

January  
2019  
Volume 26  
No. 1

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



13658 WEST MEEKER BOULEVARD  
SUN CITY WEST AZ 85375-3730  
623-584-2280  
www.shepherdofthehills.org



*Our mission:  
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of our communities and the world.*



## *A Welcoming Statement*

*Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church affirms the teachings of Jesus Christ by welcoming all of God's children regardless of race, age, gender, family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that might separate us from each other. All are invited to join in our shared journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our church.*



### A Thank You For Our Thanksgiving Eve Offering

We are so grateful for your gift of \$1,176.95 received on 12/4/2018. Thank you! The support we receive from friends like you assists us in providing more than **128,000 acts of individual service each year to over 16,700 community members** through our programs and services. I want to share just a few other examples with you of how community support helps your friends and neighbors in need.

**Because of you**, our compassionate volunteers served more than 40,400 hours providing assisted transportation to medical appointments, going grocery shopping for home bound seniors, providing social companionship through friendly visits, and so much more. Neighbors helping neighbors!

**Did you know** that more than 500 individuals call Benevilla CARES Resource Specialists each month and are helped to identify, understand and use available community resources?

**And thanks to your generosity** Benevilla monthly caregiver support groups offer resources, support and friendship to over 2,000 attendees throughout their caregiving journey.

We must admit, the challenges are great, but **YOUR gift just made our job a little easier and helped so many!**

**Shepherd of the Hills  
United Methodist Church**

13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West AZ 85375-3730  
A Stephen Ministry Church serving  
Sun City West, Sun City Grand and the West Valley

**Congregational Care Team**

Reverend Deborah Lerner..... Senior Pastor  
Reverend Alma Aguirre-Olivares..... Associate Pastor  
Reverend Lee Hirt..... Associate Pastor  
Esther Vallet, RN.....Parish Nurse

Deb Phillips.....Lay Leader  
Julie Calvert.....Accounting  
Bill Ampere.....Office Administrator

**Music Ministry**

Ken Goodenberger..... Director  
Bill Moore.....Musician

Office telephone .....623-584-2280  
FAX .....623-584-1868  
Pastor on call for emergencies.....623-584-7642  
Prayer Request Line .....623-584-2922

**Partners in Prayer:** Please send prayer requests to:  
prayers@shepherdofthehills.org  
Email: church@shepherdofthehills.org  
Website: shepherdofthehills.org

**IRA Charitable Donations**

**Save on Your Taxes  
& Help SHUMC!**

If you are 70.5 years old, you are eligible to use Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) to make a direct payment from your IRA to a charitable organization. The amount of these direct donations count toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, but are NOT considered earned (taxable) income thereby saving on your Federal Income Taxes.

Want to Reduce Your Taxes?

- \*\*You are a good QCD Candidate if you can afford to donate IRA money, and you can benefit tax-wise if you match one or more of the following profiles
- \*\*You don't itemize deductions
- \*\*You want to avoid being taxed on the required minimum distribution (RMD) amount that you must take from your IRA
- \*\*You are looking for a quick and easy estate tax reduction strategy.

**HOSPITALIZATION NOTIFICATION  
PROCEDURE**

All members and friends of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church are urged to **IMMEDIATELY CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (623-584-2280)** when you or a loved one are admitted to or discharged from the hospital.

**The Shepherd's Voice**

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**Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church**  
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Articles: church@sheperdothehills.org  
Address corrections:  
church@shepherdofthehills.org

**Article deadline for February issue  
Friday, January 18, 2019**

**GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS**

Almost daily we are hearing about more situations of gun violence ... in churches, schools, wherever crowds are gathered.

The Desert Southwest Conference adopted a resolution making all church campuses gun-free zones and encouraging congregations to study and discuss ways to respond to Gun Violence as committed Christians.

On February 2, SHUMC will offer a program called a "Civil Dialogue on Gun Violence" with Geraldine Hills. She is a Certified Civil Dialogue Facilitator and is experienced in facilitating this topic in various venues: churches, schools, community groups. She is a member of Paradise Valley United Methodist.

