



Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Our Missional Vision

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.

Youth Ministry Update



It isn't too often that you can say you have a life-changing experience. That you have felt God's hand upon your shoulder and have watched Him make miracles. Chapel Rock this summer was a life-changing experience. The students at youth group have spent the last handful of weeks asking questions about camp--what to expect and what camp would look like. We got our 12 students up to Chapel Rock and got them settled into their cabins and introduced them to their counselors.

A week without their phones seemed unfathomable to the kids, but we promised they would be busy and have fun. When I left Sunday evening a few students were feeling very unsure about staying, but they were glad Axel would be there with them for the entire week. Axel kept everyone happy and during our daily check-ins had nothing but good things to say. The kids participated in a carnival, kayaked in the lake, did a ropes course, learned countless games, and enjoyed their first campfire s'mores. I headed back up to Prescott on Thursday afternoon and was blown away with what I saw there.

12 kids disconnected from technology, but enjoying every minute of their time. They were painting nails, making bracelets, playing hand games, running around in the trees, and sitting in the sunshine. Within an hour of getting to camp the Chaplain came to find me. She told me that our group of kids were the most kind, welcoming to

others, appreciative, and amazing group of campers they've had all summer. Their counselors echoed the same sentiments.

As the days went on, I was so excited to share such amazing experiences with the kids. The first night the kids went to prayer stations and under the stars I watched them silently walk through different stations praying for themselves and for others. I watched our kids' clear plates at meals, stack chairs, wipe tables, and clean out their cabins. They sat in the sunshine and talked and braided hair.

Their first concern was to make sure they could come back next year, and they couldn't say thank you enough times. I recognize the financial sacrifices you all made to ensure our students made it to Chapel Rock and hope you know the lasting impact camp had on each of them. And on me too.

I want to share three key moments for me as the youth minister. During our last morning at Praxis the students were reflecting on the fruits of the spirit and generosity specifically. The Chaplain asked the kids if they could think of a specific encounter they had with generosity. One of our students raised his hand and said that people at his church sacrificed their money so that he and his friends could come to Chapel Rock and that had changed his life. A second key moment was when we were leaving and we sat in a circle as a youth group. I asked the kids what their favorite part of Chapel Rock was. A student who is 16 raised her hand. She said, with tears in her eyes, it was the first week she could remember in a long time that she got to be a kid. She didn't have to make a meal for her family, clean up, do laundry, or watch a sibling. She got to run around and enjoy childhood. The other kids all shook their heads in agreement. Lastly, when we gave the kids their phones back, I was blown away by the fact that they said they realized life was better without a phone. That they were glad they had a whole week without them.

I want to say thank you to you all for the support you have shown these kids. They left Chapel Rock with their friends' phone numbers scrawled down their arms and with hearts on fire for Jesus. Their first concern was to make sure they could come back next year, and they couldn't say thank you enough times. I recognize the financial sacrifices you all made to ensure our students made it to Chapel Rock and hope you know the lasting impact camp had on each of them. And on me too.

~Ashley Phillips~

Ministry Minutes

Food &
Fellowship
MINISTRY



The Food and Fellowship Ministry provides enjoyment for our parishioners through culinary delights and affection. We are here to assist with church events. For example, we assist with regular coffee hours, holiday events, and somber occasions such as funeral receptions.

Contact: Arlene DeBroske
Margie Ketler

The mission and ministry of the **Gold Mine Thrift Shop** is to focus on a community needs by assisting Good Shepherd with their outreach program.

Contact: Randi Smelko





The **Hispanic Ministry** provides homework assistance on Thursdays from 4:00-5:15 and Youth Ministry assistance from 5:15-5:45 p.m. The ministry hosts/coordinates El Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas.

Contact: Beth Hatcher

The goal of the **Flower Guild Ministry** is to bring the light of Christ's abundance into our worship and fellowship meetings through the beauty and joy of flowers and plants. We lovingly dedicate our flowers to the "Glory of God." We seek to build community within our group by sharing and teaching basic flower arranging techniques and practices. We are open to all who are willing to share their talents or want to learn new skills.

Contact: Lynn Walsh



The mission of **Church and Community Events Ministry** is to plan, create, organize, schedule, sponsor, promote and publicize social and other events on behalf of the Church on a regular basis. Collectively, our Ministry seeks opportunities to build community partnerships and to assist in making more disciples of Christ.

Contact: Lynn Walsh or Ann Spolarich

Our Choir and Handbell Ministry's mission is to sing praises to our Lord. As disciples our choir shares our faith and talents through music in a worshipful, relatable, and engaging way. We provide music that has the power to help us feel closer to the divine and celebrate God's love for all his children.

The first choir practice of the season is Wednesday September 6 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Eunkyung Suh-Lee



The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining, and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and the parish.

