

August 2015

[www.iucc.org](http://www.iucc.org)

Editor: Tricia Aynes

## *New Leaders Were Installed on July 19*



### **Coordinating Council Members**

Pastor Paul (standing) with L to R: Dawn Price  
(Ministries Board Chair), Renae Boyum (Moderator),  
& Dave Schofield (Administration Board Chair)



### **New IUCC leaders for 2015-16**

(Please note that not all leaders were available for the photo op)

Photos courtesy of Jim Aynes



### **Ministries Board Members**

Front row L to R: Brian Pearcy-Schofield, Dawn Price,  
& Lesley Wheland  
Back row L to R: Kathi Smith, Janet Emery, Suellen Rowe,  
August Lobato, & Ken Wyant



### **Administration Board Members**

Front row L to R: Wayne Banwell, Dave Schofield, & Tricia Aynes  
Back row L to R: Brad Beers, Cindy O'Dell, Colin Austin,  
Ron Steiner, Bill Lawrence, & Dale Vaughn





# Vacation Bible School



This July we had our 2nd annual Vacation Bible School! We had 18 kids attend from ages 3-18. The theme was *The Search*, and the kids spent the week learning about the life of Jesus. We can't wait for next year!

*~ Photos & info from Sarah Fiske-Phillips*



# From the Pastor's Desk

*the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström*



August—the laziest month of the year, as far as I am concerned. It's a time I use for re-grouping and planning ahead for the fall. What would we like to see happen? How will the Sundays unfold, and what will the activities be that spring from them?

My father and I used to compare notes when he was alive about what was happening in our respective churches over the years from similar vantage points—we were both deacons in our very different settings.

His was a small, white clapboard church from 1846—the “new” church that replaced the smaller 18th century building on the same grounds near Yarmouthport on Cape Cod. Mine was a gothic splendor that boasted the country's largest church pipe organ in downtown Los Angeles.

At his church, a deacon walked up to the front and said in that Capey accent, “Let's ahll take owah seats, now, we-ah gonna staht.” And he or she would turn and help a child light the candles from a matchbook that was left from the week before on the altar. The organ then began to play, and the box-pew Dad occupied (with the door still on it) was directly behind the organ, making it an object of great noise and fascination for me on visits.

At my church, the doors would open in the back and a long processional of flags, choir and deacons would sway down the aisle to a hymn in 4/4 time. The differences were fun to talk about, and we appreciated visiting each other's church.

The similarities were striking as well. Being a deacon was almost like being in a society with its own language. We were there to serve. Our job was to take on one or two of the many tasks that make up the running of a Sunday morning church service and what goes on around it. With the tasks spread around us, it was never overwhelming. But the development of the special language came in making sure that all of the tasks eventually got covered, and then seeing it run like clockwork gave us a certain sense of (humble) pride in knowing we were responsible for making it so. It was an introvert's heaven! For new people, or people looking to get to know more people at the church, friendships were forged that helped people find their “niche” in the church. The

Deacons became a core group of compadres and a support system, while performing a crucial service to the church.

Whether it was on my complex 30 member Board of Deacons or my father's 12 member Deacons' Group, the tasks were really the same, the service to the church just as valued, and the benefit of finding “your people” in the church was invaluable.

Right now, there are things we believe we could do more efficiently on Sundays, and I think that a Deacons' Group just might be the answer. Jerry Price has been leading trainings, and he has been finding some good people who are willing to serve. He still needs some more. Would you be willing to be one of those people who would take on a task on Sunday morning on a rotating basis? Or, are you newer to the church and looking for a way to find your own niche? This might be a good way in.

Send me an e-mail, or if you have a directory, send one directly to Jerry Price. We will be happy to hear from you, and we want to make this program work together.



I've been bragging lately about how we have been experiencing “The Golden Age of Youth and Children's Ministry” at the church, and it is true. Sarah, Annie and Tricia, now helped by Aidan, have been doing great things with our programs for kids, and I know you have seen the results. There are more kids than ever, and more activities going on for them.

