

# *WANDERINGS*

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

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

*October 2009*

Contemplative Worship Service and Communion – 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, October 4, 11, 18 and 25

Communion - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 4

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, October 5, 12, 19 and 26

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

Christian Marriage Equality Committee will meet

Monday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. at San Bernardino UCC

Wider Ministries will meet

Sunday, October 11 at 12:00 p.m. in the C.E. Area

Church Board will meet Tuesday, October 13

at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, October 20

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

Stewards meet on Tuesday, October 27

at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Celebration Ringers rehearsals

Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Covenant Choir rehearsals

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Jubilee Ringers rehearsals

Sundays at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Middle school and High school youth group

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

## From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*“...And God saw that it was good...  
And God saw that it was good...  
And God saw that it was good...  
And God saw that it was good...  
God saw everything that God had made,  
and indeed it was very good...”*

—The first of two creation stories as recorded in Genesis 1

Some of my favorite verses, these affirmations from the Divine begin that sacred story of our relationship with God. Over the course of six biblical “days”—which, thanks to science, we know to span millions of human years—God claims creation as good. After the creation of seas and dry land, vegetation and trees...God saw that it was good. Upon gazing at the stars, the sun and the moon, newly created, God saw that it was good. With delight at the swarms of soaring birds, God saw that it was good. With satisfaction at the variety of living creatures—cattle, creeping things, wild animals—God saw that it was good. And, after creating humankind in God’s image and placing female and male in their nestled home, when God the Creative stood back and looked in wonder and in love at all that God had created, lo and behold, it was very good!

We are entering a season in which we, too, can delight in creation. For one, it is getting cooler and we can finally be outside without melting! For another, those beautiful fall colors are beginning to emerge. Just last week, while on a quick weekend trip to Minneapolis, my friend and I took a drive southeast of the city to make a surprise visit on Rev. David Badgley. (For those of you new to Redlands UCC, David grew up in our congregation, and is a frequent and welcome guest; he serves as pastor of the Lake City UCC in Minnesota.) We thoroughly enjoyed David’s message and were enriched by the creative worship service. However, I must also note that the drive down was equally inspiring. At nearly every curve of the country road we saw, amidst the 400 shades of green, the tiniest beginnings of fall. Reds, oranges, and yellows dotted the green canvas... “Beautiful,” we gasped more than a few times!

And this month, right here at Redlands United Church of Christ, there is opportunity after opportunity to bask in the creative spirit of the Divine! I encourage you to look out through our windows and beyond our walls on Worldwide Communion Sunday to really see the siblings in faith around the world...they are good, they are very good. I invite you to participate with our congregation’s younger leaders as they lead us in worship in their unique way on Children’s Sabbath...these children and youth are good, they are very good. I eagerly anticipate our shared delight on Art Show Sunday, as we welcome artists and their work to grace our worship space...they are good, they are very good. When, on Animal Blessing Sunday, we gaze on the parade of dogs, cats, lizards, goats, and other living creatures, I urge you to smile and pet them and offer a gentle reminder that they are good, they are very good.

Most importantly, during this month of creative transformation and beyond, I challenge you to look in every mirror you can find, and say to that spark of Divine light shining back at you...“You are good, you are very good...”

Creative Blessings,



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

One of my all-time favorite Christian theologians, Frederick Buechner, writes: “Phrases like WORSHIP Service or Service of Worship are [redundant]. To worship God *means* to serve God. Basically there are two ways to do it. One way is to do things for God that God needs to have done...the other way is to do things for God that you need to do...” In that latter category, Buechner places things like sing songs for God, create beautiful things for God, give things up for God, tell God what’s on your mind and in your heart, and “...in general rejoice in God and make a fool for yourself for God the way lovers have always made fools of themselves for the one they love...”

