There were lots of happy faces at our annual Trunk or Treat event on October 25!

Photos courtesy of Sarah Fiske-Phillips, Tricia Aynes, Teri Houston, & Joanie Burley
More great Trunk or Treat photos!

Photos courtesy of Sarah Fiske-Phillips, Tricia Aynes, Terry Houston, and Joanie Burley
All Saints’ Sunday is one of my favorite Communion Sundays of the year. It is a chance to remember the saints of our church and the saints in our lives—people who have gone on in the last year, as well as those who live on in our hearts forever. I’m glad we took the opportunity this past Sunday to lift up all the saints who from their labors rest.

In November, the church slowly winds up into high gear. Thanksgiving with our friends at University Synagogue will be very uplifting this year as Chef Bruno Serato from the Anaheim White House tells us about his after-hours job feeding the motel kids of Orange County. If you’d like to be instantly uplifted, try this link: http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/archive11/bruno.serato.html Advent begins right after that, and we move towards the mystery and the wonder of Christmas. It all comes so fast.

If I may, though, I would like to take a moment to encourage you to help your church in a very important matter that is happening right now. Every year, I am at work behind the scenes in your Stewardship Campaign. It is held at the same time every year, and a different chair and committee leads us towards making our goal. Simultaneously, our Budget Committee is at work trying to figure out what we can count on in pledges for next year, while trying to accommodate the aspirations of our ministries as well as the flat costs of running a church.

It is easy for my family to turn in a pledge card. I either drop it in the plate on Sunday, or if I forget, I walk it ten feet across the office to Michael’s desk the next day, and he records it.

This year, for the first time, I clicked here: http://iucc.org/giving/pledge/
It was so easy to pledge online, and I encourage you to do it now, especially if you are one of the folks who waits until the very end. The sooner our Stewardship Committee can report that we are at or near our goal, the sooner our Budget Committee can forge ahead with real numbers that will hopefully match the needs we believe we have at this time.

Stewardship Sunday is almost here—please help us get there with your time, talent and treasure—but your timeliness will go a long way, too! We will have pledge cards and envelopes in church if you need them.

Matthew and Sarah!

Matthew has been approved for ordination, pending a call. Please congratulate him! He has requested to be licensed as a pastor through the Southern Association, and he was approved. Therefore, his pastoral license will be within our church until he is ordained. “Pastor Redrich” will be able to perform weddings and sacraments. I am working with Matthew to find a way to celebrate this designation with the I.U.C.C. community.

Sarah has been accepted as a “Member in Discernment” with the Southern Association (as were Matthew and Laura before her). This means that she is on track towards ordination in the U.C.C. as a second year seminary student. Sarah has also been approved to be a licensed pastor here at I.U.C.C. This is something I wrote about a couple of times before, and spoke to at our Spring meeting.

Sarah’s job description will now include preaching quarterly, but her other duties and hours will remain pretty much the same. She can perform weddings and sacraments, and in fact, watch for a baptism coming up fairly soon! We will recognize Sarah in worship in a moment at the beginning of worship on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22.

There is something happening every Sunday this month, so I look forward to seeing you soon, and soon after that.

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor Paul
IUCC’s Special Forum on Oct. 25 focused on “How Immigration Affects Us All”

IUCC was thrilled to welcome the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra as guest preacher on October 25th. Rev. Alexia is the author with Dr. Peter Heltzel of “Faith Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World.” She spoke movingly of the need for immigration reform and also participated with other guest speakers in our special forum afterwards (see photos below).

Stewardship Campaign

Please submit your pledges by November 5!
Our goal is $470,000. As of Oct. 30, the total pledged-to-date amount is $201,058.

Thanks!
Bill Lawrence, Stewardship Chair

New Members - October 25

Please welcome new members (L to R): Ed Rhodes, Laura Rhodes, & Keith Dillon
Thanksgiving is fast approaching and for me, it is a time to be thankful for all that I have but also to reflect on those in need. As a faith community, we embrace the words in Micah 6:8 - “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” We embrace those words through our actions, both individually and collectively. I want to share with you a few examples of how members and friends of IUCC put those words into action, knowing full well there are many other examples I could write about.

