



the Staff

September 2008

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD — UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE STAFF is published monthly at no charge by the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122. Check our Internet site at www.goodshepherdunitedchurch.com. You can e-mail us at cogs@goodshepherdunitedchurch.com.

Welcome our new pastors



Rev. Carla & Rev. Bruce Cunningham

FROM THE PASTORS

Pastors' Reflections

To our friends at COGS —

Thank you for your warm welcome — and the view of the mountains! It is good to be back in New Mexico.

As most of you know, we are here (as your Interim Pastors) to learn and grow with you on this journey. We are here to listen to one another, and to challenge one another.

We would like to invite each of

you to a special “Forum” and Potluck we will be having on Sunday, September 28, after the 10:30 a.m. service, in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a meal, a presentation, and a time for asking questions and sharing, as we begin this journey together.

Much care,

Rev. Bruce and Rev. Carla

Our e-mail: carlacrevccu@charter.net
Our phone: 734-730-9506

Blood Drive, September 21, 8 AM – 12 noon

The Lay Ministry Team is hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, September 21, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. As the need for blood and the heroes who donate it is ongoing and critical, United Blood Services will be setting up its equipment in Fellowship Hall to allow for donation of whole blood, double red cells, and platelets. A whole blood donation can be completed within an hour from to check-in to cookies, double red cells take only slightly longer. We have one donor scheduled for the two-hour time commitment of platelet donation and are hoping for a second!

The availability of blood products has affected the health and care of a number of our members, so here is our chance to “pay it forward”. We have set a goal of 24 donors for our drive. COGS members are amazingly generous, and this donation costs nothing but time! We do need to make appointments for that morning, so please call Suzanne Miller at 453-6838 or e-mail suzmill3r@comcast.net or sign up on the poster in the hallway.

Suzanne Miller

Inside this issue:

From the Pastors	2	Upcoming Events – Reports	6
From the Moderator	3	Poll Officials needed – Concert	7
Church School	4	Light the Night Walk	8
Care Core	5	Life Line – Turquoise Chalice	9

FROM THE MODERATOR

A Moment with the Moderator

September comes and every year my “teacher genes” kick in. It seems that I need to clean rooms, create bulletin boards, and go into Staples just to inhale the scent of crayons and pencils. Those of you who are not teachers may wonder about this part of my personality. Fall also is the time for new ideas, new beginnings, new excitements, and at COGS there is a real buzz going on.

- In the lower level of our church, Sunday School rooms for the children and teens have been reorganized, and a Music Room was created with the help of Yumi Johnson, Kim Rubidoux, Don Viets, and Kevin Blackerby.
- The “Rock On” event attracted 62 people of all ages from 3 UCC churches in the area, for activities, classes, fellowship, and chicken dinner.
- The Reverends Bruce and Carla Cunningham are settling in, attending COGS meetings, calling on members in the hospital, and making sure we get to know them.
- On August 25, the Ministry teams met with the representatives of Britton Construction and Dorman & Breen, Architects. This is the design/build group the Strategic Site Assessment Team has hired. We learned about the development process and are ready for the next step. **The decision was made to have all ideas and requests for building changes to the Strategic Site Assessment Team by September 30, 2008. Members of the congregation should submit ideas in writing to Bob Rosenak or Jon Mitovich by that date.**

Suggestions will be prioritized by the team and sent to Britton and Breen so they can help us complete a Master Plan by January 2009.

- Children’s Sunday School will resume on September 7, 9 a.m.
- “Sacred Conversations On Race” will resume on September 21 at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. See page 4 for more information on this Adult Education class.

The power of the Holy Spirit is filling COGS. I am privileged to be a part of such an exciting time in our church.

Blessings on your day,

Pat Rosenak, Moderator

Substitutes wanted

Are you willing to be a substitute in the nursery when our attendant, Jacqui Stump, is absent? We need at least four people – please consider this ministry.

If you would like to be a substitute, please contact the church office or Lois Tulga at 299-8375 or loistulga@aol.com.

Lois Tulga

New Mexico Coalition
Against Domestic Violence

For help, call 246-9240. State Hotline: 1-800-773-3645; National Hotline: 1-800-799-7233; Statewide Legal Resources Hotline: 1-877-974-3400. Services are FREE and confidential.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School in September

Adult Sunday School

Classes meet from 9:15-10 a.m.

