



## The Cornerstone

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

January 2015

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### A New Way to Connect with Your Church Family

Dinner for Eight (D48) is a fun and exciting new way to meet and get to know people from our church. We are a big church, and it is often difficult to meet new people. These dinners will provide singles and couples an opportunity to share a family meal as a church family. The intention is to mix our members up so that new relationships develop and grow. Everyone is welcome! Each group will meet once every 3 months (quarterly) and plan its own meals. The group can meet at one another's homes, at a restaurant, at the beach....it is up to you! For more information or to sign up, please visit our website [www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org). You can also call or email Rachel Stam at [ryostam@gmail.com](mailto:ryostam@gmail.com) or 310-377-6771.

### *from the pastor*



Grateful. I am grateful. As I look back on the year we have shared I can hardly express how thankful I am. We have been together through many good things, some difficult and challenging experiences, and even some great ones. It has been a year of transitions, saying goodbye to long-time friends – and welcoming new persons into our lives as well. We broke ground and completed the first phase of a campus renewal project that has been years in the making. We celebrated births and baptisms, weddings and anniversaries. We shared a generous mission with the wider world around us, from local food and shelter efforts to international relief. Our youth took part in hands-on mission through Sierra Service Project, as well as with numerous other Faith in Action events through the year. Whether it was lending a hand with Habitat for Humanity or stepping up to support the Imagine No Malaria campaign, you have been generous and faithful. So I am grateful. And I want to be sure you know that.

Your encouragement is global, but it is also close and personal. I receive notes in my box from friends who want me to know that they care, and have been praying for my strength and health through busy seasons. You are gracious with email and notes as well, reminding me how much the life of our church means to you and those you love. It is both deeply humbling and very encouraging to get to lead worship, to preach, with a congregation that cares so much about what we say and do when we are together. Some preachers have never experienced what that feels like, and I'm telling you it is powerful.

The new year begins with words of encouragement as well. This next Sunday we will celebrate the Epiphany, marking the arrival of the Wise Men on their journey to see the baby Jesus. Their presence in Bethlehem is a sign that this gift of new life and hope is not for one community only, but for the whole world. The second Sunday of the month celebrates the baptism of Jesus, and the beginning of his active ministry. At the services that day we will invite the congregation to share in the renewal of baptism for all of us, as we move into a new year of our own life and work. We did this a number of years ago, and I know that some of you still carry the clear glass beads that were presented as reminders of that gift of grace.

I look forward very much to seeing the discoveries, the possibilities, the opportunities which the new year brings. Lisa Williams has written about one that is already with us even as the year has barely begun. Our mission continues to grow and thrive, and brings us into new relationships of love and service. The truth is that the grace of God is always moving ahead of us, leading us, encouraging us, inviting us into the future that God has promised and prepared.

Grace and peace,

*Jonathan*

## Missions News

### Trek to the Tree

Many, many thanks to the generous donors who supported our “Trek” this year! Our congregation was blessed to be able to provide gifts for needy children through the Toberman Neighborhood Center. Your generosity provided a happier Christmas to 270 kids, who received their gifts at the Toberman Holiday Party on 12/21. Kudos to Noucha Jasanis who (once again) took charge of this project.

### Festival of the Nativity

Over 170 nativities from all corners of the world adorned Wesley Hall, and transformed the space into a Christmas miracle for visitors who stopped by on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The “free will” offering at the Festival generated \$1,318 towards RHUMC’s contribution to “Imagine No Malaria”. A huge “shout out” to Kathy Platnick, Jan Johnson, Doug Kemps, and Caitlin Szieff for organizing this wonderful event and a big thanks to Kathy Prihode who provided cookies and to the many volunteers who helped with setting up and cleaning up. Lastly, we offer an especially big thank you to the 40 people in our congregation who shared their nativities for all of us to enjoy.

### In the New Year



As we are likely not finished with wintry weather, we will be collecting new and “gently used” sweatshirts to support St. Paul’s “Project Needs” Tuesday night dinners. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

### “Thank You” from the Salvation Army!

From Roxanne Morse...

