

## NEW LEADERS AT IUCC!



*Clockwise from upper left corner: Administrative Board; Ministries Board; Coordinating Council; All Leadership; and Installation of New Leaders. Thanks to Cindy O'Dell for the retreat photos and Lester Ricks for the installation photo.*



See pages 7 - 11 for special information on immigration issues!

# From the Pastor's Desk

*the Rev. Dr. Paul Tellström*



“Change is on the horizon.” That’s not a statement that is assimilated easily. In fact, the big change in my family is the decision to get married next month. After 29 years, why would we change what already works? All during our struggle against Prop 8 and the changes that are rapidly being made towards Marriage Equality, I knew we had a solid relationship built on our own understanding of what it meant to be a couple. Why marry?

Still, the decision to make the changes in our legal and personal status was easy after the first big breath. The next steps reflected how we adapted to these changes in society, and each one has been empowering—once we made that decision to step forward. In about an hour, Carl and I will be at the City Clerk’s Office requesting a marriage license, then off to pick out clothes for the ceremony. This is not something I ever thought would happen!

The invitations are out! Carl and I stood in the sanctuary one Sunday and invited the congregation to our wedding. It seemed fair to use what we call our church’s “active list” as the parameter for our invitations. This means, “all members and active attendees” based on a fair criteria. Therefore, if you have been in church lately, you might have seen me frantically trying to get these labeled invitations out to people, and I left the remainder of them with Matthew while I have been on vacation. Those not picked up will be mailed out after this Sunday’s service (August 3).

We look forward to sharing this day with you. It is very special to us, and how wonderful that we can express our ongoing love and commitment to each other this way with our own church family after being together so long. Our former Conference Minister, the Rev. Jane Heckles, will officiate, and our current Conference Minister, the Rev. Felix Villanueva, will give the blessing. All of our clergy friends will be invited up to give the pronouncement. (How could we choose just one?) If you would be so kind as to RSVP to the e-mail address on the invitation, we would appreciate it, as a general head-count is helpful for planning.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another change is happening in our worship services as well, and it is the result of gathering information from the congregation, much staff discussion, input from our

leadership and the blessing of our choir. On August 31, we will be changing our worship times and introducing some simple worship technology.

With the overwhelming vote to move forward with a master plan for our campus, it is clear that I now need to be looking at how our worship services might develop so that they can support more congregational growth, and with that, a greater emphasis on young families. This focus on growth is now crucial should we move forward with building plans. I hope you have noticed the great energy from our Ministry for Young People staff as they have dedicated their efforts to bringing real life to these programs (including Vacation Bible School this August).

During Lent this year, we experimented with two identical services and created a survey to which 125 people responded. Here is what we discovered: More people would like to come to First Service if there were more music and offerings for kids. If you look at the charts on pages 3 and 4, you will see that if we had a small ensemble singing, there would also be a small shift in attendance; if we offered a full choir and kids programs, First Service would grow significantly.

But, it is unfair to ask our choir to sing at two services that are so far apart. Therefore, we are moving service times to 9:30 and 11:00. Adult Ed will be offered twice, and the big coffee hour will slowly shift to between services, where folks from each service can meet and greet each other in that half hour between services.

Services will need to be one hour long (an hour and ten minutes on Communion Sunday) and to help accomplish that, our Technology Task Force, with leadership from Matthew and Chris Redrich, are bringing us visual technology. It will be on a smaller and simpler scale than what was originally planned, which will make this addition seem less intrusive for those of us who are not used to such technology.

There will be an 80” screen on an easel in the chancel area, and on it will be shown our various announcements. These may be simply written notices, or they may include pictures or even videos. These can run and even re-run as we are gathering, replacing the need for longer announcements at the beginning of the service about events that are still down the road.

**“From The Pastor’s Desk” continued from Page 2**

We learned from the surveys that there was some amount of frustration around the Children’s Time—people simply cannot see or hear it. Therefore, an HD camera will be in place on the floor to capture this moment and put it up on the screen for everyone to see and hear.