Join us in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 2, 2019 Snacks will be provided. More information to follow.

The program is a joint initiative of Education Committee and Church and Society.

**HAPPY 2019!  
IMAGINE 40 MORE YEARS!**

# Shepherd's Staff

Dear Friends,

As you receive this we will be moving in to a new year together. This is a season for reflecting on the year just past, giving thanks for all the good things that have come our way; grieving the losses we experienced, and making commitments to make the next year more full of purpose, hope, and the fullness of God's presence.

I hope you will include in your commitments a plan to spend the first part of each day alone with God, reminding yourself of your dependence on the One who made you; and then to walk through the rest of the day reminding yourself of God's presence in every moment. I promise you it will change your life. When you remember that God is as close as the next breath, it is much easier to set aside harmful habits and embrace things that are wholesome and helpful and good.

A significant source of help is available to you in this journey: your community of faith. When we gather with others who are seeking to live more faithfully and vibrantly we are more able to keep our commitments to spiritual growth. The testimony of others trying to follow Jesus helps us find right paths and correct our mistakes in navigation. The sweetness of Christian community sustains the soul and comforts the heart as together we draw nearer the One who loves us.

As we move into 2019 we will provide many choices of "gathering places." I will begin a new sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's book "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope" on January 13. A companion class, under the leadership of John Riddle, will begin Friday January 11 at 10 am, to enhance your experience of the messages and make them real and personal.

Pastor Alma is starting a new 6 week series on Sunday mornings at 10:30 that will be compelling for many: "Can I Trust God with My Health?"

I will begin several new sections of Life Changing Bible Study on Thursdays at 3 PM starting Jan 10 and Fridays at 11 AM beginning Jan 11.

Our Music Director, Ken Goodenberger, will offer a class exploring the stories behind some of our most beloved hymns, on Wednesdays at 1 PM beginning January 9.

Don't miss these awesome opportunities to connect with each other, deepen your relationship with God, and grow your spirit.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor Deborah

## **IMAGINE 40 MORE YEARS!**

In early January, if we know you are a "friend" of SHUMC, you will receive a letter and brochure with a commitment card enclosed, inviting you to participate in our "Imagine 40 More Years" campaign. December 2, 2018 was our 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are entering our 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to Sun City West and beyond! Throughout the year we hope to have special events and remembrances, including the production of an anniversary pictorial directory. Watch for notices of those events as they are planned and carried out.





## UMCOR CUT & SEW.

UMCOR is having a Cut & Sew Day on Monday, January 14, 2019 from 1—3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will begin our drawstring shorts project. If you enjoy sewing and cutting out patterns, we need your help. Please bring scissors and your sewing machines, if possible. We are in need of cotton, broadcloth, flannel or other desirable fabric suited for shorts. Please come and join us in the fun, service and fellowship. Please call Calvin or Karen Slaaen at 480-865-4414, if you have questions.

### MIRIAM CIRCLE

Please join us for Miriam Circle which meets in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. Contact person, Peggy Pollay 623-546-3948.

### CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP Acupuncture Presentation

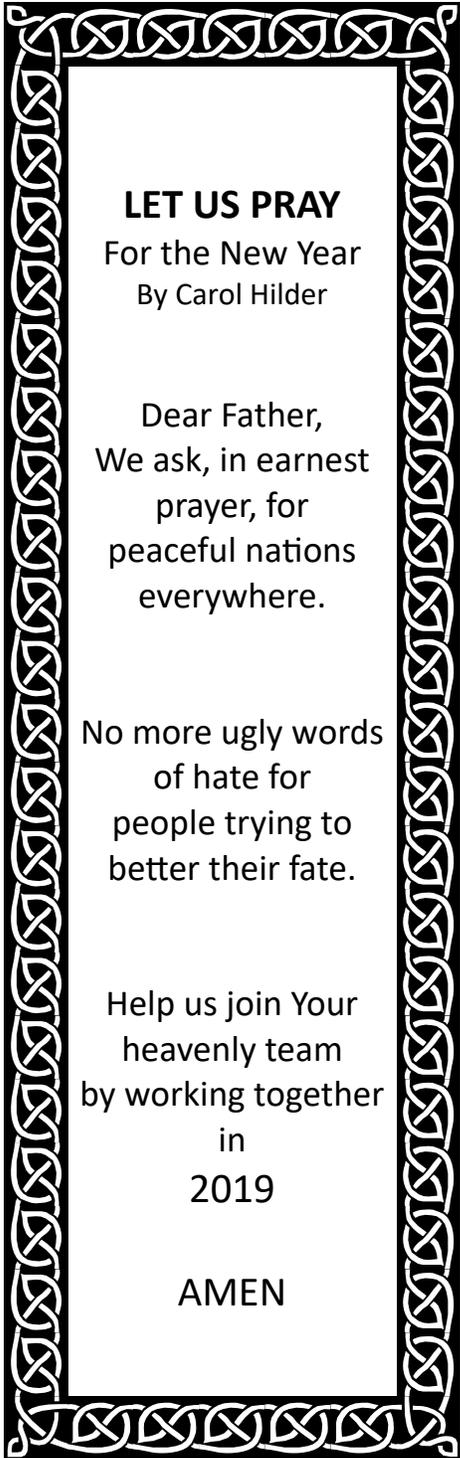
Come join SHUMC's Chronic Pain Support Group  
Guest Speaker: Jodee Chenaur,  
licensed acupuncturist

When: Thursday, January 24, 2019  
Time: 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Meeting Room  
Open to the community  
Contact Person: Carolyn Hicklin 515-979-2861

## THANK YOU!

I would like to say a special "THANK YOU" to the Health & Welfare Committee, the Crescent Friendship group and the many friends and members of our church who sent notes of sympathy, etc. to me in remembrance of my daughter's passing. It was so much appreciated.

Bobbie Loverink



**LET US PRAY**

For the New Year  
By Carol Hilder

Dear Father,  
We ask, in earnest  
prayer, for  
peaceful nations  
everywhere.

No more ugly words  
of hate for  
people trying to  
better their fate.

Help us join Your  
heavenly team  
by working together  
in  
2019

AMEN



*50th Wedding Anniversary*

If you are celebrating your 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2019, please consider being part of our Church 50th Wedding Celebration. This will take place February 10, 2019 at the 9:00 a.m. service. Call Gail Krasean at 623-975-6611 to get more information and add your name to the list.

**St. Mary's Food Bank—January Focus on Mission**

During January the focus on our mission program will be St. Mary's Food Bank. In addition to distributing emergency food, St. Mary's offers several other programs, including Community Kitchen, CK Catering, Child Nutrition program that includes Kid's Café and a Back-Pack program, and Citrus Gleaning. On the 3rd Thursday of each month members of our congregation sort donated food at St. Mary's in Surprise.

During the months of January through March, 2018 we participated in the Gleaning Program and collected 35,980 pounds of citrus from 178 trees. For 2018 St. Mary's program collected 1,079,770 pounds of citrus. All the grapefruit gleaned was sent to a juicing company in Mesa and generated 7,320 gallons of juice. For the 2019 season we have 170 trees to be gleaned. We have volunteers from our congregation, PRIDES of Sun City West and several other people from the community signed up to work each Wednesday morning starting January 23rd. The Mission Committee encourages your financial support for St. Mary's Food Bank during the month of January.

Thank you Shepherd of the Hills for your generous giving of the Christmas Bags for Valley View Food Bank. There were 70 bags returned and they were filled to the brim with Christmas Gifts for Girls and Boys ages 3-12.

Your support of this Mission Project will certainly brighten up many children's Christmas mornings, for some this may be the only Christmas gift they receive.

Jesse from Valley View Food Bank was overjoyed with the gifts and on behalf of the Mission Committee, THANK YOU for your continued generosity.

