

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

June 2008

Contemplative Worship Service – 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Communion Sunday - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 1

Jazz Festival

Friday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Friday Film Series

Friday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Bible 102 will meet the 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays
Beginning June 9 at 7 p.m. in the CE area

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

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

Stewards will meet on Tuesday, June 24
at 7:00 p.m. in the church office

Summer Series begins June 29 at 5:00 p.m.
Locations TBA

Middle school and High school youth group
June meetings ~ check www.facebook.com ~ RUCC Youth Group

From Your Friend and (almost) Pastor Sally ~

The Pilgrims' Aiding

**God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn;**

**Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.**

~A Celtic Journey Blessing

You know, I think that Rev. Sharon is on to something with her love of Celtic spirituality! I am looking forward to our summer journey of Sabbatical together. I think it is going to be a great opportunity to learn more about this type of spirituality. From what I have read so far, it meshes very well with who I am. I know that God is transcendent and beyond our ability to fully understand, but I have always delighted in the God whom I feel within. Celtic Spirituality celebrates the Divine image at the heart of all people. It affirms that we can glimpse something of God in one another's eyes. God is not seen as far off in a heavenly realm, but at the very heart of our lives here on earth. The Celtic vision also affirms the goodness of creation. I join Pastor Graff in saying that this makes my heart sing!

I am also looking forward to hearing all the special people who will be preaching this summer. We are going to see different sides of one another as we share what has touched us and inspired us along our faith journey. This is a rare opportunity and I have no doubt that we will be refreshed and renewed during this season of holy rest.

Blessings & Peace~

Sally

President's Message

On May 18th, a large group of members from Redlands United Church of Christ joined in worship with San Bernardino First Congregational United Church of Christ. It was a fitting and symbolic way to begin our Sabbatical with a journey to visit our UCC neighbors.

The worship was inspiring with leadership from both churches, choral and handbell music, and a stirring message from Sally Burton, all under festive red decorations left up from Pentecost. Sally is a member of RUCC and has been the ministerial intern at FCUCC. She was preaching as part of her last Sunday in that capacity.

After the service, we joined in a big food-fest and many stayed for her Ecclesiastical Council. There were approximately 15-20 UCC congregations represented and many clergy as well. The questions were tough but loving, intended to get to know Sally better and help guide the vote on whether to recommend her for ordination as a UCC minister. Sally answered all the questions honestly and with a sense of the sacred. Sometimes, she answered kind of like Mark Twain who once said, "I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said, "I don't know."

In the end, the vote was unanimous to recommend her ordination subject to a call. Sally's humble response to the group's standing ovation was "I love you" which I believe is one of the keys to her successful ministry. We will be blessed with Sally's presence here during the Sabbatical to offer pastoral care, facilitate communication between the church's areas, and participate in leadership in Sunday services.

This was also a special Sunday in another way. It was the beginning of the UCC's Sacred Conversation on Race. Sally's sermon focused on this important issue and a group of about 30 people gathered for discussion after lunch. The conversation was indeed sacred as we posed questions, asked about each others' experiences and listened to stories that were as varied as the participants.

However, the sacred conversation is not a one-time event. It will live on as much as we nourish it in our church, in our communities, and in ourselves. It is not easy, as there is often pain and injustice just beneath the surface, and sometimes not even that deep. It can also be a challenge to take our conversation and turn it into a tangible and specific action toward racial justice.

What will you do to join in the sacred conversation? What will you help our church do? The threads of both conversation and action are there before us. We must pick them up and start weaving them together.

With optimism and hope,
Loring Fiske-Phillips

Sabbatical Leave

What a great day May 11th turned out to be. Full attendance at worship with a good feeling that the Spirit was there and with Sharon for her commissioning and for our commissioning. And then to have the luncheon which went so well. Since we had to compete with Mother's Day activities, it was a very pleasant surprise to see so many stay and consume all that great food and enjoy the decorations.