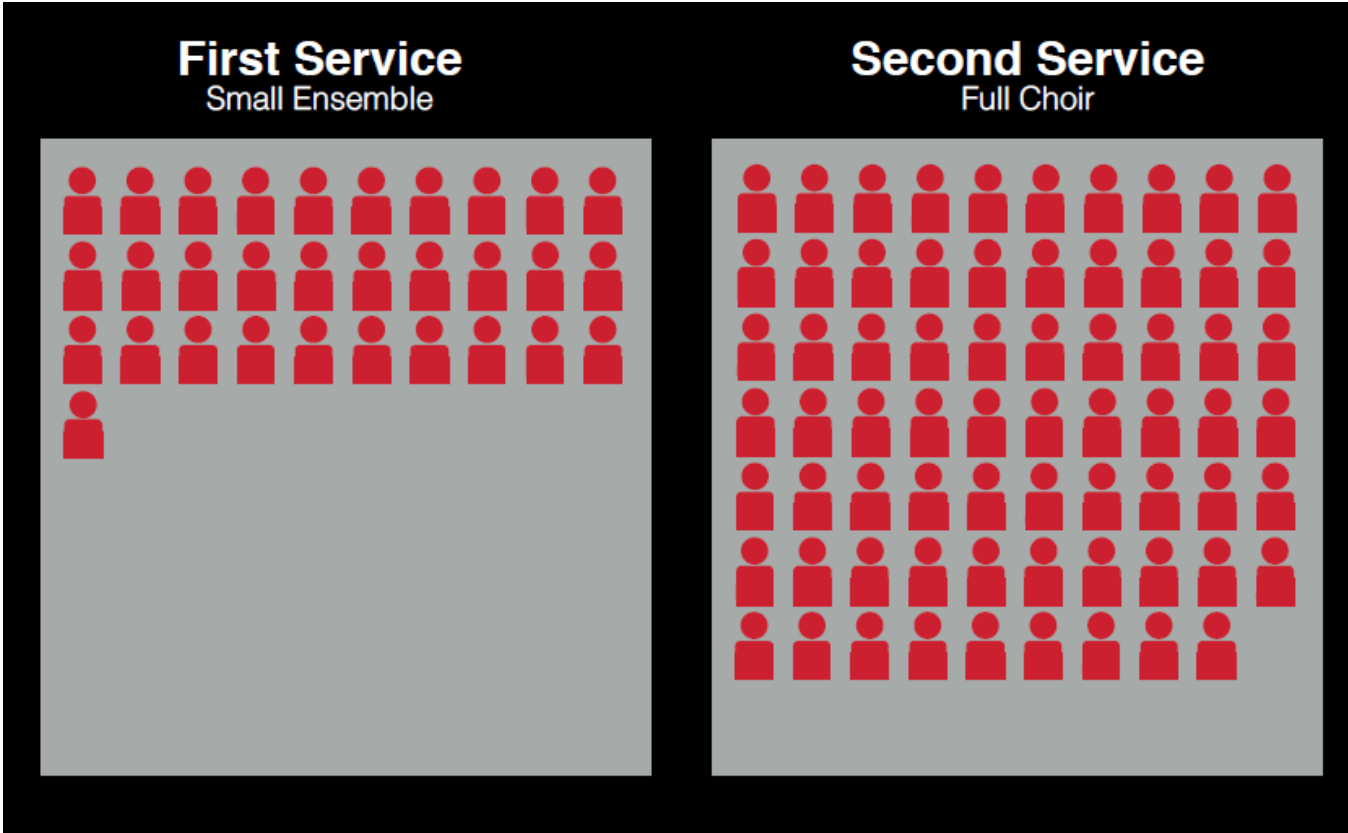
The screen may be used occasionally for a sermon illustration or for a hymn not in our hymnal. There is an unfounded fear, however, that screens used in worship come pre-programmed with conservative theology and puerile sing-song praise music. I promise you—we will not lose our progressive theology or the tactile pleasure of holding music in our hands when we sing!

Lastly, you will see on page 4 a chart of worship attendance covering the last 17 years (entitled *A look back in time*). It shows how Second Service grew to the “75% full rule”—at a certain point, people stop attending in a room that feels more than 75%-80% full. Our Second Service grew to that point and fell back a little bit, while our First Service has slowly grown with room to spare.

One observation I would like to make about this chart is that during our years of growth, we were greatly blessed by receiving over twenty strong members from another church, all of whom clearly understood who we were, and were prepared to lend their strong skills at leadership to their new church home.

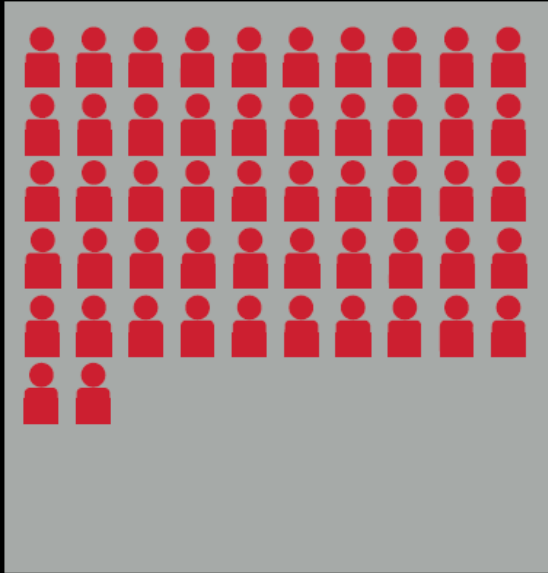
In order to make these new changes work, our Second Service will probably feel a little smaller on Sundays for a while, as we give ourselves the room to grow back again.

