

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS
8:30 & 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Next Cornerstone deadline is August 23
www.rhumc.org

The Cornerstone

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310-377-6771



August 2013

National Aviation Day – August 19th

RHUMC Chancel Choir Members to Sing at Disney Hall



Members of the RHUMC Chancel Choir will be part of a mass chorus of 150-200 singers that will present “I Have a Dream” and Beethoven’s monumental Ninth Symphony in a concert to be held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on **Monday, August 26th**, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be the culminating event of “Brotherhood Day in Los Angeles County,” a day that will be set aside by the County Board of Supervisors to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s epic speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. Our own Chuck Dickerson will conduct the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles and the chorus in this spectacular event.

Tickets for the event are free and may be obtained by contacting the church office. But hurry! Seating is limited and will be offered on a first come – first served basis.

from the pastor



So there’s still a part of me, deep down inside, that is afraid to share this bit of good news. But I feel that I have to go ahead despite my lingering reservations. It IS good news. But I don’t want to give you the wrong impression by making such a fuss about it. So here it is. As of the end of June, financially speaking, we are ahead. We’re in the black. Actually we’re well ahead of where we projected we would be, based on our recent history.

How did this happen? Well, you have been very generous. Actual giving from church members and friends is a little over \$12,000 more than we had expected to date. Each month, of course, gifts to the church go up and down. But we know that contributions tend to go up as we head to Easter, and even more so at Christmas. Giving goes down during the summer – though not as much as it used to. So the Finance Committee factors that in and makes projections based on our actual experience. And we are ahead. Thank you!

The other way that it has happened is that committee chairs and staff here put your gifts to work wisely. We invest those resources in God's mission, whose returns are measured differently from other kinds of investments. We have spent less this year than we expected so far, by about \$28,000. When you add those two together, our Operating Budget is in solid shape as we move through the summer.

But that's not all! The same thing is happening with Kid Zone and Mid Zone. Enrollment and participation is well up this year compared to the last few years. And Lisa Williams has done an excellent and efficient job leading a mission that serves so many families in our community. Taken all together, our church finances are ahead of where we expected by almost \$70,000 at the end of June.

So this is good news, period. And I felt I had to share it with you. I know that our giving is encouraged and strengthened by transparency and openness. Keeping this secret would never do! Some finance committees would say not to tell anyone – people's giving will go down! But the truth is that most people are more generous, not less generous, when we know that we are contributing to a winning cause, and not a sinking ship.

I believe that you have that confidence. You see our congregation making a difference in people's lives. New members and friends find their way into the life of the church and discover hope, help and home. Children grow in God's grace, and youth experience what it means to love and serve others. We celebrate the gift of life through all the seasons of life, and offer support and care to help people finish their journeys well.

So thank you. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown, the generosity you share to help grow God's kingdom. We have come through one of the most challenging times, financially, in our congregation's history, and we are stronger now because of you. We are ready to begin a new chapter of growth in mission and ministry. We will soon begin the first phase of our expansion, developing facilities to serve the whole of our church family – and the wider community – even more effectively. We will have our plans back from the city later this week and make any necessary changes right away. We look forward to an exciting next few months as we get started.

So that's the good news. I don't expect that we will end the year with a surplus like we currently have. But that's not our business model anyway! We don't practice generous giving as individuals and families so that the church can bury those gifts in the ground. I read a story about that, somewhere....

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Cause for Celebration



Pictures taken on the patio between the two morning services on July 14th welcoming back John and Jonathan to the church for another year. How fortunate we are that they will continue as part of the church family.



We also gave thanks to Gene Koester as we celebrated his retirement as Church Facilities Manager. Thanks Gene for your years of dedication and expertise!

Health & Wellness



Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

1 Thessalonians 5:14, 16-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, ... encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all... ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Encouragement and Health

Many of you know that I have been hosting family members in my home for the past 2 months - my nieces for 3 weeks, followed by my mother for 6 weeks - while my sister and brother-in-law, missionaries in the Philippines, have been on a brief furlough. Caring for my mother, who has dementia, and training/managing caregivers for her, have been all-consuming and demanding endeavors for me! I have enjoyed some tender moments with her, but have also been exasperated with her and with some of the caregivers at other times.

