

SEPTEMBER
2008



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM JOHN CROSS TO SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As the busy fall season approaches, I am sending you greetings and heartfelt prayers for the ministry that you are carrying out at Shepherd of the Valley. I have had the privilege of being a part of your mission over the past several months as we worked together on the **"Building on Christ, Our Foundation"** capital campaign. I am very proud of you for the amazing ways that you have persevered over the past couple of years, keeping your congregation strong during times of great difficulty, transition and uncertainty. The early results of the capital campaign have shown your continued faith for the future of SOV. By the end of the 3-year giving period I am confident that you will reach the "stretch goal" that you set for yourselves. Thanks be to God!

As part of my continuing work with you, I will be on site from time to time to meet with campaign leaders in our effort to maintain the momentum toward your goal of building a new sanctuary and remodeling the existing building. In addition, I will be writing an article for your newsletter 4 times a year.

Please take a few minutes and reflect on the following stewardship message that is based on Scripture - 1 Chronicles 29:9-18. I encourage you to read this passage for yourselves.

The Lord bless and keep you!

Pastor John Cross

In 1 Chronicles David makes an impassioned speech to all the people in one of the most detailed descriptions of fundraising in the Bible. In his speech, David describes Seven Steps in Giving which would enable the people to build the house of the Lord so they can be free to pursue God's purposes for them - to be worshipping, sharing, giving, people whose hearts and minds are set on loving and serving the Lord.



John Cross letter (cont.)

While David's words are a call for a freewill offering to fund the building of the temple, they also speak to us about our hearts as we seek to live out God's purposes in our lives.

Step 1: Remember for whom we are building.

David says (1 Chronicles 29:1), "The work is great; for the temple will not be for mortals but for the Lord God."

The first step on the path to success is staying focused on God. This is true whether we are trying to build a life, a marriage, a building or a church. We are building for God. In life we want to be seeking and discerning the Lord's will and acting on it because we want God to be glorified through us and for God's purposes to be served.

Step 2: Give a gift yourself before asking others to give.

In verse 2 David says, "I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able."

The biblical principle is you don't ask anyone else to give sacrificially until you do....When we give what we're able to give to God and to others - we will be amazed at what can happen. Greatness is rarely if ever achieved by half-hearted effort or by giving 50% of what we're capable of giving - whether we're talking about love or energy or anything else.

Step 3: Give With Devotion.

1 Chronicles 29:3 reads, "I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God."

Step 4: Give willingly as an act of consecration and discipleship.

After describing the fortune that he was giving to build the temple, then David asks everyone else, "Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?"

Whether we have a lot or a little to give, the important thing is to give willingly as an expression of our consecrating ourselves to God. Someone (R.G. Le Tourneau) said many years ago,

"It's not what you'd do with a million
if riches should e'er be your lot.
But what you're doing at present
With the dollar and a quarter you've got."

Step 5: Give Freely.

1 Chronicles 29:9 says, "The people rejoiced because the leaders had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord."

Step 6: Give because everything is God's anyway.

This is such an important truth to understand that it is mentioned three times in verses 11, 14, and 16.

John Cross letter (cont.)

"For all that is in the heavens and on earth is yours; all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. All this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own."

The Bible teaches us to live with open hands, not grasping onto money or things too tightly because everything we have is on loan to us from God and one day will belong to someone else or at the transfer station. As the saying goes,

"Money can buy a bed, but not rest
food, but not satisfaction
luxury, but not contentment
stock, but not security
a house, but not a home
a church, but not a mission.
But what money cannot buy,
God offers as a free gift."

Step 7: Give Freely and Joyously.

David says to God in verse 17, "I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you."

There is a story about a boy who loved to find sand dollars on the beach, which as you probably know, are smooth and pretty and come in different colors. He would search diligently for them every day.

Once or twice a summer he and his cousin would walk the beach at sunrise and find dozens and dozens of sand dollars. Some would be gray, white, speckled or sand-colored. The most exciting part was the joy of finding the sand dollar. The thrill was in the discovery.

