

# *WANDERINGS*

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

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

*July 2010*

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

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.  
Sundays, July 4, 11, 18 and 25

Communion - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, July 4

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, July 5, 12, 19 and 26  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room  
and also on  
Tuesdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27  
at 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

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

**From your (other) pastor and teacher, Leif:**

**“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” — *From the Preamble to the U.S. Declaration of Independence***

Ah, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Who doesn't look forward to this day off when we remember with pride the Declaration of Independence and the promise it held both to the fledgling nation in 1776 and to those of us who live today. (The Declaration was actually signed on July 2, of course, and only finally approved by Congress two days later — prompting John Adams to write to his wife Abigail, “The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival.”)

Recently I read a book by Pulitzer-prize winning author Joseph Ellis entitled “Founding Brothers” — a fascinating and enlightening read. In this volume the author examines the lives and contributions of founders Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison, and the struggles and compromises with which they ultimately agreed to live.

During the American Revolution, many of the truths we today hold to be “self-evident” weren't always seen thus, and were fiercely contested in the early days of our history. The practice of slavery was just one such arena of disagreement. Also, the leaders of the revolutionary generation were all painfully conscious of the fact that whichever decisions they made, they were establishing precedents which we, a future generation, would build on.

In 2010 we still have the challenge of helping those who may not have been treated as “equal”, with “certain unalienable rights”. And we still ask the all-important questions such as, what have the Declaration and the Constitution achieved? How do we continue to live in the tension of what we believe can and should be, and what actually is?

Important questions, these. And as we head to the barbecue pit, the street parade, or the exploding firework display, let us remember that we each must work towards the hope that somehow — however dark the moment— things will improve and tomorrow will be a brighter day.

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leif". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L'.

## President's Message

I've been thinking about my parents a lot lately. Mom's been gone for two years and Dad for about twelve. With Mother's Day and Father's Day, with multiple changes in the life of our family, with the birth of the first baby of the next generation, and other significant life events, I have wished on more than one occasion that I could talk to them again.

Sometimes it's to ask for advice, sometimes it's to tell them about something the kids have done; sometimes it's just a bit of good news that feels better when it's shared with someone who will rejoice with me. Mostly it's just to feel the comfort that used to come from hearing their voices.

I frequently listen to *This I Believe*, a show that used to air on National Public Radio and still available via podcast. It occurs to me that much of what I believe came through my parents.

For example, I believe that people are inherently good. I believe the glass is half full. I believe that music can communicate the love of God. I believe you can learn something from everyone you meet, that smiling will make you feel better, and that money can't buy you happiness. My mother taught me all this by word and example.

I believe that learning is a life-long pursuit. I believe that a touch can show someone how much you care. I believe that honesty and doing right are important in both big and small things. I believe that teaching is an art and a science, that generosity will help you feel closer to the Divine, and that travel is about a lot more than point A to point B. My father instilled these in me throughout my life.

I believe that marriage is give and take, sometimes more of one than the other. I believe that patience is a virtue. I believe that you can feel happy when others are happy. I believe you have to hang in there through thick and thin. I believe that visiting family will improve your outlook on life, that saying *please* and *thank you* are important, and that you shouldn't stay mad for very long. My parents showed me the importance of these and many more life-lessons.

What do you believe and where did your beliefs come from? Parents, family, friends, school, church, ministers, the Bible? Undoubtedly a combination of many factors, known and unknown. I encourage you to think through your beliefs, perhaps write them down, and talk about them with your loved ones.

Oh, and if your parents are around, give them a call and tell them you love them. And say thanks.

With optimism and hope,  
Loring Fiske-Phillips

## ***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!

### **Passing of Wendy Crowley**

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the untimely passing of Wendy Crowley. Wendy had just turned 61 years of age and succumbed to a rare brain virus. Many of you will remember Wendy's mother, longtime RUCC member Dorothy Johnson, and Wendy's sister, Joyce Planeta. Several years ago, until the distance became too great, Wendy and her family were happy and active participants in the life of this congregation.

A service honoring Wendy's life will be held in the Redlands UCC Sanctuary, Saturday, August 14th, beginning at 2:00 pm. The service will be followed by a reception in Covenant Hall. All are invited by the Crowley family to attend.



### **Thin Places Pilgrimage ~ For the Love of God!**

The old Irish story about two guys setting off in a boat without oars, being swept ashore near Cornwall, escorted to the king and asked (rather incredulously), "What were you doing on the sea in a boat without oars?" concludes with their joy-filled response, "But for the love of God we set out on pilgrimage, knowing not where we would land...!" Such is the spirit that permeates the several RUCC'ers who are now preparing to go on pilgrimage to Stonehenge and Iona in July! Please keep in your prayers Sharon Graff, Leif Lind and Taylor Ruhl, Sally and Paul Burton, Susan Thompson, Rich and Kathie Blakley, Barb Lord and Heidi Malone and Emma Malonelord, Carol and Bill Stanley (former members now living in Seattle area), and Marilyn Peck (former Redlander, and friend of RUCC). As with previous trips (to Mexico, New Orleans, etc.) we look forward to bringing all of you along with us through the RUCC Blog <http://www.uccredlands.blogspot.com>. For those without internet access, paper copies of our blog entries will be printed out and available on each Sunday in July. We also look forward to sharing stories and insights with you when we return! Meantime, as with our shared sabbatical two years ago, we encourage you to join us as armchair pilgrims by reading about Stonehenge, Iona, and Celtic Spirituality ~ Blessings, all!

