The Cornerstone

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

October 2016

Frank Sinatra Tribute

Multi-award winning golden-voiced tenor, Dennis McNeil, will perform here on **Friday, October 21**, at 7:30 p.m. He is a highly sought-after concert artist and entertainer, and has performed for five US Presidents, Heads of State, opera companies, symphony orchestras and Fortune 500 companies--both in the US and around the world. He has sung with such varied artists as The Blue Man Group, The Grateful Dead, Michael Feinstein and Kiri Te Kanawa. The versatile McNeil will be performing a Frank Sinatra tribute and will be joined by his music director extraordinaire, Ed Martel. For information call 310-377-6771.

Free-Will Offering

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

October is a special month in the life of our congregation. We held our first worship service on September 18, 1960. But it was on October 20 that year that fifty families were received into membership. This is the fifty-sixth year of our life together, and on the Sunday closest to that date we will welcome back a beloved pastor and longtime friend, the Rev. Dr. Martha Rowlett.

For those who don't know Martha, she served as Senior Pastor from 1988 to 1998. She helped our congregation discover a renewed sense of purpose and vitality. During her ten year tenure our Family Ministries and Parish Nursing programs were given birth, along with our Monday morning Prayer Partners. With the help of an eager and hopeful team of leaders, she led the effort to build the present sanctuary and office building. Her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bob Arnott, a retired pastor, seminary professor and president, loved this church family almost as much as Martha did. He taught classes like "Christianity 101", and made sure to exchange hugs out on the patio every Sunday. One of the two stained glass windows at the front of the sanctuary was dedicated by the congregation in gratitude for Martha's faithful and encouraging ministry.

So this October, the church will celebrate our 56th birthday, so to speak. And it was Martha, when she and I were visiting more than a year ago, who pointed out something I had not noticed before. She served as pastor for the ten years before I was appointed to be with you. And now I have completed 18 years since the summer of 1998. So between the two of us that makes 28 years – exactly half of the 56 years since those first new members were welcomed into the fold.

Many congregations never experience the continuity of leadership that we have seen. In fact, over the first 28 years of its life RHUMC was served by six different senior pastors. Both Martha and I feel blessed to have had the chance to get to know this community well, and to walk with you on the journeys of life and faith.

Martha will be our preacher at all three services on Sunday, October 23. We will give thanks for her leadership, as well as her continued friendship and support. During her last visit we were in the midst of our Phase One construction. Now we are looking forward to breaking ground once more, and continuing the momentum and progress that she helped bring about. I am glad and grateful that she will be with us and look forward to what she will bring to us that day.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

A person could be forgiven for thinking that someone who has been studying the Bible for 20, 40, or 50 years already knows everything there is to know. But I can assure you, this is not actually the case. One of the delights of participating in group Bible study is that it always leads to the learning of something new. We learn from each other, we learn as the Holy Spirit leads us to discover insights and meanings previously unknown to us, and we learn from the authors of books and study guides. We learn not only about the scripture, but about the spiritual practices that have been helpful to other Christians in the recent and distant past.

The current Bible study class on offer at Rolling Hills UMC called, *"The God We Can Know,"* has, among other new learnings, brought to my attention a strategy on how to pray for others. Pastor and author Rob Fuquay included this intercessory prayer method in the curriculum material he assembled for the course on the "I AM" sayings of Jesus, but reports he learned it from *"Love to Pray"* by Dr. Alvin VanderGriend, The new-to-me strategy of praying is called the B-L-E-S-S model. The letters in the acronym stand for Body, Labors, Emotional, Social, and Spiritual. Here's how Rob explains it:

Body: We pray for the person's physical needs to be met. This could include praying for healing, release from addiction, and freedom from unhelpful habits.

Labors: We ask God to help the person with the tasks that fill their days.

Emotional: We pray for the person's emotional needs to be met. We ask peace, hope, assurance, comfort, and other healthy possibilities.

Social: We pray for the person's relationships at work and at home; we pray that they enjoy friendship and family or community support.

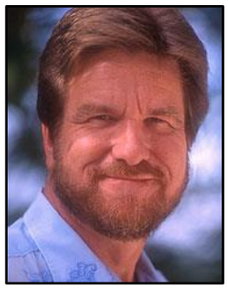
Spiritual: We pray for the person's spiritual life, asking that they are able to respond to God's shaping work. We visualize them as held in the light of Christ, or being filled and guided by the Holy Spirit.

The intent of our prayer is to be a blessing to others. We do not assume we know what they need, but we are confident that God knows and will respond. I am glad to be introduced to this strategy, and am looking forward to putting it into practice. The Bible study class meets three more times (Oct. 5/6; Oct. 12/13; Oct. 19/20, chose Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday at 10:30 a.m.). You are still welcome to come and take part!

