

In Our Prayers:

In convalescent care

Natta Lea McCormack
Nancy Lasater
Faith Ruddell

Howard Nolan
Ruby Gregory
Michael Scholl

Dellaurs Hocking
Leonard Shaw

For health and support

Martha Devine
Manette Tomlinson
Alleean Blose
Lisa Thomas
Shayne Guy
Pam Carrasco
Jim Thomas
Brandy Gould & Nathaniel Pritchard

Josephine Duncan
Pam Garnett
Emily Shaw
Sarah Six
Judi Jack
Sue Byers
Bill Wolter

Bob Schiffer
Ed Johnson
Myra Williams
Vijay Roberts
Eli Sturman
Debbie Boone
Casey Graves
Chandra Roberts's sister Taj



**First United Methodist Church
of Riverside**
4845 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506-0134

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First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

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From Pastor John

LIGHT

There is a website you can go to, at least so I am told, to find out which neighborhoods have the most spectacular and wondrous Christmas lights. I know there are several in Riverside. I am hoping to drive by those neighborhoods when I can find some time. For many people, especially Christians, December is the month of lights. The lighting of candles, Christmas trees, city walks, neighborhoods and homes. There are lights everywhere at this time of year. Light is an important symbol in our faith, for it allows us to see the truth that has formerly been hidden. Like this old story where an old rabbi once asked his students how they could

tell when the night had ended and the day had begun. "Could it be," asked one of the students, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," the rabbi answered again. "Then when is it?" the students demanded. "It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night." There's something about this season and the lights. Yes, the lights we see at this time of year are spectacular and pretty; however, the season points us beyond those lights to the Light. John writes

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Mission Moments

from UMW

I presented this story to you in 2007, but I want to share once again the warm feeling of hearing of a young girl who found her way to Christ.

"Born to a Buddhist family and community in Kampong Thom province in central Cambodia, 11-year-old Chiang Ret heard about Jesus Christ and believed, but it has been a challenge to find a supportive community to grow her faith. She lives with her parents and siblings in a simple Khmer home that stands on stilts. The family grows and sells watermelons as part of a community-sustaining effort here, where the land is flat, vast, thinly populated, and under conditions that are extremely hot, dry, and dusty. This program is partly supported with funds through Global Ministries. I noticed a few simple crosses planted within the watermelon field and asked if there were graves where the family cultivates. To my pleasant surprise, I learned the crosses, instead, represent living witness. Chiang Ret made and planted them to feel a sense of community as she works, and to witness silently to her parents, who are yet to believe in Christ, as she does." *Nicholas Gitobu Kithinji, missionary in Cambodia. Submitted by Peggy Ramsay, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.*

Merry Christmas from the Church Staff

Pastor John

Barbara Jo Wilson

Brad Tomlinson

Gayla Lonsbery

Lee Ann Salmon

Barbara Lee Bush

Becky Ruiz

Alice Wymer

Marc Longlois



From Pastor John

continued from page 1

this way, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." We are in great need of wondrous light. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.

Come and join us in our worship and programs during the Advent Season and witness the Light.

*See you at church,
Pastor John*

Dedications are being taken now for the poinsettias to grace our sanctuary this Christmas season. Please complete this form and return it to the church office before Wednesday, December 14.

Cost of a poinsettia plant is \$8.00. Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church (or FUMCOR) and marked "Poinsettia".

Donors may pick up their plants after the Christmas Eve worship service.



Dedicated by: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

I would like to reserve _____ poinsettia plant(s) at \$8.00 each. I enclose my check, or cash, for \$_____.

Youth Events

The Youth have a number of activities planned for the last month of 2011. They include:

- December 4: Baking cookies and Bible Study at 6:00 PM
- December 11: Christmas caroling at 6:00 PM
- December 18: Live Nativity at 6:00 PM
- December 24: Usher for Family Service at 7:00 PM

All children from 7th through 12th grade are invited to any and all of the above activities. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Retreat is on the calendar for January 27-29, 2012 at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades. We are looking forward to having our retreat leader, Rev. Diane Davis, from our first retreat back in 2006, with us again. Come and join us in the fun, faith-filled weekend. If you do not already, have a brochure, please call the office and we will get one to you at Sunday Worship.

United Methodist Men

Maybe we can return to memories of our childhood. We want to extend the mood and spirit of Christmas. We want the sentiment of love and caring to be with us...all of us.

So come to our Christmas Breakfast, December 11 at 7:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. It really is delicious. Some angels of our church will prepare it for us. Cost is \$6.00 per person.

Bring your family and join us for a Christmas program of stories and song. The true Christmas story happened a long time ago and let's keep it alive with a burning fireplace and hot coffee, tea or apple cider with sweet treats made for this season.

See you there, and let's have a

Merry Christmas!

Mini Bazaar

Alternative Gift Fair

December 4 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Be sure to step across the patio after church into the energy and excitement of this gift-buying alternative to panting through the mall. Every gift you buy supports non-profit groups helping those in need around the world.

Stuff, Fluff, and Sauce

Things That Make a Holiday Dinner Special

Church & Society / Missions would like to say **thank you for your generosity!** Because of your donations we were able to support the Riverside City Missions in providing 400 Holiday Dinner Boxes for Thanksgiving to those in need.

