



Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

A Parish Profile

April 2023

Good Shepherd of the Hills
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Who We Are



Mission Statement

Good Shepherd of the Hills Church brings the love and light of Christ Jesus to our neighbors. We are called to go out to serve the needs of our community.

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 1:7)*

Located in the foothills of the Sonoran Desert, in historic Cave Creek, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix, sits **Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church**. Those seeking Christ's presence are drawn inside by its charming Pueblo-Mission-style architecture. Upon entering, guests are likely to be struck less by the grandness of the interior than by its gracious simplicity. Despite the growth around the Cave Creek area, Good Shepherd has maintained its small-town church feeling of family.

Good Shepherd resides in a state where there are twenty-two federally recognized Native American tribes, some within our county boundaries. Only two states have a greater Native American population than Arizona. Arizona is approximately 30% Hispanic, many of whom live within the Cave Creek area.

Through the years, parishioners of Good Shepherd have intentionally answered the call to walk alongside our Native American and Hispanic brothers and sisters; and those who exist on the margins.

The people of Good Shepherd desire to be a blessing by giving of themselves to love God and our neighbor. We look forward to calling a rector who can teach us, guide us, love us, and empower us to be the people God calls us to be both within and outside our walls.

GOOD SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

Historical Milestones Along Our Journey with the Lord

Now the Lord said the Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

Date	Event
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bishop authorized a Cave Creek preaching station to be served by supply priests.
1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growing congregation purchased land at the present location, and the Diocese incorporated the congregation as “The Mission of the Good Shepherd of the Hills”.
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new church building designed in Pueblo-Mission style was built and was consecrated on December 31, 1968.
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three historic bells that carry the inscription, “La Cruz Ano 1351” were donated. They are believed to be among the oldest bells in North America.
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diocese of Arizona decrees full parish status to Good Shepherd of the Hills.
1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new parish hall named Maitland Hall was constructed. A new building was constructed to house the growing parish thrift store, known as the Gold Mine.
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A peaceful outdoor memorial garden and columbarium were constructed on the property.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day worker program was established from the church, enabling area workers to find employment.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Shepherd was designated as a Center for Jubilee Ministry by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

Date	Event
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church purchased an adjacent property for much needed parking and for potential future development.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church’s Hispanic outreach was established with the startup of a tutoring program for the neighborhood children, initiated by the Daughters of the King. The “Ezekiel Project” a comprehensive study of the needs of the surrounding community, was established to guide the church toward living into a mission oriented church.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directors of Youth Ministry and Children’s Ministry were hired.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Shepherd held a parish retreat to begin the pivot of the congregation away from a parochial ministry toward a mission-oriented church.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building improvement were made to the building’s air/heating system, the church buildings were reroofed, and the church driveway received a new brick pavement.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vestry appointed a search committee to begin the process of calling a new rector.
2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We suspended the Rector Search to rebuild the dwindled congregation and resumed it in Spring 2023.



Demographics

The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second year after they had come out the land of Egypt, saying: Take a census of the whole congregation of Israelites, in their clans, by their ancestral houses, according to the number of names. (Numbers 1:1-2)

In a 15-mile radius of Good Shepherd of the Hills the 2022 population was approximately 413,695. The population is expected to increase by 7% in the next 5 years. The average age of the population is expected to increase over the next 5 years with the largest % increase in those 65 and older.

Due to our mild winters Arizona has a large seasonal population increase during the first and fourth quarters. This is reflected in our church attendance as well. During the tenure of our first interim rector, our attendance numbers have decreased dramatically. Historically our congregation has been comprised largely of retired parishioners. However, we are initiating a ministry to reach out to families with children.

A full profile of our service area by Missioninsite (a demographic data site available to all churches in the diocese) is available at:

<https://www.goodshepherdaz.org> then go to the Rector Search Tab.