Steve Goetz coordinates volunteers who prepare a meal once a month at the Isaiah House, a true community of homeless women in Santa Ana. The volunteers prepare the meal not only for the 25 “guests” who consider Isaiah House their temporary home, but also to the 150 to 180 homeless who show up at the Civic Center. The volunteers prepare the meals, then share dinner with the women there. As Tom Ingram, one of our volunteers says, “Feeding is the least of what we do. Our most important work is just to make regular conversation.” Steve says that he learned from these women that when one is homeless, regular people don't make eye contact, much less converse with them. He reports that, as he puts it, he naïvely asked one person what she liked best about the community at Isaiah House. She looked at him with a smile and said, “It’s simple. Here I don't have to sleep behind a bush with a sharp stick to keep away unwanted attention. It’s safe here.” IUCC members and friends have been volunteering at Isaiah House for over a year and have gotten to know some individuals quite well. As Steve says, “When our IUCC group serves this community, we feel like we’re serving an extension of our families.”

Iris and Don Bjorklund are IUCC coordinators for Family Promise, an organization that helps homeless families by providing temporary shelter and meals through local churches. IUCC partners with Church of the Foothills in Santa Ana. Church of the Foothills serves as a host congregation (approximately four times a year) to up to 14 guests overnight for one week. IUCC, as the support congregation, prepares and serves the evening meals for three of the seven nights.

One of the best parts of this experience is to meet and interact with the guest families over these evening meals. On Father’s Day in 2014, some of the “graduates” of Family Promise spoke at IUCC about their experiences. Their heartfelt words had the congregation laughing, crying and clapping. Don says, “For me it brought back feelings of love shared that were similar to our experience 40 years ago when Iris and I sponsored a young Vietnamese refugee family. The family lived with our family for several months before finding their home in Mission Viejo. That has led to a lasting friendship that has repaid our little effort so many times over! It takes so little to make such a big difference in peoples’ lives. And it just feels good to do it!”

I’m a member of the Assistance League of Irvine, a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to providing programs and services that improve the quality of life in our community. One of those programs is Operation School Bell (OSB). Through OSB, we clothe over 800 children from needy families who attend Irvine Unified School District. Children also receive a backpack, school supplies, hygiene items, and a book. Members assist in the distribution of these items. It’s great fun to see and hear the joy as the children pick out a brand new backpack and to see them “agonize” over what book to choose! The parents are grateful for the gift of caring, and for the clothing, too! The families shop for clothes at Target North, where Assistance League members work with the staff to serve the families. On these shopping occasions I’ve received many a thank you, many a hug, because the children will have new clothes to wear to school. I tell the kids that there are three “rules” connected with the shopping. One, they have to continue to do well at school. Two, they have to be nice to their Mom and Dad. Three, they have to be nice to their brother(s)/sister(s). That third rule always gets a smile from the adult and a sigh, or a “you must be kidding” look from the children. In many ways, these children are an extension of my family, too!

“What does the Lord require of us, but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.” Thank you to the many IUCC members and friends who volunteer their time, money, cooking, hosting, and helping skills to making a difference!

In faith and community,

Renae
The 21st United Nations conference on climate change will convene in Paris, France, from November 30 - December 11, 2015. For the last twenty years, the United Nations has convened a yearly conference to discuss global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Within the last year, there has developed a strong consensus that the window of time for us to act to slow this process is closing fast. 2014 was the hottest year on record dating back nearly 50 years. With melting glaciers, severe drought, extreme rain patterns and floods, recognition of climate change is unavoidable. And we can at least influence and slow this process.

Faith leaders have emphasized the relationship of caring for the early and our responsibility to care for those most vulnerable. Pope Francis has spoken decisively for the need to change our energy practices.

As a faith community, IUCC has an opportunity to be an active supporter of this process.

