The Cornerstone

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

October 2015

Project: NEEDS

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

We are having a drive during the month of October to collect 750 new or almost new sweatshirts in all sizes.

Here's how you can help:

- **Sweatshirts will be collected on the patio after services through the month of October.**
- **Cash donations will also be accepted to purchase additional sweatshirts. Make your check payable to RHUMC with Project Needs on the Memo Line.**
- **Drop your sweatshirts off at the church office weekdays between 9:00-5:00 p.m.**

RHUMC has a long affiliation with St. Paul's UMC. Our communion offerings help support meals and the restocking of St. Paul's pantry. Together as a community we can make a difference with helping those in need. For more information on Project Needs, contact Dale Gehr at 310-377-6548 or St. Paul's at 310-370-4319.

from the pastor

For me at least, the season of gratitude begins in October. We Americans look to late November to celebrate Thanksgiving. But our Canadian neighbors can't wait till then. They gather to give thanks for the harvest not long after it has actually come in. The second Monday in October (our Columbus Day) is Thanksgiving Day up in Canada. They enjoy the same traditional comfort foods as we do, with the unnecessary (and inexplicable) addition of parsnips. The nine years I spent as a resident there did not convert me to parsnips. But we have returned to Canada each year in early October to share time with Thyra's family and to celebrate the first of our two Thanksgivings.

October begins with World Communion Sunday, a day of grace and hope for Christians around the world (and no parsnips). The Lord's Supper is celebrated across hundreds of different Christian traditions. Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestants all recognize that in the broken bread and shared cup we discover our essential unity. None of our differences can compare to what Christ has done to bring us together. So on the first Sunday of October we will be reminded of how many places we come from, and how many traditions are present in the Christian family. We will have breads from a variety of different cultures – pumpernickel, pita, tortilla, sourdough. As always, I will also have gluten-free wafers for those who find that helpful. In John's gospel Jesus offered the prayer on the part of his followers "that they may all be one." On World Communion Sunday we get just a taste of how good that will be.

The next week our preacher will be our Lay Leader, Earl Butler, who will share an encouraging word about mentoring others. April and I will be back the following Sunday, and you're stuck with us till the end of the year – longer, actually!

The last Sunday of October is a special day in the life of our congregation. Celebration Sunday, as it's known, is a time for giving thanks as well. We express our gratitude for the generosity of God in our lives and the richness of the mission we offer by indicating what we plan to give to that mission in 2016. After each worship service there will be a delicious catered meal for everyone to enjoy – brunch in the morning and tacos after 3rd service. No one is required to fill out an estimate of Giving Card, but it helps us to plan for the life and work of our church in the coming year.

October is a time for giving thanks. But then it's always a time to give thanks! In one of his last letters, the apostle Paul encouraged early Christians, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). At the time he wrote those words Paul was in prison. Even then, he wants us to remember that when we are surrounded by God's love, gratitude is always in season.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

New Facility Update

Just over a year ago we completed Phase One of our New Facility project. The expansion of the Choir Room and the development of the parking area next to the sanctuary have already been helpful and set the stage for the next phase of our plan.

The first priority in Phase Two is to replace the education buildings. These were constructed in the mid-1960s as Sunday School classrooms. In 1972 they became the home of our preschool and they have served us well. But they are now long past the useful life that could have been expected when they were built. It is time for us to bring them up to the level of our sanctuary and other facilities.

Our Building Committee has been working toward this goal for a number of years. We know that a project of this importance requires solid and strategic planning. We can't simply tear down the old buildings when our preschool is one of our most important programs. During the year of construction our new parking area will be home to several portable classrooms so that we can keep our mission with children going strong. We have been working closely with the City of Rolling Hills Estates on the permits and approvals that will be required as we move forward and are making progress there.

Over the next few months we will share more details about the project as a whole. For some of us this will already be familiar. But since we began the process of planning and development some years ago we have made many new friends. We want our whole church family to see and support where we are headed. We are fortunate to have a significant reserve from our successful Phase One work – roughly $400,000. Over the past several months a number of families have generously given or pledged another $900,000 in new contributions. Over the coming few months we are hopeful that their generosity will stir others to join them, so that we may move ahead with confidence. Early in the new year we will seek the support of our whole congregation as we prepare to take the next steps together. So stay tuned!

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.

