



Interim Director Of Religious Education And Programs Announced

A hearty round of applause swept the KCC sanctuary on Sunday, February 10, as Senior Pastor Bruce Larson announced that the church's Personnel Committee had named Judy Atwater as Interim Director of Religious Education and Programs.

Judy is an active member of KCC; at present, she chairs the Diaconate while her husband Douglas chairs the Music Committee. Her experience includes teaching and practicing graphic design; many of the striking postcards, flyers, and signs that you may have seen around the church this past year are the product of Judy's professional skill. She also loves the outdoors – avocations include gardening, hiking, and walking her beloved dog, Honeybear.

Please welcome Judy in this new role at KCC! ♦

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Meet Our Newest Members

On Sunday, February 3, the church welcomed five members into our community. Take a moment to be introduced:

Wayne Bowlby

Though technically a New Yorker, Wayne grew up in Southern California and, after his Navy service and living in such places as Honolulu and Vancouver, he has been a resident of San Diego since 1976.

His graduate study in social work at Fresno State University and San Diego State University paved the way for a long career in social work, including 20 years with the San Diego Department of Social Services.



After many years of marriage to his college sweetheart, including two daughters and three grandchildren, in 1988 Wayne entered into domestic partnership with Ron Morebello.

Now retired, Wayne's interests include genealogy, travel, gardening, and a variety of social groups. He has joined KCC as an associate member, while also keeping his membership in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. His KCC sponsors are Beth and Tony Guepin.

Mark Hoops

Mark came to San Diego in 1997, in connection with his work in corporate training and education (mostly information technology and software). He loves to travel, which is good because his job



demands a fair amount of it. Most recently, he spent nearly a month in India, mostly working but also exploring.

Mark's other interests include puttering around his house doing handy repairs, hiking, zipping about on his motorcycle, and spending time with friends.

His family includes three sisters and two Schnauzers, Blanco and Jaeger. Mark's KCC sponsor is Sharon Young.

Ron Morebello

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Ron was raised in San Diego's Little Italy and Kensington areas, where he attended local schools. But then he branched out, with his passion for music taking him far afield.

Ron holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano from the Juilliard School of Music and has taught in a wide variety of colleges and music schools, ranging from the United States Naval School of Music through Virginia's Old Dominion University to the University of San Diego.



Now, Ron teaches piano privately in Kensington and is a frequent performer and judge across Southern California, often with the piano-four-hands team of Morebello and Rodewald and with the Kensington Trio. To many at KCC he is best known as the originator and chair of the Kensington Concert Series.

Ron has two children and three grandchildren. With his partner Wayne, Ron joined KCC as an associate member; as a Roman Catholic, Ron also continues as a member of Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá. His KCC sponsors are Beth and Tony Guepin.

Denise Madruga

Denise was off snowboarding and unavailable for interview by the *Chimes*. She will be introduced in the next "Meet Our Members" article.



Jennifer Negre

Jennifer returned, newly single, to San Diego about four years ago after 13 years in Connecticut. San Diego is where her mother, her son, and four of her five sisters live; Jennifer's daughter and other sister are in the Los Angeles area. So Jennifer has really come home!

She volunteers in a local kindergarten and serves as a court-appointed special advocate in the Voices for Children program for youngsters in foster care – activity that she describes as the most rewarding thing she has ever done. Jennifer is also attending SDSU, earning her special education teaching credential.



Besides her human family, Jennifer enjoys the company of her dog Jacques. She loves to read and to garden. Her KCC sponsor is Jennifer Brimhall Howeth.

Please welcome these newest members of the KCC community! ♦

Kensington Community Church United Church of Christ

4773 Marlborough Drive
San Diego, CA 92116
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www.kensingtonucc.com

Rev. Dr. Bruce Larson, Senior Pastor
Judy Atwater, Interim Director of Religious
Education and Programs
John Tarbox, Director of Music
Nina Deering, Organist
Connie Cleland, Preschool Director
Debbie Walloch, Office Manager

Chimes Editor Katherine Larson
Production Staff Millie Medigovich
 Beverly Patch

**Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
All are welcome!**

Pastor's Ponderings

A week ago, members from the Partnership Churches (six UCC churches from different racial-ethnic backgrounds, including KCC) gathered for an Ash Wednesday service at University City United Church. The service included the voluntary imposition of ashes. This ritual involves worship leaders smearing some ash mixed with oil in the form of a cross on the forehead of worshippers. When you stop to think about it, this is a strange ritual, isn't it? Why would we do such a thing?

