

# *WANDERINGS*

*A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose*

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

*May 2007*

The Step by Step Coalition will meet on Tuesday, May 1  
at 4:30 p.m. in the CE area.

Music Sunday ~ Communion Sunday  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,  
Sunday, May 6

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

Church Board will meet Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.  
in the church office.

Staff Meeting – Tuesday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.

“Get on the Bus” event, Friday, May 11

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, May 15,  
at 12:00 in the Pastor’s office.

Stewards will meet on Tuesday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Jubilee Ringers and Celebration Ringers will begin summer break  
on Friday May 4. They will resume practices September 6.

Covenant Choir continues rehearsing on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

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

*From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon ~*

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
'See, I am making all things new.'"  
—from Revelation, chapter 21*

New...change...ugh! This is the natural and logical progression for many! But for others, including the writer of Revelation, change is something to be welcomed and embraced, something to recognize as originating with our loving Creator.

Writing near the end of the first century, during an era in which the fledgling Christian churches were beset on all sides, the writer uses fantastic images and coded language to communicate the message. Now on their own—no longer protected by local Jewish synagogues—we can imagine the letter's recipients meeting secretly in dark places, reading the encouraging words and hoping that their imbedded truth would soon be realized.

And what was that truth-filled message communicated through code and dramatic imagery? Well, contrary to the wildly popular "Left Behind" series just ended (mercifully!), the message was not that Jesus would return some 2,000+ years in the future, fight Satan to the death, and then victoriously establish a heavenly kingdom on earth in which all "the saved" would be forever blessed. Sorry to disappoint. I was taught and I still believe that the primary message of the book is one of hope. Hope for those early Christians, newly independent, and facing certain death in coliseums throughout the Roman Empire. Hope that God would win the current battle. Hope that light was more penetrating than the shadows into which they had to flee. Hope that the gospel of Jesus Christ—a gospel of love, compassion, forgiveness—was enough to sustain them through the present crisis. Hope...Hope...Hope. Just like a good Cubs fan (again, sorry...!) hope springs eternal for these early readers of coded language and Hollywood-style staging.

We have no idea whether or not the book met its intent to bring hope in the midst of change and chaos. We do know that the church survived...thrived even...from its infancy in the late first century to the maturity we experience today. I'd like to believe that it survived and thrived because of the hope proclaimed in its holy texts and embodied in its holy saints...even through us, today.

Blessings,



*Rev. Graff will be out of the office from May 22<sup>nd</sup> through the month of June, returning to worship on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be enjoying her annual extended silent retreat (this year in Colorado at a retreat center run by the same folks who welcomed her into silence in Ireland in 2005), and then delighting in some vacation time in New York with husband John, prior to their attending the UCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Hartford, Connecticut. She will also rest...promise!*

**During her absence, your pastoral needs will happily be met by  
Rev. Dr. Al Sproull (May 22 – mid-June) 909.335.5552  
and Rev. Dr. Bill Kintner (mid-June through June 30) 909.335.0050  
and your Shepherds whose numbers are listed in the RUCC Directory.  
Please do not hesitate to call in case of need!**

*“Make us to know your ways, O God...teach us your paths...” Psalm 25:4*  
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!

May 6 – Music Sunday – Communion Sunday

*Scriptures: Psalm 40; Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35*

Our handbell and choral musicians will lead us in an inspiring service of worship, featuring the Schubert Mass in G. Come to sing, to pray, to hear new music, and to experience the music of high liturgy within our familiar worship service. Guaranteed: you will hear something of the Divine...

May 13 – “The Color Purple”

*Scriptures: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 5:1-9*

Three water-filled passages await to refresh us this morning...Paul and his entourage sit with a group of women by a river that was well-known as a place of prayer; John's majestic vision includes the river of the water of life itself beside which flourish the trees of life; and while Jesus is in Jerusalem, he makes a beeline for the healing waters of Bethzatha Pool, arriving at the water's edge just in time to heal a man ill for 38 long years. Water in these scriptures is a place that brings new life, new direction, even as those who drink it or wait by it or attempt to sit in it (or, like us, read about them) are distracted by random details such as the color purple. Come to the water, and dare to drink deeply...

May 20 – WORSHIP AT GOD'S CORNER (Cajon and Olive) – 9:30 am – No services at RUCC

Once again, we are invited to join with other congregations in Redlands to celebrate our unity. Today, we gather to honor the faith-based history of the University of Redlands, through song, prayer, scripture, and word. **Our regular morning service at Redlands UCC will be replaced by this service of unity and celebration.** All are urged to make this 9:30 am service your worship experience of the day!

