



BEACON

Riviera United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship at 10 am
Office Hours:
9:30 am - 5 pm
Monday - Thursday
Friday closed

January 2012



Children's Choir performance



Rivierans add Toys for Toberman under our tree



Rivierans share Christmas joy for 8 families in Toberman's Adopt-A-Family program



Youth Caroling bring holiday spirit to home-bound members



2 more children are baptized!

January Worship & Congregational Highlights

- 1/16** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/27** Concert Series: Ernie Del Fante & Si Eubanks jazz it up!
- 1/27-29** Wrightwood All-Youth Winter Retreat

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



The year 2011 was a wonderful time for Riviera UMC. Our grace-centered, mission focused ministry reached new people and transformed lives in the South Bay and throughout the world.

In the center of our worship space is the font and table, signs that we exist to invite people into new and constantly renewing faith, while serving the world with the sustaining grace of Christ's mission. Through a ministry shaped by worship, in 2011 Riviera welcomed 12 new children into our family and 26 new youth and adult members. Twenty of these were received through Baptism, Confirmation or Profession of Faith. Our Outreach team led us this year to more than 5,000 acts of local service here in the South Bay. Through fund-raising by the United Methodist Women and 100% support of our United Methodist mission contributions our ministries reached outward to make a difference in lives throughout the world.

This year 2011 was also a year of growth for us, both statistically and spiritually. We minister in anxious times for denominations such as ours. The pressure for numerical growth is often expressed through a spirit of fear, correction, and failed perfectionism. That is not what we are about at Riviera. Statistical growth may come and go. When it is here, rejoice! But what drives this numerical growth is a spirit of generosity and compassion, grace and forbearance, and focused, effective mission. That is what we have found at Riviera. In 2012, I look forward to another wonderful year of life together in the grace of God.

In our pulpit is an open Bible from which we are met by the Word: written, spoken, empowered by the Spirit in our lives. As my thoughts turn to our journey from Epiphany through Lent to the glory of Easter, each year I seek to deepen my own walk in faith. I encourage you to do the same and to welcome others along the way. This issue of the Beacon is a witness to 2011 and an invitation into a renewed spiritual life in 2012.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mark



MUSIC and WORSHIP



Join Ernie Del Fante and Si Eubanks for a night of Jazz from the Great American Songbook. This talented duet showcases Ernie playing

the saxophone, clarinet and flute, with Si on piano. Together they will perform standards and original works from Gershwin,



Porter, Kern, Jobin and many others! Join us Friday, January 27 at 7:30 pm in



the Sanctuary.

Childcare is available with a reservation. Please contact the church office.

Donations to support the yearly Concert Series can be addressed to the Riviera Fine Arts Fund, and placed in the weekly collection or mailed to the church.

Tone Chimes

A tone chimes choir for grades 3 to 5 meets on Sundays at 11:15

am. Please contact Tricia Paulsen at tpaulsen66@cox.net.



RYME Resumes on January 15



Riviera Youth Music Ensemble (RYME) rehearses from 11:15 am to Noon in the Chapel, three times a month, and performs in Worship once a month. Newbies are welcome—no experience necessary! Contact Cory Johnson if you would like to join this lively group! cjmusic@earthlink.net.



Communion Service Dec. 2011



Jack Ramsey helps lead us in Worship

SPIRIT and HEALTH

Sundays @ 5 pm with Pastor Mark.

Alongside John, this year's Gospel readings will be drawn from the Gospel according to Mark. Mark was the first Gospel to be written and was the principal source for Luke and Matthew. It is short, terse, and strangely powerful. On January 22 and 29, from 5 to 6:30 pm in the Ocean View Room, Pastor Mark will lead a two-session study on this influential text. All are welcome. Please read the Gospel before coming to the first session (it only takes about an hour), and bring your Bible. See you there!

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Enrich your worship experience through a lively discussion of the morning's scriptures. No preparation necessary! Pastor Mark and Alan Zabel lead this group which meets from 8:45 to 9:30 am in the Library.



Start the New Year with Free Yoga Classes

We meet at 5 pm on Wednesdays in

Fellowship Hall through February 29th. Please note that there will be NO CLASS on January 18th. Contact Nancy at nytoppel@verizon.net.