Sacred Conversations on Race

beginning September 21

Everyone is encouraged to attend our next sacred conversation series, which will begin on September 21 at 9:15 a.m. in the parlor. Continuing the discussion we began last June, this next discussion, the first in a planned series of five, will focus on the question, "Is racism real?" These sessions are a direct result of UCC General Minister John Thomas' call for all churches to have a "sacred conversation on race," in response to the controversy around several out-of-context soundclips by Trinity UCC's Rev. Jeremiah Wright last Spring, and the national attention it produced. You are urged to attend these discussions, whose only aim is increased understanding and awareness by sharing honestly with one another in a safe environment.

*Coordinator: Ruth Randall
in the Parlor*

Contemporary Theology Class

A New Christianity for a New World,
by Bishop John Shelby Spong —
continuing —

*Leader: Floyd Coppage
in Classroom 1*

Children's Religious Education

Sundays from 9-10 a.m.

Lynne Xavier, Coordinator
& COGS Teachers

- Sept. 7: **Remember, Restore, Renew**
Focus Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14
- Sept. 14: **Road to Freedom**
Focus Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31
- Sept. 21: **Tensions in the Wilderness**
Focus scripture: Exodus 16:2-15
- Sept. 28: **God's Sustaining Presence**
Focus Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

**More Sunday School
shepherds (teachers)
are needed**

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine COGS without a Sunday School program. What would that say about our church's values and priorities?

If you've been thinking about volunteering but just haven't gotten around to signing up yet, please do it now (on the bulletin board in the hallway). We need lead shepherds for November and most of the spring semester, and lots more guest shepherds. If you'd like to lead but know you'll be out of town one weekend in your month, sign up anyway and then let me know. We can work with you to find a substitute. Thanks!

Lynne Xavier,

Faith Development ministry leader

Howard & Martha Houldsworth's new address

Howard & Martha Houldsworth's
new address, phone, and e-mail are:

5111 Sodalite Drive
Hudson, OH 44236
phone: 330-342-0840
e-mail: marart80@yahoo.com

Anis Johnson welcomes visitors

Now that Anis Johnson can communicate better, she gets very lonesome and would really enjoy visitors. She resides at Manzano Del Sol in the Health Center.

Orp Christopher

Care Core Report

OUR MEMBERS:

Nancy Eberhardt, Jeri Smith, and Michelle Tang

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS & FRIENDS:

Fran Doty (Amy Homicz's mother) and **Anis Johnson**

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:

Tammy Diaz (Paula Paul's friend), **Patricia Dickinson** (friend of COGS), **Ted Feng** (Patrick Xavier's uncle), **Brian Festa** (Lori Festa's brother), **Roger Hogeboom** (Don & Barbara Mitchell's nephew), **Amy Mueller** (daughter of Susan Olson-Phillips and Det Phillips), **Donald Peterson** (Shirley Puariea's friend), **Marjie Prisco** (Don and Barbara Mitchell's daughter), **Rev. Francis Rath** (friend of COGS), and **Jane Tutolo** (sister of Judy Kneebone, friend of COGS)

The members of the Church of the Good Shepherd would like to extend our sympathy to: Mercy Martinez-Nunnally and family on the death of Julia Martinez, Mercy's mother, on July 22; and to the family and friends of Bob Huffman, who died on August 14.

The following have been removed from our prayer list. They would like to thank COGS for their prayers. We thank God for their improvement and ask God's continued care and blessings: Tommy Fitz Patrick, Kirby Lewis, Bob Rosenak, and Charles Wenger.

Remembering all those who are serving their country: **Andy Hurst** (Linc Nagle's cousin) in Iraq; and **Justin Zel Montgomery** (Linc Nagle's son-in-law) in the Police Department.

Orp Christopher

UPCOMING EVENTS — FINANCIAL REPORTS

Forever Young

Forever Young will meet on Tuesday, September 9, at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. It will be a potluck lunch, so bring something to share. The meeting will focus on plans for the coming year. Be thinking about any interesting things that the group can do this year. Everyone who is interested is invited to attend.

Closet Cleaner Sale



The Church of the Good Shepherd Preschool is hosting a consignment sale fund-raiser on September 20. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** The "Closet Cleaner Sale" will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

To donate, contact Pamela (856-1005) or Heather (828-9577) to let them know when you are bringing things so that they can make sure there is adequate space to store the items. Donations can be delivered after the fall term starts on September 2. The Preschool will not accept old TVs. Please donate only clean, gently used items. See their website for more details.

Anyone can become a seller – visit www.closetcleanersale.com to download the contract and view the guidelines. Space is limited to 50 sellers, so sign up soon!

Book Group — Sept.