During these long months of what the church calls “Ordinary Time,” there is nothing ordinary at all about our joy in worship and our growth on the journey of faith. This month begins with a celebration of communion with our global siblings, continues with inspiring leadership from the younger ones in our body, delights with the evidence of God’s creative spark, and concludes by sharing worship with our animal companions. Come, for you are needed as much as you need to be a part of these family gatherings!

#### October 4 – “Around the World With Job” – Worldwide Communion Sunday

*Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Mark 10:2-16*

On this Worldwide Communion Sunday, when we are more cognizant than usual of our global neighbors, our Hebrew friend Job will lead us. Job’s story begins in faith, yet a faith untested by challenges. Perhaps his faith story will illuminate our own, as we faithfully face the challenges of living in this diverse worldwide community.

#### October 11 – Children’s Sabbath

Led by “the church of today”—i.e. our congregation’s children and youth—this service will honor the national celebration of Children’s Sabbath. The observance of this special day, established by the Children’s Defense Fund several years ago, is an ecumenical and inter-religious celebration. Its purpose is to convey the needs of children and youth, and to encourage religious adults to commit to care for and protect young people by advocating, by doing justice, and by practicing intercession. Guarantee: you will be moved to action by the gifts of our young people!

#### October 18 – “Out of the Whirlwind” – Celebrating Art, For Heaven’s Sake!

*Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Psalm 104:1-9, 24; Mark 10:35-45*

Our facilities and gardens are overflowing with creativity this weekend, so it only seems right that worship would also focus on the creative, the gifts, and the joy that emanates from our Creator God. Over the years, I’ve heard many artists speak of the creative force of chaos...that is, when their original “plan” for a particular piece goes askew, and they have the good sense to go with the flow, often something even more spectacular emerges from that so-called chaos. So it is for the rest of us as well, according to today’s passages. Out of the whirlwinds of our various life situations, God speaks. Out of the whirlwinds of relationships, God moves. Out of the whirlwinds of our past, God offers a new and hopeful path for our future. Come to this always-inspiring service and let the Master Artisan work through you.

#### October 25 – “Faith in 20/20 Hindsight” – Blessing of the Animals

*Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8; Mark 10:46-52*

Today, we look back with our friends Job, the psalmist, and the formerly-blind Bartimaeus to see the journey of faith more clearly. And for the second year in a row, we gather in this special service welcoming our animal companions and offering them each a blessing. Chances are, with our creative group, the humans will also receive a blessing or two from the animals! Come to share this two-way blessing street, as God speaks this morning through all of us animals! Be sure to bring your special (well-behaved, secured!) animal companions OR if you wish, you may bring a picture or cuddly stuffed animal to represent your companion. We will meet outside in the lower garden, where all are welcome!

Worship will be richer and deeper with your presence.

—Sharon R. Graff

## President's Message

As we drove up the mountain, we kept glancing at the temperature readout on the dashboard of the car. It started in the mid nineties and by the time we had reached Alpine Meadows above Angelus Oaks, it had dropped to the seventies. We could already tell we were going to enjoy the weekend!

What a beautiful setting to explore the RUCC retreat theme of "The Ties that Bind." Not only were the participants nestled among the trees of the San Bernardino National Forest, but we were also nestled in the loving presence of our brothers and sisters in an environment of joy, acceptance, and love.

About seventy people took part in the retreat as overnights, day-trippers, and Sunday worshippers. Everyone I spoke with commented that the experience had affected them ... many in profoundly different ways. It was wonderful to hear the wide range of reactions to the theme.

Some commented that the tie-dye shirt activity had illustrated the uniqueness of each person. Not only was each shirt different, but the reaction that each person had to their shirt was wonderful to behold. The process of opening the bundled cloth was akin to opening a present, not having any idea of what wonders lay inside. Then, after the gift was opened, it seemed that it somehow matched each personality.

Others commented on the closeness they felt during the quilting activity. The process of decorating cloth squares to surround a photograph drew several people into deep thought as they considered what symbols, words and pictures brought meaning to their part of the quilt. Then, when everyone gathered around the table and quilted the squares together, the hands and ribbons seemed to stitch together hopes and dreams as much as pieces of cloth.

