The Cornerstone

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

September 2015

Rally Sunday
September 13

Come one, come all and join us as we kick off another fantastic year together. The Chancel Choir will be back, the children will meet their new Sunday School teachers and you can learn about our upcoming Bible Study classes.

There will be cinnamon rolls and fruit for the early birds after the first service and country-fried chicken and potato salad after the second and third services. The children will enjoy games and a special treat as well. Join us for fun and fellowship where all are welcome!

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

It is good to get away, and it is good to be back home. Thyra and I had a wonderful vacation, spending time at our cottage on Bigwind Lake. The first week brought wonderful weather for swimming and kayaking and sitting on the dock, resting. We had visits with family and friends, and enjoyed every minute of it. The second week was a bit rainy and grey, so we took off to Rochester, where Hannah and Daniel were moving into their new home. There were boxes (and boxes) to move out of storage at their old apartment. There was painting to be done and household stuff to buy. It was lovely. We went back up to the cottage, and finished with a night in the same park where we honeymooned 30 years ago. No bears this time.

Now that we're back, there is so much to look forward to in the coming weeks and months. We have brought on board two new staff in key positions. Kimmie Stradling is our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. She comes to us from San Luis Obispo UMC where she has been doing very effective work in the same position. She started September 1, and is already finding her way. She has a degree in hotel and restaurant management from Northern Arizona and grew up at Valencia UMC. We also welcome Angie Gunter as the new Director of Kid Zone. Angie comes to us from the La Verne UMC, where she has directed their preschool. Before that she worked for a number of years with after school children in San Dimas, directing several sites in the school district there, as well as with the Gymboree children's program. We feel fortunate to have such capable people to help lead our mission with children and youth.

Rally Sunday is coming, when the children start their new grades in Sunday School and the choir fill the chancel like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano. It's a welcome back, a welcome home for some of us, and a brand new start for others. We'll have cinnamon rolls and fruit after the 8:30 service, and friend chicken, potato salad and other good things after second and third services. There will be games for the children on the patio and we look forward to seeing you all here! Logos for youth will begin again soon, as well as opportunities for Bible study and other learning and growing. We will be welcoming a number of new members into our congregation later in the month, giving thanks for the spirit and energy they already bring.

We will also be working with the city around our plans for Phase Two of our new campus facility plan. Phase One came in under budget and the new parking area and expanded choir room have been very helpful. Phase Two will bring the demolition and replacement of the classrooms that were built in the mid-1960s, so that our facilities for children and youth are brought up to the same high level as the rest of our campus. It will be some months before we are ready to break ground but there is much work to be done before we get to that point. We will have lots more to show you as we move toward that goal, and count on your generous support.

I am so grateful for the opportunities before us, and for the people who make up this family of faith. God's grace is at work in us, through us, and all around us. I can't wait to see what else God has in mind for us.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

Earlier this year I spent several weeks living in another country, where people spoke a different language, the climate was more extreme than I typically find comfortable, and much of the food was completely unfamiliar to me. I was living in a home with strangers, adjacent to a busy, noisy, brightly lit street. My hosts owned several dogs whose sense of responsibility to defense of the household caused them to bark for many hours every night. The people at the language school where I was studying were very kind, but they had no magic pill to make me learn Portuguese in a hurry! I needed some respite, and so I managed to find a tourist bus heading for a beautiful beach outside of the city.

I was thrilled to arrive at a breezy location and to sit down on the sand under a shade umbrella. I ordered food and fruit juice, applied sunscreen, and looked out at the blue-green Atlantic water. It was filled with small sailboats cheerfully crisscrossing the bay. Most of the sails were emblazoned with advertisements for beer or other locally known drinks. Then came a boat with a sail that displayed three simple words: Leia a Biblia. Read the Bible. "Well now," I thought, "there is some excellent advice...for my current situation or for any other."

The Bible is a wonderfully encouraging resource with the ability to help us perceive God's presence and guidance in our daily lives. I would be happy for any of you who are interested to join me in reading the Bible together this fall. We will organize our reading around five core stories of the Old Testament, and meet five times between September 10th and November 5th. If you can come to all five sessions, that will be excellent. If you can come only to some sessions, feel free to join in as you are able. If you need to switch back and forth between the daytime option and the evening option, that is fine. If you would like to purchase a reflection guide/journal for $15, you may do so, but it is not required.

