

# WANDERINGS

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

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

*June 2009*

Contemplative Worship Service and Communion – 8:00 a.m.  
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.  
Sundays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28

Communion - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, June 7

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

Christian Marriage Equality Committee will meet  
Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Jazz Festival  
Friday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the garden

Church Board will meet Tuesday, June 9  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Grief Group will meet Thursdays, June 11 and 25  
at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

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

Stewards will meet Tuesday, June 16  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

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

Middle school and High school youth group  
June meetings ~ check [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) ~ RUCC Youth Group

## From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams..."*  
—Acts 2 Pentecost story, quoting the prophet Joel

This past week I heard one of my colleagues in town speak about his current preaching focus: he is of the opinion that Jesus will be returning soon, and so is preaching to his congregation about warning, preparation, and attentiveness. From what he reported, the motivation for their congregation's activity is urgency...and no surprise! His words brought me to ponder this Pentecost passage from Acts we read each year about this time.

The prophet Joel, quoted by preacher Peter, promises that "in the last days" people will see visions and dream dreams, as if such unaccustomed activity will be a sign that we are, in fact, in those dreaded (or promised) last days. Then my thoughts meandered to our recent Vision Day, and I, chuckling to myself, thought about our motivation for dreaming and envisioning. Few if any of us at RUCC appear to believe in the imminent return of Jesus to earth, yet we act and discuss and debate with a similar urgency as that noted above. Why? Because there is work to be done, and God/Spirit/Christ need our bodies, souls, minds, and hearts to accomplish it.

Check out the posted lists...there are programs to be initiated...buildings to build and an organ to purchase. There are existing activities to strengthen...and ongoing interests to keep working on in immigration issues, LGBT concerns, and overcoming racism. There are spiritual stories to be shared and folks eager to hear them. And on and on... Yet, as I review the many dreams and visions that unfolded throughout the Vision Day activities, I am not overwhelmed or immobilized by volume, but rather deeply inspired by content.

One particularly telling and inspiring comment from the day's event that did not make it on to the final posted lists was in response to the query, "Describe the best years of Redlands UCC." Most of us responded with various activities from the past—beginning with the founding of the church and leading up to the present-day passion for equal marriage. One person, however, prophetically responded to the same question, "Our best years are yet to come!"

I continue to be amazed by how the Spirit is moving among us here at RUCC. Perhaps our motivation for continuing faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus is simply that: faithfulness for as long as we each have life and breath!

Pentecost Blessings,



Dr. Graff will be out of the office June 12-21 to attend a conference on *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*, in Portland, Oregon led by the book's authors, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. She looks forward to sharing learnings with the congregation upon her return. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact one of our on call pastors, Rev. Dr. Al Sproull (June 12-18) at 909.335.6429 or 909.335.5552 and for the weekend of June 19-21, please contact Rev. John Walsh at 909.222.8676.

## President's Message

It was beautiful. The tables were tastefully decorated and invited us to sit, relax and enjoy as we stepped into the World Café. We savored the smell of fresh coffee, fruit and pastries. The kind old *maitre d'* welcomed us and immediately put us at ease. As we greeted friends and family, we sat down and many started doodling with the crayons on the white paper tablecloths.

Hey wait a minute! Crayons? Paper tablecloths? What kind of fancy restaurant was this? Certainly not Morton's Steakhouse! Certainly not a place with a wine list extending to \$3,000 bottles of fine vintage! No, this was a place you could wear your pajama bottoms to if you wished<sup>1</sup>. The World Café was situated right in the middle of Redlands UCC in our familiar Covenant Hall.

Such was the scene as we lived out Vision Day on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The World Café model was perfect as we sat with each other at tables of four and feasted on different "entrées" of our future together. Physical space, programs, spiritual growth, and outreach and mission were on the "menu" as we brainstormed, discussed and dreamed. The format allowed for the free flow of ideas at each table followed by a "harvest" of the ideas for the larger group. Many of us were amazed at not only the ideas that came from the other groups, but what sprang to life at our own tables!

