

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

April 2007

Palm Sunday ~ Communion Sunday
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,
Sunday, April 1

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

The Step by Step Coalition will meet on Tuesday, April 3
at 4:30 p.m. in the CE area.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, Supper and Worship Service at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff Meeting – Tuesday, April 10, 11:00 a.m.

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, April 17,
at 12:00 in the Pastor's office.

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

Worship Staff Meeting – Sunday, April 29, 12:00 p.m.

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

Celebration Ringers rehearsal on Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.

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

Middle school youth group will meet at 4:15 on Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26

High school youth group will meet at 2:00 on Sundays, April 8, 15, 22, 29

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*"Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God...
There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love..."
—from 1 John 4*

So I will admit, when Jeanne first shared with me that she was in conversation with another congregation, I was fearful. Fearful of what the change would mean to and for our community of faith. Fearful of what would happen to Step By Step. Fearful of how we would carry on vibrant outreach ministries in her absence. Trying to keep that proverbial "stiff upper lip" I kept a lot inside. And the fear grew.

Then I told one person. And, as we talked about how this good congregation had weathered changes in the past, the fear diminished. Then I prayed. (Maybe not the best thing to know that your pastor talked first, and prayed second, but honesty requires such a personal confession!) And the intensity of the fear decreased yet again. Then I sat in the blessed silence of meditation, shedding a few tears of personal loss. And, once again, the fear seemed to become less strong, being ever so gently dissipated by loving gratitude for all that Jeanne and we had learned together over these past three years. By the time of this writing, as Jeanne faces one final hurdle before becoming the Senior Pastor of the Diamond Bar United Church of Christ, I can honestly say that my initial fear has been replaced by love.

My love for Jeanne, and for our shared ministry, certainly is tinged with sadness for the moment. Probably you feel the same. We shall miss her consistent presence of justice, her strong voice for the voiceless, her easy humor, and her profound pastoral prayers. We shall remember, with fondness, the knitting ministry, the birth of the parolee ministry, the evolution of Step By Step, and even those City Council meetings we shared with her. As she completes her ministry here in Redlands, and moves toward ministry in another place closer to home, through our grief and hers, we shall celebrate together the love of God that brought us together.

As we do so, I invite us to grieve, and to love, without fear. For, sisters and brothers, we know God. We are born of God. We continue to love and as we do, that love will replace any fear that may try to sneak into our soul.

Jeanne, we wish you all the love in the world, as you go out from here to love perfectly.

Blessings,



***True to the spirit of Redlands UCC,
a Party Celebrating the Ministry of
Rev. Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo
will be held on Sunday, April 15th after worship.
All are welcome!***

“Make us to know your ways, O God...teach us your paths...” Psalm 25:4
Easter and Eastertide 2007

New life. Yes, that's what we have been promised. New ears to hear. New eyes to see. New thoughts to think. New hearts to love. New...new...new. And so, with this year's Eastertide Season worship services, we really are living into "the new." Each week brings something new and different for us as a community of faith. Come...for all are welcome!

April 1 – “April Fools!” – Communion Sunday and Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-38

Today, our parade of ministry together officially enters its sixth year, as we go marching right behind Jesus into Jerusalem! Images from today's scriptures paint for us a vibrant picture of the ministry to which we are called: as teachers, comforters, unafraid of ridicule or criticism, sure that God is helping us, standing together (I especially like that one!), surrounded by God's steadfast love, and bringing joy even as we confront injustice. Jesus did not shy away from controversy (to wit, his last week of life on earth...) and neither do we. Come, let us speak a good word of truth, always in love!

April 5 – Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Tenebrae Service; 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Luke 22:1-23:56

A simple meal with communion, integrated with the readings of the night, will be followed by a journey into an illuminated sanctuary that grows darker with each of the words spoken by Jesus and his disciples. This is an unforgettable worship experience that embodies the drama of "the great three days." Come into the darkness to see what gifts are there for you.

April 8 – “All Hell Breaks Loose!” – Easter Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12

Jesus promised his friends that in just three days, there would be life after death, and we are given the same promise. Whatever "hell" in which we currently exist is broken loose by Christ. The old becomes new again...new heavens...new earth...God fails to remember our sordid past...for God is busy creating a new Jerusalem with new people...and friends, we are part of it! This new world, like Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, really IS all around us. Open your Easter eyes...tune up your Easter ears...for as Isaiah and Jesus both declare, we are standing on God's holy mountain today! Come, for ALL ARE WELCOME!