The class will meet Thursdays, September 10th, September 24th, October 8th, October 22nd (the morning class) OR October 29th (the evening class), and November 5th. Join us at the morning section at 10:30 a.m. or the evening section at 7:00 p.m. Class will last no longer than an hour and a half. Email april@rhumc.org or leave a message at her extension 310-377-6771 X104 to ask questions and/or to register your intention to join the group.

I am so glad to be part of a church which is offering several opportunities for adult Bible study, a great option for youth to grow in their faith through the Wednesday evening LOGOS program, and an engaging children's Sunday School. Fall will be a great time for learning and growing in faith.

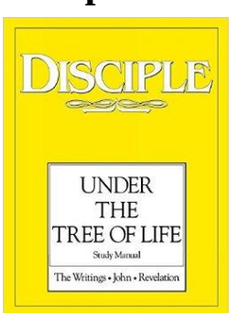
Together with you in ministry,

April

Sierra Service Project - Nicaragua

For ten days at the end of July, 15 young (and young at heart) adults from RHUMC traveled to Nicaragua to work on building a school. The trip was part of a partnership between Sierra Service Project and Seeds of Learning. Our work site was a small village about an hour north of Managua. Most of the homes in the village were shacks made of recycled tin roofing material, there was limited electricity and many homes were without running water. That said, the members of the community we worked alongside were hard-working, happy, memorable people who were thankful for the blessings in their lives. We memorialized our trip daily through a blog that you can read at rhumc15.blogspot.com (or access it through rhumc.org). Thank you to the many people who made donations to purchase supplies on behalf of the school where we were working. We raised $1,200, which we used to purchase four computers and two tablets to be part of a new technology program SOL is launching. SOL's goal is to provide a computer for each classroom that the teacher can use for instructional purposes. This service experience was truly incredible--so much so that we are already planning an international trip for next year. If you are interested in hearing more about our trip or perhaps joining us next year, please contact Kathy Platnick at kasandersplatnick@gmail.com.

Disciple IV Bible Study Class



Disciple IV will start **Wednesday, September 9th**, from 6:30-8:15 p.m. in the Aldersgate room. This is the last in a series of an in-depth study of the Bible. No prerequisite required. Cost is $40.00 for materials and is a 32-week program. The series will consist of 16 weeks on Old Testament using the writings (Ruth, Chronicles, Easter, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job and Psalms) and 16 weeks on the gospel and letters of John and Revelations. Fascinating give and take discussion between people of all different backgrounds and knowledge. Come, share, meet friends and learn about the book that gives us so much. See Larry Kittiver or Mike Smithy for more details.

Sr. High SSP – Walker River, Nevada

The younger group of Senior High youth headed north and east to the high desert in Schurz, Nevada to assist the Walker River Paiute Tribe where approximately 1,200 Native American's live. Our projects included a roof, a railing project and, being the last week of SSP for the summer, lots of painting. We were joined by two other church groups, UMC San Diego and UMC Santa Barbara. The mix was perfect and our youth and counselors all made new friends, along with strengthening those relationships from home. On our way to Schurz, we stopped at Olympic Village, Squaw Valley for lunch, hiking and shopping. Then off to Walker River for a week of mission. While serving the Paiute's we were treated to "dance lessons" from Patty, a local grandmother and bead master, videos produced by Winter about the Paiute's and an intriguing local cave, and restful time at the Walker Reservoir. But, as always, the most memorable and moving part of SSP seemed to be the spiritual program and our youth's personal development and their seeking of relationships with God and one-another. Our youth are something to behold and be proud of.

Sr. High SSP – Chiloquin, Oregon

One of the Senior High SSP groups served the community of Chiloquin, Oregon. We served with youth and counselors from Camarillo UMC, Elk Grove UMC and United Lutheran Church of Eugene, OR. Chiloquin is one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the US. The work teams built stairs, worked on a green house in a community garden, built fences and did lots of painting. This is the third year that SSP has had a site in Chiloquin and it is beginning to make a real difference in restoring hope in the community.

The youth had a great opportunity to see the importance of painting and the difference their service makes. The Hirvi Building is a large blighted building on the central corner of the town. SSP work teams spent the summer scraping, priming and painting the Hirvi Building. During the last week while the work team was doing the painting, the owners of the two stores next door began to paint their buildings. The youth also heard first hand from community leaders about the difference their service makes. On Friday of that week, the mayor, two city council members and several homeowners whose homes were painted over the summer were dinner guests. They personally thanked the youth and stressed the hope that they were restoring in the city.

