

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

Redlands United Church of Christ *An Open and Affirming Church*

October 2005

“Lectio Prayer Group” meets Mondays, October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 7:00 p.m.,
in the sanctuary.

The Scrapbooking Group will meet Monday, October 3rd at 12:00 p.m. at the home of
Dianne Landeros.

The Covenant Choir will meet for practice Thursdays, October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th
at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Celebration Ringers will meet for practice Thursdays, October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th
at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Jubilee Ringers will practice on Sundays, October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, in the sanctuary following
worship.

Confirmation classes continue on Sunday, October 9th, 23rd and 30th at 9:00 a.m.

Church Board will meet Tuesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m.

FaithActs committee will meet at the home of Dianne Landeros,
Monday, October 17th, 7:00 p.m.

“Sandwich Group” meets Tuesday, October 18th, 12:00 noon
in the church office.

Wider Ministries meeting following worship service, Sunday,
October 23rd, 12:15 in the church office.

Jr. High youth group will meet on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and High school youth group will meet
Mondays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Please check The View for any changes in times and places.

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*“Let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world.
 Let us use love and compassion.
 Peace begins with a smile.
 Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at at all.
 Do it for peace...”
 —Mother Teresa, 1997*

And so begins her book, *In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories, and Prayers*. Thanks to one of the members of our congregation who gave it to me, this small book of meditations from Mother Teresa traveled with me to Washington, DC for the weekend of September 23rd-26th. I took time to read it on the plane ride to DC, because I knew that I was going to need the grounding of Christian love, the stability of the Spirit's love, the compassion of the love of Christ, and the justice and mercy of God's love as my most important traveling companions.

In her characteristic simplicity and directness, Mother Teresa writes that we Christians are the reflections of God and Christ and Spirit in the world. This task is not negotiable. Our inner spiritual journey both informs and affects our outward actions of justice and peace on behalf of others. When those journeys—both the outward and the inward—are grounded in love, then God is able to work those divine miracles through us most effectively.

Be assured, this is not some kind of domesticated sentimentality, complete with sappy poetry. This love of which Mother Teresa speaks is a love I saw over and over in our nation's capital—it is a love that is willing to shout for justice, and march for peace, and carry signs that honestly express hopes for the future. It is a love that keeps on working, for the least of these, because (and sometimes only because) it is the right thing to do. This peace movement is distinct from the movement against Vietnam, in my opinion and observation, because it is fueled not by anger, but by compassionate love. And it has found a public face in the grief of a mother's love...

I thank this congregation—and especially the Church Board who responded so positively to Allen Killpatrick's impassioned request—for sending me to Washington for the weekend of peace and justice demonstrations, rallies, prayer services, lobbying, and of course, the amazing march with several hundred thousand of our fellow citizens. While the DC police no longer make estimates of crowd size, the numbers I heard from a variety of sources (including CNN, C-SPAN, and The Washington Post), ranged from 100,000 to 600,000. I assure you I did not take attendance! But I can also assure you that everywhere I looked there was a mass of enthusiastic humanity. Stretching blocks long, and filling the width of the four-lane streets around the capitol, this march for peace in Iraq was, by all accounts, the largest pro-troops (we support the troops by bringing them home now...), peace march since those long-ago days in the 1960s. The tide is indeed turning, not against any one person or party, but in a way that I believe can bring differing opinions and divergent perspectives together in agreement for the benefit of the least of these...including US troops and Iraqi citizens.

With the gentle reminder of Mother Teresa, let us each find ways to work for peace and justice...with love. This is how we both enter and effect the heart of the world. And yes, for the record and as Mother Teresa instructs, I did smile many times over the course of the weekend, and several of those smiles were directed toward the White House!

Blessings,

Sharon

“Worship God!” (Revelation 19:10)

By Sharon R. Graff
October 2005

As a covenant community, we are perhaps more acutely aware of the significance of our gathering times. When we gather, we hear each other's joys and concerns, and so our community is strengthened. When we gather, we sing songs of praise and hymns of reflection, and so our faith grows. When we gather, we hear and speak about our experiences of the divine, and so our hope is kindled. October is Art Show month, a celebration of the creative artisan in each one of us. I hope you will be here in worship—your voice is needed!