Well, it turns out that while all of this momentum will continue, change is in the air. Annie and Tricia are ready to move on to full-time work. Annie Mellott graduated from the Claremont School of Theology last spring and wants to pursue a degree in Library Sciences. She found a job with a library in Mission Viejo. They need her to start now.

At the same time, Tricia Abouabdo is finishing her work at Chapman, and found a teaching position that will begin in a few weeks.

It isn't just that they have done such a wonderful job here at the church—they have gone above and beyond with service

*From the Pastor's Desk continued on page 5*

*Editor's Note:* As many of you know, Pastor Paul and others within our congregation have been concerned about the recent Irvine City Council decision to rescind the Living Wage Ordinance. Their concern has extended to attending City Council meetings, where both Pastor Paul and retired UCC Pastor Ken Wyant have addressed the Council. Despite their best efforts, the Council voted 4-1 to rescind. The letter below, signed by both men as well as other clergy within and outside of our congregation, is the latest effort to call attention to this issue and try to persuade the Council to reinstate the ordinance. The letter resulted in a front page article in the *OC Register* on July 29. You may view the article by typing this URL into your computer: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/irvine-674460-wage-city.html>

**From: the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström and Many Religious Leaders in Irvine and Orange County**  
**To: Irvine City Council Members—Mayor Steven Choi, Mayor Pro-Tem Jeffrey Lalloway, Councilwoman Lynn Schott, and Councilwoman Christina Shea**  
CC: Councilmember Beth Krom  
Re: Faith Leaders' Response to the Living Wage Ordinance Removal  
Date: July 27, 2015

Dear Members of the Irvine City Council,

As religious leaders and workers in the field of providing services to those most in need in our City of Irvine, we, the undersigned, protest the vote that was taken by the Irvine City Council on June 9, 2015, to rescind the Living Wage Ordinance and call for it be reinstated.

According to recent figures supplied by Families Forward, it takes an average of four full-time salaries at minimum wage to support a family with two children in a two-bedroom apartment in Orange County. Irvine is even more expensive. This is intolerable. It has grown to be an impossible situation that we, as leaders in our community, by virtue of the positions we hold and serve, are morally compelled to address. Instead, a choice has been made to inflict more pain with the decision to reduce wages for our lowest paid workers.

Each of our religious traditions speaks to the need to look after the poor, the outcast and the marginalized. A decision to reduce the wages of some of the lowest paid workers during a time of strong economic growth is antithetical to what our unique faiths teach us about fairness and justice. In no religious tradition does it teach practicing members to come together to remove 20% or, in fact, any percentage of a struggling person's wages—someone who just wants the same chance to live and raise a family as anyone else.

At a time when our country is working to address income inequality, we cannot be the only city that is marching against all that is good and all that is moral and ethical. It is against the precepts of all of our religious traditions.

Rescinding the Living Wage Ordinance does not show the people of Irvine to be the people we claim to be—fair, equal and desirous of looking out for the happiness and well-being of our entire community. As religious leaders, we are compelled to act as a moral compass when good people momentarily lose their way and march down the wrong path. We want to be proud of our city and what it stands for again, and so we, the undersigned, ask that the Living Wage Ordinance be reinstated.

Yours Most Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström – Irvine United Congregational Church

ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL SIGNATORIES:

IRVINE

The Rev. A. Paige Eaves – University United Methodist Church

The Rev. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr. – Christ Our Redeemer AME Church

Sheikh Atef Mahgoub, Religious Director – Islamic Center of Irvine

The Rev. Ken Wyant – Retired United Church of Christ Minister, Irvine

Rabbi Arnold Rachlis – University Synagogue

Sherri Sisson, Presiding Clerk – Orange County Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

The Rev. Dr. Bil Aulenbach – Retired Episcopal Priest, Irvine

The Rev. George Johnson – Retired ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Minister, Irvine



trips, VBS, video projects, and in general, being just such wonderful and fun spirits to be around. I will miss them both terribly.

So—a search will begin after Sarah and I take a look at the job descriptions and see if we might not want to tweak them a little moving forward, and then we will be looking at Chapman University in particular, where we want to cultivate an ongoing relationship with our UCC partner there.