It wasn't long before their cottage was filled with sand dollars. The best ones adorned the mantle over the fireplace. They eventually had an apple bushel basket full of them. But one can only accumulate so many sand dollars for one's self. How many do you really need?

How much is more than enough?

As the boy got older he began doing something different. When he found sand dollars, he would look for someone beach combing, preferably a child. Then he would walk in front of them and discreetly and carefully leave the sand dollar for them to discover. He could have just handed them out to people, but that would deprive people of the joy of discovery and a sense of accomplishment. The look of delight on a child's face, the squeal of excitement, is more valuable and enjoyable than having a basket of sand dollars gathering dust at home.

John Cross letter (cont.)

All of us would get more joy watching someone else find the sand dollar than finding it ourselves. In the same way, we discover happiness by giving - of ourselves, our time and our possessions. And one of the great joys that you have as part of the community of faith at SOV is sharing with others the amazing grace of knowing Jesus Christ.

"The **Building on Christ, Our Foundation** campaign is a 3-year program. Thanks to everyone who has

generously participated so far, we are off to a good start. For those of you who have returned your Response Cards, thank you for your commitment! Your faithful giving will help us meet our goal. For those of you who have not yet responded to the campaign, it is not too late! Extra Response Cards are available at church and you may give any time during the next three years. For everyone - please continue to pray for the future of SOV, your beloved congregation!"

Continue to "Build on Christ - **Your** Foundation!"

Getting to know you—Sandeep Jonnakuti...submitted by Ann Smith

Sandeep came from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh India. Sandeep has one brother and one sister. He now works at Nike as a software engineer. He received his Bachelor's degree in Engineering from a college in India. He then went to Germany and got his Masters of Science. Of course, he also had to learn the German language to get his degree.

Sandeep is 29 years old and has been very active in his Lutheran church in India. He is now on a trip to India to visit family and while there, he plans on visiting the orphanages near his home. He will take some children's books with him (some from SOV) to share with the children.

We have been very lucky to get to know Sandeep and he has certainly been an active member of SOV.



Street scene in Guntur



The [Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly](#)

A Day at the Beach...submitted by James Graham

How many of you had the chance to get away this year to the beach? I have been twice this summer, once at July 4th and again last Sunday. The ocean is a very powerful and special place for me as I know it is for many of you. A place to recharge my batteries as Kurt was fond of saying, to unwind and be amazed all over again at the glory of creation. This was not an affluent summer for me as I was out of work for several months. So I was concerned with how I was going to be able to keep my promise to my friends from Burundi that I would show them the ocean. Desire had told me that he had seen the ocean before while in Tanzania. However the other fourteen family members had never seen more water than the Columbia as I had taken half of them to the I-5 bridge nearly a year ago. We had only a small window around everyone's work schedules and so planned to make the trip on Sunday. Mert loaned us her van and we met at Prosper's apartment at 6 am. We were on the road by 7 am, no small feat with 16 people and two vans, and arrived in Seaside at 8:30 am, it was foggy and cool. Yes, I was once again amazed at the glory of creation but nothing like the amazement on the faces of my friends. Soon we were running in and out of the waves as low tide was starting back in, everyone had a good splash and then a dash to warm dry clothes. We played volley ball and flew kites. Had a picnic on blankets in the dunes and some of us took naps. By 1 pm the kites fell out of the sky and a storm rolled in with lightning and thunder. Packed up and ready to roll by 2 pm left us a half hour in our tight schedule for the boardwalk and bumper cars. We were home by 4 pm so that Regina could be at work on time. We all need to be reminded that there is more to life than getting kids to appointments and running the many errands that come with large families. I am so blessed to have the pleasure of showing others a few of the things that are dear to me like teddy bears parachuting from kites and smell of the sea. I was asked why is the water so salty, where did the salt come from, what thing is this as I am handed a silver dollar or a clam shell. The blessings of this life are many and varied. I hope that you can get out and experience some of God's grandeur this summer and take along a friend to share your joy.