## Pastoral Caregivers

During the weeks of July 5-August 1, when Leif and Sharon are on the Thin Places Pilgrimage, followed by personal vacation time, the pastoral care needs of the congregation will be shared by three wonderful clergy! The Revs. Bill Maury-Holmes, John Walsh, and Alden Sproull, have graciously agreed to share this work in our absence. If there is a need that arises during church office hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-1:30 pm) please call the church office and Carla or Jay will direct you to the clergyperson on call. If there is a need that occurs outside of the regular church office hours, please call Shepherd Area Leader Mary Belle Carter and she will direct you to the clergyperson on call.

## View and Wanderings

At its last board meeting, RUCC looked at the question of producing 2 regular church papers, the *View* and *Wanderings*. A study was presented showing the email and paper circulations for the two publications, and calculating costs for producing each. The board decided to continue with both publications for now, though it encourages as many as possible to use the email versions to keep paper costs to a minimum.

## Summer Preachers

Both of us pastors will be helping co-lead the Thin Places Pilgrimage to Stonehenge and Iona (July 5-25), followed by some personal vacation time, which means that the congregation gets to once again enjoy a wonderful parade of voices speaking the good news of God's love! Leading worship and offering the morning meditation in our absence will be: Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin (July 11); Bill Maury-Holmes (July 18); Kire Hawley-Zechlin (July 25); Loring Fiske-Phillips (August 1). Leif returns to worship on August 8, with Bill Kintner preaching. Leif will preach on August 15; John Walsh will preach on August 22, with Leif in worship leadership. Sharon returns to the office on August 23, and to the pulpit on August 29. May Spirit continue to speak to and through us!  
--The Revs. Sharon Graff and Leif Lind



## **July Worship Leaders**

- 4 Charlie Wheeler
- 11 Paul Hodson
- 18 Samuel Maury-Holmes
- 25 Jacob Fiske-Phillips

## **July Birthdays**

- 1 John Macomber
- 2 John Drage
- 3 Brooks Dierdorff
- 6 Mary Fung  
Vern Jones  
Marlene Moran
- 7 Suzanne Seifert  
Lisa Ruiz-Shipp
- 8 Kristopher Kintner  
Stacey Greene
- 9 Diana Waters  
Joel Wacks
- 11 Sheila Campbell
- 12 Kendra Killpatrick-Bolen
- 14 Terry Dickey  
Sarah Fiske-Phillips
- 15 Rosemary Whitmer
- 16 Debbie Vuocolo  
Chris Blumberg
- 19 Marjorie Benz
- 22 Lashawn Lee
- 23 William Kintner  
Margaret Paul  
Cathy R. DeWalt
- 28 Andrew Samaniego

## ***...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.

☺ **Summer (Series) of Love** ☺  
**All the Sundays of August ~ 5:00-8:00 pm**  
**All are Welcome!**

☺ **Maps available in church office** ☺

August 1 - Meet at the Schoonmaker/Osajima home

Theme: Loving God & Loving Neighbor as Self  
Rick Sforza and Keith Osajima, facilitators  
Come prepared to open to the possibilities of love!

August 8 - Meet at the Wesson home

Theme: Your Language of Love  
Georgia Sforza and Sara Schoonmaker, facilitators  
Come ready to reflect on how you speak and hear love

August 15 - Meet at the Kintner home

Theme: Loving Your Body  
Sara Schoonmaker and Keith Osajima, facilitators  
Come ready to think creatively about food and exercise

August 22 - Meet at the Buchanan home

Theme: Loving Your Soul  
Sharon Graff and Loring Fiske-Phillips, facilitators  
Come prepared to share about your chosen Epiphany word for 2010  
(Note: if you didn't receive a word in January, no worries...  
more words will be available this evening!)

August 29 - Meet at the Ruhl/Lind home

Theme: Loving the World, Discerningly  
Rick Sforza and Loring Fiske-Phillips, facilitators  
Come ready to consider the worldwide paradigm shift toward empathy...  
and your part in it!

**All the Sundays of August ~ 5:00-8:00 pm**

**5:00 pm ~ swim**

**6:00 pm ~ eat**

*(please bring a dish of food to share;  
and your own tableware, plate, and cup/glass)*

**7:00 pm ~ talk and listen and learn**

**All ages welcome!**

## July Scripture Readings

Information for July 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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