



## The Cornerstone

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

**December 2014**

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### **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 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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 or on the patio December 7<sup>th</sup>. The 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.

### *from the pastor*



As Doug pointed out in his sermon last Sunday, a New Year has begun. Advent marks the launch of the Christian Year. It is a season of expectation and hope for those who gather around the story of Christ's coming. In our culture, it seems that Christmas has already arrived. But Advent isn't Christmas. It's a time of preparation and waiting more than celebration. In a way we're like Mary – we have a due date, but not yet a baby. There is work to be done, in us and in the world, to be ready for the coming of the Christ child.

So the new Christian Year has begun, and the calendar year is coming to an end. We are looking forward and backward at the same time. The past year was an important one for our church family, and for many of the families who make up our congregation. Some of us welcomed the gift of new life in the birth of a child or grandchild. Others lost family or friends whose lives touched and blessed our own for ever. This is true every year, we know. But we remember to give thanks for them and carry with us the gifts they shared.

We completed the first phase of a major renewal of our campus. We improved visibility and access to the church for many years to come. We created space where our children's programing can be relocated when we begin the replacement of our aging classroom buildings. In a way our work has been a bit like Advent itself – preparing the way for what comes next! Because of your generosity and hopefulness we completed the work and without having to borrow. As we move toward the next phase of the project we are not counting on that. But we are counting on the same spirit and encouragement that has seen us through so far. Thank you. And well done.

We have been through much together this year. From Sunday worship to summer service projects, from weddings and funerals to baptisms and confirmation, feeding the hungry, studying the Bible, supporting and encouraging each other along the way. I believe that what we do as a church is important. It matters. It makes a difference in the lives of literally thousands of people, in our community and around the world.

The world needs generous, compassionate, hopeful people. The future depends on those who are able to see its brokenness, who feel its pain, and who yet remain faithful and loving in the face of it. Advent is an invitation for us to join with John the Baptist, preparing the way, and pointing toward, the love God has shown to the world in Jesus Christ. It is a reminder that even when things seem most hopeless, we are not alone. It was into this same world that the Christ child was born. He is with us still.

Grace and peace,  
*Jonathan*

## News from Missionary Paul Jeffrey

We recently received a newsletter from Paul Jeffrey, a Christian Journalist, and one of our missionaries RHUMC supports. He saw firsthand some of the destruction caused by the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia. Here is an excerpt from his newsletter:

“In Indonesia, I prepared material for the tenth anniversary of the 2004 tsunami. One of the most rewarding visits was to the remote island of Nias, where, for example, in 2007 I photographed a 5-year old boy, Jefrin Zendrato, planting mangroves with his father and brother. The mangroves would supposedly provide a bit more protection to their section of seashore while also helping the ecosystem near their small fishing village. They got help from a church-sponsored agency that provided the mangrove seedlings, and which also helped them build new houses.



The next image is from this year. Jefrin is now 12. As you can see, he has grown quite a bit. And you could say the same thing for the mangroves. Which, by the way, are helping local fish stocks to replenish themselves. Sometimes this relief work really makes a difference.

Thanks for your prayer and support for my work, and your enthusiasm for ministries of hopeful presence in all forms, from your neighborhood to tiny islands in Indonesia. May our accompaniment open doors to God’s healing and justice.”

These photos help bring light to how our donations make a difference in the life of others. Back in 2005, RHUMC donated \$17,263 for the UMCOR South Asia Tsunami giving. Thank you for your continued support of our missions.

## “Heifer Plus” Sunday

“Holy Heifer”! (in the words of Jackie Showalter)! “Heifer Plus” Sunday was a rousing success – attended by almost 500 church members and friends. It was a wonderful morning, complete with bug-themed piñatas (thank you, Lisa Williams!) and live bunnies (thank you, Debra Schrader!)



More than 400 church members and friends joined the fun in Wesley Hall on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, to bid on Silent Auction items to benefit “Imagine No Malaria,” donate to help children and families around the world through Heifer International, contribute to Habitat for Humanity, and support the spiritual, educational, health and community outreach work of the missionaries sponsored by RHUMC. Final tally of the funds raised is still in progress, but updated info will be available in the January Cornerstone. Many, many thanks to the Missions Committee for their work on this event: Clarence Fung, Bill Graves, Bruce Harkins, Barbara & Bill Leone, Kathy Platnick, Kathy Prihode, Tammy Scott, Phyllis Sherwood, Jackie Showalter, and Debra Shrader.

