

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

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

May 2009

Contemplative Worship Service and Communion – 8:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
Sundays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

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

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

Christian Marriage Equality Committee will meet
Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Bible 102 will meet the 3rd and 4th Mondays
7 p.m. in the Church Office

Church Board will meet Tuesday, May 12
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

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

Stewards will meet Tuesday, May 26
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Spring All Church Retreat
Saturday, May 30 to Sunday, May 31

Celebration Ringers rehearsal on Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.
Covenant Choir rehearsal on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

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

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*“The church, like the family, is that rare place
where we get a chance to practice living with people we did not choose.
And when we love the ones we are stuck with,
it is a sign and a witness to the love of God,
who is stuck with us all.*

—Martin B. Copenhaver, UCC Pastor, Wellesley, Massachusetts

Perhaps a quote more aptly connected to the long season of Pentecost or Ordinary Time that will occur during the summer and into the fall months of the church year when the heat of the day conspires with our own fatigue to exaggerate annoyances to explosive levels...yet my colleague in Massachusetts wrote the words above in response to one of the Psalm readings we encounter during the delightful springtime season we call Eastertide....hmmm...

Eastertide...the grave is once again open and empty...the Risen Christ is busily visiting his friends...making them breakfast on the beach...walking through walls and appearing in enclosed, cloistered spaces where they seek to hide... This season following Easter Sunday—usually seven or eight weeks in duration—is a kind of “wild ride” in the liturgical calendar. Jesus keeps popping up here and there, encouraging the disciples on The Way (early church’s secret name for Christianity). In this time of high movement, we have little time to ponder annoyances, for we, too, are kept busy looking for Jesus in all the right places.

Yet, here is this Massachusetts pastor, gently and directly reminding us that, yes, sometimes, even in the blush of Easter pastels, we DO become aware of the faults of others. During this particular Eastertide, we are invited to become aware—with love, he suggests—that we are “stuck” with people we did not choose. We are urged to see these people with their eccentric little behaviors, not through the lens of annoyance, but through the Easter lens of love.

And then, if resurrection is as real as we want to believe it is, some bit of magical transformation just may happen inside us, as we unfold the truth hidden deep in the tomb of each of our souls, that God who is stuck with us all, wouldn’t have it any other way...

Easter Blessings,

Sharon

*“On your feet now—applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into God’s presence...”
—From Psalm 100:2 (The Message Bible)*

Easter Season corresponds to new growth in our gardens and (hopefully!) in ourselves. For these weeks, we focus on growth and new life. Feeling old and tired, uninspired? As the Avery & Marsh song from the 1970s suggests, “...come ready to follow and explore...ready to lift your wings and soar...come as a child...” Many surprises are in store...let’s play together this Easter season!

May 3 – Music Sunday

Psalm 100 51, 19, 84, Sirach 50, Colossians 3, selections

Through singing and ringing, our amazingly-gifted choirs will lead us in worshipping God. Come to make joyful noises and to hear heavenly music!

May 10 – “On a Wilderness Road” – Communion Sunday – Mother’s Day

Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8

The truth of the matter is, we never really know where these wilderness roads will lead. Nor did the characters in the passages we’ll explore today. Our assurances lie in the One who walks beside us, and who promises that we will be fed and watered along the way. Hungry? Thirsty? Come to the meal!

May 17 – Special Guest, The Rev. Ben Bohren, preaching

As a follow-up to our inspiring Visioning Day (on Saturday, May 16, to which ALL are invited!), our special guest facilitator will be offering God’s good word for us today. Ben Bohren currently serves as Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada. He is a very experienced preacher and leader with a strong commitment to peace and justice ministries, believing that the grace and love of God is a gift for all people. Ben’s meditation will, no doubt, inspire us in the work and dream-fulfillment that beckons!

May 24 – The Rev. Leif Lind, preaching

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter information about the candidate for our new Associate Pastor position, The Rev. Leif Lind. Leif (pronounced “Layf”) is already well-known to this congregation as a musician, and today, we are honored to benefit from his preaching skills. The service will be followed by a “Meet and Greet” time for questions and further discussion with Leif. A day NOT to miss!

