



# The Messenger

Riverside is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Riverside Presbyterian Church  
www.rpcjax.org

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ISSUE 10

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A minister friend of mine often uses the phrase *"that's the church being the church"* to acknowledge a deed well done or a need well met. I love to hear those words! Better yet, I love to see it when that happens!!

Just a few days ago we completed our ninth Riverside Presbyterian/Yates YMCA Basketball season. As one of our coaches capably described it, it strikes a perfect balance of competition, full participation, and sportsmanship. In addition, it brings together many people from diverse backgrounds, different families and multiple schools in a way that otherwise would never take place. The stories are heart-warming, including one about a coach, who regularly drops a young player off at home after practice. In doing so, he has, upon occasion, included him in his own family dinner (with the player mom's permission, of course). After a recent opportunity that included delicious hamburgers, the young inner-city child said to his coach, "I thank God for you every day", to which his coach, a bit choked up, replied, "And I do the same with you"! To the child, his coach is like an angel sent from God. To his dedicated and humble coach, *"it's just the church being the church!"*

After the untimely death of Ed Schoenberger this summer, it was discovered that he regularly took at least one older church member/friend to lunch each Tuesday. Several other men (please note the key word that it is taking "several" to do what Ed was doing alone) have picked up that project and are "receiving" more than they are "giving" from this experience. All involved would say, *"It's just the church being the church!"*

The word on the street is that last Monday night's More Than A Meal was the best yet. You probably remember that this is the ministry whereby our youth, with the support of several adults, are reaching out to the homeless and others living on the edge, to provide a good meal and Christian fellowship at least once per month. There were capable youth who organized the event, combed the neighborhood extending the invitations, led the blessing, and fellowshiped around the table. There were other church members who came in support. There were more guests served than any More Than A Meal to date. Seems to me *"that's the church being the church!"*

I love it when that happens! I can only imagine that God might be smiling about these and more happenings, saying, *"That's the church being the church! That's **my** church being the church!"*

Keep the faith!  
Roger

## Worship Services Sunday, March 7, 2010 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion

8:30 a.m.: Offertory Solo: *The Old Rugged Cross*  
Kenneth Mixon, bass

*George Bennard* (1913)

11:00 a.m. . Baptism Samuel Johnston Tousey  
Offertory Anthem: *Drop, Drop Slow Tears*  
Chancel Choir, Patricia Gilbert, piano

son of Clay & Tracy Tousey  
*Jonathan Willcocks* (2000)

Scripture: Luke 13: 1-9  
Sermon: "Faith as Defiance"  
Dr. Steve Goyer

## EXTENDED SESSION

**Mar. 7:** Ruth Wrenshall, Christine & Victor Hughes, Claudia & Bill Elrod, Deana & John Green

**Mar. 14:** Kim Shore, Jennifer & John Paul Saenz, Jane Courtney & Marc Davis, Jenny & Richard Reid

**Mar. 21:** Emily Heeg, Erin & Jeremy Raynor, Jim & Jennifer Branch,

Charlotte & Rick Haines

**Mar. 28:** Heather Gardner, Allison & Vance Walker, Sophie & Youth, Dearing & Brad Thoburn

**"YOUNG PROFESSIONAL"  
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/SMALL  
GROUP** led by Stephanie Ibach  
Mondays at 7:15 a.m. We will be  
reading *An Altar in the World* by  
Barbara Brown Taylor, please call  
or email the church office to reserve  
a copy of the book if you are inter-  
ested in joining!

### INVITATION TO LENTEN MEDITATION

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Williams Conference Room

Mondays, 7:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesdays March 17 & 24 follow-  
ing the dinner speaker– Thompson  
Parlor (30-minute meditation)

Maundy Thursday– 45 minutes  
before the service.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Now — March 28, 9:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Why Did Jesus Die?" Room 302-303**

Please join Bill Scheu and Steve Goyer to examine the Biblical texts of Je-  
sus' passion and death in light of the different atonement theories of why it  
happened and what it has to do with our salvation.

**Living Faith Day by Day** by Debra Farington, Room 305, led by Rebecca  
Langer

This book and class are designed to help you discover your own spiritual  
path by drawing on the traditions of a wide variety of ancient and contempo-  
rary religious orders to form your own personal guides to deepen your faith.  
God lives in the small details and the seemingly mundane tasks, in the  
rhythm of our feet upon the earth as well as in the gaze we focus on the  
heavens. Books will be available at class.