It is always a risk to change regular worship and the sabbatical committee was apprehensive that it would not go so well to worship at San Bernardino. While I did not count heads, I believe that there may have been more of us in attendance for the May 18th worship than members of the San Bernardino church. Sally Burton admitted that she was nervous, who would not be, but she did a very good job and answered the questions very well. Again, the Spirit was with Sally and the two supporting congregations.

Good news and bad news. The good news we have booked a preacher for every Sunday for the entire Sabbatical leave. The bad news is that we had too many volunteers to preach. For those of you that could not be put on the list do not despair. We will keep the list available for when Sharon is gone in the future.

The Summer Series will begin Sunday, June 29. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. for fun and food followed at 6:00 p.m. for a short presentation by Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes and discussion. His topic will be "The Sabbath". The two words Sabbath and Sabbatical have the same root. As with previous Summer Series, the goals are to have FUN, eat as well as learn and explore new ideas. Please check the weekly View for possible changes of host homes and addresses.

The books we will be using are listed below and a few copies will be available to purchase for those who have the burning desire to read more.

THE SABBATH, by Abraham Joshua Heschel

LISTENING FOR THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD, A Celtic Spirituality, by J. Philip Newell

ONE FOOT IN EDEN, A Celtic View of the Stages of Life, by J. Philip Newell

THE BOOK OF CREATION, An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality, by J. Philip Newell

TEACHINGS ON LOVE, by Thich Nhat Hanh

CELTIC PARABLES, by Robert Van De Weyer

Eric Naftzger
Sabbatical Committee Chair

Long Range Planning at RUCC

Redlands United Church of Christ is now thirty-five years old. In the early years we utilized rented space in other Redlands churches for worship and offices. Eventually we acquired land and put up a single building for multipurpose use. An adjacent residential structure was used as office and meeting space until it was burned to the ground by arson. Subsequently, a new sanctuary and offices were constructed, and many improvements were made to our church property. Now we have real estate for which we must care over the long term. We also have a growing congregation which has expanding space use needs. We have periodic capital maintenance issues which much be addressed. And we have a church staff, paid personnel to serve us. We have additional staff and equipment needs which must be met as our congregation grows in numbers and programs.

Already, a committee has been meeting to review the possibilities as we face major repair/replacement expenses with our sanctuary pipe organ. Increased building space for Christian education and other needs have been expressed. The question that we need to be asking ourselves is "where do we need to be two years from now, five years from now, ten years from now with some of these issues?" Intentional long range planning must be undertaken. The Church Board is seeking interested persons, including a committee chair, to help us begin to address our long range needs. Please speak with Pastor Sharon, President Loring Fiske-Phillips, or any Church Board member regarding your willingness to serve your church in this way as we face the future.

Bill Kintner
Vice President

Events at RUCC...

Friday Films
presents

'In Debt We Trust" Showcases insights about the impact of credit card debt on young people and the poor. Brief discussion to follow. Refreshments served.

June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

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!

Celebration of Helen Arth's 90th Birthday

Sunday, June 1, during fellowship time, the family of Helen Arth has invited us to celebrate Helen's 90th birthday. Come for birthday cake and punch. A basket will be available for cards.

Jazz Festival

Come enjoy an evening under the stars. The jazz festival will be held on June 6 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family Proceeds to Get On The Bus.

Church Library



Come and visit us at the church library. We have new reading material, particularly for young readers. We ask that this area not be used for storage. Please contact Carla in the church office regarding available storage space.

Summer Choir Needs You!

The 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. No evening rehearsal. Rehearse Sunday morning at 9:30. Sing for church. No robes. Dress informally. Sit in the congregation after you sing. Please "show up"!

Paul-Wilson Shepherd Group

The Paul - Wilson Shepard group will be meeting on Sunday, June 8th in Covenant Hall for a salad potluck at 12:00 pm. Please bring a salad of your choice, your shepherds will provide rolls and drinks. Questions? See Margaret Paul or Janet Wilson.