Grace and Peace, James

SOCIAL CONCERNS...submitted by Mert Warneking

Outreach for July

We spent 223 hours and 682 miles on our projects. We were given \$600 in furniture, clothing, etc.

We gave out 11 food baskets at a cost of \$141 and spent \$28 on refugees and \$670 on backpacks.

We did 186 backpacks and still need at least \$250 to pay for all the contents. Bob McFall gave us the backpacks, or we couldn't have done so many.

Sandeep left for India last week and took the Christian children's books with him (see story pg. 4).

Care to Share is having their auction on October 19th at 4:30 p at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and have asked for anything that they could sell at the auction. If you have anything, or know someone who does, let me know. Care to Share is the organization that screens all our requests for food baskets. In the past, we have donated several things for the auction. The Lutheran Community Service annual dinner will be October 25th. I will have more information later which I will put in the bulletin. Also, if you would like to go, please let me know.

There was a really nice article in the PCC Communities magazine about Saara Hirsi. Saara is the young blind woman who we helped since she arrived in 2002. She is absolutely amazing. She got her GED recently and has volunteered a number of places and recently has been working at Nike. I think you will enjoy reading the article on the Social Concerns bulletin board in the Rainbow Room.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

September 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Looking out my window, I see gray clouds with patches of blue in between. I see a frontloader moving a dirt pile near the church driveway. I see school buses out on practice runs.... All these are small signs of transition that has begun, but has not yet been completed. The late-August rain we've experienced is out of character for this time of year, yet it gives us a hint that fall is just around the corner. The seemingly endless construction on Cornell Road actually seems to be progressing; do we dare to hope that it will be completed before bad weather sets in?! And the yellow school buses out on their practice runs remind us that the spontaneity of summer will give way to the routine of school next week.

Some of us are ready to get back to the rhythm of school and the fall season again. As with most congregations, here at Shepherd of the Valley September signals the beginning of a new program year. Rally Day, September 7th, will be a day for welcoming newcomers into the community and for greeting old friends who have been away on vacation. We'll get back to the routine of Sunday School on September 14th, but both kids and adults will be using a new curriculum to help us better understand Scripture.

While many of us crave routine, I think all of us here at Shepherd of the Valley are acutely aware that this fall promises to be anything but routine in the life of the congregation. You are in the middle of a call process for a new pastor, and it is hard work. Together we are engaged in the hard work of listening to each other and listening for God's direction in the midst of the community. As a congregation, you have many strong and gifted members, and you do not always agree. That's pretty normal when you have many strong and gifted people in the same place! Yet in my almost seventeen months with you I have found that you DO agree on what's most important: You agree that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Church, you all care deeply about Shepherd of the Valley, and you all come together to love and support each other in times of need. As your mission statement says, you are "a caring community, touched by Christ, touching others for Christ."

No matter how strong or how gifted we are, none of us individually has a monopoly on truth; we are all finite beings who see from our own limited individual perspectives. As a community we are not perfect, either. Yet amazingly our Lord promises to be with us when we gather as a community in his name, and I am convinced that the fact that Christ is in the midst of this community will help you get through the call process and find the leader that is right for SOV at this time. Notice that I didn't say you would find a "perfect" pastor; there's no such thing! As one of my colleagues in interim ministry is fond of saying, "You are not a perfect people, and you are not going to get a perfect pastor!" I do believe, however, that you can get a very good pastor who will lead SOV into the future God is preparing for you even now.