Celebration Sunday – October 25

Celebration Sunday for our annual giving campaign is October 25th. Two events will take place that day which we hope all of you will attend. The first is worship, which will help us to focus on the values of compassion and community that we share as God's family. The second is the special Celebration meal which follows in Wesley Hall after each of our Sunday services (brunch in the morning and dinner after 3rd Service). We will have plenty for visitors, guests and friends to join with us, but we also ask everyone who plans to come to make a reservation so that we can have an accurate count. Reservation cards will be distributed at the services on Sunday, October 18th. As we give thanks for the blessing of life which God gives us, please plan to gather and celebrate with other members of our church family. Thank you!

All Saints' Sunday – November 1

Each year, on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day with a special prayer of thanksgiving for members and friends of our church family who have died in the past year. We are also invited to share names of persons who have been a part of our own lives over the years, whether they were members of this church or not. This year the Sunday of All Saints falls on November 1st, and again we want to extend the invitation to share with us people who have helped you to live and grow in grace, or have touched your life in a significant way. If you would like to include someone in the service who has died since November 1, 2014, please call the church office with their name, and the date of their death if you know it. All of us have been blessed by people who have gone before us, and this is an opportunity to remember their contributions to our lives.

Compassion, Community and Hope –
Your Gifts at Work

Our operating budget for 2015 totals $1,254,480.
Your generosity helps us live out God's mission in the following ways.

Our Worship Life – $376,344 (30%)

In worship we discover God's grace for our lives. We come together to share the humor, struggle, and drama of the gospel, to lift our hearts in prayer and song, and to seek encouragement for the week ahead. Each Sunday about 400 of us gather to hear again the story of forgiveness, of the healing and hope Christ offers.

Community Care – $263,440 (21%)

The ages and stages of our lives bring joys and challenges. From the birth of a baby to illness or grief, we count on God's grace to see us through. We offer support through our pastors, our parish nurse and other church staff, as well as the resources of many caring volunteers. We are there for others in times of need.

Local and World Outreach – $213,262 (17%)

Photo Credit: AP/Rob Carr

Some of our most important work takes place where we cannot see. Our gifts touch people we will never know. We support missionary work and disaster relief, efforts to relieve hunger and hopelessness for those who struggle. Around the corner or across the world, we live out Christ's invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Children and Families – $401,434 (32%)

The lives of families are at the heart of our mission. Each week we help growing children learn lessons they will carry all through their lives. Vacation Bible Camp reaches over 200 children each summer. We offer Logos and Sierra Service Project for youth, Bible study, wellness and other opportunities for growing adults too

NICARAGUA WAS SO GREAT WE'RE GOING BACK!!

Last summer, 15 young adults and counselors from RHUMC attended a mission project in Nicaragua in conjunction with Seeds of Learning. In 2014, Nicaragua had a Human Development Index ranking of 132 compared to a US ranking of 5. The HDI measures life quality in the community. Seeds of Learning focuses on improving education in Nicaragua as a means of diminishing the overwhelming poverty in the country. Last year's trip was so amazing that many of us are eager to go again--so we're planning another trip!! If you'll be at least 17 by next July, we'd love to have you join us. The work is challenging, but you will be well supported by SOL and its team in Nicaragua. Here are the details:

Where:	A small village near Managua, Nicaragua
What:	Build a school, interact with the local community, discover Nicaragua, win a child's love
Who:	Mature young adults (ages 17 through 25) and adult counselors (parents, that's you!)
When:	Depart 7/3/16 and return 7/11/16
Cost:	$1,550 registration plus airfare (likely to be around $700)
More info:	Look at our record of last year's trip at http://rhumc15.blogspot.com/.
	Check out the Seeds of Learning website at http://seedsoflearning.org/
	Attend an information session (dates to be announced)
	Ask anyone who attended last year--Megan Roach, Kyle Kleinick, and/or Cheyenne Mickley
	Call or email Kathy Platnick at kasandersplatnick@gmail.com or 213-479-6950.

Space is limited, so sign up soon by getting in touch with Kathy!! Concerned about the cost? We will have scholarships available to qualifying participants.

On-Line Giving Is Here!

A new option for those who prefer on-line banking to writing checks is now available through the church web site. Simply go to www.rhumc.org and click on "Giving." When you select "on-line giving" you will be taken to a page managed by Vanco Services. Vanco specializes in charitable giving by faith-based organizations. They have worked with the United Methodist Church since 2002 and currently serve over 15,000 UMC congregations.

