



The Messenger

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

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ISSUE 9

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Dear Riversiders,

Last week during our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper I gobbled up a month's worth of: carbohydrates (12 pancakes); protein (12 strips of bacon and 6 links of sausage); and sugar (syrup and orange juice). It was not pretty. When it comes to consuming exciting things I enjoy, I don't have a lot of will power.

What is it about the human condition that makes us want to consume so much of what we deem beautiful? This is the question the season of Lent wants us to ask. Whether it's food, art, antiques, land, money, or other people, there's this thing in us that hungers to possess it, consume it, and digest it. It's called sin. It's the result of our insatiable appetite stemming from the anxiety of not being enough on our own; of not being all-powerful like God.

When Jesus began his public ministry right after he was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days. When he was famished, the devil came to tempt him. Those temptations - turning stones into bread, being King over all the nations, and High Priest over the temple - were about choosing to be like God instead of human like us. From then on he was tempted. Would he choose to opt out of his human predicament or stay in it with us? On Good Friday the final answer comes when he chose to die like a man instead of live like a God.

Fasting and choosing not to own, consume, and digest what we are attracted to, bring the opportunity to reclaim our own sense of humanity and own up to the anxious hunger that comes from being human and not God. It helps us remember we're not finally in charge and can't fix all the people around us. It enables us to get back in touch with that God-shaped hole in our heart that cannot be filled on this side of heaven.

There's forty days in Lent, excluding Sundays, roughly one-tenth of the year, a tithe. Why not try fasting during this season, from whatever we crave, living with the hunger, instead of trying to satiate it? It might open us up to the real hunger we share, as human beings, for the presence of God.

Peace,
Steve

**Worship Services Sunday, February 28, 2010 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion
& 11:00 a.m. Worship LOGOS**

8:30 a.m.: Offertory Solo: *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* African-American Spiritual
Carolyn Hodges, soprano

11:00 a.m. Offertory Anthem: *Soon and Very Soon* Andrae Crouch (1978)
Logos Choirs, Carolyn Hodges, director

8:30 a.m.
Scripture: Phil. 3:17; 4:1
Sermon: Following Our Role Modules
Dr. Steve Goyer

11:00 a.m. Logos
Scripture: Psalms 27
Sermon: What Are You Afraid Of?

EXTENDED SESSION

Feb. 28: Shelly Cavendish, Dearing & Brad Thoburn, Alison & Neil Schoenberger, Leann Boyle & Amanda Rolfe

Mar. 7: Ruth Wrenshall, Christine & Victor Hughes, Claudia & Bill Elrod, Dena & 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

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 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 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 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 3 – Jody Welker

March 10 – Carol DiGiusto

March 17 – Herb Underwood

March 24 – Gene Soud

"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 interested in joining!

PLAY DATE TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Join us at Landon Park at 4:00 p.m. for fun and play together. This is primarily for pre-school children but older brothers and sisters are welcome.

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 (30 minute meditation)

Maundy Thursday— 45 minutes before the service.

WEDNESDAY HAPPENING

Jake Tuttle, an outstanding young pianist who is a junior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, will play at the Wednesday Happening on March 3, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Lunch will follow at 1:00 p.m. in Kissling Hall, and reservations should be made by Monday, March 1. Leave call the office at 355-4585 to make your reservation.

GLOBAL & NATIONAL MISSIONS & PEACEMAKING

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 service followed by dinner. Please RSVP to Rebecca Langer at rbprayer@comcast.net or call RPC at 355-4585 by March 1 if you plan to attend. We look forward to another rich evening with our friends from other faith communities.

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 Ministers class that is meeting now through June 2010.

In the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Haiti, your prayers, gifts and actions are making a difference. In a time when so many symbols of safety and security have been destroyed, your support of the One Great Hour of Sharing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) have been a tangible witness of God's presence and hope.

Working in concert with Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance and Church World Service, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided assistance toward:

- Food, water and 35,000 hygiene kits and baby kits at 15 distribution sites.
- Temporary shelters for the many people left homeless.
- Supplies and vital infrastructure support including electrical, water, sanitation and security at Hôpital Sainte Croix (Holy Cross Hospital) in Leogane, one of the few operating medical facilities in the region, and the Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti (FSIL).
- Initial assessments and ground work for community psycho-social recovery.

Download a power-point presentation with photos of these efforts.

We cannot thank you enough for your compassion and generosity. We have been inspired by so many stories of children, youth groups, and congregations each doing their part in support of the earthquake response. The damage has been devastating, but as Presbyterian mission co-worker and PDA staff member, Carlos Cardenas, reports, despite the devastation, "Hope is alive." Thank you for bringing hope to the people of Haiti. You can find situation updates and information on how you can get involved by visiting the PDA Web site.

