

Shared at Shadow Rock UCC
August 7, 2011
Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Welcome Back to everyone!

Compelling Invitation
Word of Mouth

As we come back after our time away in July it is easy for our hearts and minds to visit all the meanings and feelings of welcoming each other. We exchange some nice pleasantries and there is a great deal we take for granted as we return to a safe place and a safe people.

Airport Welcome Video

The people who were singled out and welcomed were at first surprised and wary, guarded and a little bit distrustful. However, it did not take long for them to warm up to the experience and feel a great deal of gratitude. The power of welcoming is the power to open up to a whole new world of possibility.

This is what is happening in the Jesus story today. Some people had a profound experience in the company of a man named Jesus from Nazareth. They heard him speak. They sensed his genuineness and the fullness of his authentic humanity. It resonated with something deep inside of them. They sensed that in his company their deepest fears and desires could at least be acknowledged. In his company they had hope and they sensed that healing of their lives was possible. They wanted some more and they could not resist inviting and welcoming others. They were compelled by the invitation, "Come and See!"

Jr. High Humor. Come where and see what? What are you eating under there? UNDER-WHERE? Ha, ha, you eat underwear!

Come and see is a compelling invitation and I think it is the nature of how many of you first came to Shadow Rock. Someone said to you, "Come and see!"

Someone in one way or another said, "Come and See!"
Somehow, whether through the internet or through word of mouth, the invitation and welcome was made, "Come and See!"

Come where and see what?

Our message is not so different from the one of Jesus.

Come where? Come to Shadow Rock.

See what?

- Children and youth learning about human sexuality that promotes the values of health, compassion, respect, and responsibility through the “Our Whole Lives” program.
- Our most mature friends and members having fun and supporting each other and the work of our church through Older Boulders.
- A place and a people with the values and vision that celebrates the coexistence and cooperation of independent Catholics, reformed Jews, African Refugees, Atheists, non-theists, and theists.
- A Whole Life Center that offers the exploration and formation of alternative healing methods.
- Extended Children’s Education Programming
- Confirmation
- Sharpening the Saw., i.e. social media
- Celebrating diversity, affirming inclusion, working for social justice
- JAAZ
- St. Teresa’s Independent Catholic Church
- Temple Gan Elohim
- Passing the Peace in worship
- AA
- AlAnon
- Prayer Shawl Ministry & Empowerment
- Shadow Rock Preschool
- Thinking of You cards
- Sending Forth on Sundays
- Children’s Education
- Adult Education
- Relational Groups
- Men’s Breakfast
- Women’s Breakfast
- Ministry Teams
- Beauty of the Campus
- Peaceful
- Claiming PJD
- Variety of Adult Education
- Presence at the Pride Wedding Expo
- Show & Tell Sundays
- Created in God’s Image

- First Sunday Intergenerational Education Experience
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Festival Garden
- Open to the Community
- Best Buddies Prom
- Whole Life Center
- Facilities Improvement Fund
- Transparency of Leadership
- The Rock-It
- The Labyrinth
- Coffee Chat
- Handicapped Accessibility
- Camp
- Mission Trip
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Story of Keri and the seeds of a Korean-American Church.

This is what is happening at Shadow Rock UCC today. Some people have profound experiences in the company of our fellowship. They hear our voice and our message. People sense our genuineness and our striving to live out the fullness of authentic human existence. It resonates with something deep inside of the people who meet us. They sense that in our company their deepest fears and desires could at least be acknowledged. In our company they can have hope and they can begin their journey of healing. People want more out of life and what we have to offer. Our invitation is compelling, “Come and See!”

PASTORAL CARE

Peter Johnston, father died

Andy Banks, father died

Rick Stuart, mother died

Laura Ilardo and her husband Chris, miscarriage of their baby at @ 30 weeks old

Jo Valentine, surgery

Margie Talley, surgery

Liz Oster, surgery

Colby Rampley, surgery