

Good Shepherd of the Hills 2017 Highlights

The following highlights of the life of our church community are noted:

Senior Warden Report

This past year, the Diocese of Arizona rolled out new, improved diocesan Policies. Safeguarding God's People has been added to the Safeguarding God's Children online training program and other administrative requirements have been added to ensure that our churches are safe places to work, worship and educate our children.

Good Shepherd continues to provide opportunities for adults to expand their knowledge of their faith and to develop a closer relationship to God through Father Nordon's adult formation classes, EfM, and Centering Prayer.

We continue to spread our gifts in this community.

Good Shepherd of the Hills brings the love and light of Christ Jesus to our neighbors in the Foothills Community, so that they may know Him and be brought into the fellowship of His Church.

A Committee was formed to investigate the requirements for Good Shepherd to host a refugee family. The Goldmine continues to help us support funding for area organizations who reach out to those in need.

The Outreach Committee has been working overtime to provide lunches to the homeless, care packages to our Armed Forces, and help for Native Americans just to name a few.

Our Hispanic Ministries provided another year of helping the children of our neighbors with their homework as well as providing English classes for their parents.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

I am grateful to be a part of this Faith Family, a member of a congregation that is committed to working together, praying together, and staying together. We are a community of people who choose healing and reconciliation in the face of difficulty.

Junior Warden Report

There were several projects that were expected and unexpectedly accomplished in 2017 around the church campus. The Jr. Warden oversaw the replacement of a failed AC unit over the Gold Mine last year and was able to find a contractor that saved us over 42% in cost from our previous AC contractor. Furthermore, new AC service contracts were signed that saved over 25% from our previous AC maintenance contractor.

Another big project was the addition of hand rails to the altar area in the church that allow for ease of access to the altar and choir areas.

Continued efforts to reduce the electrical consumption of the church has resulted in a 25% reduction in electrical usage in the church.

Smaller projects included continued maintenance of the church's flat roof, replacement of inefficient lighting in the church, restraining wooden doors throughout the church and Maitland Hall, and having the chapel area repainted.

The Jr. Warden is not always aware of needed repairs or maintenance until they are reported by a member of Good Shepherd. Those reports are always appreciated.

Children's Ministry

2017 was a busy and fulfilling year in Children's Ministries here at Good Shepherd. It is such a wonderful and encouraging experience to see the growth and knowledge our children ages birth to 4th grade have about Jesus and our church. We had some huge celebrations this year and are proud to be a part of Good Shepherd!

Here are some of the highlights:

- In spring we started out the year by reflecting on our personal goals for church, home, and school by making Godly resolutions where we focused on these areas and how we could each grow, pray, and support one another. It was truly amazing to see the things the kids picked to work on and how deep their conversations and support were.
- We enjoyed a beautiful season of Lent and Easter where we discussed the gift of Jesus and His resurrection. We always enjoy our Easter Sunday traditions of acting out the story of Easter, playing games with the youth group kids, and hunting for Easter eggs!
- In June we celebrated with a weeklong VBS in partnership with the Youth Group. Our VBS theme this year was Fiesta! Where fun and Jesus are intertwined in important lessons of serving others. This was our biggest, craziest VBS to date with over 20 kids participating! We ran out of food, craft materials, and space- but it was the BEST week ever. The kids enjoyed the week tremendously and it was such a great way to meet and share Jesus' love with our neighbors and community!
- In the fall we enjoyed Parent's Night Out, Trunk or Treat, the Carefree Light Parade, and lots of family events!
- A highlight each year is having our special presentation during the Christmas Eve service. It was such a joy to see our girls dance and our younger kids participate in bringing their Joy to the World!

We thank you all for your dedication and support of your Good Shepherd kids! We look forward to making many more memories together in 2018!

Youth Ministry (YM)

2017 was a year of steady successes and areas for new involvement for the Youth Ministry of Good Shepherd of the Hills. Each year our ministry continues to welcome new students, neighbors, and opportunities in the community of Cave Creek which is an exciting thing to witness!

