

# WANDERINGS

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

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

*August 2008*

Contemplative Worship Service – 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

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

Sunday, August 3

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, August 4, 11, 18 and 25

at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

Bible 102 will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

7 p.m. in the CE area

Church Board will meet Tuesday, August 12

at 7:00 p.m. in the church office

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, August 19

at 12:00 p.m. in the Pastor's office.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesdays

at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Office

Summer Series August 3, 10 and 17 at 5:00 p.m.

Brown Bag/Game Day

Sunday, August 31 at 12:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall

Middle school and High school youth group

August meetings ~ check [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) ~ RUCC Youth Group

## From Your Pastor in Residence, Sally

Lord of the morning  
 of dawn chorus  
 rising sun  
 mist on water  
 day begun  
 Lord of the noontime  
 of chatting voices  
 laughter and fun  
 sparkling water  
 everyone  
 Lord of the evening  
 of quiet breeze  
 setting sun  
 gentle waters  
 day that's done

~anonymous

We've had a good season of sabbatical rest and reflection so far. I hope that you have found time to listen to the still small voice of God amidst the bustle of busy, summer days. Take a moment to notice God's gentle presence; in your neighbor's eyes, in insights that come to you in silence, with the changing colors of the mountains at different times of day, or in any number of sights and sounds around you. Let's stop and give thanks for our Redlands United Church of Christ community. I have noticed that everyone is looking out for one another, while Pastor Sharon is away. People have truly been working together as the Body of Christ.

We still have many wonderful things to look forward to this season. We'll hear more thoughtful and insightful sermons from unique voices in the RUCC family. Diverse people will be leading us in interesting discussions of topics and books. These are great opportunities to learn about different streams of spirituality, and to grow and stretch a bit. The Summer Series is a special gift to us, where we can enjoy being together. Thank you to everyone for participating and contributing in so many different ways. Thanks be to God for always being with us, before us, behind us, within us, beneath us and above us; all along our sabbatical way.

Blessings & Peace~ *Sally*

## President's Message

Nearly three months ago, I was wondering how we were going to survive without our mentor, confidant, guide, and general do-everything, be-everywhere, connect-all-the-dots pastor. Now, with Sharon's return only a couple of weeks away, I see that we were able to survive and even thrive with a little help from our friends. When Sharon returns refreshed and renewed, she will find her church family strengthened and even more cohesive than when she left.

How did this happen? Were we just lucky? I don't think so. In fact, I think there are three secrets to our success.

First is SERVICE. We are blessed to have so many ready, willing and able people who serve in ways that come from the junction of their talents and the community's need. I can't begin to name everyone who provided service (just check the entire church directory for a full list from A to Z!), but here are a few examples. Sally Burton gave hundreds of hours for pastoral care, leadership and keeping all the loose ends from fraying. Eric Naftzger and the Sabbatical Committee made sure services, events and activities were planned and executed. The church staff stepped up in major ways, often noticing the things that needed doing and doing them without being asked.

Second is FLEXIBILITY. I'm sure you've seen this in many ways, but here are a few of my observations. Sally and Taylor dealing with last minute changes in the service and taking it in stride. The Board coming together for an extra meeting to resolve emergent business. Committees realizing their plans were out of sync with other groups and quickly rearranging without complaint.

Third is PATIENCE. No ... make that LOVE. No, PATIENCE. Well, let's just make the third one PATIENCE *and* LOVE. The people in this church will cut you a lot of slack. They'll help you when you think you need help and not laugh when you think you know all the answers. They'll cry with you in your pain and celebrate with you in your joys. And believe it or not, no one's ever told me "I told you so."

So, there you have it. Three secrets to a successful sabbatical: SERVICE, FLEXIBILITY, PATIENCE and LOVE. Well, I guess that's not three ... but then again, they're also not secrets. We see them every day and in every interaction with our brothers and sisters at Redlands UCC. They strengthen our faith and are wonderful gifts from a loving God.

Welcome back, Sharon. We've missed you and we look forward to your gifts being back in the mix!

With optimism and hope,  
Loring Fiske-Phillips

## Sabbatical Leave

By the time you read this issue of the Wanderings there will be less than three weeks left of Sharon's and our sabbatical leave. Seems as though it was just a few weeks ago we were lining up preachers, Summer Series hosts and discussion leaders and making final adjustments to the commissioning Sunday service. I have only heard a lot of positive comments about what has been happening here at RUCC. Probably the one subject that I have heard the most about has been the lay preachers and it has all been positive. While I always enjoy the special youth Sundays we have had in the past, I was even more pleased and very impressed with their taking on a regular order of worship and filling the different roles. From the beginning of RUCC we have always had a great and talented youth and what they did on July 6 lived up to this tradition.

Another area which has gone very smoothly has been the ministerial/pastoral care provided by Sally Burton. This has been a great opportunity for Sally to continue to develop her skills which is not a big part of seminary education. This has gone much more smoothly than any of my wildest dreams could have expected. When Sally first proposed the idea I must admit that I was a little skeptical since she had been away from RUCC for almost a year because of her required internship but after just one meeting, I knew that it would work well and it has.

