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Organizations

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New minister welcomed at church event

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills in La Crescenta recently welcomed their new minister, the **Rev. Betty Stapleford**. Stapleford is formerly of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and began her new duties on Wednesday.

The community can meet Stapleford at an ingathering service Sunday at the church, 4451 Dunsmore Ave., La Crescenta. It will include a traditional "water ceremony" and special activities for the children. For the water ceremony, bring a sample of water representing your summer travels or experiences.

Aside from her ministerial duties, her main interests have been in immigration reform, reproductive rights and finding a solution to homelessness. That latter commitment fits right in due to church's close ties with PATH Achieve Glendale, that tends to the homeless men, women and children of the area. Stapleford is on a task force in Conejo Valley to help the local homeless get into transitional housing, on the way to becoming self-sufficient. She is also on the board of Planned Parenthood covering Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties; and active in the New Sanctuary Movement in that area, protecting the rights of immigrants. She recently joined protestors in Phoenix in opposition to Arizona's SB 1070.

Services begin at 10:30 a.m., with religious education for the youngsters held concurrently. Childcare is also available for those younger than 6.

For more information, (818) 248-3954.