

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

September 2008

Contemplative Worship Service – 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, September 7, 14, 21 and 28

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

Sunday, September 7

The office will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of
Labor Day.

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

Bible 102 will meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays
7 p.m. in the CE area

Church Board will meet Tuesday, September 9
at 7:00 p.m. in the church office

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, September 16
at 12:00 p.m. in the Pastor's office

Stewards will meet on Tuesday, September 23
at 7:00 p.m. in the church office

Covenant Choir will resume weekly rehearsals on Thursday,
September 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Brown Bag/Game Day
Sunday, September 28 at 12:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall

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

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*“Trade with the gifts God has given you
 Bend
 Your minds to holy learning you
 may escape the fretting moth
 of littleness of mind
 that would wear out
 your souls.
 Brace your wills to action
 that they may not be
 the spoils of weak desires.
 Train your hearts and lips to song
 gives courage to the soul.
 Being buffeted by trials, learn to laugh.
 Being reproved, give thanks.
 Having failed, determine to succeed.”
 —Hilda of Whitby, 614-680 CE*

This translation of the words of one of Celtic Christianity’s earliest saints could have been written last week as a summary description of the RUCC sabbatical season! All the talk about gifts and flexibility, about holy learning and action, the mention of songs sung by hearts and lips, of laughing and giving thanks and succeeding...Hilda manages to describe our shared experience over these past three months as if she had traveled them with us.

Hilda knew whereof she spoke. Having been orphaned at the age of 13, she was sent to live in the home of her great uncle, who just happened to be the King of Northumbria in what we now know as England. At this tender age Hilda was baptized into the new Christian faith on Easter 627 CE. For the next 20 years, Hilda lived (as one historian notes) “most nobly in the secular state.” One can imagine the luxuries that such a life in the center of the kingdom would provide. But, as a young woman in her early 30’s, Hilda decided to consecrate her life to God, and over the next few decades, she moved from being a nun, to living alone on a small plot of land, to becoming abbess of a monastery at Hartlepool, and finally to being promoted to abbess of the double monastery at Streaneshalch (later renamed “Whitby”).

Hilda was schooled in the Irish Christian ways, which were a unique blending of the ancient Celtic reverence for the Divine in all creation, and the new Christian faith embodied in Jesus of Nazareth. Irish Christianity was much less hierarchical and more inclusive of both genders in leadership, than was the new Roman Christianity sweeping in from Europe. Consequently, Hilda’s Whitby was a monastery known for its progressive ways, its male and female monks, and its abbess’ effective management. Whitby was also a renowned educational and cultural center, inspired by Hilda’s insistence on reading and studying both Bible and Latin, and her commitment to growing an extensive library of manuscripts. Both clergy and local laypeople were welcomed into Hilda’s monastic school for education.

The widespread reputation of the monastery of Whitby caused it to be in the limelight in the years 663-664 CE. Religious leaders from around the known world descended on Whitby to debate the tenets of faith and to decide whether to follow Roman ways or Celtic customs. Ultimately, and sadly, Rome won the theological battles at Whitby, and Celtic Christianity went underground for the next several hundred years. Thankfully, it is now emerging, and we at RUCC herald its new morning!

For these past 3 months, you have been living examples of Hilda’s Whitby. As you accomplished the various tasks of ministry, you grew in your own faith. As you worked cooperatively, your own spirits became stronger. As you laughed and partied, studied and worshiped together, it was as if this body the church went on a collective gym adventure! Lifting weights and exercising your many gifts has made you stronger...and for all this, I say thanks be to God! Now that we are back together, refreshed in the Spirit and ready for a new year of ministry, let us, in the words of Hilda, “brace our wills to action...” It is good to be home with you!

Blessings,



President's Message

Now that the Olympics are over, I've been thinking about the adage "What Would Jesus Do?" and wanted to put a little twist on the familiar line. How about "What Would Jesus Play?" or "What Would Jesus Watch?" I finally settled on "What Would Jesus Enjoy?"

I know the opening ceremonies would be high on the list. The display of music, art, dance, and international friendship would definitely make Jesus glad to be in the stadium. This is such a rare opportunity to watch countries, large and small, parade their best athletes, each one excited to be there for a chance to compete. The athletes are like little children being part of the spectacle, excited to see the other countries, carrying their cameras and spinning around in wide-eyed wonder.

I know Jesus would smile at seeing the gymnasts hug their competitors after each routine, the opposing divers sitting together in the hot tub, and the runners from every country congratulating their race's winner. Even with a tear in their eye - knowing they didn't earn a medal - they still recognize the kindred spirit of their companions on the journey to near-perfection.

Jesus would feel the adrenaline as the second place swimmer puts every ounce of effort into pulling ahead at the last second to win the gold. He would feel his muscles tense as the cyclists stand on their pedals, striving to win by hundredths of seconds after a 2 ½ hour ride. He would feel the pain as the runner misses a stride and loses first place by a fraction of a second.

