

## All-Church Picnic at Mason Park on Sept. 20



Photos by Tricia Aynes

# “Pizza With a Purpose” on Sept. 10 with Pizza-Tossing Pastor Paul



IUCC came out in force to support California Pizza Kitchen's "Pizza With a Purpose" event. CPK donated 20% of its proceeds that day to CROP Hunger Walk. Our own Pastor Paul was the Guest Chef, tossing pizzas all evening for a worthy cause. Since it was a Thursday night, our choir was well represented!  
~ Photos from a variety of sources, including Lavinia Cooper, Michael Spindle, Paul Tellstrom, and Nancy Dreckman



# Faith & Works Conference

by Tricia Aynes

IUCC was fortunate to welcome four dynamic speakers to our Faith & Works Conference on September 11-12. It was a thought-provoking event centered on how to bring millennials (those born from 1980-2000) back to the church. Workshop leaders Rachel Held Evans, Dawn Price, Pastor Paul Tellstrom, and Mandy Sloan Fleming brought their unique and compelling perspectives to the topic.

“Millennials are tired of the cultural wars – we are looking for an authentic community where we can wrestle with questions of faith without fear of judgement,” said Rachel Held Evans. “If it’s social justice without Jesus and Jesus without social justice, why do we need a church? Millennials have been advertised to their entire lives – church is the last place we want to be sold another product. We’re searching for Jesus. We meet God in everyday things - things we can taste and touch - but we don’t believe they’re enough. We build unnecessary obstructions and get in our own way. Grace is already on hand – we’d best surrender to it. Get out of the way, and God will move.”

“My identity as a beloved child of God supersedes any other title the world can give me,” she added. “Over and over again, millennials tell me they leave the church because it is not a safe place to ask big questions or to tell the truth. For many churches, their AA meetings may be their holiest hour of the week. [In AA meetings] They confess to God and one another the exact nature of their wrongs, and they tell the truth. People bond more deeply over shared brokenness than over shared beliefs. The leader’s role is not to lecture, but to go first to initiate confession of truth – it frees everyone else to tell their own truth. It initiates a moment of vulnerability.”

In a segment on anointing the sick, she pointed out that “There’s a difference between CURING and HEALING. The church is called to the work of healing. The problem is that when people bring it to the church, the members - with the best of intentions - look for a cure. We should talk instead about pain, and anoint it as holy. Healing is relational – it takes time. Walking with someone in grief requires patience and presence. The church doesn’t offer a cure or a quick fix – it offers death and resurrection, and it offers grace. Anything else is snake oil. The church says, ‘I won’t

take away your pain and discomfort, but I’ll sit with you in it.’ Entering into someone else’s pain and anointing it – this matters, this is a big deal. Even suffering can be an anointing. The church needs to be a holy space that is judgement free. Just be present.”

Dawn Price, Executive Director of the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach, spoke movingly about the “works” part of the equation. “I help people stop being homeless. For me, my work has called me to my faith.” She read from Luke 13:31-35, which talks about the fox and the mother hen. She likened it to her work at the homeless shelter. Her fox is the vexing problem of homelessness and its elements: poverty, injustice, mental illness, substance abuse, and more. The faith community and the shelter staff gather the homeless together under their wings to try to help them. But the hen must realize that there are limits to her wings.

She can’t protect all the chicks from the fox. We should not focus so much on our failures that we don’t recognize our successes.

“Service is profoundly fulfilling,” she added. “This work centers me. In service I find salvation in protecting, and I find protection myself. Service helps me to connect to others more deeply. I see how we’re the same. Their challenges mirror my own. This is full-hearted living – a life rich in love and connection. Vulnerability is the key

to connection. When we numb negative feelings, we numb that as well.” She urged us to “Let your service inspire your faith – lead with your values, and don’t let your fear stop you ... opportunities are everywhere. Identify your values, then hear the question and vote with your feet.”

Pastor Paul had us take a quiz to determine our “spiritual type.” We sorted ourselves into four categories: Sage/Scholar; Mystic/Contemplative; Prophet/Activist; and Lover/Pietist. “All four exist in every church and we need all of them,” he concluded.