**The Meditation Class** will continue in the conference room of the Williams  
building on the second floor.

**The Stephen Ministers Training Class** will meet in room 312 February 21  
through the spring.

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CONTINUES CHILDREN OF RIVERSIDE WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

Join us each Wednesday in March for dinner and a program. Our program  
will be hearing from some of those who grew up at Riverside and have en-  
tered the ministry. Riverside holds a special place in many hearts. It is our  
joy to welcome them home and hear about their time in this faith community  
and the ministry now.

Dinner will be at 6 p.m. each Wednesday in Kissling Hall, with a breadbasket  
to cover the cost of the meal.

The program will follow dinner.

Childcare will be provided for pre-school children.

March 10 – Carol DiGiusto

March 17 – Herb Underwood

March 24 – Gene Soud

## GLOBAL & NATIONAL MISSIONS & PEACEMAKING

### SEDER OPPORTUNITIES

*For anyone interested:*

**The Interfaith Seder at The Temple on San Jose Blvd.** is scheduled for March 25 from 6:30—10:00. You must make reservation with Genia by calling 355-4585 or e-mail Genia.Bryant@rpcjax.org by **March 20** if you'd like to go.

**For women only:** Women of Reform Judaism/Temple Sisterhood annual Women's Seder. The theme is "Passover Around the World" and will be held on Thursday, March 18. When the Temple began having our Women's Seders 17 years ago, they formally invited women from the faith community --- not just the Jewish community.

Just to give you a little bit of background...this is not only a Seder for women of all ages it is a "fundraiser of sorts" for Hubbard House. When we began looking at some of the issues that are discussed in the Haggadah, we found that it resembled some of the issues women and children face daily in our own community. When preparing this event we do our best to get most things donated so that we can give Hubbard House all the proceeds of the evening. Each year there is a little different take on the Seder; however, the end result is the same --- the women and girls have an educational and fun evening and Hubbard House has a donation to help those women and children who are less fortunate than we are. As at all Seders there is a meal; this one is a light vegetarian meal so that all attending can partake of the dinner. You must make a reservation with Genia by calling 355-4585 or e-mail, Genia.Bryant@rpcjax.org by **March 12** if you'd like to go.

### **Caring for Creation 111 ways to save water in NE Florida**

When you have ice left in your cup from a take-out restaurant, don't throw it in the trash, dump it on a plant.

### **IF ONLY WE ALWAYS HAD THE STRENGTH WE NEED ALL THE TIME**

Unfortunately we don't. Life happens, and in the midst of it come events and challenges that we really struggle with on a daily basis. How comforting it is to think there can always be someone to listen, to care and travel the journey with you. That is what Stephen Ministers do. It is not a weakness, it is not a deficiency in character to need another person to stand beside you, to comfort you in complete confidentiality, and help you share the emotions you are experiencing. Loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief and abandonment are a part of the human experience. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. We are a people of community and part of our response to God is to help one another and seek help from one another when we need it. If you find yourself going through a "rough patch," don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you and help you, even if you're angry about why this happened to you. To learn more about Stephen Ministry talk to any Stephen Minister, or contact Rebecca Langer at 355-4585 or email Rebecca.langer@rpcjax.org. Please pray for the new Stephen Minister's class that is meeting now through June 2010.

### **SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT**

Genesis 37:26-28, 31-36 Here's one of the outstanding pieces from the website, [www.journeytothecross.org](http://www.journeytothecross.org)

Sometimes it is really, really hard not to lie. Lying can feel so much easier than the truth. We lie to strangers to impress them. We lie to loved ones because we don't want to let them down. We lie to ourselves because we just want something to be true. Regret feels like a good reason to lie. Laziness feels like a good reason to lie. Hope can too. We are often willing to go to great lengths to protect our lie, like dipping Joseph's coat in blood to fool our father. And often, for a while, the lie makes us feel better.

But our lies can have unintended consequences. Things start to unravel, and the lie catches up to us. Or not. Sometimes we get away with it, but the possibility of discovery is always there, lurking, waiting for us. Confessing to a lie is the first step toward setting it right, but it means we must admit to failure; we have to admit to needing to lie. This is HARD to do. Have you told any lies today? Yesterday? How do lies weigh your spirit down? Are there places where you can stop covering something up and bring truth in your life? Is there hard work waiting for you today? Robin Pugh

### **TABLE OF ABRAHAM**

The next Table of Abraham will be held on Monday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. and hosted by St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, 3850 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville 32207. There will be a Lenten service followed by dinner. Please RSVP to Rebecca Langer at [Rebecca.langer@rpcjax.org](mailto:Rebecca.langer@rpcjax.org) or call Genia at RPC (355-4585) by Friday March 12. Space is limited. We look forward to another rich evening with our friends from other faith communities.

