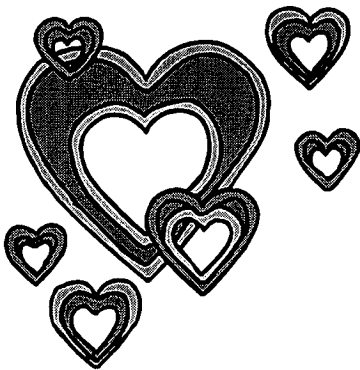


February 2011

Freezing Nights	2
Session Highlights	3
Summer Camp Out	3
Scout Sunday	3
Relay for Life	3
Sunday School	4
Mission Opportunities	4
Fellowship	5
Book Club	5
Women's Brunch	5
Youth Ministries	6-7



Answering the Call

"Come, follow me," Jesus said.

A group of Mexican immigrants had recently risked their lives crossing the border into the United States. Their journey had only begun. They still had to cross the long, dry Arizona desert lands, hoping merely to survive with little food and water to a haven in which they could only hope for the generosity to allow them rest. Immigrants such as these never know who they may find on this route: border patrol, ranchers and travelers who may show courtesy, hostility, or simply ignore them, missionaries risking their lives by dropping water at certain locations. It was the latter that spotted the group of immigrants from high up on a ridge top. They cupped their hands and called out to them in the dry valley below:

"Do you have food and water?!"

The small band of weary travelers huddled together for a few moments. They were illegally walking through a country that had worked so hard to keep them out. They had no reason to think their intentions would be friendly. But this was their response back up to the ridge:

"We don't have much, but we could spare a little!"

Not quite what they expected.

Shepherd of the Hill youth mission teams have made the trek into Tijuana, Mexico four times before. This is the first year in which reports of great violence in border towns including Tijuana bring shocking headlines all too often. As a result, we have had many conversations, we have prayed with great seriousness. In the end, we still feel called by God to continue to partner with Presbyterian Border Ministries (PBM) to serve with a church in Tijuana. PBM continues to take youth groups into Tijuana year after year and have reasons to believe that such adventures are not succumbing to unnecessary or irresponsible risks.

A devoted few disciples answered Jesus' call to discipleship into uncomfortable, life-altering situations, but they went because they were called. A devoted few students and adults are answering that call as we venture as well. But we go humbly, knowing that if PBM deems our location unsafe at any moment, we will shift directions.

But, what we have experienced in Mexico in our past trips is the same generosity in the face of adversity that the travelers above offered. We have always been amazed and changed by the generosity, hospitality, laughter, and spirited worship we have found from a people who have so very little by our standards, but still have so much to give. They do not have the choice to travel north whenever they wish. I am thankful for the opportunity to travel south. God has great things in store. We welcome the prayerful support of our faithful church congregation.

In Christ,

Brett Shoemaker
Youth Director

Freezing Nights Ministry

*"An individual has not started living until he can rise above
the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns
to the broader concerns of all humanity."
Martin Luther King Jr.*

As I (Marty Warr) write this we are literally in the middle of hosting our sixth Freezing Night of the season, with four more to go (two in February and two in March). So far we've hosted 135 guests, with roughly 40 volunteers helping out in a wide variety of ways. That's 135 dinners, 135 breakfasts, and 135 lunches. We've also provided countless pairs of socks and gloves, hats, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, Chap Stick, and deodorant. But more than that we've provided a friendly face, a listening ear, a safe and warm place to sleep, and a glimmer of God's love to those we serve.

No doubt it can be tough work at times. Some of the guests can be a handful, and others are simply working the system. Others however have life stories that break your heart, and others that will lift you up. It's a sacrifice of time, energy, emotion, and sleep, but what a blessing it is as well. These are the folks that Jesus would hang out with, the lepers of society, and what better way to follow Him than to do the same. At the moment it's 3:00AM and I'm watching three volunteers happily make sack lunches to hand out in the morning while our 28 homeless guests are sound asleep in our fellowship hall. I'll take that back, this isn't tough work at all, it's a gift from God to serve in this manner.

Thank you to all of you who have supported this ministry! If you have not had the chance to volunteer please consider doing so, we can certainly use your help, and hopefully you will be blessed by the experience. Please contact Brad Maxa (848-4887; bmaxa@gth-law.com) to volunteer, or see the sign-up sheet that is posted in the fellowship hall.

Session Highlights

At the January meeting, the Board of Session:

1. Set the 2011 budget for \$304,600 which is less than the 2010 budget
2. Approved the job description for the Director of Music
3. Approved the posting of the Director of Music position through February 28, 2011
4. Extended Kathryn Lehmann as interim Director of Music through April 30, 2011
5. Approved a new adult education class The Beautitudes for Today, from February 20-March 27, 2011 led by Pat Williams
6. Approved the Worship schedule: May 22 last breakfast service; May 29, June 5, June 12 - one service at 10:30 a.m.; June 19 begin summer schedule with one service at 9:30 a.m.; September 11 return to normal schedule with worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

News & Notes . . .