And why are we doing all of this? We have something important to share, and we know this to be true. We have found a way to be followers of Jesus that allows us to interpret what we believe in our hearts, each in our own way. There are like-minded people out there who are at places in their lives where they just need to find a place like IUCC, and that is what is behind all of our discussions about building plans and outreach to the next generation of families and single people alike. Some of our most loving and dedicated people, our freethinkers and big-thinkers, our justice-speakers and spiritual home seekers have yet to walk through our doors and sing, “As We Gather...”



## First Service

Full Choir

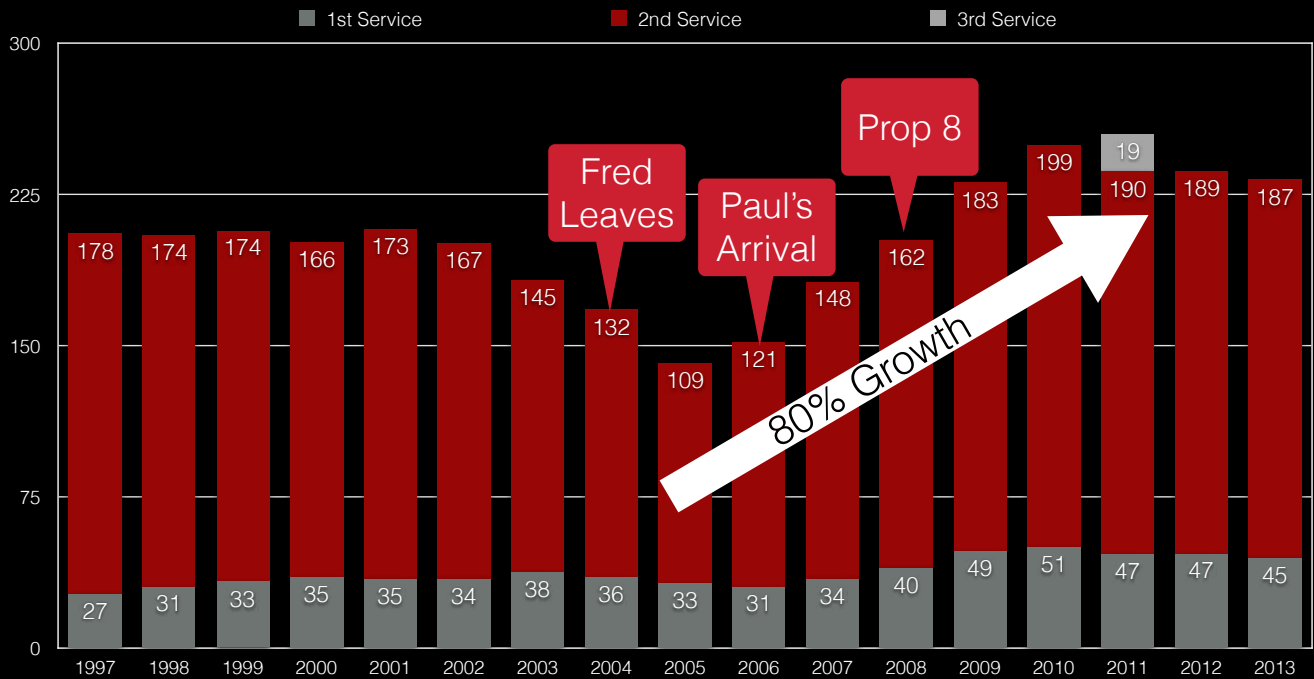


## Second Service

Full Choir



## A look back in time

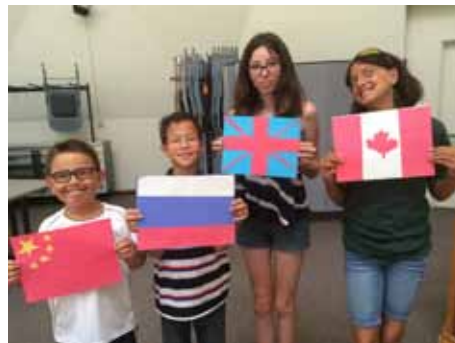


# Ministry for Young People

*Sarah Fiske-Phillips*

First of all, THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Ministry for Young People this summer. We couldn't have planned all of these upcoming events without your financial and prayerful support. We are so excited for our first annual Vacation Bible School, which begins on August 4th. Tricia Abouabdo, our Sunday School Coordinator, has been doing a fantastic job planning the activities, as well as the logistics for our week. We have kids coming from our own church community, as well as from the wider community. The week after VBS our junior and senior high youth groups will be going to The Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah. We will be painting, feeding, cleaning, and helping make the animal shelter a more beautiful place. And, I think it will do great things for our group. Annie Mellott, our Youth Leader, has been working so hard on making sure that every detail is set. We are also lucky to have Tricia, Paul, and Eric Burley (father of youth group member Jules) joining us on our adventure to Utah. The youth will be speaking in church about their time in Utah on August 24th, so don't miss out!

