All the best, John!

Joyful * Inspiring * Non-Judgmental
Compassionate * Creative * Wise * Loving
Understanding * Soulful * Reflective
* Generous * Warm * Talented * Supportive
~ these are some of the many adjectives
used on July 29 to describe Dr. John St.
Marie, our beloved music director, who is
leaving IUCC to become Director of Choral
Music at Nicholls University. We are so
happy for him, but we’ll miss him a lot!
“The word that best describes John is love: love of God, love of church, love of people” ~ Joni Baker

“I couldn't be more proud of what we’ve achieved, and I hope this church will continue to be a beacon of light to the world” ~ John St. Marie

The congregation surrounded John with a laying on of hands to bless his journey (photos by Tricia Aynes)
On July 22, IUCC thanked outgoing leaders and installed new ones

Photos by Tricia Aynes
A few months ago, an old friend was over for dinner with her husband, and she shocked me by saying, “I wonder how many times we have left to see each other?”

Karen was recently diagnosed with something that, while serious, is manageable. Still, it woke within her those feelings of mortality that can rise up when we are confronted with the fact that the perpetual presumption of good health is not a realistic expectation.

After they left that night, I came up with the idea of a “Buddy Trip.” I called her and suggested that as friends who go back so far (born in the same hospital seven weeks apart), we should go away together and talk, laugh, cry, whatever...and experience something new. We chose Seattle. With the backdrop of the Space Needle and Pikes Market (where she strenuously objected to seeing fish being thrown back and forth by the employees), we did all of the above. Taking time to do this so intentionally said, “We care for each other enough to create this occasion, and it stands as a reminder of the importance of our friendship.”

We Moderns live with constant distractions that splinter our focus and bring us to believe that we are more in touch than ever before due to social media, when in fact, some of my “Facebook Friends” look more like trophies on my virtual wall than old friends whom I profess to hold dear.

One of the ways a church shows itself at its best is when it provides the space to encourage all kinds of people to be in community with each other and to form deep and sometimes surprising friendships. These aren’t the people you know from work. They come from all walks of life, and they are united by the mission and the vision their church pursues and projects. When we get it right, it is remarkable. Last Sunday, I was trying not to get tearful as we said, “Good-bye” to our Director of Music, John St. Marie, while at the same time, we were welcoming a three-generation family and a retired UCI professor into membership in our faith community.

The church is a place where we are intentional about building relationships with each other. Therefore, it makes sense that we feel sadness in seeing someone we love leave us whether to retirement or a new opportunity. Especially when combined with a campus that feels endlessly torn up and disjointed.

I miss John already, as I miss our former Administrator, Michael Spindle But, Connie Jones has taken the reins of the Search Committee, and a new chapter is forming for how we will experience our love of music at IUCC. Similarly, Steve Swope has taken charge as our Administrative Pastor, and new ways of doing the work of running the daily business of the church are taking place. It has changed us in its newness, as fresh perspectives often do.

This week, our Ministry for Young People under the direction of Pastor Sarah, is running Vacation Bible School and gearing up for a Mission Trip.

In two-three short weeks, the dust and debris from all these past months will disappear, and we will learn to bring more to what we do together through the opportunities afforded by our new space.

We’ve been on a bit of a “Buddy Trip” together as a church community. We intentionally chose to go the route that we knew would be different, and in fact would change us. We as much as said, “We care for each other enough to create this occasion, and it stands as a reminder of the importance of our friendships.” In so doing, we grieved when our long time friends had to leave, and celebrated when new people joined as they did a week ago.

This is a new chapter that is opening up. Intriguing things are starting to unroll. We have good lay-leadership, and we are a vital congregation at the right place and time.

I look forward to returning to you after a short time off.

See You in Church,

Pastor Paul
Keith and I have hosted countless IUCC events at our home in Irvine (Pastor Paul lovingly refers to us as the “Birdsong Campus of IUCC”). We’ve welcomed our IUCC family for choir parties, stewardship events, Christmas parties, and - for many summers - the annual leadership potluck.

