The Cornerstone

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

November 2015

"IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE"

Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, November 21 - 6:30 p.m.

One way to "give God thanks and praise" is to come and join your fellow members and friends at RHUMC's Thanksgiving Dinner. Wesley Hall will be "transformed" into a banquet hall featuring cornstalks, pumpkins and fall leaves surrounding the fully decorated tables for the feast. Our "cooks" will prepare the home-cooked turkey dinner (roasted in our Weber Kettles) along with mashed potatoes, corn pudding, cranberry fluff and cranberry sauce, and your choice of pecan, pumpkin and apple pie. We even have pumpkin pies made with Splenda for those watching their sugar counts. You will enjoy a wonderful dinner knowing your contribution will go towards Heifer Plus and SSP Scholarships. Donations are $30.00 per adult and $15.00 per child under twelve. Childcare available.

Entertainment in the Sanctuary after the dinner will feature Soprano April Amante; Bass- Baritone Nicolas Boragno in collaboration with Victoria Kirsch on the piano. Music will feature familiar arias from opera and musicals you won't want to miss!!

Stop by the patio after Sunday services to make your paid reservations. For those who would enjoy helping with the dinner, please consider volunteering on Thursday, 11/19, at 8:00 p.m. for set up of tables and/or Friday, 11/20, starting at 9:00 a.m. to decorate Wesley Hall and cook in the kitchen. Please see or call Suellen Fung at 310-541-8191 or Doug Kemps at 310-544-3240 or 310-567-6340 (cell).

If you have friends you wish to sit with at the dinner, let us know when you make your reservation and we will do our best to make it happen. Come and "give God thanks and praise" for we all have truly been blessed!

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

As I write, we are having the first genuine Santa Ana of the Fall – just in time for Halloween. As I remember trick-or-treating when I was growing up, it always seemed that dried leaves were skittering down the sidewalk, hurried along by the desert wind. Electricity and mystery were in the air. It seemed that almost anything could happen.

That's what Fall felt like in my childhood, which took place mostly in Corona. I loved it when the Santa Ana winds blew. They cleared out all the smog that came our way during the rest of the year. We could see across the valley to Riverside and Claremont, survey rows of orange groves from miles away, even pick out individual trees on the distant mountains. It was a treat both for our eyes and our lungs.

I know the Santa Anas also knocked down trees and power lines, and wind-driven fires threatened lives and homes. But I still feel a sense of wonder and suspense when the humidity drops and the east wind begins to blow.

In the Old Testament the word for wind, the word for spirit and the word for breath are all the same – *ruach*. In the New Testament they are also the same word – *pneuma*. Whether in Hebrew or Greek, the Bible understands that God's spirit is as close to us as the air we breathe, and as stirring and powerful as a Santa Ana. As Jesus describes it to Nicodemus, who has come to him at night, "the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

As a pastor, I like to think that I have some idea of what I am up to. I want to believe that I understand how God is using our congregation to accomplish the work of the gospel. Over the years we have carried out a number of exercises in long range planning. Those efforts have led to some truly wonderful developments. From the renovation of Wesley Hall, to the offering of full-day preschool, to the launch of Kid Zone, to the start of our Sunday evening service – we have done well when we get together to plan for the future.

But it is helpful for me to remember that our future is actually God's future. It does not belong to us as though it were our personal possession. We are not in charge of it, but we are very much a part of it. We are invited to watch and wait, to listen and learn, and to follow where we sense God is leading.

In the presence of the Spirit, it seems that almost anything could happen.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Dear Friends, *April Herron*

One of the ways I knew that I was going to feel at home at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church was by looking at the artwork in the narthex. The triptych by John August Swanson, depicting the shepherds, the kings, and the birth of the messiah, was already very familiar to me because I had been living with a set of prints just like it at the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church! Swanson's paintings are filled with rich color and deep faith. They depict scripture texts and stories in fascinating detail. They are well suited to sanctuaries, Sunday School classrooms, and church offices because they are vivid reminders of the One who inspires all our work, worship, and learning.