*Photos courtesy of Sarah Fiske-Phillips*



## Moderator's Column

Anne Rosse



Starting a new job or position is a mixture of excitement and trepidation: insomnia-inducing anxiety that you will mess up or that someone will figure out that you really aren't qualified for the position after all. Then, after a few months, you start to relax; you don't feel quite so much pressure. And, unfortunately, sometimes you feel a little less excited

about the job itself.

As I enter my second year as your Moderator, let me tell you that I am even more excited than I was a year ago – so energized about the path before us! I have learned a lot this year – from the more mundane (reviewing breathtakingly boring contracts) to the more exciting (planning future facilities that reflect our common vision and legacy). I thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve this wonderful church – “whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26)

In mid-July, I gathered with fellow leaders in retreat. What a dedicated and talented group of volunteers and staff leaders who have stepped up to envision, plan and implement. I was so tremendously impressed by their energy, enthusiasm and commitment. We are in good hands!

Some of the priorities we established for this next year include:

- Grow the congregation so we can share our loving and welcoming-to-all message with more of our neighbors.
- Complete the Master Plan process, then decide -- as a congregation -- whether to proceed with a capital campaign to fund the first phase, which includes a frontage sign, meeting and outdoor space, and administrative offices (with work space for volunteers), all designed to reflect our desire to be hospitable.
- Under Paul's direction, make changes to Sunday morning worship to reflect the vibrant church we are. (Please be sure to read more about this topic in Paul's column.)
- Complete a strategic planning process for the Early Childhood Center (ECC), addressing center oversight, programs and outreach -- as well as a much-needed facility “refresh.” The ECC is part of our mission, how we serve this community, and it deserves some intentionality to help it be the best quality program it can be.
- Ensure both a robust online and community presence

for IUCC and the ECC – sharing who we are by our actions, service, photos and messaging. Please take a moment to “like” the IUCC and ECC Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/irvineucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/iuccpreschool>

- Be more collaborative, integrated, and inter-generational in our educational programming. We want to strive to collaborate more across ministries and with other faith communities to offer educational programs that can be studied in different age-appropriate ways and then be further explored via advocacy and/or service.
- Broaden our volunteer base and get more folks involved in the important and fun activities taking place within our wonderful ministries and committees. Click to: <http://iucc.org/ministry/> to learn more about who is doing what and how you can make a difference.
- Prepare for and execute the 2015 Long Range Plan Update.
- Be proactive in our planning and continue “best practices” approach re: budgeting and administrative oversight, including: second year of new budget process; update Employee Handbook; bylaws and policies/procedures review; and Safe Church Policy compliance.

Each ministry and committee chair set their own goals as well, and shared them with the group so we could explore areas of mutual interest and collaboration. As we move forward through the coming year, these priorities will guide us in how we allocate resources and keep us focused so that, when the leadership team re-gathers next July, we can reflect on how we did and determine our next set of goals.

At our Spring Concert, we sang a Dolly Parton song so it seems fitting to quote her here: “If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.” I invite you to join me in striving to be an “excellent” leader – how powerful it can be when we all work together, sharing a common goal of serving each other and our community. Let's all be leaders so IUCC can continue to inspire others to dream, to learn, to do and become more!

As always, I invite you to share your thoughts. You can catch me on the patio, pull me aside at one of our terrific events, send me an email or give me a call. I look forward to hearing from you.

***Editor's Note: Anne did a superb job of organizing our leadership retreat. It was well thought-out, interesting, and reflected a lot of time and effort. Thanks, Anne!***



## A Pastoral Letter on Child Refugees from the National Leaders of the United Church of Christ

July 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and the Collegium of Officers offer this open letter to the church in response to the flood of child refugees coming to the United States from Central America. We write it in solidarity with our sister churches in the Southern California/Nevada Conference, the Southwest Conference, and the South Central Conference whose boundaries are coterminous with our neighbors to the South.

We have all been watching over the last weeks child refugees by the tens of thousands risk life and limb to flee violence and poverty in their homeland, hoping to find safety in America. The story of this land being rich with possibility can be heard even by children in far away lands. It is the same story that we heard with pride when we were children. It stirs their hearts, as it did ours, and compels them to leave everything behind except for the hope that it might be true.

It is fast becoming apparent, however, that the collective will to care for these children is far below whatever expectations they might have had. For them, the story that fostered such hope is met with profound disappointment as once in the US they are being detained, disgraced, and deported – treated more like criminals, terrorists, and threats than children, refugees, and victims of unspeakable horror.

As leaders in this denomination, we stand in solidarity with the children who seek refuge here. Our churches are fast becoming part of a network built to respond to these overwhelming needs. We cannot meet these needs alone. We are seeking to forge partnerships with those who are just as moved by the courage and suffering of these children, and who wish to extend to them love, comfort, and justice.