Mandy Sloan Fleming talked about Ecclesiology – ways to enliven the church further and act it out in the world. She suggested we ask ourselves, “What is the nature of the church today? We’ll let you choose. The challenge is to find authentic and vibrant ways for us to tell others. Religiosity is not instilled in everyone the same way.” She quoted May Oliver: “Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.”

Special thanks to Matthew and Chris Redrich for an exceptional job of planning and executing this event and to the hospitality team for keeping everyone fed and comfortable!



# Boy Scout Troop 602 Rebuilds "Elizabeth's Garden"

Photos by Matt Mirmak (see article on next page)



# IUCC's Boy Scout Troop 602 Rebuilds "Elizabeth's Garden"

by Matt Mirmak



There has been a lot of rhetoric recently about how we can be responsible stewards of the environment in our daily lives. For one group on the IUCC campus, the organization that they are affiliated with has been putting the environmental stewardship rhetoric into action for 105 years.

Boy Scout Troop 602, sponsored by IUCC, is less than two years old, but their age has not stopped them from taking initiative when it comes to doing good deeds for their community and the environment. The first service project that the Scouts have taken on is rebuilding "Elizabeth's Garden" for the Early Childhood Center. The garden was dedicated in 2013 to IUCC's former associate pastor Elizabeth Griswold, who had a love for children and gardening. The garden was supposed to be a vegetable and flower garden to be shared with the children of the ECC and the IUCC community. In two years, "Elizabeth's Garden" had gone from being a lush garden full of life to an eyesore on the ECC's playground.

While it is easy to point fingers and place blame on who was responsible for the rapid decline of "Elizabeth's Garden," the Scouts of Troop 602 decided to take a different approach - an approach that is consistent with the values of the Boy Scout Oath and Law. They took initiative and offered to help rebuild the garden beds. With the blessing of IUCC's Administrative Board and the ECC Committee, the Scouts embarked on a trip to Lowe's to price out the materials that would be necessary to rebuild "Elizabeth's Garden."

A few days later, the Scouts in their full uniforms presented their proposal to rebuild "Elizabeth's Garden" to the IUCC Administrative Board. Their presentation included their budget for the project along with some drawings of the new garden beds. The IUCC Administrative Board was so impressed with the professionalism of Troop 602's presentation that they voted to accept their proposal to rebuild "Elizabeth's Garden."

Troop 602 is looking for donations to help rebuild "Elizabeth's Garden." Some of the items that the troop is requesting are drought resistant plants (i.e. succulents), vegetable seeds (preferably non-GMO), chemical free fertilizer, and any other materials that will be necessary to complete the project. In addition, the Scouts would appreciate donations of time and labor to help rebuild the garden.

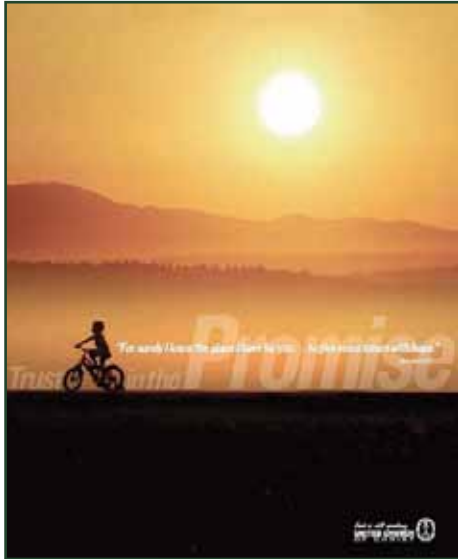
If you have a few hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, please feel free to help out our Scouts as they are working very hard to complete this project before the end of the year. Any assistance that you can provide Troop 602 would be greatly appreciated.