John August Swanson is a Los Angeles artist whose work is influenced by Mexican and Swedish folk art traditions, as well as by Byzantine mosaics and medieval stained glass windows. His artwork hangs in the Smithsonian's Museum of American History, the Tate Gallery in London, and the Vatican Museum's Collection of Modern Religions Art. The largest collection of Swanson's paintings is housed at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Fortunately, Candler has found a way to share their treasure! They have published a Christmas resource which helps bring the Biblical story to life. It's called "A Thrill of Hope."

I am looking forward to sharing "A Thrill of Hope" with all who might like to engage in an Advent learning experience. Advent is the four-week period of time which prepares us for Christmas. Many people find it helpful to incorporate a spiritual awareness activity each week during the season for purposes of keeping their focus on God's grace and mercy. Our gatherings in this instance will include reading scripture, personal sharing, and viewing of a DVD segment which incorporates reflections of the artist as well as commentary from seminary professor theologians and Biblical scholars. We will, of course, enjoy the added benefit of being able to view the relevant art that is on display in our narthex.

The schedule is noted below. As you can see, I will offer an evening option and a day time option. Each gathering will last for no more than one hour. If you can call the church office or send an email to april@rhumc.org to communicate your intention to participate it will help us to have a sufficient number of chairs set up. I am eager to experience the holiday traditions of Rolling Hills UMC and to make new memories together. May we know "a thrill of hope" as "the weary world rejoices."

Peace to all,

April

Schedule and Themes – "A Thrill of Hope" – Come to one or all!

Evening Track – Mondays 7:00-8:00 p.m. / Meets in the Aldersgate Room

November 30	A Visit
December 7	The Nativity
December 14	The Shepherds
December 21	Epiphany

Daytime Track – Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. / Meets in the Aldersgate Room

December 1	A Visit
December 8	The Nativity
December 15	The Shepherds
December 22	Epiphany

Why We Are Building, Part One - The Children

The Rev. Jonathan Chute

One of our good friends recently became a grandpa again. He has been generous with our congregation's mission over the years, as well as helping people in a variety of other ways. We've always gotten along well. I have appreciated his support and wisdom over the years. But with the birth of these new babies, suddenly everything has changed. Now he wants to make sure that the world will be a good place for them when they grow up. It's more important to him than ever that we provide opportunities for children to learn and laugh and play, to discover their place in the universe around us and to know that they are loved.

How fortunate we are to be part of a congregation that does so much for children and families. Recently April described her joy at seeing the preschool's Open House, where some 180 children, not to mention brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents came together. They laughed and sang, watched and wondered at the joy and discovery of those early years. Some of our preschoolers come for a few hours just a couple of days a week. Others are with us longer, as their parents work all day. Since 1972 our church has carried out this ministry with grace and love. The need for such a strong program continues to grow.

Fifteen years ago we launched Kid Zone, the after school program that serves children from Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Each Monday through Friday we help between 50-80 children with homework, a nutritious snack, and a chance to play before they go home that night. Our program is known for its high quality, excellent staff and love for children. Each summer we serve another 150-200 children a week with Kid Zone and Vacation Bible Camps. They have become a legend for families on the Peninsula and in the South Bay.

Many churches do not have anything like the opportunity we do to reach so many children. Our Sunday School is staffed with creative and caring teachers. We help the youngest members of our community discover the grace of God in their lives and in the world. As we develop new educational facilities we can be confident that we are making an investment that will bear fruit for years to come. The hopes of our children, our grandchildren, invite our very best – our efforts and energy, our creativity and compassion. Our hope for their future calls us forward.

My good friend, the new grandpa, has discovered again what was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah, "a little child shall lead them." As we plan a new home for our children's ministries, may the same be true for all of us.

Clean Water and Missions in Kenya

As we in drought-stricken southern California are appreciating more each day; reliable, clean, safe water is a necessity. For many in Kenya, it is nearly impossible to find. However, efforts are underway through some wonderful projects that are making a difference, not only by providing clean water, but with schools, healthcare, and farming. On **Tuesday, November 10th**, Dale Gehr and our special guest, Sister Freda Robinson, will host an informative and entertaining program to enlighten us as to their efforts to improve living conditions and water quality in Kenya. Dinner will be provided by "The Taco Man" – please plan to join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room. There will be a "free will" offering, with proceeds to benefit the project, "Clean Water in Kenya." To get an idea of how much food to order, please RSVP if you are attending by calling the church office by Monday, November 9th.

