The Cornerstone

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

November 2014

"IT IS THE SPIRIT IN WHICH YOU GIVE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE ALL THAT IS GOOD"

THANKSGIVING DINNER – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd – 6:30 P.M.

This year's Thanksgiving Dinner will salute the IMAGINE NO MALARIA campaign being supported by the United Methodist Church across the nation. Come and enjoy a delicious, home-cooked turkey dinner (prepared in our Weber Kettles) with mashed potatoes, corn pudding, cranberry fluff and cranberry sauce, and your choice of pecan, pumpkin and apple pie. You will feel good all over enjoying the dinner and knowing your donation proceeds will help eradicate malaria around the world! Donations are $30.00 per adult and $15.00 per child under twelve.

Entertainment following the dinner in the Sanctuary will feature Curtis Brooks and his ensemble; Curtis plays the saxophone with incredible skill and feeling. You won't want to miss hearing him perform, as his music will make you feel good all over!

Paid reservations will be accepted starting Sunday, November 2nd, on the patio between services and following the second service. We will also be at the third service to take your reservations. If you would like to help with the dinner, we need volunteers on Thursday, November 20th, starting at 8:00 p.m. for an hour and a half to set the tables; and on Friday all day starting at 9:00 a.m. to decorate Wesley Hall and cook in the kitchen. Please see or call Suellen Fung at 310-541-8191 or Doug Kemps at 310-544-3240 or 310-567-6340 (cell phone).

Just think how good it will feel to help eradicate all those mosquitos!

from the pastor

Maybe you've heard the old one about the guy who owns Paul Bunyan's original axe. "Of course I've had to replace the handle a couple of times. And the head's new. But it's still the same axe."

The philosopher David Hume offers a similar illustration. Suppose you had a sailing ship and replaced the mast. It would still be the same ship, of course. And then you replaced the sails. And the ship's wheel. And the rudder. No one would think it was anything but the original. Over the years, you might well replace every single piece of the ship you started with. It would still be the same ship. No one would question it.

But then he wonders, suppose someone else had kept all of the original pieces as you replaced them. And they had put them all together into a "new" sailing ship, built out of all the old pieces. Hume asks "Which of the two is really the original?"

There's something like that at work in the life of the church. When we think of Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, we think of the people who first made us welcome here. We remember crossing the patio that Sunday morning, sitting in the sanctuary as the choir filed in. We remember the first sermon we heard, or the smile of someone who was glad to see us.

For some of us, that sanctuary was what we now call Wesley Hall. The preacher of that first sermon has gone to be with God. The friend who smiled moved half way across the country. But it's still the same church. Sort of.

It's the same church, and a completely new church. We're still at the same address on Crenshaw, but our church family grows and changes continually. In a way it's like a river. If we stand on the bank and look out the river looks much the same. But it's also true that no one ever steps into the same river twice. It's always on the move. Or maybe it's like a parade – a great procession over the years. If we stand on the corner and watch we see new faces coming and going. It's the same. And it's completely different.

What is the true identity of a community of faith? Obviously it's more than our address. We might say that it's the people that make a church what it is, though we see them come and go. The stories we tell help us to remember who we are. The traditions we develop over the years allow us to pass along that identity to people who weren't here before.

When I look out on any given Sunday, I see long-time friends who helped make RHUMC what it is before I ever came along. I see people who came along after, and who found their way during my time with you all. I see people just starting out, not knowing where their journeys will take them. I remember friends who are gone, but who left a legacy of love for us to carry on.

The first Sunday of November is the Sunday of All Saints. Please join me in giving thanks for the gifts of all those who have helped to bring us to this place, as well as those who will continue to share the story when we pass it on to them.

It's the same church. And it's a brand new church. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Missions Memos – News from the Missions Committee

"Heifer Plus" Sunday – November 16th

REAL, LIVE BUNNIES!!!!!

Now that we have your attention, please plan to visit the Mission Market and "Heifer Plus" on Sunday, November 16th. (There will be LIVE BUNNIES!)

