would pray with them for their needs or requests. Members of our prayer ministry team will be available for this service and will receive communion during the Great Thanksgiving when the assisting ministers and the pastor receive communion.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the rear of the sanctuary and we invite anyone interested in serving as a prayer minister or just interested in prayer ministry to come to our meetings.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES HAVE ARRIVED

If you haven't already picked yours up, please pick up your offering envelopes at the back of the church. If you need your's mailed to you, contact Paul at office@sothb.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

Are you or do you know someone who would like to join our community at Shepherd of the Hills? All who would like to become members are invited to the upcoming two classes on Sunday, February 5th & 12th at 11:30am. Come learn more about us and about our Lutheran Faith! You will then be installed as members at the worship service on Sunday, February 19th. If interested, please talk to Pastor Kim (pastor@sothb.org)

PANCAKE AND MORE BREAKFAST

In celebration for the love we have in community and the love we have in Christ, we will be having our annual Pancake and More Breakfast on Sunday, February 12th after worship services at 11am. Come to church with a hungry appetite and stay for a Valentine's brunch prepared and served by many men in our congregation.

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

Beginning Sunday, March 4th and continuing with following three Sundays in Lent, we will have shorter child-friendly worship services (45 min) followed by an intergenerational educational opportunity. Children's Ministry, Adult Ed and Social Concerns are uniting together to create conversation around the themes of Baptism: the importance of our name, the importance of water in scripture and in life, the connection that we have to storied waters, and the call to live our baptism. SOTH of all ages are invited to be part of the discussion and fun. Come each week to build on the concepts or come when you can to learn and be in community. Our hope is to create a large art banner together that we can use in our worship space.

REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Group is a small gathering of people reading a book together that challenges our thinking and causes us to reflect on a new understanding. We read a book over several months allowing us to really dig in. We are reading *They Like Jesus But Not the Church*, by Dan Kimball. Please join the discussion on the first Thursday of the month at 10am (next gathering on February 2nd) at Esther and Gifford Dickel's: 1060 Overlook Rd.

"LIKE" SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that Shepherd of the Hills has a page on Facebook? Like us and you will never miss the latest news and events!

THANK OFFERING: LWR FILL THE WELL

Starting February, 26th, our thank offering will be going to LWR Fill the Well. Water touches all aspects of life. Without reliable sources of water, farmers can't grow crops to sell or to feed their families. Women and children must often travel miles each day to collect water, taking precious time from work and school. And dirty drinking water is a constant threat to people coping with poverty and disaster.

When communities have the water they need there is less conflict, families are more self-sufficient, and children have better access to education.

LWR works with local partners to improve rural communities' access to water, digging wells and drilling boreholes, building and restoring irrigation systems, providing clean drinking water during emergencies, and training communities on sanitation practices and water management. What can our money do? \$35 provides an emergency water filter to a family coping with disaster. \$150 gives a family a gravity-fed water filter allowing children to attend school rather than fetch water. \$500 gives an entire community a water system that provides clean water for drinking and bathing. Let us challenge ourselves to fund a water system for a community!!

PEANUT BUTTER SOUPER BOWL FEB 5TH

The day of the Super Bowl is one of abundance and celebration for our nation. Food and drink combined with cheering is a favorite pastime for many. But the reality of chronic hunger and poverty in our country and world remains despite the fun of the day. Millions of children throughout the world will go to bed hungry that night.

However, God calls us to tackle hunger and to see that all have daily bread. Sunday, February 5th, the Social Concerns committee invites the congregation to help collect food and money for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The number one most wanted food item by the food bank is peanut butter but there are also other needs. We encourage you to bring a jar of peanut butter or other food donations to church. We will also be using our thank offering money for the food bank. In addition, we will have large cooking pots for you to place money donations. On this day, SOTH Champions of all ages will blow the whistle on hunger by becoming members of the "Souper Bowl of Caring" team. Are you part of the team?

