



**Hillcrest Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

Ministers.....*All Members of Hillcrest Church*
Interim Pastor.....*Rev. Dr. Loletta M. Barrett*
Director of Youth Ministry.....*Sally Schacht*
Director of Children's Ministry.....*K.C. Coonis*
Director of Music.....*Debbie Carter*
Organist/Pianist.....*Colleen Keith*
Country Day School Director.....*Joan Edgerton*
Country Day School Director...*Danielle Darlow*
Moderator.....*Diana Ford*
Vice-Moderator.....*Gail Stier*
Church Secretary.....*Howard McCoy*
Treasurer & Financial Secretary *Laurie Gjoraas*
Wedding Director.....*Alison Ferguson*

HILLCREST HILITES"

"REVERENDLY" SPEAKING

February 21, 2010

How do we honor a life? How do we honor a legacy? In the past two months we have said goodbye to several old friends and members of the congregation: *Tom Sinclair, Kit Wilson, Ed Christmas and Jeanne Strand* have all died. It has been a difficult time of ending, but also a time of remembrance and celebration of lives well lived.

Then I got a notice that the Church Women United, Whittier Area group had voted to disband. They had been meeting since 1946, but in recent years had lost support from congregations in the area, and attendance had been very low. In spite of the things they had been able to do in the past, in spite of the joyful worship I attended with them in the fall, and with heavy hearts, after 64 years, they decided they had to make a big change. They decided to discontinue meeting as a group and to contribute the funds remaining in their treasury to several worthy organizations to support special projects. An end of sorts.

Death and ending: It happens to people, and it happens to groups and organizations. We struggle with the concept of death because we are programmed to live, to stay alive, and to value life and every breath. Our society tells us to never quit, to keep striving, and to go on. Death and endings are mysteries, unknowns, and a change to everything. But when death occurs, is it really an end? And is every ending a death?

Resurrection: We Christians are a resurrection people. During Lent we remember Jesus' time in the wilderness preparing himself for God's call on his life. We remember his life and ministry that brought life and healing to people who had no hope. Yet even as we remember his life, we are also preparing for his death, and the grief that is finally relieved by the hope and joy of resurrection. We relive this story every year, and after everything else, resurrection always comes.

Resurrection: It happens to people and it happens to groups and organizations. Yet to be honest, resurrection is as much a mystery and change as death, an unknown. We don't know exactly what happens on the other side, so why do we not struggle with resurrection in the same way as we do with death? Possibilities. Resurrection means new possibilities for life, but it also means change.

If we make the connection, we understand that if we let death occur, the new possibilities of resurrection are the result. Resurrection cannot occur without death, but death does not have power over resurrection. So we can answer the question: No, death is not an end, and perhaps ending and change are not death, but a possibility for resurrection.

Tom, Kit, Ed and Jeanne live on in resurrected life and they are changed. Their legacy is also seen in every life they touched and changed. And the Church Women United passed on their legacy in what each person who attended received from their participation, the service they provided, and continue to provide to the community - they also touched and changed lives.

So how do we honor their life and legacy? By continuing in the same vein. To make the connection between life, death, and resurrection. To understand that endings and change are not death, and death is not an ending.

Peace, Pastor Loletta

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RUN A CHURCH?

Worship. Without worship a church might be indistinguishable from a school, a musical performance, a social services agency, or a social club. So what is worship? Simply put, worship is an act of devotion toward God. That definition could be expanded upon and it has been, as long as human beings have recognized a power outside themselves, a higher power deserving (or demanding) respect and acknowledgement. From simple individual morning prayers before rising from bed, to communal prayers. From simple rituals of lighting a candle and singing a song, to elaborately planned and executed day-long services. Worship has been defined differently by many groups of people.

Some say it is the center of the church, a time when individuals connect with the Source in order to get our batteries recharged to go out into the world, or when God's community of people come together to support each other. That may mean a quiet time of reflection, a joyous time of being uplifted and inspired, a time of teaching and learning, or even an opportunity to gather to serve God and God's people.