Yes. Our God is up to the task. Pray that we will all be up to the task.

As God's people we are called to stand in the "GAP" — **GIVE. ACT. PRAY.**

Give — Financial support for relief efforts can be made online and designated to DR000064. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Act — Prepare for a special worship service in your congregation using the hymn, bulletin inserts and other worship resources available from PDA. Congregations and individuals can also put together hygiene kits and baby kits to be distributed through Church World Service.

Pray — Join with others in lifting up the people of Haiti and those seeking to provide aid in this critical time. As the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer.

Caring for Creation 111 ways to save water in NE Florida

Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent using the garbage disposal.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Feb. 28: Margo Fitch

DEACON OF THE DAY

Feb. 28: Missy Hager
March 3: Darlene Hampton
March 14: Sherrie Calvert
March 21: Bill Howey
March 28: Davis Collier

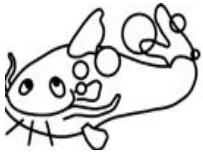
Mission Possible Mission Possible

BUBBA GOES GOLFING TO BENEFIT DESC
Date Change 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.



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.



SIGN UP NOW -- LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch and Learn is the title given to our Community Life Day Trip opportunities. They are open to anyone—join us for good fun and fellowship.

SWAMP GRAVY MARCH 6 Leave church at 8:30 a.m.

Travel to Colquitt, GA for lunch at Tarrer Inn and Swamp Gravy presentation of "The Gospel Truth." Swamp Gravy's most memorable play, "The Gospel Truth," was originally performed in 1995. This show put Swamp Gravy on the map. It has been performed at the 1996 Olympics, The Kennedy Center, and other venues around Georgia. Religion is real in rural South Georgia; it is a part of daily life. This play remembers the people and places of simpler times—rocked by sin and bound by hard work — and to tell the stories of the men and women from our community.

The preacher has a story of fire and flame...
 The butcher has a story of hard work
 A woman has a story of honor

Cost of trip is \$40. Limited to 30. This is one of those "you don't want to miss it" opportunities! Call church office, 355-4585, to sign up. For more information on this trip, please contact Roger Maness or Bob or Jayne Runnels (374-1913). Anticipated return time is 8:30 p.m.

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 our 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

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 3: Chik-Fil-A

SH: Dinner Outings
from 6:00 p.m. —7:00 p.m.
March 3: Moe's

SAVE THE DATES:

ASP Parent & Youth
Meeting February 28

SH—Box-a-thon March 6

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

Friday, March 5— 5 Alive!-Grp
all 5th graders
5:00-7:00 Bittering Hall
Bring \$10 for dinner

Sunday, February 28 at 5:00 p.m.
Open House-Youth House

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

Sunday, February 28	8:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Training
	8:30 a.m.	Early Worship/Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Logos
	3:30 p.m.	ASP Parent/Youth Mtg/KS
	5:00 p.m.	Open House-SH/Yth House
MONDAY, March 1	7:00 a.m.	Meditation Grp/Sanc
	7:15 a.m.	YA-Working Women Bible Study/TP
	10:00 a.m.	PW-Circle 5/Lib
	10:30 a.m.	PW-Circle 3/BT
	10:30 a.m.	PW Circles/OL
	1:15 p.m.	PW Circle 1/Lib
TUESDAY, March 2	9:30 a.m.	Staff Mtg/TP
	10:30 a.m.	PW-Circle 9/OL
	2:00 p.m.	PW-Circle 7/OL
	4:00 p.m.	Pre-School Play Date/Landon Park
	7:00 p.m.	PW Circle 2/OL
WEDNESDAY, March 3	7:00 p.m.	Tradition House/Lib
	9:00 a.m.	RPH Worship/Communion
	9:45 a.m.	RPA Worship/Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study/Lib
	12:30 p.m.	Wed. Happening/Sanc/BT
	5:00 p.m.	MS– Chic-Fil-A
	6:00 p.m.	SH– Moe's
	6:00 p.m.	Community Life Mtg/Lib
	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir/ChRm
THURSDAY, March 4	8:20 a.m.	RPDS-Chapel/Sanc
	9:00 a.m.	Children's Ministry Mtg/Lib
	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.
FRIDAY, March 5	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
	5:00 p.m.	5 Alive Grp/BT
SATURDAY, March 6	BOX-A-THON/Camp Montgomery	
	8:30 a.m.	Lunch & Learn/Swamp Gravy/OL
	9:00 a.m.	Stephen Minister Retreat/R. Langer
Sunday, March 7	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/Pastors Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship/Communion/Baptism-Tousey
	12:00 p.m.	Homebound Communion
	12:30 p.m.	PW-Circle 8/BT
	12:30 p.m.	Youth Committee/YH



