

In the life of IUCC



Our IUCC walk team raised over \$17,000 for AIDS Walk OC.
 Thank you for sponsoring this wonderful group!

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It was a joy to welcome baby Lilah Griswold-Castleman at a tea given in her honor on May 11. Proud parents Pastor Elizabeth (above) and Rabbi Seth (at right) were on hand to introduce the new arrival.



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. Paul Tellstrom



I am a day or two late on my deadline for this article because I wanted to be able to reflect on the church staffing forum that we had on Sunday, June 2.

Overall, I came away feeling that there is a great passion for your church, and it is a positive and forward thinking passion. I heard some hard and thoughtful questions, yet I also sensed that you are willing to move ahead with a new plan.

Thank you. And, thank you for the expressions of support for me that I heard in the room. I am touched and strengthened by them. And now...I have to deliver!

The first thing I want to say is that we experienced so many good things by having an Associate Pastor these past three and a half years, and it was particularly evident in the character and integrity of the person we chose. I know that Elizabeth is off to make a mark in the world in her own ministry.

I would like to try something new in this period. As I said in our forum, I think we should consider moving from a "generalist" position to a "specialist" in the area of children, youth, young adults and families. This is where we most need the help, and I am convinced it is the area in which we need to focus.

I have proposed that we take this time to place more of our focus on our Ministry for Young People, and in how we staff for a new generation. While I am grateful that you have given me a strong "go-ahead" to do this, I do not want you to think that we should abandon the plan we were following for staffing a church our size. There is no reason why we cannot have a full-time Assistant Pastor after some reflection on what our needs are, followed by a search process and a call. That would take a year or two in order to do it right, so in the meantime we are blessed by the opportunity to skew some of our programming to reach a younger demographic by having both our Adult Ed Director and new Ministry for Young People Director positions open.

Elizabeth pointed out the need to have a Sunday school Superintendent and gave me good reasons why that should

happen. We can now afford to do that so that we can create a more "professionalized" Sunday school where volunteers are still needed, but not to the point where teachers are stretched and cannot worship on a regular basis. This position will report to the MYP Director, and will become a part of a deepening commitment to our Sunday school by preparing Sunday activities and lessons, and by freeing up the new MYP director to teach 4th-5th grade. This will leave room to have our volunteer Sunday school teachers teach K-3. I see this small role as being crucial to a stable and smooth functioning Sunday school.

I hope we can even go so far as to make this offering: "Do you want your K-3 kids learning Bible-story basics? Come to first service! Do you want them in a Progressive Christian curriculum? Come to second service!" After a couple of years, we might switch that offering.

As I said in worship on Sunday, "Here's the commercial, and it will be brief." We now have some work to do in order to pave the way for that next generation here at our church. There has to be a place where all of us, and our youngest amongst us, can bring all of themselves to the table in the knowledge that we are all equally loved and precious in the sight of God. There are young people out there who need to hear that. There has to be a place where our children can look at the stories of the Bible and learn in context what it is these lessons are pointing to, rather than learning to use it as a weapon. There has to be a place that feels so authentic that it calls our youth to go on mission trips and learn about the joy in giving. And, there has to be a place where young parents know that their children and youth are being instilled with the values that we still hold dear.

Help me to gather in that new generation, and give me the tools with which to do it alongside of you. We are on the threshold of a new opportunity.

I NEED HELP. Meredith Anderson and I need to form a committed Ministry for Young People team. Meredith is dedicated to our young adult ministry, "Bread for the Journey." She and I need more team members at this crucial time for the MYP. In addition, Carol Ballesty is leading the Adult Ed Ministry, and she and I need a committed team as well. These two ministries will not only be creating programs for the church, they will be working with two new staff people who will need their support.

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Associate Pastor's Column

Rev. Elizabeth Griswold

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?



--Mary Oliver

Three years of seminary, three-and-a-half years of ministry at IUCC, and thirty-something years of life and indeed, I am don't know exactly what a prayer is either. However, especially now as a mother, I feel I am praying all the time through my daily thoughts and actions. And life does seem more precious than ever.