California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL) has a proposal for us to consider: “The Paris Pledge.” The pledge states that it is our commitment to reduce our carbon production 50% by 2030 and to be completely carbon neutral by 2050. These are ambitious goals which would require a sustained commitment by the church and its members to achieve. However, it appears that anything less is not enough to affect our earth’s climate.

To assist in accomplishing these goals, CIPL has developed a “Carbon Calculator” which would assist us in tracing what our carbon production is at baseline and the changes over time. Several years ago, IUCC began making changes: window coverings, energy efficient light bulbs, reduction in office energy use, and a limited amount of recycling. Pastor Elizabeth started the children’s garden, which is now being revived.

The Carbon Calculator measures the following:

- **Energy** (including energy efficiency, renewable energy, grounds and water conservation, and inspiring people at home)
- **Transportation**
- **Goods and Services**
- **Waste**

Other ideas to consider include:

- **Advocacy programs**
- **Purchase of carbon offsets**

The CIPL program and the Paris Pledge are ideas for IUCC as a congregation, and as individuals, to consider. Now is the time to act.
Reefa H: Because I am so grateful for my own family, I am going to make a donation to the family that wants to adopt a child.

For me, I am thankful for the World every day. May the Earth be beautiful and strong this Autumn season.

With love,

Miss Lily

Miss Lily’s Green Tips
By Miss Lily

Dear Readers,

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, and I look forward to the Fall festivities. I am planning menus, practicing recipes, and buying gourds and pumpkins. I have many things to be thankful for this year.

How will you give thanks to the Earth this season?

Nancy D: I plan to plant a Winter vegetable garden and to enjoy the trees.

Kathi S: I plant Sweet Peas and I give away the flowers.

Janet E: We go for a walk on the beach.

Anne R: We pray for those who produce, harvest, and process the food; and we thank the Earth. My daughter is a vegan, so we will have an earth-based meal. We are mindful.

Judy C: I plant vegetables, and I shop at Farmers’ Markets.

Renae B: While I work at the Thrift Shop, I look for treasures for me and treasures for gifts. At the Thrift Shop, we can buy things that benefit other people, like books for children and Families Forward. One child was so excited to get two books! It is so important. I am thankful for places like that. They make a difference.

Patty M: I pray for rain in moderation.

Jan O: I will recycle my pumpkins in the “green” waste bin.

Elizabeth H: I plan to use the pumpkin gourd as a bird-feeder.
Last year we volunteered at the Refugio, an after-school program for some 170+ children (from 5 to 15 years old) in one of the most violent barrios in Quito, Ecuador. There is not much in the way of the seamier side of life these children haven’t seen or experienced.

On our return from three weeks in Cuenca, Ecuador, and two weeks in Bolivia, we had a ten hour layover in Quito and took a taxi into “Refugio,” where the founders of this project some 15 years ago (Susette and Rob Goff from Yorktown, Virginia) had come for their annual fall visit.

It was a difficult visit because on June 30, the government had discontinued its support for this project, leaving Refugio short-staffed and lacking food for the delicious lunch the children were ordinarily served. (For many of the children, it’s their only meal of the day. On the weekends they have nothing.)

In spite of these challenges, the center was full of children thoroughly enjoying themselves. Also, some of the “alumni” (those who had attended the program and were now college graduates) had returned. One is now an attorney, who does all their legal work “pro bono.” Another is a communication specialist who is making a DVD about Refugio. There are many great success stories which give hope to the children who know that if they don’t study and do well in school, they could end up in a life of crime and violence.

While we were there, Susette gave us packets for the six IUCC folks who sponsor a child in this project, as well as a “gift” (made by the children) for each of the sponsors.

We hope to have some Mission Moments in a few weeks to honor these generous sponsors. We’re always looking for new sponsors, if you feel so inclined. It costs $120 a year and is one of those gifts that never stops giving, as the donor supports a child who can avoid the criminal justice system and lead a full, productive life. Interested in helping? See Anne or Bil Aulenbach.