This annual potluck is the beginning of the leadership weekend - a chance for all to reflect on where we've been and where we're going. On a recent Friday evening, around 40 past and current leaders gathered in our backyard to share in the joy of community (and also enjoy good food and “refreshing” beverages). In the quiet light and soft breezes, we heard words of thank you and also of anticipation for this coming year. We gathered on our patio and looked ahead to when we will gather on the new IUCC patio in September.

On Saturday morning, the 2018-19 leadership team began assembling in Plumer Hall. First order of the day was an “autograph party” - a getting-to-know-you exercise that involved getting signatures as in “get the signature of a past moderator” and “get the signature of a person new to leadership.” After this energizing start, we settled into a session ably led by our new Administrative Pastor, Steve Swope, about the practical elements of being a leader - check requests, room requests, mailboxes, and reports. Our treasurer, Mark Allen, next explained the process of formulating a budget - a process which begins in August and culminates with a 2019 budget adoption on January 27, 2019.

Pastor Sarah then led all of us on an excursion where using the children’s book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, we talked of our dreams for the new building and how this new space might transform and change us. Words like confident, curious, anxious, proud, and excited described the various emotions of the leaders.

In the latter part of 2017, two task forces were formed - a Community Building Task Force and a Worship Renewal Task Force. As a group, we reviewed their recommendations and heard reports from both task forces on next steps. Cindy O’Dell described the various changes, both current and planned, to the IUCC website. Pastor Paul shared some ideas of worship renewal, including the use of drama for our Labor Day service.

The last report of the retreat centered around a presentation from Pastor Paul and Steve on Pastoral vs. Program size churches. As Steve described, IUCC has acted like a program-based church for many years, even when our size did not dictate that. Now our challenge, as stated by Pastor Paul, is to continue to grow our attendance so we can continue to offer vibrant and vital programs.

After hearing reports and sharing ideas, it was time to look at who we say we are and some of the programs we offer. Using various colored dots the leaders first evaluated the status of our various designations - open and affirming, global mission, just peace, and green faith. (NOTE: green=good, go; yellow=okay, neutral; red=not so good, needs work; blue=don't know, not enough information to evaluate).

Opinions were shared, and ideas formulated about how we can make our designations come alive with actions and programs.

Using the same dot activity, we then looked at some of our existing activities and programs: adult education, children’s programs, youth programs, women's programs, local mission activities, fellowship opportunities, music program, Comma groups, the Ministries Fair and our preschool. The goal here was to recognize our strengths, identify our weaknesses, and discuss ways to modify these programs to make them better serve our faith community. It was a lively discussion punctuated often with a need to educate and involve our leaders and congregation.

Finally, we looked at ways we can fill our new meeting space with programs, events, and activities to highlight our commitment to be a beacon of progressive Christianity to the greater community!

With the blessing of the congregation on Leadership Sunday, the Ministry Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Administration Board members are ready to move forward in faith and community!

Renae Boyum, Moderator
Well, IUCC, we are in the FINAL month of construction. Hard to believe, I know! Thank you so much for your patience during the disruptions that construction has caused. Very soon we will be enjoying our beautiful new indoor and outdoor spaces, thanks to your generosity and vision for IUCC's future.

In July, we saw our main driveway entrance finally re-open. It will have to remain closed during the week due to construction activity but will be open for Sundays. Parking should return to normal by the end of August as construction wraps up. Opening our new disabled parking spots is a priority. Pending City of Irvine approvals, we anticipate moving the Church Office in early September.

By mid-August, virtually all interior work will be completed. Flooring has been installed and ceilings will be finished soon. Over the next two weeks or so, the operable partitions will be installed in the meeting rooms, along with video screens. The new restroom will be equipped, along with finishing touches in the office spaces.

Exterior work will take a little longer. Stucco work is progressing while HVAC testing will begin shortly. Work on the new pedestrian path along Alton will begin during the second week of August; it's the first step of our landscaping plan, which includes beautiful new low-water-use plantings.