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

MUSIC DIRECTOR NOTES | CARL BEAR

The month of February will see some important moments in the church year. First, we finish up the Epiphany season with Transfiguration Sunday (Feb 19). In addition to commemorating the transfiguration and putting the Alleluias to rest until Easter, this year we have the joy of celebrating Magdalena's baptism.

Then we move on to commemorate Ash Wednesday (Feb 22), a day of penitence and remembrance of mortality in preparation for the Lenten fast. Soup will be at 6:30pm followed by worship at 7:00pm

As we did last year, this year during Lent we'll have Thursday midweek services with soup suppers at 6:30pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm starting March 1st. We hope you'll make a point of joining us for these important days in the church year.

PASTOR KATIE HAS A NEW CALL!

Pastor Katie Hines-Shah, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills from 2004-2010 writes to let us know that she will be installed as Senior Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, 2011 at 4:00PM. While she's not expecting anyone from Berkeley to leave the sunshine for snowy Chicago this February, the Hines-Shahs wanted to extend this invitation to all of us. Bishop Wayne Miller of the Metro Chicago Synod will be preaching. An offering will be collected to benefit Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Campus Ministry. A festive meal will follow.

Redeemer Lutheran church is located at 139 E. 1st Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521. This is an exciting time for the Hines-Shah family and for Redeemer, Hinsdale. We give thanks to God for this new ministry and look forward to celebrating with you!

Pr. Katie writes,

"Greetings to everyone at Shepherd!. We have been keeping you in our prayers and have been following the news out of Berkeley in the Shepherd's Voice. We especially give thanks for Pr. Kim Hassan and her ministry as your new pastor.

Jay and John and I are doing well. Jay is keeping busy at Morgan Lewis, a large Philadelphia-based law firm. Jay continues to work as a litigator specializing in class action defense. He's also been busy with his board work with Lutheran World Relief and even took a week-long trip to India with LWR this fall.

John is now 7 and in first grade. He discovered reading this year and is proud of his work in the "high math" group at school. John was on an Evanston T-Ball team this last summer and took up chess this fall. He still loves road maps and college football, and continues to root for Stanford just to get Daddy's goat!

After a year of "sabbatical" I'm glad to be back in the saddle as pastor again. Redeemer Lutheran Church is a well-established suburban church in an affluent suburb of Chicago. The church has a deep relationship with the seminary here in Chicago (LSTC) and is proud of its music and outreach programs. I'm learning to manage the logistics of two worship services, a staff of 6, and an office with four windows!

As most of you have probably heard, we are also thrilled to announce that we are expecting a baby in mid-May. I'm feeling well, Jay is preparing himself to lose sleep, and John says he's "a little bit happy and a little bit nervous." We don't know the gender of the baby, but have seen in ultrasounds that she/he has all the relevant arms and legs, and fingers and toes.

We don't have a new address quite yet, but expect to move to Hinsdale before the baby comes. We'll let you know as soon as things are settled. Please keep us in your prayers as we start this new ministry. We think of Shepherd often and give thanks for the time we had together. We miss you all!"

SOCIAL CONCERNS | CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HELP MAKE QUILTS FOR LWR

In 2012 the Quilt Group will make LWR quilts. We will tie some of these quilts, rather than always machine quilting them. The Quilt Group could use your help tying the quilts! If you can tie a square knot or want to learn, you can do this. Non-sewers tying quilts frees up sewers to assemble quilt tops.

Let Cathy Baca know if you want to assemble a quilt top at home to contribute to the effort. We have precut pieces of fabric you can take home to sew.

The Quilt Group meets February 8 at 1:30. Please bring a sewing machine if you want to work on quilt tops.

YEAH! FOR YEAH SHELTER DINNERS

Yeah Shelter is now open year-round. They are serving 20 youth at a time and concentrating on the same group of kids for months at a time rather than serving as a strictly drop-in shelter. By working with them more intensively than they have been able to in the past, they hope to help the kids get their lives together and get off the streets. There are still a few drop in slots available, so dinner is served to a couple of dozen kids at a time.