May 31 – ALL-CHURCH RETREAT WORSHIP IN ANGELUS OAKS – PENTECOST SUNDAY – “Counting Pentecosts”

Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-13

Pentecost is traditionally considered the birthday of the Church—the day when the Holy Spirit was apparent and breathed into the disciples to inspire them to spread the good news of God’s love. Today, we’ll celebrate that Pentecost, like Easter and Christmas and all the other high holy days in our faith journey, is a day repeated with joy many times over! Today, **we all meet in Angelus Oaks at Alpine Meadows Camp for worship. No services at RUCC...Come up the mountain for a refreshing worship experience! Contact your shepherd for a ride up the hill. Maps available in the church office.**

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence. Come to the Easter and Pentecost parties!

—Sharon R. Graff

President's Message

Just in case you thought things weren't exciting and busy enough around here! Here's what's new!

At the April Board meeting, the Personnel Committee unanimously recommended the Rev. Leif Lind as the successful candidate for Associate Minister. The Board then voted unanimously to present Leif to the congregation. Many of you probably already know Leif, but you'll have a chance to hear him preach on May 24th followed by a "Meet and Greet" after the service. This will give you an opportunity to have further discussion, ask questions, and get to know him at a deeper level. On Sunday, June 7, we'll hold a congregational meeting immediately after worship to discuss and vote on Leif's call to RUCC. I hope you will keep Leif, the church and this process in your prayers.

On Saturday, May 16th, I'd like to personally invite everyone to join in VisionDay. We've had some wonderful conversations lately about where we would like to put our energies in the next few years. In addition, a questionnaire is being circulated to gather input. Individuals have conversed and the Board has had discussions. VisionDay will be an opportunity to bring everything together. Our facilitator, Rev. Ben Bohren is a talented leader and I know the day will invigorate us and bring our hearts and minds together in a shared vision.

Wonderful plans are coming together for the Summer Series. One of the shared passions of RUCC is the recognition and appreciation of diversity. Yet we, like all human beings, struggle with frailties like prejudice, pre-judgment, lack of understanding and many other blockades to God's extravagant grace. The Summer Series this year will be focusing on some of the many areas we use to categorize people: Race, sexual orientation, age, physical appearance, economic status, etc. Together we'll explore how we can recognize and control our tendency to fall into the trap of believing that other people are our picture of who they are.

I hope you will find ways to get involved in these and the many other opportunities that abound. This congregation is growing just as individuals are growing within it. Together, we will find the juncture between opportunity, passion, and need. And there in the midst, we will feel the holy presence of God.

With optimism and hope,
Loring Fiske-Phillips

Welcome to RUCC!

New covenanting members: Chris Beach*, Richard Becerril*, Kathy Blanchard*, Jennifer Brainerd*, Jim Gilman, Susan Haugh, Katie Hunt, Wendy Hunt, Susi Jacobsen, Joe Kles, Jerry McBurney, Deana Whitfield and Lyndy Zamora*

*Listed in the 2009 RUCC Directory

Gilman	<u>James & Joseph Kles</u>	33234 Valalla Lane Mentone, CA 92359 James: Grinch@cybertime.net Joseph: JKles@cybertime.net	C	794-3041
Haugh	<u>Susan & Wendy S. Hunt Katie Hunt</u>	28971 Jasmine Creek Lane Highland, CA 92346 Susan: susanhaugh@roadrunner.com Wendy: Huntws@roadrunner.com	NS	864-0758
Hunt	<u>Wendy S. & Susan Haugh Katie Hunt</u>	28971 Jasmine Creek Lane Highland, CA 92346 Wendy: Huntws@roadrunner.com Susan: susanhaugh@roadrunner.com	NS	864-0758
Jacobsen	<u>Susi</u>	P.O. Box 3464 Running Springs, CA 92382 susijacobsen@yahoo.com	NS	867-7725
Kles	<u>Joseph & James Gilman</u>	33234 Valalla Lane Mentone, CA 92359 Joseph: JKles@cybertime.net James: Grinch@cybertime.net	C	794-3041
McBurney	<u>Jerry</u> Kiana, Kyle	26200 Redlands Blvd #60 Loma Linda, CA 92354 onetholianwebspinr@msn.com	B	796-4950
Whitfield	<u>Deana</u> & Katie Chamberlain Alek	24654 Shepardson Drive Loma Linda, CA 92354 bubbalover0811@yahoo.com	PW	786-6664

"We are sorry to have missed noting these covenanting members in our recent RUCC directory. Please make the corrections in your own directory copy"

Michael Dewey	John Walsh
Sam Dickey	Karen Walsh
Jean Orr	Charissa Wiedlin
Marcia Taack	Patrick Wiedlin
	Jessie Woods

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!