During this period, I have been grateful to God for sustaining my health, energy, and spirits. I have been aware that He has blessed me through the encouragement of my sister, dear friends, and many of you, who have lent me a sympathetic ear, engaged me in an outing, or uplifted me with your prayers and encouragement. God has employed His people to bouy me up and keep me going, so that my mother could continue to thrive and to reinforce in my heart that His love and grace are sufficient.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Your Parish Nurse, Annette Matsuda, may be reached at the church office, 310-377- 6771, ext. 116.

Church Openings

(Please contact the church office with any questions or to ask for a position description.)

Family Ministries – We are looking for an excellent person to serve as Director of Family Ministries for our congregation. The position is responsible for developing programs and activities to serve families of all ages and life stages in the congregation and wider community. Some of these have included parenting classes, pre-marital counseling, intergenerational events (Hollywood Bowl, whale watching) and others. 20 hours/week is the current expectation, which will vary throughout the year. There is also administrative support of 10 hours/week for help with mailings, sign-ups, etc.

Facilities Manager – Gene Koester has been our Facilities Manager for the past 7 years and has recently retired. This part-time position is right for the person who can diagnose a problem, fix it, or see that it gets fixed. Interest in things mechanical, plumbing, and electrical a plus.

Club Maintenance

A small but busy crew of Club Maintenance volunteers removed stains from the Narthex table, corrected a sticking door problem in Wesley Hall, repaired a Nursery chair, repaired termite damage in one of the classrooms, changed about 30 ventilation filters in all of the buildings, repaired leaking faucets in the Kitchen and installed a repaired light fixture in the Sanctuary. Those participating included Clarence Fung, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Oren Sheldon and Jim Showalter.

The next chance to help the Club Maintenance efforts will start at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, August 10th**. Please help to keep your church in good working order.



Basketball Update

EASY SUMMERTIME MEAL PLANNING:

Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner



Our dates and times for August are:

Mon., Aug 5th, 6-8 pm
Mon., Aug 12th, 6-8 pm
Mon., Aug 19th, 6-8 pm
Mon., Aug 26th, 6-8 pm

Thurs., Aug 8th, 6-8 pm
Thurs., Aug 15th, 6-8 pm
Thurs., Aug 22nd, 6-8 pm
Thurs., Aug 29th, 6-8 pm

Sat., Aug 3rd, 2-4 pm
Sat., Aug 10th, 2-4 pm
Sat., Aug 17th, 2-4 pm
Sat., Aug 24th, 2-4 pm
Sat., Aug 31st, 2-4 pm

If you would like to be sent reminders/updates regarding our schedule via email, please forward your email address to John Kwan at john@rhumc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date

Sunday, September 8, 2013 — 2:00 p.m. sharp



New York-based multiple-award-winning pianist **KARINÉ POGHOSYAN** returns to open the 6th season of Sundays At Two concerts. Kariné graduated from Cal State University Northridge and went on to earn her Master's degree and Doctorate in record time at the Manhattan School of Music, where she is now on its distinguished faculty.

Sierra Service Project 2013 - "On the road again . . . "

While some teenagers are spending the summer relaxing, hanging out with friends, and enjoying a break from school, 59 dedicated youth and 13 adults from the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Torrance and San Pedro will spend a week repairing homes belonging to strangers and touching the lives of others in very meaningful ways. In July, 13 youth and 3 adult counselors served the Native Americans living on the Chuckchansi Rancheria of Coarsegold, California. In August, 46 youth and 10 adult counselors will serve the Native Americans living on the Smith River Rancheria and Navajo Reservation in Smith River, California and Tsaile, Arizona respectively.

These youth are participating in the Sierra Service Project (SSP), a unique Christian organization that has been encouraging teens to contribute to various projects in communities throughout the west for 38 years. This year, Sierra Service Project is running seven project locations throughout California, Oregon, and Arizona. Five of the project locations take place on rural Native American reservations or rancherias. These young volunteers will devote their energy to building wheelchair ramps, repairing roofs, installing new floors, painting, and doing other kinds of home repair projects for local low-income individuals and families. The program also offers the opportunity to learn more about the culture of the communities they are assisting, develop new friendships, and grow their faith through service.

While on these project sites, they will team up with other teenagers from around the country. In total, Sierra Service Project will host 2,000 volunteers throughout the six-week summer service program. These sites were chosen as service locations because of the prevalence of poverty throughout these areas and the demand for no-cost home repair services.

On Sunday, August 25th, our morning and evening services will feature our youth who will share about their experiences while at Sierra Service Project. It is a great opportunity to hear about the project, what they did and what the experience means to them. Don't miss out!



