

# *WANDERINGS*

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

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

*June 2007*

Sunday, June 3 ~ Communion Sunday  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,

The Step by Step Coalition will meet on Tuesday, June 5  
at 4:30 p.m. in the CE area.

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

Step By Step's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jazz Festival ~ Friday, June 8 at 6:00

Church Board will meet Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.  
in the church office.

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, June 19,  
at 12:00 in the Pastor's office.

Brown Bag Lunch & Game Day, Sunday, June 24, following worship service.

Stewards will meet on Tuesday, June 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Jubilee Ringers and Celebration Ringers on summer break.  
They will resume practices September 6.

Covenant Choir will rehearse on Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

High school youth group will meet at 2:00 on Sundays, June 3, 10, 17, 24

*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*  
June 2007

Joy is, for me, the essence of worship and of life. As a community, we gather each week to experience the joy of God’s presence in relationship with others. To these services, we can bring our whole selves, knowing that the joy of community will heal hurts and offer hope for the journey. I will be worshiping apart from you in June, as I enter into my annual silent retreat, followed by vacation rest, and then travel with John to the UCC’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash in Hartford, Connecticut!

June 3 – Communion Sunday

*Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15*

Once again, we shall hear the message of the Spirit, spoken through The Rev. Dr. Bill Kintner. Bill and Colleen have been part of the RUCC family for nearly five years, and bring years of wisdom and experience from other parishes and ministry settings. Come, hear the message and feast at the table!

June 10 – Rev. John Walsh, preaching

*1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-19*

Current University Chaplain and former Senior Pastor, John Walsh always brings a fresh approach to the scriptures when he preaches. Come and hear Spirit’s words in his...

June 17 – Fathers Day – John Walsh, preaching

*1 Kings 21:1-10, 15-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3*

Part 2, Verse 2, Chapter 2...John Walsh offers more illumination of scripture on this, his second-in-a-row-Sunday-in-the-pulpit. Listen and hear the continuing words of the Divine nudging you...

June 24 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Christ – Eric Naftzger, preaching

*1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39*

RUCC Charter Member, Eric Naftzger, is our own “Mr. UCC!” Eric has served the UCC in many capacities, locally, in the Association, Conference, and General Synod settings of the church. He was President of RUCC at its founding, and served again as Rev. Graff began her ministry from 2002-2004. No one is better able to speak from the heart of UCC-dom than is Eric...come, hear Spirit speak through him!

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence. Come to the party...

—Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff

## *Events at RUCC...*

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

Please join us on Friday, June 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the garden at RUCC for an evening of great entertainment for the whole family.

Bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy music under the stars from REV, Redlands, and Beatty High Schools, Cope Middle School and The Zanja 8.

### **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!

### **Bible Study 101**

Bible Study 101: an 8-session introduction to the Bible, using materials from Kerygma, will meet on Monday evening at 7:00 on June 4 and 18. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Rev. Graff.

### **Step by Step Coalition**

The Step by Step coalition will meet Tuesday, June 5, at 4:30 p.m. at RUCC. For further information please contact the church office at 909.793.3520. Everyone is invited!

### **Alpha Bible Study**

The Alpha Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kathie and Richard Blakley. The group is just beginning the study of Luke and invites you to join them. For further information, please call 909.793.3520.

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Melanie Moran
- 2 Carol Buchanan  
Chase Warner
- 3 Eric Shamp
- 5 Carol Robb
- 6 Valerie Naftzger  
Philip Robb
- 7 Barbie Fiske-Phillips  
Julie Phillip  
Laurie K. Mooney
- 8 Ruth Moses
- 9 Robert Woods
- 11 Missy Waters
- 12 Beverly Young
- 13 Bonnie Killpatrick
- 14 Opal Inman  
Ivonne Moran
- 16 Don Arnegard
- 17 Peter Morics
- 18 Gene Kuehl
- 19 Steve Morics  
Susan Traverso
- 21 Bob Barton  
Barbara Hauser
- 23 Pam Dunn
- 24 Joan Kay Armantage
- 26 Joyce Planeta
- 30 Allen Killpatrick

## **JUNE WORSHIP LEADERS**

- 3 Richard Blakley
- 10 Denise Cain
- 17 Janet Wilson
- 24 Julie Phillip

### **Meditations from You**

During the month of August, Rev. Graff will offer meditations based on spiritual questions you have or specific scriptural passages you wish to hear more about. This is NOT a contest! It IS an opportunity for you to be engaged in the formulation and writing of a meditation by providing the inspiration from your heart to her ear! Please submit your questions or passages to Rev. Graff before July 1 for consideration. Many thanks for participating in creating meaningful worship experiences for us all!

### ***Getting To Know You...***

by Betty Jacobs

Our church has been blessed with many Landeroses beginning with our beloved Dorothy and Albert. This may be one of the shorter life stories because the subject, great –granddaughter Carlisle is only 12.

She may be young but she has packed a lot of living in those years. But wait ten or fifteen years and you'll probably be reading of her in the legitimate press and seeing her name in lights on Broadway. Born in beautiful Boulder, Colorado she, brother Hunter and Mom and Dad, Toni and Doug Momberger joined the rest of the Landeros clan here in Redlands when she was two.