Before and after photos of the Hirvi Building.

The Dance of Predictability and Surprise

RHUMC Women's Retreat
January 22 – 24
Led by the Rev. Dr. April Herron
La Casa de Maria Retreat Center
Santa Barbara

Life is an interweaving of continuity and change, stability and disruption. How do we keep our balance and continue to move gracefully through the world while growing and developing as people of faith? Using the Bible and the natural world as resources, April will guide us in our reflection and sharing.

The total cost for the retreat is $350 for two nights' lodging and six meals. We have 20 spaces available, so to secure your spot, complete the form below and return to Family Ministries table on Sundays beginning **September 6th.** You can also drop off your registration form at the church office during the weekdays. Please note that a deposit of $100 is required at the time of registration. We will not be able to refund the deposit unless another person can take your place. **Final payment is due on December 1st**. If you have any questions, contact Patty Koester at 310-530-5185.

La Casa de Maria Retreat Center is a non-profit conference center located at the southern end of Santa Barbara, between the mountains and the sea. The facilities are surrounded by 26 acres of beautiful gardens, an oak wooded haven, the Sadako Peace Garden (one of the International Gardens for Peace), a stone labyrinth, and hiking trails into the Santa Ynes Mountains. For more information about the property visit www.lacasademaria.org. Financial assistance may be available based on need. Contact Rachel Stam at Family Ministries for more information.

Name Phone email address

Signature Date

Let's Rally Again for Imagine No Malaria Rally Sunday

The United Nations reports that simple measures like installing bed nets have prevented some six million deaths from malaria. These are among the findings that the UN released in early July as part of a final report on the successes and failures of the Millennium Development Goals, a set of targets established 15 years ago to improve the lives of the poor. Malaria has been made a far less deadly scourge than it was in 2000, when the targets were set, with the mortality rate down by 58 percent, the report said.

Uriel Sinai for The New York Times

The United Methodist Church has joined the United Nations over the past decade to fight this preventable disease through the Imagine NO Malaria campaign. To date, more than $60 million has been raised towards the UMC goal of $75 Million. The RHUMC family has pledged $20,000 and to date has contributed $16,927.

Join us Rally Sunday to exceed our goal by funding more bed nets and additional education for the people of Africa whose lives are threatened by this killer disease. Thank you for your amazing generosity – it truly makes a difference!

United Methodist Women Potluck Lunch

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY? United Methodist Women (UMW) is sponsoring a Potluck Salad Lunch and speaker on **Saturday, September 12th**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Mission Room. This is an open luncheon for anyone who would like to attend. Joyous Prim, a missionary as well as the Direct Services Coordinator for the Filipino Migrant Center in Long Beach, represents an excellent program and will apprise you of the struggles and concerns of migrant workers as well as what can be done to help.

Their organization just received an Advanced Status from our Cal-Pac UMC for assisting trafficked persons. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Modern Day Slavery and what is being done to prevent it. We hope you can join us and feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Please plan to bring a salad or finger food to feed six people. Desserts, drinks, and childcare will be provided.

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United Methodist Women District Annual Celebration

The UMW District Annual Celebration will be held at Hawthorne UMC on **Saturday, September 19th**. At this meeting they will be accepting Toberman supplies, Legacy Fund and Methodist Hospital of Southern California Donations.

Second Sundays at Two

September 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Cello/Piano Masterpieces from 1815, 1915 & 2015

ANDREW SHULMAN
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Principal Cello

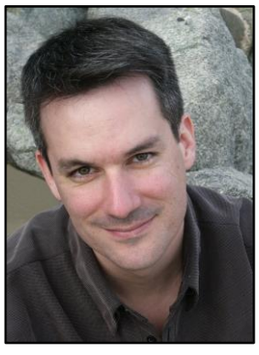
"Shulman drew a great deal of daring elegance and varied tonal beauty out of the piece" *~ The Times of London*

"...such a glowing young talent as British cellist Andrew Shulman. His Friday recital ...was full of light and musical eloquence" *~ The Washington Post*

"cellist Andrew Shulman delivered some of the most beautiful music heard in any concert this year" *~ The Los Angeles Times*

~ and ~

***Pianist* ROBERT THIES**
International Prokofiev Competition Gold-Medalist



"A pianist of unerring warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power" *~ The Los Angeles Times*