We are incredibly grateful for your speedy payment of campaign pledges, which helps IUCC stay financially strong. We are still raising money to reduce our campaign shortfall. So, if you have been procrastinating making a campaign pledge ... or you are a new member and haven't yet joined your church family in supporting this project ... or you have made a pledge but can do just a little more, the time is now! Every single gift – no matter the size – will make a difference. Please make your gift or pledge today. You can drop a check in the offertory plate or make a pledge or gift online at iucc.org/giving/. To ensure that we are applying your gift correctly, please indicate “Mini Campaign” on your check or online payment.

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 9, when we dedicate the new building and thank this church community. Our thanks to Jessie Billings and the many folks who have stepped up to plan this fabulous celebration. See you there!

Anne Rosse, Chair of Building Task Force
Comma Groups are IUCC’s program for developing richer, supportive community within our congregation. IUCC members come from throughout Orange County – San Clemente to Santa Ana, Costa Mesa to Coto de Caza, Fullerton to Fashion Island, Dana Point to Downtown Orange.

We come here from so many places because this is a unique congregation proclaiming a distinctive message. And as we scatter again on Sunday afternoons, we want somehow to hang onto the feeling, the fellowship we experience under our dome and on the patio.

If you’ve felt like that even a little, why not join a Comma Group this year? We meet monthly, usually in a group member’s home over a meal or snack, from October through April. We explore a common topic, but just as importantly we learn about and support each other through the ups and downs of our lives.

There’s a new twist this year, too; each group will have 3 study options to choose from! You can explore the topic your group is most interested in. Comma Group sign-ups will begin this month – and I’m also looking for leaders, solos or teams. Watch the weekly email for more information!

Finally, don’t forget to clean out and straighten up the storage spaces your group uses here at church! We’ll be having a work day, mostly in Plumer Hall, on August 26; it’d be nice to be able to put stuff away neatly. (Hint, hint…)

I’ll be picking up the idea of Christian community on August Sundays, except Aug. 12 when Anita Schwab will lead another installment of Food & Faith.

And Bible Study continues each Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., with Ken Wyant leading us through the books of the New Testament, with insights from Marcus Borg’s Evolution of the Word. Right now we’re almost three-quarters of the way through the Gospel of Luke! Newcomers are always welcome – in Plumer Hall, and for our after-hours conversation at Square One Pizza.

Faith & Works – Plan to be part of our next event, “A Just World for All,” on Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14! Building on the UCC’s new theme, we’ll explore how to promote policies that reflect our moral-ethical principles.

How do our nation’s founding ideals address the current political atmosphere? What guidance can our faith bring to policy matters that affect all of us? On Saturday we’ll hear some speakers and have workshop opportunities to put ideals into practice.

On Sunday, Pastor Paul will reflect on moral-ethical citizenship and leadership. And we’ll conclude after worship with an informational forum on the November ballot issues. Mark your calendars now, and watch for more details!

Adult Education
by the Rev. Steve Swope

Adult Sunday School – many thanks to Bil Aulenbach for leading Adult Sunday School during July! And also for his three – 3, count ‘em! – series throughout the summer. His final offering, exploring a “21st Century Reformation” through the writings of Bishop John Shelby Spong, will begin August 22 or 23.
Frank Lyman to preach on August 12

On Sunday, August 12, Frank Lyman will preach at our 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. His sermon “Mrs. Sweet Changes Her Name” is based on Ruth 1:1-8, 15-21 and John 6:33-35.

Frank’s new skit: “Naomi and Ruth at the Bethlehem High School Class Reunion” will complement the Ruth text. The story of Ruth speaks to our society which so needs this message of appreciation for diversity, compassion and fidelity. In keeping with the Worship Renewal Task Force’s intent to experiment a bit this summer, the prelude will begin five minutes prior to the service so that the service’s body will begin at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. There will also be a bit of “tweaking” of the worship format.

