

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

January 2006

Communion Sunday - Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday, January 1st

Celebration Ringers Rehearsal on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal on Sundays, 12:00 p.m.

Covenant Choir Rehearsal on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

The "Step by Step Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, January 3rd
in the church office.

The third class in the Adult Sunday School Series begins Sunday,
January 8th at 9:00 a.m. in Covenant Hall.

Church Board will meet Tuesday, January 10th, 7:00 p.m.

The Sandwich Group will meet in the Pastor's office at
12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 17th

Meditation classes with Kelsang Rak-ma begin Wednesday, January 18th,
at 7:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall.

RUCC Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday, January 22nd, following worship service.
RSVP for lunch to Renee in the church office!

Middle school and High School Youth Groups will meet at various times
in January. Please check The View for dates and times.

“Preach the Gospel at all times...when necessary use words.”
—Inspired by the words of St. Francis of Assisi

This month of scriptures seem to focus on speaking, hearing, and responding as interwoven aspects of our spirituality. Each is necessary in our growth. Each invites us into deeper listening to God’s voice as it is mediated through the sounds of our lives. Come and listen...

January 1 – “Growing in Wisdom” – First Communion of 2006

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Let’s gather at 10:30 am in Covenant Hall for New Year’s Brunch, and as we eat together, we will hear scriptures, sing songs, and share sacred food... A great way to begin a New Year!

January 8 – “Voices Within Chaos”

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

God often speaks words of order within chaos. Today, with the help of the king of rock and roll (yes, friends, Elvis, whose birthday it is!), let’s have some fun as we listen for God’s words of order through music and scripture.

January 15 – “Are You Sure You Want To Hear?”

1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

On this annual national celebration of the birthday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our scriptures each point to the challenge we believers face when faced with the telling of difficult news. Can we learn to move beyond our concern about consequences, as did Samuel, Paul, Jesus, and Martin, and communicate our progressive faith with honesty and forthrightness?

January 22 – “For Reals!”

Psalm 62:5-12; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Going to unexpected places, speaking foreign words, responding immediately when we are more prone to pondering and inaction...these form the locus of spirituality in today’s scripture passages. All this leads to trusting God more than we trust anything or anyone else...for reals!

January 29 – Rev. John Walsh, preaching

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Come and hear an inspiring message from one of our own...perhaps your voice will soon be heard in the pulpit???

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AND LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2006**

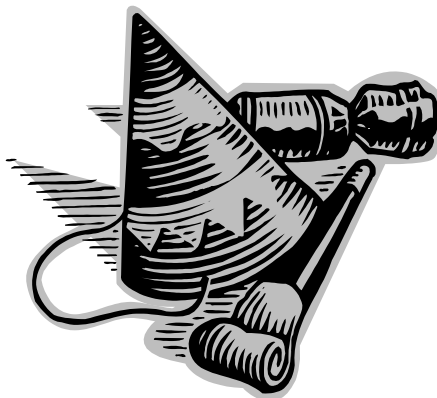
Immediately following worship, all are invited to the lunch and congregational meeting. New officers, area leaders, and committee members will be introduced and voted into leadership. The 2006 budget will be presented for a vote. All members and friends are welcome! If you plan to attend, please make your reservations with Renee in the church office.

**COVENANTS STILL BEING
RECEIVED**

Those who wish to complete covenants for 2006 are encouraged to do so soon! Planning for 2006 is happening now, and your covenanted participation is needed. Please contact your shepherd leader or Rev. Graff if you have questions or needs concerning covenants. Thanks!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mahshid Ehteshami
- 12 Brad Beswick
Richard Blakley
- 13 Tammy Benz-Blumberg
- 16 Christine Nicoloff
- 23 Ty Schuiling
- 27 Elsie Badgley
- 29 Jacob Fiske-Phillips



A Thank You Note
from Eric Naftzger

Thirty years ago when Redlands United Church of Christ was founded, Betty Jacobs was one of the charter members. She continued in the role of Financial Secretary which she had at the First Congregational Church. Ten years ago, Betty turned the role over to Shirley Marks. This is a very important job for the church which few of us ever give any thoughts to. Even I never gave it much thought when I was President of the congregation for three consecutive years in the 1980's and again in the early 2000's. This job requires weekly counting, depositing, and recording of the thousands of dollars given to RUCC. On an easy week it may take only two hours of time and on others it may take more than five hours. While many of us give many hours of labor to the church over the year, few are required to give time each week, and with accounting accuracy, to the church. For the work that these two members have given to the church faithfully for several years I shout a very loud – THANK YOU BETTY! THANK YOU SHIRLEY!

January Scripture Readings

January 1: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40*
 January 8: *Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11*
 January 15: *1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51*
 January 22: *Psalm 62:5-12; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20*
 January 29: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28*

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