

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

October 2006

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

Church Finance Workshop, at 12:00 p.m. Sunday, October 1

“An Inconvenient Truth” presented on
Friday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Church Board will meet Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.
in the church office.

Art for Heaven’s Sake begins Friday, October 13 through
Sunday, October 15.

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

Stewards will meet Tuesday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m.

RUCC All-Church Fellowship, 8:30 a.m., Sunday, October 29.

Brown Bag Lunch and Game Day on Sunday, October 29
following worship service in Covenant Hall.

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.

Middle school and High school youth groups will meet at various times during
October. Please check The View for dates and times.

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

“Those who wait for God shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
—Isaiah 40:31

* * * * *

Well, those who walked did not faint... And those who ran were not too weary to enjoy the rest of their day at the “happiest place on earth.” Yet the Disneyland Inaugural Half Marathon (13.1 miles) which was held on Sunday, September 17th proved once again how important it is to be prepared and to persist.

To my knowledge, there were 13 participants from Redlands UCC in the Disney weekend festivities—one for every mile of the marathon course—most of whom had been in training for a number of weeks. Unfortunately, I was not one of those who actually took time to train...and it showed! This was my first marathon experience in which I could not keep up the required pace to cross the finish line, and consequently I was slowly walking near the back of the pack (most of the time by myself). Unlike the other four marathons in which I've participated since 2001, I really didn't have much energy in my own reserve tank. All of that being true, I was grateful to have made it to mile 10...and that was accomplished in my all-time best time of 17.5 minute miles! (Note to those of you who are marathon runners: Some of you are built for speed, others of us for endurance!)

As I reflect on my own experience and also ponder the participation of our RUCC folk in this particular marathon I am delighted by the growing response to matters of health. Several in our congregation are dieting to lose unnecessary pounds. Others are starting new exercise programs. Others are boldly and honestly confronting their own unhealthy habits of over-drinking or smoking. Still others are persisting in long-standing routines designed to integrate body, mind, and spirit. For the first time in many years, a handful of folks are visiting doctors and paying attention to test results by altering their eating and exercise patterns. One step at a time, we are inching closer to health of body, mind, and spirit.

Our All-Church Retreat was yet another “mile marker” on this pathway of our increasing awareness of the inter-connections between body, mind, and spirit. Activities such as yoga, meditation, singing, playing games, walking in the mountains, and looking at the beautiful night sky, all invited us to actually integrate body with mind with spirit. As we would expect, the making of a personalized mask or meaningful totem—and the pondering that accompanied these creations—also provided a plot of rich soil from which growth of body, mind, spirit could flourish.

Such experiences as the half marathon and the church retreat do not have to be relegated to isolated “mountaintop” experiences. If we let them, they can nudge us toward a more consistent, daily awareness of the interconnectedness in which we were created. We are not one-dimensional beings, only expected to operate out of mind or body or spirit. We are whole, created in the image of the Divine, and are built to draw on and to utilize the energy of each of our aspects—physical, mental, spiritual.

The next time you find yourself doing something predominantly physical—pause and be attentive to the ways that your spirit and mind are involved in the task as well. When you next pray—pause and listen to the voice of your mind and body as you attend to matters of the spirit. As you think through a difficult problem—pause to see how your body could relax and your spirit soar in partnership with your thinking mind. In others words, let all three players—body, mind, and spirit—be on the field of your life at the same time. Chances are good that, in so doing, your strength will be renewed and you will, like the prophet Isaiah, fly with the eagles!

Blessings,



"Make us to know your ways, O God...teach us your paths..." Psalm 25:4

October 2006

When we worship God together we experience the power of community to transform—to transform thoughts, behavioral patterns, even entire paradigms and systems. There is power in group energy when it is infused with the energy of the Divine. Jesus knew it, and also knew the potential destructive power of the group: hence his words about changing the power of systems of hierarchy, one person at a time, one breath of God at a time. At least 2,500 years ago, the psalmist voiced a similar sentiment when he/she wrote: "...make us to know your ways, God...teach us your paths." And so we continue the journey, one step, one prayer, one song, one hug and handshake and smile at a time.

October 1 - "How Wide is This Table?" – Worldwide Communion Sunday

Abrahamic Story, retold and revisited; Mark 9:38-50

For the first time in many years and not to be repeated for some 30 years, a set of high holy days within Islam, Judaism, and Christianity overlap during the Fall of 2006 and also coincide with other significant religious celebrations. The confluence of the beginning of Gandhi's Peace March (9/11/1906), The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (10/4), Worldwide Communion Sunday (10/1), Ramadan (9/24-10/23), and Yom Kippur (10/2), invite us to imagine that our worldwide communion table is wide enough to include ALL God's children. Come...there is a place for you...and for your neighbor.