The keynote discussion was a high point for many people, and a welcome opportunity to spend time with Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo. Jeanne wove a story of inter-connectedness with physical and symbolic ribbons and bows. The exercises and subsequent conversations reminded many of the ways we are connected to God and to each other. Some delighted that the questions didn't stop when the session was over ... that a framework had been built for continued introspection.

In Sunday worship, pipe cleaners were shaped into myriad different shapes, sizes and colors. The stories that went along with each were as varied as the people who created them. There were circles, rainbows, hands, waves, hearts, spirals and many other symbols of love, connectedness and community. The seder-style communion wrapped up the weekend with a litany of a people tied together through worship, prayer and celebration.

The retreat experience was not an unusual opportunity for Redlands United Church of Christ. It demonstrated again the strength of the fabric that is our church family. The ties that bind do not hold us back, but rather give us strength to grow.

With optimism and hope,  
Loring Fiske-Phillips

## ***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!

### **Alpha Bible Study**

We will meet at the home of Fred and Chris Nicoloff on Tuesday, October 6 and at the home of Julie Phillip on October 20. We meet at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

### **Pictorial Directory**

We are hoping to have our pictorial directory ready soon. Do we have your picture and/or questionnaire? If not, please contact Carla in the church office. We would like to have all pictures and questionnaires submitted by Sunday, October 4. If you have any questions, please contact Carla at 793-3520 or [office@uccredlands.org](mailto:office@uccredlands.org).

### **Cummings' Shepherd Group**

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Cummings' Shepherd Group will meet for a pot-luck luncheon as 12:30 p.m. at Sally's home, 1543 Powell Lane, Redlands. If you would like to become part of a Shepherd group you are cordially invited to join us. Please RSVP to Sally at (909) 307-6455 by October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **October Worship Leaders**

4 Floyd Orr  
11  
18  
25

### **October Birthdays**

1 Douglas Ray Childers-Benz  
Susan Haugh  
2 Doug Macomber  
3 Colleen Kintner  
4 Noah Sforza  
5 Genevieve Wolbert  
6 Lauren Barton  
7 Karlene Tripp  
Kara Meagher  
Kevin Meagher  
9 Annabel Meagher  
11 Eric Naftzger  
12 Dianne Landeros  
13 Kathie Blakley  
D. Hester  
Dazore' Bradford  
14 Jolene Tripp  
17 Jo Anna Grant  
18 Denise Cain  
21 Beth Kolpien  
23 Fred Nicoloff  
24 Loren Barnett  
Thomas Miller  
26 Joanna Schroeder  
27 Mina Ryan  
28 Lisa Arth  
Loring Fiske-Phillips  
Austin Shamp  
29 Whitney Sforza  
30 Lora Hall  
Rick Sforza

## Art, For Heaven's Sake!

It's time to mark your calendar for our 29<sup>th</sup> annual Art, for Heaven's Sake! Festival. The Festival will take place October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> and much help will be needed to continue the overwhelming success of past shows. The art show committee has chosen sixty-four artists from over eighty-five applications which will make this year's show one of the largest ever!

Help will be 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 16

- \* **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](mailto:shodson2@roadrunner.com)

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

# ~ Kid's Zone Gazette ~

by Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin

## New Sunday School Year Begins!

Have you wanted to join the choir but didn't know what to do with kids? Have you heard about the adult class and thought maybe you would check it out but didn't want to haul the kids along with you?

Well, do we have news for you...

I am proud to announce that we have begun the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Sunday School at RUCC. While we are still growing, there are classes available to all ages. We have begun a new curriculum this year that follows the lectionary and promises to be fun *and* insightful. We have classes available for Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and a class for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and up. High schooler students are invited to participate in any of the adult classes. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Sunday School teacher ~ Kire Hawley-Zechlin will be teaching the Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. While Kire often assisted with this class last year, the 2009-2010 year will be her first official year teaching. Thank you for your dedication Kire! Dana and Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin are both returning teachers this year.