In the meantime—

- Come join us for the Pastor's Potluck on August 4 in the playground. All are welcome, and we are emphasizing our Bread for the Journey and Adult Ed programs.
- Come on Sunday, August 9, to say, "Good-Bye" to Annie and Tricia.
- Come on Sunday, August 16, to welcome back Ruth Sandberg, who will lead us in hymns that will be especially familiar to former Shepherd of the Hills members.
- And, come on August 23 for Comma Group Sunday. See the video, hear about small groups, and let's get you registered for the fall. In the meantime, there's nothing stopping you from getting registered online. The curriculum will be based on Rachel Held Evans' new book. Rachel will be our keynote speaker in September at our Faith and Works Conference.

This Sunday? A gentle Communion Sunday with friends.

See You in Church—

*Pastor Paul*

#### GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

The Rev. D. Mark Davis, Ph.D., Pastor – St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach  
The Rev. Chineta Goodjoin – New Hope Presbyterian Church, Orange  
Pastor Gale L. Oliver, Jr. – Greater Light Missionary Baptist Church, Santa Ana  
The Rev. Fernando Tamara – Primera Asamblea del Condado de Orange, Santa Ana  
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson – Fairview Community Church, Costa Mesa  
Imam Sayed Moustafa Al-Qazwini – Islamic Educational Center of OC, Costa Mesa  
Mobed Maneck Bhujwala – The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, Huntington Beach  
The Rev. Kent Doss – Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Mission Viejo  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Holland – Church of the Foothills, Santa Ana  
The Rev. William Moses Summerville – Kingdom Come Community Church, Buena Park  
The Rev. Dr. Peggy Price, Minister Emeritus – Seal Beach Center for Spiritual Living, Seal Beach  
The Rev. R. Winston Presnall – First Presbyterian Church of Orange, Orange  
The Rev. Sian Wiltshire – Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, Costa Mesa  
Rabbi Dr. Stephen J. Einstein, Rabbi Emeritus – Congregation B'nai Tzedek, Fountain Valley  
The Rev. Dr. Karen Stoyanoff – Unitarian Universalist Church, Anaheim

#### ORANGE COUNTY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Orange County Interdenominational Alliance – OCIA  
Council of Muslim Women  
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California

# Call to Action: Justice for the Incarcerated

Guest preacher and panel presentation on July 26 draws a crowd of over 100



*L to R: Monica Brasov-Curca (OCCCO), Donald Craig (NAACP), Felicity Figueroa (Friends of OC Detainees), Pastor Paul, David Gist (Bread for the World), and guest preacher Delonte Gholston (Pastor at New City Church of LA) with his girlfriend.*

In his sermon on July 26, guest pastor Delonte Gholston had four things to share with us:

- Jesus wants us to break the chains of abuse and violence that we see in our systems of justice
- Jesus comes to break the chains of self-inflicted wounds
- Jesus comes to break our chains of fear by bringing grace and mercy, healing and restoration
- Jesus comes to the other side to free us, that we might see and receive his mercy

The theme was carried out in the afternoon panel on incarceration, where guest speakers outlined some grim statistics: The U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and one out of three black men is on probation, in prison, or on parole.



Monica Brasov-Curca of OCCCO cited Dr. Stephen Ray, whose analysis showed a systemic “corralling of dark bodies” that manifests itself in unearned misery and mass incarceration. Donald Craig, Branch President, NAACP, emphasized that we need to break the chain through education.

David Gist of Bread for the World said “Mass incarceration is a huge driver of hunger and poverty - former prisoners can lose food assistance, access to social services, housing, driving, and voting privileges. They’re paying dues again and again. We pour our resources into strengthening the jail system rather than re-entry programs. We are decreasing public safety through mass incarceration.” Gist outlined three policies that need to change:

- Stop mandatory minimum sentences and implement smarter sentencing reforms that return the power of discretion to judges
- Restore rights and benefits to returning citizens
- Strengthen funding to programs that help returning citizens (job training, support, government services and drug rehab programs)

Felicity Figueroa from Friends of OC detainees spoke movingly about the loneliness experienced by immigration detainees and urged people to visit.