As with any ritual, the imposition of ashes is a symbolic act. The ashes represent our origin from, identity with, and future return to, the earth. They remind us of our status as God's creatures, dependent upon the earth. They remind us of our kinship with all people and all other creatures who also come from and return to the earth.

To underscore this, the words traditionally spoken as the ashes are imposed are: "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return." These words are not meant to denigrate or scare us. They are meant to remind us who we are.

There's an interesting paradox here. As the ashes remind us of our creaturely status, of dependence upon the earth, they also offer us an avenue toward liberation. To affirm our earthiness frees us to live fully. We don't have to pretend to be more than we are by trying to hide the fact. Since it can't be hidden, we are futile to try. Freedom beckons!

So let us be free. Let the imposition of ashes empower us to live differently. In a culture of self-aggrandizement, let us affirm our origin in dust. In a society bent on waste and wantonness, let us affirm our kinship with all other creatures and the earth by practicing stewardship and simplicity. In a world where death is kept hidden and grief denied, let us affirm death as a part of our existence and share our grief with one another. Let us be free!

Besides giving us the opportunity to affirm and celebrate our solidarity with the earth and its creatures, Ash Wednesday also begins the liturgical season of Lent. Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten*, which became "lengthen" to us, referring to the lengthening of the daylight at this

time of year. Lent comprises the forty weekdays (weekdays only because Sunday is *always* the celebration of resurrection) between Epiphany and Easter.

Lent lasts for forty days because, according to the synoptic gospels, that's the number of days Jesus was in the wilderness tempted by evil powers. During Lent, we simulate Jesus' wilderness experience by opening ourselves to our weaknesses and sins, particularly those things about us and our world that aren't right, in order that the resurrection power of Christ might heal and restore us when Easter arrives.

Fasting and penitence are common Lenten practices. With fasting, the logic is to deprive oneself of something physically sensual so that one's spiritual awareness may be heightened.

Practicing penitence invites us to risk looking inside ourselves

Giving up a meal (or two, or three) a day, not drinking alcohol or eating desserts, or going vegetarian are some ways to do this. Others may go the opposite direction.

Instead of dropping an activity they add one, maybe helping out at a soup kitchen or visiting those confined to their homes. Whatever you do or don't do, having a regular reminder of the season you're in can be a significant way to deepen your experience of the season.

The logic of penitence is that we reflect on the ways we keep God from working with and through us. Practicing penitence invites us to risk looking inside ourselves to do a "spiritual spring cleaning" as we seek to remove those parts of ourselves – excuses, regrets, old hurts, disappointments, sins, fears – that keep us from being open to new life.

To paraphrase Henry David Thoreau, if we don't keep pace with our companions, perhaps it is because we hear a different drummer. Let us step to the music which we hear, however measured or far away. May Lent be for us such an opportunity – to step to the music that *we* hear – that we will be prepared for whatever may come, even for news as amazing as resurrection.

Grace and peace,
Bruce ♦

Supper, Song, and Study Come One, Come All!

Beginning on Thursday, February 14, and continuing on Thursdays in Lent, you are invited to “Supper, Song, and Study.” From 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., we will gather at the back of the sanctuary for a simple supper, a Lenten hymn, and discussion of *Love Set Free: Meditations for the Passion according to St. John* by Martin L. Smith.

This thoughtful and readable book will take us through the Gospel of John’s passion narrative – not just the portion dealing specifically with Holy Week, but the chapters leading up to it that place it in context. The book will also provide focus for our own reflection and sharing.

Though attending the entire series would be the most rewarding, if you can’t make them all, that’s okay. Come when you can. Please sign up in Lander Hall or through the church office to get your free copy of the book. Also, please sign up to bring soup and/or bread. And then come and enjoy! ♦

New Members’ Class

Interested in exploring membership? Let Bruce know (619-284-1129, ext. 305) and then join him on Saturday, February 23, from 9:00 till noon. No obligation; just come! ♦

Women’s Spirituality Group

On Wednesdays, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., KCC offers an opportunity for women to gather and talk, with the discussions taking as their starting point various books of interests. The current book is *The Harlot by the Side of the Road: Forbidden Tales of the Bible*, by Jonathan Kirsch. All are welcome – just drop in!

Questions? Ask Sharon Young, soy@cox.net or 619-521-9593. ♦

All-Church Breakfast

On Sunday, March 2, at 9:15 a.m., join the festivities between the services, as people from the 8:30 service and people from the 10:00 a.m. service enjoy a time of relaxation and fellowship together.