October 8 – "God is STILL Speaking"

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:13-16

God spoke through Satan to Job...God spoke through prophets and priests to the ancients...God spoke through children sitting on the knee of Jesus...and, according to the UCC, God is still speaking. Heard any good words from the Divine lately?

October 15 – "For Heaven's Sake!"

Scriptures TBA

Art, for Heaven's Sake...and for ours...and for others, too! 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. What is your master piece—your creative work into which you have poured much energy? We all have one—perhaps it is a poem, a letter, a clay sculpture, or a child all grown up. Let us join together to thank God in the beauty of this special day!

October 22 – "Out With the Old...In With the New"

Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

The old way to be in right relationship with God = sacrifices of sheep, goats, birds, etc. to atone for one's sins. The new way to be in right relationship with God = Jesus as a sacrifice in place of sheep, goats, birds, etc.? Huh? Does that type of theology align with the life and ministry of Christ? Perhaps the "new way" offered by Jesus really is a brand new way of doing business with God...

October 29 – Day of the Dead – "Nothing Separates Us"

Isaiah 61:1-3; Romans 8:9-11, 31-39; Matthew 11:28-30

Once again, we honor the presence of our God in the lives of our dearly departed loved ones. In the tradition of ancient Christianity, we will fondly remember what we learned from them and loved about them. With song and through prayer, we shall gently place these loved ones on the sacred altar, asking the Divine to continue blessing our lives through their influence. Playing and praying will be intertwined in this service, as they are in life and in death.

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence. Come and be refreshed for the journey...— Sharon R. Graff

**I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold service was joy.**
Tagore, Bengali poet

I love the cool weather of Fall and the smells of change that come with it. For some reason I am always energized by this season ... maybe it's the promise of refreshing temperatures which I prefer over the sweltering heat of summer. I hope you, too, are full of energy for this colorful season because there is a lot going on in the way of service and outreach opportunities. Here's just a sampling.

Hygiene Kits: Thanks to all for continuing to collect supplies for the hygiene kits used by the Step by Step program. Please watch upcoming editions of the View for lists of items of particular need. The hygiene kits are passed out every Thursday at the parole check-in time at the police station. The recipients are extremely grateful for these gifts!

Alternative Christmas Faire: It's that time of year again to prepare your holiday gift list. And what better place to shop for meaningful presents than the upcoming Alternative Christmas Faire to be held here at church on Sunday November 12th after service. Once again we will have fair-trade craft items for sale made by those living in poverty situations and working hard to support their families. If you are an early-bird shopper and would like to get first preview of the items then why not volunteer to help set up the displays? We will need many volunteers to make this event as successful as last year. Contact me for further information. The Alternative Christmas Faire is a wonderful way to support those in need and give meaningful holiday gifts to family members and friends. And don't forget to invite your friends!

Simukai: Last June our congregation was introduced to the "Simukai Child Protection Program" of Mutare, Zimbabwe. Margaret Machinga who runs this program shared a poignant presentation of the work she does with children whose lives have been shattered by HIV/AIDS. She has asked for donations of school supplies and children's clothing 0-18 years. Through the generosity of several donors we were able to send 115 backpacks with pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, notebooks, and crayons to the program in September. They still need another 50 backpacks (nylon, light weight that are easy to ship) with these supplies as well as any gently used children's clothing. Please let me know if you would like to contribute to this project (including shipping costs).

In a recent email Margaret shared that the cost of living in Zimbabwe is extremely high with an inflation rate of 204% as of September 15th. The cost of education, food, and health care are out of reach for most people and thousands are dying daily of HIV/AIDS because they cannot afford medication or hospital fees. Helping to keep children who have been orphaned by this deadly disease in school and healthy is Margaret's goal and our support of her work is deeply appreciated.

Beginning the first week of October, I will be in the office most Thursdays and Fridays and now will joyfully share in your company every Sunday. Please drop by my office (that the Youth Group so generously allows me to share with them) ...I'd love to chat! – Jeanne

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

Can you spare some time October 13, 14, and/or 15? 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. During the next few weeks, art show committee members will be asking for people to sign up for the various jobs listed below. 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 13

- * **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 pm

- * **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.

Questions?? Contact Sondra Hodson at (909) 633-3210 or slhodson@eee.org, or Paul Hodson at (909) 794-3655 or at coyotexng@eee.org, or talk to a committee member:

Carole Beswick, Sam Dickey, Jo Dierdorff, Sharon Graff, Janet Greenfield, Paul Hodson, Mara Dee Hodson, Richard Hodson, Sondra Hodson, Betty Jacobs, Bonnie Killpatrick,, Barry Kolpien, Dorothy Landeros, Peggy McMeans, Julie Phillip, Maryann Stanson, Bill Whitmer, Rosemary Whitmer.

Visit the Art For Heaven's Sake! Website at www.artforheavenssake.org for more information on the artists and pictures of last year's show.



