

# WANDERINGS

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

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

### June 2010

Contemplative Worship Service and Communion – 8:00 a.m.  
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.  
Sundays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27

Communion - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, June 6

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room  
and also on  
Tuesdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29  
at 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

Christians for Equality Committee will meet  
Monday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Stewards meet on Tuesday, June 8  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, June 15  
at 12:00 p.m. in the Pastor's office

Church Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 22  
at 7:00 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 beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
But the earth became chaos and emptiness,  
and darkness came over the face of the Deep—  
yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.”  
—*Genesis 1:1-2, from The Inclusive Bible*

Discernment.

From the Latin root of the verb “to discern,” meaning “to discriminate” as in the process of sifting out what is of God; discriminating between that which expresses God’s call and anything that runs counter to it.

Discernment is something we will be hearing a lot around here, for the Spirit of God seems to be hovering or “brooding” (like a hen sits or broods on her nest of eggs until they are hatched).

What is discernment? It is a tool we have as Christians. Discernment is a process by which we intentionally become aware of how God is present, active, and calling us as individuals and communities so that we can respond with increasingly greater faithfulness.

Last fall I began to sense the Spirit’s movement nudging us to something new. Would it be a new program, a new direction, a new twist on what we were already doing and being? I did not know. So, like we were taught in seminary, I quietly entered an intentional time of discernment and used the tools of prayer, silence, and worship as pathways enabling me to be more attentive and intentional about seeing the movement of the Divine among us. I invited a couple of long-time members to enter this process with me, and after their own periods of discernment, they agreed that the Spirit is on the move here!

Out of this discernment has emerged the Biblical image from those first two verses of Genesis: “the spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep...” And we have only to read on to see that this “hovering” was the mysterious and murky prelude to a world-full of creativity!

Several weeks ago, I spoke with our Church President, Loring Fiske-Phillips, about this apparent movement of Spirit among us. As we talked, he wisely confirmed that Spirit’s movement seems not so much about the next program or project, but our real work as a congregation is the work of personal transformation...of helping to move each person into a place where they know they are loved by God.

Let the question of discernment play around the edges and permeate your own prayer life. Pay attention to the voices and sights of Spirit. Listen for and to the whispers of the Divine as we move into the long days of summer.

What do you sense, from your own prayer life, about God's movement among us? What biblical images come to your mind as you ponder (brood over!) what God might be birthing among us? Our Summer Series this year will, with the hearty blessing of the Church Board, focus on discernment. We will learn together and share stories of how God has been and is still speaking. We will dream together about the very real needs of a new classroom building and a new organ. We will listen to the whispers of Spirit as they nudge us together into our future! When I ponder the gifts of discernment that are and are yet to be, I confess I feel a kinship with Engineer Montgomery Scott (Scotty) in the most recent Star Trek movie when he looked around and said in his endearing Scottish brogue, "I LIKE this ship...it's EXCITING!!!"

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shawn".

## President's Message

Commencement has been on my mind lately. With Jacob about to graduate from The Grove School, he and his friends are starting to get excited about the life changes that are coming. Meanwhile, Sarah is planning for the unknown adventures that await her in Hyderabad, India next semester. The feeling is contagious as all of life seems to take on new possibilities, new opportunities for growth.

It took me a long time in life to realize that *commencement* is a beginning. Since I had only heard the word in the context of graduation, I thought it meant to *end*; it clearly came at the end of everything that life had been for me up to that point.

Now that I'm older, I realize that life is full of commencements. In many senses, we begin anew each day, sometimes several times each day. God gives us the gift of being able to start fresh with each breath. That's not to say we shouldn't plan for the future or figure we're not going to be around tomorrow or the next day. Rather, it lets us know that we are not prisoners of our pasts. Our past actions, disappointments, mistakes, etc., do not define who we are, nor do they limit our opportunity to succeed in peace and happiness today.

I find the 12-step saying, "one day at a time" to be very meaningful. Thinking about things in terms of lifetimes or eternity makes it difficult to think about what I need to do today. Its kind of like the kid on the long car trip asking, "Are we there yet?" It's so easy to think of life as a destination, wondering when we'll be rich or retired or thin or educated or whatever else we want *right now*. I can take steps today toward any goal I have, but I jolly well better enjoy the journey because there's no pot of gold at the end.

On the other hand, while happiness happens one day at a time, so does sadness. We may sometimes think that life sucks, but it sucks one day at a time. Feelings of sadness and hopelessness, just like feelings of wishing for ultimate happiness, are exactly the kinds of feelings where we can benefit by turning them over to God.

So where does planning and strategizing come in when we're living one day at a time? As Sharon preached on Pentecost, "For those persistent winds of the Spirit keep blowing and as they blow they clean out the cobwebs to allow new thoughts to be considered. Those winds of the Spirit remove the dust so that the old becomes new again. Those winds of Spirit enliven the very air we are breathing so that we can wonder and pray and discern together, where is God leading us as a congregation?"