If you are interested in helping out with these delightful breakfasts, please let Katherine Larson know at klarson26@cox.net or 619-501-1187. ♦

February 24 Festivities Correction and Amplification

The last issue of the *Chimes* reported that February 24 will be a big day at KCC: we will host the semi-annual meeting of the Southern Association of the UCC’s Southern California-Nevada Conference; and an Association-wide worship service will celebrate the ordination of our own Alexis Solomon.

But some of the details in the last *Chimes* were wrong. Here’s the real scoop:

- Registration begins at 3:00 p.m., and then 3:30 there will be the worship service celebrating Alexis’ ordination. Be sure to come support her on this momentous day!
- Then there will be a relatively short Association meeting, to discuss the business of the Association of which we are all a part.
- To crown the event, there will be a gala supper. Lasagna, cake, and beverages will be provided; your donations of salad would be very much appreciated. To reserve your lasagna, please contact the Association Secretary, Rev. Sandra Beltran Nunnally, at 619-296-9063 or southernassociation@sbcglo-bal.net.
- As host church, KCC is responsible for staffing three tables (one for registration, one for name tags, and one for dinner tickets). Besides that, it would be wonderful if as many of us as are able could attend, to celebrate Alexis and greet our fellow UCC-ers.

If you can volunteer to help welcome our guests, please let Mike Trempe, Events Committee chair, know at 619-283-3543 or mtrempe@cox.net. ♦

Lectionary Readings

Here are the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary which Bruce uses as the backbone of each Sunday’s service. Bruce will pick two from this list each Sunday.

- February 17: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- February 24: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- March 2: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 ♦

Missions Moments

Interfaith Shelter Network

Want to help people in need? On Saturday, February 23, KCC will take its turn participating in the Rotational Shelter Program, offering emergency shelter to families and singles who need it.

Our Youth Group will be cooking dinner in our new kitchen and bringing it to First United Methodist Church in Mission Valley to share that night.

Adult volunteers will host these emergency guests at First Methodist through that night, February 23. If you are interested, please contact Missions Committee chair Leslie Wells at lwells13@cox.net or 619-482-9541.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! The Youth Group collected \$206.95 in their soup pots, and the money has been donated to Uptown Faith Community Services Center. ♦

UCSD Lecture On Religion And Society

On Monday, February 25, at 8:00 p.m., UCSD offers its annual Eugene M. Burke C.S.P. Lecture on Religion and Society. This year's lecture promises to be particularly engrossing.

Rosemary Radford Ruether will lecture on "American Empire and the War against Evil." Since the 1960s, she has established an international reputation as a distinguished feminist thinker, public intellectual, and religious reformer. Her scholarship is rooted in her expertise in ancient Christianity, Judaism, and other Mediterranean cultures, which brings new life and context to the pressing societal questions she addresses.

This free lecture will be offered in Room 109 of UCSD's Pepper Canyon Hall. If you are interested in carpooling from the church, please contact Bruce Larson at 619-284-1129, ext. 305, or bruce@kcc.sdcoxmail.com. ♦

Hospitality Challenge

In response to the pastor's challenge, we will be hearing and doing more about practicing hospitality in coming months. In the meantime, the Events Committee asks: last time you attended church, did you strike up a conversation with someone you didn't know well? Try it next time! ♦



Plan Now For Pilgrim Pines

As you think ahead to summer, remember Pilgrim Pines. With weekly programs from June 29 to August 9, there is something for everyone – children, youth, adults; campers or prospective counselors or those simply seeking a meaningful retreat in the mountains.

For a camp brochure or to inquire about becoming a counselor, check out www.pilgrimpinescamp.org/ or call 909-797-1821. ♦

Marriage Equality Forum

On Sunday, February 17, and on Sunday, March 2, our partners at Mission Hills UCC, 4070 Jackdaw Street, are offering a forum on marriage equality. Billed as "everything you ever wanted to know about marriage equality but were afraid to ask," these sessions discuss the sacred and civil aspects of same-sex marriage. Both begin at 11:30 a.m. and include a light lunch.

- Do you have questions about marriage equality that you'd like to ask and have answered in a safe and affirming environment?
- Do you know about legal rights for heterosexual couples as compared to legal rights for same-sex couples?
- Do you know how your church treats same-sex couples as compared to heterosexual couples?
- Would you like to obtain the tools and language to speak about marriage equality in a positive, informed, and Christian context?

If you are interested in any of these questions, come and join the conversation. A great group of speakers will include Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer, Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy in Wider Church Ministries in the national offices of the United Church of Christ.