After each morning service we will have the opportunity to:

- bid on Silent Auction items to benefit "Imagine No Malaria"
- choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world by donating to Heifer International
- contribute to Habitat for Humanity, who just celebrated the building of their 500th home in the Greater LA area this past August
- support the spiritual, educational, health and community outreach work of the missionaries sponsored by RHUMC

Imagine No Malaria

How about an 8-course Italian dinner, with accompanying wine, prepared and served by Linda and Dale Gehr? Or a picnic at the Portuguese Bend Club? As part of a Silent Auction to benefit "Imagine No Malaria", we'll be offering these and other fun events and services provided by members of our very own talented congregation! We'll keep adding to the list of fantastic auction items – please send an email to Susie Lines at lines1@cox.net if you would be willing to donate a service or activity for our "catalog."

In case you missed the announcements and table at church in September . . . "Imagine No Malaria" is a global partnership of the United Methodist Church, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the United Nations Foundation that is fighting malaria with supplies, grant money, education and advocacy programs. Our donations can make a difference. To learn more about the project, visit www.imaginenomalaria.org.

Trek to the Tree

That time already?!! Hard to believe that we are approaching the Christmas season . . . **Sunday, November 30th** will be the first Sunday of this fun annual event where we provide gifts for needy children through the Toberman Neighborhood Center. There will be tables at each service with additional information.

Mission Market – November 16th

Be sure to stop by the United Methodist Women Mission Market in Wesley Hall on Sunday, November 16th, after all three services and see the creative and unique items being offered for sale. It will be a time of good fun and an opportunity to holiday shop. Monies raised from the Mission Market will be given to the UMW Mission projects. The UMW would appreciate donations of homemade food items such as breads, cookies, jams, etc. and any hand-crafter creations, sewn, knitted, crocheted, jewelry and/or artwork. Donated items can be brought to the church kitchen the morning of Sunday, November 16th. This will also be the last day to order from the SERRV catalog.

Donations Needed for St. Paul's Homeless

Faith in Action will again be assembling care packages and blankets for the homeless at St. Paul's UMC this holiday season. We could use your help on many fronts. We welcome your contributions of hotel toiletries, razors, toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, and other similar toiletry items. We can also use monetary contributions to help with buying a number of items. Our blanket ministry will also continue. In 2012 we donated 110 blankets, which the homeless folks highly coveted. Please consider donating new or gently used blankets for distribution or buying a blanket from our youth on the patio for donation (brand new blankets available for $7.50!). You can give your donations to Kathy Platnick, drop them off at our table on Sundays or leave them in the Welcome Center. We need all donations by December 7. Thanks for your help!

Salvation Army Holiday Bell Ringers

Did you know that donations raised through Salvation Army kettles help over 30 million people worldwide? In the South Bay area, the local chapter of the Salvation Army serves 130 hot meals daily through the Meal on Wheels program and provides summer overnight camp experience for 40 children every summer.

During this holiday season, why not volunteer as a bell ringer? You can ring the bell as a family, with your friends or individually. Last year, we had a wonderful group of RHUMC volunteers that raised over $1100! What a special way to donate your time and energy during this giving season.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this wonderful cause, Roxanne Morse will be out on the patio on Sunday, November 9th, with more information. You can also contact her at 310-543-2281. Your help will go a long way for people in need!

Althea Waites and Mark Uranker
The Orpheu Duo – In Concert

On **Friday** evening, **November 7th**, at 7:30 p.m., the Concert Committee is presenting Althea Waites and Mark Uranker playing a concert for two pianos. Althea and Mark have played together at numerous concerts in the United States and abroad. The music to be performed comes from the classical tradition, some of it familiar and some of it new! Admission is free and all donations will go to the artists. Bring a friend for a most enjoyable evening!

Christmas Concert to Feature the Music of John Rutter and Robert Shaw

The Chancel Choir will present the church's Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 13th**, with a program that will feature the music of John Rutter and Robert Shaw. The first half will feature Te Deum, Christ is the Morning Star, and Gloria, all by Mr. Rutter. The choir is particularly excited about performing these pieces because this performance is a prelude to our anticipated participation in a chorus that will be conducted by Mr. Rutter at Carnegie Hall on Memorial Day 2015. (More about that in subsequent issues of the Cornerstone.) The second half will feature the Many Moods of Christmas - a collection of four suites of favorite Christmas carols arranged by the dean of American choral music, Robert Shaw. The Choir will be accompanied by a brass choir and our own Althea Waites at the organ.

This will be a ticketed event. Tickets may be purchased in the church office, at the Thanksgiving dinner or at the table on the patio beginning Nov. 24th. Tickets cost $10, and there is no reserved seating. The choir's annual Christmas Concert has sold out over the last few years, so you are encouraged to get your ticket early!