Automatic withdrawal can be arranged either from checking or savings accounts. No credit card option is available at this time. Donations can be made on a one-time, weekly or monthly basis. Your gift can be directed to the church's Operating Budget or Building Fund, or to another purpose designated by you.

Your donation will come directly to the church and you will receive quarterly and annual statements of your giving, just as before. Those who prefer making contributions by check or cash are welcome to do so! We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who makes possible the mission of our congregation. We hope that this new option will make it even easier to share the good news of God's grace with the world.

Do Unto Others...

Our congregation shares our parking lot with Rolling Hills Country Day School. And the school shares its parking lot with the church. During the week Country Day uses the church's main (rear) parking lot for parents dropping off and picking up students. Their lot (the one closest to the school) is for staff parking. Our use of the staff parking lot is restricted to after school hours and weekends.

Our church's parking lot is busy through the week with our own Preschool and Kid Zone families. Between Country Day and our own students, about 600 children from preschool through 8th grade travel to or through our site each Monday through Friday. Since the start of the new school year we have seen a number of drivers going far too fast for the conditions. Whether these are Country Day, Preschool or Kid Zone parents, church members or friends from the community doesn't really matter. We all need to slow down.

Our concern for the safety of our children is our highest priority. Patience with other drivers is a necessity in a crowded and busy lot. Whatever hurry we may be in, whatever distractions are on our minds, when we turn off of Crenshaw and onto the church or school property, we really need to put safety first. Thank you!

Dawn Unity Group

The Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Discovery Series will begin its 15th year with "Are the Good Rewarded and the Bad Punished?" on **Tuesday, October 13th**, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 5448 Crest Rd., RPV. This question comes up regularly during our panel discussions and it is appropriate to devote an entire program to the basic question of theodicy. It is on the minds of us all and every religion and its members have to address this in some way. Our panel has the religious breadth to make for a very interesting evening; the panelists are Rabbi Charles Briskin, Temple Beth El; Prof. Amir Hussain, Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University; Msgr. David Sork, St. John Fisher Catholic Church; and Rev. David Young, The Neighborhood Church. Bob Rothman is moderator. This 90-minute program is free of charge followed by a social time over interfaith cookies.

United Methodist Women Activities

Thirty one women attended our very informative fall luncheon. We learned so much about modern day slavery as speaker Joyous Prim and her guest focused on how individuals are enticed by traffickers, promised work, end up indebted to the traffickers and threatened by deportation. Thanks to the Filipino Migrant Program in Long Beach and to our guest survivor who will soon be reunited with her husband and two children. Many others have been and are being helped by this Migrant Program in Long Beach.

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, for the fall UMW Mini-Market. Beat the crowds and do your Holiday Shopping early. Homemade gifts for the family, food items and much more. The proceeds will go to support our many mission projects including the Filipino Migrant program in Long Beach.

Shawl Ministry Group Needs You!

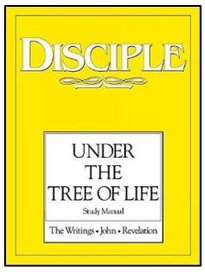
You don't know how to knit? We'll show you how. Knit 3, purl 3. That's it! Easy stitches for the comforting shawls we make for those in need of uplifting. Both those who knit as well as those who receive the shawls are loved and blessed.

The shawls we make give solace to those who are ill and bring hope to those who are in despair. After we make a shawl, we bless it and a blessing is included for the receiver. We need your loving hands to knit for a good cause - to date we've donated over 180 shawls.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Our next meeting is October 14th. For more information, contact Karen Sakura at 310-375-1216.

"Shawls…made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles…" quote by Janet Bristol

Disciple IV Bible Study Class



We have an engaging and dynamic group studying the Bible. A wonderful mixture of people with different backgrounds and depth of knowledge. It is not too late to join in this illuminating and wonderful study of the document that is central to our lives whether we are religious or not. Drop by any Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Mission Room to check us out. All are welcome. There is no commitment. You do not have to be a RHUMC member or even a Christian. All you need to have is an inquiring and open mind.