If you want to learn more about or enroll your son (ages 11-17) in Troop 602, please visit [www.iucc.org/troop602](http://www.iucc.org/troop602) or contact Matt Mirmak, Chartered Organization Representative, at [troop602occ@gmail.com](mailto:troop602occ@gmail.com)



# Stewardship Moment: Annual Stewardship Campaign 2016

by Bill Lawrence



As the seasons of 2015 move from Summer to Autumn, our church calendar also moves forward. In October we will begin our 2016 Annual Stewardship Campaign. Your IUCC Leadership Team is busy working on their ministry plans and associated budgets for each individual ministry for 2016. These aspirational budgets will then be reviewed and adjusted by the IUCC Administrative Board, who will then develop a budget for 2016. This budget is then funded by your Stewardship pledges.

The 2016 Stewardship letters will go out to IUCC members in early October. These letters contain materials provided by UCC which include pledge cards and inserts which refer to scripture and the promise that Jesus made to his chosen people... "a future with hope."

IUCC provides us with a glimpse of that bright future. Through its ministries we are all blessed. Belief in the future means giving to the present. When you receive your Stewardship letter, please give generously to support IUCC and the bright future it helps envision.



## GREENfaith Team

Committed to Environmental Justice



You've noticed our logo? Thanks goes to a young adult member of our church, Sara McComb, who created it. Every time you see it you'll know that we have something to say.

In the words of Pope Francis, "When we do harm to the land, we do harm to the people, especially the poor." What are the steps we need to take as individuals, as a church, as a society so that our earth and our people are not being destroyed? Such a question may seem overwhelming. However, we can begin with small steps. Some possibilities:

**Water Bottles:** Do you know how much oil is required to make the typical bottle of water? Fill a plastic water bottle  $\frac{1}{4}$  full with oil: that is your answer! The Sierra Club reports that the numbers are staggering: adding up the plastic used, the energy required to collect and clean the water, and the fuel it takes to ship the bottles to stores, equates to millions of barrels of oil each year.

Kick the bottled water habit by installing a water filter on your faucet and purchasing a reusable water bottle. Aim for a bottle that does not leach chemicals by looking for "BPA Free" labels or, better yet, do what several of our church members did: choose stainless steel. (Resource: [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org))

**Waste Reduction:** Plastic can take up to 600 years to break down in a landfill, and styrofoam never breaks down. Our church needs to address the issue of recycling. However, there are practical issues involved: Is there room for a recycling bin? Will people remember that no food can be on the recycled items? Can we afford the financial cost? Perhaps there is someone among us who can solve these issues. As individuals, we need to address recycling as well. When you plan a party or other event at home or at church, please keep the environment in mind by using reusable dinnerware. Start small with reusable utensils, since they can be easily collected and washed, supplemented with recycled-content paper and/or bio-compostable dinnerware (Resource: [www.worldcentric.org](http://www.worldcentric.org)). We have a sacred responsibility to care for our planet. It is our most challenging problem.

For the earth, *Vivian Johnson*

Green team: Judy Curry, Nancy Dreckman, Howard Emery,  
6 Carol Getz, Eileen Vincent, Vivian Johnson (chair).



# ECC Prop Box Project Off to Great Start!

The ECC teachers were thrilled to open their “prop boxes” (play materials grouped by theme) in September and October to find a wide variety of fun and useful items that IUCC members and friends donated for the preschool classrooms. It was like a birthday or Christmas, they said!

A big thank you to all who enthusiastically searched their closets, drawers, garages, and the 99-Cent Store for the suggested items having to do with the teachers’ monthly themes.

For September, we thank Nancy Dreckman, Debby Weimer, Karen Smith, Janet and Howard Emery, Dave and Brian Percy-Schofield, Jeff Benedick, and Joanie and Eric Burley. For October, we thank Suzie Feick, Lavinia Cooper, Nancy Dreckman, Pat Suter, Emily Wetherby, and Judy Bateman.

Your generosity enriched the children’s experiences!

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Sign up on the patio to fill November’s prop boxes for the ECC! The classroom theme for November is “Farms,” and the teachers have compiled a list of items that each classroom would like to collect.

If you would like to help, pick up a list for one of the three classrooms from Laura Long, Child Care Committee Chair, collect the suggested items, and bring them to church on November 1. Filling a prop box is a great service project for families, Comma Groups, or other groups.