Festival of the Nativity

The Missions Committee is thrilled to announce a return this year of the beautiful Festival of the Nativity. We encourage all members of our church family to display your own personal family nativity (or multiples if you have more than one) during the Festival. The nativities will be on display in Wesley Hall on Saturday afternoon, December 13th, before and after our Christmas Concert that evening and also before and after the morning services on Sunday, December 14. We will also be collecting a free-will offering on behalf of Imagine No Malaria at this event. You can participate in two ways: (1) register to display your nativity by completing the registration form--available in the office and the Welcome Center--and we will contact you about participation logistics and (2) come by Wesley Hall that weekend to witness the beauty of the birth of Christ artistically depicted through an array of nativities. For more information, contact Kathy Platnick at ksanders@omm.com or 213-479-6950.

Hanging of the Greens

Before the month of November is over we will be in the Advent Season! The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the sanctuary for this special season. There will be several opportunities for you join us:

1. Saturday, November 29th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the Narthex tree
2. Saturday, December 6th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary
3. Saturday, December 20th, 8:00-9:00 AM – Decorating with poinsettias

Come share the spirit!

Poinsettia Sales

We try to make it easy for you to order poinsettias to be given *In Honor of a Loved One, In Memory of a Loved One* or *To the Glory of God*. Just fill out a form and turn it in with payment of $12 a plant. You may send it to the office, give it to the Worship Committee volunteer at the poinsettia table on the patio Sundays, Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th & Dec. 14th, or place it in the offering plate.

Help us decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas!

You are invited to purchase one or more poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The plants can be dedicated a few different ways.

In Honor of: _____

_____

In Memory of: _____

_____

To the Glory of God: _____

Given by: _____

Number of plants:_____Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $12 per plant. Give this order form and payment to the volunteers staffing the table on the patio, place in the offering basket, or send to the office. Thank you!

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS SUNDAY, DEC. 14TH.
After the last Christmas Eve service, you may pick up the plants you ordered.

Thank You Sylvia

Contributed by Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse

Sylvia Warner has been a member of our church since 1986. After Sylvia raised her children and retired as a registered nurse, she wanted to do something special for our church. In the early 1990's, at a time when practically no one heard of such a thing as a "Parish Nurse" or "Health and Wellness Committee", Sylvia volunteered to be our first parish nurse and worked with the pastoral team to share her wisdom, compassion, and nursing expertise as needed. Sylvia also established the Health and Wellness Committee (now "Team") and launched the first Blood Drive, which became an annual tradition for the past twenty years. In later years, she established the Parish Nurse staff position, then continued to serve as an active member of the Health and Wellness Team to this day.

During my time as your parish nurse, Sylvia has provided encouragement to me and has contributed important ideas, observations, and service to our team and church. To this day, she continues to visit those who are homebound with grace and good cheer. She is modest, generous, and peace-loving.

The following reflections about Sylvia were written by members of our Health and Wellness Team who have worked with her for many years:

"Sylvia's dedication and hard work led to the parish nurse program at RHUMC, which was copied by many churches in the area. We started many programs such as the Health and Wellness Committee, Brown Bags and guest speakers. She was very dependable, enthusiastic, and a joy to work with. We will miss her." ***Sam and Carolyn Melvin***

"Sylvia Warner has been a mentor to me over the last several years and I was proud and honored to have followed in her footsteps during my time as Parish Nurse at RHUMC. Sylvia is a smart, loving and compassionate woman who has given her heart and soul to our church. Our Health and Wellness Team just won't be the same without her!" ***Chris Campbell***

To Sylvia:

"Thank you for having the vision and starting the Parish Nurse program at RHUMC. It is a wonderful, ongoing ministry for our congregation! ***Nina Bradbury***"

"Sylvia Warner, Florence Nightingale of RHUMC, mentor and dear friend: You have a special place in my heart and I wish you the very best as you open a new chapter of life. I was privileged to have the opportunity to serve as parish nurse for a few years, ministering in that very special call. Thank you for the vision to establish the Health and Wellness
Program and for the ongoing encouragement of those of us who followed. You will be missed but remembered.
May God Bless You,
Marian Komori"

"Ode to Sylvia. How do I know thee, let me count the ways. I first met Sylvia back in '09 when I began on Health and Wellness. The Blood Drive was her baby from nineteen or so years ago and working with her to plan and execute it was a wonderful and fulfilling project. It now seems ironic that she and the Blood Drive are going in new directions. We will miss her and wish her God's Speed and Good Health. ***Shirley Bails***

Sylvia will be moving to Orange County on November 1st.