Bible 102

Anyone who participated in last year's Bible 101 study will remember how much we learned. We are about to embark on a new class ... Bible 102, the Bible in Depth. This will be a year long study using the Kerygma materials again, led this time by Jennifer Hawley Zechlin. I'm looking forward to seeing past participants as

well as new faces. We'll meet the 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays beginning June 9th at 7 p.m. in the CE area If you have questions call Jennifer at 790-4941. You may also e-mail her at deeprootsacademy@hotmail.com

Summer Series

Do you want to study and learn more about Celtic Christian Spirituality? Join us for the Summer Series which begins June 29. Fellowship and potluck at 5:00 p.m. with discussion beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome! Locations TBA ~ Watch View for details.

Sunday School Summer Program

Amanda and Jennifer are looking for volunteers for the Sunday School Summer Program. For everyone who has thought about being involved with the kids but doubted your abilities to teach now is your chance!

We're looking for volunteers in **June** to help with some fun outdoor games and activities including a water balloon fight! Come have fun playing with the kids!

In **July** our theme will include reading and indoor group games. Do you have what it takes to match wits in a round of Pictionary or group Monopoly? Maybe helping with our special Read To Feed program benefiting Heifer International is more your thing... Just let us know!

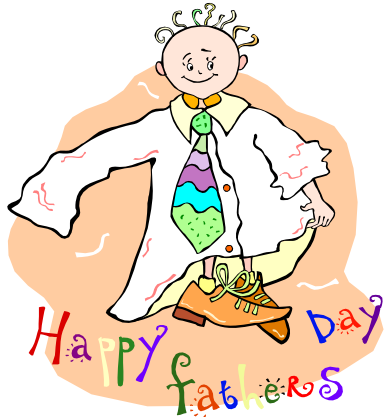
Volunteers are needed in **August** for Arts and Crafts month. Put on your artist's smocks and come help us create. If you would like to volunteer for the entire summer or any part of it, please contact Amanda Colclough at amandacolclough@msn.com or contact Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin at deeprootsacademy@hotmail.com or see either of us at church. Thanks everyone!

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 Candy Dietsch
Bonnie Killpatrick
- 14 Opal Inman
Ivonne Moran
- 17 Peter Morics
- 18 C. Gene Kuehl
- 19 Steve Morics
Susan Traverso
- 21 Bob Barton
Barbara Hauser
- 23 Pam Dunn
- 24 Joan Kay Armantage
- 30 Allen Killpatrick
Rosemary Tuohy

JUNE WORSHIP LEADERS

- 1 Floyd Orr
- 8 Rosemary Tuohy
- 15 Sondra Hodson
- 22 Barbie Fiske-Phillips
- 29 Sally Burton



Father's Day is said to have started growing its roots in the year of 1909. Mrs. John B. Dodds, from Spokane, Washington, campaigned for a Father's Day celebration. The idea came to her while she listened to a church sermon on the virtues of Mother's Day.

Mrs. Dodds thought about her own childhood, raised in a family of six children by a single father after the death of her mother. Mrs. Dodds thought of her father, who acted as both father and mother, and nurtured and cared for her and her siblings.

She wanted all fathers to be honored with a special day all their own. She campaigned and worked to spread her message, and even got the help of friends and family to write letters to

influential people who could make this dream happen for her.

After much hard work, Father's Day was first celebrated in 1910. Mrs. Dodds wanted the date of the holiday to be on her father's birthday, which was the fifth of June. But the events had to be moved to the nineteenth of June so there would be enough time to prepare.

Over time, annual celebrations were held throughout the United States and Canada. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Today, this special day provides the opportunity to honor the fathers, stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and any other men that have played the father role model in your life.

...and around town

FFLAG Meeting

Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG) will meet on June 4 at First United Methodist Church on the corner of Cajon and Olive at 7:30 p.m. For more information please contact Mary Belle at (909) 795-6369.

Church Women United

Meeting will be held on Friday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. at North Point Christian Fellowship, 3701 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino. We will be celebrating "Human Rights Celebration Day" Salad luncheon – bring a salad or \$3 donation. Join us and bring a friend!