The panelists agreed that members of the public need to inform themselves, meet with their Congressional representatives, and write letters urging reform.

## Adult Education & Programs

### Fall Event Updates

There are two big things going on at IUCC this fall in the area of Adult Education & Programs!



Comma Groups begin in September. We will be going through Rachel Held Evans latest book, *Searching for Sunday*.

Comma Group registration is now available online at [iucc.org/register](http://iucc.org/register).

Books are available when you register or on Amazon.



Also in September, IUCC will be hosting our big Adult Education event—the **Faith & Works Conference**. Rachel Held Evans will be our keynote speaker. She will be joined by local voices including our very own Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström; IUCC Ministry Board Chair, Dawn Price; as well as the Rev. Mandy Sloan Flemming from Laguna Beach UMC.

The conference is on Friday, September 11 & Saturday, September 12. For full details on the conference, visit [iucc.org/conference](http://iucc.org/conference) or contact Matthew by email [matthew@iucc.org](mailto:matthew@iucc.org) or via the church office.

## A Letter from the Scoutmaster of IUCC's Boy Scout Troop 602

To the members of Irvine UCC,

On Monday, July 27, the Boy Scouts of America passed a resolution to allow gay, lesbian, and bisexual adult leaders in Scouting. This follows the resolution approved in May 2013 that allowed gay youth members to participate in Scouting.

There is one key difference: while youth members cannot be denied membership in any Scouting unit with regards to their sexual orientation, this recent decision still gives latitude to the chartered organization to accept or deny an adult leader as part of their unit based on religious principles. However, membership in the Boy Scouts of America itself, on the national level, cannot be denied to said prospective adult leaders. On that account alone, this resolution represents the culmination of a decades-long effort to make Scouting an inclusive organization that allows all young men to cultivate their ethics, citizenship, and life skills.

The United Church of Christ must be recognized for making the passage of this resolution possible. Over the past year or so, high-level talks between the UCC and the BSA have been taking place. The UCC working group on Scouting, which our troop's Chartered Organization Representative, Matt Mirmak, and I are a part of, insisted that the UCC's own religious principles forbade it to deny membership to adult leaders based on sexual orientation, and finalized a memorandum between itself and the BSA national council to that effect. The language of that memorandum, and its spirit of selecting leaders in accordance with the principles of the chartered organization, heavily influenced the resolution that the BSA adopted on Monday.

Looking forward, Irvine UCC members who support inclusive Scouting, and Scouting in general, should do two things.

The first one is to support our unit, Troop 602. Now that the BSA has given its blessing to allow us to have adult leaders who happen to be gay, we must show them the fruits of that promise and make our troop an example of all Scouting has to offer the community and its members. Encourage your sons and their friends to join our troop or at least see what we are about. Tell others of the accomplishments of our youth. Let the troop know of any opportunities where we can help the church or community with regards to service projects and other vital functions of civil society. If you have any old camping gear you want to let go of, please consider donating it to our troop. To simply collectively move onto the next issue now that this one is resolved is to do a disservice to what we were fighting for. Scouting is too important to be surrendered to prejudice, so let us show the world why it is important in the first place.

Second, let others know that we are an inclusive troop. There will be adult leaders who will be turned away from some units acting on the religious values of their chartered organization. They are still in Scouting, but need a home, so please let them know about us. We need youth members and adults to lead them. The more we have of either, the stronger our troop and Scouting as a whole becomes.

Thank you for your support of our troop and the Boy Scouts of America. We look forward to a brighter future for our troop and for Scouting as a whole.

Yours in Scouting,  
Paul Madariaga  
Scoutmaster, Troop 602





## Farewell to Annie & Tricia



Our beloved youth leader, Annie Mellott, will be leaving IUCC in August to pursue a career as a librarian. She will be beginning her Masters of Library Science and has accepted a position at the Mission Viejo Public Library. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and thank her wholeheartedly for her 2+ years at IUCC.

Our intrepid Sunday School Coordinator, Tricia Abouabdo, is finishing her M.A. degree in Secondary Education at Chapman University and has found a teaching position that will begin in a few weeks. She has done wonderful work in her 2 years here at IUCC, and we wish her every success!



