Good Shepherd Mission

Ft. Defiance, Arizona, Navajo Nation

Good Shepherd Mission is committed to being a part of the restoration of ho'zho, balance and harmony between cultures and nations. As part of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland Area Mission, we are committed to honoring the sacredness of the land, history and culture of the Navajo, the Dine’, and sharing the Good News of Christ through this context. We invite you to consider a summer internship based on farming, food security and sustainability through our farm-to-table program. In the midst of a USDA-designated “food desert,” the 50-acre historic Mission has two acres of organic and traditional Navajo gardens, greenhouse, and pasture in the process of restoration. You will work alongside the garden crew, Navajo interns and community folks, and help out with mission groups. You will learn/teach basic high-desert farming techniques, harvest, post-harvest, marketing and selling (and giving away). We will install a commercial kitchen this summer to augment post-harvest handling, cooking classes and development of value-added products as income streams, to increase sovereignty of the Dine’. Lessons in grant-writing and running a mission/retreat center will augment your ministry tool kit. You will be part of the staff of the Mission, invited to staff meetings, social outings, and church services. Housing supplied.

For more information contact the Rev’d Cynthia Hizer (cynthiahizer@gmail.com), or go to http://navajoland.org.
The Blessingway Prayer
Ho’zho

In beauty may I walk.
All day long may I walk.
Through the returning seasons may I walk.
On the trail marked with pollen may I walk.
With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk.
With dew about my feet may I walk.
With beauty may I walk.
With beauty before me, may I walk.
With beauty behind me, may I walk.
With beauty all around me, may I walk.

In old age wandering on a trail of beauty,
lively, may I walk.
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty,
living again, may I walk.

It is finished in beauty.
It is finished in beauty.

Traditional Hogan for ceremony

A Sacred Spiral Corn Garden

PILGRIMAGES
MISSION TRIPS
RETREATS
HIKES and CAMPING
STUDYING WITH THE ELDERS
LISTENING AND WALKING WITH A SACRED PEOPLE

GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS:
618 KIT CARSON DRIVE
P.O. Box 618
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504
918-729-2322
http://goodshepherdmission.org
goodshepherdmission618@yahoo.com
Good Shepherd Mission can accommodate small and large groups, private hermitage retreatants and those who wish to have regular hours of prayer in the church and on the land.

The Thorne Building sleeps up to 80 in sleeping bags, baths, kitchen, dining/meeting hall.

The Westchester 2-bedroom apartment with a view

Ho’zho Retreat House The Old Vicarage Both sleep up to 16 in bunk beds and a pvt rooms, full kitchen, baths and laundry. $25/night per person

Tent camping with fire pits.

IN BEAUTY MAY YOU WALK

Fort Defiance – Tséhootsooi - was once the best summer grazing land on all of the Navajo Reservation. It is sacred land to the families who live here and to all who visit. Good Shepherd Mission was initiated in the 1880s as the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of New York built the first hospital on the Navajo Nation – now our parish hall. Today we are 50 acres on the Navajo Nation, three active church families, a historic church, a Hogan, the Dine’ place of ceremony, and a large organic garden with a farm-to-table program.

We invite you to come among us - the Dine’ people; among the land, sky, and mountains and sacred stories that have formed us. Pray with us the prayers you know and the prayer we will teach you, the Blessingway Prayer. It is our Walk in Beauty.

RETREAT HOUSING

Getting to Good Shepherd Mission:

- 7 miles north of Window Rock AZ / 25 miles north of Gallup, NM
- 3 hours south of Farmington, NM
- 3 hours west of Albuquerque / 3 hours east of Phoenix
- Amtrak runs between Albuquerque - Los Angles daily: stops in Gallup.

Come worship and work with us, experience the canyons and high desert of the Navajo Nation. You may wish to spend some time in Canyon de Chelly and we can assist in hiring a Navajo guide. We are here to help you have a meaningful, fun, and spirit-filled time in Navajoland.