It is with pleasure that I can tell you that over the course of the 3 weeks and 2 days that we rang the bell at Vons, we earned \$1,438. It was a short season but a very generous one. I heard from many of you who once again really enjoyed the time spent making the season a little brighter for our friends at the Salvation Army. I can’t help but think that your cheery faces in the dark of evening made people know how dedicated you are to the job of enriching the community where we live.



We had singers and chimers this year...we had an elf who distributed candy canes....we had some people do many shifts. Pandora's Christmas music filled the air for some volunteers. Some came with Christmas ties, cowboy hats, antlers, and lots of red shirts. It was a season of new ideas at the kettle and visions of new ideas for next year...and for that, I am so grateful to all the people who made it happen. You can be sure we will be out again next season and I know I can count on you again. Thank you all and good night!

### Dawn Unity Group

The Dawn Unity Group’s second panel discussion of the year will be “Faith Versus Fact” to be held on **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, PVE. Throughout our lives from our earliest encounters with religion each of us have had to consider what in our tradition is based on fact and what is beyond proof and must be accepted on faith. The panel will share how each of them has considered this question and how they help their congregants search for their own answers. The panelists will be Rabbi Charles Briskin, Rabbi of Temple Beth El; Reverend Jon Gathjem, Pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church; Msgr. David Sork, Pastor of St. John Fisher Catholic Church; and Reverend Sarah Phelps, Rector of our host congregation. Bob Rothman will be the moderator. The free 90-minute program will be followed by refreshments and a chance for further dialog with the panelists. For questions call 310-833-7008.

## United Methodist Women

The Rolling Hills United Methodist Women's team send a Big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make our December Mini Market a success. We raised enough money to be able to give generously to some of our special mission projects. More information on this will be in the February Cornerstone. Here's wishing you the very Best of everything in the coming year!!!



### **SAVE THE DATE ...Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Choir Room**

Join us for lunch and an informative presentation on estate planning and charitable giving. Reverend Greg Batson, President/CEO of the CA-Pacific United Methodist Foundation, will share techniques to structure your annual giving that best benefits the charity AND your personal financial situation. His presentation will cover wills/bequests and other charitable strategies.

This program is sponsored by the Planned Giving Committee. To sign up, please contact:

Mary Harris (310) 791-3226, [mary@harrisfinancial.net](mailto:mary@harrisfinancial.net) OR  
Dale Gehr (310) 377-6548, [d.gehr@verizon.net](mailto:d.gehr@verizon.net)

## Got Keys???

We have changed the locks on all doors in the Sanctuary, Wesley Hall and the Church office buildings. If you currently have or need a key, please plan on picking up a new one in the church office.

A few months ago a number of keys went missing and the Trustees felt it was time to review and update the status of our entry and interior locks. In addition to re-keying the locks on all outside doors there are a number of interior doors that will no longer require keys. We believe this will be simpler and easier for many regular users.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Moser at 310-541-6249.

### ***Second Sundays At Two*** ***Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.***

***New York-based Pianist***  
**DAVID KAPLAN**

***Performing Schumann's Great Masterpiece***  
***Dauidsbundlertänze***  
***interspersed with 17 newly commissioned miniatures!***



Fast-rising pianist **David Kaplan** has been praised for his “grace and fire” by *The Boston Globe*, and for “striking imagination and creativity” by *The New York Times*. He has appeared as a guest soloist of the famed Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and performed at Miami’s Arscht Center with Itzhak Perlman. An active candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts at Yale, David has appeared at the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Music Northwest, Barge Music, and the Canadian festivals of Banff and Orford.

David has commissioned short pieces to embed within Schumann’s 18 *Dauidsbündlertänze* from 17 extraordinary composers who include Augusta Reed Thomas, Andrew Norman, Gabriel Kahane, and Martin Bresnick. This is the project’s West Coast premiere.

Free-Will Offering

## A Note from Doug Dickson Welcoming Nicole Benson



I am excited to introduce to everyone, our new Junior High Youth Coordinator, Nicole Benson. Nicole applied for the position that we advertised through our District and Annual Conference and was interviewed by both youth and adults. She is incredibly well-qualified and we look forward to many years of ministry together with Nicole here at Rolling Hills UMC.