"Heifer Plus" Sunday – November 15

Even if we NEVER get any fall weather, it IS that special time of year again! "Heifer Plus" Sunday will take place on **November 15th**.

After each morning service we will have the opportunity to:

- meet a representative from Heifer International and choose a meaningful gift for a loved one while helping children and families around the world
- learn about new plans through Habitat for Humanity, which is planning an initiative to support 1,000 new families in the next five years
- support the spiritual, educational, health and community outreach work of the missionaries sponsored by RHUMC.

Trek to the Tree

Sunday, November 29th will be the first Sunday of this fun event where we provide gifts for needy children through the Toberman Neighborhood Center. There will be tables at each service with additional information.

Cell Phone Donations for Nicaragua

Seeds of Learning (SOL), the educational non-profit that hosted our Sierra Service Project (SSP) mission trip to Nicaragua last summer, is seeking donations of old smartphones for their employees. In Nicaragua cell phones are very expensive and the organization has a very limited budget. Many brands of smartphones (Samsung, Apple, HTC, LG, Motorola) purchased within the last 4-5 years through T-Mobile, AT&T, Verizon and Sprint will work with their local phone network. For any donated phones, SOL will provide an acknowledgment letter for obtaining a tax deduction. To donate phones, please contact Joe Platnick at (310) 503-0044 or jplatnick@cox.net.

United Methodist Women – Mission Market

Mark your calendars for UMW's Mission Market on **Sunday, November 15th**. Great savings and fantastic homemade items including yummy food and pickles will be available between and after church services. Don't miss this opportunity to shop early!! It will also be the last opportunity to order from the SERRV Catalogues. All the proceeds will be given to our very special Mission Projects which include Sierra Service Project and Scholarships, Kids Zone/Mid Zone, Logos Scholarships, Filipino Migrant Program, Toberman, SHAWL, Forensic Nurse Specialists, Harbor Halfway House, Rainbow Services, Community Helpline, and Harbor Interfaith. We thank you for your support and in doing so hope you find that 'special item' to give to your 'special someone' for the coming Holidays.

Project: NEEDS

The first Tuesday of every month, RHUMC volunteers provide cooked hot meals for Project: NEEDS, a mission and outreach ministry at St. Paul's UMC in Redondo Beach. The need is especially great during the holiday season. If you would like to volunteer or help with the meal preparation on November 3 or December 1, Mary Jane Schwebel would love to hear from you! She can be reached at 310-377-8780.

Chancel Choir to present Christmas Concert

The Chancel Choir will present their Christmas Program on **Saturday, December 19th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will feature *Laud to the Nativity*, by Ottorino Respighi, and *A Noel Celebration*, by Lloyd Larson, Marty Parks and Jay Rouse.

Laud to the Nativity is the only sacred piece of music by Respighi, an Italian composer who lived from 1879 - 1936 and who is best known for his trio of tone poems that celebrate the City of Rome - The Pines of Rome, The Fountains of Rome, and Roman Festivals. *Laud* is a challenging piece of music that is not performed frequently, and our choir's presentation continues to expand its capacity. It features soaring soprano solo sections that are sung by an Angel - a role that will be sung by our own Karin Frazier, mezzo-soprano solo sections that are sung by Mary - a role that will be sung by our own Jessica Tisdale, and tenor solos sections that are sung by a Shepherd - a role that will be sung by our own DeForest Kirkwood. *Noel Celebration* features a blend of original and familiar carols.

This will be a ticketed event. Tickets may be purchased in the church office, at the Thanksgiving dinner or at the table on the patio beginning November 29th. Tickets cost $10, and there is no reserved seating. The choir's Christmas Concert has sold out over the last few years, so you are encouraged to get your ticket early.

Hanging of the Greens

Before the month of November is over, we will be in the Advent Season! The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church. There will be several opportunities for you to join us:

1. Saturday, November 28th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the huge Narthex tree
2. Saturday, December 5th, 8:30-11:00 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary
3. Saturday, December 12th, 8:30-9:30 AM – Decorating with poinsettias

Come share the spirit!

