

In Our Prayers:

Our sympathy & prayers to the family and friends of Faith Ruddell who passed away January 21. Services were held at the church on January 30.

Also, to the family and friends of Bob Wilson who passed away December 20.

Services were held at the church on January 28.

Condolences to Chandra Roberts on the passing of her sister, to Donna Woodard on the death of her mother, to Margaret Berger on the death of her sister.

In convalescent care: Natta Lea McCormack, Howard Nolan, Dellours Hocking Nancy Lasater, Ruby Gregory, Leonard Shaw, Michael Scholl

For health and support: Martha Devine, Josephine Duncan, Bob Schiffer, Manette Tomlinson, Pam Garnett, Ed Johnson, Allean Blose, Emily Shaw. Myra Williams, Lisa Thomas, Sarah Six, Vijay Roberts, Eli Sturman, Sue Byers Debbie Boone, Jim Thomas, Casey Graves, Jason Handen, Brandy Gould, Nathaniel Pritchard



**First United Methodist Church
of Riverside**

4845 Brockton Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506-0134

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The
Messenger



First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Volume 51 No. 2 February 5, 2012

From Pastor John

The month of February will be a busy month but one that always has a very special place in the lives of Mina and me. There is of course Valentine's Day. Chocolates and cards are already on display at stores for people to purchase for their loved ones. It is a wonderful time to recommit our relationships with the loved ones. For Mina and me it is also the month of our anniversary, our 22nd this year. Yes, I hear it all the time from people, "How did you get so lucky?"

February is also the month where we begin our Lenten Journey. Ash Wednesday is February 22. This day marks the beginning of Lent, which means it is time again to prepare

our hearts and minds for the 40 days of reflection, sacrifice, prayer and renewal. The discipline of Lent calls us to be honest about ourselves as we remember the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus, uncovering who we are and renewing our faith. Lent can be a time for re-learning how to live as a Christian. All this causes me to think how I am doing in my relationships, with my Lord, my wife, and the loved ones. I will have Lent Devotional materials available soon that will help us in this journey. My hope is that you and I will grow in relationships during Lent together.

Also during our Wednesday Lenten Soups and Programs, we will come around the theme *We*

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From Pastor John

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Have a Story to Tell; we will hear from five speakers who are members of FUMCOR. They will share their unique and inspiring stories of life, relationships, faith and their hopes for the church. There will also be music, worship, fellowship, and of course, the wonderful soups, all of which no doubt will strengthen us for our journey of faith. Please join us on Wednesdays at our Lenten Soup and Program and look for other Lenten studies and opportunities in our calendar—and bring a friend.

May God richly bless you during this season of Lent.

See you at church,
Pastor John

Vacation Bible School

Date Change

Our annual VBS will change to a new week in July this year.

Operation Overboard, Dare To Go Deep

With God!

will be held the week of July 9-13.

Please mark your calendars!



Keith Matrisch.....	1
Bill Ashworth	8
Maxine Corridan.....	8
Pat Williams.....	8
Erin Wynne.....	8
Marjorie Skorheim.....	10
Pat Jeffries	11
Christopher Musarra.....	11
Myra Williams.....	11
Alice Musarra.....	13
Fred Bowe.....	16
Dorie Grimes.....	16
Vika Exon.....	19
Yvonne Peters.....	19
Alice Wymer.....	19
Cindy Marr.....	20
Deborah Scott.....	22
Carmen Lonsbery.....	25
Everett McCormick.....	25
Carrie Renteria.....	25
Emily Shaw.....	25
Duffy Exon.....	26
Edward Johnson.....	26
Danielle Johnson.....	27
Connie Smith.....	29
Peggy Stepe.....	29
Frank Ferre.....	30
Patty Binford.....	31

United Methodist Men

A big thank you to Matt Gorder for the very entertaining and informative talk he presented at our January meeting. We learned of the incredibly fast moving state of the art in integrated circuits and the possibilities for improved consumer devices to come.

Our February 12 program will be presented by Jim Wood who is a collector of old books. Jim will discuss the history of writing and the Bible from 4000 BC to 1611 AD and the discoveries of old writings in modern times.

Join us for a delicious breakfast and the program at 7:00 AM on Sunday, February 12. Ladies are invited to the breakfast and program.

UMM members are reminded to pay their annual dues this month.

United Methodist Women

It's Coming!!

Start planning now for the UMW annual VALENTINE BAKE SALE.

Sunday, February 12, after church in Fellowship Hall you will find a yummy display of gifts for you and your valentine.

All you bakers are asked to bring your favorite cookies, cakes, or candy wrapped in small packages ready for sale. Deliver them before church to Fellowship Hall.

Children's Ministry

At our first meeting for Children's Family night, January 20, the parents got together to bring forth some ideas for events for 2012. We have come up with the following programs:

- February 24: family event at FUMCOR
- March: bowling at AMF in Riverside (actual date to be announced)
- April 27: Parent's Night Out
- May 18: family event (parking lot races with BBQ)
- June 22: Olympics event
- July: no event
- August 24: ice skating
- September 28: hay ride, barn party at the Bruggeman's

Please keep watching for more details in future bulletins, emails, and mailings for opportunities to get involved.