October 2 – “Eating Out” – Worldwide Communion Sunday and Welcoming New Members

Mark 14:22-26; Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22:14-23; John 17 (pastoral prayer); 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Our Christian faith is celebrated today in a very public way with sisters and brothers around the world through sharing the sacred communion meal. We will hear in many languages the familiar biblical words from which communion was given birth, and sing our faith about this meal made holy by our commitments. A place will be set for you—be here! We will also be welcoming several friends as new covenanting members during the morning worship service. You are invited to bring an item from another country to place on the altar for the morning service.

October 9 – “When to Hold and When to Fold”

Exodus 32:1-14; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

God is often thought of as immovable, unchangeable from generation to generation, yet in today's story from Exodus, Moses pleads with God, and God's mind (as well as God's planned destruction of the Hebrews) is dramatically altered. When do we implement a course correction in our own journeys of faith, and upon what basis do we decide such is in order? All three texts offer opinions on this important matter.

October 16 – “Passing Goodness” – Art For Heaven's Sake! Sunday

Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

God promises Moses that God's goodness will pass by Moses, thus assuring the uncertain leader that his ministry is accompanied by the Creator God. The Christian scripture readings suggest that we believers are to be working in goodness, spreading kindness, and planting gentleness, sometimes (as did Jesus) with street-smart savvy. Sharing gifts is the theme for today, as “Art, for Heaven's Sake” presents us with our annual opportunity to focus on the goodness apparent in our partnership with God. Our facilities and gardens are overflowing with creativity this weekend, so it only seems right that worship would also focus on the creative, the gifts, and the joy that emanates from our Creator God. Let us join together to thank God in the beauty of this special day!

October 23 – The Rev. John Walsh

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Our friend and brother, John Walsh, will offer the morning meditation, as Rev. Graff walks with other of our members in the Nike Women's (Half!) Marathon in San Francisco.

October 30 – “Crossing Over”

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 23; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46

The Hebrew wanderers did it...and we can only imagine it...crossing over to the other side is something that scripture is surprisingly quiet about. A few messages offer guidance on what is expected of us in this life, presumably in order to pave the way for our next life. Today, in the tradition of Reformation Sunday, All Hallows Eve, Samhein, Halloween, and Dias de los Muertos, we will honor those who have already crossed over. So many traditions claim this as a very special day in the cycle of the year, a day when the spirits of those passed away seem mysteriously closer, a day of giving thanks for those who paved the way for our lives. It is a day to speak of death, not as the end, but as yet another beginning with God. Come to celebrate life!

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence. I look forward to sharing these times with you.

President's Message

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made us fully aware of the tremendous devastation and human suffering that a natural disaster can cause. We are dramatically reminded how calm our daily lives are in relation to the thousands of storm victims. Let's count our blessings. Individuals have responded quickly with their donations of time and money. They haven't depended totally on the slower state and federal agencies to provide vital services.

It was wonderful to welcome several new members to our church family. I know your faithful journey with us will be a rich and rewarding experience!

Our annual Art for Heaven's Sake fund-raising project October 14, 15, and 16 is just around the corner. I urge you to participate in this enjoyable event.

Bill Buchanan

Together ... Step By Step!

Dear Friends,

What a blessing it is to be back among you as the new Associate Minister for Outreach. It is not often that one's passion and employment are woven together so seamlessly, reminding me that the work of the Spirit is always at hand.

For the past two years many of you have been working to create a program to help individuals on parole successfully reintegrate back into community life. It has been a step by step process here at RUCC searching for ways to offer support to those returning to Redlands after serving prison time to pay their debt to society for wrongs they have committed. Step by step these individuals on parole are seeking new and different ways to live so they will never again return to prison. This journey of partnership between RUCC, The Redlands Police Department, and people on parole has finally been given a name and will fittingly and lovingly be called "**Step by Step.**"

We are walking a new path together, one step at a time, to discover the gifts we all can contribute to our community. Many of you have already signed up to participate in specific ways. Several committees are already busy collecting hygiene kits, gathering information to help expedite the process of identification verification, and evaluating and readying bicycles for repair and distribution.

Recently police Officer Starr and Agent Sanchez spent an evening at RUCC to provide training to folks wanting to work with individuals on parole. The officers were accompanied by a young man, Sean, whose recent successful discharge from parole was cause for acknowledgment and celebration. Despite years of abuse and neglect that led to his incarceration, Sean is now a productive and contributing citizen of Redlands.