Deeply aware not just of our own immigrant stories and roots, but also of the clear biblical imperative to care for the stranger in our midst, we invite all settings and all leaders of the United Church of Christ to respond in any of the following ways:

- Pray for the children who seek refuge across our southern border, and see in them the face of Christ;
- Support with your donations organizations that house, clothe, feed, educate, and provide medical care to the refugee children;
- Write to your elected Representatives and share with them your concern for these children, asking them not to see them as a threat to us or as criminals;
- Stay alert to emerging opportunities to respond to the needs of the refugee children. One good source can be found on the UCC website ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)).
- Prayerfully consider sermons, newsletter articles, adult and youth classes that articulate a narrative of care for the stranger and alien among us.

The United Church of Christ has a long and proud history of demonstrating courage in the struggle for justice and peace. Now, as ever, our resolve is being tested. It is with a good deal of hope and courage that we face this injustice. Let the actions forged by our compassion silence the voices of hatred and fear that ring right now in the ears of these precious children of God. Let them know we are Christians by our love.

We are one with you in Christ.

Sincerely,

*The United Church of Christ Collegium of Officers and the Council of Conference Ministers*

---

# The Need for Immigration Reform

---

by Tricia Aynes

---

At the recent IUCC Women's Retreat, our theme was "Wisdom of the wolves and the women who run with them." We discussed our "pack" and how we can renew and support our pack. But what really is our "pack"? Our family? Our community? Our country? Or is it the entire human race? Too often, some in our nation would have us believe in an "Us vs. Them" mentality. They say we must keep the other out and keep what's ours to ourselves. Whatever happened to the words inscribed on the statue of liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" (Emma Lazarus)

We are all immigrants of one kind or another. There have been many waves of immigrants to the U.S. But over successive generations, some of us have taken our membership in American society for granted and ignored the struggles of newer immigrants who come to our land for the same reasons our ancestors did.



Recent estimates from DHS indicate the we have about 11.6 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., 25% of whom live in California. At least 50,000 more are trying to enter every month. A report from the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute found that the U.S. spends more money on immigration enforcement - nearly \$18 billion in the 2012 fiscal year - than on its other law enforcement agencies combined (*Huffington Post*, 1/7/13).

We are locking up and deporting more undocumented immigrants than ever before - and spending more money to do it. Part of the reason is a Homeland Security 2009 spending bill that required ICE to keep a minimum of 33,400 undocumented immigrants locked up at all times. In late 2011, Congress increased the bed quota to 34,000.

These are human beings, not quotas. They are children of God just as we are. They live in constant fear of being ripped away from their lives. They are suffering - our human pack is suffering - and it affects us all. Many come here because they face tremendous hardships at home - poverty, high crime, sometimes torture - and they risk terrible dangers to get here. Some are badly injured, and some even die trying to reach our shores. If they are able to get here safely, most try to stay below the radar by assimilating as best they can. They marry, have children, and work hard.

But some slip up along the way and come to the attention of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). It can be something as simple as being pulled over for a minor traffic violation or as complex as requesting asylum (and yes, we throw asylum seekers in with all the rest of the detainees). If they have committed a crime, they are incarcerated for the crime first, then may be turned over to ICE. So they are punished twice. Many are detained for many months, some for years. Most are eventually deported.

When undocumented immigrants are picked up, they are separated from family, job, and livelihood. During their months of detention, they can lose everything - their homes, possessions, and businesses. They can't support their families, who suffer right along with them.

The U.S. has the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world, and three detention facilities are located right here in Orange County (Santa Ana Jail, Theo Lacy Jail in Orange, and Musick Jail in Irvine). All three have a financial arrangement with ICE to house detainees, and they use federal money to underwrite their operations.

Unlike U.S. born inmates, detainees have no right to an attorney, rehabilitation, or classes. 84% have no legal representation. They are scared, alone, and usually penniless. They have few rights, and they just languish there - forgotten for months and even years in a cold and uncaring system. They get a roof over their heads and enough food, but little else.

In expanding the surge of immigration enforcement, the current administration has detained and deported about two million people. Sadly, that number now includes the children who came across the border looking to escape violence and poverty, some of whom are now being returned to dangerous situations. But while the plight of the children has received wide coverage in the media (and deservedly so), it is only a fraction of the suffering faced by many more.

What's really interesting is that comprehensive immigration reform enjoys broad bipartisan support. 71% of likely voters surveyed - and nine of 10 Hispanics - said they back sweeping change to immigration laws. The support spans party lines: 64% of Republican respondents back comprehensive immigration reform, as do 78% of Demo-



crats and 71% of independents. Overall, only 28% of those surveyed oppose comprehensive immigration reform, with 12% saying they are strongly opposed. The poll, designed by SocialSphere and conducted by the research firm GfK, surveyed 867 likely voters between May 2 and 13, in places with highly competitive midterm contests. (<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/poll-immigration-reform-gop-voters-2014-106801.html>).