So, I would encourage everyone to come on out a little early and check out a Sunday School class. Perhaps you are interested in teaching, we

could help you fulfill that desire as well. All classes begin at 9:30am.

## End of Summer Water Play Day

On September 6<sup>th</sup> we said goodbye to Summer with our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Water Play Day. What a great way to both welcome and bid farewell to the lazy days of summer!

## SUMMER OF SERVICE UPDATE

Just a quick update on our Summer of Service food drive...

After collecting food items for 4 weeks the kids spent a Sunday weighing, sorting, and boxing everything up. It was truly like a mini-warehouse in the C.E. Area on August 30<sup>th</sup>! Some of the kids made handmade cards of blessings to send with the food.

Beki Hill was kind enough to take everything to Redlands Family Service Association where it will be distributed to needy families right here in our own neighborhood. Thank you Beki for helping us with our project and thanks to the entire congregation for your support. We could not have done it without you! Together we raised ... Drum roll please... **242.25** pounds of food!

Come by the C.E. Area to see the thank-you card the kids received from Family Service Association.

## **A Special Thanks ...**

To Sara Schoonmaker, Beki Hill, and Beth Welsh who helped make our day of Learning to Listen With Delight a success.

On September 13<sup>th</sup> the kids were able to experience a taste of what we adults have come to love in our past Lenten and Summer series. The kids were divided into 2 age related groups and learned some of the techniques we have learned in an age appropriate forum. It was a big hit and the kids have asked if we can do it again from time to time.

RUCC has an incredible group of kids and I was indeed delighted with them as I listened.

## **Rehearsals for Children's Sabbath Service**

The Children will be taking over the service on October 11<sup>th</sup> and we need some rehearsal time.

Please have your child present at the following times if at all possible:

Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> During Kid's Zone in the C.E. Area

Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 9am in the Sanctuary

It is vital that children participate in all rehearsals if at all possible. Also, if your child have been assigned a

prayer, reading, or special music please have them bring their materials (prayers, Bibles they will read from, music, etc.) with them to rehearsals. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin at 909-795-2398 or [DeepRootsAcademy@hotmail.com](mailto:DeepRootsAcademy@hotmail.com)

## *...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.

### **Family Health Fair**

Loma Linda University on Sunday, October 25 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 25040 Stewart Street, Loma Linda. Educational activities, scavenger hunt, games and prizes. Chance to win a Disneyland Family Package with overnight stay at Disneyland Hotel. Also screening for blood pressure, body fat, hearing, dental and vision. For more information call 1-877-558-6248.

### **Annual Apple Pie Day**

Pilgrim Pines, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Come spend the day celebrating the glorious apple with apple pie, apple crisp, and apple cider as well as other treats and activities including pumpkin carving. All ages are welcome to come in costume and enter the "Best of Show" contest for sweet prizes. Buffet – style chili lunch from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Adults \$10.00 and children (12 and under) \$6.00. Please call for reservations to (909) 797-1821.



## September Scripture Readings

October 4	<i>Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Mark 10:2-16</i>
October 11	
October 18	<i>Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Psalm 104:1-9, 24; Mark 10:35-45</i>
October 25	<i>Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8; Mark 10:46-52</i>

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff  
Associate Minister – Rev. Leif Lind  
Seminary Intern – Jen Neibling  
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



**Redlands United Church of Christ**  
**168 Bellevue Avenue**  
**Redlands, CA 92373-4978**  
**(909) 793-3520 Fax: (909) 793-5418**  
**E-mails:** pastor@uccredlands.org  
Leiflind4@gmail.com  
office@uccredlands.org  
youth@uccredlands.org  
**Web site:** www.uccredlands.org