September 15, 6 p.m.

Book: *Into the Canyon – 7 years in Navajo Country*, by Lucy Moore

Leader: Ann Travelstead

Hostess: Lee Johnson

Shari McAnally

COGS Children's Outreach/Preschool Financial Report for July 2008

Income for July: \$9,299.56

Expenses for July: \$18,969.55

Surplus/Deficit for July: (\$9,669.99)

Year to date Income: \$151,894.28

Year to date Expenses: \$148,495.49

Year to date Surplus: \$3,398.79

Reconciled cash in bank @

July 31, 2008: \$19,814.13

Ann Travelstead, Preschool Committee

Treasurer's Financial Report — July 2008

July income: \$17,397.99

July expenses: \$27,326.69

Difference: (\$9,928.70)

Income year to date: \$179,300.05

Expenses year to date: \$137,574.53

Difference: \$41,725.52

Checking account balance as of

July 31, 2008: \$80,912.54

Richard Mitchell, Treasurer

CONCERT — POLL OFFICIALS NEEDED

***Robin & Linda
Williams &
Their Fine Group,***
in concert at COGS,
Saturday, Sept. 13,
7:30 p.m.

The next Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert at COGS is Saturday, September 13 — a special performance by internationally-known ***Robin & Linda Williams & Their Fine Group*** (robinandlinda.com). Robin & Linda appear regularly on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and are veterans of *Austin City Limits*, *The Grand Ole Opry*, and *The American Radio Company*. They have toured with Emmylou Harris, Mary Chapin Carpenter, The Seldom Scene, and many others.

This will be an all-ages, alcohol-free event, presented by the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA) Community Service & Membership Committee. Doors to the Church Lower Hall will open at 6:45. Admission is \$15/adults, \$10/teens & seniors, \$5/12 & under, under 5 free. SHHA members are **FREE**. There are no advance ticket sales...come early for the best seating.

Refreshments will be available, but feel free to bring a favorite dessert.

Contact Linda Bolton with any questions or to have your e-mail address added to our Coffeehouse alert or volunteer list: 856-7100 or nlightsmgt@aol.com.

**Poll Officials needed
on November 4**

The Bernalillo County Clerk's Office, Bureau of Elections, is actively recruiting Poll Officials for the General Election on November 4, 2008.

Training classes will be provided, and are mandatory. There will be a selection of training times from which to choose, and each will last approximately 2 to 3 hours. Poll Officials are compensated for their Election Day work as well as Training time.

The Election Day work schedule is 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Please be prepared to attend the entire day.

Poll Official Requirements:

- Must be a registered voter in Bernalillo County
- Must have no felony convictions
- Cannot be a relative of a candidate
- Cannot be an active law enforcement officer

Contact Information:

- Channon — 468-1221, cdishman-flores@bernco.gov
- Amber — 468-1253, agarley@bernco.gov
- General Information — 468-1291, clerk@bernco.gov

LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK

Light the Night Walk

DATE: September 20 at 6:00 p.m. — **LOCATION:** Civic Plaza

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the upcoming *Light the Night (LTN) Walk* on Saturday evening September 20. The event starts at 6 p.m. and the walk will begin at dusk. The walk is about 2.5 to 3 miles long. Please note the new location this year — Civic Plaza in downtown Albuquerque.

The LTN walk is held to commemorate all people who have or are suffering from leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma. It's sad to say that we all know people who've been affected by these blood cancers. In our own church there are several—George Chynoweth, Robert Huffman who just passed away, Michelle Tang who just had her transplant, Linda Robbins who passed away earlier this year (she was a friend of the church), just to name a few.

All money raised for the LTN walk will go towards research to find a cure for these terrible blood cancers. Everyone is welcome to come out and walk. The encouraged registration amount is

\$25/person. It is always a lovely event.

If you can't make the walk and would like to donate, please make your check payable to the *Leukemia and Lymphoma Society* (or to *LLS*). Any size donation is welcome. 100% of your donation is tax deductible. Research has made great strides—the cure rate for childhood leukemia has gone from 4% in the 60s to more than 85% in 2000; the percentage has significantly increased for adults, too. These numbers are good, but there is a ways to go.

Any person who donates or raises \$100 will receive a T-shirt and any person who donates \$200 will receive something from Best Buy (Best Buy has become a national sponsor, so no sweatshirts this year).

Any questions? Please contact Judy at 401-0562 or e-mail judymgilman@comcast.net.