Events at RUCC...

Save the date!
*Alternative Christmas
Faire*

Please save Sunday
November 12, 2006
for this festive event
at RUCC.

League of Women Voters

Join us on Tuesday, October 17, at 5:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall as the League of Women Voters presents a non-partisan discussion of the state and local ballot propositions.

RUCC All-Church Fellowship

The monthly meeting of the RUCC Fellowship group will take place Sunday, October 29 at 8:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall. The group will begin discussion of the book "A Purpose Driven Life."

Meditations to heal the Body & Mind

Kelsang Rak-ma, Resident Teacher at the Dharmachakra Buddhist Center, will teach meditation classes, Wednesday evenings, at 7:00 p.m. The classes are open to people of all faiths and belief (or non-belief!) systems.

"An Inconvenient Truth" Screening on Friday – October 6 7:00 p.m.

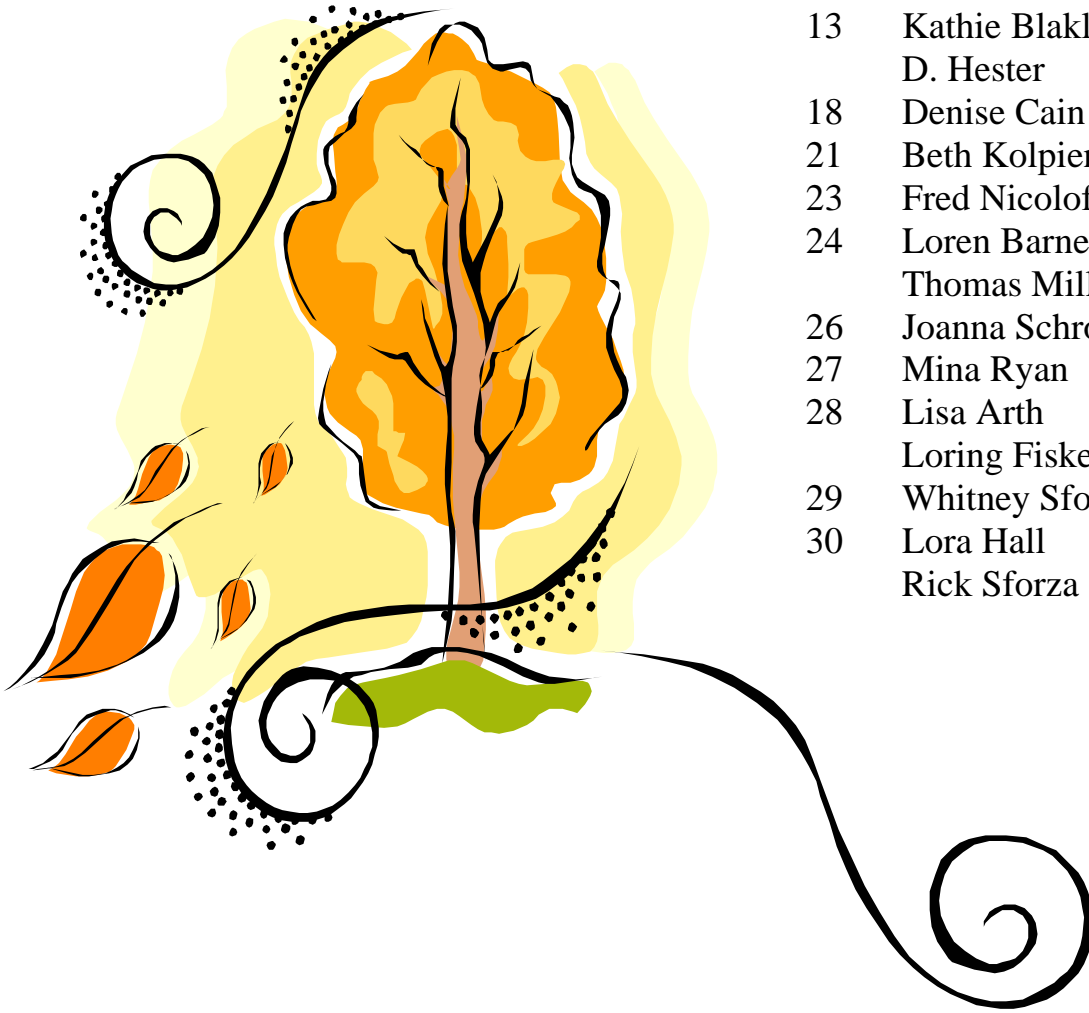
"Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced." If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom -- think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the Sundance Film Festival hit, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore. With wit, smarts and hope, *An Inconvenient Truth* ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization. Seating is limited to individuals with tickets. Tickets are available by calling the RUCC office at (909)793-3520. Sponsored by RUCC, Progressive Christians Uniting, and California Interfaith Power and Light.

OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS

- 1 Denise Cain
- 8 Sally Burton
- 15 Craig Colclough
- 22 Dan Wacks
- 29 Sandy Peavler

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
- 21 Beth Kolpien
- 23 Fred Nicoloff
- 24 Loren Barnett
Thomas Miller
- 26 Joanna Schroeder
- 27 Mina Ryan
- 28 Lisa Arth
Loring Fiske-Phillips
- 29 Whitney Sforza
- 30 Lora Hall
Rick Sforza



...and around town

FFLAG Meeting

Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG) meet on the first Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Cajon and Olive at 7:30 p.m. Mary Belle Carter represents RUCC. For more information please contact Mary Belle at (909) 795-6369.

Chapman University Lecture Series

Please join us on Thursday October 12, 2006 at the Chapman University Memorial Hall Auditorium to hear the Honorable Romeo A. Dallaire speak on "Bearing Witness for Rwanda: One Man's Story of Courage and Conviction." Seating is limited for this free event. Tickets are available by calling (714) 628-7377.

Apple Pie Day at Pilgrim Pines

Please join us on Sunday, October 22nd from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. for pumpkin carving, crafts, and a special live concert. There will also be a chili buffet lunch and home baked apple and pumpkin pie! Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 4-9, children 3 and under are free. To RSVP, or for further information, please call (800) 616-6612 or (909) 797-1821. RSVP's must be received by October 1, 2006.

Redlands Reads!

It's like a giant, city-wide book club. The University of Redlands is partnering with the A.K. Smiley Public Library to promote the city-wide reading of a single book. The novel chosen is Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." Watch for a series of events that examine the book and its author from every angle. Get your book club, gather your neighbors, and start reading!

The University of Redlands will also present a Halloween night showing of the movie "Frankenstein" on Tuesday, October 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Orton Center. There is no charge for this event.



Getting to Know You...

by Betty Jacobs

New friends find our church in many different ways. Jean Williams had been visiting her ill husband at Redlands Community Hospital just over four months ago when she decided to explore a new area on her way home. Driving up Bellevue she saw our sign, turned in and spied a lady in a bag hat – it was our St. Helen of Arth. Who better to welcome her and invite her to return! Return she did. Soon after that she lost her beloved husband of thirty-five years.

Born in Santa Ana, Jean was raised mainly in Yorba Linda in a rural country setting of farming, orange groves, and strawberry fields as the area was in those days. Her dad was an ice man. For those of you of the younger persuasion, there was an era of BRE – Before Refrigerator Era. It was called the IBE – the Ice Box Era. Large blocks of ice were delivered regularly to homes to be put in an ice box cupboard to keep perishables cold. When the “Ice Age” ended the family moved to Big Pine up in the Sierras where her dad worked in a talc mine and ran a county sanitarium. Jean worked there during her last years of high school. She and other students worked as night nurses. They were taught how to carry out the basic duties needed for patient care.

In Big Pine, as they did in their previous home, they lived a very rural lifestyle and raised horses, cows and pigs. Jean met and married her first husband there. He was in the Army and stationed at Fort Ord so they moved to Monterey. Jean was diagnosed with Hodgkins disease for which there was no cure. She spent a year at Letterman Hospital and after a tumor was removed she was found free of the disease. She also gave birth to her first son while in Monterey. He was diagnosed with Hodgkins disease at the age of fourteen but later married, had children, and enjoyed life. At thirty-seven, after much chemo, radiation, and many surgeries, he succumbed to his illness. Jean and her husband eventually moved back to Big Pine where their two daughters were born.

After a divorce, Jean moved back to Orange County where she met and married Keith and their family increased to six children. Keith was an attorney and they enjoyed life together in Newport Beach, boating, skiing (not in Newport!), and horseback riding. Jean also always enjoyed sewing and gardening. When Keith became ill and could no longer work they moved to Highland to be near a son and wife who live in Reche Canyon. There are twelve grandchildren living from Alabama, to Washington State, to Hawaii. And there are five great-grandchildren.

Jean has already entered into the spirit of RUCC and I hope that we can be her second family in her new life.

October Scripture Readings

October 1: *Abrahamic Story, retold and revisited; Mark 9:38-50*
October 8: *Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:13-16*
October 15: *Scriptures TBA*
October 22: *Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45*
October 29: *Isaiah 61:1-3; Romans 8:9-11, 31-39; Matthew 11:28-30*

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 – Mina Ryan
Custodian – Jay Grayson
Church office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
Wanderings is published monthly by R.U.C.C.



Redlands United Church of Christ
168 Bellevue Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373-4978
(909) 793-3520 Fax: (909) 793-5418
E-mails: pastor@uccredlands.org
 office@uccredlands.org
 youth@uccredlands.org
Web site: www.uccredlands.org