Upcoming Concert for Althea Waites

Come support Althea Waites as she performs with the Southeast Symphony's Opening Concert for the 2015-2016 season on **Sunday, October 25th**, at 4:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles located at 540 S. Commonwealth Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020. Althea will perform the Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with the orchestra and chorus. Contact www.southeastsymphony.com or call 213-385-1341 for more information, tickets, and directions.

Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sunday, November 1

Thank You and Best of Luck Lisa Nagy

I came to RHUMC in the fall of 2009 as a Mid Zone Counselor. This was a temporary, part-time job for me, while I figured out what I wanted to do with my life as a young adult. Soon, I realized that I loved working with the middle school students; I understood their quirky personalities, worked hard to help them tackle their homework and assignments, and enjoyed planning fun cooking projects and silly games.

In the fall of 2011, I took on the role of Assistant Director of Kid Zone and Mid Zone. Working closely with Lisa Williams, I learned the many ways in which Kid Zone, Mid Zone, RHUMPS and RHUMC serve children and families with grace and care on a daily basis. Caring for children and families is not just a business, but truly a mission and passion.

Kid Zone and Mid Zone make an effort to welcome children and families that need extra help and attention. I've had the opportunity to work with many kids with learning differences, behavioral issues, and other unique needs. Each day presented itself with new challenges and an opportunity for creative problem-solving. I hadn't imagined myself perusing a career in education or health-human services, but through my work with the children and families here at Kid Zone/Mid Zone I've discovered new strengths, talents, and interests. My experiences here have led me to pursue a new career path-- in Communication Disorders and Speech Therapy. This fall, I will begin a new journey as I start a 2-year Post Bachelor's program in Communication Disorders at CSU Dominguez Hills and a Masters in Speech therapy after that.

I joined the RHUMC family fresh out of college with lots of energy, but undefined purpose. I am so thankful for the opportunities I've had to work with all the children and families, staff and parishioners, and to attend leadership and education courses, and conferences and seminars. Over the years I have learned many things about myself as a leader, a mentor, a teacher, a role-model, a co-worker, and friend. Kid Zone truly has proven to be "A Great Place to Grow."

It is bittersweet for me to be moving on to another chapter of my life. I am excited to be headed back to school but I will miss all my RHUMC and Kid Zone/Mid Zone staff and kids! Thank you to everyone at RHUMC for accepting me into the "family" and for making a workplace into a "home."

Warmly,
Lisa Nagy

Youth Ministry

OCTOBER EVENTS

LOGOS THEME: THE BEATITUDES

October 4: Kayaking & Paddle boarding (2:30-5 PM) $10
October 7: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "You're Beautiful"
October 13: YMCA (7-8 PM)
October 14: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "Being Spiritual"
October 18: Chill w/Miss Nicole @California Pizza Kitchen (11:30-1 PM)
October 21: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "The Treasure Hunt"
October 28: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "Trust" Costume Party

Wednesdays from 6:00– 8:00

Got LOGOS T-Shirt?

Order your LOGOS long-sleeve t-shirt TODAY! Available in sizes adult small to XXXL and cost $25. Order & pay online on the Rolling Hills UMC's youth page, rhumc.org.

WINTER RETREAT

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups will be going on Winter Retreats at Forest Homes. Cost is $250. Please contact Kimmie at Kimmie@rhumc.org if you are interested.

Save the Dates

Jr. High January 29th– 31st
Sr. High February 19th– 21st

Theme: Jeremiah 29:11

There will be a luncheon to celebrate the recipients of The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) on Sunday, November 8th at 12:00 p.m.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Oktoberfest Celebration of German Songs, Arias, and Piano!

Soprano **JACQUELYNNE FONTAINE** and Pianist **JAMIE JOHNS**

"...the versatile soprano Jacquelynne Fontaine, a charming and vivacious actress."
~ Ann Miner, *Talkin' Broadway*

"Ms. Fontaine's crystal-clear soprano and effortless acting made her a treat as Kathie, the barmaid and object of the prince's affections"
~ *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

"Jacquelynne Fontaine in the role of Ragazza was tremendous. I thought she had the best voice I've heard at The Globe." ~ *San Diego Reader*

"... an enchanting soprano new to us and all the more wondrous for that." ~ Alan Rich, *So I've Heard*