What can we do? We can try to change the system. Comprehensive immigration reform is stalled at the federal level. Legislation has passed in the Senate but not in the House. The legislation is viewed as flawed by both sides: conservatives see it as too lenient, while progressives say it doesn't go far enough. But it is a start. Sadly, in this election year, it is too risky for many legislators to take a stand and risk alienating their constituents. Even so, there are hopeful signs: there are indications that the president is considering using his executive powers to let some undocumented immigrants obtain work permits so they could stay here legally. Our letters could encourage him to pursue this course.

As a church, we can join with other faith-based organizations to influence public opinion. Some IUCC members have been meeting with people from Tapestry Unitarian in Mission Viejo and OCCCO (Orange County Congregation Community Organization) to brainstorm how we can educate our communities about immigration issues.

Another thing we can do as a church is to lend support to sister organizations who are working to educate the public. Most recently, IUCC signed on as a sponsor for "Detention Stories: Life Inside California's New Angel Island," a project that tells the stories of men and women in detention. The film was produced by CIVIC (Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement). See page 10 for information about viewing the film.

As individuals, we can visit people in immigration detention right here in OC. Friends of OC Detainees (FOCD) is one of the largest visitation programs in the country. IUCC is an affiliate of FOCD, and more and more of our members are participating in the visitation program. Detainees are very grateful for visits, and they thank visitors over and over. It means the world to them just to have a visitor. See next column for information on the next FOCD volunteer orientation.

Together, we can help our friends and families realize that our "pack" includes the people living and working among us who have the same hopes and dreams that we have. Please add your voice to the growing cry for immigration reform! We can do it together - for the *whole* human pack.

## OTTO IS FREE!



We were so thrilled to hear that Otto (R), a detainee visited by IUCC member and Friends of OC Detainees volunteer Tom Silk (L), was released from custody. Otto won his court case and came to church on Sunday to thank members for their prayers and to thank visitors for coming to see detainees. He was all smiles and so appreciative. Wonderful news!



## FOCD VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12

**Catholic Charities of Orange County**  
**1800 E. 17th Street, Santa Ana**  
**Cross streets: 17th and Cabrillo**

Friends of Orange County Detainees is an all-volunteer group who visit immigrants confined at the James Musick Jail in Irvine, the Santa Ana City Jail, and the Theo Lacy Jail in Orange. IUCC is an affiliate church of FOCD.

Our purpose is humanitarian. Because these people are not part of the criminal justice system, their rights are few. Many people in detention have no visitors and are thrilled when we come to just talk and listen. We welcome you to come and learn more.

## IUCC is a Co-Sponsor of this Event!



*"They journeyed across the Pacific, seeking better lives for themselves and for their children. Many arrived at Angel Island, weary but hopeful only to be **unjustly confined** for months and in some cases years. As we remember their struggle, we honor all who have been drawn to America by dreams of limitless opportunity."* -President Barack Obama, January 24, 2010

### JOIN US FOR A DOCUMENTARY PRE-SCREENING OF **DETENTION STORIES: LIFE INSIDE CALIFORNIA'S NEW ANGEL ISLAND**

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) is proud to release **Detention Stories: Life Inside California's New Angel Island**, a documentary film series that explores the social and cultural world inside California's immigration detention centers through individuals who are in the best position to describe it: men and women in detention. Come learn about the history of immigration detention in California from the early 1900s to the present.

#### **Details:**

Date: Friday, August 8th from 6:15pm to 8:30pm

Location: Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church (2845 Mesa Verde Dr. East, Costa Mesa, CA 92626)

*Free parking available in church lot.*

#### **Presented by:**

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement in partnership with Aquifer Media. This documentary film series was made possible with support from Cal Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed here do not necessarily represent those of Cal Humanities or NEH. Experience more at [calhum.org](http://calhum.org), [endisolation.org](http://endisolation.org), and [aquifermedia.com](http://aquifermedia.com).

**Co-Sponsors:** Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church & Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena

#### **Agenda:**

6:15 to 6:30: Reception (light refreshments served)

6:30 to 7:00: Meet the producers, filmmakers, and storytellers

Special presentation by Tina Shull, a leading expert on immigration detention, history, and the humanities. In 2007, her husband was detained and deported. Her current research focuses on the intersections of Reagan's Cold War nationalism, public xenophobia, and the rise of prison privatization in the 1980s – with the hopes of lending a historical narrative to current immigration policy debates.

7:00 to 8:30: Screening of the documentaries with discussion, including a special guest speaker!

***This event is free and open to the public. A tax-deductible donation to CIVIC is suggested.  
[www.endisolation.org](http://www.endisolation.org)***

Save The Date!