Disciple III Class

Disciple III is off and running with 2 new attendees joining a core of 8 others. It is not too late to join. Cost is $40 for materials. We are 2 weeks into the 16 week course on the prophets, to be followed by 16 weeks on the letters of Paul. Join an exciting discussion as we explore in depth the great writing of the Holy Scriptures. We usually have a lively discussion as all viewpoints are encouraged. We start and end with a hymn accompanied by music and a prayer for affected people in our family. Wednesday evenings in Aldersgate from 6:30 to 8:00 or 8:30. Call Family Ministry.

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC and becoming a member, plan to join us **Sunday, November 16th**, at 11:30 a.m. for the next New Member Welcome. It's a relaxed and informal time where you'll meet others who are new 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. It's a helpful introduction for people who would like to know more than just what happens on Sunday mornings. Many of the people who attend one of these gatherings decide to join the church, but there is no expectation that anyone do so. For those who do wish to join, we will be welcoming new members into the church on Sunday, November 23rd, at all three services.

Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 if you would like to attend. Childcare is available with reservation.

Club Maintenance

The major efforts were directed at getting some of the preschool roofs, gutters and downspouts cleaned. This included trimming and disposing of many overhanging tree branches. Additional jobs completed include: changing light bulbs, tightening loose railing, removing spots from the memorial wall in the Meditation Garden, attaching a sign to the new dumpster facility, realigning a crooked door and cleaning the patio fountain sump. Those participating included Bill Bails, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Oren Sheldon and Jim Showalter.

The next work party will begin at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, November 8th**. The help of many is needed to get our facilities in good shape for all of the upcoming special events and extra services taking place in November and December. No special skills are required to help in this activity.

Got Church Tablecloths?

If you were kind enough to take home church tablecloths to launder, please be sure to return them at your earliest convenience. With our upcoming Thanksgiving Dinner, we will need our entire supply for table settings.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

TRIO TERZETTO

First-Prize Winner of the Prestigious Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition in its Southern California Debut!

Fast-rising East-Coast-based **Trio Terzetto** — pianist **Andrius Zlabys**, violinist **Diana Cohen**, and cellist **Bronwyn Banerdt** — is an ensemble of dynamic musical personalities. Known for their captivating intensity, technical burnish, and radiant charisma both on and off the stage, the piano trio enthralls audiences and critics alike with the vibrancy and sheer magnetism of their performances. Trio Terzetto performed Beethoven's "Triple" Concerto with the Lansing Symphony. Its members have appeared as soloists with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Symphony, and Rochester Philharmonic, and have played in the world's leading venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Musikverein Vienna, Weill Recital Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Severance Hall, and the Seoul Arts Center. Prior to their first concerts as an ensemble, their individual musical lives intersected for over a decade at esteemed institutions including the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Festival, Curtis Institute of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Juilliard School.

Free-Will Offering

Doug Dickson
Associate Pastor

RH Youth is looking forward to a busy November with the rollout of our new website (RHYOUTH.ORG), a Thanksgiving Lock-In to provide meals for persons in need on Thanksgiving, and a Logos field trip to Gable House Bowl. Then it's on to Advent and Christmas! Here's some dates to put on your calendar:

Some adventure & fun had at Rocktober 2014

November 19:	Gable House Bowling
November 22:	Sr. High Serves at the Church Thanksgiving Dinner
November 26:	Sr. High Thanksgiving Lock-In
December 3:	Logos: A Geocache Mystery
December 6:	Work Day to begin the Youth Lounge Transformation.
December 10:	Poinsettia Delivery
December 17:	Christmas/New Year Party at Logos

And never forget the Hang Time is from 3:30-5:30 in the youth lounge every Sunday. Come and hang out, get homework done, fellowship and relax!

Children's Ministries

Lisa Williams
Director of Children's Ministries
A Great Place to Grow

RHUMC Children

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. For me, it means pumpkin pie with lots of whip cream and special time with family and friends. It's a holiday that gives us permission to stop, reflect, and give thanks for all we have.

