
The Cornerstone

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310-377-6771
January 1, 2012

Celebrating Sylvia



Sylvia Swanson celebrated her 90th birthday New Year's Day with her church family, her son and grandson at a party in the Aldersgate Room between services. Sylvia and her late husband, Archie, joined RHUMC when we were still worshipping at Valmonte School - over 50 years ago! They raised two children in Palos Verdes, Brian Swanson and daughter Beverly. Sylvia enjoys being grandmother to Eric and Adam Swanson and granddaughter Sarah.

Sylvia has been an active volunteer at this church from the beginning: as bookkeeper for both the church and preschool accounts for many years; a member of Martha Circle; an office volunteer performing just about everything there is to do from answering phones to collating the newsletter - this list is endless, as was her eagerness to help wherever needed.

We love you, Sylvia!



from the pastor

I want to express my thanks to everyone who has contributed toward our proposed educational facility. I also want to give an update about where we are as we begin the New Year.

Gifts and pledges to date total just over \$1.5 million. This is the largest response to a giving campaign we have ever had. This counts contributions from church members, friends who now live elsewhere, Preschool and Kid Zone families, Scouting families and others. Of this amount \$730,000 has already been given. Thank you! You have made a strong and generous

beginning.

As we take the next steps together we count on your input. We want to make wise decisions that reflect the wisdom and hopes of our church family. As it stands, the projected costs for the proposed facility are roughly \$6.5 million. To make such a project realistic we would want to have about \$4 million in hand.

One possibility for reaching this goal would be to raise the needed funds with continued outreach to our church family and community. Additional gifts – even major gifts – could be developed in the coming year to help bring us closer. A second approach would be to delay the project for some time, as we build up our resources. Of course, costs may increase as we wait.

A third possibility would be to develop a simpler plan than the current proposal, with a smaller budget. This would enable us to move forward sooner, but would also require a redesign of the project. We need to decide whether this approach will best serve our long-term future needs. We do not want to build something that is helpful only in the short-term.

No matter which approach we take there are phases of the project that make sense to begin sooner than later. For example, the parking area nearest the choir room could be developed in the coming year. That is where we will locate temporary classrooms during construction. But the added parking would be helpful today as well. Getting started with that work as soon as we can will save money down the road.

Some view the new facility proposal as the building of a new preschool. Others picture it mostly helping our after school programs. I see it as a plan for our whole campus. It includes spaces for adult as well as children's uses. It makes the patio safer for both younger and older members. It improves and updates the kitchen. It helps make our buildings and our campus greener, with more open space and lower energy usage. It increases handicapped accessible parking, as well as parking overall. It makes sense for us to address the needs of the whole campus, and the whole congregation, as we build for the future.

The buildings constructed in the mid-1960s have served us well. They will not last forever. Plumbing and electrical issues require attention. We have been fortunate to get by without major roofing work. We do not want to wait until costly repairs force us to act.

A new facility will meet the needs of our current church family and strengthen our mission for years to come. And we need your input and help to bring it about. On February 8, at 7:30 p.m., our Charge Conference will take place in the sanctuary. In addition to the usual agenda for our annual meeting, we will be deciding how best to move forward with the new facility proposal. I invite you to come and share your questions, your prayers and your wisdom.

I also want us to have several opportunities before that night to ask questions, share thoughts and be in conversation with each other around this project. One of those will be after morning worship on Sunday, January 22, at 11:30 a.m. The second will be on Monday evening, January 23, at 7 p.m. The third will be on Tuesday morning, January 31, at 9 a.m. Feel free to bring your questions and thoughts to any one of these gatherings, which will be held in the Aldersgate Room. You may also call or email me, or schedule a time to meet in person.

Our congregation is blessed with many strengths. We share a generous mission with children and families, younger, older and everyone in-between. This church family helps people to live and grow in grace, and to discover God's leading. At the beginning of this New Year I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunity we have to share together in this ministry. With all of my heart, I thank you. I look forward to hearing from you, and meeting with you, as we move forward together. I know that God will be with us as we follow.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Dawn Unity at RHUMC – January 17!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday evening, 7:30-9 p.m., for the second of this year's Dawn Unity Interfaith Discovery Series. We are hosting this month's panel, which will include Jonathan, Rabbi Isaac Jeret of Congregation Ner Tamid, Monsignor David Sork of St. John Fisher Church, and Dr. Amir Hussain of Loyola Marymount University.