Frank is a retired United Methodist pastor from Michigan. He is a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University and Western Michigan University. In retirement he serves as an Apprenticeship Group Leader with Master of Divinity students at Fuller Theological Seminary and leads Bible studies and worship services at Regents Point Retirement Community where his wife Carole is in her ninth year as chaplain.

(Above illustration is “Ruth and Naomi” by He Qi, 1994.)

A Look at the Israeli-Palestinian Issue
Lunch & Discussion
Sunday * August 19 * 12:15

Sponsored by: IUCC Advocates for Peace & Justice Ministry, Mission & Service Ministry, Global Mission Ministry, Adult Education Ministry and Progressive Christianity. This presentation is primarily for our IUCC church family, so that everyone might feel free to ask some of the “hard” questions without fear of offending other religions or cultures.

If those in attendance wish to continue this dialogue with Palestinians, Israelis, Muslims, other Christians, our Jewish friends or Arabs, we shall then set up future meetings. The meeting will be moderated by Dave Smith, Chair of the Advocates. The first speaker will be UCI Professor Scott Bollens, who has spent many months over the years in Israel as an expert in City and Urban Planning. His insights are unique in that he was not there in any religious capacity but as an advisor to the Israeli government. He is also the author of “Trajectories of Conflict and Peace” (2018), a most informative book on the situation there.

The next speaker will be Fr. Bil Aulenbach who, with his wife Anne, was in Israel last October/November doing research on the historical Jesus. While Bil and Anne were in Jerusalem, they were shepherded around by the UCC Global Mission pastor, the Rev. Loren McGrail, who spoke at IUCC last summer. Loren is connected with the Palestinian YWCA in Jerusalem and showed them Jerusalem through the eyes of a Palestinian Arab (very different from how most tourists see it).

After the speakers’ short presentations, the meeting will focus on trying to answer your questions about the situations in the Holy Land as well as developing a design for future gatherings, if the group so desires.

In no way is this meeting designed to take sides; our objective is to develop ways in which we can support a peace process to bring harmony to this historical religious region as well as make certain that Jerusalem remains an international city governed by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

If you are interested in attending the August 19th gathering, please sign up after church so that we can have an accurate number for meal planning and set-up.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bil at (949) 240-2933 or bilaulenbach@yahoo.com.
Our young people, Allanna, Brian, Dylan, Eric, Faren, Nick, and Phoebe went to Pilgrim Pines for a week of summer camp. Aidan Mitchell (youth leader) and Sara McComb (childcare attendant) were counselors, and Pastor Sarah was the Pastor at Camp!

Photos courtesy of Pastor Sarah Fiske-Phillips
Want a Cookie? Of course you do!

We love to gather round the snack table after church and visit with friends. The cookies, fruit, cheese, crackers, and other snacks are the perfect complement to our warm and vibrant congregation, and they help make all of us feel warm and welcome. But wait - they do not appear by magic! The tasty treats are provided by smiling and generous volunteers like you. If we don't have sign-ups, we don't have snacks - it's as simple as that. Don't let it happen here! Won't you add your name to the calendar? Sign up sheets are on the patio on Sunday mornings. If each of us committed to one Sunday each year, our calendar - and our tummies - would be full.

Families Forward Back to School Drive
Collection extended through August 7!
We need your help - 550 more backpacks to go! This is the final push to make sure we can serve a record number of over 1,700 children with new backpacks and school supplies! You can leave your donated supplies in the green barrel in the Narthex through August 7. Thank you!

Request for help on Sept. 8
Pat Sauter is requesting helping hands on Saturday, September 8, from 10 a.m. to noon to prepare goodies for the dedication party on September 9.

Building Dedication on Sept. 9!
September 9 is the date for the dedication of our new facilities! There will be one worship service at 10 a.m. followed by the ceremony.

Choir back to practice on Sept. 6
The choir will be back at practice on Thursday, September 6, in preparation for the dedication service at 10 a.m. on September 9, with special music starting at 9:30 a.m.