- February 28: Burns Hardwick, Dan Thomas
- February 29: (Leap Year) Knox Kerr, Kayla Lovett
- March 1: Debbie Nixon, Robert Baker, John Jacobs, Mary Kathryn Huddleston, Henry Wilson, Harriet Veltkamp
- March 3: Claudia Lovett, William Cook, Burt Cook, Teddy Powell
- March 4: Mike Cavendish, Al Kaulia, Liz Figura, Justin Watkins, Tyler Tesdall
- March 5: Betty Edwards, Letha Mann, Beth Touchton, Chris McCain
- March 6: Brian Galbraith, Jennifer Givens, Ken Bowen
- March 7: Jim Hardwick, Tommy Platt, Trevor Splane, Mia Saenz, Jack Conatser

A NOTE FROM MICHELLE

Dear Friends,
Today, with 50 lost boxes arriving, I feel like we have finished our move to Charlotte. Along with them comes the reminder that this is permanent and that we no longer live in Florida and more specifically at Riverside Presbyterian Church. You are deeply missed and I will always hold our time together close to my heart. As I reflect on the past two months, I am truly grateful for the journey of leaving-taking we took together. Thank you for allowing us to grieve, to be sad together and to remain present in that struggle. Thank you for the amazing party on our last Sunday! It was so fun and meaningful. It was not so much a celebration of me as a celebration of the incredible ministry we did together over the last 11 years. Thank you for your notes, your wishes and specifically for your overwhelming generosity. I am still in awe of the gifts we received and I hope you can hear how grateful I am in just a letter. Charlotte has been very welcoming for our family. We have run into old college friends and many people who have a connection to YOU. Camden is enjoying riding a bus to school and Violet knows her way around Myers Park Presbyterian more than any of us because she is in our weekday school. Dave is enjoying being a stay at home dad with Violet home at noon, but has also had some great interviews for teaching positions in the fall. We love our home but none of us has adjusted to the cold weather!

Love and Peace to you, dear friends.
Rev. Michelle

PRAYER & CARE CONCERNS

Congratulations to Hattie and Brian Kissel on the birth of their daughter, Harriet Cavanaugh Kissel, on Feb. 7 in Huntersville, NC. Proud grandparents are **Russell and Chuck Glasheen.**

HOUSE & APT. SPEAKERS FOR FEBRUARY

March 3: Rebecca Langer
March 10: Janis Kinley
March 17: Sanford Souers
March 24: Jean Grant-Dooley
March 31: Vicki Bossuot

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLE INFORMATION

Circle 1: Monday, March 1, at 1:15 p.m. in Library.
Circle 2: Tuesday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. TBA.
Circle 3: Monday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. in Bittinger Hall.
Circle 4: Monday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Beau Rivage 2970 St. Johns Ave/Judy Davidson, Kay Armstrong
Circle 5: Monday, March 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. Child care provided.
Circle 6: Monday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Mary Ruth Moreland, 7510 Founders Way, Ponte Vedra Beach.
Circle 7: Tuesday, March 2, at 2:00 p.m. at RPH Coffee Shop
Circle 8: Sunday, March 7, at 12:15 p.m. in Bittinger Hall
Circle 9: Tuesday, March 2, at 10:30 a.m.— Lee Sickels, 1045 Oak St. Apt 302.

RPC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Thank you to all the people who helped with the RPC Centennial celebration of the Arts. Thank you to the more than 90 artists displaying more than 140 creative expressions at the two venues. Thank you to everyone who came to the exhibits. A special thank you to Missy and Tom Hager for opening their gallery to us.

Thank you from the Centennial Committee to Dale Child and Julie Bluett for putting together such a special display of the "Talents of the Church!!"

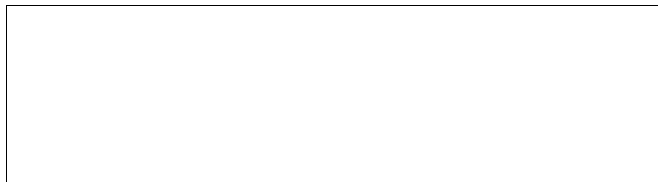
LECTIONARY READINGS

Gen. 15:1-12,17-18; Ps. 27;
Phil. 3:17-41, Luke 13:31-35

THE MESSENGER

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