Peace  Love  Joy  Hope

*Bil & Anne Aulenbach*
While we are awaiting approval of our Modified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the City of Irvine, the next step on our Master Plan journey, we are looking ahead to next steps. A key next step will be to ask this congregation if we are ready to undertake an approximate $1.5 million capital campaign to fund Phase I, with the remainder of the projected $2 million (approx.) Phase I costs being met through a loan. Between now and the 2016 Winter Congregational Meeting on January 31, we will undertake a number of activities to ensure that this congregation has the information it needs to make a well-informed decision. Forums have already been scheduled in January to discuss: Phase I of IUCC’s Master Plan; the proposed capital campaign; and the proposed 2016 budget. As well, additional information will be disseminated through IUCC’s newsletter, bulletin, and website.

As part of our planning, IUCC welcomed the Rev. Priscilla Bizer from September 23-27. Priscilla serves as Capital Fundraising Executive for the Capital Campaign Services of the United Church of Christ. During her visit, Priscilla preached at both services, participated in a forum to answer congregants’ capital campaign questions, met with various church leaders, and conducted a mini financial feasibility study through congregant interviews. The selection of interview candidates was made using criteria suggested by Priscilla. There was no fee to IUCC for any of her visit.

When Priscilla previously visited IUCC in 2012, she determined that we could “probably” be successful in a capital campaign but that there seemed little emotional investment in the project and an incomplete understanding of the project itself.

It was gratifying to hear her 2015 findings and recommendations. She determined that we had a “high probability” of success, a sure sign that the congregation could move forward with a capital campaign with confidence. Key points from her study:

- Church morale is high. Our senior pastor, staff, lay leaders, music program, Progressive Christianity as expressed by IUCC, and openness to all people were all strongly affirmed. People trust their leaders to do what is best for the church.
- She found a stronger connection between IUCC and the Early Childhood Center. She believes strongly that churches are called to educate tomorrow’s leaders.
- IUCC members have a strong culture of generosity - we give to other organizations as well as to IUCC.
- While the $1.5 million goal may seem to be a stretch by some, she believes the financial capacity is present within the congregation. It is a matter of faith ... of entwining the generosity and commitment with people’s capacity for giving.
- Her sense is that folks in this congregation are ready to make a decision, and they are anticipating a vote in January 2016. Before that vote, they would like an opportunity to review the Master Plan one more time. They want to clarify the cost estimates and understand how the debt will be managed, and they want to understand costs related to doing a capital campaign. Having UCC’s Capital Campaign Services assist us with the campaign was affirmed by those interviewed.
- She recommends a campaign of 15-17 weeks, timed early in the year.

With that campaign timeframe in mind, our potential timeline could look like:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soon</th>
<th>CUP Approval (and Celebration!!!)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2016</td>
<td>Vote on Capital Campaign (Winter Meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb-May</td>
<td>If Approved, 15-17 Week Capital Campaign Launches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>If Capital Campaign is Successful, Vote on Proceeding (Spring Meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 2017</td>
<td>Shovels in the Ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Occupancy</td>
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We’ve been advised that from the time we decide to move forward with building (May 2016?), it will be 6-9 months for planning/permitting/bidding and 18-24 months to occupancy (from the original decision date).

We are extremely grateful to the Rev. Bizer for her return visit to IUCC, and for her much-appreciated counsel, expertise and wisdom. And, our gratitude to all those who participated in interviews and helped offer Priscilla IUCC’s always warm welcome and hospitality.
I know from talking with many of you that I have three distinct groups of readers: parents, grandparents, and people not involved with children but who have clear memories of their own childhood. For reasons I talked about last month there has been a break in our discussion of the development of the self. You parents might actually remember where we left off and will pick right up with me. You grandparents, my colleagues, might need to find your previous copies of the newsletter as a refresher (no apologies, I understand totally). Those of you who read for insight into yourselves will fit into either group. In May I said I was ready to move on from our discussion into the development of “self-concept” into a talk about “self-esteem.”