Isaiah House
Wednesday, Aug. 8, 4:00 p.m.
Volunteers serving a meal at Isaiah House meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to provide a meal for the residents. Call (949) 436-1946 for more info.

The Seeker's Women's Group
Annual Summer Luncheon
The Seekers will be meeting in Laguna Woods at 11:30 on Tuesday, August 21, for lunch and conversation. If you would like to join the fun, please contact Reefa at reefahanny@com so she can add your name to the gate list. Also, if you would like to carpool, please phone Joan MacDonald at 949-552-5593 so there will be a place for you. The carpoolers are meeting in the IUCC parking lot at 10:55 a.m. We hope to see you there!

Women's Fellowship
There will be NO Women's Fellowship meeting in August. Meetings will resume on Sept. 5 for their usual salad bar supper.

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Do you/did you have an interesting career?  
Our youth would like to interview you!

The youth group is creating a video to play on Labor Day.  We'd like to do short interviews with members of the congregation about their careers.  The interviews can be between services, after second service, or scheduled for another time.

If you're interested, please contact Ben at allenben71@gmail.com or call/text at 949-812-1692.

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**PARENTING**

**INFANTS**

Lorraine E. Fox, Ph.D.

39 page booklet available for free
Download from my Website @ DrLorraineFox.com

At the request of one of our congregants – I don’t know whether to thank her or blame her – I’ve written a 39 page booklet for new parents or others with infants in their lives.  I have some bound copies (for money) but anyone can download the entire booklet from my website for free.

So if you’re looking for something to read from the Parenting Lady this month go ahead and print it out.

I’ll be pondering a new “theme” for the next series of columns and welcome any suggestions.

(pgfsc@cox.net)

Lorraine

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**Group: Batterers Anonymous**

(a short documentary film by Ben Allen)

*Sunday * August 12 * 12:30 p.m.* Sanctuary

**Group: Batterers Anonymous** is a short documentary film by Ben Allen that follows a group of men in court mandated group therapy, called a Batterers Intervention Program (or BIP).

We'll have an opportunity to view Ben's film on Sunday, August 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Ben will also answer questions.

Each of the men in this program has been convicted of domestic abuse and was sentenced to one year of weekly two hour sessions. The consequences for missing meetings, or failing the class, range from probation and fines to years of jail time.

These therapy sessions are led by a trained facilitator who attempts to help the men change the attitudes and beliefs that led to their abuse in the first place.

**Warning**: This documentary contains descriptions of domestic abuse
We all know of the problem connected with excess waste and plastic pollution in our streams, oceans, soil and landfills. With that in mind, as part of our commitment as a Creation Justice Congregation, I would like to see us address how our food is served at church. It is always with a smile and great conversation, but on or in what? Unfortunately, we don't have the luxury of a fully stocked kitchen equipped with a commercial dishwasher, so we are constrained to the use of single-use utensils and paper products. I would like to see us do better in purchasing those products, but I realize that the purchases of our plates, cups and utensils are under a budgetary constraint. Also, when a special event is planned by an individual committee, they buy their own paper goods, so we need everyone on board to make a commitment as a congregation. I would like to see us move to compostable and biodegradable products purchased by companies committed to the stewardship of our planet.

This is where it becomes complicated. Where and what we purchase matters. Often the least expensive product, Dixie, is sold at a big box stores by Georgia Pacific, a Koch Brothers subsidiary, an organization that has worked tirelessly to oppose climate change, clear air and water standards, and chemical safety standards. [https://instedding.com/blog/koch-brothers-products/](https://instedding.com/blog/koch-brothers-products/)

There are cups made from corn and plates made from sugarcane and wheat straw. Bioplastics are not always truly compostable and can be more green washing than anything else. Some oil-based plastics are compostable, while plant-based are not. Below is a website to guide in our purchasing. [www.ecocycle.org/recycle-compost-reuse/compost/compostable](http://www.ecocycle.org/recycle-compost-reuse/compost/compostable)

People who bring their own cup or thermos to church will put us ahead of the game. Let me know what you think.

