



WANDERINGS

To Bee or not to Bee...

that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them. To die- to sleep-
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die- to sleep.
To sleep- perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub!
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
Th' oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of despis'd love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of th' unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would these fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death-
The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns- puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry
And lose the name of action.- Soft you now!
The fair Ophelia!- Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins rememb'ed.

Hamlet, Act III; Scene I-Shakespeare

The Search Committee

These flowers were dedicated by Floyd Orr in honor of the search committee whose hard work and commitment has resulted in a Congregational meeting on either June 28th or July 12 for the purpose of calling a New Senior Pastor!

Thank you for all your excellent work..



May the light of your soul guide you.

May the light of your soul bless the work that you do with the secret love and warmth of your heart.

May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.

From The Editor's Ipad *by Katia Hage*

As I read through the history of RUCC, the name of the rebuilding committee after the fire caught my attention. It was named after the mythological Near Eastern bird, the Phoenix. In brief, this extraordinary bird would fly to be burned by the sun, only to be reborn again from its own ashes. Phoenicia or the land of Canaan, so called by the Greeks, was that part of the land occupied today by Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. These lands, due to their critical geographical position, were constantly occupied, destroyed, rebuilt through the ages. Their people have been known to be passionate advocate of life with their recognition of the power

of destruction and death. These people, my ancestors, have sown in my heart and soul the passionate fire of the sacredness of life and its inter-connectedness.

Today, when I walk the labyrinth of fire and ashes, I am constantly reminded of the transformation that takes place to all things and beings, to the pain that it entails, but mostly to the hope that it generates. The pain of destruction and woundedness can be awful, but the pain that comes from the healing process can linger excruciatingly. So with every step taken carefully on the stones, remnants of walls that housed faith, laughter and love, my being is strengthened, knowing that what

my ancestors have taught me in those faraway lands are still the same lessons revealed next door.

The Wanderings as RUCC's newsletter, seems to long for experiences shared by the members of this church. In a way, this is an invitation for all to send some of your thoughts, your life journeys, your struggles and victories. If writing is not your medium of expression, let us have coffee or tea, and I would be more than happy to be the scribe. You can always reach me at katioun@gmail.com

History of the Redlands United Church of Christ

Building Process March 11, 1979-September 16, 2001 *By Carol Buchanan*

At first the new congregation had no permanent home. From 1975 to 1984, they shared facilities, first at the First Methodist Church and then at the First Baptist Church. On March 11, 1979 the congregation voted to purchase 3^{1/2} acres at 1500 W. Olive Ave. in Redlands. It included a house and citrus trees and four shares of water. The cost was \$105,000 with a down payment of \$30,000. The first building was a multipurpose room including restrooms. The kitchen was used as a nursery. The historic house at 1500 W. Olive Ave. was used for office space and Christian Education. The architect was Leon Armantrout. The General Contractor was Dr. Dave Conover. Ground breaking was March 5, 1984 with completion in October of that year. The building was dedicated October 7, 1984. The pastor at the time was Rev. Richard Blakley. The President of the congregation was Helen Arth. By 1996 the

Sunday school was using both the Church House and one end of the main building. A wall had been built to make a Christian Education Area.

In August of 1998, a fire consumed the Church House and almost all of its contents. Some church records were saved. Many beloved and irreplaceable personal items of our staff and members were lost. A Phoenix Committee worked with the insurance company on the details of replacing the building. The pastor was James Vuocolo. The President of the congregation was Bettye Wheeler.

The congregation now had to decide whether to build on the old



site or on a different location on the property. A Building committee was appointed by November 1998. Following the proposals of the committee, the congregation chose to build a sanctuary adjacent to the existing building on the north side with office space on the west side. The Committee worked very hard identifying options for the building with the architect and contractors. After three years of fund raising, which included building funds, insurance funds and in-house member loans, the sanctuary was dedicated on September 16, 2001. The architect was Gary Miller and Associates. A labyrinth was built on the site of the Church House using stones that had been part of the House. Our Interim minister at this time was the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nicks who had been hired as the Associated Minister Director of Christian Education. The President of the congregation was Dr. Don Kleckner.

“THE ROSE AND THE GRAVE” *by Victor Hugo (A.Lang)*

The Grave said to the rose
"What of the dews of dawn,
Love's flower, what end is
theirs?"

"And what of spirits flown,
The souls whereon doth close
The tomb's mouth unawares?"
The Rose said to the Grave.

The Rose said: "In the shade
From the dawn's tears is made
A perfume faint and strange,
Amber and honey sweet."
"And all the spirits fleet
Do suffer a sky-change,
More strangely than the dew,
To God's own angels new,"
The Grave said to the Rose.



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Church of Christ**

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As the Redlands United Church of Christ, we are called by God to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are an Open and Affirming community of faith, who value all people as the family of God.

We love, nurture, support, and give hope to one another on the journey of faith, seeking God's will for our lives.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to serve, and to help heal the hurts of humanity and the world with caring justice to the glory of God.

We welcome all into the full life and ministry of this church.

LA FUITE DE LA LUNE

by: Oscar Wilde

O outer senses there is peace,
A dreamy peace on either hand,
Deep silence in the shadowy land,
Deep silence where the shadows cease.

Save for a cry that echoes shrill
From some lone bird disconsolate;
A corncrake calling to its mate;
The answer from the misty hill.

And suddenly the moon withdraws
Her sickle from the lightning skies,
And to her sombre cavern flies,
Wrapped in a veil of yellow gauze.



'La Fuite de la Lune' was originally published in the Irish Monthly, February, 1877, as part III of Lotus Leaves.