### **STEPHEN MINISTERS**

March 7: Margo Fitch

### **DEACON OF THE DAY**

March 3: Darlene Hampton  
March 14: Sherrie Calvert  
March 21: Bill Howey  
March 28: Davis Collier

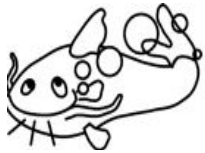
# Mission Possible Mission Possible

**BUBBA GOES GOLFING TO BENEFIT DESC  
MONDAY, May 24, 2010**

**Check-in time 11:15 a.m.  
Hidden Hills Country Club**

**How to Register:** Make checks payable to  
DESC 215 Ocean St, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Entry Fee of \$125 per player includes:  
Golf, Range Balls, Lunch and Dinner**



**For more information, please contact:**  
Roger Maness (Daytime Phone 904-355-4585) or  
Thad Eshelman (Daytime Phone 904-543-9441)

You can visit the website at descjax.org for additional information and download a registration form.

## **SPRING (TRAINING) FEVER!**

Take Me Out To The Ballgame! Two different outings are planned this March for Spring Training baseball. Take in the excitement of Major League Baseball, as we see Grapefruit League games as follows:

**Monday, March 15 Braves -vs- Nationals at Space Coast Stadium at Viera, FL**



We will depart from the church at 3:00 p.m. for the drive. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Cost of this trip is \$25.

Contact Roger Maness (355-4585) for more information or to register.



**Tuesday, March 30--Phillies vs. Houston Astros at Kissimmee.** We will depart from the church at 9:00 a.m. for the leisurely drive to Kissimmee and the beautiful Osceola County Stadium. After the 1:05 p.m. game, we will return to Jacksonville, arriving at approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost of the trip is \$25, which includes game ticket (second level, just beyond first base), transportation, and snacks aboard the bus. We will return immediately after the game .

Join in Riverside Spring Training Baseball it is always exciting and a fun filled trip! .

## **THE SANCTUARY ON 8TH STREET**

Summer Day Camp Counselor Seven Weeks - June 21 - August 6,  
8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Must have A+ driving record and background check, \$10 per hour  
\* Day off for 4th of July

Responsible for managing a group of inner city children in multiple activities, including field trips, arts & crafts, swimming, outdoor play & games, academic enrichment. Age range: K - 12. Must have a heart for kids plus an ability to provide structure & discipline. We accept applications from mature 17-year olds & up. Spend your summer at a job with a mission.

Check out our website at Sanctuaryon8th.org or become a fan on facebook.  
Questions: Kristen Booth, Program Director, Sanctuary on 8th Street, P.O. Box  
3301 - 120 East 8th Street, Jacksonville, 32206  
booth.kristen@gmail.com, 904.356.3588



## **MARCH WILL BE**

### **"BABY MONTH" FOR D.E.S.C.**

Every year this congregation is mindful of items that little ones need in households strapped for funds. Downtown Ecumenical Services Council is asking that you consider shopping for the month of March with DESC's client needs in mind.

**Diaper sizes** of newborn, and sizes of 4, 5 or 6, along with **infant formula (Good Start)** are needed the most. Please bring the items to the church, each time you come, and place in the receptacles in the Narthex or office hallway. Please know how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated.



## **YOUNG ADULT EVENTS**

### **YOUNG ADULT COOKOUT**

**March 20 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.**

At the home of  
Jean & Patrick Thompson

### **YOUNG ADULT - A PINCH OF SALT DINNER GROUPS**

**March 16, at 6:30 p.m.**

Group 1—Bluefish: Contact

Leigh Farnell

Group 2—O' Brother's: Contact

Rachel Runnels

**RIVERSIDE  
YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Esperanza Groups:**  
March 14, April 11

**Wednesday Nights in March**

**MS:** Dinner Outings  
from 5:00— 6:00 p.m.  
**March 10: Zaxby's**

**SH:** Dinner Outings  
from 6:00 p.m. —7:00 p.m.  
**March 10: Tijuana Flat's**

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**Basket Auction**

**March 21: 5:30-7:30 , Kissling Hall**  
All are invited. Come support our youth Scholarship fund and enjoy the pasta bar. Get tickets for a blue light raffle, participate in the silent and live auctions and have a fantastic time! Childcare provided. Transportation available. Contact Rachel Runnels at 333-2921 with any questions, donations or if you would like to volunteer.