I am engaging very deeply right now in figuring out the details of what I will do next with this wild and precious life. I am sure parenting and partnering and pastoring will all be central. Whether I accept a call to another church immediately or not remains to be seen. Seth and I know the time has come for us to find the right location with the right balance of work opportunities and family life options for both of us. I know I am called to be a mother, and I know I am called to be a minister. I am excited about somehow working to faithfully and successfully serve in both these capacities.

For me, this time at IUCC has been such a blessing, such a learning experience, such a time of growth and faith and joy! I am so grateful to all of you for welcoming me with open arms, engaging in ministry right alongside me, and loving this church as much as I do. I greatly enjoyed celebrating with many of you at the Baby Shower so kindly offered for my family on May 11. It was a beautiful event, and Seth, Lilah, and I felt very loved and supported. Thank you so much to everyone who organized and participated in it. I also very much look forward to being in worship again on June 23, when I'll preach for the last time at IUCC.

A friend of a friend of mine, who happens to be a Catholic nun and a committed peace activist, once said, upon being sentenced to years in prison for civil disobedience, "I don't fear going to jail, I don't even fear death. The fear that fills me is not having lived hard enough, deep enough, and sweet enough with whatever gifts God has given me." Though I am still working to figure out exactly what prayer is, I pray that we may all know the courage of this sister. I pray that every one of us may share her faith and live with her dedication to bettering God's world. And I pray that we each may live our one wild and precious life to the fullest.

In God's peace, *Pastor Elizabeth*



Church Picnic on June 23

The IUCC congregation is invited to Picnic with Pastor Elizabeth following her final sermon as IUCC's first associate pastor on June 23. It's been an amazing three-plus years! Volunteers are needed to bring picnic-style food for a gathering at the picnic tables next to the garden and child care playground. Sign ups for food will begin June 9. Contact Cindy O'Dell at cmodell19@yahoo.com if you want to help plan the event or to aid in set up or cleanup. ~ *Cindy O'Dell*

Youth Leader's Column

Erika Sanders



Greetings! June will be a month of transition for our youth program, as we welcome Annie Mellott to fill the role of youth coordinator.

Annie is a friend of mine and a fellow graduate from Chapman University. I am confident that her gifts and enthusiasm will be a tremendous asset to IUCC.

June 2nd will be my last day at IUCC. I will be spending the next year in Rousse, Bulgaria, on a Fulbright scholarship.

Although I am sorry to say good-bye to all of you in Irvine, I am excited to see what this next adventure holds. It has been a joy and privilege to work with the youth; they are all passionate, bright, and caring individuals. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to participate in the life of this congregation and for the hospitality you have shown me.

Be sure to be on the look-out for information on upcoming youth events from Annie!

From the Pastor's Desk (continued from page 2)

In some of the written comments I got back after the forum, I hear that diversity in hiring is important. That is a given. I also heard that a "cafeteria style" of benefits might be the most just means of augmenting a part-time salary of "X" many hours per week. I saw strong support for adding a K-3 Sunday school program at first service.

Next steps: Creating the staffing/benefits package for two 2/3-3/4 time positions, and getting the jobs posted. And, expect to hear more about a new Sunday school Superintendent.

Finally, in the freshest news about staffing—introduce yourself to Annie Mellott, our new Youth Director. You can read about her in the next column!

~ Pastor Paul

Meet Annie Mellott

Annie is our new Youth leader here at IUCC. She is excited about meeting all of our youth and getting to work on programs for young people.

She is a recent Chapman University graduate. Annie was formally awarded Departmental Honors during this year's Humanities Awards Ceremony. She is a founding member of their new chapter of the national religious studies honor society, Theta Alpha Kappa.



Annie has been a campus leader in promoting interfaith understanding, representing Chapman in the national Interfaith Youth Core and bringing the Better Together campaign to the campus as part of their participation in the national President's Interfaith Service Challenge.