The Summer Series have gone very well. While the numbers of those who have participated has been slightly less than in past years the quality of the presentations and discussion have been very good. There are still available a few copies of the books listed which we have been using as background and additional study.

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

At the present time the Sabbatical Committee is putting the finishing touches on the worship service for August 17 which will conclude our Sabbatical time. Back in March the Committee stumbled at first but as the weeks and months have gone by we have had fun and have grown into a close group. Thank you RUCC for this opportunity.

Eric Naftzger  
Sabbatical Committee Chair

*The Eastern Association of the  
Southern California Nevada Conference of the  
United Church of Christ,  
Redlands United Church of Christ  
and  
First Congregational United Church of  
Christ in San Bernardino, California  
Cordially invite your presence and prayers  
for the service of Ordination & Installation*

*for*

*Sally S. Burton*

*Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
3041 North Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, California  
For directions visit [www.sbucc.org](http://www.sbucc.org)  
909-886-4911*

*Please R.S.V.P. to 909-886-4911 or [office@sbucc.org](mailto:office@sbucc.org)  
You are invited to wear red in celebration of the presence of the Holy Spirit*



*Reception to follow in Haskell Hall*



Dear Friends,

Please review the Proposed Pastor Emeritus Resolution. It will be presented to the congregation for a vote on August 24, 2008. Thank you!

## **PROPOSED PASTOR EMERITUS RESOLUTION**

June 16, 2008

### **PREAMBLE**

In the life of a faith community, there are some individuals whose faith, service, and actions commend recognition. Outstanding work on behalf of and for the congregation and our Creator's realm, is reason to sing the praises of our Creator, and to be joyous with the individual who has answered this call. Rev. Richard Scott Blakley is one of those dedicated individuals.

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley has been a resident of Redlands for almost all of his adult life, beginning in 1967 when he enrolled at the University of Redlands, graduating in 1971 with a BA degree in religious studies; while he was a graduate student at the Claremont School of Theology, he was the youth director and seminary intern at the First Congregational Church in Redlands; receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1976, he was ordained as a United Church of Christ minister, and served for four years, from 1976-1980, as Associate Pastor of the newly-formed Redlands United Church of Christ, of which he was one of the two founding ministers, along with Senior Pastor Bruce Van Blair, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley served for two years, from 1980-82, as Senior Minister at the Dowagiac, Michigan United Church of Christ congregation, which he reorganized and revitalized, and where he also served as Moderator of the Southwest Association of Michigan United Church of Christ churches, and as a board member of the Samaritan Counseling Service, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley returned to California when he was called in July 1982 to be the Senior Pastor of the Redlands United Church of Christ; during the next six years he worked to increase the number of active covenanting members, and to expand the church's budget; he initiated Advent, Lenten and summer study series; he started the sunrise Easter service; he sponsored Bible classes, prayer groups, youth groups, and retreats; he presided at the 1984 groundbreaking, construction, and dedication of Covenant Hall (the church's original sanctuary); he served as moderator of the United Church of Christ's Eastern Association, and he was the mentor for two candidates who became United Church of Christ ministers, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley, during his more than six years as Senior Pastor in Redlands, also widened the church's ministry in the community; he was a founding board member of the Christian Counseling Service, and of the Food for All program (to feed those who are hungry); he served on the City Housing Commission and helped to establish low-income senior apartments in Redlands; he was a board member of American Field Service and hosted six exchange students in his home; and he worked with the Family Service Association to establish its Home Again program for homeless people, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley's pastorate at Redlands United Church of Christ concluded in December 1988, after a progressive and severe hearing loss caused him to resign as pastor; he then received training for a new occupation, earning a degree in accounting at California State University, San Bernardino, and he then worked for ten years as director of accounting at the Moreno Valley Unified School District, from which he retired in 2003, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley has lived with his impaired hearing with a great sense of humor, and for the past twenty years he has courageously continued to be an active covenanting member of the Redlands United Church of Christ, serving on the church board as treasurer, as a member of many church committees, and as a founding board member of Step-by-Step, the parolee community reentry program; and he preached the first sermon in the church's new sanctuary when it was completed in 2001, and

**Whereas**, Richard Blakley is held in great affection by the members of the Redlands United Church of Christ, in recognition of his many outstanding accomplishments, and in gratitude for his loyal and loving relationships with members of the church and the community during the past 32 years of his ordained ministry,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the congregation of the Redlands United Church of Christ proudly and joyfully confers on Richard Scott Blakley, the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus, with the happy expectation of his many years ahead as a valued member of our congregation.

## ***Events at RUCC...***

### **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!

### **Shepherd Groups**

The Naftzger/Sforza Shepherd Group will meet in Covenant Hall on Sunday, August 24 at 12:00 p.m.

The Buchanan Shepherd Group will meet on August 24 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Bill and Carol Buchanan, 1320 Garden Street, Redlands.