**ASP Adult Progressive Dinner**  
April 24

**OPEN HOUSE-YOUTH HOUSE**  
**February 28: SH 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**  
**March 21: SH 5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.**

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, March 7</b>	8:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Training
	8:30 a.m.	Early Worship/Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Church School
	9:30 a.m.	Inquirers Class/Pastor's Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Communion/Baptism-Tousey
	12:00 p.m.	Homebound Communion
	12:15 p.m.	Child Protection Training/302-303
	12:30 p.m.	PW-Circle 8/BT
	12:30 p.m.	Youth Committee/YH
<b>MONDAY, March 8</b>	7:00 a.m.	Meditation Grp/Sanc
	7:15 a.m.	YA-Working Women Bible Study/TP
	5:00 p.m.	Admin & Finance/TP
	5:30 p.m.	Community Life Mtg/Lib
<b>TUESDAY, March 9</b>	9:30 a.m.	Staff Mtg/TP
	4:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry/Lib
	5:30 p.m.	Adult Ed Mtg/TP
<b>WEDNESDAY, March 10</b>	9:00 a.m.	RPH Worship
	9:45 a.m.	RPA Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study/Lib
	5:00 p.m.	Worship/Music/Lib
	5:00 p.m.	MS- Zaxby's
	5:00 p.m.	Community Mission/310-311
	6:00 p.m.	SH- Tijuana Flat's
	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir/ChRm
<b>THURSDAY, March 11</b>	8:20 a.m.	RPDS-Chapel/Sanc
	9:00 a.m.	Christmas ABC Books/Lib
	9:15 a.m.	Sm Grp/304
	6:30 p.m.	Celebration Choir Reh.
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Reh.
<b>FRIDAY, March 12</b>	6:45 a.m.	Men's Bible Study/TP
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Sm Grp/KS
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Messenger</i> Deadline
<b>Sunday, March 14</b>	8:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Training
	8:30 a.m.	Early Worship/Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Church School
	9:30 a.m.	Inquirers Class/Pastor's Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Baptism-Hunt
	12:15 p.m.	Deacon's Mtg/TP
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b>	5:00 p.m.	Esperanza Dinner Grp/OL



- March 7: Jim Hardwick, Tommy Platt, Trevor Splane, Mia Saenz, Jack Conatser
- March 8: Becky Rogers, Tim Friedl, Tracy Bailey, Julia Howey, Rob Clark, Hunter Berg, Elizabeth Davis,
- March 9: Jacque Loomis, Carson Haines
- March 10: Carol Swain, Laura Gordon, Duncan Baker, Heather Campbell, Leann Fox, Alexandria Acree, Kathy Stark
- March 11: Velva Moll, Paige Miller
- March 12: Thelma Oenning, Arthur Ekrem, Will Newton, Stacy Adams, Jeremy Raynor
- March 13: Suzy Wolff, Charon Sisler, Jane Ruffin, Kim Shore, Will Sadowski
- March 14: Lamar Strother, Tricia Ivie, George Pilcher, Elizabeth Coffman, Melissa Coll, Derek Fleck, Alice Creed, Tilson Branch, Jack Raynor

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**THORNWELL HOME WISH LIST**

Below is a list of needs from Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, S.C.

There will be a box in the front hall by the office during the month of March for collecting any items you would like to donate. You do **not** need to buy everything on the list. Just one or two items will be helpful. Sherrie Calvert, who serves on the board at Thornwell Home, will be going there in April for a meeting and will take the box of Wish List Items. Thank you for your donations; Large bottles of shampoo, hair conditioner, deodorant - men and women, hair brushes & combs, nail clippers, feminine hygiene products (tampons - plastic) bath towel set - white only (bath towel, hand towel, wash cloth).

**HOMEBOUND COMMUNION  
MARCH 7**

Communion to our "Homebound" members. Elder and ministers will go to residences with the elements. We trust this enables members who cannot be at the church building to feel more part of the "church scattered" and aware of God's presence constantly at their sides. Teams will go out after lunch at the church that day. Many of you have learned to expect us, but please call the office (355-4585) if you want to be sure you're on the list or are temporarily confined.

**SAVE THE DATE  
"Real" Tea Party  
April 17, 2010**

**3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Watch for your special invitation!!



**LECTIONARY READINGS**

Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8;

1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**PRAYER & CARE  
CONCERNS**

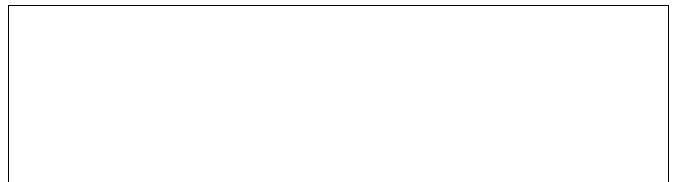
**St. Vincent's:** Betty McAloon

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***THE MESSENGER***

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