Blessings to all,

April

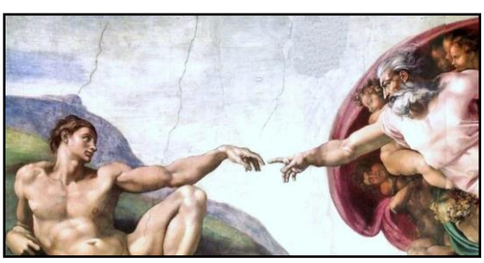
Missionary Presentation – October 12



The Missions Committee welcomes The Reverend Paul Jeffrey to RHUMC on **Wednesday, October 12**, at 7:00 p.m. As a senior correspondent for Response (the magazine of United Methodist Women), he has traveled to over 70 countries, documenting the work of the church around the world. A renowned photo-journalist, Paul is one of the four missionaries that RHUMC helps support; this is a chance to see the photos and hear him speak about how people of faith can empower those at the margins of life to live the abundant life that's promised in the Gospel. Paul's blog can be found at www.kairosphotos.com/blog/. Join us for what is sure to be an interesting and inspiring evening -- cookies will be served!

Sunday Afternoon Bible Study Class

led by Larry Kittiver



GENESIS EXPLORED. First meeting Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m., finishing by 5:30 p.m., **every Sunday from October 2 to October 30**.

Let's explore the first book of the Bible, Genesis, in a way that will help us to answer and discuss the following fascinating questions. Why and what is God's creation and what is humanity's role in its completion? What does it mean to be human created in God's image? Are science and religion compatible and what is their relationship?

Meet in Aldersgate room before the 3rd Service with an open mind willing to uncover new territory in our spiritual journey. I promise you will emerge with a better understanding of your relationship with God. This is an ongoing timeless and magical story with many lessons for all generations.

Celebration Sunday – October 30

Celebration Sunday for our annual giving campaign is October 30. 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 23. 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 6

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 6, 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, 2015, 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.

Dawn Unity Group

The Dawn Unity Group will discuss *The Matriarchs* on **Tuesday, November 1**, 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Road, RPV. The panelists include our very own April Herron; Rev. Clayton Cobb, Presbyterian Church, USA; Rabbi Brian Schuldenfrei, Congregation Ner Tamid; and Fr. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles with Bob Rothman as Moderator.

Sharing Compassion, Building Community, Offering Hope

Thanks to you we are investing $1,329,808 in God's mission this year.

Our Worship Life – $398, 942 *(30% of our budget)*

In worship we discover God's grace for our lives. It stirs our hearts, enlivens our spirits and stretches our minds. In worship we gather to hear God speak to us through the words of scripture, prayer and song. It leads us into the week ahead with confidence and hope, trusting that God goes with us.

A wonderful team of capable leaders works together each Sunday. Many contribute behind the scenes – others out front. The altar guild prepares the sanctuary with care. Ushers offer warmth and welcome as the service begins.

Our chancel choir shares music that inspires and encourages us with grace and hope. Our 3rd service ensemble offers a distinctive musical take on the message of the day. We are blessed with some of the most varied and beautiful music anywhere.

Your gifts help make possible sermons that deal with the humor, struggle and drama of everyday life. Our pastors and worship leaders bring the resources of faith to bear on the questions and hopes of our time.

Worship truly is the life and breath of our congregation. It is here that new friends discover a sense of welcome. It is in worship that we are strengthened and encouraged in our faith. Over a thousand persons count on us as their church home and gather with us through the year. Your gifts make possible generous, hopeful and helpful worship as God's family.

Caring for Our Community – $279,260 *(21% of our budget)*

The ages and stages of our lives bring both joys and challenges. From the birth of a baby to times of illness or grief, we count on God's grace to see us through.

We offer support and care through an extensive team of individuals and groups. Our prayer partners gather each week to lift up the needs and hopes of our church family, as expressed in the prayer cards on Sunday. The prayer chain responds immediately to health or other crises. Our pastors and parish nurse visit regularly throughout the congregation, but especially around times of illness or hospitalization. These visits number in the hundreds each year.

Our congregation serves a wide range of people in the community around us. Over the year our pastors lead dozens of funeral or memorial services, often for persons who had little or no previous church connection. Our hospitality committee supports members and friends alike by offering receptions after those same services. Our church staff works hard to make sure that these families feel genuinely welcomed and cared for in the midst of their loss.

We also celebrate the gifts of new life and new relationships! We help encourage parents in the midst of the joys and the challenges children bring. We offer counseling for couples seeking to be married, working to keep their relationships healthy, or who are facing the end of a marriage.