How do we define worship? What rituals do we choose, what actions are included, what are the words of the prayers, what music, flowers, candles, offering do we bring? It is all a reflection of our image of and our relationship with God, ourselves and others, and our own spiritual personality. Some may think churches like ours that do not have a lot of liturgy (a prescribed order of worship, prayers, music, etc.), have no rituals. Yet everything we do, or don't do, becomes a ritual. The intent of a ritual is to

evoke a feeling or sense of sacred space, time, and presence, a moment of worship.

The question to consider is what is our worship like: what are our rituals and what are their meanings? Translated: what do we do every Sunday, perhaps without even thinking about it, that we would miss if we did not do it? Why do we do it? What does that action, prayer, or song mean to us? How does it evoke the sense of God's presence for us? How does it help individuals connect with the Source in order to get our batteries recharged to go out into the world? What does it say about God, others, or about how we see ourselves? How might someone from another tradition, or someone who is "unchurched," perceive our ritual or worship ritual? How would you explain the meaning to them? What other rituals could we consider that might be worshipful to us and welcoming to others?

And, believe it or not, not everyone in our congregation likes the same thing. Did you know that when we asked people to submit their favorite hymn, we found that there were more than 50 favorites? And only 15 of the hymns were favorites to more than one person! What if it is also true that not everyone in the congregation likes the same ritual or the same style of worship? Even though we don't sing everyone's favorite hymns and we don't do worship everyone's favorite way, you still come. Perhaps because you are open to finding new ways to worship, to experiencing new ways to evoke the feeling of God's presence. Or perhaps it is because you are loving, giving and enjoy being part of a community, and understand that even if the ritual or worship that day is not your "cup of tea," you know it fits just right with someone else sitting next to you or across the way. And you know that sometimes worship is when God's community of people just come together to support each other.

So what is worship? Simply put, worship is an act of devotion toward God, and it comes in as many shapes and sizes as there are people. God's people: where God lives in each one.

GIVING AND RECEIVING THANKS

Dear Friends,

It takes a special people to reach out a helping hand to those in need. You are just such people!!! On behalf of the Officers, Board and clients of WCCS, I want to thank you for your donation to our end of year campaign. Last year more than 3,000 women and children benefited from our services – all at no cost to themselves or their families. We are very grateful that we can provide temporary crisis shelter, hotline assistance, children's programming, client advocacy, transitional housing, life skills workshops, and many other outreach services.

We know that we make a difference in the lives of our clients. We help them rebuild their lives and give them back hope and dignity. We want you to know that you and your support are a significant part of this process. We honestly couldn't do it without the generosity and thoughtfulness of our wonderful supporters.

Yours truly,
Lori Hentcy, Board President
Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

Dear Hillcrest Congregational Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, First Day guests and the many that will benefit from your kindness and generosity we say **Thank You**. . . Thank you for the time you have taken to make a difference in people's lives. Remember without you we couldn't exist. It is donations such as yours that enable us to provide much needed services to our First Day guests, homeless individuals, and those at risk of becoming homeless. We gratefully acknowledge your total gift of **\$662.00** for 2009. Thank you again for taking the time to make a donation, for your kindness, and for helping to make a difference in people's lives. If you would like a tour or have any questions, please feel free to contact Ted Knoll, or his assistant, Shenna Smith at (562) 945-4304.

Thank you for your generous support!
Betty Kenworthy, Past President & Board Member
Whittier Area First Day coalition
X

PILGRIM PINES CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Pilgrim Pines is in need of honored volunteers, summer staff & summer camp nurses! Pilgrim Pines, a ministry of the UCC, seeks to extend an extravagant welcome to all who enter our sacred ground and to further our traditions of eco-justice within a climate of openness and affirmation, while creating space for people to envision a more just and loving world as they unite with the Still Speaking God.

Let's get together and help campers leave camp knowing that taking their faith to the edge and living with God takes a great deal of courage and faith! Please visit our website www.pilgrimpinescamp.org and click on Summer Camp to apply for the summer of 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Jeffrey, Program Director, at (909) 797-1821 ext. 223.