- Currently the Good Shepherd youth group has 4 leaders that are involved in the weekly running of the YM program. They help mentor students, lead lessons, spend time with students, and provide routine and structure for our program. We currently serve students ages 11-18 during Sunday services and also during weekly/biweekly events. These events range from community service, to serving coffee hour, to enjoying fellowship as a group. I am also able to connect with the children and youth students by volunteering with the successful tutoring program on Thursdays.

- In the Spring, the youth enjoyed many fun events such as a family Super Bowl party, community service in making supply bags and cards for the homeless, and hiking in local Cave Creek. We also participated in helping keep areas of Cave Creek beautiful for all to enjoy including the Desert Awareness Park, Spur Cross Mountain, and the SunDial by picking up trash and litter.

- The GSOTH partnership with Bella Vista Preparatory School continued throughout the year through the teaching of Biblical based classes, lunch games and activities, and an after school program that focused on fellowship and serving the community. Students helped wash the Foothills Caring Corps vans and food service containers each week. Students had fun while blessing those around them.

- The YM has still partnered with the Foothills Caring Corps to use their vans each week for our community service projects, day trips, and local events. This partnership has allowed us to get students safely to and from church functions. In exchange, GSOTH has helped maintain the vans, drive people as needed, help transport community members to things like the annual tea party, carefree breakfast, and other citywide events.

- In late Spring, preparation for Chapel Rock 2017 started to take place with student fundraising. We led a change drive, art sale, bake sale, and our annual car wash. Students were excited to raise funds for their week at camp.

- In June we took 11 students and 2 leaders to Chapel Rock for a week of fun, fellowship, and fresh air! Students had an amazing time growing their faith in Jesus and making new friends. This was a great turn out for camp and GSOTH was once again recognized for the amazing turnout and participation of their students - this was all thanks to the generous support and donations of members of Good Shepherd, Outreach Committee, and private donations.

- In late June we helped Children's Ministries celebrate with a weeklong VBS titled Fiesta! The focus was fellowship and fun while celebrating the stories of Jesus. We had a record breaking amount of youth group kids each day that helped to serve food, lead crafts, clean up, and prepare and teach daily games. The kids all had a blast and it was Good Shepherd's biggest VBS ever with more than 25 kids in attendance! It was awesome to see older students have leader

experiences with the younger students. The majority of the children and helpers were our neighbors from next door which is a huge success to the vision with the youth program.

- In the fall, GSOTH had a great representation at the youth huddle at the Annual Episcopal Convention. Leaders and students participated in a special youth service, skits, and worship.
- We also had a great time co-partnering with Children's Ministries in Trunk or Treat, Parent's Nights out in February, April, June, September, and December! These events are a great way for the community and church to provide a fun and safe environment for kids and families - the kids always have fun and the parents can enjoy a night out.
- We also represented GSOTH in the Carefree Electric parade. The students love to pass out Good Shepherd cards and candy to those watching the parade, and it is a great way to connect and be visible in the community!
- In Winter of 2017 the youth of Good Shepherd continued to host monthly family barbecues after coffee hour- all were welcome to attend and enjoy good food and company! We also had a Christmas Parents Night Out, gingerbread house decorating, gift exchange, and enjoyed Christmas Eve services.

2017 was such a great year for the GSOTH Youth program. We look forward to continuing our work in the church, community, and diocese. It is a pleasure to be the hands and feet of Jesus and support the students in Cave Creek and the surrounding areas. We thank you for your support! I am looking forward to growing our ministry through quarterly meetings with the Canon for Youth and Young Adult Director, Jesse Villegas Jr. this year and teaming up with other youth ministries to expand our vision!

DOK Ministry

DOK Ministry – The International Order of the Daughters of the King has as its vision, “Empowered by the Holy Spirit, to know Jesus Christ, to make him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.” We are to do this through prayer, service, and evangelism. The Ruth Chapter at Good Shepherd is a small group who strive to fulfill this through our studies, Women’s Retreat, and individual service. Highlights for 2017 include:

Studies: We continued a very interesting and informative study during our monthly meetings using The Timechart of Biblical History.