City Wide Clean-up

The City of Redlands is holding a city-wide clean up on Saturday, June 7th. Volunteers are to meet at Sylvan Park at 8:30 a.m. It will conclude at noon, with a BBQ luncheon provided for volunteers. Groups as well as individuals are welcome to participate. Come join in this effort to clean up Redlands and have FUN too! Please contact Officer Natasha Crawford (preferably by May 22) if you would like to participate. This will help in assuring that adequate numbers of gloves, vests, etc. are provided. (Email is the best way to contact). Officer Natasha M. Crawford Redlands Police Department Email: ncrawford@redlandspolice.org

Women of Faith Humanitarian Service

In May, we began making '**sensory blankets**' – small patchwork blankets made of 12 squares of different colors and textures of fabric. They will be dispersed through the *Inland Regional Center* to newly diagnosed autistic children. **Priority items for parolee hygiene kits** are toothpaste, shampoo, disposable razors, and gallon and sandwich size of Ziploc bags. **We are continuing to collect** medical equipment & supplies, textbooks and books, new or nearly new clothing, shoes, coats, eyeglasses, sports equipment, and twin size flat sheets – all for Afghanistan. Call the number below if you would like to contribute any of these items..

Upcoming workdays:

Thursday, June 12 11 am – 8pm

Thursday, July 10 11 am – 8pm

Location: The LDS Church on the corner of Fifth Avenue & Wabash in Redlands (by the temple).

If you would like to contribute financially, or for more information, or to sign up to keep informed via our *Women of Faith* email list, email jeanarnott@gmail.com, or call Jean Arnott 794-0456.

Trip to New Classical Chinese Garden

Redlands Art Association is sponsoring a trip to the new classical Chinese garden at the Huntington Library which is open to the public and RAA members. The date is Saturday, June 21st. The buses will load at 201 Brookside Avenue leaving at 9:15 a.m. and leaving the museum at 3:00 p.m. The trip includes a private tour of a Chinese garden before the public enters, an all day pass to all gardens and museums and a charter bus. Trip cost is \$60.00. Reservations/Payment: RAA Gallery 215 East State Street, Redlands. **MUST RECEIVE PAYMENT BY END OF DAY MAY 31ST**. This is a trip for painters, photographers and gardeners. Come see the garden in spring bloom. Join us!

Southern California Nevada Conference Annual Gathering

The Southern California Nevada Conference United Church of Christ Annual Gathering will be held at the Glendale 1st Congregational Church UCC on June 20-21 this year. This will be an interesting and exciting opportunity for UCC members and churches to share and learn. This is also the place where resolutions begin that end up at Synod, as the Immigration Reform Resolution did this past year. Our RUCC church delegates this year will be Mary Belle Carter and John Walsh, but all members are encouraged and

welcomed to attend. It is a great way to learn what is happening to the larger body of faith of which we are part. Those of us who attended the Synod in Connecticut last year were amazed to find how empowering and exciting it was to share stories with our sisters and brothers in faith. There are some topical workshops and worship opportunities. You can register for the whole gathering, or for just one day, at www.signmeup.com/59802. For further information, contact John, Mary Belle, Rich or Kathie Blakley.

Stonehenge Decoded

Sunday, June 1, at 9:00 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel. The monument's true purpose has eluded archeologists for years, but a new theory has emerged that may shed light on one of history's greatest architectural riddles. Stonehenge's original builders must have had sophisticated building techniques and expert knowledge of the Solar System. Is it possible that Stone Age tribes used these monolithic rocks to observe not only the sun, but the moon as well? If you would like to learn more about Stonehenge, go to <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/stonehenge-decoded-3372/Overview>.

June Scripture Readings

June 1: Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19, Psalm 46 and Matthew 7:21-29
June 8: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12, Romans 4:13-25 and Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 15: Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35-10:8
June 22: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17, Romans 6:1b-11 and Matthew 10:24-39
June 29: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13, Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 6:12-23 and Matthew 10:40-42

Pastor in Residence – Sally Burton
Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff
Organist/Choir Director – Dr. Taylor Ruhl
Handbell Director – Craig Colclough
Youth Director – Craig Colclough
Education Director – Amanda Colclough
Administrative Assistant – Carla Becerril
Sunday Child Care – Leah Lane
Custodian – Jay Grayson
Church office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
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