Church & Society / Missions will continue through the month of December collecting **boxed stuffing, miniature marshmallows and canned cranberry sauce.**

The Riverside City Mission, a Christian non-profit organization, focuses on serving seniors, low-income families and the homeless in Riverside. One of their outreach programs is providing food boxes each month to those in need.

Collection boxes are in the church office and in the Narthex. Call Lisa Laird for further information at 276-4490. Again, we thank you for your generosity!

Congratulations and blessings to Steven Beals & Aubrey Knapp who were married in our church November 25.

Children's Ministries

Program Rehearsal

We are in full swing with our children's Christmas Program rehearsals. Please make sure that your child(ren) will be here on Saturday, December 17 at 10 AM for the dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary

The Nutcracker

If you want to attend the Riverside Ballet Arts and Brava production on Saturday, December 17 at 1 PM, where Emma and Margaret Speir will both be performing major parts, please contact Barbara Jo Wilson. We can receive a 10% discount on the tickets if we purchase them as a group sale. The tickets are \$15, \$20, \$30, and \$35. You can contact me and let me know what ticket or tickets you want to purchase. I will need to have the money before I can pick up the tickets.

Happy Birthday, Jesus Party

Following Christmas Day worship, we will have a party to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Cake and punch will be provided.

Happy Birthday Birthdays: January Birthdays:

Nick Lovekin.....	1
Margret Speir.....	2
Joel Handen.....	5
Jim Taylor.....	5
Paa Tupou.....	5
Nikolas Exon.....	6
Leslie Mooring.....	6
Jon-Paul McDonald.....	7
Bob Binford.....	8
Dylan Grimes.....	8
Sophie Van Os.....	9
Ben Weise.....	9
John Burch.....	11
Berkley Kaufhold.....	11
Deirdre Kirkwood.....	11
Brad Tomlinson.....	11
Teresa Clark.....	16
Mary Green.....	17
Sheryl Plumley.....	18
Helen Nonnette.....	19
Kate Lovekin.....	21
Fran Bilderback.....	23
Betty Kiech.....	24
Shyanne Knight.....	24
Beulah Leake.....	25
Steward Thompson.....	27
Susan Exon.....	28
Rebecca Slaughter.....	28

United Methodist Women

Christmas Tea Ladies, you won't want to miss our UMW Christmas Tea, Dec. 10, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. There will be a musical program and the installation of 2012 officers by CPAC UMW officers Regan and Barbara Pope.

Mini Bazaar Our Mini Bazaar will be part of the Alternative Gift Fair on Dec. 4 in Fellowship Hall, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This amazing event will host many non-profit groups offering unique gifts for the holidays. Plan to be part of it.

Almond/Wesleyan Potluck, December 12, 12:00 PM at Phyllis Chandler's home.

Citrus Branch will have dinner at Market Broiler, Dec. 13 at 5:30 PM. Please bring a wrapped \$5 ornament to exchange.



Cathy Mooney.....	29
Bob Kraft.....	30
Kyle Weakly.....	31

Sunday, December 18

LIVE NATIVITY

SIMPLE and HOLY

Dress warmly and enjoy a living version of the Christmas Story on the church's front lawn

Enjoy hot cocoa, coffee, tea, and Christmas cookies while the youth of our congregation re-enact the Good News of Jesus' birth.

Sing along with a chorus of carolers.

Performances at 6:30 and 7:00 pm

Merry Christmas
from

First United Methodist Church of Riverside

Sunday Worship &
Children's Christmas Pageant
December 18, at 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Worship Services
7:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Christmas Sunday Service at 10:00 AM

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Rehearsal —MR	2	3
Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:00 am Mini Bazaar / Alternative Gift Fair—Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm Covenant Discipleship Group—Adult Lounge 5:30 pm UMYF—Fellowship Hall	7:00 pm Trustees —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen	9:30 pm UMW Executive Cmte —Mary's Kitchen 6:00 pm Bring Your Own Brown Bag Dinner w / Pastor John—AL 6:30 pm Advent Bible Study—AL 6:30 pm Sit 'n Sew Quilters —Mary's Kitchen	6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Rehearsal —MR	9	2:00 pm UMW Christmas Tea —Adult Lounge 6:00 pm Evening with Santa —Fellowship Hall
Third Sunday of Advent 7:00 am UMM—FH 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship / Lessons & Carols 11:00 am Christmas Brunch—FH 11:15 am Evangelism—Adult Lounge 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge 6:00 pm UMYF Caroling	12:00 pm Almond/Wesleyan Potluck —Phyllis Chandler's home	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting 5:30 pm UMW Citrus Branch —Market Broiler 7:00 pm SPRC—CR 7:00 pm Faith & Fellowship—AL 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers—Sanctuary	6:00 pm Bring Your Own Brown Bag Dinner w / Pastor John —AL 6:30 pm Advent Bible Study—AL	6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Rehearsal —MR	16	17
Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship/Children's Christmas Play 11:15 am Church & Society—AL 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge 6:30 pm Live Nativity 7:00 pm Live Nativity	19	10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 12:00 am Office Staff Christmas Party —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary	6:00 pm Bring Your Own Brown Bag Dinner w / Pastor John —AL 6:30 pm Advent Bible Study—AL	6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Rehearsal —MR	23	Hunger Ministry 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service
Christmas 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	26	8:30 am Messenger Volunteers —Mary's Kitchen	12:30 pm UMW Bridge—AL	6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Rehearsal —MR	30	31 The church office will close at 12:00 pm today.