Looking to Our Future

According to Wikipedia, "Strategic planning is an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. In order to determine the direction of the organization, it is necessary to understand its current position and the possible avenues through which it can pursue a particular course of action. Generally, strategic planning deals with at least one of three key questions: "What do we do?", "For whom do we do it?", "How do we excel?"

In many organizations, this is viewed as a process for determining where an organization is going over the next year or—more typically—3 to 5 years (long term), although some extend their vision to 20 years."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_planning

Over the next several months, with the help of Pastor John and the Church Council, I am going to be creating a strategic plan. Already, I have asked the committee chairs to work with their committees to look at the mission and strengths of their different groups.

Kris Lovekin and the Church & Soci-

ety/Missions Committee have been at work on this, looking for new opportunities for missions where we can involve more members of the Church. We had a wonderful discussion at Church Council about the different mission opportunities that are available, locally and in the continental United States for youths and adults.

Pastor John asked the Worship Committee to take an even more active role in the development and planning of the worship services. This is a wonderful opportunity for this group to help us provide an updated worship service, without losing the valuable traditions that make us United Methodists.

For my part I am going to be developing a series of questions, working with the committees, talking to church members in groups and individually, and, finally, developing a plan that I can bring to Church Council for approval. I want this plan to show how we can follow Christ's great commission, to "go and make disciples of all nations..." (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

If you have any comments, thoughts or questions, please email me (Peter Brabant) at pb.fumcor@gmail.com.

Don't Miss This! Everyone is Invited

February 25, is the date; Downey UMC is the place; *Small Groups Building Ministry Bridges* is the event; Cal-Pac Lay Speaking Ministries is the presenter.

Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards is the Keynote Speaker. He serves as Director of Worship Resources at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville. His Keynote Address, *Reclaiming Who You Are: Stepping Out in Faith in Your Ministry as Lay Speakers*, will speak to us about developing small group ministries, and their part in creating accountable disciples in our churches. He will also conduct a workshop on "ACME Discipling: Developing Accountable, Connected, Missional, Experiential Small Groups."

Two other workshops will be presented. Rev. Myron Wingfield will present "So, what IS a Mission Area?" "Living Our Stewardship" will be presented by Judy Cobb and Pat Hogan.

Cost is \$35.00 and includes lunch. Brochures with registration forms are available in the office.

Mission Moments from UMW

As part of our ministry here in Argentina, we started a special help project with children of the Hot Breakfast Program, which is a community activity. The program is for those who do not know how to read and write, even though they are in third and fourth grade already. This program is done with the help of members of our church in Villa Mercedes, and includes providing a hot breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays for under served children with craft activities on Saturdays, and Bible Study on Sundays. We also provide them with school utensils and a haircut (courtesy of another member of our church who is a hair stylist). *Orlando and Yolanda Rivera, missionaries, Villa Mercedes, Argentina. Submitted by Peggy Ramsay, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.*

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Feb. 5: Souper Bowl of Caring
Soup Luncheon

Feb. 12: Valentine's Bake Sale

Feb. 19: All American Potluck

Feb. 26: Pancake Brunch

see calendar for details

February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			9:30 am Handcrafters Workshop —Asbury 6:00 pm Sit n Sew Quilters —Mary's Kitchen	1 6:30 am Men's Prayer Brkfast—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Choir—MR	2 3	4
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship/Communion 11:15 am Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch & Fundraiser—FH 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge	7:00 pm Trustees —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge	6 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:05 am Staff Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen	7 9:30 am UMW Executive Committee—Mary's Kitchen 9:30 am Handcrafters Workshop —Asbury	8 6:30 am Men's Prayer Brkfast—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Choir—MR	9 10	11 12:00 pm UMW Bridge Marathon —AL
7:00 am UMM Brkfast & Program—Fellowship Hall 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Valentine Bake Sale—FH 11:15 am Evangelism Cmte—AL 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	12 12:00 pm Almond/Wesleyan Potluck—Mary's Kitchen	13 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:05 am Staff Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm SPRC—CR 7:00 pm Faith & Fellowship—AL	14 10:00 am UMW Unit Mtg —Koinonia	15 6:30 am Men's Prayer Brkfast—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Choir—MR	16 17	18
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am All American Potluck—FH 11:15 am Church & Society / Missions —AL 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	19 7:00 pm Christian Education —Mary's Kitchen Presidents Holiday (the church office is closed today)	20 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:05 am Staff Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen	21 9:30 am Handcrafters Workshop —Asbury	22 6:30 am Men's Prayer Brkfast—Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate Choir—MR	23 24 6:30 pm Family Night—FH	25 Hunger Ministry
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Pancake Brunch—FH 5:00 pm CDG—Adult Lounge 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	26 7:00 pm Church Council—AL	27 10:00 am Bible Study —Mary's Kitchen 11:05 am Staff Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary's Kitchen 7:00 pm UMW Citrus Branch—AL	28 9:30 am Handcrafters Workshop —Asbury	29		