Salvation Army – Ringing of the Bells

With the help of Christmas kettles, the Salvation Army aids more than 3 million individuals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Over the past two years, RHUMC bell ringers raised over $2,500 for needy families in the South Bay. During this holiday season, why not volunteer as a bell ringer? You can ring the bell as a family, with your friends or individually – it is up to you! Last year, we had groups that sang Christmas carols, played holiday music on their phones, or just rang the bell with a friendly smile.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this wonderful cause, Roxanne Morse will be out on the patio on Sunday, November 8th, with more information. You can also contact her at 310-543-2281. Your help will go a long way for people in need!

Poinsettia Sales

We try to make it easy for you to order poinsettias to be given *In Honor of a Loved One*, *In Memory of a Loved One* or *To the Glory of God*. Just fill out a form and turn it in with payment of $12 a plant. You may send it to the office, give it to the Worship Committee volunteer at the poinsettia table on the patio Sundays, November 29th or December 6th, or place it in the offering plate. Orders must be received by December 6th.

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.

☐ To the Glory of God

☐ In Honor of: _____

_____

_____

☐ In Memory of: _____

_____

_____

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, DECEMBER 6TH.
After the last Christmas Eve service, you may pick up the plants you ordered.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, November 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Canadian Pianists

DUO TURGEON

"The husband-and-wife team of Duo Turgeon play with hypnotic intensity" *~ American Record Guide*

"Their emotional openness and ability to communicate quickly forged a strong bond with the audience" *~ Toronto Star*

"From the first note to the last it was a pleasure
to hear these two natural musicians who breathe,
think and play as one" *~ National Post* (Canada)

"Duo Turgeon are on the path of the greats, included among four or five world class piano duos" *~ La Scena Musicale*

"…brilliant pianism… The performers, clearly in control of all aspects of the style, painted richly colored pictures in sound" *~ Austin American Statesman*

Critically acclaimed Canadian pianists **Anne Louise-Turgeon** and **Edward Turgeon** have given hundreds of performances, including a European debut at the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, and a New York debut at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, to name a few. They were featured in the PBS documentary *Two Pianos - One Passion* and have been heard in numerous broadcasts on classical music stations throughout the world. The Turgeon's won First Prize in the Sixth International Schubert Competition for Piano Duos (Czech Republic, 1995) and First Prize in the prestigious Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition (Miami, 1997), among numerous other prizes and awards. The Turgeons are graduates of the University of Toronto and Yale University, where they earned doctorate degrees in the year 2000.

Free-Will Offering

Altar Flower Chart

The new **flower chart for 2016** has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special! Cost is staying at $40 next year, and you may take the flowers home after 3rd Service.

RHUMC Concert Committee Presents Tim Weisberg

One of the greatest contemporary rock, blues and jazz fusion flute players of all time.

Accompanied by: Chuck Alvarez, Guitar and Vocals; Barnaby Finch, Keyboard; David Hughes, Bass; and Maria Martinez, Drums.

Friday, November 6th – 7:30 p.m.

Free-Will Offering

Club Maintenance

On October 10th a hard working group took care of a number of items on our maintenance work list, including painting in several preschool rooms, re-lamping some fixtures in the Sanctuary, replacing bad Trex in the patio, cleaning needles and leaves from the pre-school roofs and gutters, etc. The following personnel helped out in this Club Maintenance session: Bill Bails, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Rich Prihode, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter. In addition, Jot and Linda Hollenbeck, assisted by Joanne Moser, worked on needed floor and cart cleaning in the Wesley Hall kitchen. Our thanks to all of these individuals. Club Maintenance will next meet on **Saturday, November 14th**, at 8:30 a.m. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And also note that a lunch is served.

Book Fair Coming Soon!

Please join us for our preschool's very own Scholastic Book Fair! We will have a great selection of books available for purchase on **Thursday, November 5th** and **Friday, November 6th** during preschool hours (located in the church narthex) as well as after the morning services on **Sunday, November 8th** (on the patio weather permitting). The books will include a wide range of infant board books, lots of preschool titles, some early chapter books (K-3rd grade), and older chapter books (4th-6th grade), cookbooks, as well as Christian titles!

If you can't make it to the book fair in person or are looking for a wider selection of books, please visit our Online Book fair at: **http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ rhumps**. Our school will get credit for every purchase you make! Put together those shopping lists…as you know books make excellent gifts for people of all ages. Thank you for your support!