Photos of our **Jr. High SSP Participants**: Felicity Aikens, Jackson Arthur, Daniel Basilius, Naomi Froehlig, Katlyn Karambelas, Ha-Jung Kim, Jasper Lem, Justin Morimoto, Ryan Roulette, Alexandra Scharenberg, Katie Stam, John Szieff, & Patrick Woodland. **Counselors**: Steve & Jan Johnson and Linette Woodland.

Disciple Classes

Planning has started for the fall session of Disciple classes. Classes start mid-September and dates will be announced based on applicants' preferences. The classes will be led by a trio of facilitators with a diverse and fascinating background. They are **Bob Chamberlin**, who with his love of history, does not stop at the recognized scriptures and canons, but explores supporting and competing literature and historical documents. Bob is also a photographer for the LA Times; **Larry Kittiver**, who has an abiding love for the "way of the Jewish people," and will bring his unique perspective to the discussions that is not available unless we have lived, and continue to live out, as he has, his faith as a Jew and a Christian; and **Mike Lewis**, whose strength is the New Testament with a deep and prayerful connection to God. Also assisting will be **Keith Levan** who has led Disciple Classes in the past here at RHUMC.

The cost of the textbook is \$48. Biblical books to be covered are Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. There is also an exceptional book called *The Five Books of Moses: A New Translation* by Everett Fox, which you can use as a good resource material.

Bible study can be a mixture of faith, fun, and fellowship. The reward is being part of a new community within our church as you expand your knowledge of God's Word. Stop by the Family Ministries table after the morning services to sign up.

Save the Date

UMW – Potluck Lunch – Saturday, September 14th – 11:00 a.m.

- All women of our church are welcome to join us and learn more about our mission work involvement and of our fellowship circles.
- Come hear speakers from our local missions.
- Please plan to bring a salad, finger food or a dessert for 6 to 8 people.
- RSVP by calling Mary Larson at 310-613-8169 or leave a message at 310-257-1710. Childcare is available upon request.

Word of Thanks...

Dear RHUMC Family and Friends:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your wonderful support, love and care during my surgery and ongoing recovery. It has been deeply moving to receive many cards, phone calls, words of encouragement, and visits from all of you as well as delicious meals from the food website that was coordinated by Annette Matsuda.



I am making excellent progress with physical therapy, and am getting stronger every day, thanks to your prayers and concern for my well-being. This has truly been a great life-changing experience for me.

Thank you again for everything!

With love and appreciation,

Althea Waites



Children's Ministries

A Great Place to Grow

Lisa Williams
Director of Children's Ministries

This summer, I attended the Claremont School of Theology's two-week Licensing School for Local Pastors. This was an immersion course on United Methodist doctrine, church history, worship, preaching, counseling, finances and missions.

God continues to call me to serve. Over the next few summers, I will continue my course of study at the Claremont School of Theology, with a deeper exploration of these topics and more.

I look forward to serving the children and families at RHUMC for many years.

Warmly,
Lisa Williams



Claremont School of Theology
July, 2013



Save the Date Rally Sunday September 15, 2013

Come join us for an old fashion picnic with hot dogs and ice cream sundaes, plus super fantastic games for the kids.

Children's Ministries

Join us for Vacation Bible Camp
August 5 – 9, 2013



If you happen to find yourself on campus the week of **August 5-9** you might just see: approximately 200 Knights, Kings & Queens engaged in bible study, games, crafts and royal snacks. The sanctuary will be filled with dancing and singing in the mornings. You are all invited to come by and experience a moment of how kids learn to “Stand Strong for God.”

Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp Fun!



Senior Pastor
Assoc. Pastor

Jonathan Chute
John Kwan

Music Director
Organist/Pianist
3rd Service Ensemble

Chuck Dickerson
Althea Waites
Patti MacLeod

Children's Min. &
Kid/Mid Zone Director
Jr. High Youth
Senior High Youth
Preschool Director
Parish Nurse
Custodian

Lisa Williams
John Kwan
Evan Griffiths
Myra Ghabrial
Annette Matsuda
Miguel Portillo

Church Office Admin
Admin Asst. to Pastor
Treasurer
Bookkeeper

Peggy Roulette
Michele Nelson
Robin La Tourette
Nicole Lowery Zakman

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Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

Minerva Carcaño
Kathy Wilborn