The Cornerstone

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

August 2015

Vacation Bible Camp!

Ready for a challenge? How about climbing to the top of Mount Everest? Vacation Bible Camp will help you embark on an icy expedition where kids will learn how to conquer their challenges. Come for a week of Bible study, games, cinema, crafts and fun!

Children 3 years old through 5th grade
August 3rd - August 7th 9:00 am-12:00 noon

It takes a village to have a successful Vacation Bible School! Volunteers are still needed! Youth that are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade can be Jr. Crew Leaders, and high schoolers and Adults are still needed to be Crew Leaders. Please call (310) 377-6771 or go to www.rhumc.org to register.

We are expecting a large turn out again this year so we suggest that if you haven't registered as yet, you can do that on the patio this Sunday, August 2, or show up at 8:45 Monday morning and we will be happy to welcome your child or children to a week of fun and adventure.

from the pastor

I love August. I realize, however, that for some of us August brings certain anxieties along with it. For kids growing up, the return of the school year is lurking just a little ways down the road. For some of their parents, the summer may now seem to be lasting longer than we were expecting. We thought we had things covered with summer school and a camp or two. But now the camps are over and we don't want to face the prospect of a house full of bored kids. Others are anxious because we had such high hopes for the season, and it seems like it's about to get away from us. Up in Canada a couple of years ago there was a series of ads where people who hadn't had enough summer yet began screaming when they saw the first leaf of the fall land on the sidewalk in front of them. But I love August. The water is finally about as warm as it will ever be. Up at the lake where we go each year the mosquitoes are finally just about done. The days aren't quite as long as they were back in June, but now I am finally ready to enjoy them.

I love August because it's the month when our high school youth get to participate in Sierra Service Project. That was the place where I first had the sense that church could be more than simply a pleasant hour on Sunday morning – where I got to see lives changed for ever through the community of faith. I know that God's Spirit will continue to work in and through them, and lead them in directions they might never have discovered otherwise.

I especially love August because of our congregation's Vacation Bible Camp, beginning this next week. The energy, joy, enthusiasm, openness, wonder and laughter of 250 children, and another 50 adult and youth leaders, is an extraordinary sight to behold. It also changes lives, as they hear the stories and experience the grace of God together. We have already had an amazing summer of Kid Zone and Mid Zone camps, and served well over a thousand children and youth over the past seven weeks. To cap off the season the way we do is a testament to the love we have for children and families and the quality of leadership that has grown up over the years. Thank you to all who will be giving so much of yourselves for others – and having an amazing time yourselves!

I love August because it's the month when Thyra and I were married, and this year we celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. Hannah is now almost as old as we were back when we started, which is of course impossible. We will get to see her, however briefly, while we're up at the lake, and that will be another reason to love August.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Youth News

By Nicole Benson

The Last Extended L.O.G.O.S. "Is that Donkey talking to me?" Yes, I do think Balaam's Donkey is speaking, (Numbers 22:1-41). Come find out why. On August 12 at 6-8 p.m., come explore the story of Balaam, whose donkey God uses to guide Balaam to humility and obedience. We will learn to recognize and listen to God's unlikely messengers in our lives, while surrendering the roadblocks that stand in the way. LOGOS begins with dinner at 6 p.m. and ends with Christ Candle at 8 p.m.

SSP Sunday is August 16 at 8:30, 10 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. services.
August 16, we will also have *Chill* with Miss Nicole, at Mama Says, 2621 PCH, Torrance; mamasays.net. Come break bread and enjoy the fellowship.

Summer Pool Paraty at Kramer Club is Sunday, August 23rd @ 2-5. Get your youth-appropriate swim suit ready & towel and plan on coming for a fun time.

LOCK-IN will be Friday, August 28, 11:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m. at Laser Storm in Torrance. The cost is $25. More information to come.

Community Service

Service Opportunities:

Walteria UMC is looking for crew leader volunteers to help at their VBC scheduled August 17-21. This is another opportunity for our youth to earn service hours. If anyone is interested they can contact Laura Wilson at Walteria Church at 310-375-0622. ·

God's Promises Socks: In an effort to share the love & promises of God with the world, the youth are collecting 1,000 pairs of new light colored socks for men, women, and children. Donation can be made in receptacles located around the church.

Youth Website: We are currently revamping the youth webpage so please check out our social media platforms for the updates.

FRIENDS WITHOUT BARRIERS (AMIGOS) PROGRAM

Join us for a night of great food, special guests, entertainment and fun as we celebrate the Congressional Award of Excellence winning "Friends without Barriers."