## Screening of “The Dream is Now”



**SUNDAY \* SEPTEMBER 28 \***  
**AFTER 2nd SERVICE**

On Sunday, September 28, after second service, IUCC will show “The Dream is Now” and we will have a few guest speakers/facilitators for a conversation after the film.

Released in April 2013, *The Dream is Now* is a compelling 30-minute documentary by Academy Award-winning director Davis Guggenheim (*Waiting for Superman* and *An Inconvenient Truth*). *The Dream is Now* gives voice to and puts a human face on the undocumented children of immigrants who are desperate to earn their citizenship and give back to the only country they’ve ever called “home.” The film also goes beyond the personal. It places these stories in a larger context and explores the consequences of continuing our current policies and maintaining the status quo – consequences not just for these young people today, but for our country’s future (*from [www.thedreamisnow.org/documentary](http://www.thedreamisnow.org/documentary)*).

IUCC is presenting this documentary in cooperation with Tapestry Unitarian Universalist in Mission Viejo, which will air the movie at its facility the week before on September 21. We are working with Tapestry and OCCCO (Orange County Congregation Community Organization) to raise awareness about this important issue.

## Immigration Law Workshop on July 22 Draws A Crowd

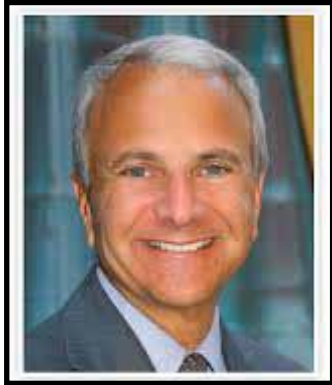


Nearly 40 people were on hand July 22 for Friends of OC Detainees’ Immigration Law Workshop. The event, co-sponsored by IUCC, featured UCI Professor of Law Jennifer Chacon, a respected researcher and teacher in the fields of immigration law and criminal law and procedure. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the process of immigration detention and its legal complexities.

Professor Chacon barely got into her prepared remarks before the questions started. She answered questions for over an hour and half because the audience was so interested in what she had to say.

We were very happy to have someone of Professor Chacon’s calibre to address this vitally important issue!

## Adult Education



In a jointly sponsored event with University Synagogue, IUCC is pleased to welcome Chapman University President James L. Doti, who will speak on 'Life Lessons for Leadership.' Please join us!

**Chapman University President  
James L. Doti will speak on  
"Life Lessons for Leadership"  
Friday, August 22, 8:15 p.m.  
(Shabbat Alive services at 7:00 p.m.)  
University Synagogue**

President James Doti, one of Orange County's most distinguished leaders and a charismatic and dynamic speaker, earned his B.S. degree in economics from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. He has been president of Chapman University since 1991 and he holds the Donald Bren Distinguished Chair in Business and Economics.

## Building Project Update



Submitted to the City of Irvine in late June, the new unanimously-approved Master Plan for the IUCC campus is making good progress through the various departmental reviews that are required. A City Planner has been assigned and we should be receiving initial feedback from the City by mid-August. The Plan was submitted as a "minor" modification, which would trigger a less costly and quicker review by the City than a "major" modification. It will be up to the City to determine "major" vs. "minor" but we're cautiously optimistic about their determination.

The plan was developed with domusstudio architecture (<http://domusstudio.com/>), a San Diego-based firm with extensive experience in planning religious and educational facilities. The plan, which encompasses new administrative, fellowship, outdoor, and educational space, has been developed to ensure maximum flexibility – giving us options for phased build-outs, depending on church priorities, needs and growth, along with our financial capabilities.

A special thank you to the many folks who stepped up to fund the development of this Master Plan. And, many thanks to this congregation for its commitment to a shared vision of planning for our future.

Regular updates will be provided via this newsletter, the bulletin and the IUCC website so please check back for more information! ~ Anne Rosse

## Families Forward School Supply Drive



Our Families Forward School Supply Drive continues Sundays through August 17. Please deposit needed items in the collection box in the narthex. To learn more about Families Forward, call 949-

552-2727 or check out their website at: [www.Families-Forward.org](http://www.Families-Forward.org)

### Needed Items:

- Backpacks
- Wide and College Ruled Paper
- Rulers
- Colored Pencils
- Spiral Notebooks
- Pencil Boxes
- Zippered Pencil Case
- Washable Markers
- Red Pens
- Scissors
- Binders
- Index Cards
- Folders
- Scientific Calculators
- #2 Pencils
- Highlighters
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks



## August Birthdays

Mark Allen	8/23 Katherine Mirmak
8/05 Janet Bamber	8/05 Tom Moss
8/08 Chantel Bermudez	8/25 Eric Nelson
8/20 Keith Boyum	8/06 Don Owens
8/09 Jo Cranston	8/26 Noel Puga
8/02 Nancy Dreckman	8/09 Glenda Rynn
8/06 Paul Feick	8/06 Jim Soha
8/29 Rogene Field	8/12 Helen Swanson
8/21 Lorraine Fox	8/09 Dylan Trout
8/04 Worth Giller	8/27 Jaren Whitsitt
8/09 Jim Martin	8/24 Dean Whitten
8/07 Nitz Martin	8/02 Kendra Williams

## Mark Your Calendar



### BIBLE CLASS

**TUESDAYS \* 4:00 p.m.**

We are discussing the Book of Acts. Join us to learn about the continuing adventures of the disciples.