April 15 – Rev. Jeanne's last message

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, John 20:19-31

Our beloved Rev. Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo embarks on her new journey with the Diamond Bar United Church of Christ soon, but before she goes, she has one final message for us. Come and hear...Come and celebrate God's ministry through Jeanne!

April 22 – “And Now for the Rest of the Story”

Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Each of today's passages offers only a glimmer of one part of the resurrection story...the part that depends on us to live. Blinded by the light, Saul is told only the very next step of the journey. The angelic beings in heaven are given only one verse of praise to sing. The disciples are told only to "let down their nets on the other side of the boat." Impulsive Peter is forgiven for his three denials, and at the same time given three, but only three, specific directions. One step at a time seems to be the mantra for today.

April 29 – “A Multitude of Sheep”

Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-33

For the umpteenth time, Redlands UCC is helping to guide a seminary student through the ordination process! Today, we hear from our current In-Care Student, Sally Burton, who has her preaching voice all tuned up!

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence. Come and be refreshed for the journey ahead...

—Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff

From Your Associate Pastor:

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share with you some news. For the last two and a half years you have given me the opportunity to learn from you and serve with you as your minister. You have nurtured my tentative beginnings as an intern through to ordination and the call as your associate pastor for outreach. I have felt the gentle hold of your hands as well as your supportive words all along the way. And for such love I am extremely grateful.

It is now time for me to take the next steps on my journey and follow the lead of the Spirit. I have received a call from the Diamond Bar United Church of Christ to serve as their senior pastor and have accepted the position effective May 1, 2007. I will remain on as your associate pastor until April 15, 2007, and expect to continue facilitating the Step By Step program until May 31, 2007.

It has been an honor and blessing for me to have been at RUCC for the important foundational beginnings of my work in ordained ministry and I extend my deepest thanks to each and every one of you for lighting my way. You have affirmed for me the unconditional and welcoming love that is the hallmark of the UCC.

As I continue my journey I will take you with me in thoughts and prayers. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as well.

Wishing you peace and love,

Rev. Jeanne Favreau Sorvillo
Associate Minister of Outreach

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
APRIL – 2007

By now you all know that our beloved Associate Pastor Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo has accepted a call to the Diamond Bar UCC. I'm so glad that she has been part of our church family for the past three years. Through her excellent leadership and gentle way with people, she has built the Step by Step program into a strong coalition within the community. She has established a strong relationship with the Police and Corrections Team (PACT) and has built Step by Step into a program that is helping parolees on many fronts to re-enter the community, and more importantly, is helping them to know that many in the community care about them. Wearing her other hat, Jeanne has served us well as Associate Pastor. We will miss her participation in worship, her pastoral care, her leadership of FaithActs, her friendship. I confess I'm not ready to see her leave, but I'm also happy for her and for this opportunity for her to take the message of progressive Christianity to her own congregation. Jeanne, you will always have a family here at RUCC. We love you and you will remain in our hearts.

The Personnel Committee will be deciding how to fill the void that Jeanne's departure will leave. We are fortunate to have a talented and knowledgeable group of people working on this committee which is led by our Vice President, Bill Kintner. You will be hearing more from them soon.

As you know, this is the year of the Environment. We have heard the message in worship and in our recent Lenten series. FaithActs and Stewards are pursuing a conversion to solar energy and FaithActs will be helping us to find ways to reduce global warming. I hope you will all join as active participants in our effort to honor and protect God's creation. If you would like to help on the global warming project or on other environmental projects through FaithActs, please contact me or another FaithActs member. Let's do what we can to be good stewards of the earth.

Dianne Landeros



Events at RUCC...

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, April 1st 12:00

Bring your favorite candies, craft supplies, and creative talents!

This year, each child will have the chance to create a one-of-a-kind Easter basket and stuff our collection of plastic eggs with their favorite sweets! We will use these treasures for our annual Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Service on April 8th.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets every Monday morning, 10:30 to 11:30, in the choir room. The first twenty minutes is a beginner/refresher workshop time followed by meditation and silent prayer. All are invited!