The best strategy, she said, is to discern together while we build. And isn't that all God ever asks of us? Pray and act. Don't plan to pray and act tomorrow. Don't commission a study of prayer and action. Pray today. Act today.

With optimism and hope,

Loring Fiske-Phillips

## Which Pastor Do We Go To For . . . ? (As of June 2010)

Now that our Associate Pastor, The Rev. Leif Lind, is in ministry here at RUCC, we thought it would be helpful to update the congregation on our particular areas of service. He and I see this as a “work in progress”...and as a way to provide clarity for each of you, accomplish the work of Christ, and still keep our work schedules somewhat sane! Please offer your good suggestions, observations, and helpful critique as we move along the ministry road together.

### Typical Work Week

#### **Sharon** (full-time):

- Sundays: Worship leadership + other fellowship events as scheduled
- Office hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays (available for appointments and meetings – please schedule with Carla in the church office)
- Sermon and worship preparation on Wednesdays (at home)
- Days off: Fridays and Saturdays
- Contact info: 909.793.3510 (office) ~ 909.528.6810 (cell) ~ Email: pastor@uccredlands.org

#### **Leif** (half-time):

- Sundays: Worship leadership + other fellowship events as scheduled
- Office hours on Mondays and Fridays (available for appointments and meetings – please schedule directly with Leif)
- Contact info: 909.793.3520 (office) ~ 909.557.5230 (cell) ~ Email: leiflind4@gmail.com

Please know that both of us have additional commitments that may take us away from the office on some of the typical workdays: Sharon serves on the Conference Board of Directors of the SCNCUCC, and Leif is also employed part-time at Glendale City 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist congregation (he serves there on Tuesdays and Saturdays).

### Areas of Responsibility

These indicate our **primary** areas of responsibility...yet you can feel free to ask either of us about any program or event or joy or concern or need. RUCC is structured into seven areas of service; each of us will serve as a resource to the areas as indicated below.

#### **Sharon:**

- Primary responsibility for the 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service (including the selection of scriptures, themes, hymns, preaching, and overseeing of weekly worship tasks). Leif will also preach several times in the year.
- Primary responsibility for Confirmation Class (including working with the youth and parents, planning curriculum, and recruiting assistants)

- Primary responsibility for Staff Oversight (including supervision of all staff, working with Personnel Committee, annual staff evaluations, leading staff meetings, and resolving staff concerns)
- Primary pastoral support to the following areas:
  - **Wider Ministries** (including FaithActs, Immigration Reform, Homeless feeding project, Christians for Equality; relationships with the Eastern Association and national UCC; contributions of money and time to other local, regional, national, and international organizations)
  - **Church Life** (including all-church parties, retreats, potlucks, receptions)
  - **Stewards** (including building and grounds oversight, budget and investment oversight)

#### **Leif:**

- Primary responsibility for the 8:00 am Contemplative Worship Service (including leading, selection of materials, and providing music).
- Primary responsibility for Adult Education (including the Sunday morning class and weekly Bible studies).
- Primary pastoral support to the following areas:
  - **Church Growth and Enrichment** (including guest follow-up, advertising events, website oversight, new member orientations). Sharon will also visit with guests and new members.
  - **Education** (including recruitment of leadership for Adult Sunday School class, supporting existing Bible Studies, and leading classes periodically)

#### **Sharon and Leif:**

- Shared responsibility for Pastoral Care (including visiting those in hospitals, supporting the healing prayer groups, leading Grief Groups, and meeting individually with members and friends for pastoral care as needed)
- Both Sharon and Leif will attend the monthly Church Board meetings.
- Both Sharon and Leif will be available to participate in the Shepherd Flock gatherings...invite us!
- Both of us will participate in the weekly prayer groups (Leif on Mondays, Sharon on Tuesdays)
- We alternate meeting with the Tuesday Bible Study every other month
- Additionally, we meet weekly (Monday lunch) to discuss pastoral matters, to plan programs, and to prayerfully support the ministry of this congregation.
- Shared responsibility as pastoral support to the following areas:
  - **Shepherds** (including pastoral care, flock gatherings, and annual nomination process)
  - **Worship** (including preparing bulletins, selecting congregational music, worship themes and scriptures for the weeks we each are preaching; special services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunrise; memorial celebrations; weddings; baptisms)

## *Events at RUCC...*

### **Prayer Group**

The Prayer Group meets every Monday morning, 10:30 to 11:30 and Tuesday evening, 5:00 to 6:00, in the choir room. The first twenty minutes is a beginner/refresher workshop time followed by meditation and silent prayer. All are invited!

### **Fifth Annual Jazz Festival**

Fifth Annual Youth Jazz Festival – The Redlands United Church of Christ and Step by Step (a community reentry program) are sponsoring the Fifth Annual Youth Jazz Festival on Friday, June 4, 2010. 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 Paul Hodson (909-809-7820) or [coyotexng@eee.org](mailto:coyotexng@eee.org). We need help with concessions, set up on Friday, and most importantly, publicity. Bands will include Redlands High School, Redlands East Valley, Cope Middle School, and Redlands Jazz Kids.