South Bay-based Friends without Barriers/Amigos will celebrate 22 years of service to underprivileged Los Angeles area families affected by HIV with its annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 29th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 27703 Eastvale Road in Palos Verdes. The evening will feature food, drinks, local dignitaries and entertainment. All proceeds raised will benefit the Circle of Friends and Circle of Life AIDS Food Pantry, both integral parts of the Amigos program.

Please join us for this special night. Cost is $100 per person or $125 per couple. Corporate and individual sponsorships are also available. Please RSVP by August 14 to Alma Martinez, President/Founder, at 310-376-7074. **www.amigosonline.org**

United Methodist Women
Potluck Lunch

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY? United Methodist Women (UMW) are sponsoring their annual Potluck Salad Lunch and a speaker in the Mission Room on Saturday, August 12, at 11 a.m. All UMW circles and any members, both men and women, of the church, are invited to join us. The speaker is Joyous Prim who works for the Filipino Migrant Program in Long Beach at Grace United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women

Their organization just received Advanced Status from our Cal-Pac UMC for assisting trafficked persons. Joyous Prim represents an excellent program and is a speaker that you will not want to miss! This is a great opportunity to learn more about Modern Day Slavery and what is being done to prevent it. Bring yourself, friends and neighbors, and a salad or finger food to feed six people. Desserts, drinks, and childcare will be provided.

April Herron, Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

Last December, shortly before Christmas, I boarded a plane, settled in my seat, and could not help overhearing a man in the row behind me speaking firmly into his phone. "It's only for four days," he said, "the 22nd through the 26th. I'll be checking my email continually."

I wondered if he was actually apologizing for taking some time off work in order to celebrate Christmas with family or friends. I became even more dismayed by his next statement. "I left five weeks of vacation on the table last year," he proclaimed, "I didn't use them."

Can it be that we live in a society where not taking vacation is either a point of pride or a perceived necessity? Was he afraid he would lose his job if he took the break he apparently had earned? Was he trying to prove his dedication or loyalty to some person or some cause? I was horrified and wanted to launch an intervention on the spot. However, sensitivity to airplane departure protocol prevailed and I said nothing.

That brief incident haunts me to this day. I am convinced that, for all of us, the subjects of rest and rejuvenation are worth exploring. Our faith blesses us with the rich tradition of Sabbath time. I would enjoy sharing, with whoever wants to come, a conversation about sources of renewal and about how we restore our souls in God's peace. See details below.

April

The Gift of Sabbath

Tuesday, August 11 (a one time learning and sharing opportunity)

Pastor April will lead a conversation bringing together texts of the Bible, theological insights from Walter Brueggemann, and our own experiences of Sabbath rest. Those who prefer to gather in the daytime will meet at the church from 10:30 am to noon.

Those who would enjoy an evening gathering will meet at the church from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Jr. High SSP

Building on their
future as well
as helping the community in Stockton

Swim Party Anyone?

Join us for an "End of Summer" swim party on Sunday, August 30th, from 11:30 – 2:00 p.m. at Rolling Hills Country Day School pool. Lunch and beverages will be served – just bring swim suits and towels and dive in! It would be helpful to know how many people to plan for, so please either email Rachel Stam, Family Ministries Director, at raches@rhumc.org, or call the church office.

Club Maintenance

The latest items crossed off of the Club Maintenance to-do list on July 11th included assembling a power strip on a portable TV cart, priming metal stair railings, draining and cleaning the Meditation Garden fountain, repairing sink faucets in both men's and ladies bathrooms in Wesley Hall, cleaning the Patio fountain, repairing a coffee table in the Youth Lounge, replacing a door pushbar lock, rerouting cox cable in the Sacristy, repairing a fence door behind Wesley Hall, cleaning the rain gutters and installing gutter covers on Preschool Building D, and removing dead olive tree branches.

Those involved is this work included Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Rich Prihode, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Bill Bails and two new volunteers, Bruce Harkins and Steve Boilard. The next work session for Club Maintenance will meet on **Saturday, August 8th**, at 8:30 a.m. Please help in these efforts to keep our facilities in good condition.

Parking Lot

The Trustee committee is pleased to announce that we have hired a contractor to resurface our parking lot, which is badly in need of repair. This work will take place during the last week in August, from August 24 through August 28. During this time period the parking lot will be closed to traffic; the upper lot adjacent to Country Day School will be available for use.

Have your Cornerstone sent via email; it's easy, just call the church office at 310-377-6771. You can also view the Cornerstone on the church website at www.rhumc.org

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	April Herron	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
		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
		Adm. Asst.	Ana Ysabel Lopez
		Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Facilities Manager	Rick Mitchell
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771		
Fax Line	310-544-4123	Resident Bishop	Minerva Carcaño
Web Site	www.rhumc.org	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 August 24th

www.rhumc.org