Nicole is a native of Long Beach and has recently moved back to California after 18 years in the Midwest. In 2004, was licensed as a local pastor and served as a student local pastor to Paul's Chapel UMC in Hugo, OK.

In 2007, she earned her Master of Divinity with an emphasis in Pastoral Care from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and has served as a Chaplain at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX; has served as youth director at Westminster UMC, Houston, TX; First UMC, Garland, TX; and most recently at Cornerstone UMC, Garland, TX.

Nicole stated, "I have a great passion for serving the people of God in all that I do. I am excited to pursue one of my passions: working with the youth and families at Rolling Hills UMC."

Some of her favorite pastimes include writing, traveling, cooking, watching movies, listening to music, laughing, and spending time with friends and family. Nicole is the youngest of two children and the proud owner of a feline.



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

### **RHYouth.org is Here!**

So get online and check out our new youth website, RHYouth.org. On the web pages you'll find information about the latest happenings with our youth, the upcoming schedule of events, reflections and musings by our youth staff and the youth themselves, maps to activities, the music we're using in youth worship, and much more! This is by far the fastest and easiest way to see what's going on. So get online and check it out—RHYouth.org!

## **Confirmation Classes Begin in February so Sign-Up Now**

Our Confirmation Classes begin this February and will feature a trip to Camp Lazy-W off the Ortega Hwy for a weekend retreat with other teens going through their confirmation journeys. Confirmation here at Rolling Hills UMC is for High-School-Aged students who are interested in deepening their faith and joining the church as full members. You can sign up through the youth website (RHYouth.org) or by calling Pastor Doug at 951-587-7554 or the Church Office at 310-377-6771.



## **Logos: Science and Faith**

Have you ever wondered how science and faith ended up being so far apart? Did you know that Charles Darwin was the ship's chaplain on his trip the Galapagos? Do you realize that the founder of the 'Big Bang' Theory was a Catholic Cardinal? How we look at the world matters, but being scientific doesn't disqualify us from God's grace and being Christian doesn't mean we don't think and observe the world around us. Logos will be addressing the issues between science and faith on January 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> in the Jr. High portion of the program. Be there and bring two things: friends and questions.

## **Snowboarding Weekend in the Works!**

Our youth snowboarding weekend is currently being planned for the month of February. There will be a limited amount of space so be ready to sign-up ASAP. Students will be responsible for bringing their boards with them or renting them ahead of time so we can spend as much time as possible on the hill. Watch the youth website (RHYouth.org) for more information as well as the youth email blasts.





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

***RHUMC Children***

**A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW BEGINNINGS....**  
**2015 RHUMC Expands its Mission to Children and Families**

The excitement of Christmas day has passed. Holiday parties have slowed down, and those yummy cookies are almost gone. It's now time for those endless New Year's resolutions to begin. You know what I am talking about, most of us in our lifetime have said these words more than once, "this year I plan to exercise more," or "I am going to eat healthier." New Year's resolutions are well intended. For me it is about reflection, refreshing my mind and spirit and looking forward to what the New Year will bring.

This year, we are excited to share with you about the new possibilities for mission with children and families with our neighbors just down the road. Walteria UMC voted to close their preschool as of December 31, 2014. It had become a financial drain on their congregation. After they made their decision to close, our District Superintendent, Kathey Wilborn, asked RHUMC if we could continue care for the children and families at Walteria.

In a very short period of time, we have put together a team who has a strong passion and desire to provide quality care to preschool families at Walteria. The preschool will be called Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool – at Walteria (RHUMPS@Walteria). The school will be run under the direction of our preschool director, Myra Ghabrial. The same quality program that we enjoy at RHUMCPS will be carried out at RHUMPS@Walteria. We are fortunate to have Melanie Hepner join us as the site director. Melanie worked at RHUMPS for five years as an assistant with Joan Atkinson before teaching at Peninsula Heritage for fifteen years. She is a Torrance resident with three children. She is very involved in the public schools and has much knowledge of the Torrance Unified School District. We are excited to welcome Melanie to the team!