### **Grief Support Group**

A new grief support group is now forming and will meet weekly for approximately six weeks beginning Wednesday, July 30, 7:30 - 9:00 P.M., in the church office. Anyone is welcome to attend. This group is specially focused to the needs of those who are grieving the recent lost of loved ones, or who still may be working through grief issues after some time has passed. The group will become a closed group after the second session, in order to allow for confidential group dynamics.

At the request of Pastor Sharon, co-leaders are Dr. Bill and Colleen Kintner. The Kintners are both California licensed psychotherapists. Bill has been on medical leave from

his duties as a United Methodist pastor for six years. He has also taught graduate students in psychology. Colleen is employed in behavioral medicine at Redlands Community Hospital where she heads the local psychiatric emergency team. The Kintners have been active members of RUCC for more than five years. There is a small text book for the course. Written by Granger Westberg, titled, ***Good Grief***, it is available to participants for a donation of \$5.00. No other fees of any kind are involved. Anyone from the greater Redlands community is warmly welcomed. If you would like further information, or to indicate your interest, please phone Bill or Colleen at (909) 335-0050.

### **The UCC Justice and Peace Action Network**

Our denomination's grassroots advocacy network is composed of individual members and local UCC congregations across the country. It is simple to join online at: [www.ucc.org/justice](http://www.ucc.org/justice). A similar site at **Church World Service** provides also provides action alerts: [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). For further information, contact Kathie Blakley.

## Fair Trade Products

Due to higher organic coffee and cocoa prices, plus the rising costs of fuel to ship the products, Equal Exchange is increasing the prices of coffee, chocolate and cocoa. Please note the new prices listed on the plastic money box. I did comparison shopping at other stores and our prices are competitive. Thank you for your continued support for fair trade products and the farmers who supply them. Any questions or suggestions, please call Chris Nicoloff at 792-6082.

## Camping at Dogwood in San Bernardino National Forest

A group from RUCC is planning an overnight camping trip, our second annual event, from September 26-28, 2008. One site with electricity is available and costs \$62.00. Please call us no later than 8/31/08 if you want this site. We have a total of 4 sites with plenty of room for additional vehicles and/or tents. We have extra camping supplies, such as tents and sleeping bags. Please call Chris and Fred Nicoloff if you are interested 792-6082.

## AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

3 Leif Lind  
10  
17  
24  
31

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Charles Wheeler  
Sorour Ehteshami  
3 Debbie Gerberich  
5 Doris Milloy  
Julianne Adamik  
8 Laura Palmer  
9 Stacy Kaiser  
12 Lisa Dewey  
13 Stewart Durrant  
14 Jayne Miller  
16 Steve Arth  
James Benanti  
21 James David Barton  
Larry Rose  
22 Domenick Sforza  
Malinda Wolbert  
25 Keith Osajima  
26 Barry Kolpien  
27 Donald Dickey  
Jeannette McNeilly  
Brent Warner  
28 Emily Kolpien  
29 Caitlin Walsh  
30 Heidi Malone  
31 Jill Spencer

## Art, For Heaven's Sake!

It's time to mark your calendar for our 29<sup>th</sup> annual Art, for Heaven's Sake! show. The show will take place October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> and much help will be needed to continue the overwhelming success of past shows. The art show committee has chosen sixty three artists from over eighty five applications which will make this year's show the largest ever!

## Help is needed in the following areas:

### 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.

### Friday, October 17

- \* **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.
- \* **Set up Artist's Lounge**
- \* **Friday morning** – We provide sandwiches and snacks for the artists on Friday night and coffee and snacks all weekend.
- \* **Assist artists**
- \* **Friday afternoon** - Starting at 11:00 am 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.
- \* **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.

### Friday, Saturday and Sunday

- \* **Monitor the guest book and greet guests** – Greet guests and invite them to sign the guest book.
- \* **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.
- \* **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.

**Questions??** Contact Sondra Hodson at (909) 633-3210 or shodson2@roadrunner.com

Visit the Art For Heaven's Sake! Website [www.artforheavenssake.org](http://www.artforheavenssake.org) for more information on the artists and pictures of last year's show.

## *...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.

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 [jeanarnott@gmail.com](mailto:jeanarnott@gmail.com), or call Jean Arnott 794-0456.

### **Women of Faith**

Summer schedules nor the heat have not slowed us down! We had a great turnout last workday including many first-timers. Priority items for parolee hygiene kits are fingernail clippers, writing pens, and shaving cream, and shampoo. Also needed are plastic sheet protectors (clear, medium weight).

**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:

**Thu Aug 14 & 28 11am – 8pm**

Location: The LDS Church is on the corner of Fifth Avenue & Wabash in

### **August Scripture Readings**

August 3: Genesis 32:22-31 Psalms 17:1-7, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21  
 August 10: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalms 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33  
 August 17 Genesis 45:1-15; Psalms 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28  
 August 24 :Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalms 124, Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20  
 August 31: Exodus 3:1-15, Psalms 26: 1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

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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