With your help there can be many more success stories like Sean! If you have not yet discovered how you can participate please talk to a member of our dedicated steering committee: Dianne Landeros, Rich Blakley, Bettye Wheeler, Lashawn Lee, or Jay Grayson. Or call me ... I'd love to talk with you! I can be reached at (909) 647-7877 or amrucc@yahoo.com.

Jeanne

Getting to Know You.....By Betty Jacobs

As the hymn says, “she brightens the corner where she is.” I first noticed her because of her contagious smile. Julie Phillip entered into the spirit of our church the first time she visited and has been thoroughly involved ever since.

Born, raised and schooled through high school in Alliance, Nebraska then it was off to Ottawa University for a BA in Political Science, a good fit for a future RUCC member.

She began her working life working for a year as a newspaper photographer. However, that was only the beginning for this well-rounded, well-educated lady. Three years in Nashville’s Vanderbilt University in their non-denominational Seminary program followed. Then came an MBA from the University of Missouri. All of this has made her well prepared for her present work at Enterprise Funding, a non-profit, partially government funded agency.

Julie comes by her hobby through both genes and example. Her father and uncles are woodworkers so that has become her hobby. Her mom is a painter and someday she may also have time for a little of that. For now she’s working on stands for her speakers.

Right now Julie is also working to get her home childproofed, not an easy task, for a very rigid final inspection from Fostadopt. She is already approved for adoption of a child of five or over and hopes to eventually adopt him or her. What a lucky child! Julie and her cats Boris and Abigail are waiting to welcome this new member to their family.

HANDBELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Do you enjoy the sound of ringing in your ears? No, not your alarm clock and not that annoying high pitch in your ear when everything is quiet. I mean the lovely, sonorous, joyful, unified sound of handbells wafting through the sanctuary. If you have enjoyed listening and would like to play in one of our ensembles, you are needed. Any musical background is helpful but not required. If you can hold and ring a bell and count at the same time, you can be taught, and you will be valued, for each person in a handbell ensemble is important. The Celebration Ringers meet on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM, and the Jubilee group meets on Sunday after worship until 12:30 PM. For more information, please call Dennis Wolbert at 794-4730.

FAITHACTS PROJECTS

FaithActs is busy this year on several old and some new projects. As you know, FaithActs is a steering committee developing projects about which we are passionate or about which YOU are passionate – passionate enough to commit your time and effort to. It is our hope that you will all participate in at least one project and put your faith into action – for the community, environment, or peace and justice.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate – We continue to sell these items at church and many of you are purchasing your fair trade items from us regularly. In so doing, you are supporting products grown in an environmentally friendly manner which do not use child labor and which pay directly to the farmers, thereby giving them a decent living wage. Please help us expand this effort by taking it to your work site (do you have a coffee club at work?) or to your clubs and organizations. See or call Chris Nicoloff if you have special needs or requests.

Kiosk – we are trying to build a movable kiosk to be used for posting announcements, sharing church news, and providing updates on FaithActs activities. If you are interested in helping with this project, please see or call Fred Nicoloff.

Parolee Transition – Under the guiding hands of Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo, several committees are already busy assembling hygiene kits, gathering information to help expedite the process of identification verification, and evaluating and readying bicycles for repair and distribution. However, we have fallen short of our goal of collecting items for fifty hygiene kits and could greatly use additional donations of personal toilet items. If you need more information, there is a list in the gathering area.

Letter writing – Speak out on matters of social or economic justice, community concerns, environmental issues and more! Fred Nicoloff is organizing a group for letter writing campaigns to elected officials, letters to news publications, and emails. If you are willing to help with this, see or call Fred Nicoloff.

Arctic drilling – It's not too late! Are you concerned about the plans to drill in the arctic? See or call Bob Barton to find out what you can do.

Help the homeless – I am a member of the Redlands Charitable Resource Coalition representing RUCC, FaithActs. This group is trying to find ways to assist homeless families in Redlands. See me, Dianne Landeros, if you are interested in helping.