Friday Night at the Movies

The Friday night movie will be **What Would Jesus Buy?** - an entertaining documentary on America's over consumption. Join us for this free film screening. Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall.

New Member's Orientation

Sunday, May 17 at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in church membership or just in finding out more about the church, please plan on joining us for lunch and orientation. A potluck lunch will be provided by the church board. Please RSVP to Carla in the Church Office at (909) 793-3520.

Alpha Bible Study

Tuesday, May 5 we will meet at the home of Jane Arnegard and on May 19 we will meet at the home of Galilee Glanville. We meet the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Good Grief

With several folk in our body experiencing the pain of loss, it seems time again to gather for support and companionship on the grief journey. Beginning on **Thursday, May 14, from 4:30-6:00 pm**, and facilitated by Rev. Graff, we will start another Good Grief Support Group to help those who are currently experiencing loss--the loss that accompanies the deaths of loved ones, and the loss that morphs into grief with traumatic changes in employment, in relationship, in health, or in residence. Grief takes many forms and travels various pathways...always it can be helpful to talk about your grief in a compassionate setting and to know that you are not alone. This will be a short-term series of 6 or 8 sessions, meeting every two weeks; and a closed group--meaning that after the first two sessions, the group's membership will remain as is for the duration of the series. Questions? Contact Rev. Graff in the church office.

Greeting Greeters!

If you are interested in welcoming friends and visitors to the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning service here at RUCC, please contact John Sweeney at 909-794-8138 or via domehome8@verizon.net.

Pictorial Directory

We will soon be publishing a pictorial directory of our members and friends, thanks to Carla Becerril and Larry Rose. If you have a favorite picture or portrait of yourself or your family, you may submit a copy to Carla in the church office. If not, Larry Rose has graciously agreed to take pictures after worship starting May 3. Please sign up for a day and time to have your picture taken. The sign-up sheet will be in Covenant Hall during the fellowship hour. You will be asked to complete an information sheet of biographical information, interests, skills, and talents. We will include this in the directory.

Something to Ponder...

The earliest reference to the Resurrection is Saint Paul's, and he makes no mention of an empty tomb at all. But the fact of the matter is that in a way it hardly matters how the body of Jesus came to be missing because in the last analysis what convinced the people that he had risen from the dead was not the absence of his corpse but his living presence. And so it has been ever since.

From Frederick Buechner Listening to Your Life

MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

3	Rev. Sharon Graff
10	Charlie Wheeler
17	Floyd Orr
24	Rosemary Tuohy
31	

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5	Lois Campbell
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.

Music for a Spring Afternoon

Will be held on Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church (corner of Olive and Cajon). Featuring music for the organ, this concert is to raise funds for Step by Step, the coalition for positive re-entry into society by parolees. The five organists will be Dr. Del Case, Jeff Rickard, Kimo Smith, Irmengard Jennings, and William Brakemeyer. Everyone is welcome. A freewill offering will be received.

Call to 27th General Synod

The 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will convene Friday afternoon, June 26, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and will adjourn at the close of business on Tuesday evening, June 30. The theme for this year's Synod will be "Immerse Yourself!" Please join us in Grand Rapids and "immerse yourself!"

Telling Our Stories

Irvine United Congregational Church & University Synagogue present Helen Prejean, May 31, at 2 p.m. Irvine United Congregational Church. Helen Prejean, C.S.J., is a writer, speaker and community organizer who has lived and worked in Louisiana all her life. She has lectured extensively on the subject of capital punishment. Special luncheon at 12:30 p.m. – limited seating – cost \$25. Please contact Robinmarie McClements, Director of Christian Education, I.U.C.C. 949-733-0220



May Scripture Readings

May 3:	<i>Psalm 100, 51, 19, 84, Sirach 50, Colossians 3, selections</i>
May 10:	<i>Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8</i>
May 17:	
May 24:	<i>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19</i>
May 31:	<i>Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-13</i>

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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Pastor Emeritus – Rev. Richard Blakley



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