Judy Curry

for the GREENfaith team: Judy Curry, Tony Dover, Nancy Dreckman, Howard Emery, Carol Getz, Martha Hansen, Bonnie Shaffstall, Eileen Vincent, Anita Schwab, and Vivian Johnson

You may noticed some small changes happening around the IUCC campus of late. Small things that may have gone unnoticed in the shadow of the new building.

The youth have have been working diligently on cleaning and organizing the large storage room in Plumer Hall and the spider shed outside Plumer Hall. They are well on their way to giving the Youth Room a fresh start to “Embrace the Future” with the new building. All by youth elbow grease, donations and dedication to their church.

Building and Grounds and the short but mighty assistant have brought new life to the peace pole garden and some of the parking areas as available during construction. The teak benches have also been given new life and walkways have been made safer.

At this time Building and Grounds is seeking volunteers for a few projects that cannot be completed in the two hours allotted to the All Church Work Day coming up on August 26, 2018.

Our current volunteer needs: Skilled or semi-skilled painters for a couple of interior walls to be painted in the sanctuary restrooms. The kitchen in the pre-school is in serious disrepair and is in need of patchwork, paint and a splash-back behind the sink. The quality of painting and patching in this area is not as important but is in serious need. The bonus to this volunteer opportunity is you will have AC to escape the heat.

There is also a woodworking project to replace some 2 x 12’s in the playground area. A skill saw, a tape measure and some know-how can get this project done in short order. (Sorry, no AC)

Teri Houston from Building and Grounds is able to meet you in the late afternoon to help get these projects done. The preschool kitchen must be done in the late afternoon/evening/Saturday, due to their business hours. While considering your availability and willingness to help, keep in mind……… “Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart” – Elizabeth Andrew
Another Peek at the Real Jesus

Since the 1980s a great deal of my ministry has been spent trying to piece together a composite of a (hu)man by the name of Jesus, from Nazareth. The New Testament paints many different “portraits” of who the authors want Jesus to be, but shares next to no facts about his daily life.

This necessitates doing what Biblical scholars call “sitz im leben” or the German term for “the situation in life” as it was in Galilee and Judah in the first century. For instance, it’s almost a sure thing that Jesus was born in Nazareth, not Bethlehem. (The Bethlehem birth story in Matthew and Luke attempts to have Jesus born in King David’s city, David being the prototype of the future Messiah. See Micah 5:2.)

For eons, archeologists have had difficulty finding any remnants that Nazareth ever existed. Then in 2010, archeologists found a first century house buried in the sands of time.

In the Gospel of John (1:46), when Nathaniel, a future disciple, heard that Jesus was from Nazareth, he asked, “Can any good come out of Nazareth?” Even back then, it seemed that the little village had the reputation of being a hick or backwater community. It was at the edge of the Roman Empire and didn’t have much going for it. Jodi Magness (an acclaimed Biblical archeologist and author), stated that Nazareth was “a filthy, malodorous and unhealthy” village. Another writer suggested that the people who lived there were “throw-away” people. They were uneducated, illiterate, dirt poor, owned nothing but owed everyone. Most of the folks there made a living by being subsistence farmers or what was called in Greek, “tektons” or day-laborers who dug ditches, built walls and poorly constructed houses for the poor.

This is a very different picture from the authors of the Gospels or the artists of the early church who pictured Jesus looking like a newly immigrated “Swede” (very Caucasian), in a long white flowing gown, with well-coiffed hair, manicured nails and rosy cheeks. A more accurate picture might be Jesus appearing in tattered clothes and a scrubby beard, with the hands of a dirt digger - not the sharpest looking tack in the box. One of Jesus’ contemporary historians suggested that he wasn’t very good-looking.