"Thies beautifully articulates the music with clean-cut technical fluency and sort-edged tone... there is a sense of serene confidence and sensitive flair in his approach." *~ The Los Angeles Times*

"...he is a gifted and insightful interpreter in friendly communion with the music. The results

are consistently lively, pointed, and propulsively directed." ~ Timothy Mangan, *LA Weekly*

~ perform ~

Beethoven's Sonata No.4 in C Major for cello and piano, Op.102 No.1 ***(1815)***
Debussy's Sonata for cello and piano ***(1915)***
Aaron Zigman: Rhapsody for cello and piano ***(2015) ~ World Premiere***

Noted film composer Aaron Zigman (*The Notebook, Bridge to Tarabithia, The Proposal, Flicka, For Colored Girls, Flash of Genius,* both *Sex & the City* movies, and *Escape from Planet Earth*) returned to his classical roots to compose a Rhapsody for Andrew and Robert.

Free-Will Offering

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, September 20th**, 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, September 27th, at all three services.

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

Music Committee Concert

Be sure to save the date, **Friday, September 18th** at 7:30 p.m. for our next evening concert. Cynthia Jones and the West Coast Nightlights will perform in our sanctuary. Cynthia is the winner of the prestigious 2008 Chuck Niles Jazz Singer Award at the Temecula International Jazz Festival. She and her band will be performing timeless standards from the Great American Songbook, featuring songs by Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, the Gershwins, and many others. "Great songs, great singing, great musicians, and above all, great jazz." Cynthia is the wife of our sound technician, Mel Harker.

From the August Issue of the Toberman Times.....

The Fall Session of LOGOS Begins September 16

For RHUMC Youth, LOGOS stands for Love of God, Others & Self and an awesome time having fellowship, food, worship & fun. This fall session of LOGOS, we invite all youth in grades 6-12 to the weekly gathering beginning Wednesday, September 16th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. This event will include a yummy catered meal, fun games, and youth-led worship.

Parents, there will be a meeting for you to attend to discuss important details including what you need to know regarding meals & opportunities to serve.

September Events:

September 13: RALLY Sunday – Jamba Juice on the patio between services

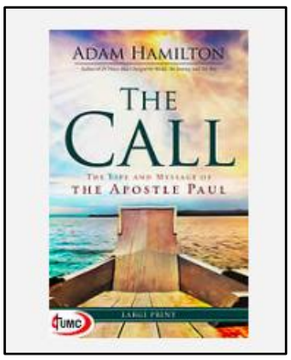
September 16: LOGOS Gathering for youth & Parent meeting

September 20: Chill with Miss Nicole @ Island Burgers from 11:30-1:00 p.m.

September 23: LOGOS Super Heroes

September 30: LOGOS Iron Chef

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate. Starting **September 6th**, we will be starting a 6-week session studying the Apostle Paul's travels and will read "The Call" by Adam Hamilton. Adam Hamilton, an author who has led us on some wonderful and miraculous journeys, will once again beguile us as we visually follow Paul throughout the Mediterranean until his final days in Rome.

From the road to Damascus to the sun drenched lands of modern Greece and Turkey you will see exactly where Christianity's greatest teacher and missionary went and where some of the most dramatic events in the spread of Christianity took place. Cost for materials is $15.

Join the Usher Team!

We invite youth & adults to join us in passing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and doing the other wonderful things our ushers have fun doing. This is not a weekly commitment as our team members rotate weeks. Please let me or one of the ushers know if you might like to give it a try.

Thanks, Chris Larson chrislarsonrhumc@gmail.com

Club Maintenance

Some hard working folks accomplished good work during the August Club Maintenance event. Those involved is this work included Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Rich Prihode, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Bill Bails, Gene Koester and Bruce Harkins.

The next work session for Club Maintenance will meet on **Saturday, September 12th** at 8:30 a.m. Please help in these efforts to keep our facilities in good condition.

Save the Date

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 21st** for our all-church Thanksgiving Dinner! This will surely be an enjoyable evening filled with good food, fellowship and music.

Introducing Angie Gunter
Kid Zone Director

Angie was born in New Castle, Indiana where she grew up as a Pastor's Kid. Her family moved to southern California when she was 8 years old. Early on Angie's mom noticed that she loved to gather children from the neighborhood and lead them in all sorts of activities and adventures. Those "adventures" continued on into adulthood as straight out of high school Angie led a variety of children's and youth ministries. She went on to attend Life Pacific Bible College, where she met Eric her husband of 22 years. Her focus was on Pastoral Ministry and Elementary Education. While in college she worked in preschool and after school programs, as well as serving in the Children's Ministry programs of her church. Angie enjoyed all of these opportunities and felt that God had given her a desire to impact lives for the sake of the gospel.

