



# The Messenger

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

VOLUME 16

MARCH 14, 2010

ISSUE 11

Lenten Meditation  
Page 2

Table of Abraham  
Page 3

DESC Baby Month  
Page 4

Youth PYC, Young  
Adults, Calendar,  
Birthdays  
Page 5

**WRITE THIS TO  
THE ANGEL OF  
THE CHURCH AT  
RIVERSIDE**  
Page 6

Dear Riversiders,

Enclosed in this messenger is a letter written by the class Ed Pratt-Dannals is teaching on the book of Revelation with his explanation preceding it. Below, their effort, guided by scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit, affirms our mission at Riverside while also challenges us to step into the hard work of following Christ into the world. I can't help but be proud of how so many people in this good church are willing to go there.

Peace,  
Steve

The Adult Sunday School class has been studying the Revelation of John this winter. In chapters 2 and 3 there are 7 letters to churches located in Asia Minor. All of the letters follow the same format: 1) direction to write the letter to the angel of the church in that city (there was only one in each city at that time), 2) a description of Christ, 3) commendations (if any), 4) areas that need to change (if any), 5) admonitions, and 6) promise(s) for remaining faithful. While obviously in a very different set of circumstances two thousand years later, we challenged ourselves to imagine what a letter to our church might look like were Jesus to direct one to be written to us. Below is a combination of our individual efforts. It is by no means intended to be the definitive Word of God for our church, merely an honest reflection of our strengths and areas of improvement as seen by some of the members of this congregation. I have been asked to pass it on to other members of the congregation for discussion.

Ed Pratt-Dannals  
Teacher

See Letter on Page 6 ( Write this to the Angel of the Church at Riverside)



### Worship Services Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion & 11:00 a.m. Worship

8:30 a.m.: Offertory Duet: *Pie Jesu (Requiem)* Andrew Lloyd Webber (1985)  
Jacquelyn Davis and Julia Pettigrew, soprano

11:00 a.m. . Baptism James Chapman Hunt, son of Talmadge and Virginia Hunt  
Offertory Anthem: *Crucifixus* Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)  
Chancel Choir

Scripture: Luke 15: 11-32  
Sermon: "The Joyful Face of Jesus"  
Dr. Steve Goyer

## EXTENDED SESSION

**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

### SPECIAL SERVICES DURING LENT AND EASTER

#### **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28**

Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon immediately following the 11:00 a.m. services. Please RSVP to church office if you plan to attend. Invite a friend.

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 1**

6:45 p.m. Meditation in Sanctuary for any interested person. Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Communion will be served.

#### **Good Friday, April 2**

**Tenebrae Service** at 12:00 Noon  
Trinity Lutheran Church 1415 McDuff South. There will be time for Meditation from 10-2. No childcare available during this service.

#### **Easter/Resurrection of the**

#### **Lord, Sunday, April 4**

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 am Worship & Communion Services

9:30 a.m. Church-wide Sunday School in Bittinger Hall  
One Great Hour of Sharing

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering received during worship.** Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities

Childcare is provided at all functions at

## 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 Jesus' 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 Farrington, 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 contemporary 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 entered 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 their 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 17 – Dinner & Speaker

March 24 – Gene Soud

### LUNCH AND EASTER EGG HUNT SUNDAY, MARCH 28 AFTER 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Please join us for a wonderful Sunday of good food and fellowship and a very fun Easter Egg Hunt! Mark your calendars and bring friends! And let the church office know you are coming.

In the mean time we could use individually wrapped candy (not chocolate) to put in our Easter Eggs. We need your donations in Sophie's office by Wed. March 24. Non-food items are also welcome; stickers and starbursts are some ideas.



### INVITATION TO LENTEN MEDITATION

- Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Williams Conference Room
- Mondays, 7:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Wednesdays March 17 & 24 following the dinner speaker– Thompson Parlor a (30-minute meditation) which is optional
- Maundy Thursday– 45 minutes before the service, at 6:45 p.m..

## 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 reservations 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.