Women’s Retreat: Discover Creative Connections in our Spiritual Community was the theme for our Retreat on April 1, 2017, held at Maitland Hall. Jane Spaulding, an art therapist, was our leader and we had 30 women attend and participate in art projects reflecting our spiritual choices. We joined in Morning Prayer and several choir members led us in songs of worship. The Retreat was very successful and we received many positive comments.

The new DOK President for 2018 is Lynn Walsh.

Tutoring Ministry

The Tutoring Ministry began its sixth year this past September. We have new volunteers who are willing to share their talents and hearts, and we have experienced ups and downs as we walk alongside our neighbors and participate in their lives. Our version of the one room schoolhouse is more than simply providing homework help; we are a family.

Our families suffered an unspeakable tragedy this summer, and our tutors, along with the congregation, provided emotional and monetary support. As a result of this tragedy, fruits of the Tutoring Ministry, Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas, did not take place so that our neighbors may heal. We *did* have our traditional gingerbread cookie decorating party, thanks to Marilyn Robbins, along with a Christmas craft provided by Mimi Poppenweimer. This is a tradition our kids look forward to each year.

As a result of God's leading in new directions, we saw some of our students participate in Vacation Bible School, we had a student graduate high school and are prepared to help her with college. Barbara and Beth were welcomed into this student's home to discuss college with her mother, and we continue to see our older boys in church and in Jarrod's youth group on occasion. We are a family.

The Tutoring Ministry is blessed with tutors who are so very talented, giving, and dedicated. We have learned to let go of our expectations and are open and flexible to students' varying times of arrival, unusual strategies for solving math, and anything else that comes our way. In essence, this ministry is hands on and based on the building of relationships. Our families, particularly the children, are woven into the fabric of our lives and we in theirs. We are truly a family.

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry supports local and foreign ministries, and organizations whose goals are to serve God's people, to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

With the wonderful efforts of the staff and volunteers of the Gold Mine Thrift Shop, we provided funds to contribute to the efforts of a variety of ministries. In 2017, we supported twenty-two ministries/organizations with a total dollar amount of \$119,641.02.

The largest donations were given to the Desert Library (\$11,000), Foothills Food Bank (\$10,000), Habitat for Humanity (\$9,000) and Imago Dei (\$8,000). At least 85% of Outreach funds are distributed to local ministries.

This year we added Arizonans for Children, an organization that works with foster children. They provide safe, comfortable meeting places for supervised visits between parents and foster children. They coordinate with the state agencies in hopefully reuniting families. They coordinate a mentor program, connecting qualified mentors with foster kids through a detailed matching process. We hope to bring a mentor program to Good Shepherd for the over 65 foster kids in our local area.

Ministries supported and seeking support from Outreach funds must submit a detailed application and make a presentation to the committee prior to being considered. A member of the committee must be willing to be the representative of the ministry to ensure funds are used properly. Each year committee members also tour three local organizations supported by GSOTH Outreach funds. Minutes of the meeting are available for viewing by any Good Shepherd member.

The current committee has 9 members as we have added a new member, John Long. We will be saying goodbye to Marcia Amrine in April and we thank her for her years of dedication to our committee and her agencies.

The Outreach Committee takes its responsibility in distributing funds very seriously and is dedicated to ensure those funds are used to do God's work. The committee appreciates the congregation's support and continued efforts to spread the word about the good work made possible by donations to and shopping at the Gold Mine.

Thank you, Patti Worthington Outreach Chair

Grow Together Ministry

The Men's Group attendance continues to average 20-25 per meeting. The Group meets once a month from September through April. This year the group also met in December with an attendance of 15. There is a 30-minute social followed by a light dinner prepared or brought in by a volunteer(s). The presentation by a speaker normally ranges from 30-40 minutes. Robert Hindle and Bob Forbes serve as Co-Chairs for the 2017-2018 season. This year's presentations continue the tradition of offering variety: ASU Chaplin & students sharing perspectives on Christianity & the church on campus; Senior U.S. Forest Service representative speaking about forest fire suppression & policies; Former Director of Arizona Game & Fish addressing conservation issues facing our state; Marcia Dillon on Norway's spectacular Svalbard Wilderness; Owner of the Tea Room sharing the history of tea; Representative from McDowell Sonoran Conservancy about the Preserve's flora and fauna. The Men's Group will be hosting the Shrove Supper in February.