Bring your ugly mug to church! – If you don't already have one, remember to bring a mug that you can leave at the church for fellowship and help us to eliminate unnecessary waste. Use your mug – then wash it and put it away. Can you help us refurbish a cabinet for mugs? Call or contact Fred Nicoloff, Larry Rose, or me.

You can find phone numbers and emails of members in the church directory. Get involved! Help us make this world a better place. - Dianne Landeros, FaithActs

Church Women United

Church Women United will be holding their General Meeting on Friday, October 7th, at 10:00 a.m. with a presentation on the Parolee Transition Program. The guest speakers will be Steve Starr from the Redlands Police Department and Steve Sanchez a parole agent. Everyone is welcome!



Art for Heaven's Sake! Show and Sale - Help Needed!

Can you spare some time October 14, 15, and/or 16? Would you like to meet new people, and greet old friends, and have some fun while you're at it? If so, the art show committee needs your help! Whether it's one hour or the whole weekend, you have a great opportunity to get involved in this wonderful church and community activity. Below you'll find the descriptions and approximate time commitments for the numerous tasks that must be done in order to continue to make this the premier art show in the Inland Empire. Sign up sheets for helping at the art show will be available in the gathering area after church each Sunday. Rosemary Whitmer will be there to answer questions or you can Sondra Hodson at 633-3210 or slhodson@eee.org. Please consider saying "yes" when asked and you'll be sure to have an enjoyable experience!

Prior to the show

- * **Tasty Treats** - Tea cookies and hors d'oeuvres are needed for the Friday night gala reception. These can be made ahead of time and frozen or you can make them a day or two ahead. See Bonnie Kilpatrick for more information.

Friday, October 14

- * **General Set up Friday morning** - Help is needed to move furniture, set up temporary fencing, erect pop-up tents, string lights, put up banners and signs etc. Whether you can come for one or two hours or all day, **your help will be greatly appreciated!**
- * **Set up Artist's Lounge Friday morning** – We provide sandwiches and snacks for the artists on Friday night and coffee and snacks all weekend. Help is needed to prepare these sandwiches and snacks.
- * **Assist artists Friday afternoon** - Starting at 2:00 pm the artists begin setting up their exhibits. Many appreciate help with carrying things from their cars and it's a great way to meet the artists.
- * **Monitor the Artist's Lounge late Friday afternoon and early evening** – Help is needed to make sure the food and coffee for the artists is available.
- * **Serve food and drinks Friday evening** - Starting at 7:00 pm hors d'oeuvres, cookies, coffee and punch are served at the gala reception. Help is needed carrying trays of food throughout the show, filling the coffee pot and punch bowls, and serving coffee and punch. This is a great opportunity to mix with the artists and guests. This job can be done in shifts so if you only have an hour to spare its ok.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

- * **Monitor the guest book and greet guests** – Greet guests and invite them to sign the guest book. This job is also done in shifts – volunteer for an hour or more.
- * **Cashier Friday, Saturday and Sunday** – If you're experienced with retail sales or good at handling monetary transactions, help is needed to cashier at the checkout table
- * **Breaks for artists Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday** – People are needed to sit at the artists' booths for short periods of time in order to give them breaks. You can sign up for one, two or more hours for this job.
- * **Monitor the Artist's Lounge Saturday and Sunday** – Help is needed to make sure the food and coffee for the artists is available.

Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.

- * **Clean up!** – Clean up must be done quickly in order to get the church back in order for the Indonesian church service later this evening. Any and all help is greatly appreciated for helping artists carry their things, taking down the temporary fence and pop-ups, removing signs lights, moving furniture back in place, cleaning up the artist's lounge etc.

Also, for more information on the artists and pictures of last year's show, go to artforheavenssake.org. We have a wonderful website!

GOT BOOKS?

Attending college this semester? Working toward a professional certificate? If so, you may be eligible to apply for a scholarship for a reimbursement toward the purchase price of your textbooks.

A scholarship up to a reimbursement of \$300 **per calendar year** is available to those in our church family who are actively pursuing an academic degree or professional certificate. To qualify, the applicant needs to meet the following requirements:

- A minimum GPA of 3.0 from either the most recent semester of college attended or high school graduating GPA.
- A photocopy of the most recent transcript.
- Class(es) enrolled in must be contributing toward an academic degree or professional certification.
- Applicant shall have been actively involved in the Redlands UCC for a minimum of two years.
- Copy of the receipts for the purchase of textbook(s) for the current semester or class.