She is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Religious Studies Honor Society as well as holding officer positions in DOC, Interfaith Council, and her sorority. A recipient of a Disciples on Campus scholarship while at Chapman, she is going on to pursue a Masters in Interreligious Education at Claremont Graduate School.

Since she will be going to school nearby, Annie is not bound by a time restriction and plans to spend some time getting to know our youth and working alongside them. She has had some experience at our neighboring Fullerton UCC.



Music Ministry

By John St. Marie



Calling All Shower Singers! Choir Lite begins 6/23!

Beginning June 23rd, the choir will be on a well-deserved break. Don't worry, the music ministry will still be active for another month with your help. If you love to sing, join us for CHOIR LITE – no weekday commitment, just show up on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m., learn the anthem and sing to your heart's content with us in the service.

You don't have to be a professional musician to make a meaningful contribution, just bring a willingness to learn, a desire to sing, and the ability to listen and respond with an open heart and a willing voice!

Who knows, you might just find a fun and fulfilling way to serve the church by continuing in the choir ministry when we return in September.

In the meantime, come and join the fun-loving, dynamic, enthusiastic singers from June 23rd to July 21st.

The Poet's Art

“The Poet's Art” Concert

Presented by the IUCC Chancel Choir

Directed by Dr. John St. Marie

Featuring the piano artistry of
Dr. David Clemensen

Sunday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Sanctuary, IUCC

General admission donation: \$10
(donations go to the church's general fund)

It's an opportunity for outreach to friends and neighbors – We hope you feel compelled to share your chancel choir's talents with your friends and neighbors!

Tickets are going fast, thanks to Suellen's amazing flair for announcements! Do you have your tickets yet? Carl Whidden will be sharing his dramatic talents to help illuminate the poetry, the music is sublime and the amazing Chancel Choir is ready to move some hearts! It's going to be a great concert! Hope to see you all there!

Contact Suellen Rowe for tickets.

Moderator's Column

Cindy O'Dell



This will be my final note as moderator at IUCC. It's been a year of transitions, although if I stop and think about it, it's usually a "transition year" at IUCC.

We are a vibrant, always changing congregation. Yes, people leave or tire of their volunteer roles or find that other demands on their time are just too much to juggle a main leadership role (as was the case for me). But new people arrive, others step up with their own approaches, and we move on.

I am delighted that Anne Rosse is able to step into the role of moderator. Her dedication to the ministry for young people helped launch Bread for the Journey and provided invaluable guidance to Pastor Elizabeth as she traveled the sometimes complicated journey from newcomer to forward-looking associate pastor to motherhood and a life beyond IUCC. I know Anne will bring that same dedication to new ideas and her great organizational ability to the rest of IUCC.

Anne will be fortunate to have the support of Martha Selby as Administrative Board Chair and Pat Sauter as Ministries Board Chair. Like Anne, they are dedicated to making IUCC serve and nourish those who are here and find new

ways to attract those who might want to be part of our faith community.

Finally, let me add a word of appreciation for two others who will end their current roles at IUCC - Pastor Elizabeth and Interim Adult Education Director Ken Wyant. While Ken continues as a member of our congregation and will undoubtedly be tapped again to teach and volunteer in other capacities, his role as a paid staffer ends at the end of June. He has helped us through a critical year with patience and humor and a willingness to take on numerous tasks, including helping to organize the women's retreat. Whoever we find to take on that role, will have an excellent role model to follow.

The same can be said for Pastor Elizabeth. For those of us who grew up in faith traditions that banned women from the pulpit, just seeing Elizabeth there on Sundays confirmed how much we gain from being part of the United Church of Christ in general and IUCC in particular. Add to that the pleasure of watching someone grow with the challenges of the job and learn to negotiate the inherent difficulties of working with both "old-timers" and newcomers while growing her own family (and sharing them with us) and you soon realize how very fortunate we have been these last three years.