FOUNDER'S DAY TO FEATURE DR. MARCUS BORG

Chapman University is hosting its 27th Annual Founder's Day with a popular and compelling Christian speaker, Dr. Marcus Borg. Dr. Borg is the author of several best-selling books including *Meeting Jesus for the First Time* and *The Heart of Christianity*. Dr. Borg appeals to those who have an extensive theological education as well as those who are newer to biblical and theological questions of faith.

The **2-day event** will be held on the Chapman campus in Orange, CA on March 10-20, 2010. On Friday, March 19, Dr. Borg will offer 3 lectures during the day under the title: *Jesus: Then and Now*. There will also be a Chapman alumni reception at 4 pm. The evening topic will be *Speaking Christian: Redeeming Christian Language*. On Saturday morning, March 20, there will be an extended conversation session with Dr. Borg. Following lunch there will be a brief concert by the Chapman Concert Choir and a worship service in which Dr. Borg will be preaching. Online registration is available at www.chapman.edu/churchrelations/founders.asp. Questions? Please call the Office of Church Relations at (714) 997-6760. **Pastor Loletta will be happy to drive anyone who would like to go!**

ADULT STUDY GROUP

The Adult Study Group meets on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. This group combines bible study and adult Sunday school. Choose the time most convenient for you.

TAI CHI ANYONE?

The Tai Chi class meets Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the patio area. Tai Chi is designed for anyone wishing to gain flexibility and balance, while learning a short form of shadow boxing. All ages and abilities are welcome - no experience is necessary! This is an open class and is FREE.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

If you wish to have the name of a loved one added to the Memorial Plaque in the Memorial Garden, please call the church office, (562) 947-3755, with the full name, year of birth and death. The bronze plaques are 8" x 1" and cost about \$81, at least for the last one we got.

#ARE YOU A LAY LEADER OR GREETER?

Thank you to the many people who have signed up to be greeters and lay leaders this past year. However, we need lay leaders especially beginning the last Sunday in February and greeters beginning in the second week in March. So if you would like to volunteer for the open dates, call *Howard* at (562) 947-3755 or *Beverly* at (562) 693-0453. We thank you for your help!

S.O.S.

Please, **Support Our Sponsors**, aka Hillcrest Art Festival Patrons!

WONDERFUL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Plans are being made now open our doors to the community on Palm Sunday March 28th

10:00am, Maundy Thursday April 1, 6:45pm, and Easter Sunday April 4 at 6:00am and 10:00am.

On Palm Sunday we will "Celebrate the Whole Story" through the art of Mickey McIlrath the "Michelangelo on the Hill." We will have a contemplative art walk, a joyous Palm Sunday service, a foreshadowing the passion of Christ, and then bring out lunch and the Easter bunny assembly line with the Easter basket mission project! We may even have an Easter egg hunt for the youngest ones among the crowd. You are invited to begin collecting, and then to bring Easter basket "makings" following the Festival of the Arts.

On Maundy Thursday we will remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples with a simple soup supper starting at 6:45 in Barwick Hall. We will join in communion and listen to the last words as we extinguish the light. This is always a moving worshipful service.

On Easter we will have our traditional sunrise service led by the youth at 6:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast. In our 10:00 a.m. service we will greet the news of the risen Christ with singing and rejoicing.

Join in planning our celebration and begin inviting your family and friends.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

The annual meeting was a successful celebration of 2009 and planning for 2010. We thanked *Diana Ford* for her service as Moderator. We welcomed *Gail Stier* and *Doris Lynch* as Moderator and Vice Moderator. We also welcomed a group of new and returning Koinonia members. Because the budget is not balanced, it was adopted to allow spending until the March 21, 2010 congregational meeting, pending reports from three taskforces: Fundraising, Fundraising, and Marketing and Growth. Attendees were invited to join a taskforce to provide their input.

Funraising is providing ideas for short-term fundraising ideas that will allow fun and balancing of the budget. Fundraising is providing ideas for longer-term financial stability of the church. Marketing and Growth is providing ideas to get the word out to the community about Hillcrest and invite people to join us. At this time the taskforces are not being asked to do the activities, just brainstorm ideas and present them for the congregation to consider. Everyone is invited to provide ideas to the taskforces. Call the church office to get your name on the list and join others to brainstorm!