The topic of the evening will be questions asked by students from Palos Verdes and Peninsula High Schools. Each of these schools offers courses in Comparative Religion, covering a wide range of different traditions. The students learn about the many forms of human religious experience, including Buddhism, the Hindu tradition, Judaism, Islam, the many forms of Christianity. They are preparing questions which will engage the panel and offer an opportunity to hear from different perspectives.

Following the panel there will be a reception in Wesley Hall with cookies, coffee and tea. We hope that you can come to one of the most unique and interesting series in our community!

Memorial Garden Wall Engravings

We are about to arrange for more engravings on the Memorial Wall. The engraving is done in gold and would bear the name and date of birth and death. The fee is \$250 and a portion of that fee is placed in a maintenance fund for the upkeep of the garden. We are grateful to Club Maintenance folks and others who are helping to keep the garden plants flourishing and the fountain running clear.

If you would like to place the name of a friend or family member on the wall, please contact Julie Geist in the church office.



Club Maintenance Progress Report



A good number of tasks were completed by the Club Maintenance crew including patching a pot hole, replacing a light bulb in the Sanctuary ceiling, repairs to the tables in Wesley Hall and the black chairs in various locations, replacement and painting of a rotted railing in the perimeter fence, cleaning spots on the exterior of Wesley Hall, cleaning and touchup painting of the Patio benches, painting in the Wesley Hall entryway and in the Sanctuary, and fixing a flat tire on a wheelbarrow. The busy crew included Richard Yasuda, Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Don Pedersen, Dave Larson, Gene Koester, Clarence Fung and Bill Bails.

In 2011 approximately 250 man-hours of work were contributed by the Club Maintenance crew to keeping our facilities in good working order.

The next work party will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Your help is welcome and appreciated.



Family Ministries

We all like to think that our children are unique, and in many ways they are. But even six months in the life of a young child can make a big difference, as developmental milestones occur so rapidly in physical, mental and emotional growth. Beginning on Tuesday night, January 24, Family Ministries will be offering a series of parenting classes. The series begins that night at 7 p.m. with "Parenting Your Two Year Old." The class will be repeated on Wednesday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. for those who prefer daytime classes. Each class lasts 1 1/2 hours. One week later there will be a class on "Parenting Your Three Year Old" which will meet on Tuesday night, January 31 and repeat on Wednesday morning, February 1st. "Parenting Your Four Year Old" will take place on Tuesday night, February 7, repeated on Wednesday morning, February 8, and the series will conclude with "Parenting Your Five Year Old" on Tuesday night, February 21 and Wednesday morning, February 22. Classes will meet in the Aldersgate room. The class will be instructed by Diane Rehfield, the Director of Family Ministries and one of the associate pastors at RHUMC. Diane is also a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, and has raised three daughters. There will be time for discussion by those in attendance, because often parents have wonderful ideas about what works, having learned from their own experiences. Please RSVP at familyministries@rhumc.org, or call 310-377-6771. You can sign up on the patio on Sunday morning at church.

Purposeful Readers

The Purposeful Readers will meet on January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate room to discuss the books *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion, and *The Summer of the Great Grandmother*, by Madeleine L'Engle. Didion's book deals with the death of her husband, and the emotional aftermath; and L'Engle's is a journal of her mother's last year of life, when Didion cared for her and reviewed the stages of her life. Both women are excellent writers, and it will be interesting to discuss how being a spouse and being an adult child affect the grieving process, as well as just the personalities of the two authors. Both books are a tribute to the strength that is within us, and the creativity of the human mind. For more information, contact family ministries at familyministries@rhumc.org or 310-377- 6771.

Men's Ski Retreat - Feb 13-17

Leonard and Rita Guiton are making their June Lake cabin available for a men's ski retreat in February. Downhill skiing is available at both June and Mammoth Mountains, and there are opportunities for other winter activities as well – cross country skiing, snow-shoeing, or lounging in front of a fireplace with a good book.

