



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

48/1



Please hold in prayer all our members and friends who are homebound, ill or in need of support, and all our service men and women.

In hospital: Winston Rajaratnam. In convalescent care: Marion Holsteen, Faith Ruddell, Howard Nolan & Doc Snedden. At home: Clint Marr, Doris Wright, Jean Mooney, Myra Williams, Sarah Six & daughter Susan Shuckett, Ruby Gregory, Bob Schirmer, Claude & Micheline Scoggins, Pat Williams, Ron Pope, Lea McCormack, Betty Byrnes, and Dennis Warman.

The ministers of this church are its members. Assisting them are Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, District Superintendent Bau Dang, Senior Pastor Brian Kent, Associate Pastor Sheila Kane, and the church staff.

Articles for the next *Messenger* (issue date February 1, 2009) must be in the church office no later than Wednesday, January 21. Thank you!

2009 Offering Envelopes
The 2009 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex. They are in alphabetical order by weekly offering and by monthly offering. Please note your envelope number has probably changed.

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Dated Material
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The *Messenger*



First United Methodist Church of Riverside

4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Volume 48 No. 1 January 4, 2009

FAITH WORKS

As we begin 2009, let us remember that God is with us, that God loves us, and that God is powerful enough to help us.

One of the biggest issues that we face in 2009 is a wild ride on the economy. Every so-called solution that I hear about has to do with getting credit moving again. But in the long run what we do not need is more debt. We need credit available for certain kinds of purchases like home and autos, but we need **more** to live without the crushing burden of debts. I know that is easier said than done.

One good idea came from Newsweek—<http://www.newsweek.com/id/174265>—in an article called “Stuff is not Salvation”. It is a pretty standard message about values and what not to waste money on, but the author, Anna Quindlen, did a good job on this one. She ends with the words:

“Ask people what they'd grab if their house were on fire, the way our national house is on fire right now. No one ever says it's the tricked-up microwave they got at Wal-Mart.”

The rules you want to live by in your use of money in 2009 are found in Sermon No. 50

by John Wesley “On the Use of Money”.

1. Earn all you can (without hurting yourself or others).
2. Save all you can (both saving for what you need and not wasting money by throwing it away on what you don't need).
3. Give all you can (since by giving to others you grow in your relationship with God and in your own character as you are fulfilling a commandment to love).

This is very different than our 21st century ethic:

1. Borrow all you can.
2. Spend all you can.
3. It's mine! All mine!

If you want to read his whole sermon you can do a search for “John Wesley Sermon #50” and you will find lots of sources.

Think about it. Get the training and do the work to get in the best career and job you can. Don't throw it away on useless junk. Grow in love by giving.

In other words:

1. Earn all you can.
2. Save all you can.
3. Give all you can.

And may you have a wonderful new year. God is with you.

Pastor Brian Kent



Happy New Year to all of you!

I begin with a big thank you for all who came to my

Christmas Open House and especially the members of Faith & Fellowship who assisted to make it a smashing success. It was so much fun!

In this new year I am so pleased to continue to be in ministry with you. While my work load has not changed that much, I now have Wednesdays and Fridays off. I enjoy working with the various committees and look forward to assisting each group as they continue their particular ministries.

I invite all women of the church to consider attending the *Sisters* Retreat February 20-22. Our theme is "Creating Space for God". We have a great leader this year: Rev. Karen Gardner, Associate Minister at Redlands First UMC. Karen has served at Redlands for the past three years and has recently completed the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation program in leading contemplative small groups and retreats.

The cost of the *Sisters* retreat is \$200 and scholarships are available. All women interested in learning about the retreat are invited to an invitational dinner January 18 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to hearing from you. Brochures are also available in the church office, or contact me at 683-7831.

I look forward to the blessings and joys of the new year with you!

Pastor Sheila

Jennifer Kent back on Cal-Pac Conference Staff

For many months Brian Kent's daughter was the receptionist at conference headquarters in Pasadena. Now she has returned in a new role—Conference Consultant for Human Trafficking Issues.

Jennifer will be leading our conference and individual churches in acting against human trafficking—modern day slavery—in the United States and around the world. The main reasons for human trafficking are forced prostitution and forced labor. We look forward to some time in the future when Jennifer will offer a workshop at our church.