We concluded the meeting with a prayer circle and prayer chain consisting of ribbons on which each person had written their prayer for God's direction for Hillcrest. Ribbons are located in the Narthex for anyone who would like to add a prayer to the chain encircling the altar. It was a good, positive and uplifting meeting and we left with a sense of hope, but also a commission to pull together for the New Year.

ATTN: ALL GROCERY SHOPPERS

Hillcrest grocery shoppers have several ways of increasing financial support to the church without incurring any additional costs to themselves. It will only take a few minutes of your time and will help Hillcrest in a big way. If you have any questions about the following instructions, contact *Gloria Karam* at (714) 992-1473/

attached Scanbar letter along with your Ralphs reward card to the checker on your next shopping visit.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

NOTE: Since our website is now secured, these procedures will apply to everyone who has not entered their email address and assigned a password.

Log in to www.ralphs.com

Click on Sign In/Register

Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.

Sign up for a Ralphs Account by following these steps:

4Select a preferred store by entering you zip code and clicking search.

5Enter e-mail address, confirm e-mail address

6Enter password, confirm password

7Click on any email subscriptions you choose and click next

8Enter your REWARDS card number and complete your information, click next

9Agree to the Terms & Conditions by clicking in the box

10Click on complete registration

You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of

the email. You will now see 'Your Ralphs.com Account has been Activated.'

(Continued on next page)

HILLCREST COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

John Tracy Clinic was here to screen the children's hearing on February 3rd & 4th.

The preliminary Fall enrollment forms went home to the parents. They will let us know what their needs are for the 2010-2011 school year.

Our See's candy fundraiser begins on February 22nd. The candy will be delivered before Easter.

The Elks vision screening will be here to screen the children on March 1st & 2nd.

Joan, Dani, and a few teachers attended a Professional Growth Conference (Building Bridges to the Future) on Saturday, February 20th.

The classroom heaters have arrived – thank you *Owen!*

Love, *Joan & Dani*

THE HILLCREST BOOK CLUB

Normally the club meets the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is **Thursday, March 18, 2010**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Newcomers are always very welcome. The book chosen for the next meeting is ***The Poisonwood Bible*** (1998) by *Barbara Kingsolver*. It is a bestselling novel about a missionary family, the Prices, who in 1959 move from Georgia to the fictional village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo. The Prices' story, which parallels their host country's tumultuous emergence into the post-colonial era, is narrated by the five women of the family: Orleanna, long-suffering wife of Baptist missionary Nathan Price, and their four daughters – Rachel, Leah, Adah, and Ruth May.

MOSEYING ALONG FROM GOSHEN TO SINAI

You are invited to attend this serious and lighthearted study of the life of Moses (Genesis 30 to Exodus 20), and the events surrounding the first Passover, in preparation for the Christian community remembering Jesus' observance of the same. These classes will be led by the *Rev. Charles Murphy* and will meet Wednesday evenings March 10, 2010, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. A free-will offering will be received. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Please join us for the next women's luncheon. It will be Monday, March 22, 2010, at El Cholo Restaurant at noon. Please let Sally know, (562) 902-6539, if you are planning to come.

CLAUDE DRAKE AWARD

It is the custom since 2001, when the *Claude Drake Award* was instituted, to recognize someone who goes "Above and Beyond" at our annual meeting in January. The 2009 recipient is *Bryan Pitzer*, who in his young life of twenty-two years has proven his dedication, particularly this past year.

Bryan took over *Claude's* Sunday morning audio duties upon *Claude's* move to the beach, is a member of the pastoral search committee, was a major contributor to Art Festival set-up last year, and is Facilities chair this year. *Bryan* is a full time student in aeronautical engineering at Cal Poly Pomona and works at Knott's Berry Farm as Supervisor of Ride Operations. We are indeed lucky to have this very busy young man contribute so much of his time to Hillcrest.