For the details on the ideas that came out of Vision Day, read the related article in this edition of *The Wanderings*. But I'd like to thank the people who participated, both in person as well as in spirit, and the people who will make the vision come to life over the coming months and years. Their spirit of cooperation, openness, and patience is a testament to the kind of people who make up RUCC. People here do more than talk the talk. We also walk the walk. And the walk is not a gentle stroll down memory lane. It's an invigorating, heart-pumping, wide-eyed turn around the neighborhood of our faith.

There are so many exciting opportunities that we are actively pursuing. At the same time, we are also staying open to new paths, new horizons and new wonders as we go. As the central scripture said at Vision Day: "For I know the plans I have for you," says God, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The future is bright at RUCC as we listen to God's still-speaking voice, as we serve our brothers and sisters in God's realm, and as we worship together in love.

With optimism and hope,  
Loring Fiske-Phillips

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<sup>1</sup> Actually, it has been proven that one can *indeed* wear pajama bottoms to Morton's Steakhouse; however, they will seat you at the back, near the kitchen.

## Vision Day at RUCC a “Work in Progress”

RUCC’s first-ever Vision Day, held on Saturday, May 16 with about 30 of us participating, was an attempt to identify the various ideas, plans, hopes, and needs of our growing congregation—AND to prioritize them on just a few sheets of paper with names of folk who have interest in pursuing and realizing them. The day—facilitated ably by The Rev. Ben Bohren—was a great success.

Here’s hoping that YOU want to be involved in one of the projects identified. Please check out the sheets posted in Covenant Hall, and add your name next to the one project that calls to your spirit. Friends, this is how work gets done around RUCC...people with like interests and skills joining together to make it happen!

To whet your appetite, paste the outline below where you can ponder and pray with it...then sign up...YOU are needed!

Four areas of need:

1. **Physical Space** – we are outgrowing our sanctuary, our classroom space, and our meeting spaces...do you have skills useful to a BUILDING COMMITTEE, ideas to give to the ORGAN COMMITTEE, or creative ideas for BETTER SPACE USAGE?
2. **Programs** – church growth experts tell us that people often join a church because of the pastor, or because they have friends who are members; however, in growing congregations, people stay and become rooted because of the PROGRAMS...do you have ideas for SMALL GROUP ministry, MUSIC or ENVIRONMENTAL programs, or would you like to work with the pastor to develop a new and creative “JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING” program? Perhaps you’d like to help others with their own home projects (gardening, light construction, cleaning) through an old RUCC group “BARNRAISERS...”
3. **Spiritual Growth** – always a necessary part of our two-way journey of faith, there are as many possibilities as there are members and friends of RUCC! Do you have an interest in helping create a COMMUNITY GARDEN, or help plan and implement the LENTEN SERIES? Perhaps you would like to help us continue to deepen our PEACE & JUSTICE focus, or work with the worship area to include our STORIES OF FAITH in worship services. The sky is the limit with this!
4. **Outreach & Mission** – the second direction that is absolutely necessary on our deepening journey of faith, there are no limits on how (or where) we can serve! Perhaps you feel a call to work with LGBT YOUTH, or IMMIGRANTS, or PAROLEES. Or maybe you’d like to help us coordinate musical scholarships for our community’s many talented youth. Needs are many...and many hands make light the work...

## *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!

### **Fourth Annual Youth Jazz Festival**

The Redlands United Church of Christ and Step by Step: A Community Reentry Program are sponsoring the Fourth Annual Youth Jazz Festival on Friday, June 5, 2009. Suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family. The event, which is held in the memorial garden of Redlands United Church of Christ (RUCC), begins at 6 pm and ends at 10 pm. Concertgoers will be able to purchase food, snacks, and beverages. Those who prefer to picnic during the festival are invited to bring a blanket. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Dianne Landeros (909-792-4839) or Paul Hodson (909-794-0320).

Bands will include Redlands High School, Redlands East Valley, Cope Middle School, Redlands Jazz Kids, and the Zanja 8.

### **Congregational Meeting**

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. On Sunday, June 7, we'll hold a congregational meeting immediately after worship to discuss and vote on Leif's call to RUCC. Please keep Leif, the church and this process in your prayers.  
Loring Fiske-Phillips, President.