### DEACON OF THE DAY

March 14: Sherrie Calvert  
March 21: Bill Howey  
March 28: Davis Collier

### STEPHEN MINISTERS

March 14: Lois Ward  
March 21: Susan Humes  
March 28: Mary Spuhler

### RESPONSE TO CHILE'S EARTHQUAKE

A devastating magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck Chile Saturday, February 27, 2010, shattering buildings and bridges and causing the issuance of Tsunami warnings for much of Pacific rim. Damage was particularly heavy in Concepcion. That city, Chile's second-largest metropolitan area, is located only 70 miles from the earthquake's epicenter. Reports as of Monday morning, March 1, 2010 list the death toll at more than 700, with a potential of more deaths as Tsunamis hit coastal areas. Approximately 1.5 million homes have been destroyed. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with our ecumenical partner Church World Service (CWS) in Chile to provide basic Humanitarian assistance and to help local partners in assessing the needs. One Great Hour of Sharing funds will be used for an initial response. CWS emergency response staff has been in contact with colleagues on the ground in Chile and is coordinating their response with two Chilean agencies, FASIC (Fundacion de Ayuda Social de las Iglesia Cristianas) and the Humanitarian Team of the Methodist Church of Chile, IMECH. IMECH is part of the National Emergency Office (ONEMI), the national coordinating body headed by the President. ONEMI has local chapters in all regions, where coordination takes place with local counterparts. Reports will be posted on the PDA web site as assessments continue and information becomes available. If you would like to give money: Make a check to RPC with this in the check Memo Line: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund # DR000185.

### SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

**Sometimes poetry reading can become a form of prayer. One of the best writers for pondering is Mary Oliver. Take some time during Lent to indulge in good poetry.**

#### Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting--  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

© Mary Oliver

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

Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line, Check with your city codes, and if it isn't allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.

#### **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.

# 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.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**"Real" Tea Party"**  
**April 17, 2010**  
**3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**  
 Watch for your special invitation!!

**RIVERSIDE  
YOUTH MINISTRY**

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

**Wednesday Nights in March**

**MS:** Dinner Outings  
from 5:00— 6:00 p.m.

**March 17: Panera's**

**SH:** Dinner Outings  
from 6:00 p.m. —7:00 p.m.

**March 17: Chick-Fil-A**

**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

**YOUNG ADULT COOKOUT**  
**March 20 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.**  
At the home of  
Jean & Patrick Thompson

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

**YOUNG ADULT - A PINCH OF SALT  
DINNER GROUPS**  
**March 16, at 6:30 p.m.**  
Group 1—Bluefish: Contact  
Leigh Farnell  
Group 2—Mossfire Contact  
Rachel Runnels

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**Sunday, March 14**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
MONDAY, March 15**

**TUESDAY, March 16**

**WEDNESDAY, March 17**



**THURSDAY, March 18**

**FRIDAY, March 19**

**Saturday, March 20  
Sunday, March 21**

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  
5:00 p.m. Esperanza Dinner Grp/OL  
7:00 a.m. Meditation Grp/Sanc  
9:00 a.m. SS Cleaning Day (3rd Fl)  
5:00 p.m. Joint Comm Mtg/TP  
6:00 p.m. More Than A Meal/BT  
9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg/TP  
6:30 p.m. YA/Pinch of Salt Dinner Grp/OL  
8:00 a.m. Capital Camp/TP  
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- Panera's  
6:00 p.m. SH- Chick-Fil-A  
6:00 p.m. Dinner/Speaker  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir/ChRm  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Meditation/TP  
7:30 p.m. Session Mtg/302-303  
8:20 a.m. RPDS-Chapel/Sanc  
9:15 a.m. Sm Grp/304  
10:00 a.m. Needlework/Craft/TP  
6:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Reh.  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Reh.  
6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study/TP  
7:00 a.m. Men's Sm Grp/KS  
12:00 p.m. Messenger Deadline  
7:45 p.m. Contra Dance/KS  
6:00 p.m. YA-Cookout/Jean & Patrick Thompson  
8:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training/312  
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  
12:00 p.m. Herb Underwood Lunch /BT  
5:30 p.m. Basket Auction/Dinner/PYC/KS