Your gifts support the work of healing and hope that Jesus carried out during his lifetime. We want to respond in the same spirit he shows us.

Local and World Outreach – $226,067 *(17% of our budget)*

Some of our most important work takes place where we cannot see. Our gifts touch people we will never know.

When a hurricane strikes a vulnerable community, whether here at home or across the globe, your gifts help provide immediate relief and ongoing support to rebuild homes and lives. Whether those needs are the result of natural or human disasters we reach out with care and compassion to those in need.

We support missionary work and educational efforts around the world, as well efforts to relieve hunger and hopelessness here at home. We partner with other Christian churches, other faith communities, with hospitals, relief agencies and universities. We know that we can accomplish far more by working together than by ourselves, alone.

Our church is found in 58 countries, from the U.S. to Europe, across much of Africa and into southeast Asia. Your gifts support theological and higher education through United Methodist and other universities and seminaries. We provide scholarships for students from our own congregation and others as they look to find a place and make a difference in the world.

We contribute to the work of bishops, district superintendents, church boards and agencies, as they encourage the mission and ministry of local churches in our diverse communities. We support Toberman Neighborhood Center and other local partners, who provide food, shelter and transitional support to hundreds of families each year. Around the corner or across the world, we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Children and Families – $425,539 *(32% of our budget)*

The needs and hopes of families are at the heart of our mission. From the youngest and smallest we serve, to those most senior, we know that each life is precious in God's eyes.

Each week we help growing children learn lessons of faith and love they will carry all through their lives. Our Vacation Bible Camp reaches over 200 children each summer, and requires almost another 100 youth and adult volunteers to make it happen. Our junior and senior high youth participate in the Sierra Service Project, learning about themselves, each other and the world by joining in hands-on mission. They meet for fellowship, fun and service throughout the year as well!

We offer opportunities for spiritual growth and development with Bible study, classes and retreats led by pastoral and other staff members. Seminars on caregiving, health & wellness, and grief support are open both to the congregation and community. Second Sundays at Two brings renowned musicians into our sanctuary for beautiful (and free!) concerts.

Intergenerational events, like trips to the Reagan Library, the Hollywood Bowl, area museums and even whale watching are offered across the year. Our Children's Christmas service and annual Easter Egg Hunt bring children, parents, grand and great-grandparents together in joy and hope.

Your generosity makes it possible for thousands of people experience God's grace through our mission in more ways than ever before.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, October 9, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Members of Los Angeles' Conductorless Chamber Orchestra

KALEIDOSCOPE

~ performing ~

Leoš Janácek's 1924 Czech masterpiece ***Mládí*** (Youth)
for wind sextet

In its third season, **Kaleidoscope** is dedicated to enriching lives through exhilarating concert experiences, artistic excellence, musician leadership, and connecting with the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Kaleidoscope will round out the program with three short selections by fast-rising acclaimed composers.

Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artists
All Are Welcome!

Trunk or Treat Festivities

We have had a FANTASTIC start to our Kid Zone and Mid Zone After-School Program here at RHUMC! This fall we are looking forward to learning, growing, and engaging in fun and exciting activities together as we enjoy the change of season!

This October Kid Zone and Mid Zone will be hosting a **TRUNK OR TREAT** here on the RHUMC campus. This event will be held on **Thursday, October 27,** from 4:15-4:45 p.m. Children from the church, preschool, and community are welcome and are encouraged to come dressed in costume and "trick or treat" from our decorated "trunks." **We are in need of candy!** If you are able to help out please feel free to drop off sealed bag(s) of candy at our Kid Zone office any time before 10/27. Come join the fun and spread the word! We are also in need of volunteers to decorate their own trunks/cars as well. Please contact the Kid Zone/Mid Zone office at 310-377-7302 or email us at kidzone.midzone@gmail.com if you'd like to help out or would like more information. Happy Fall!

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, September 17, postponed a week because of the West District event at our church. When we arrived Yasuko Martin was already cleaning the Meditation Garden fountain which she does for us on a regular basis. Boy Scout Michael Valeri and Keith Levan spent the morning spreading wood chips as mulch for our trees. Bill Bails rerouted cables in the KidZone office and replaced a parking lot stop. Rich Prihode cleaned and waxed our patio trash receptacles. Clarence Fung washed the kitchen windows inside and out. (We won't tell Suellen that he does windows well.) Oren Sheldon professionally painted a preschool restroom. We hope his efforts will cause demolition to begin shortly like washing your car before it rains. Jim Showalter kept busy trimming branches and general cleaning. Lunchtime fellowship was enjoyed by all with pizza. Our next Club Maintenance will be **Saturday, October 8**, 8:30 a.m., with Dave Larson coordinating.