The mission of the Women's Group is to provide an opportunity to share inspiration and spirituality in a social setting. This past year we have been meeting at Tonto Bar and Grill on the first or second Tuesday of each month. These times make it more convenient for choir members to also join in.

Fifty-seven parishioners attended the Big Gathering in October. Attendees were able to sign up for their choice of 15 small gatherings many of them hosted by first time hosts. Many attendees of the small gatherings have remarked how much they enjoy being with parishioners they may not have met before in small groups.

Open & Welcome Ministry

Marcia Amrine chairs the committee with Margaret Walker. Dale Demastus, Rob Madden, Tom Witt, and Fr. Nordon are members of the committee.

We welcomed 25 first time visitors to our parish in 2017 with 22 visitors becoming GSOTH members.

- Fr. Nordon implemented the use of tags identifying Welcomers;
- Encourage visitors to complete a welcome card;
- Good Shepherd mugs with the church logos were given to first time visitors;
- Welcomers encouraged to accompany visitors to coffee hour for introductions to other parishioners;
- Follow up emails or phone calls were made to new visitors thanking them for attending and offering to answer questions about the parish;
- Visitors are added to the database for tracking;
- Fr. Nordon engages visitors with a personal welcome letter;
- Fr. Nordon approves blue badges to be issued and members are moved to the Membership list and database.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Maintaining an adequate number of trained Welcomers particularly during the summer;
- Doing a better job following up with visitors in increase likelihood they become members.

Community Involvement

Each year, GSOTH Community Involvement is involved in promoting a variety of activities and programs that make a visible commitment to the Northern Desert Foothills Community.

Our 2017 year in review is as follows:

Renewal of our annual membership in the Carefree/Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce.

04/08/17 - 6th annual Pet Blessing. Approximately 75 dogs, and a few horses were blessed and received St. Francis medals.

11/11/17 - 6th annual Cave Creek Cactus Classic Pedal Bike Blessing (offsite) at the Flat Tire Bicycle Shop. This annual event continues to grow with Fr. Nordon kicking off the start of the bike race with a blessing.

12/10/17 – Our GSOTH float entered in the Carefree Christmas Parade. Thanks to Jarrod and Ashley Phillips for involving our youth and children in this festive parade too!! A new format was having the parade start at 10:00 am.

12/18/17 - GSOTH was pleased to host our annual community-wide Christmas Concert featuring the talents of Kevin Glenn, Martha Lindsey, and Friends. To finish the concert, a sing-along of Christmas carols was enjoyed by everyone in attendance!

Gold Mine Thrift Shop

The Gold Mine Thrift Shop reached its Outreach Mission goals in 2017 with successful participation in events and promotions. These activities included:

- We grew our email list to 708 dedicated shoppers and updated our look.
- Our Facebook page has been given a makeover and consistently performs above the national average in shares, views, and likes.
- In 2016 the Gold Mine launched its web site www.goldminethriftshop.com to promote programs, recruit new volunteers, and serve as an additional outreach source.
- Throughout the year we held special promotions for our customers. Bag sales, weekly sales, Facebook promotions all drove traffic to the Gold Mine
- Supporting our community by participating in Wild West Days and Fiesta Days. For both events we ran clothing specials and featured western clothing.
- Gold Mine Manager, Lena Jo McCoy, continues to serve on the Carefree Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as the incoming chair. Along with publicity from the Chamber website and directory, McCoy has access to business leaders in the community through networking mixers, ribbon cuttings, and various events.
- This year the Gold Mine celebrated its 70th anniversary with a dedication ribbon cutting and a special party hosted by long-time volunteer Tony Kulina.