Diana Ford, Moderator 2009

VON'S (ESCRIP)

If you're a Von's shopper and not yet registered with the eScrip program, now is the time to start. Go to the members/supporters section of www.escript.com to get started. Hillcrest's Group ID# is 136559149. You can also register you credit cards (don't forget your Macy's card) and Hillcrest will receive a small percentage on your purchases at restaurants (2.5-5%) and other businesses. If you don't have internet access, complete the eScrip form, and mail it to eScrip. These forms are available in the narthex. If you are unable to get one in the narthex, call the church office at (562) 947-3755 and we will be happy to mail it to you.

STATER BROS.

We're still selling the Stater Bros. gift cards in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. We continue to receive a **six (6)** percent commission on these sales. Again, if you can't get to church to purchase these, you can send you check made out to Hillcrest to the church office with the memo portion stating Stater Bros. and we will mail back your Stater Bros. gift card(s).

ALBERTSONS

Albertsons has discontinued their Community Partners program. We are now selling Albertson gift cards in \$10, \$25 and \$50 denominations. We will receive a **five (5)** percent commission on these sales. As with Stater Bros. if you cannot get to church to purchase these cards, send you check made out to Hillcrest to the church office with memo portion stating Albertsons and we will mail back your Albertsons gift card(s).

RALPHS

ATTN: EVERYONE MUST REGISTER THEIR RALPHS CARD.

These instructions, provided by Ralphs, are rather lengthy. **Hillcrest's NPO # is 84062.** If you do not have internet access, give the

**THE DIGNITY MEMORIAL
VIETNAM WALL EVENT**

The Wall is a traveling ¾ scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Dedicated to Vietnam veterans and honoring all U.S. servicemen and servicewomen, the faux-granite replica is 240 feet long, eight feet high and contains the names of more than 58,000 Americans who died or are missing in Vietnam. The replica is a service for those who might never visit the nation's capital to experience "The Wall" firsthand. The replica is open March 23-30, 2010, 24 Hours.

Event Location

Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary #FD970

3888 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601

**CONSECRATING STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN!**

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. You can mail it to the church attention *Laurie Gjoraas*. You are invited to consider your commitment to our ministry together in your pledge of time, talent and finances for the next year and beyond. You are also invited to consider Hillcrest in your will and estate planning. Your commitment and pledge help planning for next year's budget and will help

the search committee with plans for calling our future pastor.

3. Click on 'Click here' to login to your account
 - d. If your session has expired, you will be directed to the sign-in page
 - e. Enter your email address and password to access your account
6. Scroll down until you see the Edit Community Contribution link. Click on this link
7. Enter NOP number or name of organization, select organization from list and click save changes
8. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will now see your organization's name on your account page.
9. You have now completed your Online rewards card registration AND your Community Contributions registration
10. Click on 'logout' at the top of the page.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED
YOUR REWARDS CARD ON-LINE
(This means that you have already entered
you email address and assigned yourself a
password)**

Log in to www.ralphs.com

Click Sign In/Register

Enter your email address and password

Click on 'My Account' (In the top right hand corner)

View all your information and edit as necessary

17To make a change to your organization selection:

18Click on 'Edit Community Contribution Program Information'

19Type in your 5 digit NOP number or the first 5 letters of your organization's name and click 'Search'

20In the 'Select Your Organization Section', click next to your organization's name

21Click on 'Save Changes'

22Review all information shown on your account

23You will now see all of the changes you made and your account is updated

24Click on 'Logout' at the top of the page

We have copies of the Ralphs Community Contribution Program letter with our Organizations Scanbar code available in the narthex. Again, if you are not able to get one from the narthex, call the church office and we will be glad to send you a copy.

HILLCREST CHURCH ENTRY GATES

The intent is to help protect the property, particularly after hours, from 6 pm to 7:30 am. When you leave, make sure you hook the chain to the post then secure the chain with the padlock. In addition to the gates, we ask you to be careful to close and lock all doors and windows before leaving the property. Thank you for your cooperation.

Church Council K-2

MESSAGE FROM KOINONIA #4

The first special offering of the calendar year will be for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 14th. One Great Hour of Sharing carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The United Church of Christ works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Your donation will go a long way to helping those in need. Let's share God's message of love through One Great Hour of Sharing!