May 27 – PENTECOST SUNDAY – Rev. Dr. Bill Kintner, preaching

*Scriptures: Acts 2:1-11; John 14:8-17*

One of RUCC's many leaders, Bill Kintner, will bring the morning message... Bill is the Vice President of RUCC. He is an ordained United Methodist minister and has been medically retired for five years. The message will focus on the passage from Acts, which is the Pentecost account. Titled, "Empowering the Church," we will address the legacy of Jesus Christ and the power that created the church in the first place. Recovering our connection to the spirit of Christ and what that can mean for today's church will be explored. Since Pentecost is the birthday of the church, all are encouraged to wear *red* for the morning worship celebration.

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

## *Until We Meet Again!*

Dear RUCC Friends,

What a joy to celebrate with you the time we have spent together! Thank you so much for your generous gifts, loving words of support, meditation stones, and delicious luncheon party. When I wear my stoles I will always remember you and the colorful times of our shared lives. And my new office will now be the home for the wonderful Landeros print, which I discovered later was designed for the work of *Food For All*. As it turns out, back in the late 1980's I was the chair of the first "Funds Distribution Committee" for *Food for All* in Orange County. So not only did my work with *Third World Handarts* come around full circle, so did my work with *Food for All* ... and both at RUCC! The Spirit is not so mysterious after all!

One of my joys of participation in worship has been the opportunity to offer the pastoral prayer on a regular basis. I have loved these occasions to tap into a creative center and allow God to burst forth. Some of you have asked for copies of these prayers, so I have compiled them all and they will soon be available through the church office for anyone interested. I hope they will prompt the God in you to burst forth as well!

I will continue to see some of you throughout the month of May as I work with Janelle Bradford and the Get on the Bus program and wrap up the transition of leadership of the Step by Step program. So this is not goodbye but "until we meet again." If you are ever in Diamond Bar please do come by and visit. My new home is Diamond Bar UCC, 2335 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765. 909-861-4735. [www.dbucc.org](http://www.dbucc.org). You can also reach me by email at [jfavors@yahoo.com](mailto:jfavors@yahoo.com).

May God's blessings be with you as you continue your journeys!

Peace,

*Jeanne*

## *Events at RUCC...*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jazz Festival

Planning has begun for the 2nd Annual Jazz Festival to benefit the Step-by-Step program. Anyone interested in being a part of a planning committee, please contact Justin or Lashawn at (909)266-0958. With your help we can make this an exciting event for both the church and the community.

Friday, June 8  
Watch The View  
for weekly updates.

### **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/refreshers workshop time followed by meditation and silent prayer. All are invited!

### **Bible Study 101**

Monday, May 7th, 7-8pm--Bible Study 101: an 8-session introduction to the Bible, using materials from Kerygma. First meeting in the church office. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Rev. Graff.

### **The Power Of A Peaceful Mind**

Kelsang Rak-ma, Resident Teacher at the Dharmachakra Buddhist Center, will hold meditation classes on Wednesday evening, May 9 and May 16, 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.

### **Step by Step Coalition**

The Step by Step coalition will meet Tuesday, May 1, at 4:30 p.m. at RUCC. For further information please contact Rev. Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo at (714) 856-4589. Everyone is invited!



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](mailto:angelique7393@yahoo.com).

## MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

- 6 Gavin Thrasher
- 13 Phil Robb
- 20 No service at RUCC
- 27 Floyd Orr

### Our nursery needs your help!!!

With the arrival of many delightful newborns to our congregation family, it is time to officially re-boost our nursery with **NEW**, bright, and shiny things! Amanda Colclough, the new Christian Education director, has registered for RUCC at Baby's 'R' Us and Target with great hopes of nursery blessings. Please visit [www.babiesrus.com](http://www.babiesrus.com), [Target.com](http://Target.com), or your local store to donate.

Target.com registry access details:

**MOTHER:** RUCC Nursery (First: "RUCC") & (Last: "Nursery")

**FATHER:** Amanda Colclough

State: California

Arrival: April 30, 2007

Babiesrus.com registry access details:

Last Name: Colclough

First Name: Amanda

State: California

### And Speaking of Babies...

Renae ~ newborn daughter of Charissa and Patrick Wiedlin ~ will be baptized with her mother at RUCC on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. All are invited to come back to our sanctuary, after the "Street Corner Service" concludes, to celebrate this wonderful occasion!