*Thank You!*

Thank you to the pastors and the congregation for the many prayers and comments of support for me as I volunteered with the American Red Cross following the Camp Fire in Paradise, California. I worked for two weeks in the effort to assist evacuees to begin their recovery. My assignment was with the Reunification Team to try and match people whose names were on the list of the missing with loved ones who were looking for them. Our group was successful in making quite a few matches! The recovery process will be very long and difficult for many people affected by the fire and many agencies and individuals are there to assist them.

- Becky Fay



#### 4. **NEW! Can I Trust God With My Health? With Pastor Alma Aguirre O.**

From a spiritual perspective and practical approach we offer the 6 week study **Can I Trust God With My Health?**

We can all identify with the plight of Job at some time in our lives, whether it is poor health, family problems, a career failure, or some other personal struggle. These valleys have a way of challenging our faith in God's provision and guiding hand. This study invites us to address a variety of questions about health: How does God use pain and suffering in the lives of his children? How do we deal with the stresses of life without letting them negatively affect our health? What can the church do to answer these questions and help those in poor health? Facilitated by Pastor Alma Aguirre-O.

**Sundays at 10:30 A.M.**

**January 13 –February 17, 2019**

**Location TBA**

## In Addition To Our New Winter Classes:

**New! Book Club**—Are you interested in reading and discussing interesting books with fun people? Then maybe you're interested in helping us decide about a SHUMC Book Club.

**Informational meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.**

In order to plan for room scheduling, it would be helpful to know if you're interested.

Walk-ins are welcome.

Mary Jane Banfield (623) 975-2356, banfielde@aol.com

Darlene Bradner (623) 875-0223 dbradner@cox.net



## GriefShare Support Group New Session Starting Soon

**A NEW GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP** will start again in **January 16, 2019** from 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. and it will run for 13-14 weeks. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who understand the issues you face and will work together with you, through one of life's most difficult experiences. It hurts to lose someone you love. Simply going through each day will become easier as you discover that you do not have to go through the grieving process alone. More information coming soon.

### Exploring Membership

If you have questions about this church, or think you might want to join, our next **Exploring Membership class** will be **Thursday, January 17th, 2019 at 10:00 AM.** in Fellowship Hall. You can just write EXPLORING on your prayer and presence card or contact the office to let us know you plan to attend.

**January Family Life Dinner**  
**MARIO CARBONI**  
**SHUMC'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**Saturday, January 26, 2019**

Doors Open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. with Program Following.



Mario Carboni is a phenomenal musician, who plays the piano and trumpet. His music is country western, honky tonk, Louisianan Saturday Night. He played with Merle Haggard and all over the country. Tickets for catered dinner and performance **\$16** are available at the SHUMC office until January 21st and between Sunday services at Kiosk on January 13 & 20.

#### **MENU**

**Fruit Salad, Jicama & Black Bean Salad, Southwest Grilled Chicken, Garden Rice Pilaf, Corn O'Brien, Rolls & Butter, and Assorted Desserts**

Call Gail Krasean for Group Table Reservations for Friendship groups, etc. (623) 975-6611



### **Visit to Justa Center & UMOM New Day Center**



The Missions Committee will be sponsoring a visit to Justa Center and UMOM New Day Center if there is enough interest. Our church provides financial support and donations of items to these programs. Justa Center is a day resource center for seniors who are homeless in the metro Phoenix region. UMOM provides shelter, services and affordable housing for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in visiting these programs, please sign up in the church office. Arrangements will be made based on the number of people who want to go on the trip.

-Becky Fay

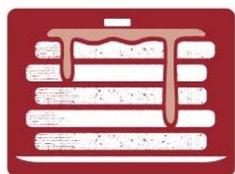


### CITRUS GLEANING-2019

It is that time again as SHUMC prepares to sponsor citrus gleaning for the fourth straight year. Citrus gleaning benefits St. Mary's Food Bank. Gleaning will occur on Wednesday mornings from 9am-11:30am beginning on January 23, 2019. We will glean citrus through Wednesday, March 27, 2019. In addition to all citrus picked, owners of trees gleaned will donate \$25/tree to St. Mary's Food Bank. Last year we picked 35,980 pounds of citrus from 178 trees; and 55 volunteers put in 750 hours of time during the ten weeks.