To our human eyes, things may seem rather muddy at present, but remember that even though we can't yet see it, our God does have a plan for SOV: a plan for your well-being, to give you a future filled with hope. I urge you to come to the congregational Town Hall meeting on September 7th both to listen and to let your voice be heard. In the meantime, please pray for the call process, that the Holy Spirit's guidance may become clear to the people of SOV. Pray for the call committee, your council members, the pastoral candidate who is being considered, and for the whole congregation that we may listen to each other in love and discern God's will for SOV together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Michelle

Around the parish....submitted by Ann Smith

- Traveling Ladies Society has another trip to report. Mert Warneking went to Branson, Missouri to meet with the “Angel Bottoms”, a group of women from Hastings Nebraska College. They have kept in touch with each other since 1950 when they entered college. Once a year, they have a reunion somewhere. There were 14 of them when they started. They posted their names on the dorm rooms with diapers and their names printed on them. Mert got home all in one piece.
- The women of SOV met at Wan Q’s restaurant the evening of 19th of August for their monthly get-together dinner. We had a dozen ladies there. Amid all the chit-chat, we enjoyed supper. Charlene asked for suggestions for future dinners. All are welcome to join us (if you are a lady) and maybe we will let you in even if you are not a lady!
- Noticed at the cleanup Saturday evening after the rummage sale, Corrine and Vasala were bare-foot—working away at cleaning and when finished and ready to leave, they could not find their shoes. You know how excited Corrine gets. Well, the shoes had been packed away with the left-overs from the rummage sale. The shoes were found and returned to the ladies so they were able to get home dressed as they came. Does that surprise any of you? Did she tell Larry?
One of the surprises at the rummage sale was the donated doll house—about 50 years old. Verna Wik re-painted, papered and added little touches to make it pretty. What fun! Now let us hope some young child will enjoy playing with it. We got a standing bid of \$100—not too bad!
- James Graham took the refugee families to the beach this last week-end. (See story pg. 5). Wouldn’t you like to know what those kids thought of that? I hope it as a real thrill for them. We will have to ask James how they reacted to all that sand and water. Were they surprised?
- Have any of you been downstairs to see what has happened to KOK? The cleanup is beautiful, all the work that has been done downstairs is something else—new carpet, sinks, new paint. Go see for yourself! I think we need to say thanks to some one or two.
- Do any of your remember the fish carving? We have the middle piece but are missing the groups on either side. I believe there are four pieces missing. I did find a picture with it in the background. If you know anything about it would you let me know? Any ideas of where the missing fish could be?
- Funeral service for Julie Zetterberg’s father was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sherwood. What a beautiful church and a lovely, touching service. The church was filled with a good number of members form SOV present.
- Our candidates for pastor gave a talk, we sang a few songs and had some treats to eat. There was a good turnout. Now don’t you think our applicants should be willing to answer a few questions, i.e.?:
 1. Are you a gardener? How do you feel about watering plants?
 2. Do you have any painting skills? Can you operate a paint roller?
 3. Do you have a straight eye for lining up the chairs in the church?
 4. How do you feel about working weekends?
 5. Have you read the Bible yet?
 6. Are you a morning or a night person?

**** JUST KIDDING ****

“The trouble with most people is that they will not admit to their faults. Lutherans would if they had any!”

OUR NEW HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM...submitted by Ann Smith

The system is stored in the black box at the ushers station. Currently we have 8 assisted hearing devices. Each ear piece/headset has a small receiver and each receiver has its own volume control. You do not have to remove your hearing aide (if you have one). All of these units are re-chargeable. They are stored in the charger during the week or during down time. Any time the sound system is on they are available for your use. If we find that we need more than the 8 units we now have, they can be ordered.

After each use, but sure to leave the unit at the ushers station. The ear unit will be cleaned after each use. The antenna is mounted in the ceiling in the Rainbow Room. We will be able to use these in our new addition.

The cost was approximately \$1500 but there was a gift of \$150 and Peggy Vermaas applied for a Thrivent donation of \$1350 which brought our cost to \$0—no expense incurred.

Special thanks to Matt Kotvis for his efforts to get us a good price through his company discount. Also to Jim Tabor for the installation and Arden Tarum and Tom Barnes for consultation and James Graham for project lead.