Sign of the Times

Money from the Francis Franz Estate has been given to replace our deteriorating church sign. The Trustees have been working on the concept and approvals since October, and City permits to proceed were issued on December 19. The generous gift covers approximately 90% of the cost with the balance being paid by a gift from our preschool. Contracts for the new sign and base construction have also been awarded.

The new sign will feature our cross and flame symbol as well as the name of our church and preschool; and Sunday School and worship times. It will be lighted on both sides and will be set perpendicular, and much closer, to the street so it can be readily seen by passing cars.

Construction is expected to start in mid-January and be completed in early February. The youth have taken on the project of removing the old sign, which will get underway also in late January.

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to the Francis Franz Estate and the preschool for sponsoring this project.

Mission Moments from UMW

Janet Lahr Lewis, a United Methodist missionary in Palestinian territories, walks with children in the West Bank village of Wadi' Foukin (Valley of Thorns), which is imperiled by the construction of Israeli settlements and the Israeli government's separation barrier. (Photo by Paul Jeffrey.)

Janet Lahr Lewis says "True peace will only come when the adults of the world heed Jesus' call to become more like children—to look at the other without suspicion or malice, but rather with truth and openness, with eager-



ness to share with the other, and with love.

We have been called to do what is right by one who was called the Prince of Peace.

When we do, perhaps we can define peace in such a way that all God's children will find joy in it." *Submitted by Peggy Ramsay, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. (This truly makes one stop and think about the children of the world.)*

Directory updates

Updates to the FUMCOR Membership Directory are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you would like a copy. This information is provided to our members and constituents as a way to keep in touch with your church family.



in February

Donna Kidder	3
Daniel Noble	3
David Saenz	4
Eula Robison	5
Margaret Berger	7
Heather Cardenas	7
Samantha Bales	8
Helen Kirkwood	8
Marjorie Souder	8
Matthew Speir	8
Alexander Othon	9
Robert Taylor	10
Elaine Vergeront	10
Linda Hice	11
Buck DeFrance	14
Carol Stalder	14
Billy Waite	15
Manette Tomlinson	16
Pauline Fader	17
Tina Rajaratnam	18
Steven Wilson	20
Ruth Halpenny	25
Kathleen Thompson	25
Doc Snedden	26
Jennifer Walker	26

United Methodist Women

We resume our regular scheduled meetings this month as follows:

January 12—Almond/Wesleyan Branch Potluck, Mary's Kitchen, 12:00 PM

January 14—Executive Committee, Mary's Kitchen, 9:30 AM

January 17—Bridge Marathon, Adult Lounge, 12:30 PM

January 21—Unit Meeting, Koinonia, 10:00 AM, pledge & memorial services

January 28—Handcrafters Idea Day, Asbury, 9:30 AM; Citrus Branch, Mary's Kitchen, 7:00 PM

United Methodist Men

Our January 11 program promises to be informative and interesting. Scholarship recipients Adrienne Austin and Melissa Beals are our featured speakers. Both will share some experiences and answer questions. Our third recipient, Kaley Weakly, will be introduced at a future meeting.

We are planning for a large crowd with wives, youth, and visitors welcome as always.

Thanks to organist Marc Longlois for an outstanding program in December. Ryan Ballantyne, who restored our organ, added to the discussion and the question-answer session.

Join us at our January meeting—you'll be proud of our energetic youth.

January 11

Fellowship Hall — 7:00 AM

OFF Group for January

Please save the date! *January 17*

And the time: **6:00 PM**

for an "Italian" supper and fellowship at Sigmar & Debbie Hofmann's. Details are in your mail!

Winter camp

Registration for the Riverside District Winter Camp has begun. It's a great time; ask any of our youth!

Camp will be held at Camp Wrightwood, January 17th-19th.

Elementary Camp is for grades 2-5, and Junior & Senior High camp is for grades 6-12. Registration forms are available on the Kiosk and in the Office. Camperships are available.

Registration deadline is tomorrow (January 5, 2009). See Val Weise for information on camp or camperships.

Organ concert this afternoon

You are invited to an Organ Concert featuring Dr. Frances Nobert, this afternoon (January 4, 2009) at 3:00 PM in our Sanctuary.

There will be a pre-concert lecture with Steuart Goodwin on our newly renovated 56-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ.

Dr. Nobert is Professor Emerita of Music at Whittier College. Dr. Nobert earned the degrees Bachelor of Music from Salem College, Master of Music from Syracuse University and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California. As a recipient of a Fulbright Grant, she studied organ, harpsichord and piano in Germany. Her organ teachers included John Mueller, Helmut Walcha and Arthur Poister. For many seasons she sang with the Los Angeles Master Chorale under the direction of Roger Wagner, and served as accompanist for a nationwide tour of the Roger Wagner Chorale.