SOTH will be providing dinner and serving it on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please talk to Cathy Baca if you are interested in planning/ cooking dinner for the kids.

Most months we will be cooking after church on Sunday, but we are open to other possibilities. If you would like to serve dinner to the kids, talk to Sam Arriola.

During Lent we will prepare dinner twice, Feb 26 and March 25, as part of the intergenerational Lenten activities. Dinners prepared will include tasks for all ages, even kids. Please stay after the shortened service and help.

HANDWORK GROUP MEETS



The next meeting of the Handwork Group will be Sunday, February 19th, from 2:00 to 4:30 at Candy Simonen's home, 2200 Los Angeles Ave. Berkeley. We will continue working on knit or crocheted scarves for the San Francisco Night Ministry and baby caps and blankets for the Global Health Ministries.

Join us for conversation, handwork and refreshments. Newcomers and all ages are welcome. Instruction and materials are available. Call Candy 510-558-8142 if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The winter session of Sunday School started January 8th and will continue through February 12th. We started out celebrating Epiphany by creating eight pointed cut-out stars that glowed (with the assistance of glow sticks). The stars we made represent the star that the three wise men followed to reach Bethlehem.

We also celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King by thinking of ways we could be good helpers, especially at home. Each child wrote their idea on a piece of origami paper and then folded them into butterflies, arrows and cranes. Attached to pipe cleaner bracelets and keychains, these colorful creations were intended to serve as reminders to actually do the helpful things we thought of during Sunday School.

Most of the remaining winter session is devoted to sharing stories about baptism. We will use our Godly Play materials to learn about the prophet Ezekiel, John the Baptist and the practice of baptism itself. All these lessons will serve as a warm up for our exciting, all ages coffee hour fellowship activities during Lent.

Our final Sunday of the winter session will be February 12th. Since it is the same day as our Valentine's Brunch, we will make fancy valentines and learn more about the history of Saint Valentine.

During Lent, we will not have the children go downstairs during worship, because our services will be short. But we have some really fun plans for games and projects to do afterwards, when we meet downstairs for coffee hour. The theme we will explore together is baptism. Sunday School during worship time will resume in April.

SOTH IN PICTURES



COUNCIL NOTES

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES | CAROL STARR

In retrospect, it turned out to be a poor idea to hold our January Meeting on the evening of a three day weekend, as only 5 hearty souls attended! Carol led a devotion on the book *Speaking Christian*, talking about the chapter on Believing and Faith. The Council reviewed the end of the year budget, and learned we ended the year with a \$10,290.58 deficit which is \$2,000 more than we had anticipated. The Council also looked again at the Proposed Budget for 2012, which also is a deficit budget. This budget will be presented and approved at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 29, 2012.

The Council had a discussion on how the recent Christmas season events went. The postcards we sent out advertising Christmas Eve worked really well, as there were 105 people at the 5 pm service and an additional 50+ at the 9 pm candlelight service! Further, only about a third of the attendants were members of our church, so we really pulled in folks from the neighborhood. Pr. Kim and Deb Larsen provided impromptu refreshments and this also worked well, and folks did stay to chat after each service, so this is certainly something to repeat. The New Year's Day Service had a modest 22 in attendance.

The Nominating Committee gave a report on their current status and various other suggestions were made as to who to approach. After checking the Constitution, we may not maintain our council at 11 elected members, as the total of the council membership can be as many as 11 but doesn't have to be 11.

June agreed to provide kid snacks for Jan. 29 when we hold our Annual Meeting upstairs. Child care will be provided downstairs, along with snacks. We talked about having a soup luncheon after the Annual Meeting, but agreed it was too late to organize this for 2012 but will consider doing this in 2013.