### **Sunday Morning Study Series**

Rev. Graff will be leading a new Sunday morning study series beginning June 6 entitled "A-Paul-ed" -- a study on Borg and Crossan's book "The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon". There are copies of the book available at the church office.

### **Ensemble XXI Evensong**

Traditional Choral Evensong presented by Ensemble XXI under the direction of Jeffrey Rickard. Sunday, June 6th at 4:00 pm in the RUCC Sanctuary. Choral works by Jeffrey Rickard, Stanley Hoffman, Welford Russell, K.Lee Scott, Jean Berger, Richard Shephard, Harold Friedell, Jane Marshall, Orlando Gibbons, Brad Richmond, Robert Lehman, Howard Helvey and Frank Tichelli. This will be a wonderful presentation of Sacred Music, mostly a cappella. Please come and show your support.



## Meet the Candidate

The SCNC Search Committee and Board of Directors have settled on a candidate for our next settled Conference Minister. The Rev. Felix Villanueva will be available for questions and to learn more about him at this "meet the candidate" event taking place at UCC Redlands.

Refreshments will follow and childcare will be available. To RSVP, please contact Redlands United Church of Christ at 909.793.3520

## Save the Date!

Come and participate in the Summer Series. This is a good way to get to know others. Sundays, 5:00-8:00 pm. August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. ~ Swim ~ Eat ~ Visit ~ Meet in homes TBA. ALL are welcome!

5:00 p.m. – Swim

6:00 p.m. – Potluck dinner

7:00 p.m. – Program

People with pools are urged to speak with Rev. Graff if you would like to host one of the Summer Series programs.



## Do you read *Wanderings*?

No, not "you" of course, or you wouldn't be reading this right now. The editorial "we" were wondering whether *Wanderings* made a measurable difference in readers' lives or whether, as some have suggested, there is too much duplication with articles and announcements expressed in the weekly *View*. Would a change in format or content in either publication enable a merger of the two papers? Please let us know — "we" would love to hear from "you". Rev. Leif Lind

## Appreciation Celebration for Tina Carter

Mary Belle Carter would like for us to join her, and show our thanks to her daughter-in-law, Tina. Tina has been the Manager for Loch Leven since June 18, 2007; resigned as of June 30, 2010. Brad Carter was the Manager for Loch Leven from 1997 until his tragic death in August 2006.

Let's celebrate Tina!!  
with a carnival themed bash.

Saturday, June 19, 2010  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Loch Leven Christian Camp  
and Conference Center  
36910 Old Mill Creek Road, Mentone,  
CA 92359

Games ~ Food ~ Live Music  
Thank you Scrapbook for Tina  
(Please bring pictures and notes.)

## June Birthdays

- 1 Melanie Moran
- 2 Carol Buchanan
- 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
- 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



## *...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.

### **Annual Gathering 2010**

From One Foundation to New Creations. Southern California Nevada Conference United Church of Christ Annual Gathering 2010, June 11-12. First Congregational Church, Santa Ana, California. *From One Foundation to New Creations* was chosen as our theme to express our firm belief that God's creation, the Church, has expressed itself over time in many ways, and that God is Still Speaking to us about the old and the new, including new creations that will help the Church meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century. We believe that it is imperative that we listen for God's guidance on our journey. For more information and to register online, please visit the website: [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org)

### **Women's Spirituality Weekend**

Friday, June 4 – Sunday, June 6, 2010. We are encouraged to practice the presence of God. June Boutwell will lead a retreat on how our five senses help lead a life of presence, prayer and discipleship. Come

prepared to pray, sing, dance, reflect, be artistic, and explore your own unique place in God's creation. Cost will be \$110.00 per person. The weekend rate includes sleeping accommodations, six meals, snacks and programmed activities. Contact Pilgrim Pines Camp (909) 797-1821.

[www.pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org)

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Life**

Loma Linda University Cancer Center will be holding the 19th Annual Celebration of Life event on June 6, 2010 from 12:30 - 2pm. The event will feature refreshments, inspirational messages and a children's room for cancer survivors and their families. For more information call 1-877-LLUMC-4U.

### **Young Adult Retreat**

Tuesday, June 15th (Tuesday lunch - dinner and option of staying overnight). A day to be personal, spiritual, single, together, a leader, a listener, opinionated, helpful, a day to be YOURSELF! Come to the mountain to be with other young adults and revisit your own ministry. We are excited to welcome a small variety of guest speakers on topics affecting and influencing young adults everywhere. Time will be offered to challenge yourself on the high ropes course as well as reflect in the beauty of nature. Cost is \$25.00 per person plus \$14.00 if you wish to spend the night. Contact Pilgrim Pines Camp at (909) 797-1821 or visit the website at [www.pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://www.pilgrimpinescamp.org)

## **June Scripture Readings**

Information for June will be in each week's View

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff  
Associate Minister – Rev. Leif Lind  
Organist/Choir Director – Dr. Taylor Ruhl  
Handbell Directors – Craig Colclough  
Youth Director – Craig Colclough  
Interim Education Director – Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin  
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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