Self-concept is a matter of the mind: how each of us thinks about who we are. As is true in all things, our minds inform our “hearts,” or our feelings. The word heart is used as a metaphor, since hearts pump and don’t really “feel.” We actually feel in our brains, the same place we think, which is why there is such strong correlation between what we think and what we feel.

“Self-esteem” refers to how we feel about ourselves; what emotions are stirred as we contemplate who we think we are. Are we “happy” with ourselves, or unhappy? Do we like who we are, or do we feel disappointed with who we are? To esteem something is to find it valuable.

Unlike thoughts, which are neither good nor bad but either accurate or inaccurate, feelings are either good feelings or bad feelings. Due to my unfortunate accident, you’ve had many months to do the homework assignment I left you with in May. I hope those of you with easy access to children – teachers, parents, grandparents - took the time to sit down with the children you care about and helped them sort out where they got their ideas about themselves, and whether their ideas are true or not true. Do they know their strengths and weaknesses, or do they have trouble acknowledging either their strengths or their weaknesses? Not knowing yourself well – knowledge being a product of the mind – can lead to feelings about yourself that are based either in true ideas about who you are or false ideas about who you are.

Sometimes it is just plain daunting to realize how the actions of a parent can have life-long effects on who someone grows up to be. Children’s responses to what parents say and do are extremely powerful both in how they learn to believe what is true about them, and in feelings that are almost impossible to get over. Sometimes when I am talking about this subject to a group I ask people (all adults) to raise their hands if there is something that a parent said to them when they were young that they have never forgotten. I have never been in a group where everyone didn’t raise their hands. Then I ask them if they think their parent would be startled to know they still remember and have strong feelings about it. Again, every hand goes up.

Parenting in a way that protects and preserves one’s children from lingering hurt is like walking through a mine-field. Behaviors and words that fall from us when we are tired or frustrated or just thoughtless sometimes stick in our children’s brains (both the thinking brain and the feeling brain) for a lifetime. Ignoring children when they talk – something you can observe on any trip to the mall where parents are on the phone or talking with another adult – tell children that what they have to say isn’t worth listening to. Rejecting a child, even with a simple “Can’t you see I’m busy?” or a light push away when they want to climb on or hold on, hurts as much as it would if you reached out to hug someone and they rebuffed you. Giving children the impression that your love is conditional: you’ll approve of them if they do what you say, or make you proud. Being cold or remote when there is no one else to compensate with warmth. Being inconsistent, leading children to feel anxious when they try to anticipate what they can expect from you. Criticizing behavior in a way that is harsh and feels condemning. Ridiculing something about a child, even if done in a way that seems humorous to you, or name calling, even in jest. Scaring a child in an effort to get them to “shape up”; fear never feels good. Scapegoating a child, blaming them for the way you behave. Setting unrealistic expectations, leaving a child to believe they can never measure up to your standards. Putting children in a double-bind situation where whatever they do will be a “no-win,” etc.
Of course every adult is sometimes “guilty” of causing mental and emotional hurt to a child, even a child they deeply love. We cannot ask that we do everything right. At the same time, we want to be constantly vigilant about our words and our deeds with our children. They only have one chance to become who they are going to be, and each of us bears responsibility to at least pay attention to the thoughts and feelings we are creating in those who are “becoming.” Heavy, I know. You are the product of how you thought and how you felt when you were becoming you. Take a minute to reflect on words and actions from your parents and how some of them stick with you, even after many years. This is the best “homework” to remind each of us to be careful and cautious to say and do what we want to say and do to put truthful thoughts and positive feelings in the hearts and minds of our young people. Sorry if it sounds like a sermon, but we’re not nearly done with this most important subject. So we may run over into next year. They’re worth it. There is probably no more important topic that I’ll ever talk about.

ECC Prop Box Project: Winter Holidays Around the World

In December, the children in the Early Childhood Center will be learning about winter holidays around the world. Teachers are looking for the following items for each of the three classrooms. If you can donate or loan items, sign up on the patio at coffee hour!