## November Theme: FARMS

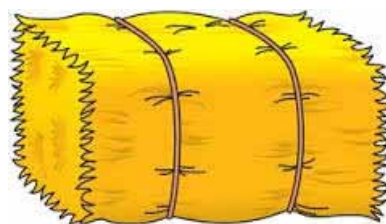
Each of the three classrooms can use the following items:

- Straw farmer hat or sun hat (an item on October’s list, but we can use a few more!)
- Bandanas (2-3)
- Feathers (any size, and variety is best; dyed or plain; approximately 20 examples)
- Pine cones (variety of sizes; 5 examples)
- Large bag of black or pinto beans (approx. 5 lbs) to fill a sensory table
- 3 large bags of unpopped popcorn (also for a sensory table)
- Stuffed or plastic farm animals or other items having to do with farm animals
- Empty, clean paper milk or cream cartons (1/2 pint, pint, quart sizes)

The ECC could also use a bale of hay or two for the backyard playground (available at Michael’s).

Thank you for your support!

~ *Laura Long*  
Chair, IUCC Child Care Committee



# Introducing our Newest Choral Intern: Angelica Rowell

by Joni Baker



It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to our newest choral intern, Angelica Rowell. She is the beautiful (inside and out) new Alto you may have noticed in the back row. I asked her to fill me in on her background, goals, and a little about herself to share with you.

Angelica was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area by a single mother who immigrated to the US from Germany in the 1980s. Her mother reports that she began singing when she was three-years-old, with her favorite song being Tina Turner's "What's Love Got To Do With It?" Angelica joined her school choir in 8th grade and has been hooked ever since! In the past 5 years she has been in 9 different choral ensembles, ranging from Chamber choirs to Women's Barbershop groups. She also participates in musical theatre, having musically directed seven and participated in two productions in the past three years. She is currently a second year vocal performance major at UCI, and hopes to make a living as a professional singer.



Following is a short Q & A:

## Q: What is your favorite style to sing?

A: Jazz, hands down. Jazz music has a special place in my heart and the feeling it gives me is unexplainable. There's something so freeing about Jazz, especially old Jazz. I'm talking Ella Fitzgerald and Louie Armstrong. I could listen and sing to their music for hours! Funny thing is, I actually got accepted to Berklee College of Music in Boston for Jazz Performance, but decided that training classically at UCI was a better fit. But oh, Jazz is my "go to" style to sing for sure!

## Q: What do you hope to achieve during your time with us?

A: I hope to absorb all that I can from the incredible mind of John [St. Marie] and grow musically, as well as build a solid sense of community for myself in Irvine given that I am 400 miles away from home.

## Q: "What is your impression of the music ministry at IUCC so far?"

A: After only two weeks of rehearsals and services with the Chancel Choir, my impression of the music ministry is so incredibly high! The moment I walked into my audition I felt welcomed and loved, which is a nice feeling when you're so nervous you're shaking! Everybody I've met thus far is remarkably kind, friendly, and hospitable. Every new person I meet reminds me that I am so blessed to have this opportunity and be surrounded by such love and light.

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A few fun facts about Angelica: "I have three dogs: Bella, Lily, and Sebastian. I love Disney! Blue is my favorite color. I'm obsessed with elephants and raccoons, they're both such intelligent creatures and the spectrum of emotions that elephants possess amazes me, especially their compassion."

On behalf of the music ministry, I want to thank the congregation for supporting our choral intern program. It is a blessing to have young students like Angelica in our midst. She is a wonderful addition to our choir. We appreciate her beautiful voice, kind spirit, and desire to learn. We look forward to being a part of her musical training, and watching her develop as a church musician.



# Powerful Parenting

*Dr. Lorraine Fox*

## FRESH INSIGHTS INTO THE FRAGILITY AND MALEABILITY OF THE SELF

I'm back after a break in writing for time to begin the recovery from a serious fall. During my time away from you I've gained fresh, and very personal, lessons in the vulnerability of the self, even at my age. Of course I've always known this with regard to children, which is what my column is usually about. But I've been amazed to experience how one's ideas about who one "is" can be challenged by an experience that puts a person into a situation where who you are, as a person, is not particularly interesting to people around you. Reviewing my recent experience caused me to think anew about children who become step-children, children who move to a place where no one knows them, children who are adopted, or young people who go away to college where they are not known to anyone.