The RHUMC Youth
presents
"Fashion for Compassion"

A fashion show to support a cause

LOCATION:

Draper's and Damon's
2851 Pacific Coast Highway,
Torrance, CA 90505

DATE:

Monday, November 16th

TIME:

11:30 AM

COST:

$15 *includes fashion show & lunch.*

The admission proceeds will be used towards the monthly sponsorship of **Zuri & Romàn.**
Attendees will be given a discount towards same-day purchases.

Sign up after Sunday service or

online by visiting www.Rhumc.org/youth OR visit

rhumcy-fashion4compassion.eventbrite.com

The youth at Rolling Hills UMC are sponsoring **Zuri & Romàn** from Mexico. Each month, our sponsorship provides food, education, the Word of God, and other needs for both of these young children. We also pray for and write letters to them.

Compassion
Releasing children from poverty
in Jesus' name

Calling all Senior High

Senior High Thanksgiving Lock-In

Wednesday, November 25
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Join the Rolling Hills Sr. High Youth Group for a night full of service, fellowship, worship and fun. The youth will be preparing, homemade, turkey dinners for the homeless. This is a great opportunity to give back to those in need and get into the holiday spirit. Bring sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, jacket and $10 cash. All participating youth will receive service hours. RSVP with Kimmie at kimmie@rhumc.org or register at srhighlockin.eventbrite.com.

WINTER Retreat

Worship * Campfire * Rock Wall * Zip-line * Band

Jr. High: January 29th– 31st

Sr. High: February 19th– 21st

Cost: $250

Location: Forest Homes Christian Camp

Contact Kimmie at kimmie@rhumc.org for more information.

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

LOGOS THEME: GIVE THANKS

November 1: Mystery Ramble (3-5 PM)
November 4: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "Good Deeds from an Unlikely Source"
November 10: YMCA (7-8 PM)
November 11: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "Thanking Christ"
November 15: Chill w/Miss Nicole @ Corner Bakery Café (11:30-1 PM)
November 18: LOGOS (6-8 PM) "A Prayer of a Teenager"
November 25: Senior High Lock-In (8 PM)
November 26: Thanksgiving Day
November 29: Advent Begins

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

Coping with Grief and Loss: Grief Seminar

Thursday, December 3
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Losing a spouse or a loved one is a major life event that touches every part of our lives. The loss 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 for those who are experiencing this journey. The seminar will include recognizing different stages of grief, learning coping skills, and managing expectations, emotions and stress during the holidays.

Dr. Susan Brown, who specializes in grief therapy, will return to our church for this one-day seminar. To register or for more information, contact Rachel Stam at 310-377-6771, ext. 105 or email rachel@rhumc.org. There is no charge for the group, but pre-registration is strongly suggested.

Walking Group News

On **Tuesday, November 17**, we will stroll the walking path at Charles H. Wilson Park, located at 2200 Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Dee Hardison Sports Center. The park hosts a farmer's market every Tuesday from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., so we can shop and/or grab a meal before or after the walk. Hope to see you there!

Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Health and Wellness Opportunities

Patrick Moday
Clinical Sleep Educator

"Sleep, Sleep Disorders, and Solutions,"
a Brown Bag Lunch Program

Join your Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for a presentation on "Sleep, Sleep Disorders, and Solutions" on **Wednesday, November 18th** from 12:00-1:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. Bring your lunch, and we will begin our meal at noon, share some good fellowship, and then hear from popular sleep educator, Patrick Moday, at 12:15 p.m. Patrick, a key staff member in the Torrance Memorial Sleep Disorders Center, will address: the behavior and physiology of sleep, normal sleep patterns, common sleep disorders and how to recognize them, sleep hygiene, and how a sleep lab works to benefit those with sleep disorders. There will be a period for questions and answers as well.

Patrick Moday, a Registered Sleep Technologist, is a Clinical Sleep Educator and a Senior Registered Polysomnographic Technologist at the Torrance Memorial Sleep Disorders Center. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California Sleep Society. Patrick remains an advocate for sleep patients, sleep technologists, sleep research, sleep education, and sleep medicine.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Psalm 4:8 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	Kathe 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 November 27th
www.rhumc.org