Church Attendance	Average Per Sunday	Two Services
January-Palm Sunday 2022	69	
Easter 2022		145
May-August 2022	59	
September-December 2022	72	
Christmas Eve 2022		149
January -Palm Sunday 2023	94	
Easter 2023		178

Financial Statement

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:15-16)

2023 BUDGET

Expenses	Dollars	Revenue	Dollars	Gold Mine	Dollars
Personnel Compensation incl. health, etc.	\$ 302,472	Pledges	\$ 128,400	Gold Mine Income	\$ 200,004
Church Operating Expenses	\$ 105,540	Other Contributions	\$ 28,040	Operating Expenses	\$ 137,064
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 73,020	Shepherd's Crossing (Commercial Rental Units)	\$ 50,316	Outreach	\$ 55,128
Ministry	\$ 13,820	Total Income	\$ 406,760	Net Income	\$ 7,812
Shepherd's Crossing	\$ 28,416	Net Income	\$-251,956		
Total Expenses	\$ 658,716				

Balance Sheet

Dollars

Assets As of March 31, 2023	
Cash + Checking	\$ 218,467
Investments	
Vestry Designated and Undesignated	\$2,665,732
Fixed Assets	\$ 949,045
Total Assets	\$3,833,244

Our Growth In Faith



Worship and Liturgy

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

The Holy Eucharist is the heartbeat of our shared life at Good Shepherd Church. Typically, we celebrate with a Rite II Service of the Holy Eucharist each Sunday at ten am with a full choir and special music. We celebrate two services with our Hispanic neighbors - El Dia De Las Muertos (The Day of the Dead) and Las Posadas. We have a faithful and energetic core of Sunday volunteers who serve as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, acolytes, ushers, greeters, and on the altar and flower guild.

Music

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. (Psalm 100:1)

We are fortunate to have a talented professional organist, music and choir director, to lead our much-appreciated music program. The choir provides music every Sunday. Several members frequently sing solos for the offertory anthem. We also have a bell choir and children's chime choir. While we are small, Good Shepherd is blessed with exceptional talent.



Our Growth in Faith

Stewardship Ministry

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to them.

Our stewardship ministry is first and foremost about making and growing disciples. We want to be about the business of helping God's people grow in their relationship with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We envision a less secular, more faithful stewardship method - put simply, less about money and more about ministries. Biblically based and theologically sound, we strive to give Good Shepherd congregants the tools and resources to move toward a more spiritual and satisfying stewardship portion of their life in Christ.

Good Shepherd's Stewardship Ministry emphasizes all our ministries. A personal relationship with our congregants is fostered by members of the stewardship Ministry. The members intentionally stay in touch with parishioners throughout the year to let them know they are special and Good Shepherd has a mission to serve them.

People want to be part of something that changes lives. The number one reason people give is their belief in the mission of their church. We pray that as we communicate and further demonstrate our mission and ministries, having enough resources will not be an issue.



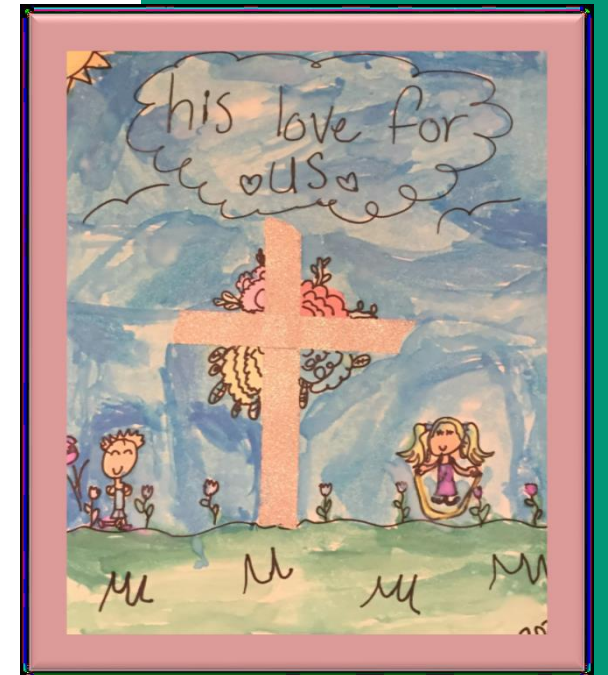
Christian Formation

Children's Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

The Children's Ministry program at Good Shepherd of the Hills is proud to offer families exceptional care and spiritual support for the smallest members of the family. We offer nursery care, and Sunday school on a regular basis. We also host quarterly Parent's Night Out- where parents are free to drop off their children for dinner, crafts, and entertainment. We partner with Chapel Rock, the diocesan camp, each summer to offer Christ-based camp experiences in a loving and safe environment. The highlight of our program is the annual Vacation Bible School which features music, daily Bible stories, crafts, games, and a meal. The kids love this week!