## Vacation Time!

Looking for a vacation destination this July? Come visit Eric (aka Rick) and Valerie Naftzger as they celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Eastbourne, England. Explore the 12<sup>th</sup> century church where they were married then join them on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Lois Campbell
- 6 Bettye Wheeler
- 10 Carrie Schindler
- 12 Dan Wacks
- 14 Sondra Hodson
- 16 Floyd Orr  
Jane Arnegard
- 18 Sheldon Montgomery  
Chance Austin-Brecher  
Georgia Sforza
- 21 Kate Morics  
Paul Hodson
- 23 Helen Arth
- 26 Susie Mayse
- 27 Bill Buchanan
- 28 Shirley Marks
- 30 Aurea Nuñez  
Kristi Campbell

## *...and around town*

### **FFLAG Meeting**

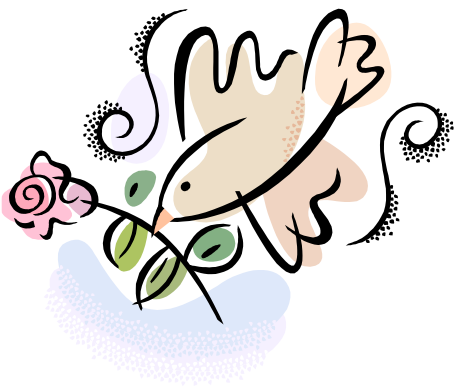
Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG) meet on the first Wednesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Cajon and Olive at 7:30 p.m. Mary Belle Carter represents RUCC. For more information please contact Mary Belle at (909) 795-6369.

### **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**

Redlands Area Interfaith Council cordially invites you to attend the Redlands Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 3, at 7:00 a.m. at the Orton Center, University of Redlands. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 years. For further information, please contact Arthur Gregory at 909.792.7471 or by email at [arthra999@yahoo.com](mailto:arthra999@yahoo.com).

### **Church Women United**

Church Women United will celebrate May Friendship Day – Under God's Wing on Friday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m. with a salad luncheon at Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands. Please bring a salad or a donation of \$3.



### **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](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org).

### **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.

~ And remember...all are invited back to RUCC sanctuary for the baptisms of newborn Renae and her mother Charissa Wiedlin ~ 11:30 a.m., Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Health Ministries News for May

### Shingles and Shingles Vaccine

Shingles is a painful skin rash, often with blisters, which usually appears on one side of the body and lasts from 2 to 4 weeks. Its main symptom is pain which can be quite severe. Other symptoms can include fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach.

Shingles (Herpes Zoster) is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Only someone who has had Chickenpox, or the Chickenpox vaccine, can get Shingles. The virus stays in your system. It can reappear many years later to cause Shingles.

In 2006 a vaccine for Shingles was licensed. In clinical trials, the vaccine prevented Shingles in about one half of people over 60 years of age. It can also reduce the pain associated with the disease. At this time a single dose of the vaccine is indicated for adults 60 years of age or over. This recommendation comes from the Advisory Board on Immunizations, a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People who should NOT receive the vaccine are those with severe allergies to gelatin or neomycin, those who have a weakened immune system because of illness or treatment with steroids, those who are receiving radiation or chemotherapy, those with a history of cancer affecting the lymphatic system, or those with active Tuberculosis.

You can't catch Shingles from another person with Shingles. It is possible for a person who has never had Chickenpox or the vaccine for Chickenpox to get Chickenpox from someone with Shingles.