In June I was a "patient" in the intensive care unit. Very heavily drugged and unable to communicate, I was a patient in a bed with tubes coming from multiple orifices who had to be tied to the bed because, I was told, it was "necessary." I was never told why and learned only later that I was trying to pull the tubes out. Clearly I was not a person, in the full sense of the word, in that none of the professionals were there to deal with me as a distinct individual but only as an "orthopedic case." Even in my drugged state, I remember being acutely aware that who I was didn't matter to anyone there. It wasn't until I began to come out of my semi-consciousness six days later and recognized one of my visitors for the first time that I was, once again, Lorraine.

Following my time in the hospital I was moved to a nursing home/rehab facility where for three months I became known as 106B – my bed number. I remember hearing people in the hall telling someone to go to 106B when my light was on. For the next three months I was, in addition to my bed number, "Fox, Foxy, Mrs. Fox, Miss Fox, or Mrs. Lorraine" - almost never just Lorraine, and to itinerant staff "Hello" or "Hi." Not only was I almost never called by my name, I was never asked anything about myself except as it related to my physical condition. Pain level on a scale from 1 to 10? How did you sleep? Is that all you're going to eat? And, most frequently, I was not asked anything but told "You'll have to wait, I'm busy."

God has blessed me in many ways but none more appreciated than in the number of friends and well-wishers I had. When I had a visitor was the only time I felt a little more like "me." But even then, I was more patient than anything. Very often I wondered about and empathized with those

people around me with few if any visitors, who had become reduced to their bed numbers and last names attached to the wrong prefix. My roommate's last name was Bell, and everyone decided that was her first name and everyone addressed this 91 year old woman with five children as "Bell."

I was fortunate in that I've had many years to find out who I really am, but the experience was unnerving even at that. I was also very surprised to find that many of my long-time personal qualities started to change. I've never been a particularly patient person, but over the weeks I shared with friends how I noticed myself becoming "passive" because I realized that it wouldn't have made a difference whether I was patient or impatient in terms of a response. Having become, in my development, a more assertive person, I had learned to receive a different level of responsiveness. Now, suddenly, in my later years that particular trait either did me no good or irritated people. I learned that passiveness and compliance were appreciated and attempts at assertiveness were received negatively. And who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

I'm home now and coming back more to myself. But I was reminded again how powerful one's immediate environment is in terms of developing personal traits and a sense of "self." I have new appreciation and concern for those people who had experiences growing up that did not provide opportunity for developing a strong sense of who one is, both positive and negative, strong and weak. I'm blessed because I have a strong sense of "self" to come home to: Not everyone does. I've often heard adults ask kids, usually when correcting them, "why do you act like that?" Now I remember why. We act in ways that are either encouraged or punished in our environments. I guess a better question for parents is not "Why do you act like that?" but "What am I doing that is resulting in that kind of behavior?" We can't just tell kids that they have to stand up for themselves, but create an environment where standing up for themselves is encouraged and not rebuked.

It's too late for me to take my powerfully reinforced insights into my work with kids. But it's not too late for you. Think of a time when no one really knew or cared who you were. What was that like? Remembering the experience will help you help your kids when they feel like strangers. We'll pick up where we left off next time.

## From the Pastor's Desk



Pastor Paul is on vacation and will resume his column next month.

## Mark Your Calendar



**27th ANNUAL CROP WALK  
SUNDAY \* OCT. 18 \* 1:00 p.m.**

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS**

2046 Mar Vista Drive

Newport Beach, CA

Be part of a solution. Join the IUCC Walking Team or make a donation to support our team. See Steve Goetz or any team member on the patio after service on Sundays! [www.crophunger-walk.org/newportbeachca](http://www.crophunger-walk.org/newportbeachca)

## Clothing Drive



**M & S CLOTHING DRIVE  
\* ONGOING \***

Our Mission & Service Ministry launched a clothing drive on September 27th. This ongoing drive will support the Irvine Assistance League, which supports local children's programs and scholarships. Suggested items for donation are: working clothes for women and men, sports jackets, and warm jackets. All gently-used, clean clothing is welcome. Donation bins are in the narthex.