We are proud to host such an amazing group of families. Families that become friends and whose children grow up together in friendship and faith.



Christian Formation

Youth Ministry

Train up children in the way that they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

We have an exceptional revamped Youth Ministry program at Good Shepherd that is growing each week. We currently have between 10-16 kids come each Thursday afternoon to Maitland Hall. The kids start with homework help for the first 45 minutes. If the students don't have homework we have a variety of things for them to do from Reader's Workshop, to STEM activities, to math drills. After this time, we switch to our main youth group. We have a dinner together, read the Bible, touch base about our week, and play games. The students also attend Parent's Night Out and camp at Chapel Rock.

We are proud of the new opportunities for our Middle School kids and love giving them leadership roles such as heading community service projects and fundraising their way to camp. We look forward to seeing the amazing things these kids do!



Christian Formation

Adult Formation Opportunities

Centering Prayer

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

There are two active centering prayer groups at Good Shepherd. They are ecumenical groups of Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, with one group meeting on Wednesday mornings and the other group meeting on Saturday mornings. Our Wednesday group is currently meeting by zoom while the Saturday group has returned to meeting in the church library in Maitland Hall. Our groups are constituent members of Contemplative Outreach of Phoenix, an ecumenical association of centering prayer groups throughout the state.

Bible Study

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19)

There is ongoing weekly bible study highlighting the books of the New Testament. During Lent we offered a five week session of Lenten study and reflection.



Our Faith In Action



Outreach

Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

We have two mechanisms by which to serve our neighbors near and far. One outreach, The Gold Mine thrift shop, provides much needed income for specific organizations.

In addition, parishioners donate their time, talent, and treasure to provide a more hands on outreach. Through community interviews and a survey to the parish, we have narrowed our focus to four main outreach priorities:

- ▶ Children & Youth
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Senior Citizens
- ▶ Spiritual Formation

Under these four ministry umbrellas, the vestry, with the collaboration of the parishioners, is currently planning and developing opportunities to serve our neighbors and ourselves.

Our Faith In Action

The Gold Mine Thrift Shop

*And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
(Matthew 25:40)*

What began as a series of rummage sales in the 1950's and 1960's held by the St. Martha's Guild of Good Shepherd eventually evolved into the Gold Mine Thrift Shop.

The main purpose of the Gold Mine is to raise money to fund our many outreach programs. To date, our semi annual distribution has been \$60,000.00.

The most recent to receive funds include the following groups:

- The Foothills Food Bank
- The Spay and Neuter Clinic
- Native Heath Service
- Tierra Madre
- Foothills Caring Corp
- Scholarship Funds

We partner with the Foothills Food Bank on their Shred-a-Thon and we sponsored two Spay and Neutering Clinics with the Arizona Cattle Dog Rescue.

The Gold Mine provides a way to recycle donated goods and enables residents to purchase clothing, furniture and household items at low cost. It also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for parishioners and members of the community.



Our Faith In Action

Community-Local and Within AZ

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29)

Good Shepherd’s Hispanic Ministry has an unusual genesis. It began 12 years ago with the vandalism of our church property by two neighborhood youth. Rather than seeking the secular solution, retribution, we sought redemptive justice. With the help of a Spanish speaking liaison who knew the families, we asked how we could be of service to their community. Their response was to ask for homework assistance for their children.

This birthed the Hispanic Ministry and its tutoring program. From there, the ministry has expanded to provide college scholarships to our neighbor children and English lessons to the adults. Good Shepherd also partners with the families in the El Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas services. At the conclusion of the Las Posadas procession and service, Good Shepherd parishioners join our neighbors and their friends in a tamale supper, lovingly prepared by the neighbor women.

Additional outreach ministries include:

- Autism Support Group
- Sandwich Ministry
- Food Bank
- Native American Outreach



Our Faith In Action

Senior Citizens

Jesus said to his disciples, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:14-15)

The Senior Citizen Ministry was established as a result of the findings of a community survey done a number of years ago. There is a large Senior citizen population in our area who live alone and experience isolation due to the semi-rural foothills location. To address their social needs, Good Shepherd partners with Foothills Caring Corps, a social service agency, to host gala, nutritious luncheons complete with musical entertainment and/or Bingo. Four events have been hosted for approximately 35 people over the last few years, and it is growing in popularity. We look forward to continuing these and other events.