### SEEKERS LUNCHEON

**TUESDAY \* AUG. 19 \* 11:30 a.m.**

**Laguna Woods Village**

The Seekers summer luncheon is being held at Club 19, Laguna Woods Village, Gate 12, on August 19 at 11:30 a.m. Gate clearance is obtained by contacting Reefah at reefahanny@comline.com one week before. If you are uncertain turn your name in anyway. Access to gate 12 is off Moulton between Santa Maria and El Toro.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**AUGUST 4 - 8, 10 to 4**

We invite all children to our first annual Vacation Bible School! The theme is *Mission: Possible*, and the program will include top secret missions, interactive Bible fun, snacks, and more!



### PASTOR'S POTLUCKS

**6:00 p.m.**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

Join us! Bring your own meat/fish item to grill, a sidedish to share, and your eating utensils and tableware.



### ISAIAH HOUSE \* WEDNESDAY \*

**AUGUST 13 \* 3:15PM \***

**MEET AT IUCC PARKING LOT**

We have been working in Santa Ana preparing and serving meals for more than 40 women at Isaiah House as well as the 150 homeless at Civic Center in Santa Ana. We prepare bread and salads, and serve the guests there. The NEW TIME for our volunteering is the 2ND WEDNESDAY of EACH MONTH. Interested volunteers meet Steve Goetz in the IUCC parking lot at 3:15 p.m. Call Steve at 949-436-1946 or write to sgoetz53@gmail.com for details.



# Powerful Parenting

*Dr. Lorraine Fox*

## USING VERBAL MISREPRESENTATIONS TO PROMOTE PREJUDICE, BIAS, PHOBIAS AND STEREOTYPES

As we wind down our series on sexual diversity we'll move to a more general consideration of the human attitudes and behaviors that have caused the grief and misunderstanding for LGBTQ people that we have been discussing. Although even adults can find it challenging to discover what is really so, it is especially important to help children learn to "sort out" what they hear from others, whether it's from their peers, adults with whom they come in contact, or the media. Saying that something is true doesn't make it true; and believing something doesn't make it so.

Children are at a distinct disadvantage because they don't yet have enough knowledge to distinguish between truth and fiction when exposed to new information. When you don't have existing information to compare to new information, it's easy to take the new information as fact. And children are not yet sophisticated enough to "consider the source."

Another complicating factor is that when people are trying to convince someone of something, they use many different words for the word "think" in an attempt to have the listener believe they are hearing the truth and to give ideas more credibility. Have you noticed how often people use the word "believe" when they want to make sure you pay close attention to their point? "You know, Frank, I don't believe you are correct." Or, "You know, Margaret, I believe you will find...."

So what's the difference between think and believe? None. A belief is an idea. There is no difference between something you think and something you believe, except that the word believe somehow carries more weight. People who use religious creeds to reinforce what they think is correct start with "I believe." "It is my belief" sounds more powerful than "It is my idea." We want our kids to be careful what they "believe."

Another word that often gets used to beef up ideas is the word "conviction." "I am convinced" sounds more definite than "I think I am right about" something. People will sometimes state that they "happen to know" something, said in a way that puts others on the defensive to contradict what is being said, even when you happen to know something different.

This is more than just a lesson in grammar for children. It is a lesson in learning how to evaluate the truth about what is being said, which is particularly important when learning how to evaluate the truth about what is being said about other people.



People tend to act on their beliefs. Therefore people are known to cause great suffering to other people by acting on beliefs about them that happen to be incorrect. For our recent discussion this can be applied to almost every LGBTQ person you will ever meet. Every sexually different person has a story to tell about emotional harm that has been caused out of ignorance and misinformation. But this is also true for a wide variety of people who are different from those around them. As parents and adults who work with or care about children, we want to provide very early lessons about language and truth, so that no child we know causes hurt and harm to another child or adult based on wrong information.

Next month we will sort through the various forms of misinformation that cause emotional, and sometimes physical, harm to people. In preparation for the specific attitudes and practices, begin now to help children listen with discriminating ears. If you hear a child say something that has no basis in fact, challenge them immediately – in a soft and gentle way, of course. Ask them where they got that information, and then help them to figure out why they assumed it was true.

If you will do this general exercise for the next month, it will set the stage for your discussions with them about the specific attitudes and practices we will outline in the next column. Sorry about the homework. School may be out, but there's always something to learn!