Even then Carlisle was musical, beginning piano lessons at age three and still taking them as does brother, Hunter. She also took, and still does, private flute lessons. How could you not be talented in the Landeros family!

At Moore Middle School she's in the choir and plays first chair flute in the band. Her well-rounded life also includes handball, jump roping and dodge ball. If she had a resume it would already include theatre experience having played in productions of Alice in Wonderland, Annie, The Little Princess and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. With Stage Presence Studios she sang and danced in New York and was a soloist. Did I mention that this year she earned a 4.0 at Moore Middle School?

In summer the family is off to experience different areas of the United States, sometimes driving, but mostly on Amtrak, which Carlisle loves. They've been to Oregon, Texas, Louisiana, New York and Pennsylvania. This year they'll take the train to New York and then a motor home to Maine.

In church you'll see her next to Great Grandma Dorothy in the choir and with Grandma Dianne in the Bell Choir. We neglected to order a choir robe in her size, and even though she is swallowed up by green she still stands out in many wonderful ways.

## *...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.

### **Tickets available for “Wonderland”**

Tickets are now available for the musical "Wonderland." Our own Carlisle Momberger is starring as Alice in this Broadway version of "Alice through the Looking Glass." This is a production of the Riverside Community Theater. Performances are June 9 and 10 at La Sierra University in Riverside. Reserved seating is \$10. Contact Toni Momberger by phone or e-mail: (909) 335-0506 or [tonimom@earthlink.net](mailto:tonimom@earthlink.net) and let her know how many you want and for what date.

### **Church Women United**

Church Women United will meet at the University United Methodist Church, 940 E. Colton Ave. at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 8, as a celebration for human rights. The theme is “Finding Refuge Under God’s Tent.” Guest speaker Phil Courtney, columnist and political humorist will speak on “Standing Up for Human Rights.” This will be followed by a catered lunch. Reservations can be made by calling Jo Tyler at 909.792.4468.

### **Citizen’s Action for Peace**

Citizen’s Action for Peace continues their Film and Lecture Series on Sunday, June 10, at 1:00 p.m. at Redlands United Church of Christ with a presentation of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival Winner “Crossing Arizona.” The film is a collection of personal accounts stemming from Arizona’s illegal immigration crisis. Since 1995 over 1000 immigrants have died trying to cross into the U.S. through the blazing heat of Arizona. “Crossing Arizona” examines the crisis through the eyes of those directly affected by it.



Fathers Day ~ June 17

## Health Ministries News for May

### A BREATHTAKING EXPERIENCE

Don't perform the Heimlich maneuver on a person who is choking BUT can still speak.

Each year 3,000-4,000 Americans die from choking, or pulmonary aspiration--about the same as the number who die by drowning. Choking happens mainly during meals, and meat is the chief culprit. Food and small objects aren't the only causes. Swelling from an allergic reaction, or, in an unconscious person, the tongue can prevent air from flowing into the lungs.

### SHARED COMMUTE

Things go down the wrong way and cause us to choke. Our breathing tube, or trachea, isn't segregated from the one we use for swallowing, the esophagus. Air, food, and drink all share the same way down the throat until the trachea branches off, right around your Adam's apple. Normally, the epiglottis keeps food and drink from going into the trachea. This flap of cartilage is designed to snap shut automatically when we swallow, closing off the airway.

### WHO IS AT RISK?

Choking is most likely to occur in very young children, particularly toddlers, and in the elderly. Toddlers like to explore their surroundings with their mouths. Older people are vulnerable because they lose some of the reflexes and muscle tone needed to eject an object from the trachea. Conditions such as Parkinsonism and Alzheimer's make older citizens even more vulnerable. Alcohol can be a contributing factor because it suppresses the airway's protective reflexes.

### SIGNS OF CHOKING

Once you know the signs of choking, they're easy to spot even without medical training.

They include;

- Grabbing at the throat

- Difficulty speaking

- Weak, ineffective cough, or labored breathing sometimes accompanied by wheezing or whistling

- Face turning blue (cyanosis)

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Ask him or her, "Are you choking? If yes, then ask, "Can you speak?"

Don't perform Heimlich maneuver on anyone who is able to talk. If a person can speak, there isn't a major obstruction, and the airway is at least partially intact, according to Dr. Toby Nagurney, an ER physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. In this situation, encourage the person to continue breathing and to cough forcefully, which is the best way to dislodge items stuck in the airway. Stay with the person until he or she feels better or medically trained personnel have arrived. If someone is vomiting or seems to be losing consciousness then you should lay the person on his or her side. An upright position could be dangerous because an object that is partially blocking the trachea could be pulled further into it, creating a complete obstruction, notes Dr. Nagurney. If the person can't talk, then you should try the Heimlich maneuver while having someone call 911 for help. There is more information about the maneuver on the website at [www.health.harvard.edu/healthextra](http://www.health.harvard.edu/healthextra).

### **June Scripture Readings**

June 3 :                    *Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15*  
June 10:                   *1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-19*  
June 17:                   *1 Kings 21:1-10, 15-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3*  
June 24:                   *1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39*

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff  
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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