For more information, please contact Mission Hills at 619-296-2169 or missionhillsucc@sbcglobal.net. ♦

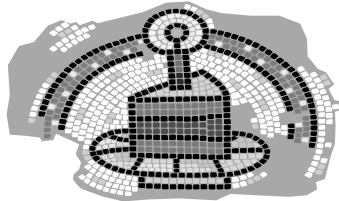
Prayer List

Please remember these people in your prayers:

Dee Dee Barbeau
Cheri Choy
Noriko Cook
Marie Cooper
Arlene Elkins
Karen Friedman
Joyce Gilchrist
Bob Guerra
Ellen Hall
Cindy and Gary Hogan
Zosimo Jadloc
Clint Keay
Bertha Lander
Nicolas Nelson
Joan Reilly
Celia Reyes and her daughter Alpha
Millard Stanforth
Dave Torrance
The family and friends of Don Martin.



To get a name added to this list, please contact the church office (619-284-1129 or debbiewalloch@kcc.sdcoxmail.com) or the *Chimes* (619-501-1187 or klarson26@cox.net). Also, please let us know when it's time for the name to be removed from the list. ♦



February Birthdays

8 Beth Guepin
9 Susan Gutierrez
11 Debra Dupree, Jackie Trischman
13 Laura Gutierrez
16 Alicia Chaffee, Drew Naismith, Mary Ann Schroeder
21 Arlene Elkins
23 Mary Gutierrez, Francesca McWay, Doris Sims
24 Carol Ceriani
27 Brynna Hall
28 Wayne Bowlby, Carolyn Davis

If other birthdays should be listed, please let us know at 619-501-1187 or klarson26@cox.net. ♦

Calling All Women!

If you are a woman between 18 and 108, we'd love for you to be part of the Secret Sisters. "Secret Sisters" is a group of women who minister to each other through various projects and fellowship throughout the year – all are invited. It is a great way to meet new friends and develop a Christian support group within our church community.

Information sheets are in the church office. We look forward to seeing you at our first get-together on March 11. If you would like to know more about this fun group, please contact Cathy Stephenson at 619-583-6559. ♦

Calling All Men!

At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, the men of KCC will enjoy great food and great fellowship. More than a dozen men enjoyed Bruce's buttermilk pancakes last month; more tasty treats are coming in March!

Please let Bruce (bruce@kcc.sdcoxmail.com or 619-284-1129) know that you are coming. ♦

Acolyte Training To Be Rescheduled

The acolyte training session originally scheduled for February 10 will be rescheduled soon, probably some time in March. Watch your *Chimes* for more information! ♦

Library News

Check out these recent additions to the Ruth Cole Memorial Library:

- Fiona Buckley's *A Pawn for a Queen*
- Carol Cox's *A Test of Faith*
- Richard Paul Evans' *The Gift*
- Eve Fisher's *The Best Is Yet to Be*
- Sue Grafton's *T is for Trespass*
- Jan Karon's *Home to Holly Spring*
- Beth Pattillo's *Beauty Shop Tales*
- Sidney Sheldon's *Morning, Noon & Night*