**ISAIAH HOUSE SHELTER**

**WED. \* OCT. 14 \* 3:30 p.m.**

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



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SUNDAY \* OCT. 25 \* 12:15 p.m.**

Kids are invited to come in costume for this family-friendly event featuring trick-or-treating to various decorated car trunks in our own IUCC parking lot. Volunteers should plan for 30 children. Please see Sarah for details, and come to the table on the patio to sign up!

## October Birthdays

Jean Arce  
Bil Aulenbach  
Judy Bateman  
Renaey Boyum  
Torrey Capobianco  
Lauren Dobbert  
Kristjana Gailiun  
Laurie Gaskill  
Skip Gaskill  
Liz Henderson  
Steven King  
Roger Laule  
Don Mansell  
Melanie McDonald  
Brian Osborne

Eddie Padilla  
Brian Pearcy-Schofield  
Penny Portillo  
Becky Roach  
Susan Sayre  
David Schofield  
Dave Smith  
Michelle Stover  
Craig Tyrll  
Dale Vaughan  
Connie Weir  
Heidi Willcox  
Glenda Wyant  
Allie Zane



**SEEKERS**

**TUESDAY \* OCT. 20 \* 9:30 a.m. \***

**PLUMER HALL**

Join our women's study group on the third Tuesday of each month, for theological discussion over coffee and other morning refreshments. Contact Reefa at: [reefahanny@comline.com](mailto:reefahanny@comline.com) for details.

## Moderator's Column

by Renae Boyum



October is Stewardship month here at Irvine United Congregational Church. During the stewardship campaign, you will be asked to prayerfully and carefully to consider the special and unique gift that is IUCC and how you can contribute with a financial commitment to this faith community.

We are blessed to have Pastor Paul as our spiritual leader. We also have marvelous staff -- John, Sarah, Michael, Heidi, David, Irma -- all of whom make this a truly special place. But as you consider your financial gift, also think about the way(s) you can share your time and talents with our church.

Let me describe to you some of the myriad of ways IUCC members and friends share their time and talents on a Sunday morning and beyond. Sunday morning actually begins with a choir practice on Thursday evening. Led by our gifted and caring music director, Dr. John St. Marie, the choir meets every Thursday evening from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. to prepare anthems both for the upcoming Sunday and also for future Sundays and concerts. What a remarkable gift all of the members share with us and how their gifts enhance Sunday morning worship! All volunteers -- all sharing their time and talents.

Prior to the beginning of worship on Sunday, the Deacons are busily setting up the campus, hanging the banners, turning on lights and air conditioning -- making sure all is ready! The Deacons are also ready to answer questions, assist visitors, and be a welcoming, caring presence on the patio and in the sanctuary. Volunteers -- all sharing their time and talents.

As you enter the church, friendly and welcoming greeters are there. A visitor host is waiting to welcome visitors to IUCC. An usher is waiting at each door to hand you a bulletin. All of these volunteers are ready to welcome and assist. Volunteers sharing their time and talents.

At 8:45 and 10:00, adult education classes are offered on a variety of interesting, challenging topics. The classes are led by an array of leaders -- many of whom are volunteers, all sharing their time and talents. During both services, Sunday school classes are offered. Here's an opportunity to learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus and how we can all serve no matter our age.

As the service begins, a lay leader will offer a word of welcome, share a story about his/her personal connection to IUCC, and share announcements about upcoming events. Perhaps, other members will highlight a special activity. Perhaps members of the Prayer shawl ministry will share a brief story behind the shawl we are blessing. All volunteers -- all giving their talents and time.

After worship is over, treats await on the patio. Members and friends host the coffee hour which is a special time to connect, share joyful moments, perhaps a hug, maybe stories of any especially stressful week. It all happens around coffee and a cookie, piece of cake or some other treat. The coffee hour is hosted by all volunteers who willingly give their time and talents.