The Lord is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class members memorize Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm.

On the day the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Little Rick stepped up the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Youth News

Pancake Brunch!

Start the year off right at the Pancake Brunch, today after worship. Donations will be used for Camperships to send children and youth to Winter Camp and Youth Alive.

Pancakes
Scrambled eggs
sausage
Hash browns



Happy New Year from The Church Staff

Pastor Brian • Pastor Sheila
Barbara • Laurie
Val • Alice
Gayla • Barbara Jo
Lee Ann

Builders fellowship

As part of our fellowship within the community, Builders Group presents U.S. Veterans representative Art Rivas on January 9, 2009.

The U.S. Vets provide safe, sober and clinically supported housing with employment assistance to give help and hope to veterans. Come and find out how you can help!

Let's help all our veterans become productive citizens.

Friday, January 9, 2009

6:30 PM

Cost of the meal is \$9.50

Bring a friend or two!

Calendar for Monthly Meetings

Second Sunday:

Evangelism & Discipleship

Third Sunday:

Church & Society/Missions

First Monday:

Trustees

First Monday:

Worship Cmte

Second Monday:

Faith & Fellowship

Second Monday:

SPRC

Third Monday:

Christian Education

Fourth Monday:

Church Council

Third Tuesday:

Finance

INKJET CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

UMYF continues to collect inkjet cartridges for recycling. We receive up to \$4 for each cartridge recycled. Cartridges can be deposited in our collection bin located on the patio Sunday mornings or in the office during the week. Questions about the program can be directed to Val Weise at 683-7831.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>The church office will be open 8:00 am - 12:00 pm today</p>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship & Communion 11:15 am Pancake Brunch—FH 3:00 pm Organ Concert—Sanctuary Reception following in FH 5:00 pm Covenant Grp—AL 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	7:00 pm Worship Committee —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm Trustees—Mary’s Kitchen	10:00 am Bible Study —Koinonia 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary	6:00 pm Sit n Sew Quilters —Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm <i>Sisters</i> Bible Study —Adult Lounge	6:30 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate—MR	6:30 pm Builders —Fellowship Hall	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7:00 am UMM—FH 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship —Sanctuary 11:15 am Evangelism/Discipleship —Adult Lounge 11:15 am Youth Council—YC 5:00 pm Covenant Grp—AL 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	12:00 pm Almond/Wesleyan Potluck—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm Faith & Fellowship —Pastor Sheila’s 7:00 pm SPRC—CR	10:00 am Bible Study —Koinonia 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting—CR 4:00 pm Young Adults 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Mary’s Kitchen	10:00 am UMW Executive Committee—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm <i>Sisters</i> Bible Study —Adult Lounge	6:30 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate—MR		UMW Bridge Marathon 12:30 pm — Adult Lounge
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship —Sanctuary 11:15 am Church & Society/ Missions—Adult Lounge 5:00 pm Covenant Grp—AL 6:00 pm UMYF—YC & Chapel 6:00 pm <i>Sisters</i> Supper—FH	 <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>Christian Edu Committee meets tomorrow</p>	10:00 am Bible Study —Koinonia 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting—CR 3:00 pm Finance—CR 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary 7:00 pm Christian Education —Adult Lounge	10:00 am UMW Unit Meeting —Koinonia 7:00 pm <i>Sisters</i> Bible Study —Adult Lounge <u>Deadline for Messenger Articles</u>	6:30 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate—MR		Hunger Ministry
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Family Worship —Sanctuary 11:15 am Shelter Luncheon—FH 11:15 am Magazine Swap—Patio 5:00 pm Covenant Grp—AL 6:00 pm UMYF—YC	7:00 pm Church Council —Adult Lounge 7:00 pm Citrus Branch UMW —Mary’s Kitchen	8:30 am Messenger Volunteers —Mary’s Kitchen 10:00 am Bible Study—Koinonia 11:00 am Office Staff Meeting—CR 4:00 pm Young Adults 7:00 pm Allegro Ringers —Sanctuary	9:30 am UMW Handcrafters Idea Day—Asbury	6:30 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast—Mary’s Kitchen 7:00 pm Aldersgate—MR		