Thank you to all our donors for helping the ECC children to have a deeper learning experience.

**SUGGESTED ITEMS**

(each of the 3 classrooms needs a set of items)

**Christmas in the US and Canada**
- 8 non-breakable ornaments
- 3 stockings
- 3 small to medium empty gift boxes

**Hanukkah**
- 1 dreidel
- 1 menorah with candles

**Diwali in India**
- 3 battery-operated tea lights

**Kwanzaa (African American)**
- 1 basket
- black, red, and green ribbon (one of each color)

**Las Posadas in Mexico**
- 1 Nativity scene
- 1 poinsettia plant

**Three Kings Day in Spain and Latin America**
- set of small figurines of the three wise men

**Chinese New Year**
- 1 Chinese lantern

**Christmas in Germany**
- 1 small artificial Christmas tree

**Christmas in Holland**
- 2 Dutch wooden shoes

**Christmas in Japan**
- picture or figurine of Hoteisosho (Buddhist monk, similar to Santa Claus)

Laura Long
On any given Sunday here at IUCC, Pastor Paul preaches about caring for the least among us, our dedicated ministries meet to plan for important advocacy and service activities, our youth come together to explore their own faiths and beliefs, we study the Bible wanting to be spiritually enriched as we learn from wise Progressive Christian scholars, and we gather together in meaningful fellowship. We are a vibrant and thriving faith community. But, what does our church campus reflect about us?

A couple of Sundays ago, I walked around the IUCC campus, just being an observer. Here are just a few of my observations:

- A large ministry was crammed into our small and crowded Library, trying to have a meeting. Another group was meeting in Plumer Hall with raised voices so they could be heard over the sound of dishwashing in the kitchen. Another group was perched on teeny tiny preschool chairs in the Early Childhood Center.
- Some of our senior members leave directly after service. Likely they would enjoy coffee hour but we don’t offer many seating options.
- We want to offer extravagant hospitality but don’t exactly present a welcoming frontage or an easily navigated campus. I still remember the first time I tried to find the church office, wandering the campus like Moses in the desert.
- Our desire to serve is strong but there’s no room at the inn for us to offer sanctuary or a safe place for a homeless family to spend the night.
- These observations don’t include the aging nature of our preschool, the crowded workspace for dedicated employees who have served IUCC for decades, or the lack of confidential counseling space for our pastoral staff.

From surveys, forums and planning groups, we know that 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. To learn more, please click to the “Campaign” tab at: 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 Association.

The remaining piece – before our project can undergo a final approval hearing – is a traffic study. Since May, we have been working with the City on the traffic report, providing data and analysis while addressing their questions and concerns. We just submitted what we hope is the final report draft. Frankly, we certainly didn’t expect getting the traffic study approved would take quite so long. Despite that, we are hoping to get our hearing scheduled soon. It could be Administrative Action, Zoning Administrator Approval (most likely) or Planning Commission; the hearing format will have an impact on how long it will take to get our actual approval. When approval happens, we’ll be sure to announce it promptly and look forward to a church-wide celebration of this milestone!

In the meantime, I invite you to do what I did and walk around our church campus. Then, I invite you to think about what a new church campus could mean to this community as we walk together in faith, following the teachings of Jesus Christ. 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!
**Shawl Ministry Holiday Feast**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry cordially invites the congregation of IUCC to its annual Holiday Feast on Wednesday, November 25, in Plumer Hall at 5:30 p.m. The Feast is a potluck of traditional Thanksgiving fare. Please RSVP to Pat Sauter or Nancy Dreckman.

**Mission & Service Clothing Drive**

Missions & Services continues its on-going clothing drive. This 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.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Women’s Fellowship**

**Wed. * Nov. 4 * 6:30 p.m.**
Contact Steve Goetz for details.

**Building & Grounds Workday**

**Sunday * Nov. 8 * 12:30 p.m.**
Wear your favorite weekend “do the chores” clothes to church, and stay after second service to help spruce up the campus for the Fall. Light chores will be assigned to everyone who wants to pitch in. A pizza lunch will be provided for all who help out.