### **Alpha Bible Study**

Tuesday, June 2 we will meet at the home of Betty Jacobs and on June 16 we will meet at the home of Dorothy Landeros. We meet the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!



## Church Talent Show

I have volunteered to coordinate the talent show, and have chosen 'Saturday Night Live' as the theme. I would like to schedule it for late August, so we have time for writing, costuming and rehearsing.

If you would like to be in it, please let me know by e-mail or phone.

You can do any of these things:

- you may choose an entry from the list below
- come up with your own thing
- or say 'I don't know what to do; I just want to be in it,' and I'll put you in one of the acts so you can join in the fun.

### We need

- an opening monologue
- various musical acts
- a 'weekend update' news program
- Saturday Night Live band members to play jazzy music between sketches
- The Church Lady
- commercial parodies

### I would love

- a political debate or press conference
- Samurai something (bell director?)
- Landshark (would you believe I have the props for this?)
- Wayne's World
- The Barry Gibb Talk Show
- the Spartan cheerleaders

- the Culps (the parents who sing at the junior high)
- the Coneheads
- The Festrunk Brothers (the wild and crazy guys)
- the Blues Brothers
- the Cougar Den
- Daily Affirmation with Stuart Smalley
- the 'bring it on down' business mascot
- Coffee Talk
- any sketch about a current event, movie or cultural phenomenon. impressions are a bonus!

Call dibbs on the one you want before someone else takes it!

I will help with the costumes, the writing, and anything else you need.

Who's in?

Toni Momberger  
[tonimom@earthlink.net](mailto:tonimom@earthlink.net)  
(909) 335-0506

## 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  
Susi Jacobsen
- 8 Ruth Moses
- 9 Robert Woods
- 11 Missy Waters
- 13 Candy Dietsch  
Heather Gardner  
Bonnie Killpatrick
- 14 Opal Inman  
Ivonne Moran
- 17 Peter Morics
- 18 C. Gene Kuehl
- 19 Steve Morics  
Susan Traverso
- 21 Bob Barton  
Barbara Hauser
- 22 Jennifer Brainerd
- 23 Pam Dunn
- 24 Joan Kay Armantage
- 29 Kathy Blanchard
- 30 Allen Killpatrick  
Rosemary Tuohy

## Friendship's Flower

Life is like a garden  
And friendship like a flower,  
That blooms and grows in beauty  
With the sunshine and the shower.

And lovely are the blossoms  
That are tended with great care,  
By those who work unselfishly  
To make the place more fair.

And, like the garden blossoms,  
Friendship's flower grows more sweet  
When watched and tended carefully  
By those we know and meet.

And, if the seed of friendship  
Is planted deep and true  
And watched with understanding,  
Friendship's flower will bloom for you.

Helen Steiner Rice



## *...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.

### **Church Women United**

We will meet at the home of Mary Jane Auerbacher at 121 Sierra Vista Drive. Bring a dish to share or pay \$3.00. The program is "Seeking Shalom" Our Human Rights Celebration. Friday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Call to 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod**

The 27<sup>th</sup> 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!"

### **Process Theology Summer Institute**

Claremont School of Theology, June 1-5, 2009. Sponsored by Process & Faith. Process & Film, 1:30-4:30. **Evening Courses (7-9:00 p.m.)** Introduction to Process Theology, Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki. The Problem of Evil, John Sweeney. Teaching Process Theology in the Local Church, Robert & Adrienne Brizee. **Daytime Courses** Process Theology & the Bible, Ronald L. Farmer (9 a.m.-noon) Process Theology & the Economic Crisis, John B. Cobb, Jr. (9 a.m.-noon) Process Theology Meets Spiritual Theology, Kee Chong Ryu (1:30-4:30 p.m.) (Taught in Korean) Cost per course: \$300.00, \$250 P&F members. Register at [www.processandfaith.org](http://www.processandfaith.org) Info: 909.447.2559

### **Bach Cantata Vespers Concert**

Sunday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church located at 185 S. Center Street in downtown Orange. There is no charge but a freewill offering will be taken. Childcare is available for children under age 5. For more information, please call 714-288-4400.

## **June Scripture Readings**

Information for June 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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Pastor Emeritus – Rev. Richard Blakley



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