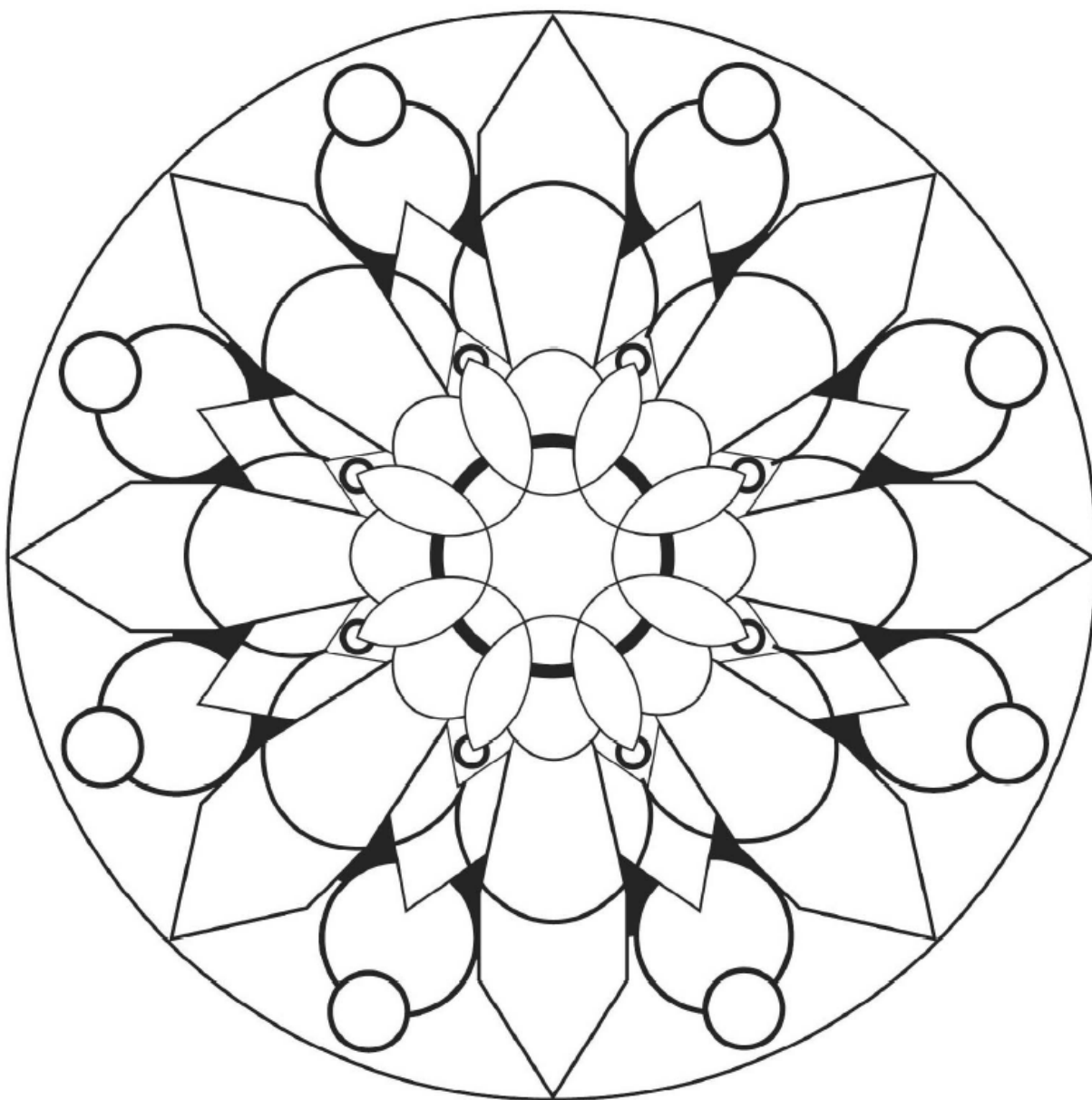
Shingles is far more common in people 50 and older than in younger people. At least one million people a year in the United States get Shingles. The cost of the vaccine per person is \$180. Some medical insurers may cover this cost, but, as yet, Medicare does not. Please check with your health insurance for their coverage.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

*Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

  
**Mother's Day**

Our congregation's confirmation group recently met for an overnight retreat, during which we were discussing the nature and presence of God... To help us access our thoughts and feelings about the Divine, we turned to the coloring of mandalas. Mandalas, like the one pictured here, are circular designs that invite us into a deeper awareness of our own "center" (the English meaning of the Sanskrit word mandala), at the core of which resides the Divine spark of life. So these amazing young people colored, and colored, and colored. Forty-five minutes of silence accompanied the meditative coloring, which then was followed by another half hour or so of sharing the meaning of their mandala with another person. The silence was profound...the sharing was sacred...the experience with mandalas is one we heartily commend to our wider church community. Need a colored pencil to get started???



### May Scripture Readings

May 6: *Psalm 40; Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35*  
May 13: *Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 5:1-9*  
May 20: *Worship at God's Corner (Cajon and Olive)*  
May 27: *Acts 2:1-11; John 14:8-17*

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff  
Step by Step Director – 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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