Application forms are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Doris Milloy, (909) 794-1472, or drmilloy@aol.com.

Choir Retreat
Saturday, October 8
10:00 – 2:00

All present and prospective members of the Covenant Choir – we are having a mini-retreat on October 8 from 10:00 to 2:00 (lunch included!). Just trying to get a head start on the rest of our fall music and Feastings! If you are a member, be there! If you are thinking about joining the choir, you are invited to join us for as much of this session as you are able. Please call or e-mail Peggy at 798-1474 or PGWMSing@aol.com.

Top Ten Reasons to Join the Covenant Choir...

Reason number 10 – There's a lovely view of the garden from the choir loft!

Reason number 9 – You get to see the faces of the congregation instead of the backs of their heads!

Reason number 8 – You can see if Sharon is behaving herself during the scripture readings!

Reason number 7 – You get to practice the hymns before you have to sing them in church!

Reason number 6 – Choir parties have the best food!

Reason number 5 – You're guaranteed to have a seat reserved just for you!

Reason number 4 – There is no glare from the big window when you sit in the choir loft!

Reason number 3 – You have a great view of the minister during the sermon!

Reason number 2 – Singing is good for your body and your soul!

Reason number 1 – Singing is a wonderful way to fully participate in the worship experience!

OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS

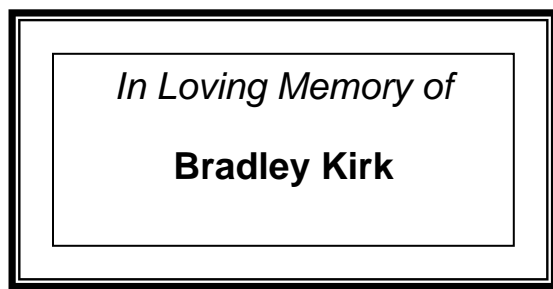
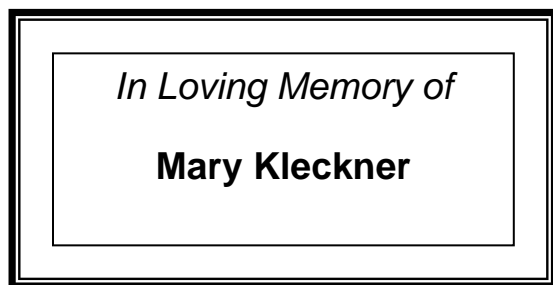
October 2nd – Carole Beswick
 October 9th – Paul Hodson
 October 16th – Denise Cain
 October 23rd – Floyd Orr
 October 30th – Angelynn King

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Douglas Ray Childers-Benz
 2 Doug Macomber
 3 Colleen Kintner
 4 Noah Sforza
 5 Genevieve Wolbert
 6 Lauren Barton
 11 Eric Naftzger
 12 Dianne Landeros
 13 Kathie Blakley
 D. Hester
 18 Denise Cain
 23 Fred Nicoloff
 24 Loren Barnett
 27 Mina Ryan
 28 Lisa Arth
 Loring Fiske-Phillips
 29 Whitney Sforza
 30 Lora Hall
 Rick Sforza

Men of Redlands United Church of Christ:

Just a note to let you know we are in the process of creating a men's fellowship group in church. We have some fresh ideas and would love for you to be a part of this. We are planning on meeting once a month, on a Sunday morning, here at the church from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00. We need to create a bond between members, other than the quick "hi" and "bye" and the recognition of a familiar face. The tentative date for our initial get together will be Sunday October 30, 2005. If you would like further information, please contact Vern Jones, Mike Moran, or Sheldon Montgomery.



October Scripture Readings

October 2: Worldwide Communion Sunday – *Mark 14:22-26; Matthew 26:26-30*
 October 9: *Exodus 32:1-14; Phillipians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14*
 October 16: *Exodus 33:12-23; Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22*
 October 23: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46*
 October 30: *Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 23; Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46*

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff
 Associate Minister of Outreach – Pastor Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo
 Choir Director – Peggy McMeans
 Youth Director – Craig Colclough
 Sunday Child Care – Mariana and Mina Ryan
 Administrative Assistant – Renee Chavez
 Custodian – Jay Grayson
 Church office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
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