Challenges We Face:

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)

In recent years, discontent within the church and with the leadership, converged with the disruptive challenges of the pandemic. As a result, a number of the congregation removed themselves from the church, taking their time, talent and treasure with them. Those who chose to remain with Good Shepherd embraced the challenge of maintaining the body, to work with intention, a pure love of Christ, and a fervor to serve the most vulnerable, both within the church and out in the world.

With the tenacity of the dandelion, the vestry and other leaders are planning and working for revitalization of our historical outreach endeavors, our popular spiritual enrichment experiences, our joyous children's program and our highly respected youth program. We are zealous about sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors as we go out to meet them where they are, and by keeping our doors open and welcoming all who enter.

Our Hopes And Dreams As We Look For A New Rector

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters will prophecy, your elders will dream dreams and your young people will see visions. (Joel 2:28)

In Christ is our Hope; in Spirit are our Dreams: We hope for a rector who will lead and work *with* us to continue building a vibrant congregation that is inspired with the desire to be engaged with loving and serving.

Growth: We desire to grow by supporting families looking for a safe environment for their children who will be respectfully cared for as they learn about the love of God. We accept and encourage all youth as they prepare to be spiritual leaders in the world. All adults will be attracted to the deep meaning of the Eucharist; they will be comforted and they will learn from and be inspired by the rector's Scriptural messages, connecting God's Story to their personal story and the world's story.

This is your invitation: We are grateful for the time you take to learn about us and invite you to get to know us. We invite you to imagine yourself among us, leading us, aligning us with God's will, and nudging us into action so that we may be all that God desires for us.



We offer our candidates a sampling of the rich diversity of educational and recreational opportunities available in our area.

Diocese of Arizona Website azdiocese.org

Diocese of AZ Facebook fb.com/azdiocese

Diocese of AZ YouTube youtube.com/c/azdiocese1/featured

Communities

Cave Creek - cavecreek.org

Carefree - carefree.org/9/Your-Town

Education

Arizona State University - asu.edu

Maricopa Community Colleges - maricopa.edu

Grand Canyon University - gcu.edu

Paradise Valley Community College - paradisevalley.edu

Cave Creek United School District - ccusd93.org

Bella Vista College Prep School - bellavistacollegeprep.com

Professional Sports

Phoenix Suns (NBA) - nba.com/suns

Arizona Cardinals (NFL) - azcardinals.com

Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) - mlb.com/dbacks

Arizona Rattlers (Indoor Football) - azrattlers.com

Arizona Coyotes (NHL) - nhl.com/coyotes

Phoenix Mercury (WNBA) - mercury.wnba.com

Phoenix Rising (Soccer) - phxrisingfc.com

Useful Links

Culture and Entertainment

Cave Creek Museum - cavecreekmuseum.org

Cave Creek YMCA - valleymca.org/desert-foothills/

Desert Hills Public Library, Cave Creek - cavecreek.org/326/Desert-Foothills-Library

Desert Foothills Theatre - dftheater.org

Spur Cross Trails - maricopacountyparks.net/spur-cross-ranch-conservation-area-sx/

ASU Gammage - asugammage.com

Botanical Garden - dbg.org

Heard Museum - heard.org

Herberger Theater Center - herbergertheater.org

Holland Center - hollandcenter.org

Musical Instrument Museum - mim.org

Phoenix Art Museum - phxart.org

Phoenix Chorale - phoenixchorale.org

Phoenix Symphony - phoenixsymphony.org

Phoenix Zoo - phoenixzoo.org

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West - scottsdalemuseumwest.org

Our search process is being carried out under the authority of the Bishop of Arizona, the Right Reverend Jennifer A. Reddall, with the assistance of the Diocesan Deployment Office. All interested candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, resume and OTM profile to:

The Rev. Anita Braden

Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Arizona

114 West Roosevelt Street

Phoenix, AZ 85003

Anita@azdiocese.org

Our compensation package will be commensurate with our new rector's skills and abilities to work with us on our shared journey in faith as a church family, worshipping together and serving Christ in our world.