After college, Angie and Eric went on to serve in a variety of churches across the country in both Youth and Children's Ministry. Today, they find themselves back in California living with 2 children at home, Riley age 16, and Reese age 14, and a son and daughter-in-law (who just celebrated their one-year anniversary) living in Tyler, Texas. Angie has served as a Director of Preschool and After School Care Programs for the past 28 years in public school, licensed, and church settings and is honored to be part of the RHUMC staff. She believes, wholeheartedly, that God wants her to be here and is excited to see His plan unfold.

Introducing Kimmie Stradling
Director of Children & Youth Ministries

My name is Kimmie Stradling and I am the new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. I am so excited to be back in amazing Southern California and to start this new adventure. I look forward to becoming a part of this church family.

Little bit about myself. I grew up in Santa Clarita and I have been a Methodist my whole life. I graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. After graduation I took a job as a nanny, while I worked on figuring out God's calling for me. God led me into Youth Ministry and I helped create the Children and Youth Programs at San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church. I have a passion for children and youth ministry, devoted to help them discover their own faith and relationship with God. I am also involved with camping ministry and Cal Pac Conference events.

Other fun facts about me. I enjoy the beach, warm weather and flip flops (closed-toe shoes are too confining). While I cannot cook, I love food. I am not picky, I will eat anything and everything. I love doing life with people and joining in fellowship over a meal. My favorite color is pink and I like elephants. My favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11- "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and hope."

I look forward to meeting everyone and please feel free to come up and ask me questions. I am an open book and look forward to building relationships, not only with the children and youth, but every member of the congregation.

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

Parents' Night Out is Back for the School Year!

Do you need a break from summer vacation? Moms and dads can enjoy some adult time while the children have a blast! We will be making crafts, playing games, and watching a movie. Pizza dinner will be provided.

When: **Saturday, September 19th**, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

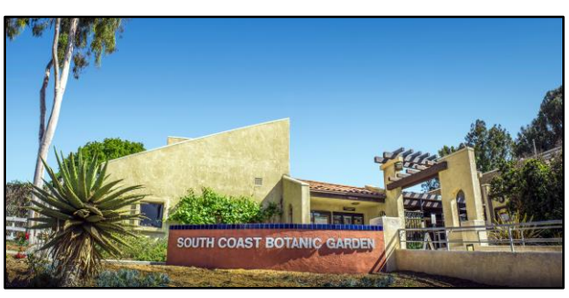
Who: Infants to 5th graders

Cost: $20/child, $5/each additional child per family

Registration: Email familyministries@rhumc.org with your child's name and age or call 310-377-6771, ext. 105.

3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Join us for our late-summer/early fall excursion through the South Coast Botanical Garden on **Tuesday, September 15th.** Meet at the garden entrance at 10:00 a.m., and we will walk in together. The 3rd Tuesdays of the month are free to the public. Hope you can join us!



Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Health and Wellness Opportunities

Books and Resource Materials available

When you stop by the shared Children's Ministry and Health and Wellness Office and meet our new director of Children's Ministry, Kimmie Stradling, be sure to take a look at resources available for you on the left side of the room.

Help yourself to current health information and resources displayed on top of the cabinet to the left as you enter the office. Some titles include *Cancer Support*, a bi-monthly newsletter for individuals with cancer and their concerned family members, diabetes information, the popular *Five Wishes* advance directives, the *H.E.L.P.* (Healthcare and Elder Law Programs) brochures and contact information for many south bay resources (http://help4srs.org/), Phillips Lifeline service brochures, and much more.

Feel free to borrow or take any books or videos related to health and wellness that you would like to read or view for as long as you like. These are located on white book shelves. Please do not take any Children's Ministries books on a separate shelf in the same area.

At any one time, we have some health equipment donated by parishioners that are in good condition, such as walkers and crutches. If you'd like to borrow equipment, please contact Annette Matsuda at 310-618-8122 or email her at annettematsuda@gmail.com.

In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.
Job 12:10 (NRSV)

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	Adm. Assistant to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
KidZone Director	Angie Gunter	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Kimmie Stradling	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Bookkeeper	Nicole 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 September 25th
www.rhumc.org