The Power Of A Peaceful Mind

Kelsang Rak-ma, Resident Teacher at the Dharmachakra Buddhist Center, will continue meditation classes beginning on Wednesday evening, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall. The fee is \$10 per class or five classes for \$40. You can join any classes you like; you don't have to join at the beginning of the series.

Thanks Y'all

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the variety show "Attic antics" on Friday the 9th of March. Didn't we have fun!

Gal Glanville and Jacob Fiske-Phillips did a great job to carry us along, as "Granny" and "Tom," finding items in the old attic trunk that led about thirty people into their acts. I have enjoyed being the coordinator for these intergenerational events for the last two years. Now, perhaps you would like to covenant to do it next year. With love, joy, and laughter
~ Mary Belle Carter

Step by Step Coalition

The Step by Step coalition will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 4:30 p.m. at RUCC. For further information please contact Rev. Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo at (714) 856-4589. Everyone is invited!

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

- 1 Floyd Orr
- 8 Lora Hall
- 15 Heather Shamp
- 22 Jacob Fiske-Phillips
- 29 Janet Wilson



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Matthew Kolpien
- 5 Adam Dewey
- 8 Janelle Bradford
- 10 Galilee Glanville
Kristen Cameron
Jay Grayson
- 11 Linden Taylor
- 14 Betty Jacobs
- 16 Jean Macomber
- 17 Tricia Thrasher
- 19 Hannah McMeans
Bonnie Pierce
Dana Hawley-Zechlin
- 21 Corey Dickey
Sally Cummings
- 23 Patricia Schindler
- 24 William Graff
Miz Becker
- 27 Lauren Waters
- 30 Leslie Hall

Vacation Time!

Looking for a vacation destination this July? Come visit Eric (aka Rick) and Valerie Naftzger as they celebrate their 40th anniversary in Eastbourne, England. Explore the 12th century church where they were married then join them on July 22nd for dinner at the Cavendish Hotel on the sea front. Want some exercise? Walk the South downs and explore castle ruins or tour working castles and lunch at a pub along the many public paths. Eastbourne ('the sun trap of the South' and Valerie's home town) is located half way between Brighton and Hastings. Want more information? Ask Rick or Valerie for more details.

Get on the Bus

We have had an overwhelming response to our Get on the Bus event this year! At this time, we have a total of 47 children participating, 29 girls and 18 boys, ranging in age from 1 year old to 19 years old.

We have also had a great response from the churches within the Step by Step Coalition. However, we are still in need of many items to make this event a success. Our two greatest needs are for items to be included in activity bags and teddy bears that will be given to the children for the bus ride. We need between 70 to 80 huggable Teddy Bears! Bears need to be brand new and at least 12 inches in height. Examples of age appropriate items for the activity bags are: books, flash cards, crossword puzzles, journals, travel games, and coloring books and crayons. We appreciate all donations. If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Bradford at (909)437-0358 or by email at angelique7393@yahoo.com.

"Laissez les bon temps rouler!"

Save the date to "let the good times roll" at the RUCC Cinco de Mayo Party, a fund raiser for Chalmette High School in New Orleans. All funds raised will be matched by FEMA.

Saturday, May 5,
from 5 to 8 p.m.

Watch The View
for weekly updates.

...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.

Rock and Roll!

Beginning April 1, check out the new exhibit at the San Bernardino County Museum "Living on the Edge." Come learn more about the geology we have to live with in Southern California. Experience life as a rock as you go through the rock cycle by playing "Rock and Roll." Examine rock specimens up close and learn about how rocks are formed. FREE museum admission on Sunday, April 1. Activities begin at 11:00 a.m.

LOOKING WAY AHEAD...To The Corner Service on May 20th

Once again, local Redlands congregations are being invited to worship "at the corner" (of Olive and Cajon) as a witness to our unity and friendship. This time, we are joining together to celebrate the first 100 years of University of Redlands, a school dedicated to the values we hold dear. Plan now, instead of worshipping in our sanctuary that day, to join your sisters and brothers "at the corner" at 9:30 am.

Eastern Association Spring Meeting

The Eastern Association will have their Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m. at The First Congregational Church Santa Ana, 2555 North Santiago St., Santa Ana.