Contact: Erica Richardson

The Autism Support Group meets on the third Monday of every month and the next meeting will be Monday, August 21. If you or someone you know would benefit, please join us, all are welcome. You can register in advance at www.PHX.autism.org.

Contact: Angela Ajamie

Autism Society
of Greater Phoenix

Caregiver Support Group

In Person Meeting in Cave Creek
3rd Monday of each month
Time: 6:30 - 7:45 PM
Where: Good Shepherd of the Hills
6502 E. Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

The connection is you. Join us as we connect with other caregivers on this Autism journey! Share your challenges, successes and gain support. Register today at www.PHXautism.org

A QR code located in the bottom right corner of the flyer.



The faithful members of our **Prayer Chain Ministry** pray in their own homes for our parish prayer requests and for the special needs of our congregation **and** loved ones. All you need to be a part of this important ministry is the ability to receive the weekly prayer listing by email, and the time and willingness to pray regularly for those in need.

Contact: Kristine at the Church office at 480.488.3283 or goodshepherdaz@msn.com

The **Council for Native American Ministry** respects and supports the diverse people who have cared for this land from the beginning of time. They seek to remember, recognize, reconcile, and build Relationships that build community and understanding. The Council for Native American Ministry includes Native Americans living in AZ and representatives from congregations and ministries within the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. Belonging is not limited to those in the Episcopal Church. They recognize the diversity of Arizona's residents while recognizing the traditional people of this land. The Council for Native American Ministry meets quarterly. Their goal is to allow participating congregations an opportunity to share their ministry by hosting the Council meeting, plan the agenda and provide a glimpse into the ministry. Meeting dates are posted on the Diocesan website and the Council for Native American Ministry's Facebook page.

Contact: Beth Hatcher

The **Knitting Circle Ministry** knits hats, blankets, baby blankets and scarves for Native Health to distribute to those in need. This is a nice social time for people to get to know each other while helping the Native Americans in the Phoenix area and on the Reservation. Come join us the first Friday of each month beginning September 1st, from 10am-12noon for the Knitting Circle Group meeting!

Contact: Marilyn Robbins



The Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministry includes acolytes and Altar servers. **Acolytes and Altar Servers** serve at the altar on Sundays and other occasions of worship. Their primary role is to assist the clergy during worship and help in the distribution of the Eucharistic Elements. **Lectors** read the Holy Scripture during worship as well as leading the prayers of the people.

Contact: Kristine at the Church office at 480.488.3283 or goodshepherdaz@msn.com

Neighbors In Need AZ is a growing collaborative effort among non-profit and/or charitable organizations. Their Community Navigators work with those in need to assess their needs, develop an action plan, and assist them in working with partner agencies to find long term solutions. This collaboration includes several churches in our foothills area and numerous valley-wide organizations.

Contact: Kristine at the Church office at 480.488.3283 or goodshepherdaz@msn.com



Our **Card Ministry** sends greeting cards to Good Shepherd of the Hills parishioners to celebrate Birthdays, Anniversaries and in times of grieving and loss. Our ministry also prepares and sends our annual Christmas cards, just another small way to let a fellow parishioner know they are loved and we are thinking of them. A word of encouragement goes a long way to comfort those who are grieving, celebrate a joyous occasion, and share God's love.

Contact: Mary Solon



Other Ministry News



The **Sack Lunch Ministry** has been busy making an average of 120-140 sack lunches each month! These lunches are delivered to St. Vincent de Paul's kitchen at 10th Ave and Hatcher to help feed the homeless.

If you are interested in participating, they meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30am in Maitland Hall! They have all that is needed for the lunches, but need some people to help put the sacks together and make the PB & J sandwiches.

You can also make the sack lunches at home and drop them off in Maitland Hall that morning. Be sure to check the Sunday bulletin for updates as the next meal making day gets closer!

Contact: Don or Marilyn Robbins

New Ministry

We are forming a new **Open and Welcome Ministry**. It is a ministry that will be dedicated to meet, greet, welcome, and assist all who come to our doors for worship with a warm smile and a gracious spirit. The greeters are the frontline "doorkeepers" to our house of worship, and are, in essence, our ambassadors of hospitality - setting the tone for that all important first impression.

If you have an ongoing spirit of hospitality, a gracious personality, a desire to make our church as welcoming as possible, and would like to help those entering our church feel that they have a place in our ministry, then a new ministry opportunity is waiting for you.

A first formative meeting will be held Sunday, August 27 after the 10:00 church service in the church library.

Contact: Fr. Jackson or

Kristine at the Church office at 480.488.3283 or goodshepherdaz@msn.com



If you have anything you would like to include in our next newsletter, please contact:

Kristine at the Church office at 480.488.3283 or goodshepherdaz@msn.com

Deb Boreham

Visit our website at www.goodshepherdaz.org