I wish both of them the very best in whatever roles they take on. And best wishes, too, for all of IUCC's elected leaders as they face yet another year of transitions.

June Birthdays

Jarrold Anderson
Jennifer Blackburn
Howard Emery
Melissa Gaskill
Reefa Hanenberger
Lois Jaickle
Cliff Kenny
June Kenny
Shirley Lorenz
Judy Lucas
Eric Lutz
Rachel McCallum
Sara McComb
Bruce McDonald

Sylvia McDonald
Jaimee Niles
Lester Ricks
Joan Thompson
Jonathan Trout
Jeanne Villacorte
Joseph Villacorte
Katharine Villacorte
Don Weir
Emily Wetherby
Lesley Wheland
Carl Whidden
Ken Wyant

Adult Education Ministry

Rev. Bil Aulenbach

On Sunday, May 19, the membership of IUCC voted to become a Global Mission (GM) Church, making us the fourth in our Conference and the 74th in the United Church of Christ to attain such a designation. This is a wonderful milestone: “Open & Affirming,” “Just Peace” and now a “Global Mission congregation.” What does this mean, and how will it affect IUCC?

1. It means that we have made a strong commitment to become involved not only with the immediate needs within our church family and outside our doors within the larger community, but also becoming aware of what is happening around the world where UCC has over 270 global programs. The GM office in Cleveland promises strong support.

2. Global Mission will now become a part of the “Mission and Service Ministry” chaired by Felicity Figueroa. This committee will oversee all the mission projects at IUCC. This includes the great projects we have been doing in the past as well as new local and global opportunities.

3. IUCC will also be developing some partnerships with those in other countries. As I write, Ken Matsuyama and Randy Romine are in Japan working with the UCC Church rebuilding the area surrounding the tsunami and nuclear disaster. Working in concert

with Jeffery Mensendiek (missionary from Japan who came to IUCC last January) and six or seven other local churches, we will develop a partnership with the UCC in Japan to support each other. This will be the first of other partnerships we want to develop.

4. We are hoping that this will be an avenue for our youth and young adults to become more involved with our service projects. Mission outreach can be a great tool for evangelizing.

5. Local and global mission is a wonderful way to involve our church members in all sorts of ways, such as: praying for our mission work here and abroad; donating money and goods to our programs; attending presentations and classes; meeting missionaries who come here to share; volunteering at one or more of IUCC’s many events; starting a new mission ministry; sponsoring a child in an orphanage or a young person wanting to continue on with their education; writing to a pen pal in another country; chairing a specific ministry or starting a new one; going on a mission trip; and/or doing whatever else moves you to reach out to the hurting world. We would love to have every member of IUCC involved at some level!

Peace Love Joy

Bil Aulenbach, chair of the Global Mission Project



Adult Education

Rev. Ken Wyant

Bible Study: Tuesday Bible Study at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. is looking at the Gospel of Mark’s description of Holy Week. Our study guide is *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible), or we can share one. BYOIO (Bring Your Own Ideas and Opinions), we like to share them, too.

Sunday Scholars: The theme for Sunday Scholars at 10:15 a.m. is “Environment in Moral Crisis.”

Comma Group Potluck: Everyone who participated in this year’s Comma Groups is invited to the Wrap Up potluck after 2nd service on June 9. We will have a brief program to bring this year’s Comma Groups to a close. We’ll celebrate our growth and share suggestions for future success. We’ll honor the Comma Group leaders who looked after the scheduling, kept the meetings flowing and saw to it that everyone was well fed in body, mind and spirit.



AED Class

New Members - May 19

Pastor Paul Tellstrom



Each year approximately 350,000 people in the US die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). The risk is highest soon after experiencing a heart attack. With every minute that passes without a shock to the heart, an SCA victim's chance of survival decreases by 7-10%. After 10 minutes, few SCA victims survive.

IUCC has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on-site on the back wall of the sound booth. We would love to train as many people as possible in how to use it. Come and learn - you could save a life!

