



The Cornerstone

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

August 2016



Summer fun at 2016 Kid Zone Camp!

from the pastors

Jonathan Chute



We're only part way through, and it's already been an amazing summer. At this writing the sanctuary is filled with 200 children and about 90 adult and youth crew leaders for Vacation Bible Camp. We are so fortunate to have the crew of leaders and staff who work together to pull off this incredible week of learning and growing in God. I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for their efforts, spirit and love. Wow.

Our junior high SSP-ers have returned from their week of service and discovery in the City Heights, Canyonlands and border areas of San Diego, where half of your senior high are working now. The others are off to Spokane, WA, working on the Spokane Indian Reservation, just outside the city. We will get to hear about their experiences in worship on Sunday, August 14. I hope that you will be there if you possibly can.

Phase Two of our new facility project is moving forward. We expect to hear shortly from the City of Rolling Hills Estates about our public hearing before the Planning Commission. We are hoping it will be in September, though it may carry into October. Responses so far to the Phase Two Campaign have been very encouraging.

Before we held the first of our gatherings this Spring we already had about \$600,000 in the bank following the completion of Phase One. In addition to that there was another \$650,000 previously promised and still to be given over the coming few years. As of the end of July, we have received 51 cards from persons who attended one of the gatherings, totaling \$876,000 of new gifts. Altogether, that comes to just over \$2.1 million, already given or pledged over the next 2-5 years.

We have a ways to go yet, but I am confident that we can move forward on this important work. Over the coming weeks we will be reaching out to many who were not able to attend one of the earlier meetings. I look forward to meeting with anyone who has questions or would like to know more about the project. Creating the facilities we need to serve children and young families, middle and older adults will require generosity, creativity and courage. I am grateful for those who have already responded. You are helping to show us the way forward!

I also want to drop a quick note about a wonderful occasion coming our way. The official welcoming celebration for our new bishop, the Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya, as well as our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Mark Nakagawa, will take place at RHUMC on Saturday, September 10. We will be hosting a worship service at 1 p.m. and a reception to follow, for the roughly 100 churches in the West District. April and I have known Mark since seminary. He is a good friend and a wonderful leader. We both feel fortunate to have him follow in the footsteps of Kathey Wilborn, our previous District Superintendent.

Thyra and I had a wonderful time away. But we are glad to be back home, and seeing so many signs of God's leading and loving in our midst. What a gift to be part of it with you.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:



I've got Brazil on my mind! I visit my daughter there once every year or two. This trip, at Liz's suggestion, will encompass the Olympics. I never imagined such a thing would be in my future, until some months back when she said, "Hey, I've rented an apartment in Rio and I'm starting to order tickets. Are you coming?"

Life is full of happy surprises. We have tickets to soccer, field hockey, rugby, table tennis, gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, track and field, sailing, beach volleyball, canoeing, handball, wrestling, and the women's marathon, which will finish in the Sambadrome. Who knows what other opportunities will emerge as the days go by?

Meanwhile, here at RHUMC, other fun and exciting events will be taking place. A generous and talented crew has been busy creating an amazing Vacation Bible Camp experience for the children. Senior High Sierra Service Project teams will go and return, and then share their experience with the congregation in worship on August 14. I look forward to seeing pictures and hearing the stories when I return. I'm also eagerly anticipating one more happy and engaging gathering of the summer reading group. Information is below; please consider taking part!

Happy August to one and all,

April

The **Summer Reading Group** selection for August is "**In the Shadow of the Banyan**" by Vaddey Ratner. Set in Cambodia in the 1970's, and told through the eyes of a child, the novel reveals the impact of the Khmer Rouge regime on individuals, families, and communities. The main character experiences trauma and grief, and ultimately draws on the power of sacred story to not only survive, but find hopeful assurance in the continuation of life and the permanence of sacrificial love. Parent-child bonds are at the heart of the story, which is based on the author's own life experience. Published in 2012, the book was a PEN Hemingway Award finalist.

Having explored the significance in Christian spiritual practice and Sufi (Muslim) spiritual practice in our previous two selections, we will round out our summer reading with a consideration of Buddhist spiritual practice as it is presented by Ratner. **Discussion of the book will take place on Monday evening, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. All readers welcome!**

Mid-Year Finance Update

Thank you! Your generosity and giving in the second quarter of the year brought us closer to our giving goal for 2016. We are now within 3.8% of our budget for contributions and other income combined. Well done!

Our expenses to date continue lower than originally expected, by about \$28,000. The net effect is that we are slightly ahead of where we planned to be at the half way point of the year. So that's good news!

There are always ups and downs in our giving and our expenses through the year. But your generosity and faithfulness are truly remarkable. Your gifts make all the difference in carrying out God's work in the world. Thank you!

United Methodist Women News



A big thank you to Lucy Ford and Mary Larson for their leadership and dedication to the United Methodist Women. This fall, our devoted co-leaders will be stepping down and we are seeking new leadership to coordinate activities such as Mission Markets and Women Circles. We are also seeking a Treasurer as well. Lucy and Mary will be available to offer help and advice when needed. If interested, contact the church office at 310-377-6771 or churchoffice@rhumc.org.