March 14: Lamar Strother, Tricia Ivie, George Pilcher, Elizabeth Coffman, Melissa Coll, Derek Fleck, Alice Creed, Tilson Branch, Jack Raynor  
March 15: Dorothy Pillsbury, Clay Boone, Reid Hawkins, Catherine Baker, Charlie Cousar, Megan Halkovitch  
March 16: Glenn Sisler, Lori Doyle, Raleigh Diebenow  
March 17: Ashley Norse, Marshall Brittle, Jean Thompson, Scott Meyer, Joey Sapora  
March 18: Jayne Runnels, Angela Cummings  
March 19: Isabelle Milne, Clarke Story  
March 20: Sue Haehnel, Elsa Evert  
March 21: Mary Cousar, Ken Atkins, Margaret Blank, Nancy Chamblin, Stephanie Baker, Christy Gillam, Bruce Fitch, Seth Bergey

**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).

**BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

You've read about it in previous issues of *The Messenger*. Now is the time for us to act! Recent studies indicate that over half of the people in our community are unchurched, meaning that they do not regularly attend worship on Sundays. The Evangelism Committee is asking that each member of Riverside Church extend an invitation to your neighbors/friends/families who are not "church goers" to come and worship at Riverside on Sunday March 28, 2010. This is Palm Sunday. On that Sunday the Centennial Committee will have on display huge panels by decades of the pictorial history of RPC. What a great time to introduce some of our friends to our Church and its history. There will no recognition of our visitors other than the normal welcome. We hope they will choose to come again and maybe become part of our congregation some day. This will be your opportunity to have a "hands-on" experience of Evangelism. You invite them, bring them with you, and leave the rest to God.

**WRITE THIS TO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH AT RIVERSIDE**

I am the Alpha and Omega, the faithful and true witness, the first and the last, who died and came to life.

I know your deeds that you have faithfully reached out in Jacksonville and throughout the world to the poor, homeless, and those struggling with addictions. You have been consistent servants witnessing to the community and have been a voice of tolerance, diversity, reconciliation, peace. You continue to praise me in worship and study and pray to strengthen your faith.

However, you have also been too comfortable, depending on your popularity, wealth, position, reputation, and intellect. You have not been willing to ask the hard questions about your values and priorities and have avoided conflict, controversy, and testing. At times you seem more like a busy social club than a church set apart to follow me.

Regain your focus! Awake, strengthen one another with encouraging words. Be still, stop and listen, and know that I am God. Don't be influenced by the popular culture, but instead have your mind renewed with the values of my kingdom. Return to your life of prayer and devotion, depending on me for your security and guidance. Seek justice for those who have been left out. Forgive each other and honor each other's gifts and leadership. Remain faithful in all good deeds. To whom much has been given, much will be expected, so give generously and joyfully.

If you do, I will be your morning star. You will inherit the Kingdom of God and will be with me always. You will bask in my unfathomable love and enter into my house, my good and faithful servants.

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32;  
2 Cor. 5:16-21;  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**THE MESSENGER**

Riverside Presbyterian Church  
849 Park Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204-3394  
Phone: 904-355-4585 Fax: 904-355-4508  
E-Mail Address office@rpcjax.org  
Office Hours: M-F 8:30-5:00 p.m.

**Address Service Requested**



**HOSPITALS & REHAB:**

**St. Vincent's:** Joe Moll  
**Atrium Rehab.:** Betty McAloon  
**Brooks Rehab.:** Evelyn Nehl



*RIVERSIDE MESSENGER* (USPS 466-960) is published weekly by the Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park Street, Jax. FL 32204-3394 (904) 355-4585. Periodicals Postage Paid at Southside Blvd. Business Mail Entry Unit. Jax. FL 32216-9651. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *RIVERSIDE MESSENGER* 849 Park Street, Jax., FL 32204-3394.