## Trek to the Tree

RHUMC will again provide gifts for needy children through the Toberman Neighborhood Center. Beginning Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be tables at each service with info on how you can help. Toberman Neighborhood Center is a non-profit community-based organization committed to assisting Harbor Area families and individuals by delivering life-changing services that encourage, inform, educate and empower them to live healthy and purposeful lives. Programs they offer are listed below:

PROGRAMS HELP IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY							
Toberman Academy	Mentoring	Family Literacy	Positive Parenting Program	Adult Education	Legal Services	Case Management	Employment Services
Financial Literacy Classes	Food Pantry	Parenting Classes	Multi Benefit Screening	Counseling Services	Income Tax Preparation	Gang Intervention	Court Ordered Classes

## Festival of the Nativity 2014

The Festival of the Nativity will return this year. Please consider displaying your own personal family nativity (ies) during the Festival. The nativities will be on display in Wesley Hall on Saturday afternoon, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., after our Christmas Concert that evening and also before and after the morning services on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also be collecting a free-will offering on behalf of **Imagine No Malaria** at this event. You can participate in two ways: (i) 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 (ii) 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](mailto:ksanders@omm.com) or 213-479-6950.

## 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 or contact her at 310-543-2281. Your help will go a long way for people in need!

### *Christmas Eve Worship Services*

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Services – Carols & Nativity
- 8:00 p.m. A Musical Christmas with 3<sup>rd</sup> Service Ensemble
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight, Carols, and Communion



## Hanging of the Greens

The Advent Season has arrived! The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church on:

- Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary
- Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-9:00 AM – Poinsettia Time



**Come share the spirit!**



## *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.



*Multimedia Design by Sandy*

### **Thank You from the United Methodist Women**

A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time, efforts, and beautiful handcrafted items and baskets and potted plants that helped to make the Mission Market a great success in raising funds and making it possible for us to continue to donate to our many mission projects and make our UMW pledge to the district for this year!! Thank you to Fletcher Larson who donated his popular pickles and to Linda Russell who donated her beautiful handcrafted jewelry and Barbara Leone for her lovely handcrafted ceramic tiles. A “Chef’s Hats Off” to all you great and talented ‘Kitchen Elves’ who blessed our bake sale with delicious, yummy baked goods. We sure do have talented and generous members in our church!! On behalf of our UMW Team THANKS AGAIN for your help!! Watch for our Mini-Mission Market on **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, and grab up some last minute Holiday gifts for the special people in your life.

### **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You from Doug Kemps**

Thanksgiving is a time to express our gratitude to all those hard workers who made our annual Thanksgiving Dinner possible. We could not have done it without all of you who helped to decorate Wesley Hall, smoke the turkeys in the Weber kettles, prepare the side dishes, serve the food in the buffet lines, and take everything down and store it away for next year.

There is not enough space here to list all the names who helped, but we want to express our appreciation to Suellen and Clarence Fung, Dale and Linda Gehr, Doug Kendle and Fletcher Larson for all the hours of shopping, cooking and organizing they provided to make this dinner possible. We raised over \$2,000 for the Image No Malaria campaign. We have a real community of family and friends here at Rolling Hills UMC.

## Club Maintenance

Cleaning the remainder of the preschool roofs, gutters and downspouts was completed along with vacuuming the utility closets in the preschool buildings. Bumpers were installed inside the new trash container housing to lessen damage while moving the trash bins. Other work included cutting up and disposing of an old sign board, cleaning the patio fountain, repairing several Wesley Hall round tables and making a layout for creating additional parking spots near the trash bin.

Those participating included Joey Black, a Boy Scout with us for the first time, Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Rich Prihode, Dave Larson, Clarence Fung, Bob Chamberlin and Bill Bails.



A new Habitat for Humanity Re-Store is in our neighborhood! It is at 18600 Crenshaw Boulevard in Torrance. ReStores will take donations of most anything needed to build or furnish a home – carpet, windows, furniture, even picture frames or framed art with glass (which Good Will cannot take). And you can shop there for an amazing variety of things too! Proceeds from your purchases will help to fund Habitat for Humanity projects. To arrange for a pick-up call 866-746-7434.



***Doug Dickson***  
***Associate Pastor***

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.:** Logos talk on Forgiveness & Relationships plus a bunch of fun Reindeer Games!