Fall Bible Study Preview

Options for Bible Study will abound this fall at RHUMC. In addition to the Sunday Morning (10:00 a.m.) Adult Bible Study, those who want to grow in knowledge of God and understanding of scripture will be able to choose from the following opportunities.

September 7/8 through October 19/20

"The God We Can Know: Exploring The I AM Sayings of Jesus"

Choose Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. OR Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Class will meet in the Aldersgate Room, April Herron will lead.

Men and women welcome. Come when able.

September 20 through October 25

"One Day I Wrote Back" Women Interacting with Scripture through Creative Writing

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Class will meet in Aldersgate Room, Lorre Tom and April Herron will co-facilitate.

Limited to 15 participants.

October 2 through October 23

"Genesis Explored"

Sundays at 4:00 p.m., concluding in time for 3rd Service.

Class will meet in Aldersgate Room. Larry Kittiver will lead.

Men and women welcome.

Welcome Gathering to Meet New Western District Cal-Pac Bishop Grant Hagiya



Bishop Grant Hagiya
California Pacific
Conference

On Saturday, September 10, RHUMC will host an afternoon event to meet newly appointed California-Pacific Conference **Bishop Grant Hagiya**. There will be a worship service in the sanctuary, followed by a light meal in Wesley Hall and on the church patio.

We are honored to be chosen as one of the sites to introduce Bishop Hagiya during his inaugural year. You'll also have the opportunity to meet our newly appointed West District Superintendent, the Rev. Mark Nakagawa. All 100 West District churches will be invited to participate. We expect a large turnout. More information and details will be forthcoming

closer to the event. In the meantime, if you would like to be a part of the planning team, please contact Suellen Fung (310-541-8191) or Maureen Banasky (310-378-4646). Help is welcome!



Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa
District Superintendent
Of the Western District

Second Sunday Supers

Taco Night (after 3rd Service) has been so wildly popular that we've decided to add another meal night. The taco cart will continue to visit us on the last Sunday of every month. Our NEW meal, to be served on the SECOND Sunday evening of every month is Peruvian-style roasted chicken, rice, salad, drinks, and cookies. The requested contribution for each meal is \$5 per person, \$15 per family. We hope you can join us on **Sunday, August 14**. 3rd Service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Summer Loving Food Drive

Join in the Mission Committee's "Summer Loving" Food Drive! Just look for the grocery cart on the patio after each service. We are collecting food items to help stock the shelves at the Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro. Nonperishables are preferred. To focus our energy, we have named August as the month for Boxes of Cereal but anything is appreciated at any time. Toberman serves about 3000 individuals-in-need each year; this is your chance to help in the effort and make a difference!



Hello from Kid Zone and Mid Zone!

We had an amazing summer serving over 250 children from our surrounding communities with our awesome Kid Zone and Mid Zone summer camp programs!

Kid Zone's "Route 66" themed camp provided a fun and educational format as the kids traveled down middle road America and learned so much through cooking, arts, science, and fitness fun!

Our Mid Zone program provided awesome experiences learning, growing, and making friends on their daily field trips all around Southern California!

We would like to thank the church for allowing us to literally take over the campus during our camps this summer. We know that so many families were blessed by the ministry that was provided. Our families truly enjoyed being here on the RHUMC campus.

We can't do these camps alone and we are so thankful to all who helped in even the smallest of ways! A very special thank you to Pastor Jonathan for his generosity and gracious camp oversight, to the office staff for being so accommodating and patient, to Nicole Zakman for taking on so much extra work for us and for her amazing willingness to help, and of course to Miguel Portillo, for his hard work and dedication which is always done with a smile and a heart of service. We would also like to thank the congregation for donations, prayers, and a willingness to share this beautiful campus, we are all so blessed to partner together for His sake!

We are very excited that the Kid Zone and Mid Zone fall programs will be beginning August 29th. We provide exceptional after care, with emphasis on homework help, for children ages Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade. We pick up at all PV and Torrance schools. Enrollment packets are in the Kid Zone office ready for pick up. We are looking forward to a great year ahead and would love for our church family to join us. Please also be sure to tell your friends and family about us and to mention our "**RHUMC church friends and family discount**" when enrolling!

Looking forward to all that's ahead!

With great joy!

Angie Gunter

Kid Zone/Mid Zone Program Director

Kidzone.midzone@gmail.com

310.377.7302

Club Maintenance



Will next meet on **Saturday, August 13**, at 8:30 a.m. Please plan on helping with the ongoing work of keeping our facilities in good repair. Everyone's help is much appreciated!



Cave Quest Vacation Bible Camp

We had 200 campers, 30 Jr. Crew Leaders, 20 High School Crew Leaders and 40 Adult Volunteers. The light of Jesus was so bright at RHUMC.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	April Herron	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
		3 rd Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Adm. Assist. to Pastor	Curt Wuestenhagen
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Kimmie Stradling	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
KidZone Director	Angie Gunter	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	Mark Nakagawa

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 22nd
www.rhumc.org