## August Birthdays

|      |                  |      |                  |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 8/02 | Mark Allen       | 8/07 | Nitz Martin      |
| 8/05 | Janet Bamper     | 8/23 | Katherine Mirmak |
| 8/06 | Chantel Bermudez | 8/05 | Tom Moss         |
| 8/20 | Keith Boyum      | 8/25 | Eric Nelson      |
| 8/09 | Jo Cranston      | 8/06 | Don Owens        |
| 8/12 | Mary Dolphin     | 8/26 | Noel Puga        |
| 8/02 | Nancy Dreckman   | 8/09 | Glenda Rynn      |
| 8/06 | Paul Feick       | 8/22 | Jean Stewart     |
| 8/29 | Rogene Field     | 8/12 | Helen Swanson    |
| 8/27 | Lorraine Fox     | 8/09 | Dylan Trout      |
| 8/04 | Worth Giller     | 8/27 | Jaren Whitsitt   |
| 8/13 | Dara Hodges      | 8/24 | Dean Whitten     |
| 8/09 | Jim Martin       | 8/02 | Kendra Williams  |

## Mark Your Calendar



**COMMA GROUP REGISTRATION**  
You may register online at <http://iucc.org/register> between now and September 1. This year's Comma Groups will meet for 7 monthly sessions (September, October, November, January, February, March, and April). We will discuss *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans. You may purchase a book during the online registration process.



### PASTOR'S POTLUCK

**TUESDAY \* AUG 4 \* 6:00 p.m.**

Join us on the back patio with your BBQ item and a potluck item to share! The grill will be hot and waiting for you. Please bring your own tableware. Soft drinks and condiments provided.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**WED. \* AUG 5 \* OFF CAMPUS**

The Aug 5 meeting of our Women's Fellowship will be attending the Natural History Lecture at the Back Bay Science Center from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. this Wednesday. We will car pool from church at 6:15 p.m. Contact Pat Sauter for details.



### ISAIAH HOUSE SHELTER

**WED. \* AUG 12 \* 3:30 p.m.**

Contact Steve Goetz for details and to RSVP: [sgoetz53@gmail.com](mailto:sgoetz53@gmail.com).



### SEEKERS SUMMER LUNCHEON

**TUES. \* AUG 18 \* 11:30 a.m. \***

#### Laguna Woods Village \*

Seekers annual summer luncheon is at Restaurant 19 in Laguna Woods Village on Aug. 18 at 11:30. To make a reservation call Reefa at 949- 859-7091 or e-mail: [reefahanny@comline.com](mailto:reefahanny@comline.com) There is an Aug. 10 deadline. If uncertain, do call, as cancellations are no problem. To carpool from the church contact Joan McDonald: 949 552-5593 or e-mail [joanlmcDonald@aol.com](mailto:joanlmcDonald@aol.com)



## Moderator's Column

by Renae Boyum



“To get into the righteous groove is to live in a way that promotes and sustains right relationships all around you with the community and with the Ground of All Being.”

This quote was part of Pastor Paul's sermon on the 23rd Psalm. The idea of “righteous grooves” resonated deeply with me, so when the Coordinating Council (Pastor Paul, Dave

Schofield, Dawn Price, and myself) began planning for the IUCC Leadership Retreat, we embraced this theme.

The Leadership Retreat was held July 17 and 18. On July 17 thirty-five leaders (both outgoing and incoming) gathered at our home in Irvine. With the Comma flag proudly flying in our front yard, we shared an evening of fellowship and showing appreciation to all who were gathered in our back yard.

On July 18, twenty-seven members of the IUCC leadership team gathered at Neighborhood Congregational Church in Laguna Beach to learn more about “finding our righteous groove.” Reverend Mary Scifres was our retreat facilitator. She used her considerable skills as coach, consultant, and teacher to lead us in a variety of exercises to help us better understand our vision, purpose, and goals for the future. Pastor Paul led us in a lively discussion of the differences between pastoral and program sized congregations and how we can better understand and plan for growth in the years ahead.