New Year's resolutions can be easy to start but difficult to follow through on. I am certain that this New Year's resolution to expand our preschool program to Walteria will not only be successful but will continue to help us live out our mission to children and families.

**Winter Camp Fun**





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

One of the highlights for me last year was getting to know so many of you at church and at various outings. I would love all of us to have the opportunity to get to know one another better as a church family. In that vein, I am really excited to launch Dinner for 8 (D48) in January. Adam and I participated in this at our previous church in Michigan, and it was one of the very best things we experienced. We were a little apprehensive at first, but we got to know so many people we otherwise would not have met. More details can be found on the front page of the Cornerstone. You can also visit our website [www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org) or email [familyministries@rhumc.org](mailto:familyministries@rhumc.org). I love talking with you, so feel free to stop me on Sundays or call 310-377-6771, ext. 105 to ask questions. I do hope you will consider signing up. For those of you on the fence, I promise it will be fun!



Take an evening out and unwind after the hectic holiday season! Drop off your kids for a fun night of craft, games, pizza dinner and a movie. Space is limited so be sure to sign up early!

- When: **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Who: Infants to 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Cost: \$20/child, \$5/each additional child per family
- Registration: Visit our website [www.rhumc.org](http://www.rhumc.org). You can also email [familyministries@rhumc.org](mailto:familyministries@rhumc.org) with your child's name and age or call 310-377-6771, ext. 105.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Walking Group**

I am sure many of you made a New Year's resolution to be more fit in the upcoming year. Why not join us for a walk along the trails at Trump National Golf Course? We will meet on **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, at 10:00 a.m. at the grassy area overlooking the ocean. The Trump Golf Course is located on One Trump National Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, and you can park at the lot near the club house. The course is stroller friendly, so parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcome to join us. Hope to see you there!



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

Members of our Health and Wellness Team have a passion for living well and encouraging all of us to do so, too. Some of them share with us their favorite health habits and philosophies:

“Since I work in the area of health promotion and disease prevention, I talk about healthy lifestyles every day to my clients. Often people think they have to be perfect with their diet and exercise habits. I stress that small changes can really make a difference and that moderation is key. I try to incorporate that philosophy in my daily life.” ***Chris Campbell***

“I have been growing chrysanthemums for about twenty years. All of the mums are grown in pots so that I can give them as gifts to family and friends and enter them in garden shows. Tending my mums keep me busy and is labor intensive. It's gratifying to give the plants away as gifts. While tending my plants, I enjoy the quality of the day.” ***Ken Ueda***

Note: Ken's mums have won awards and trophies at garden shows. He regularly gives lectures at local garden clubs on mums, ferns, bonsai, and rare fruits.

“Friendships, new and old, are essential. Important to me is to really listen and hear and not stand in judgment. Many of us seniors can be of great support to one another by networking and making ourselves available. A timely smile, a hug, and sometimes the smallest kind gestures mean the most.” ***Shirley Bails***

“When Annette asked us to contribute our secrets to living well I was in a quandary. Should I write about studying and practicing good nutrition, exercise, meditation, the importance of being in nature, or spending time with family and friends? Or how much a fulfilling vocation or avocation, laughter, reading and music mean to me? But I was forgetting something central to my sense of health and wellness: I need to help people who suffer injustice, poor health or tragedy. I hope in some small way that in the process I can truly learn a little about their lives – understand enough to “walk a mile in their shoes” – and hopefully inspire others to undertake their own such personal journeys. Along with my family, this is what truly sustains me.” ***Susan Deo***

Wishing you a healthy and joyful 2015!

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
Senior High Youth	Evan Griffiths	Asst. Secretary	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	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		
Fax Line	310-544-4123	Resident Bishop	Minerva Carcaño
Web Site	<a href="http://www.rhumc.org">www.rhumc.org</a>	District Superintendent	Kathey Wilborn

**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 January 19<sup>th</sup>**

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