There's nothing like a good book! ♦

Capital Campaign Donors

Abbott, Shannon
Allen, Barbara and Brock
Anderson, Janie
Apgar, Bob and Vicki
Apgar, Helen and Robert
Arjona, Oscar
Bachman, Joann
Barber, Gail and George
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Barrett, Froman
Bast, Fred
Baumbaugh, Joel and Marsha
Dodds
Berger, George and Virginia
Berkshire, Jeannette
Billingsley, Henry
Bourda, Betty
Brammer, Joyce
Brewster, Marian
Brimhall, Jennifer and Lee Howeth
Brimhall, Jessie
Broselle, Carl and Susie
Broselle, Dennis and Judy
Bryan, Russell
Burgess, Margaret
Ceriani, Martha
Christison, Susan
Clark, Florence
Cooper, Jerry and Lilian
Cooper, Marie
Craig, Betty
Crane, Kit
Cross, Ellen
Curtin-Schamu, Susan and
Damon Schamu
Davis, Pauline
Davis, Carolyn and Stephen
In Memory of Lilah DeVries
Diener, Mary
DiMille's Italian Restaurant
Downing, Margaret and Rex
Ehlers, Bill and Sue
Eilers, Barbara and Bill
Elkins, Arlene
Elkins, Julia
Ely, Ilah Jo
Frontis, Bill and Carol
In Memory of Irv and Mary Frontis
Generoli, Betty
Gentry, Alison and Scot
Greer, Marjorie
Guepin, Beth and Tony
Gutierrez, Abel and Mary
Hanford, Richard and Winnie
Harrison, Amy and Powell
Hartung, Barbara and James
Hengst, Mary Annah and Nolan
Holloway, Betty
In Memory of Betty Holloway
Holloway, Richard
Holloway, Stephen
Hosler, Kathy
Hughes, Ralph and Jerrie Stringer
KCC's Aerobics Group
KCC's Junior High Youth
KCC's Preschool Parents
KCC's Senior High Youth
KCC's Young Adult Group –
the "Oldtimers"
Kelsen, Sylvia
Kennedy, Betty
Kieta, Gladys
Lander, Bertha
Larson, Bruce and Katherine
Loomis, Debbie and John
Loop, Earline
Lowe, Robert
Marcoux, Alice
Mason, Ben and Edith
McCarthy, Bonnie and Brendan
McClain, Cindi and Mick
McClure, Lucretia
McKenney, Carl and Rebecca
Medigovich, Milica
Morrison, Joann
Naismith, Sheila
Neal, Jay and Jayne
Nelson, Marian
Nielsen, Margaret and Paul
Odle, Joe and Mallie
Parkinson, Bob and Mary
Patch, Beverly
Payne, Patricia and Robert
Perrigo, Robert and Wendy
Rhee, Kristine and Robert
Sapier, Jacques and Susanne
Schroeder, Mary Ann and Paul
Short, Laura and Tim
Slocomb, Eleanor
Stephenson, Cathy and Dude
Swann, Mary Jane
Thomas, William
Thompson, Margie and Steven
Trischman, Jackie and Jay
In Memory of Amy Utz
Vancott, Nancy
Vavra, Kay
Vik, Mary
Vreeland, Helen
Walker, Andrew
Walker, Elizabeth
Ward, Jim and Penny
Wayman, Dick and Joan
Wayman, Rich
Wells, Leslie and Tom Wheeler
Wender, Jacqueline and Paul
Winn, Amy and Kevin
Winter, Zoia
Young, Sharon ♦

Behind The New Kitchen: Irv and Mary Frontis

When you cook in, or enjoy the productions from, KCC's wonderful new kitchen, remember Irv and Mary Frontis. Their children – Bill and Carol Frontis, Carl and Susie Broselle, and Margie and Steven Thompson – chose this eminently suitable way of honoring their memory.

"There were lots of days when Mom spent more time in the church kitchen than at home," jokes daughter Susie. Her iron rule there was legendary, and for decades few things were cooked at KCC that did not bear Mary Frontis' skillful touch.

Ken-Tal dinners, Guild lunches, rummage sale Sloppy Joes – they were all her specialties. In her honor, at her 2006 funeral services the women of the church made Mary's famous Sloppy Joes and Mary's famous lemon tarts, complete with lemons from the Frontis' own tree.

Her husband, Irv, concentrated his efforts in later years on church landscaping and maintenance; the lawn and flower beds were his special pride and joy. But for years both of them served KCC in just about every way they could. Hardly a committee existed that did not have a Frontis on it, and for decades one Frontis or the other served as Sunday School Superintendent.

It was the energy and dedication of Mary and Irv Frontis that got the kitchen originally designed. It was their energy and dedication that got the social hall, now Lander Hall, built and paid for when everyone said it couldn't be done. It was their energy and dedication that kept many aspects of KCC running for years.

Both could be strong-willed. But every child who accepted a weekly cup of fruit punch from Mary – punch made from real fruit, not one of those new-fangled mixes – or enjoyed her piano-playing in Sunday School possesses a wonderful memory.

"The new kitchen is just right," said Susie Broselle. "I'm sure Mom is up there, clapping and cheering." ♦

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UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT: "SUPPER, SONG, AND STUDY"

PLACE: KCC SANCTUARY

WHEN: THURSDAYS, STARTING FEBRUARY 14, 5:30 P.M.

FORUM: MARRIAGE EQUALITY

PLACE: MISSION HILLS UCC, 4070 JACKDAW STREET

WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AND 24, 11:30 A.M.

GATHER: NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

PLACE: KCC CONFERENCE ROOM

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

MISSION: INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

PLACE: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MISSION VALLEY

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

WORSHIP AND MEETING: ORDINATION AND ASSOCIATION MEETING

PLACE: KCC

WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 3:00 P.M.

LECTURE: ROSEMARY RADFORD RUTHER

PLACE: ROOM 109, PEPPER CANYON HALL, UCSD

WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 8:00 P.M.

MEN: MEN'S BREAKFAST

PLACE: KCC KITCHEN AND CONFERENCE ROOM

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 8:00 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP: ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 9:15 A.M.

SEE THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR
AT WWW.KENSINGTONUCC.COM