Summer 2017

Sierra Service Project

The SSP sign-up process has changed! You must reserve your spot by October 16th with a $100 deposit.

Contact Kimmie at kimmie@rhumc.org or (661)714-8138 for more information.

Scholarships are available!!!

Jr. High Sierra Service Project:
Dates: July 22-29
Location: Chiloquin, OR

Sr. High Sierra Service Project
Dates: July 29– August 6
Location: Tsaile, AZ

An additional Sr. High trip is being proposed for July 8-16. If the first week in August does not work for you or your family, consider our July 8-16 trip to Tsaile, AZ.

International Service Trip
Dates: June 25-July 4
Location: Nicaragua

RHUMC will be returning to Nicaragua next summer to partner with Seeds of Learning to build a school, interact with the local community, discover Nicaragua, and win a child's love. Seeds of Learning focuses on improving education in Nicaragua as a means of diminishing the overwhelming poverty in the country. This trip is open to anyone 16 and older. Cost is approximately $2400. Scholarships are available. Contact Kathy Platnick at 213-479-6950 for more information.

Tour the Toberman Neighborhood Center!

Toberman Neighborhood Center (TNC) is a charitable organization committed to assisting Harbor Area families and individuals by delivering life-changing services that encourage, inform, educate and empower them to live healthy and purposeful lives. The center focuses on family services, such as an after-school program, parenting classes and gang-prevention and intervention. To learn more about the valuable work they do, please join Dale Gehr, our Lay Leader and Toberman Board member, and Rachel Stam for an informative tour of the facilities. The tour will be held on **Thursday, November 10, from 10:30-noon.** To sign up, email Rachel at rachel@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771. The tour is limited to 12 people, so please let us know your intent to attend as soon as possible.

Health & Wellness Seminar

Join us for a valuable opportunity to learn about advance care planning and important decisions you may want to make related to the end of your life. Learn the seven key criteria to consider when selecting a family member or friend who would best help you with those decisions, especially if you become unable to speak for yourself.

This program, relevant for adults of all ages, will also provide an even-handed description of California's new law authorizing assisted suicide. We expect many excellent questions and different points of view.

Topic: Practical Questions about the End of Life
Advance care planning and an update on California's End of Life Option Act

Date: Wednesday, November 2

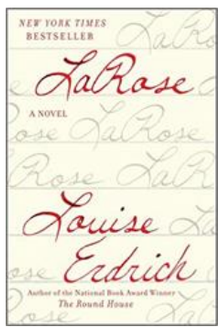
Time: 12:00 noon – Bring your own Bag-Lunch, Aldersgate Room
12:30 p.m. – Interactive program in the Sanctuary

PRESENTERS:
Thyra Endicott, M.D., Medical Director, Radiation Oncology, and Chair of the Bioethics Committee at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and member of the Southern California Bioethics Committee Consortium

Edward Long, J.D., Caring House volunteer, co-founder, and President, member of Bioethics Committees at both Torrance Memorial Medical Center and Providence Little Company of Mary – Torrance, Elder Law attorney (retired), and co-founder and CEO of H.E.L.P. (retired)

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12 NIV

November Reading Group: *"LaRose"* by Louis Erdrich



Attention readers! In the tradition begun this summer, April Herron and Kathy Christie have identified another novel that reflects on the spiritual resources available to human beings in the everyday and crisis moments of their lives. In a time and place where Ojibwe and Christian religious practices live side by side, the characters in *"LaRose"* are trying to find their way through grief, guilt, and terrible loss. A discussion of the book will take place on **Wednesday, November 16**, in the choir room. It's not too soon to start reading; the book should be available from your favorite book store!

A "Heads Up" for Thanksgiving Dinner – Saturday, November 19!

They say turkeys are not very intelligent, but they are sure good to eat! Be among the "smart" people and mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 19**, 6:30 p.m., for RHUMC's Thanksgiving Dinner. Paid reservations of $30.00 for adults, $15 for children under twelve, will begin on Sunday, October 30, on the patio following each of the morning services. If you would like to help prepare the dinner or decorate Wesley Hall, see Suellen Fung or Doug Kemps…helping hands are needed!

SAVE THE DATE

The Chancel Choir will present Part I and portions of Part II of Handel's celebrated *Messiah* at 7:30 p.m. on **Saturday, December 17**, in the sanctuary, accompanied by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Our own Jessica Tisdale will be the soprano soloist. This will be a ticketed concert. Tickets are $10 and are available in the church office.

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	Curt Wuestenhagen
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Kimmie Stradling	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
		Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
KidZone Director	Angie Gunter	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Facilities Manager	Rick Mitchell
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771		
Fax Line	310-544-4123	Resident Bishop	Grant Hagiya
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 October 24
www.rhumc.org