This week, one of the schools where we pick up children, Walteria Elementary, experienced a tragedy. A 5-year-old boy, Justin, and his 11-year-old sister were hit by a car while in the cross walk. Justin is at Harbor Regional Medical Center in critical condition, still recovering from his injuries. For most of us, driving is an integral part of our daily lives. It takes us to work, school, and activities. Our lives are filled with many good and important things that need to be accomplished each day. However, we sometimes get behind the wheel a little stressed or rushed to get to our next event.

As we enter into the season of Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to slow down in parking lots, on the road, and in school zones. Each time you get behind the wheel, take a deep breath and ask God to watch over you and others. May Justin be our reminder that accidents can happen in a split second. Let's encourage each other to show grace and compassion on the road. Please slow down and watch for small children, especially in parking lots. While you are waiting for them to cross, share with God something that you are thankful for.

RHUMPS
Preschool Thanksgiving Feast
November 24th and 25th
12:00 noon

Kid Zone Winter Camp
"Home for the Holidays"
December 22nd and 23rd

For more information:
Kidzone.midzone@gmail.com
310-377-7302

Kids, Come Experience
A Different Kind of Christmas

Wednesday afternoons December 3, 10 & 17
Children ages 3 years old – 5th grade
After school 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.
As we prepare for Christmas, each week we will uncover new discoveries:

- Expect a Miracle
- Perfectly Loved by God
- Outrageous Love
- Jesus' Wish List
- By a Different Road

We will gather for songs, play games, explore the Bible story, enjoy a craft, have a snack and meet new friends.

Registration

Child's Name:_____

Date of Birth:_____ Grade:_____ School attending:_____

Parent name:_____ Parent cell: _____

Parent name:_____ Parent cell: _____

Allergies: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Cost: $20 includes all 3 weeks
For more information contact Lisa Williams
rhumc.children@gmail.com or call 310-377-6771

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

For me, November embodies family and togetherness for the most obvious of reasons – the celebration of Thanksgiving. This year, both my mom and my mother-in-law (who is traveling from Iowa), will be joining us for Thanksgiving. We will start the day with running, or in my case, slowly jogging, the Turkey Trot. Afterwards, we will make a mad dash home to start cooking the "feast." I am thankful for my wonderful family, but I am also thankful for my church family. The past year has been that of incredible blessing as I got to know many diverse people who attend our church. The best part of my job is connecting with people who I otherwise would not have met if it weren't for my job! I would love for all of us to have that same opportunity. To facilitate that process, we will be launching "**Dinner for Eight (D48)**," in January. The concept is pretty simple. Groups of 8 people (couples and singles) will meet for a meal four times a year. The intent is to mix our members so that new relationships can develop and grow. More details will be coming on our website as well as in the Cornerstone in the next couple of months. I do hope you will consider signing up. You never know who you will end up with – and that is a good thing!

Parents' Night Out

Our last Parents' Night Out (PNO) for this year will be on **Saturday, November 15th,** from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This event is open for kids aged infant to 5th grade, and the cost is $20 per child/$5 per each additional child per family. To sign up, email familyministries@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771, ext. 105. Be sure to include your child's name(s) and age(s). Space is limited, so be sure to register early!

3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Our next hike will be on **Tuesday, November 18th** at 10:00 a.m. We will hike the Del Cerro Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. There are terrific panoramic views of canyons, agriculture, coastal headlands, ocean and offshore islands from this park. We will start the hike at the end of Crenshaw on the fire road. To get to the meeting point, just drive all the way up Crenshaw until you come to the dead end. Hiking boots are strongly recommended. Hope to see you there!

Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

From your Health and Wellness Team…

DIABETES

Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Program
Wednesday, November 19th
11:30 a.m. lunch
12:15 p.m. presentation
Aldersgate Room

Our own Loretta Ball, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Diabetes Educator will be speaking informally about healthy life style changes for diabetes prevention and diabetes management. The pathophysiology of diabetes and medications will also be reviewed.

Loretta has been working in the diabetes clinic and as a diabetes case manager for the past 11 years at Harbor UCLA Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology.

Laughter Class

Our popular Laughter Class is back in full swing!

Visitors and newcomers are welcome to participate. In 50 minutes, our instructor Nina Bradbury, a retired Nurse Practitioner and Certified Laughter Yoga instructor guides the class in flexibility and balance exercises and in the sharing of humor and laughter, all in a warm, friendly, and supportive group.

The group meets each Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Mission Room. For questions, call Nina at 310-780-9131.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21b (NRSV)

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	3rd 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		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 November 21st
www.rhumc.org