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.:** The Youth Lounge Re-do begins. Come and help us start the project to remake the Youth Lounge. There will be demo work, painting, and lots of stuff to play with as we sort through our stuff! Lunch and snacks are provided.

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.:** We're delivering Poinsettias to shut-ins throughout our community. Be a great part of this beautiful work of heart-warming service.

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 p.m.:** Sr. High Christmas Party at Pastor Doug's house. Bring a 'White Elephant' gift worth no more than \$5 for our gift exchange. Be prepared to eat lots of Christmas goodies and have a great time as we gather for the last time before the New Year.

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.:** Jr. High Christmas Party at the church. Bring a 'White Elephant' gift worth no more than \$5 for our gift exchange. We'll also be eating tons of Christmas candy, decorating Christmas cookies and playing some Santa's sleigh games/races. Don't miss out on our last gathering of 2014!

**Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.:** Logos kicks off the New Year with a day-after-the-day-after New Year's Day Party! Get your New Year's resolution ready and come to P-A-R-T-A-Y!



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

***RHUMC Children***

All children are invited to participate in...  
**Christmas Eve Children's Service**

Come join us as we build the manger scene  
through scripture and song  
One rehearsal!!!

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:30 a.m.



Contact Lisa Williams  
rhumc.children@gmail.com 310-377-6771

**RHUMPS**  
**Christmas Pageant**  
 December 17<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00am and 11:00am



**Kid Zone Winter Camp**  
**“Home for the Holidays”**  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>



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



**Rachel Stam**  
*Director of Family Ministries*

**Coping with Grief and Loss Workshop  
 on Dealing with Holidays**  
 December 9<sup>th</sup>  
 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Dealing with the loss of a spouse or a loved one can be especially difficult during the holiday season. In the past, Christmas may have been a time of anticipation and excitement, but this year, the thought of facing the holidays without your loved one may cause sadness and anxiety. To help, we are offering a grief workshop on dealing with the holiday season. The participants will meet others who have suffered similar loss and learn strategies to help them cope during this difficult time.

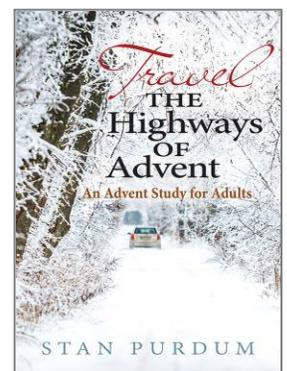


Susan Brown, who has an MA in Theology and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fuller, will lead the workshop. Susan has a private practice specializing in grief and trauma and led a grief workshop at our church last spring.

To register, please call the church office at (310)377-6771 or email [familyministries@rhmc.org](mailto:familyministries@rhmc.org). There is no charge for the group, but pre-registration is strongly suggested.

**4-week Advent Bible Study**  
**Sundays from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> in Aldersgate**

Join us as we study the Advent season! We will use the book, *Travels the Highways of Advent*, by Stan Purdum as our guide. Contact Larry Kittiver at (310)539-9842 or [larrykittiver@yahoo.com](mailto:larrykittiver@yahoo.com) if you have questions. You are welcome to come at any time - We'd love to have you!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Walking Group** will take a break in December. See you in January!



**Health & Wellness**  
**Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN**  
*Parish Nurse*

**Christmas Hope and Health**

Cultivating good health is much more than eating nutritious foods, engaging in physical activity, and getting enough rest. Our lives would be meaningless if it were not for our hope in Christ. At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the most hope-generating event in the history of the world, that Jesus entered our world as Emmanuel, “God with us.”

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, B.C., Israel's prophet, Isaiah, foretold the coming of Jesus. At that time, Israel had major enemies that sought to destroy her, and Israel herself tended to be unfaithful to God, to trust in idols and earthly political powers. But Isaiah prophesied to Israel,

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light...

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken...

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9 excerpts (NRSV)

As in Isaiah's world and, centuries later, the world which Jesus entered, our world and lives contain joys of family, friends, and meaningful work interlaced with sobering world news, losses of loved ones, cancer, disease, and burdens. But we have hope because the King of the Universe dwells among and within us.

This Advent, let's make it a priority to employ our time, talents, and resources to celebrate and honor the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Wishing you hope and health in this season made beautiful and holy by His coming.

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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 <sup>rd</sup> 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	Kathy 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 December 19<sup>th</sup>**

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