



ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Cornerstone

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

August 2014

We're Almost There!



Phase One is nearing completion with a target date of August 15th for the new parking spaces as well as the interior improvements. When landscaping and striping are done, we will have increased space for 21 vehicles, including more handicapped parking areas, a better ramp and larger interiors, plus a restroom and storage area.

MARK THE DATE!



Rally Sunday will be on **September 7th** and you won't want to miss the fun. There will be bagels & cream cheese for the early birds at 8:30. After the 10:00 service, we'll have a "we'll-provide-the-chicken-you-bring-the-sides" church picnic. Tables & chairs will be set up, but feel free to bring a blanket or beach chair if you prefer to sit more casually. There will be music and games for the kids and adults. It will be a great time to relax and share summer vacation stories, as we think about fall . . .

from the pastor



It's already been quite a summer, and we're not even halfway through. It's easy to look around and see evidence of God's activity and leading in our life as a church family. Each day during Kid Zone camps we've had 150 or more children taking part in fun and games, singing and playing, learning and growing through the leadership of an amazing staff. For July they've been joined on Tuesdays through Thursdays by our Preschool summer school program. And next week we will be holding Vacation Bible Camp – which is pretty well the busiest week of the whole year. So much for things "quieting down" at church during the summer!

We've welcomed Doug Dickson and his family. His work as our associate pastor this year will focus on helping build a solid and sustaining team to give leadership to our programs with youth and their families. He is already working with the Youth Committee leaders, helping search for a new staff-person to work with our Junior High, and preparing to go with our Senior High on their week with Sierra Service Project. We're grateful for his energy and helpfulness and look forward to a strong year to come.

The cover photo offers a view of what's been going on "behind the fence" these past five months. By the time you read this it should have come down. It will be a couple of weeks before the new parking lot is completely ready for use, but we're making great progress. There's paint on the walls, flooring going in this week, and we look forward to moving in very soon.

Half-way through the year, our financial picture is also very positive. We will have paid for all of the Phase One work without borrowing. We received a check for \$27,000 from the Cal Shake Roofing class action settlement, which allowed us (with the help of money from Trustees' reserves) to complete one whole side of the sanctuary roof, rather than simply patching the new construction. It was our roofing contractor who called to our attention that we would qualify, and that was helpful to say the least!

We are ahead of where we expected to be for the entire church budget as well. While we know there will be ups and downs between now and the year's end, I have to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for the generosity and love which you continue to share with others through your giving. We are blessed to make a difference in the world God loves. As we move through the rest of the year, I know we will see even more opportunities to touch people's lives with healing and hope, with grace and peace. They have never been more important than they are today.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Missions



RHUMC welcomed the Reverend Dr. Ut Van To and his wife, the Reverend Karen Vo-To, at both morning services on Sunday, July 13th. Over 50 attended a luncheon featuring a fascinating and inspirational presentation by the Tos, highlighting the experiences that led them to serve in ministry and the challenges they face bringing Christianity to Vietnam. They are extremely grateful for our continued financial support and asked for ongoing prayers for their ministry. The Missions Committee will share updates on the Tos' work as they become available. If you would like to be in direct contact, you can reach them by email at utvanto@yahoo.com.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION TYSON PROJECT A+



Would you like to help earn free school equipment and supplies for the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky with no cost to you? All you have to do is cut off labels, box tops, with symbols from many products and drop them in the box in the narthex.

As part of our mission work, RHUMC supports Red Bird School, located in a remote, severely impoverished area in the Appalachian Mountains. Opportunity for employment is scarce because coal mines don't provide jobs as they once did and the geography is isolated. By providing high quality Christian education for 85 years, the Red Bird Mission School helps children learn, dream and hope for a bright future.

WE CAN HELP! There are three programs in which the school participates – Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and Tyson Project A+. Clip the appropriate part of the package on products you already use. It's also fine to bring in the whole label and we'll do the clipping for you.

The labels are exchanged for educational materials and the box tops and Tyson Project A+ items are traded in for cash. One Methodist group in the area was able to collect enough labels for a VAN, and this year the school has earned \$20,000!

This is an ongoing project, so hopefully once you get in the habit of saving the labels, you'll want to continue for a long time!

Questions? Ask anyone on the Mission Committee or call Barbara Leone 310-377-2628. THANK YOU for your help!

Cleaner Beach Thanks to Faith in Action

By Debra DeLuca

Torrance Beach is cleaner and ready for you to enjoy after a great clean-up effort this past Saturday, July 26th. Our group of volunteers were not massive in numbers but they were full of smiles and definitely energetic! A huge thank you to our Faith in Action Volunteers for their time:

Natalie DeLuca

Daniel Meyerhoff

Rachel Meyerhoff

Mr. & Mrs. Meyerhoff

Caleb Stam

Katie Stam

Mrs. Stam

Emma Tiedeman

Hannah Tiedeman

Rachel Wilkinson

Thank you again for helping to keep our beaches clean and safe for everyone!