SOTH Summer Campout at Grayland Beach

Campsites are still available for the SOTH campout on July 22nd to 24th (Fri. - Sun.)

Mark Severin will be available to sign you up and/or answer your questions in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 30.

Scout Sunday ~ February 6th

Calling all Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Scout Leaders! Wear your uniforms on Sunday, February 6th, for special recognition during the 10:30 worship service. For more information, contact Susan Boyles.

Coffee Fellowship Needs You

Please help keep coffee fellowship a vital part of Sundays at SOTH. Volunteer hosts are needed. Please see the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the many Sundays still needing hosts. If you have any questions about hosting please contact Mark Severin or Mary Stevens. If you've never hosted before, then make 2011 the year you give it try... and find out how easy and fun it can be.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items to the **March Newsletter** is **Tuesday, February 22nd** at 10:00 a.m. All items must be in written form (hard copy or email) and submitted to the church office.

Church Office Hours

The church office is open for business Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. **NOTE:** the office will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day.

Relay for Life

Have you ever wondered what Relay is about? what happens at a Relay? are there age and/or physical restrictions for participants? where does the money go? or any other questions pertaining to Relay for Life? If so, please plan to attend our SOTH team's monthly meeting 7 p.m., **Monday, February 21** in the Calvin Room. SOTH has sponsored a Relay for Life team ever since it started in Puyallup and this year is no exception. We already have the nucleus for a good team, but your participation will make it even better. This year's Relay will be 6pm-6pm, Friday-Saturday, June 24-25 at Ballou Junior High School. For more info, please contact Cindy Sexton, 253-312-2294 or cssexton3@comcast.net

"Like" Us on Facebook!

Shepherd of the Hill has a Facebook page! To find us, just type Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church (USA) into the search bar and there we will be! Just a note -- "liking" the page does not give the church access to your profile -- so your privacy is secure!

Sunday School News

We'll be singing in BOTH services on February 27th with the praise team! Please come early to church on that Sunday, because we'll be singing at the end of the 8:00 service (at 9:00) and at the beginning of the 10:30 service. We'd like as many kids to attend both services as possible.

Sunday school offering is being collected for Heifer International.

February Mission Opportunities

Sunday, February 6th: Community Meal at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Puyallup

Arrive to serve the meal at 1:30 p.m. Provide enchilada casserole, baked beans, corn, lettuce salad w/ dressing, fruit, & dessert. Contact Carlista Barttels to volunteer. (Phone: 253-845-5442; or e-mail: cbarttels@comcast.net)

Sat. February 5th and Sat. February 19th: Freezing Nights at SOTH

Help set up, provide and serve a dinner item, spend the evening in fellowship with our guests, stay overnight to supervise and be available if needed, provide a breakfast item, serve breakfast and clean up. Contact Marty Warr (841-1926; martinwarr@comcast.net) or Kim Randall (846-8406; neemepoo@blarg.net) for more information on the Freezing Nights ministry. Please contact Brad Maxa (848-4887; bmaxa@gth-law.com) to volunteer, or see the sign-up sheet that is posted in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, February 20th: Lunch at Nativity House in Tacoma

Make sandwiches after 2nd service. Leave SOTH at 12:30 p.m. to serve lunch. Contact Sheri Martin to volunteer. (Phone: 253-840-3742; or e-mail: sheralyna@msn.com)

We are homeless ... in the sense of having homes but not being really at home in them. To be really at home is to be really at peace, and there can be no real peace of any of us until there is some measure of real peace for all of us. When we close our eyes to the deep needs of other people whether they live on the streets or under our own roof – and when we close our eyes to our own deep need to reach out to them – we can never be fully at home anywhere.

From Wishful Thinking by Frederick Buechner

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

3 - Nancy Doty
3 - Emily Mathiesen
4 - Deanna Shafar
7 - Jennifer Hawley
9 - Emma Miller
9 - Karlie Watson
9 - Dave Williams

19 - Anne Bennett
20 - Susan Jankelson
21 - Grace Thomas
24 - Bea Fisher
24 - Annette Kenyon
24 - Kelsey McCrady
29 - Jennifer Engle

ANNIVERSARIES

10 - David & Carol Telling
11 - Gary & Mary Mathiesen
14 - Don & Margaret Wagaman
18 - Frank & Sharon Veitenheimer
20 - Dick & Leone Chauner
21 - Dave & Cyndi Harkness
22 - Brad & Becky Maxa

Fellowship Opportunities

Women's Spring Retreat

Sisters of Shepherd are planning a half-day retreat to take place on **Saturday, May 14th**! The theme is "Give us this day our daily bread..." So, save the date, and we hope to see you there. If you'd like more information, or would like to help with the planning, contact Susan Boyles at (253) 262-1844.

Tuesday Morning

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

All men are invited to gather with us each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. in the church, for breakfast of oatmeal, coffee, orange juice, toast, and jelly. We follow this with Bible study where presently we are working our way through Paul's letter to the Romans.