We will be offering a class on using an AED (date to be determined). In the 30 minute session, participants will learn how to operate this life-saving device.

What is an AED?

An automatic electronic device that analyzes the heart's electrical activity and if necessary prompts you to deliver a shock to a person in sudden cardiac arrest.

How does it work?

By re-establishing an effective rhythm by delivering a shock that disrupts the chaotic electrical activity of the heart long enough for the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm on its own.

Identify precautions with use.

AED's are safe for lay persons to use as the AED will not deliver the shock unless it is needed. It guides you with voice prompts, senses and adapts to your action and provides CPR coaching.

Demonstration

You will be given the opportunity to practice at the training.

If you have any questions or concerns about taking this class and/or being responsible to respond, please discuss them with Cindy or me.

~ Janet Emery



Left to right: Lizabeth Kerr, Tommie Kozlov, and Jessie Billings

Jessie Billings

Jessie lives here in Irvine with her husband, Myron, and their two children, Faren and Phoebe. She was born in Denver, and moved to Washington D.C. early on, and was baptized Methodist.

Jessie describes herself as a “recovering attorney,” a teacher and a stay-at-home mom. I learned from teaching Sunday school that Faren and Phoebe at both bright, articulate and inquisitive young people.

Lizabeth Kerr

Lizabeth has been attending IUCC for quite some time. She comes from no religious tradition and therefore declared her Christian journey in her baptism at IUCC on May 19 when she joined our congregation. Lizabeth grew up here in Orange County. She worked in insurance for many years and has been a teacher's assistant for the past few years.

Tommie Kozlov

Tommie was born in Florida and raised in New Canaan, Connecticut. She was attending Saddleback until she found us through friends here at the church. Tommie is retired, and quickly found a niche here—she attended the Women's Retreat and is active in many of our programs.

~ Pastor Paul



Our Women's Retreat drew nearly 40 participants for a spiritual and fun-filled weekend! Here are one woman's reflections ~

Reflections on Pilgrim Pines Woman's Retreat 2013

Just sayin' that I liked getting to know Christine and Lisa on the ride up here. I learned more about transitions and new beginnings from both of them and the drive felt very short.

Just sayin' that the damn hill between the meeting lodge and my bed is not as daunting when I take my time and don't think about falling. Stopping to listen to the birds sing made my heart smile. Funny that I don't hear them when my mind is stuck in fear.

Just sayin' that homemade bread tastes so much better than the best commercial bread. And the fresh cookies are out of this world served warm from the oven. I could be like the bear that ate cookies and drank lemonade while lying on the dining room floor.

Just sayin' that the blue flowers next to the meeting lodge look like they are turning their little faces up to God in prayer. Maybe this place is infused with holiness.

Just sayin' that taking a nap on my rustic, plastic covered, lumpy bed felt like I was sleeping on a cloud. Just sayin' that I'm glad I came.

~ JoAnne Mansell

GENERAL SYNOD 29 - JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2013 LONG BEACH, CA

From Pastor Paul:

General Synod

General Synod is fast approaching! This is the time when all of our UCC churches across the country come together to do business, worship, learn about each other, take stands on issues of importance, and in general, celebrate. It happens every two years, and this time it's in Long Beach.

A number of IUCC'ers are volunteering. Others are baking the cookies that are always available wherever you look. Dates? Friday, June 29-July 2. There is a lot going on--check out the website at: <http://www.ucc.org/synod/> You will see a lot of people you might know, including Pastor Paul, on each of these days.

Here's a proposition: Let's carpool up together for the 3:00 worship service on Sunday, June 30. We can leave after coffee hour from IUCC. The worship service is free.

Our Associate Conference Minister, Libby Tigner, is working on getting the exhibition halls to be open for our churches as well.

See you in Long Beach!