You don't have to stay the whole week – though you might want to! People are welcome to come up for the first 2-3 days, the last 2-3 days, or any time in the middle. The cabin sleeps about 8 comfortably, and there are other local options for overflow. The June Lake Lodge has rooms for four around \$80/night, and there is lots of room on the cabin floor for sleeping bags too.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Leonard at home, 310-378-9661, or visit with him on the patio after our 8:30 a.m. service! For the last couple of years a group of four has had good fun and great skiing, and they would be glad to widen the circle!

SAVE THE DATE

Be sure to save the date **FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012** to enjoy the music of Jim Jones and his band. Our eclectic programming gives everyone an opportunity to listen to a variety of musical offerings.

Children's Ministries

Acolytes, Sign-up for the 2012 Schedule!

After our initial acolyte training in September 2010, we filled our worship schedule for participation through the end of the year. Now it's time to schedule your acolyte duties through the first half of 2012. Bonni Ying, our acolyte coordinator, has sent out an email requesting acolytes for the Sundays in January through March. If you haven't already contacted her, please do so soon so you have the best chance of getting the dates you want. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME AN ACOLYTE FOR 2012!** If you are eligible to become an acolyte (4th-8th grades), but have not trained for it yet, you still can. Contact Lisa Lehman and she will arrange a Sunday to train with you one-on-one.

Thank You All Around for the Children's Christmas Eve Production

Thank you so much to all the people who organized and participated in the Children's Christmas Eve production! They did a fabulous job! Special thanks to Lisa Williams and Jan Johnson for their help in organizing and conducting the event. Thank you to Rob Chrono, Sam Vincent, Chris Yamasaki, Megan Yamasaki, Kelsey Yamasaki, Abigail Whitman, Katie Stam, Beth Graves Meyerhoff, Allison Scott, Sandi Randle, Noucha Jasanis, Cindy Boger, and Ron McCoy for your help with the rehearsal and play. And, of course, thank you to all the children and youth who participated in reading, singing, and creating the Nativity! As usual, it was a memorable and wonderful service that could only be accomplished by the love and care of all mentioned above. God bless you!

Lisa Lehman, Director of Children's Ministries (lisa@rhumc.org)

Basketball Update

"My new year's resolution for 2010? I will be less laz"
- Jim Gaffigan (via Twitter)



Our basketball schedule for January is:

Mon., Jan 2 nd , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Jan 5 th , 6-8 pm	Sat., Jan 7 th , 2-4 pm
Mon., Jan 9 th , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Jan 12 th , 6-8 pm	Sat., Jan 14 th , 2-4 pm
Mon., Jan 16 th , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Jan 19 th , 6-8 pm	Sat., Jan 21 st , 2-4 pm
Mon., Jan 23 rd , 6-8 pm	Thurs., Jan 26 th , 6-8 pm	Sat., Jan 28 th , 2-4 pm
Mon., Jan 30 th , 6-8 pm		

If you would like to be sent reminders/updates regarding our schedule via email, please forward your email address to John Kwan at john@rhumc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Health & Wellness

BROWN BAG LUNCH program: **DIABETES PREVENTION** on Monday, January 23 at 12 noon in the Aldersgate room. The speaker, Loretta Ball, is a Family Nurse Practitioner and a certified Diabetes Educator. She is a Diabetes Case Manager at Harbor UCLA Medical Center, in the Division of Endocrinology. Loretta will be sharing information about this condition, prevention of diabetes and the roles of diet and exercise in helping to control diabetes. Please bring your own lunch to eat at 11:30 a.m. Drinks, fruit and cookies will be provided. All are welcome.

BALANCE CLASS will be offered again by Sherri Sussman in February. She invites previous participants and new students. The class schedule and cost will be decided after sign-ups. On Sunday please visit the Health and Wellness table on the patio to indicate your interest and to see if your schedule will work with Sherri's availability. Please contact Marian for further information. Phone: 310 377-6771, ext 116.

OPPORTUNITIES for EXERCISES are Ongoing!