On the patio, there may also be tables asking you to sign up for a Bon Vivant dinner, a women's fellowship event or some other upcoming event. There may be a table asking you to sign a letter sharing our concerns about local, state, or national political issues. All of the tables are staffed by volunteers, all sharing their unique talents.

After church, one of the ministries may be holding a meeting -- Advocates, Stephen Ministry, Mission and Service, Fellowship. There may be a class for visitors and prospective members. Our youth may be off on an activity. A special forum or class may be held. Yet again, volunteers giving their time, giving their talent.

The story goes on throughout the week -- Ministry Board meeting, Administration Board meeting, Bible study, Women's fellowship, prayer shawl -- the list is endless. Yet more times when IUCC members give of their time and talent.

As you can tell, there are many ways to give your time and talents. I hope you will do that -- I promise that by doing so you will be blessed by the experience, as will all of us here at IUCC!

In faith and community,

*Renae*



# Building Plan Update

by Anne Rosse



In 2012, a group of thoughtful leaders began to look around at our aging campus. Through forums and surveys, input was solicited from this congregation, with the following conclusions: (1) our current campus does not reflect IUCC's mission and vision and can't support our long range planning goals (which include growth in both membership

and programs); (2) our current campus cannot effectively and efficiently accommodate any growth in program and service; (3) there is not a welcoming atmosphere in our church office area nor a private space for our pastor to have confidential conversations; and (4) the campus could be more welcoming and inviting.

The message was clear: IUCC wants to have more significance in the community and more significance in the lives of our members. We want to honor our legacy and provide for our successors as IUCC's early founders did for us.

As a result, we began a journey of developing a vision for our campus – a Master Plan that reflects our desire to serve our neighbors while being a significant voice for Progressive Christianity in Orange County. The resulting plan (developed with green practices) provides for a flexible three phase build-out, depending on church priorities and available funding. In the first phase, we would build an administrative building with staff offices, volunteer work space, and configurable meeting rooms (with a total capacity of 100 people), an expanded Narthex with a new entrance, an enhanced patio for fellowship, and a welcoming new church frontage. In the second phase, Plumer Hall would be torn down and a state-of-the-art preschool/education center (with a playground designed to promote creative and collaborative play) built in its place. During this phase, we would use the meeting rooms in the new administrative building for fellowship. In the final phase, a configurable fellowship hall, with indoor/outdoor and dedicated youth space would be built. If you'd like to review the Master Plan, please click to: <http://iucc.org/portal/documents/>.

More than a year ago, we submitted our Master Plan to the City of Irvine for a Modified Conditional Use Permit, the next step in our planning process. After many reviews and exchanges, the City is satisfied with the plan itself. And, our plan was endorsed by the Woodbridge Village Associa-

tion. All that remains is for the City to accept a required traffic study.

Over the summer, we have been in dialogue with the City about the traffic study, providing requested data and answering their questions and concerns. We expect to submit the final report this week. Once they accept the traffic study, we anticipate the whole project undergoing a final administrative review, with subsequent approval sometime soon thereafter. When that happens, we'll be sure to announce it promptly and look forward to a church-wide celebration of this milestone!

Knowing that approval is close, we've been looking ahead. We anticipate asking this congregation in January 2016 whether we are ready to undertake an approximate \$1.5 million campaign to fund the first phase (administrative building). As part of our preparation, we recently hosted the Rev. Priscilla Bizer, our UCC capital campaign consultant (pictured below speaking at the forum). Priscilla helped assess our readiness to undertake a campaign and helped educate us about what a campaign would entail. Between now and the vote in January, we will offer additional forums and information. If approved, 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 and occupancy in 2018.

Here at IUCC, we invite folks to be on a journey with us as we strive boldly to live out our own faith in the world through social justice, enlightening education, enlivening worship and, of course, community. I invite you to think about what a new church campus could mean to this community as we walk together in faith. I'd love to hear your thoughts – so please don't hesitate to contact me or stop me on the patio. Meanwhile, I look forward to being able to share news of our approval from the City of Irvine soon. Stay tuned!

*After preaching at both services on Sept. 27, the Rev. Priscilla Bizer, Executive Campaign Consultant, spoke at a forum afterwards to explain what would be involved in a capital campaign.*