Even though Jesus could have been a tekton for 20 or 25 years of his life, he still had/has his earth-changing message of agape love which is unconditional, totally accepting, most forgiving and always caring, a message which has changed the course of civilization, as well as you and me.

Peace Love Joy Hope Bil

The 3rd and final summer offering of PC will be a 4-part series entitled, “Charting the 21st Century Reformation.” We’ll use Bishop John Spong’s newest and last (because of a stroke) book, “Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today.” We look at what the future Church needs to become if it is to survive. The classes will be on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. and repeated on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The dates are: August 22/23, 29/30, September 12/13 and 19/20. There are flyers and registration forms on a table near “the treats” after church. Please feel free to call me at (949) 240-2933, if you have any questions.

The Eight Points of Progressive Christianity:

By calling ourselves Progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who…

1. Believe that following the path and the teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of the many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: * Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, * Believers and agnostics, * Women and men, * Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, * Those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion and selfless love.
The movie list this month is dedicated to Orion Pictures. Orion was one of those flukes in Hollywood history; it was gone within thirteen years of its arrival. Yet within that thirteen years, Orion had garnered 52 Academy Award nominations for 24 films. Orion films like *Caddyshack*, *10*, *RoboCop* and *The Terminator* were among the biggest commercial successes of their age.

Orion was formed on January 13, 1978, when five executives left United Artist to form their own company. Orion Pictures Company began life with a distribution deal with Warner Brothers. Soon, Orion had signed contracts with, among others, actors John Travolta and Barbra Streisand, directors Francis Ford Coppola and Blake Edwards, writer John Milius and producer Ray Stark. In April of 1979, Orion had released its first film, George Roy Hill's *A Little Romance*. Orion's first big hit, Blake Edwards' *10*, starring newcomer Bo Derek, was also released in 1979. The late 70s established a pattern for Orion; mix commercial successes like *Caddyshack* with critically acclaimed films like *The Great Santini*.

In 1982, Orion acquired the flagging production company Filmways and renamed it the Orion Picture Corporation. That same year, it produced a smash hit for TV called *Cagney and Lacey*. In 1984, Orion produced its first Best Picture nominee: Milos Forman's *Amadeus*. *Amadeus* dominated the Academy Awards that year with 11 nominations and 8 winners, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Screenplay. Orion went on to produce five more Best Picture nominees and three more winners.

By December 11, 1991, Orion filed for Chapter 11. It eventually emerged from bankruptcy and is still producing, but none of the projects it produces these days have lived up to the standards set in the 1980s and 90s. Here’s a list of some of my favorite Orion films.


4) *Hannah and Her Sisters* (Woody Allen-1986) – Nowadays, Woody Allen is controversial, but in the 1980s, he was essential to Orion's artistic success. This is Woody at his best.
5) *Hoosiers* (David Anspaugh-1986) – high school basketball and small-town politics.
6) *House of Games* (David Mamet-1987) - Mamet's first and finest film. It's about a psychiatrist, a small-time hood and the games they play.
11) *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Frank Oz-1988) - a pair of con men compete for the best scores.

Next month, we begin Oscar season with a wrap-up on the festivals.
During the week of July 1-7, Troop 602 went to Schoepe Scout Reservation at Lost Valley for their annual summer camp. This is the third year in a row that Troop 602 has gone to Lost Valley for summer camp. Lost Valley is located outside of Warner Springs in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

During their week at Lost Valley, the Scouts earned merit badges and participated in a wide variety of fun activities like swimming, archery, rifle and shotgun shooting, horseback riding, and rock climbing. The camp staff at Lost Valley made sure that there was never a dull moment for the Scouts during the entire week.

Troop 602 meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. inside Plumer Hall. The Scouts are going to be planning a number of exciting overnight outings and activities for 2018-19. One of their outings in September will be attending the MCAS Miramar air show in San Diego, which will be headlined by the US Navy Blue Angels aerial demonstration team. Your child does not have to wait until school begins to join Troop 602. They can register at any time. Join us on Tuesday nights and see how much fun Scouting can be.