SOV Sermons Go Global With Weekly Podcast...submitted by Terry Wagemann

Like it or not, we live in a digital age. To some, it makes life easier as we are more connected. To others, it makes life crazier and more chaotic. Whatever your view on the digital age, I invite you to take a look at SOV's weekly sermon podcast.

According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, a podcast is "a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar program, made available on the Internet for downloading to a personal audio player," or listening to on a computer. In our case, the broadcast is the weekly sermon. After a couple of years playing with podcasting at SOV, we now have a system in place to automatically record and place our weekly sermons on the Internet. More precisely, our podcasts are placed on the SOV home page, www.sovlutheran.com. At our home page, look on the left side for the heading SOV Podcasts. Find the date and time you wish to listen to, and then click to listen.

For me personally, this type of digital ministry is huge. Living in Japan, I can enjoy the weekly podcast (some call it a Godcast) to not only hear the sermon, but to feel connected to Shepherd when I can't be there. Through the podcast, I can 'be at Shepherd' while in Japan, or whatever country I am in as I travel. And on a recent Sunday when my mother, living in Aloha, was not able to attend services, she was able to keep connected to Shepherd by listening to that week's sermon, announcements and all! For her, the best part was hearing some of her favorite 'peppy songs'. How wonderful to be at home and enjoy our choir's beautiful singing!

So whatever your feelings toward the digital age, this is one instance when technology's use is selective and beneficial to many. This digital connection is invaluable to me! A gigantic thank you goes out to Tom Barnes, James Graham, Joe Hoffbeck, Arden Tarum, Aaron Zahrowski, and Bob McFall. And as Aaron recently commented, this was one of Pastor Kurt's 'techie' wishes which we started working on with him.

PS: Will streaming video be our next digital ministry offering?

Blessings, Terry Wagemann



RUMMAGE SALE....SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH

Here we are at the Rummage Sale Oympic's held at SOV in Portland.

The temp has been in the 100's and all of the participants are tired and sweaty. The first event was the Book Fair. We had over 500 books ready for reading or selling. Mike Maynard took the first leg of the event by getting it listed on e-BAY. Later on we had 5 full boxes pulled and ready to go to a local used book store by Reed College.

Second event was the Bake Sale. All of those award-winning cupcakes and cookies were sold by our girls, Solveig Rasmussen, Chelsea Plinke and Katrina Tabor.

Third event was the Hot Dog Sale out in the parking lot. Trevor McDonald and Gunnar Rasmussen took turns running that event. I have to say that Austin and

Marissa McDonald helped in many ways—whatever you asked them to do they did with a smile.

Then we had Jonathan Ramsey-Barnes manning the legos and Adrian help with the jewelry sales.

The Rebekah women wore the red aprons made by Betty Stoltenburg. When they came marching in to the music, everyone stood back in awe. They took their stations one by one and announced "IT IS TIME FOR THE SALES TO BEGIN".

The sales were held on Friday, Aug. 15th and Sat., Aug. 16th. We will guess that we had about 200 visitors during this time period.

Peggy Vermaas and Staff Breed brought over their vacation trailer and stayed on the grounds during the sale.



"They took their stations one by one and announced 'IT IS TIME FOR THE SALES TO BEGIN'".

We cannot list all of the members who earned Gold over this two-day event, but congratulations to all who helped with making this a successful event for SOV.

We earned about \$3,000.00.

(Through the Rummage Sale, we received another vacuum cleaner for use here at the church. It only took 7 people to figure out how to turn it on. I wonder if that was why it was donated??)



Bryce & Andrea Gorven
Alastair, Lyndall & Jeffrey

GOODBYE AND GOODLUCK

The Gorven family, Bryce, Andrea, Alastair, Lyndall & Jeffrey, members of Shepherd, have moved to Idaho, just outside Boise. We wish them the best of luck in their new venture. They will be missed by many folks here at Shepherd of the Valley!