Judy Gilman

PLAN AHEAD

The Spirituality Study Group, which meets in the parlor on Wednesdays from 3-4:30 p.m., is inviting you to join us on September 10, when we reconvene after our summer break. We will be studying Lama Surya Das's national bestseller, *Awakening the Buddha Within*. We begin our sessions with an inspirational prayer or saying or poem, meditate for 15 minutes, then read aloud and discuss inspirational and/or interesting passages. The book may be purchased from www.amazon.com for \$10.85. A Tibetan Buddhist prayer from the book: *May all beings everywhere, with whom we are inseparably interconnected, be fulfilled, awakened, and free. May there be peace in this world and throughout the entire universe, and may we all together complete the spiritual journey.*

Shirlee Coppage

LIFE LINE — TURQUOISE CHALICE

Life Line Screening is renting space at COGS on November 5. Protect your health; protect your life. Reserve the date and register now.

You may be asking who are they and why would I do this. Life Line performs four very simple, inexpensive, quick screenings. Stroke is the number # 3 cause of death in the U.S., 2nd among women. Stroke is the #1 cause of nursing home residency. Life Line Screening will perform ultrasound tests for stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis.

Life Line is one of our regular renters, so they have offered church members the opportunity to register for these tests before it goes to the general public. These screenings are completely

painless, noninvasive, and require ten minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$45 - \$50 each or all four for \$149, plus \$10 for the bone density test. If you are interested in the blood tests, there is an additional charge.

You must pre-register by calling Judy Gilman (401-0562) or you may call 1-800-324-1851 directly to reserve a space. Spots fill up quickly. FYI, Judy has had these tests before and feels the company is doing a great service for minimal cost.

Judy Gilman

Turquoise Chalice

The Sixth Annual Turquoise Chalice Award and Benefit Dinner will be held Friday evening, September 26, at 6 p.m., at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center — honoring **Lee Maynard** and **The Storehouse**, and featuring the inspiring humor of Al Staggs. Tickets are \$75. This is the yearly benefit for the New Mexico Conference of Churches (NMCC), an ecumenical organization that we have actively supported for many years.

This year we are honoring **The Storehouse** and **Lee Maynard**, its general manager. For 39 years, *The Storehouse* has provided free food and clothing to the working poor of Central New Mexico. They serve more than 14,000 families who are working and struggling to make a better life. Today, *The Storehouse* is the largest food pantry in New Mexico, providing more food to the hungry than at any time in the pantry's history — and it exists entirely on contributions made from our community. To learn how you can help *The Storehouse*, please visit: www.thestorehouseabq.org.

Lee Maynard's combination of extensive for-profit and extensive nonprofit experience created a demand for his services as a consultant. Quickly developing a reputation as a "fixer", he has been a consultant to local, national and international nonprofits, and a management and editorial consultant to newspapers, magazines and publishing companies. In 2003, Lee was asked to assess the situation at *The Storehouse*. Initially of the opinion that *The Storehouse* should be closed, he quickly changed his mind. ("It was the children, hungry children . . .") With the backing of a dedicated board of directors and the assistance of an able staff, Lee kept *The Storehouse* open.

For the last four years, Church of the Good Shepherd has hosted an overflow table (11 people) of members and friends. We would love to have at least one table this year and maybe two. Come on along. It really is a delightful evening.

Please contact Rev. Carla and Rev. Bruce if you would like to attend.



**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation**

7834 Tennyson St. NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87122

PH: 856-1004 — **FAX:** 856-7759

E-mail: cogs@goodshepherdunitedchurch.com

Website: www.goodshepherdunitedchurch.com

Church Staff

The Reverend Carla Cunningham,
Pastor

The Reverend Bruce Cunningham,
Pastor

Pat Rosenak, *Moderator*

Kate Sauer, *Interim Music Director*

Don Sauer, *Interim Band Director*

Dorenda Morse, *Piano*

Max DuBoisTerre, *Custodian*

Kirk Wortman, *Church Secretary*

Nancy Kolenc, *Community Nurse*

F. Howard Houldsworth,
Pastor Emeritus

Preschool

Pamela Giberti, *Preschool Director*

Preschool PH: 856-1005

E-mail: cogs_school@hotmail.com

Worship Schedule

8:30 AM Worship

9:00 AM Church School for all ages

9:15 AM Fellowship all morning

10:30 AM Worship

Regular Office Hours

M — F 9 AM — 12:00 PM



**“Never place a period
where God has placed a comma.”**

[Gracie Allen]

God is still speaking,

www.stillspeaking.com

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