The Council talked about having a Time and Talent Campaign, seeking to find volunteers for our various committees and Sunday volunteer tasks. We decided for right now to try passing around the sign-up sheet during the offering and communion at our worship service. Meanwhile, Candy is going to look at the old Time & Talent sign-up card and update it. We will pass this out several Sunday's in February and mail it to any members who don't attend and fill it in during services. We did not have such a campaign in 2011 so we felt a need to do it, but are not sure this is the best time of the year and might have a more robust campaign to sometime in the Fall.

Feb. 12 is the date for our annual Pancake Breakfast. It has been decided that having it ahead of church service at 9 am has not worked that well in the past, so this year it will be after services, downstairs, served by the men, thanks to Dan, Sam and Ernesto.

Pr. Kim announced that there would be a baptism and new members joining the church on Feb. 19th. There will be a reception downstairs hosted by the Sole and Ernesto, as their baby will be baptized that day.

Lent plans were reviewed. During Lent there will be no Sunday school for the children, but instead the service will be child-friendly and shorter, with a multigenerational event held afterwards in our Fellowship Hall. The traditional Thursday night Soup Suppers will be scheduled with a Holden Vesper Service afterwards.

Pr. Kim is experimenting with having a joint meeting of Adult Education, Social Concerns and Children's Ministry. They held their first meeting recently to discuss Lent Plans. After the joint meeting, each committee had a chance to meet separately. Their next meeting will be Feb. 8th.

It was decided to change the Feb. Council meeting date, since it falls again on the end of a three day weekend. Pr. Kim will email the council and look for a Saturday in February to hold a Council Retreat.

February 2012

BIRTHDAYS

2/3 - Richard Webber
 2/5 - Jeff Wehling
 2/6 - Esther Dickel
 2/14 - Iain Ferguson
 2/14 - Laurie Holland

2/15 - Sam Arriola
 2/19 - Joyce Bohline
 2/21 - Chris Tomasello
 2/22 - Annika Stott
 2/23 - Roxanne Beal
 2/25 - Jay Hines-Shah

2/26 - Emma Traynor
BAPTISMS
 2/14 - Alex Arriola
 2/19 - Anna Baumann
 2/23 - Josie Wallin

ANNIVERSARIES

(none)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion 11:00 AM Annual Meeting	30 10:00 AM Church Office Open	31 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Book Club	1 3:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Worship Committee	2 9:00 AM Church Office Open 10:00 AM Reflections 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #31954	4
5 Peanut Butter Souper Bowl 10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion 11:00 AM Introduction to the Website	6 10:00 AM Church Office Open	7 Registration...SPSYC retreat 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Prayer Ministry Meeting	8 1:30 PM SOTH Quilting Group 3:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #31938 7:30 PM Joint Meeting of Children's Ministry, Adult Ed and Social Concerns	9 9:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion 11:00 AM Valentine's Pancake Breakfast 7:00 PM Earthquake Preparedness meeting	13 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 31230	14 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Finance Committee	15 3:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 31938	16 9:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 Submit newsletter articles! 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #31954	18
19 10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion 2:00 PM Handwork Group	20 Closed for Presidents Day	21 10:00 AM Church Office Open 10:00 AM Priscilla Circle	22 10:00 AM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 31938	23 9:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 SPSYC elementary school retreat @ Mt. Cross	25
26 SPSYC eleme...t @ Mt. Cross YEAH Sunday 10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion	27 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 31230	28 10:00 AM Church Office Open 7:30 PM Book Club	29 3:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Park Hills Home Association meeting 7:30 PM Building & Grounds	1 9:00 AM Church Office Open 10:00 AM Reflections 6:30 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #31954	3

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FEBRUARY AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

February 5th, bring non-perishable food to donate to the Contra Costa Food Bank. See page 3 for more details.

For an update letter about Pastor Katie, turn to page 4.

Interested in Adult Education Opportunities? See page 2.

Our Thank Offering in Lent beginning February 26th goes to LWR Fill the Well. See page 3 for more details.

For Sunday School and Social Concerns news, turn to page 5.

Pancakes at church? See page 3.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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