Rebekah Circle meets
Thursday, Sept. 4th at
11:15 a finishing the
study of water session 3.
Bring brown bag lunch.

PICNIC COMING SOON TO SOV

On Sunday, Sept. 7th—Rally Day—there will be a picnic after the 11:00 a church service at SOV.

Beverages, hamburgers, hotdogs and tableware will be provided.

If you last name begins with **A-L**, please bring

either baked beans or a veggie tray. If you last name begins **M-Z**, please bring either a fruit tray or cookies.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

RALLY DAY—SEPTEMBER 7TH

is Sept. 7th On Sept. 7th for both services (8:30 a and 11:00 a) we celebrate the beginning of the program year with our traditional Rally Day services. This year the SOV youth choir will sing for us as well as the Soggy Bottom Beaverdam boys. In

addition, Peli the Pelican will make one of his rare appearances. The ushering, offertory and readings will all be carried out by our youth. So come worship and enjoy a great time of fun and fellowship with your SOV family



"In addition, Peli the Pelican will make one of his rare appearances."

SOV CHOIR/YOUTH CHOIR

TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE SOV CHOIR

1. We have no auditions.
2. You don't have to "know how" to sing. Just come and let the Lord use you.
3. You get to fellowship every week with spectacular people.
4. It is fun!
5. You are guaranteed at least two (or three) worship experiences each week.
6. You will grow spiritually.
7. It is good physical exercise.
8. We NEED you.
9. It is a vital ministry of our church and a chance to serve.
10. Jesus loves to hear you (and us) sing!



Rehearsals begin Wednesday,
September 3rd at 7:00 pm—
SEE YOU THERE!

OUR SOV YOUTH CHOIR begins its' second year after a very successful beginning year. On Saturday, September 13th, we take a trip to **ENCHANTED FOREST** in Salem. Meet at the church at 10:00 am. Each child's admission will be paid for; adults are on their own!

Choir practice begins on **Tuesday, Sept. 16th at 6:30 pm**. ALL kids ages 5-12 are welcome. If you are interested, please see Kevin Cope or call him at (503) 690-0385. Ask any of last year's members and they will tell you that they had a fun and worshipful time living out our motto of:

"COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING!"

Rummage Sale....submitted by Peggy Vermaas

Here is a summary of the rummage sale for this year.

Totals: The total proceeds from the sale are as follows: The Doll House remodeled by Verna Wik brought in \$100.00. Youth Hot Dog Sale \$78.00; Youth Cupcake Sale \$76.25; Jewelry \$100.00; Sale of merchandize \$3119.38 after all expenses paid. Expenses ran about \$500.00.

What Went Well: We received many positive comments on the sale. Several members reported to like the pre-collection process so that they had the option to clean out their cupboards in stages and not feel pressed to do everything at once. That allowed the committee to have some ideas of what goods were available for sale. The pre-collection and the off site storage of goods by Verna Wik and Helen Jean Tegner helped minimize the disruption of the sanctuary. Our advertisement provided by the McDonald family brought in folks both from the ads and from the posted signs. We had a good response for donations and had very good quality merchandise for sale. The aprons made by Betty Stoltenburg helped to identify SOV staff to the customers and, again, customers reported that they appreciated being able to know who to ask when they had questions. Table and Sanctuary signs made by Debbie Zahrowski brought order to tables in the Sanctuary. Marty McDonald and Larry Gilbertson and their gang of assistants were again efficient at getting the goods out of storage and delivered to

SOV. Tammy McDonald arranged for us to have a temporary Restaurant Permit for the food services offered (the hot dogs and the cupcakes) and we were inspected by the health department promptly on Friday morning. Good thing we had our ducks in line. Connie McFall provided the hot dogs, buns, pop, and supplies. The sale of hot dogs, legos and cupcakes by the Youth was well received by the public and SOV members. The performance of the Transport Trio was wonderful and customers were invited to watch our website for concert news. Ann Smith and Bob McFall anchored the cashier positions and Tammy McDonald, Connie and Bob McFall served as our bankers.