If individuals need citrus pickers for their own personal use, we will be selling pickers made by Mike Hicklin. The price will be \$15 for a 5-foot picker and \$20 for a 10-foot picker. Proceeds will go to our church's mission program. The congregation's support of this Mission Committee project is appreciated.

If you have questions, please call or email John or Judy Riddle: 623-547-5041 or .jriddle817@cox.net



## SHORT STACKS FOR A TALL CAUSE

You're Invited to an Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser Event to support

**Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church - UMCOR Mission Team**

Tickets: \$8.00 Date: 02/02/2019 Time: 8am - 10am

See organization for ticket purchase prior to event.

For Ticket Purchases Contact  
Calvin Slaaen  
(480) 865-4414  
kslaaen@cox.net

Applebee's Location For Event  
13756 W Bell Rd  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
623-544-0368



### TAI CHI

Series of 8 classes  
in Fellowship Hall  
Beginners 12:15—1:15 p.m.  
Intermediates 11:00—12:00 p.m.  
Jan. 8 - Feb. 26, 2019

Gentle movements and stretches improve balance, circulation and well-being. No floor exercises are involved. Participants must be able to stand and move unassisted. Low impact movements suitable for people of all ages.

\$40 for series of 8 classes.

Sign up at church office, Monday—Friday. Contact person is Esther Frost, 623-544-1873.



**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY WILL BE DECEMBER 2, 2019**

## Tracking the Trustees

**Thank you** for your generous gifts of prayer, time, talent and resources which have made it possible to improve our Church campus this past year. You are touching more lives than you know as we strive to welcome the community to God's love. We look forward to God's direction in 2019 and to the many possibilities for service and progress.

**To improve safety: New hand rails** have been added to the Chancel areas of the Sanctuary and Chapel.

**A new stairway** was built for the VEW both

**Hearing assistance systems**

**Sanctuary** - Hearing assist units with head-phones, ear buds or T-coil loop are available from Tanner in the sound booth for use during the service.

**Chapel** - Hearing assist units are available with head-phones or ear buds. A separate T-coil loop system is in place which allows the audio system to transmit sound directly to hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. Ask an usher for access to the systems.

**Fellowship Hall** - Hearing assist units are available with head-phones, ear buds or T-coil loop. Ask meeting or event staff for access to the systems.

**Projects in planning and in progress:**

**Improvement to the Chapel and Sanctuary sound systems** so that hopefully ALL of the congregation can hear, enjoy and benefit from the services at SHUMC.

**Repair and improvement of the existing desert rock landscaping**

**Updating of the Fellowship Hall kitchen**

**Long range planning for Church campus infrastructure needs and costs**

Blessings in this New Year.

Thank you for your support in 2018.

**UPDATE!**

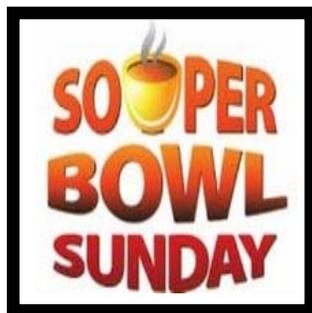
### RUMMAGE SALE

After writing last month's article, I decided I would like to share more information each month about those who make the rummage sale possible and a success. Last month I shared information about some of the groups and the leaders, but this month I need to repeat some information and send out a plea for help. Clark Root has been involved in the rummage sale for years and for 2018, he volunteered to be in charge of pickups. He was assisted by Brad Harrington and Doug Swanson at various times. Doing pickups is a huge and back breaking job at times – especially when large pieces of furniture are involved. In 2018, 45 pickups were done; boxes were transported from the Fellowship Hall to the container on sort and pack days; and of course there is the emptying of the containers for the actual set up. We do hire laborers now to empty the containers and storage units and help with the clean up on Saturday.