**Isaiah House Shelter**

**Wed. * Nov. 11 * 3:30 p.m.**
Contact Steve Goetz for details and to RSVP: sgoetz53@gmail.com.

**Seekers**

**Tuesday * Nov. 17 * 9:30 a.m.**
Join our women’s study group for theological discussion over coffee and other morning refreshments. Contact Reefa at: reefahanny@comline.com.

**Shared Service of Thanksgiving**

**Tuesday * Nov. 24 * 7:30 p.m.**
**University Synagogue**
Join us for our annual Thanksgiving Service with our friends from University Synagogue led by Rev. Dr. Paul Tellstrom and Rabbi Arnie Rachlis. Sir Bruno Serato, a CNN Hero, will speak on “Feeding The Kids In America.” Please bring packages of dry pasta and jars of spaghetti sauce for his anti-hunger project!

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!**
We need hosts for coffee hour on Sundays. Please sign up on the patio.

Ben Allen  
Nick Allen  
Nicole Bermudez  
Jennifer Bullington  
Eric Burley  
Janet Emery  
Emme Exelby  
George Fulton  
Kelly Garrity  
Dean Inada  
Matt Mirmak  
Ben O’Dell  
Roni Portillo  
Jean Raymoure  
Tom Silk  
Michael Spindle  
Irene Thornton  
Rob Thornton  
Robert Zane
Last month you were all introduced to Angelica Rowell, our choral intern in the Alto section. It is my pleasure this month to help you get to know Ulysses Aquino, Tenor, and Guillermo Gonzalez, Baritone. They have been a welcome addition to the choir and we are sure you will love and appreciate them.

Ulysses was raised in Bakersfield, California, and began singing in choir in the fifth grade. He is now a student at Cal State Long Beach majoring in Vocal Performance. He sings in the Chamber Singers, which is the elite singing group on campus. He is also part of the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music Opera Institute. He will be giving his Junior Recital in the near future, and we will pass along the information so that anyone who would like to support Ulysses will be able to do so. Ulysses plans to continue his education with an advanced degree and become a choral teacher.

As a choral intern Ulysses looks forward to learning leadership skills and gaining experience in performing and conducting. He is grateful to be part of the music ministry which he sees as a family, and expressed that everyone has been “super friendly and inviting.” Ulysses’ excitement for music is contagious. You can usually find him with a huge smile on his face in rehearsal, during services, or out on the patio.

Guillermo Gonzales grew up in Whittier where he still resides today. His earliest musical endeavor was learning the song “Back at One” by Brian McKnight to sing to a girl he liked in his first grade class. In his spare time, Guillermo enjoys hiking. The more rustic the trail the better for him.

Guillermo’s journey to this point in his educational career is a testament to the influence of good teachers. He was planning to study law, and took a voice class as an elective. He did well, and his teacher invited him to sing in the choir. He became increasingly interested in music classes, and with plenty of encouragement from his professors, Guillermo grew more confident in his abilities and changed his major. He received his AA in Music from Cypress College and transferred to USC where he now majors in Choral and Sacred Music. After school, he wants to be a professor as well as a church choir conductor.

When asked about his impression of the music ministry, Guillermo said he has really enjoyed the excellent repertoire. He has appreciated the teaching skills of John St. Marie and in fact said “I want to be John when I grow up.” He is excited to learn conducting and have the opportunity to practice in a welcoming atmosphere. He loves to help people learn and thinks that choral music is so great because music is the most fun when you are sharing it with other people.

We are thrilled to have Ulysses and Guillermo with us, and this couldn't happen without the congregation's support of the choral internship program. We look forward to watching the growth and development of all three of our new interns. Their youth and vitality are so refreshing. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to them if you haven't already had the pleasure.

Joni Baker

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Winter Choral Concert will be Sunday, December 6, at 7 p.m.