The meeting will feature a dynamic presentation on growth within the SCNC-UCC and workshops to facilitate growth, social justice programs, and diversity. (Our own RUCC President and Pastor will be co-leading a workshop on growth that results from commitment to social justice. Registration is \$10 per person. For further information and driving directions please call (714) 639-0311.

Women's Spirituality Retreat

Join us for a weekend of fun, sharing, spirituality, healing, and relaxation as we explore how we can bring the peace of the mountains into our lives! There will be time for meditating, hiking, napping, walking the labyrinth, and using art as a way to find healing peace. Reconnect with your inner Spirit and rekindle your hopes and dreams as we gather together to share in the blessings of life.

The Retreat will be held at Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center and begins on Friday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday, May 6. The cost is \$100 per participant. For further information please call Pilgrim Pines at (909) 797-1821 or on the web at www.pilgrimpinescamp.org.

Health News From Health Ministries

The Skin Cancer You Haven't Heard About

Summer's the season for fun in the sun--but also for skin cancer. Of the three main types of skin cancer, melanoma is most deadly, and basal cell, most common. Squamous cell cancer falls in between. It's three times as common as melanoma (200,000 new cases each year versus 62,000). Though not as common as basal cell (about one million new cases each year), squamous cell is more serious as it is likely to spread (metastasize). Treated early, the cure rate is over 90%, but metastases occur in 1-5% of cases. After it has metastasized, it's very difficult to treat.

What It Looks Like

Squamous cell cancer involves the run-away growth of keratinocytes, cells in the outermost layer of skin, which produce the protein keratin. Squamous means scaly; in 60-80% of cases, the lesions emerge on or near scaly patches called actinic keratoses that develop from sun-damaged skin. Typically, such lesions are hard, well-defined, and crusty. You might mistake one for a wart, only flatter. Others are soft and fleshy.

Risk Factors

Exposure to sunlight is the main risk factor for skin cancer. For melanoma, sporadic instances of intense exposure seem to be triggers. For squamous cell cancer, cumulative exposure and possibly the intensity of the sunlight may be more significant. As with all skin cancers, skin color is relevant: Those with darker skin (African Americans, Africans, Asians) have lower rates of squamous cell cancer than Caucasians. Among Caucasians, lighter skinned people are more vulnerable.

Treatment

Treatments for squamous cell cancer all have the same goal: get rid of the cancer cells while avoiding unnecessary harm to surrounding skin. Cryotherapy (rapid freezing) and radiation are used if the lesion is small and not likely to metastasize. Cryotherapy is fast and inexpensive but can leave a whitish mark. Radiation gives the doctor pinpoint control, minimizing damage to healthy skin, but it's expensive, involves many visits, and could result in a more aggressive case if cancer recurs. Ointments are useful if there are many lesions but can cause burning, stinging, and oozing.

Surgery is the main therapy for larger lesions, and Mohs surgery is becoming the standard especially for lesions on the face, where cosmetic results matter. Dr Frederic Mohs, of the University of Wisconsin, developed the procedure in the 1930's and '40's. It involves shaving thin, horizontal slices from the lesion and microscopically examining each one for cancer cells.

Prevention

Sun safety is fairly straightforward. Avoid being outdoors between 11 A.M. and 4 P.M. when the sun is most intense. Remember that exposure doesn't just happen at the beach. By some estimates 80% of it is incidental to everyday activities like walking the dog, running errands, and so on. Noses, ears, necks are especially vulnerable, so wear a wide-brimmed hat. A baseball cap offers no protection to your ears and neck.

Sunscreen isn't a magic shield and can offer a false sense of security, encouraging people to stay in the sun too long. Sunscreen users should buy one with a sun protective factor of at least 15. Be sure to put on enough lotion. You need 3 TABLESPOONFULS ON YOUR FACE, NECK, ARMS, TRUNK, AND LEGS PER APPLICATION. AT LEAST ONE TEASPOON SHOULD GO ON YOUR FACE AND NECK. *From the Harvard Health Letter 5/06*

April Scripture Readings

April 1: *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-38*
April 5: *Luke 22:1-23:56*
April 8: *Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12*
April 15: *Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; John 20:19-31*
April 22: *Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19*
April 29 *Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-33*

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