Soprano is taking a day off from playing the Italian opera diva Carlotta Giudicelli in the acclaimed 25th Anniversary North American tour of *Phantom of the Opera* for her much-awaited second "Second Sundays At Two" appearance. Following a sell-out tour of the United Kingdom, the North American tour recently finished highly successful runs this summer at Hollywood's Pantages Theatre and Orange County's Segerstrom Hall and is currently playing in San Diego. Trained as an undergraduate at Cal Lutheran University and in the graduate program of the USC Thornton School of Music, Jacquelynne Fontaine was a finalist of the Loren Zachary Grand National Competition and of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Western Regional Auditions among numerous other awards including winning the Beverly Hills National Auditions. In 2006, Miss Fontaine was crowned Miss California and placed in the top ten at Miss America 2007, also winning the talent award for her performance of Puccini's *Vissi d'Arte.*

Jacquelynne will be joined by *Phantom of the Opera's* Associate Music Director and pianist **Jamie Johns** for an all-German program of songs and arias by J.S. Bach, Brahms, Richard Strauss, and Wagner, and a solo-piano interlude by Schumann.

Free-Will Offering

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Plan to have a meal at Ruby's Diner Palos Verdes on **Tuesday, October 13th**, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and 20% of sales generated will go towards our preschool. Ruby's Diner is located at 550 Deep Valley Drive, Rolling Hills Estates. Don't forget to sign the fundraiser sign-up sheet located next to the register for our preschool to receive credit.

Club Maintenance

On September 12th a hard working group took care of a number of items on our maintenance work list, including painting in several preschool rooms, hanging banners for Kid Zone, trimming another olive tree, etc. The following personnel helped out in this Club Maintenance session: Steve Boilard, Clarence Fung, Bruce Harkins, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Rich Prihode, and Jim Showalter. Our thanks to all of these individuals.

The next two opportunities to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, October 10th** and **Saturday, November 14th** at 8:30 a.m. Please mark these dates on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And also note that a lunch is served.

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

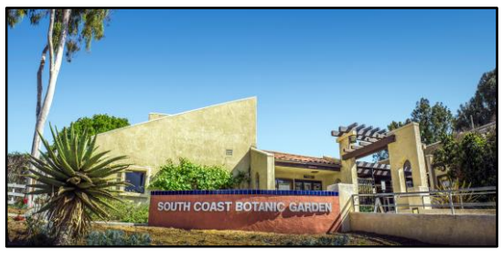
Get involved! We have many opportunities for you to become involved in our church and community. Described below are some one-time service events. Please consider how God might be calling you to use your gifts this year.

Circle of Life Meal Preparation and Delivery
First Saturdays every other month
The Circle of Life team prepares and serves lunch to individuals who have AIDS and their families. The next two meals are scheduled on October 3 and December 5. If you would like to help cooking in the morning and/or serving later in the day, contact Jackie Showalter at (310)544-8510 or jjshow2@verizon.net

Ushering
Each Sunday
Join our ministry of hospitality and welcome! We invite youth & adults to join us on Sundays to pass out bulletins, collect the offering, and greet worshipers with a friendly smile. If you are interested in giving it a try, contact Chris Larson at chrislarsonrhumc@gmail.com.

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner Set-Up
November 20 & 21
Our RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner is a tradition not to be missed! We serve a delicious, home-cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We would love some volunteers to set up tables, decorate and cook. Please call Suellen Fung at 310-541-8191 or Doug Kemps at 310-544-3240 for more info.

3rd Tuesday Walking Group
Tuesday, October 20
Join us on at the South Coast Botanical Garden for a relaxed hike. 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. In case of rain or inclement weather, the walk may be cancelled. Please call the church office to confirm. Hope you can join us!



Health & Wellness
Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Health and Wellness Opportunities

A cheerful heart is a good medicine,
but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.
Proverbs 17:22 NRSV

Popular Laughter Yoga Classes Resume with Nina!

Our Laughter Yoga Class resumes its offerings twice weekly on October 8th and 9th. 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 class is offered as follows:

Thursday morning from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Mission Room *and*
Friday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. in the Choir Room (continuing on from the summer meetings)

You can participate on either or both days!

Come join us soon for an uplifting hour well-invested. For questions, call Nina at 310-780-9131.

He will yet fill your mouth with laughter,
and your lips with shouts of joy.
Job 8:21 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. Assist. 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 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 October 23rd
www.rhumc.org