Powerful Parenting

by Dr. Lorraine Fox

PUTTING AN END TO BULLYING - AND THE SERIES

As we end our series on bullying, it is my deepest hope that all who have followed our musings on the topic over the last year will feel hopeful and encouraged that bullying is a behavior that can be stopped. It is not “part of growing up,” it is a distortion of healthy interactions between people. No child or adult should accept being bullied, and no child or adult should be left with deep-seated needs that they believe can only be met with bullying behavior.

There are four necessary ingredients for bullying interactions, and adults are responsible for ALL of them! There must be people who feel the need to bully, people who are victims of bullying, bystanders who literally “stand by” while such interactions occur, and an environmental culture that does not successfully address the need for physical and emotional safety. Each parent, each teacher, each relative, and each neighbor must make a commitment to intervene to stop the behavior and to teach healthy ways to interact with other people. To review, “bullying” can be:

- Verbal: mean language, mocking, insults, crass comments and put-downs including derogatory remarks about characteristics that one has no control over such as looks, size, abilities, glasses, braces, etc.; cruelty/malicious teasing, harassment; starting nasty and destructive rumors that are designed to cause emotional pain; threatening harm, intimidating (causing fear of attack), causing victims to avoid certain areas or activities
- Physical: destruction of personal property; spitting, domination, pushing/shoving, kicking, arm twisting, tripping, forcing someone to do things they do not want to do
- Relational aggression: negative use of exclusion and peer pressure to intentionally exclude from activities
- Gestures: obscene gestures; ugly faces
- Viciousness: throwing body fluids, ketchup
- Using a power imbalance to take advantage of another: size, status, numbers of people, with the goal of making the other person miserable

These behaviors are always wrong and never justified. It never matters “who starts it” - it only matters that it is stopped. All of the evidence points to short and long term harm from such behaviors both for those who act in these ways and for those who receive the actions. We start teaching people not to bully - and not to take it - when they are two, and we continue teaching it through school, the workplace, the neighborhood, and the nursing home. We see it: we stop it.

We know that there are “proven strategies” for reducing the risk of bullying behavior because most kids do not become involved in bullying interactions. Keeping this in mind keeps hope alive:

1. Recognize emotional “sticks and stones” and speak the truth about the impact of words.
2. Empower children and young people. Teach assertiveness skills; remind them that we always have a choice about how to feel and how to act, and we can learn to influence how others treat us.
3. Take responsibility for the “operating rules” in any environment in which you share space with children, and insure that all spoken and unspoken rules support emotional and physical safety.
4. Teach cognitive control. Teach children that while we may have no control over “events,” including how others act, we always have control over how we choose to think about what is happening. If how we are thinking is starting to get us in trouble, we can change it.
5. Separate behavior from feelings. We do not do what we do because we feel how we feel. We do what we do because that is what we decide to do, regardless of how we feel.
6. Address special needs. Role play with children who have trouble knowing how to respond to aggressiveness from others. Identify special characteristics - looks, size, disabilities, etc. - that might tempt others to pick on them and help them develop strategies.
7. Teach tolerance for difference. And if you’re really brave, teach “affirmation,” rather than just “putting up with” differences.
8. Monitor peer interactions with proximity.
9. Teach children about the six basic needs - survival, safety/security, belonging, love, self-esteem and self-actualization, and ways to meet each of these needs without taking advantage of others.
10. Listen to behavior. Remember that everything a person puts out into the universe - words, posture, gestures, clothing, is “communication.”
11. Distinguish between teasing and taunting.
12. Teach stress management and self-control strategies.
13. Address social contradictions: our walk not always matching our talk.
14. Make mountains out of molehills. Don’t wait for something little to become something big. Nip all unacceptable behavior in the bud.
15. Teach empathy - walking a mile in someone else’s shoes.
16. Model non-bullying behavior so children can watch us as well as listen to us. Show and tell.
17. And finally, yes - Hillary was right: “It takes a village!” If teachers aren’t doing it, you do it. If parents aren’t doing it, you do it. If the neighbor isn’t doing it, you do it.

There’s a reason we only need two commandments. If we love God and love our neighbor, we’ll all be all right. Take care.



News & Notes

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