Health and Wellness continues to offer several exercise options. If you have been looking for a new program or you want to add to your routine, whatever your reason, newcomers are always welcome to check into any of our classes:

Pilates: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:45 am in Bride's Room
Core Strengthening: Monday and Wednesday 8:45 am in Narthex
Laughter Group: Thursday at 9:00 am in Mission Room
Fit for Life: Friday 9:30 am in Wesley Hall

Come to one or more of these activities and find out if it will work for you. Exercise is necessary for good health. And you will have fun doing it! There is a nominal fee for some of the sessions. Contact marian@rhumc.org or phone 310 377-6771, ext 116 for additional information.

Faith In Action

Our youth thank all of you for your incredibly generous contributions to our Faith in Action for St. Paul's homeless gift project. We gave out 100 gift bags filled with toiletries, new socks and candy, as well as 12 packs of play-doh to the homeless children. We also distributed 85 blankets. The youth uniformly agreed that this was the best year ever--the response from the homeless was heartwarming and, at the same time, heartbreaking. Everyone was touched. We have an amazing church family. Thank you all so much!

Dear RHUMC Members and Friends

Our heartfelt thanks for your generous gifts to us this Christmas season! While your gifts tell us that you appreciate the work the staff does all year long, we have only to look back at all of you for inspiration. The hard work, dedication and generosity of this church community never cease to amaze us. We are honored to be here and working with you.

With love,
The RHUMC Staff.

Thank You to RHUMC for All Your Support during Heifer Plus Sunday and Trek to the Tree

On behalf of the Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Missions Committee, we would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions to Heifer Plus Sunday and Trek to the Tree. As usual, we are overwhelmed by the response of the congregation, which is always so caring and involved.

Your contributions totaled over \$16,000 allowing us to give three arks to Heifer International. Additionally, the congregation raised substantial funds to support Habitat for Humanity and the four RHUMC Missionaries including Christian journalist Paul Jeffrey, Luis Aramayo and Eunice Arias, Red Bird Mission in Kentucky and missionaries in Siberia.

During Christmas, the congregation provided either gifts or gift certificates for over 300 children and teenagers from Toberman Neighborhood Center. Thank you for bringing smiles to the faces of children who might not otherwise have received a Christmas gift.

We sincerely thank you for your generosity that reaches out to those in need in both the community and around the world.

RHUMC Missions Committee

Dance and Art

RHUMC Kid Zone Spring 2012

Dance

Instructor- Lindsey Neumann

Mondays 1/23/12-4/30/12 (no Class 2/20, 4/2, 4/9)

Recital 5/7/12

Kinder-2nd Grade Ballet and Movement (3:30-4:15)

Ready to have some fun? This class is for young ones who want to develop proper skills and technique. Dance games and play will introduce new students to the fun and magic of dance and ballet. Returning students will begin to develop strong technique and a solid foundation for all types of dance. All levels welcome.

Kinder-2nd Grade Hip Hop and Jumpin' Jams (4:15-5:00)

Get on your feet and jam! This class is for any student who wants to get up and rock out. Students will learn hip-hop moves made just for K-2nd graders. Students will work on form and technique as well as have some time to move to the music and make up their own moves. All levels welcome.

3rd-5th Grade Hip Hop and Funky Freestyle (5:00-6:00)

Get ready to pump up the jams! This high-energy class will teach kids the latest moves tailored just for them. Students will work on form and technique as well as have time to play games that focus on improvisation. All levels welcome.

Art

Instructor- Robin Bott

Tuesdays 1/24/12-5/1/12 (no Class 2/21, 4/3, 4/10)

Exhibit 5/7/12

K-2nd Grade- Petite Picassos (3:30-4:30)

and 3rd-5th Grade- Mini Michelangelos (4:30-5:30)

Grab your brushes and pick up your paints! This class will look to famous artists as inspiration for our own original masterpieces. Students will work with a variety of mediums to practice different skills. All levels welcome.



Registration

Student Name: _____

Parent Names: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mom Cell/Work Phone: _____

Dad Cell/Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Classes (please check box):

Monday:

- K-2nd Grade Ballet and Movement \$144
- K-2nd Hip Hop and Jumpin' Jams \$144
- K-2nd Hip Hop and Funky Freestyle \$144

Tuesday:

- K-2nd Petite Picassos \$144
- 3-5th Mini Michelangelos \$144

Cash, Check (to RHUMC)
and Credit Card accepted

RHUMC Kid Zone
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310-377-7302
Kidzone.Lisa@gmail.com