This brings us to 2019. In order to continue the pickups, **we need people to volunteer to form a team to respond to requests.** Some pickups are easy, just fit into an SUV. Others require a pickup truck and at times a trailer and 2 – 3 people. We would also like to be able to consolidate pickups, but we recognize that unfortunate circumstances occur and our schedules might not always work for those needing assistance. We are also open to suggestions on a better way to handle pickups.

Should volunteers not step forward we will have to reconsider our ability to accept large donations, which will of course impact the revenues earned each year.

Pat Burke  
623-748-3751 or patburke48@gmail.com



## Souper" Bowl Sunday

The football season is coming to an end, and the Super Bowl is Sunday, February 3, 2019. Many people celebrate with parties, food, and laughter. However, in Maricopa County, more than 623,300 people live in poverty. Twenty-six percent of those living in poverty are children. Nearly 1,138,000 are "working poor". Arizona is tied as the fifth worst state in the U.S. for overall food insecurity. One in four children, one in five adults, and one in seven seniors struggle with hunger.

The Mission Committee is asking for your help. Please bring cans of soup, dried beans, split peas, rice or any of your favorite soup fixings during the month of January. You can bring these items to the narthex or a box near the office. Valley View Food Bank's shelves are sparse and they need our help. Let's make Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> a great day for everyone!

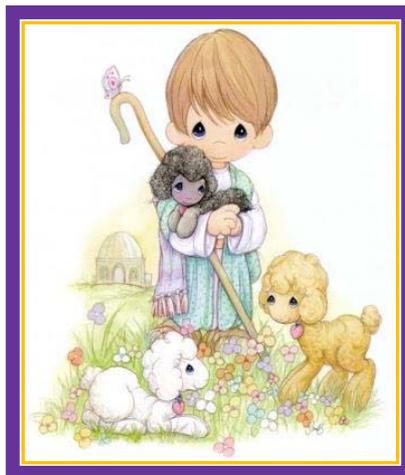
### IN MEMORIAM

Roberta Graham  
11/5/2018

Parker, Beverly  
11/19/2018

Zinnel, Sharon  
11/22/2018

Fraking, Josephine  
"Jo"  
12/3/2018



### SHEPHERD'S SHEEP CAMPAIGN

ADOPT A SHEEP FOR \$20 A  
MONTH FOR ONE YEAR TO  
ASSIST IN PAYING  
APPORTIONMENTS.

Contact: Carolyn Hicklin, Deb  
Phillips or Julie Calvert for  
more information.

A big Thank You to everyone  
who have adopted 65 sheep,  
to assist in paying \$15,600 in  
apportionments

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church  
13658 W. Meeker Boulevard  
Sun City West AZ 85375-3750  
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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER  
PROMPTLY**

Page 12

The Shepherd's Voice

January 2019

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturdays 4:00 p.m., "Sweet Hour of Prayer" - in the Chapel  
Sundays, 9:00 a.m. "Spirited Traditional Worship" - in the Sanctuary  
Sundays, 10:45 a.m. "Informal Praise Worship" - in the Sanctuary  
Coffee Hour between Sunday services in Fellowship Hall! Come Join us.  
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGES!**

Jan. 5-6, 2019	<b>"A New Place to Start"</b> Epiphany – Communion Matthew 2:1-12 Isaiah 60:1-6
Jan. 12-13, 2019	<b>New Series Begins: Unafraid</b> Understanding and Countering Fear
Jan. 19-20, 2019	<b>Unafraid: Facing Our Fear of Crime,</b> Terrorism, Politics
Jan. 26-27, 2019	<b>Unafraid: Facing Our Fear of</b> Disappointing Others



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Open Hearts*

*Open Minds*

*Open Doors*

*See you at worship Saturday  
evening or Sunday morning!*