Kids of the Kingdom staff and parents took advantage of the early shopping opportunity and we earned about \$600.00 on Thursday before the public sale. We saved back the following items for church use: four new clocks for Kids of the Kingdom, one for the Pastor's office and two for both upstairs bathrooms; several pictures and plants for use in decorating SOV; a table for use as the social table in the sanctuary; new pans for the kitchen; a new vacuum cleaner to have as a backup cleaner; a new futon/couch and swivel rocker completing the upgrade of the furniture for the Youth room upstairs; a new chair for the Parish nurse area and one for the Sanctuary. We got rid of several old pieces of furniture, office items, and unwanted KOK supplies. So, our closets are fairly clean and we have

completed replacing the furniture items that have been needed for some time.

Problems: Due to the hot temperatures, we did not have as many customers this year which was a factor in our total earnings. It also made the sale environment very uncomfortable for the SOV staff working and the customers that attended. As a result, our profits were down. The Aloha Rotary took some of the remains; the Viet Nam Veteran's organization took some and the remainder went in two loads to the dump. We had unexpected rain which affected the clean up of the remaining goods. We can't control the weather and it worked against us both with the heat and then the rain.

No Plan for the future: The committee has no plan for another rummage sale at this time. We did not have adequate staff coverage to help prepare for the sale or to run a sale. That left a few folks working long hours in extreme temperatures. While the rummage sale, by history, has yielded the highest fund raising return, it also requires a lot of planning, preparation, and participation. At this time SOV has other projects that need to be a priority for our time and energy.

Thanks to all: Thanks to all of you who participated in the sale. Special thanks to our youth and their parents for their contribution of positive energy and creative ideas and to the folks who served on the committee.

"We had a good response for donations and had very good quality merchandise for sale."

SOV Town Hall Meeting! Sunday September 7, 12:30 PM

A time for sharing and caring...submitted by Diane Lewis

Sunday, September 7, will be a busy day in the life of Shepherd of the Valley. We will be celebrating with Rally Day, Church Picnic and a Town Hall meeting!

The church council in co-operation with the Call Committee has organized a Town Hall meeting for September 7, to be held in conjunction with our annual picnic. We hope to have as many members share in these events as possible.

The Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to enable us to share more information about where our congregation is in the call process. The Call Committee will clarify and provide more information about the pastoral candidate that the Call committee is recommending for Shepherd of the Valley and to be able to answer questions from the congregation. This is also a forum for members to share with the congregation their concerns, their excitement and to look at where we are according to our congregational profile.

If you are unable to attend and have questions or comments that you would like to share please call or email any of the Call Committee members or anyone on church council. We will also be recording our Town Hall meeting for anyone that cannot attend. Your church council and Call Committee are very committed to listening to the congregation as we go forward in our call process.

The Town Hall meeting is an open, informational, sharing and caring opportunity for our congregation that we hope will provide another avenue of having open dialogue with each other. We will not be voting on any issue or candidate at this event.

Please continue to pray for our congregation, for the pastoral candidate that is being considered and for the hard working Call Committee as we all come together for what God has planned for us as a family of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley. Let this continue to be a time that we go to God, asking,



“The Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to enable us to share more information about where our congregation is in the call process.”

“Lord, please guide and direct us in your will and in your time”.

Another Stewardship opportunity!

Our newspaper drop box!...submitted by Diane Lewis

Let's fill our newspaper drop box as often as we can! It's a great Stewardship opportunity and an easy way to help our general fund budget! Why not ask your neighbors or co workers to save papers for you to drop off when you come to church? This is another way our kids can participate with helping their church. Wouldn't it be fun to know we are calling the drop box company at least once a month to exchange it for an empty drop box to refill?