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance was involved with patching drywall in preparation for painting, adjusting a gate for proper closure, disposing of trash around the dumpster, repairing broken tables, removing lights from the Kitchen ovens for replacement, repairing several sections of broken fence along the entry road, replacing closure seals on a door, attaching a loose cap on a block wall and mounting a poster. Those helping out included Bob Chamberlin, Dave Larson, Yasuko Martin, Rich Prihoda and Oren Sheldon.

The next opportunity to help in these efforts to keep things in good repair will be **August 16th**, starting at 8:30 a.m.

New to the Church?

We have set **Sunday, September 14th**, at 11:30 a.m. for the next new member gathering. It's a relaxed and informal time, where you'll meet others who are newer to the church, hear about the life and work of the congregation, take a tour of the facility, share a light meal and learn a bit about the United Methodist Church. More information will follow in the September Cornerstone.

Summer Reading Favorites



We asked a few staffers and church friends what their favorite book was this summer and why. Here are their answers and if you are intrigued, you have just enough time to get another book read before September.

Michelle Sagolla – *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. *It's about the long, passionate journey of the University of Washington rowing team that competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. "I liked it because it showed perseverance from the team as well as instilling self-reliance. I also loved the slice of history it told."*

Jonathan Chute – *Black Noon: The Year They Stopped the Indy 500*, by Art Garner. Art is the husband of church member EJ Garner, and he tells the story of the 1964 race, which was stopped as a result of a fatal accident. It brought about tremendous changes in auto racing, and the story includes many of the most famous racers of the day (AJ Foyt, Parnelli Jones, Jimmy Clark and many more). A great read!

Three Day Road, by Joseph Boyden. The story of a native Canadian Cree Indian who serves as a sniper during World War One. Growing up with his aunt in the bush, he enlists with a boyhood friend and is shipped to Belgium and France. Badly wounded after many battles, he returns home to seek recovery and healing under her care.

Clarence & Suellen Fung – Our next travel agenda brings us to Russia. Hence, our recently read books include *St. Petersburg* by Knopf Mapguides; *Moscow, St. Petersburg & The Golden Ring* by Marsha Nordbye; Baedeker's *MOSCOW*; and *Lonely Planet*. We will visit the Hermitage Museum which houses Rembrandt's "*The Return of the Prodigal Son*." Henri J. M. Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son - A Story of Homecoming* tells of the spiritual journey he took as he studies the painting.

Chris Campbell – *The Oracle of Stamboul* by Michael Davis Lukas, grandson of church member Betty Lukas. It is set in Turkey and is about a young girl who is a savant and given a gift to predict the future. "I liked it because the girl was so honest and true to herself. I can also can recommend *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green."

Maureen Banasky – *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art. "I had a love-hate relationship with this book, but by the end love won. The characters are complex, interesting and unpredictable. I think it very much deserves the Pulitzer Prize it received this year."

Children's Ministries

KidZone

A Great Place to Grow

Lisa Williams

Director of Children's Ministries



Chris Larson decided it was time to recognize Lisa Williams for her 12 years of work with the Kid Zone after-school program and summer camps. Since quilting is one of Chris' favorite pastimes, and since she saved all of her KZ summer camp shirts through the years, it was a natural fit to combine the two into the beautiful quilt you see below.



Chris helping Lisa display her handiwork.

All of the campers got involved in the presentation.



Vacation Bible Camp Update

There is still space available for Vacation Bible Camp, which starts this Monday, August 4th. VBC runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please call 310-377-7302 to register.

Family Ministries

Rachel Stam

Director of Family Ministries



Wow, it is hard to believe that it is August already! It seems like summer has just flown by this year. In the June edition of The Cornerstone, I mentioned taking some time to relax and "breathe." Unfortunately, I feel like summer has been even busier than the school year! However, one of the highlights of the summer for me was going to my very first Hollywood Bowl concert. Adam and I joined a group from RHUMC and enjoyed music from Bernstein and Gershwin. Our next concert is scheduled for August 23rd (details below). It should be a great time – hope you can join us. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Beatles at the Bowl

Join us for a night to remember at the Hollywood Bowl! On **Saturday, August 23rd**, at 8:00 p.m., Hollywood Bowl will commemorate **The Beatles' 50th at the Bowl**. As well as singing many Beatles classics, the performers will recreate historic sets, including "Twist and Shout," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "A Hard Day's Night" plus vintage clips and much more in

celebration of the Fab Four's L.A. Invasion. Tickets are \$48 each and a bus from Wilson Park is available for an additional \$6. Contact Family Ministries at familyministries@rhumc.org to sign up or for more info. You can also sign up between morning services starting August 3rd. Hope to see you there!



3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Due to busy summer schedules, we will take a break this month. Our next hike will be on September 16th. Stayed tuned for time and location.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	Doug Dickson	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Children's Min. & Kid/Mid Zone Dir.	Lisa Williams	3 rd Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Admin. Asst. to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Jr. High Youth	John Kwan	Asst. Secretary	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Senior High Youth	Evan Griffiths	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
		Facilities Manager	Rick Mitchell
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Minerva Carcaño
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Kathey Wilborn
Web Site	www.rhumc.org		

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 18
www.rhumc.org