So what's the lesson in the Olympics for us as Christians? Remember to do your best. Remember that friendship and shared hope is more important than competition. Remember to keep going when the going gets tough. Remember it's never too late. Remember that there is beauty in everything and that God is ever-present in our midst.

With optimism and hope,
Loring Fiske-Phillips

P.S. I hope Sally Cummings can get some sleep now.

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!

Confirmation for Adults UCC 101 Begins!

For the past several years, many parents have looked over the shoulders of their studious confirmation sons and daughters, and remarked to me, "Gosh, I wish we had a class like this for adults!" Now we will! Beginning in September, on the **second Sunday** each month, from **12:30-1:30 pm**, you are invited to participate in an adults-only "confirmation" class. Using the same texts as the youth, we will discuss and learn our way through "Affirming Faith"...and I promise we will have fun, too! This is especially for those who have come from other faith traditions, other churches, or no church background ~ together, we will grow in Spirit as we learn about the UCC Spirit that has infused the world for over 400 years... Enticed? See Rev. Graff or Carla in the church office to sign up soon! First class: **Sunday, September 14, 12:30-1:30 pm, featuring our new Interim Conference Minister, Jane Fislser Hoffman.** Bring a lunch and plan to learn!

Covenant Choir

The Covenant Choir will resume rehearsals on September 4. Anyone who would like to join us, please see Taylor Ruhl, or email Taylor at taylorryuhl@earthlink.net.

First Friday Film

Join us on Friday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. as we present the film, "Call Me Malcolm" was co-produced by the UCC and Filmworks, Inc., to tell the story of a transgendered person.

The 90-minute film tells the story of the Rev. Malcolm E. Himschoot, then a UCC seminary student, who poignantly explores his struggles with faith, love and gender identity.

Shepherd Groups

The Buchanan Shepherd Group will meet on Sunday, September 7 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Bill and Carol Buchanan, 1320 Garden Street, Redlands.

The Cummings and Inman/Wilson Shepherd Groups will meet for potluck lunch on Sunday, September 21st, at 12:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

Confirmation

'Tis time to begin a new confirmation class for all those youth--grades 7th and up--who want to learn more about their faith. Meeting regularly with the pastor, we will discuss and share and learn and grow together! See Rev. Graff if you (or your son or daughter) is interested!

College Scholarships Available

Money is available through the RUCC Scholarship Fund to help purchase textbooks for those of our RUCC family who are currently enrolled in college or graduate courses. Please contact Carla in the church office to receive an application.

Art for Heaven's Sake! Shirts

The shirts for Art for Heaven's Sake! have arrived and are available for purchase. The price is \$15.00 per shirt for sizes S, M, L and XL. For XXL the price is \$16.00 per shirt. You may purchase them after church in Covenant Hall during fellowship time.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

- 7 Emily Barton
- 14 Eric Naftzger
- 21 Mary Belle Carter
- 28 Kire Hawley-Zechlin

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dee Hodson
Diane Richardson
Jake Spoor
- 2 Michael Dewey
- 3 Ian Naftzger
Katie Barton
- 7 Douglas Miller
- 12 Steve Chapman
- 16 Jo Dierdorff
- 17 Wendy Naftzger Hustwit
- 19 Elizabeth Schuiling
- 20 John Sweeney
Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo
Kent Taylor
- 21 Eric Goren
- 23 Mary Belle Carter
- 24 Matthew Walsh
- 25 Ryan Hughes
- 26 Sam Dickey
Noah Dewey
- 26 Robert Broadhead
Heather Shamp
- 30 Barb Lord

Art, For Heaven's Sake!

It's time to mark your calendar for our 29th annual Art, for Heaven's Sake! show. The show will take place October 17th, 18th, and 19th 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 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.

Women of Faith

We're adding one special Saturday workday on September 13th. In addition to our regular work, we'll begin to assemble kits and pack goods for shipment. There is much still to be done. Please help in the way that works best for you. Upcoming workdays:

Thu Sep 11 **11am – 8pm**
Sat Sep 13 **9am – 4pm**

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

We are happy to announce the creation of a [Women of Faith blog](#). The past few updates are already on the blog and all future updates will be posted there:

<http://womenoffaithredlands.blogspot.com>

The Bible: Balm or Bomb?

A retreat led by The Rev. Dr. Robert Moore, National President, Disciplined Order of Christ. Professor Emeritus, New Testament & Theology, Asbury College. October 10-12, 2008. Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, California. A Ministry of the Disciplined Order of Christ, Western Region. Will God's written word contribute to peace or inflame holy war? Abraham and Sarah's faith and their holy books shape the future of the violent Middle East and the faith of a majority of the world's people. **Rev. Dr. Professor Robert Moore**, national President of the Disciplined Order of Christ will respond to the question: **The Bible: Balm or Bomb?** Dr. Moore is Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Theology at Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky. Registration information is available in the church office.

September Scripture Readings

Information for September will be in each week's View

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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Redlands United Church of Christ
168 Bellevue Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373-4978
(909) 793-3520 Fax: (909) 793-5418

E-mails: pastor@uccredlands.org
office@uccredlands.org
youth@uccredlands.org

Web site: www.uccredlands.org