Along with Dawn and Dave, I shared my vision of what a righteous groove is. We thought about and talked about, with Mary's guidance, questions like -- “Imagine IUCC five years from now -- what do you see, what do you feel, what are others saying about IUCC? What's present that isn't happening today? What is appropriately gone?” As you can imagine, the conversation was creative, thoughtful, and thought-provoking. As you can imagine, conversation turned to thoughts of an upcoming capital and building campaign and how better and improved buildings can help meet our program goals.

At the end of the retreat, I think we were all energized by both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us. We had laid the ground work for “righteous grooves” in a way that added meaning to relationships both within the leadership group and for IUCC, as a whole.

But “righteous grooves” were also a part of the rest of the weekend. I was reminded of this as I sat in the sanctuary on Saturday evening with the beautiful music of the Northwest Boys' Choir enfolding and enveloping me. I was reminded of this on Leadership Sunday as Paul described the first leadership retreat that the disciples and Jesus planned. I was reminded of this as members came forward to lay a hand of blessing on all of the IUCC leaders (as shown in photo below)! The feeling of support and community was palpable -- we were indeed making and finding our “righteous grooves.”

In faith and community, *Renae*



# Building Plan Update

by Anne Rosse



“Patience and diligence, like faith, remove mountains.”

I recently made this quote by William Penn part of my laptop’s screensaver, needing a constant reminder of how much can truly be accomplished through faith, patience and diligence. Speaking of patience ... more than a year ago, IUCC submitted its vision of

a new campus to the City of Irvine for a Modified Conditional Use Permit, the next step in planning for our future and legacy.

The City is satisfied with the plan itself. All that remains is for the City to accept a required traffic study. In early July, we submitted that study to the City and just received the first set of comments back – we had anticipated a few rounds of exchanging information between our traffic engineers and the City before the report is finally approved. With summer vacations, the response rate of these exchanges has been slowed a bit but we will be responding back to the City promptly to keep that exchange of information moving along. Once they accept the traffic study, we anticipate the whole project undergoing a final administrative review, with subsequent approval sometime later this summer or very early fall. When that happens, we’ll be sure to announce it promptly and look forward to a church-wide celebration of this milestone!

In the meantime, we are preparing for a visit from Priscilla Bizer in late September. Priscilla is our UCC capital campaign consultant and through preaching, holding a forum, and meeting with folks, she will help us understand what a campaign would be like and how it would benefit IUCC. Likely, we would ask the congregation in January 2016 (at the Winter Congregational Meeting) if they are ready to undertake a campaign to fund the first phase of the Master Plan, which includes: new administrative and meeting space, a welcoming church frontage, enhanced patio space for fellowship, and other benefits. If yes, the campaign could begin as early as February. If successful, we could be asking the congregation for its endorsement to move forward in May 2016. We’ve been advised that from the time we decide to move forward with building, it will be 6-9 months for planning/permitting/bidding and 18-24 months to occupancy (from the original decision date). So,

conceivably, we could be looking at shovels in the ground in early 2017, best case scenario.

For my part, I’ve been reading about church capital campaigns and have found some of the slogans that other churches have used to be compelling, including:

- Hope Grows Here
- Believe in Our Future
- More than Bricks: a Foundation for Our Future
- Grounded in Faith; Growing to Serve
- Turn Out, Not In

Please let me know if you have a suggestion for IUCC’s slogan! These slogans have me thinking about all of the ways that IUCC would be enriched by building out the campus we have envisioned, including: our ability to serve our neighbors, share the message that God is Still Speaking, and extend our extravagant IUCC welcome to all. I am tremendously excited to explore this next step, to see if IUCC is ready to undertake the first phase of our Master Plan. If you’d like to review the Master Plan, please click to: <http://iucc.org/portal/documents/>.

If you’d like more information about this project, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Otherwise, please watch this space for future updates. Through patience, diligence and faith, we will get there!



## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

We need hosts for coffee hour on Sundays. Please sign up on the patio. Thanks!

**Editor’s Note:** Long-time newsletter contributor Lorraine Fox was unable to submit her usual column this month because she is recovering from a bad fall. We miss her keen sense of humor and her wise words, and we hope she is back among us soon!