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets every third Tuesday of the month in member's homes at 7:00 p.m. Members pre-read the book, and then discuss their thoughts at the meeting.

All women are invited to attend!

Date:

Feb. 15

March 15

Book:

Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan

Camel Bookmobile, by Masha Hamilton

At the home of:

Betty Young (435-5433)

TBA

"Getting to Know You"

A Women's Potluck Brunch

Saturday, February 5

10am-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by Sisters of Shepherd

All women of the church - and friends - are encouraged to be there!

Please bring a brunch-style dish to share with the group. Beverages will be provided.

Please stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall to pick up a free ticket and also pick up a copy of the new S.O.S. bylaws.

We will be holding elections for officers (positions are described in the bylaws) at this gathering, so think about the ways you would like to serve your fellow sisters in the coming year!

What exactly IS "Sisters of Shepherd"??!

This all-inclusive group was born out of the last women's retreat - with an open invitation this past fall to all women of our congregation to come together and brainstorm on how to create a group with cohesiveness to serve all women at Shepherd of the Hill. It could be said that it is a re-imagining of what Women's Fellowship used to look like - still promoting and coordinating existing activities like retreats, book clubs, etc. - as well as sponsoring new adventures. The goal is to have structure with an elected board and detailed bylaws that serve the best interests of all women in their spiritual development and opportunities for fellowship. Another goal is to make it easier to facilitate and coordinate the various women's activities and requests with the Fellowship Committee and Session. Those that participated in this planning process were: Helen Carpenter (chair), Bev Cascio, Valerie Emly, Dona Johnson, Merry Pantaleo, Anita Ryan, Cindy Sexton, Gina Sharp, and Maria Woodruff.

EVERY woman is therefore a "Sister of Shepherd" - and you are warmly encouraged to attend the brunch on February 5 to start this new journey with your fellow sisters!

Youth Ministries

GOD'S GANG

3rd-6th Grades

Meets every Monday from 6:30-8:00pm.

We're talking Global Citizenship! We're looking at rights, values, and culture here in America and around the world. Starting in February, we're going to talk about life in other countries in other continents around the world.



February 7th: Europe
February 14th: Asia
February 21st: Africa
February 28th: South America
March 7th: Australia
March 14th: Antarctica
March 21st: North America



**Also: Be bringing in your donations! We decided as a group to raise money to send soccer balls to children who don't have any through the WorldVision gift catalog. So far, we've raised \$7 of the \$16 that we need.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

7-8th Grades

FRIENDS

In the New Year we will still be discussing issues of friendship. We are going to be diving into the harder issues like how to help friends that are in trouble and how to avoid trouble yourself. As always Junior High doesn't happen without the Junior Highers themselves, so continue to encourage your friends to come.

Youth Groups in February:

February 6th & 13th

Youth Group as usual

February 20th

Cinderella (register for tickets)

February 25th -27th

Retreat

Upcoming Events

Cinderella

ManeStage Theater Company from Sumner, WA is performing a musical rendition of Cinderella, a show for the young and the young at heart. Our very own Rita Bennett is part of the cast and invites everyone to see her last performance on Sunday the 20th. To register for your ticket (so we can get a group discount) go to the website and click on the Cinderella button.

Retreat

Lost and Found is the theme for the weekend. We'll spend time losing ourselves in the bunkers of Fort Worden and finding something greater in the process. We will be staying at the First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend and are hoping the weather permits us to have all some outdoor fun at the Fort.



Birds and the Bees

We need input on which weekend will be best for families: March 18-19th
OR April 8-9th

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

9th-12th Grades



Spring Break Ski Trip Coming Up!

March 30 – April 3

Start off with a day at White Pass, spend the night in Packwood, then take off for a day of travel to Central Oregon, and a couple more days on Mount Bachelor, staying at First Presbyterian Church in Bend. All details will be online soon, but you won't want to miss out on this first-ever ski/snowboard tour!

MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 20, see Mission Info below!

Regular Youth Group Weeks:

Every Wednesday in February!

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

We'll see you each week for more oddball, messes, contemplation, fiery discussions, and growing in grace together. FEBRUARY 23 will be a special event yet to be announced (can't give away too much info in the newsletter, but this is the one you'll want to bring all the friends to. See you there!

MEXICO 2011

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church will be partnering once again for a border-cross adventure to Tijuana with Presbyterian Border Ministries. Date will be July 9 to 17, 2011.

Check out the blog at: www.tijuana2011.blogspot.com

Next Mission Meeting & Registration Deadline is

Sunday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.

SOTH Fellowship Hall

"This will be the last chance to join the team, so get on board!"



Fish Food Bank Emphasis for February:



Canned Fruits & Vegetables Bottled Juices

The donation box is located in the narthex.

Email: SOTHPresby@aol.com

Phone: 253-848-4357

w w w . s h e p h e r d o f t h e h i l l . o r g

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
P.O. Box 73426
Puyallup, WA 98373**