Blood pressure screenings

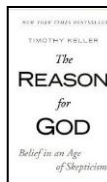
are offered at 11:15 am in the Library on the second Sunday of each month. Our dedicated team includes Marilouise Huff, Ellen Newberry, Alma Thompson and Nancy Peak.

Ocean View Discussion

All are welcome to join us beginning January 15 when we resume our discussion of Wesley for Armchair Theologians, by William J. Abraham. We meet at 9 am in the Ocean View Room. Contact Carol Perry at cperryrb@aol.com or Jerry Smith at gsmith99@aol.com.



Disciple I class



Women's Bible Study

We are discussing The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller. Bring a sack lunch, and join us on

Mondays from Noon to 1:30 pm. Newcomers welcome! Please call Tricia Paulsen (310) 375-3895.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY



The RUMC Movie Club

will meet Sunday, January 15th at 5 pm in the Library. We will

watch *Up In The Air*. Please contact Donna Howland at (310) 374-1530 or howlands@verizon.net.

Riviera Croppers and Crafters

Join us in 2012 to scrapbook your photos or work on craft projects. We're a mix of community and church members, and newcomers are always welcome. Upcoming Friday crops (7 pm-midnight): **1/13, 1/27, 2/10 and 3/2**. Plan to attend our all day crop event on Saturday Feb. 4, (10 am-midnight). Make time to be creative and join us in the New Year! Contact Cindy at cwelchko@need.org for more information.

Odd Couples Celebrate the New Year

The Odd Couples will meet on Saturday, January 14th at **2 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a late lunch / early dinner as we celebrate the arrival of the New Year! Please contact Stan Masumoto or Doris Nakamura at (310) 944-9602 or smasumoto@yahoo.com.

Book Club Meets January 24th

Our next book selection is The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach. It was named one of the best books of September 2011 by amazon.com.



Author John Irving has said "Chad Harbach has hit a game-ender with *The Art of Fielding*. It is pure fun, easy to read, as if the *other* Fielding had a hand in it - as if *Tom Jones* were about baseball and college life."

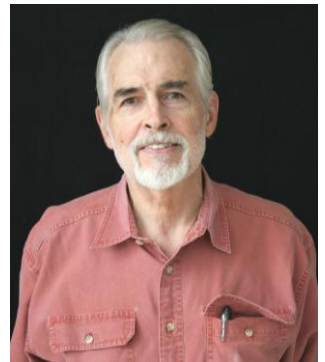
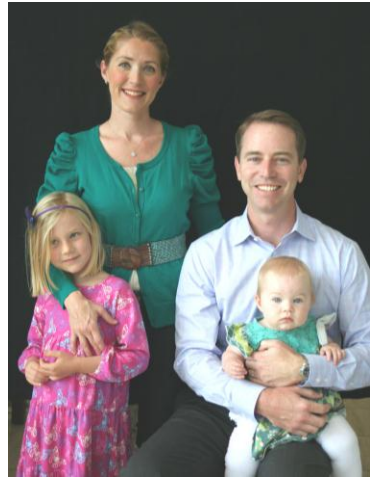
We will meet at the home of Jane and Joe Fisher for dessert and discussion. Please RSVP to jfisher2013@gmail.com or (310) 379-0380.

UMW's Trip to Skirball Cultural Center on February 5th

We will leave immediately after Worship so we will have time for lunch, and then take a guided tour of the exhibit "Women Hold up Half the Sky."

The cost for the Skirball Cultural Center exhibit/tour is \$7.00. Contact Mary Ross at (310) 544-4417 or mmgatross@aol.com. **Reservations due January 29th.**

New Members 2011



From top left to bottom right: Paul Dayton, Susan Hoover, the Bucknell family, the Confirmation class, the Boyer family, Kari Napier, Bill Cowdrey, Tim Miller and Annette Cook.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY cont'd



RIVIERA OUTREACH PROGRAMS TOUCHED OVER 5,000 LIVES IN 2011

One of the mission goals of our church

reads, "Riviera UMC is dedicated to ever deepening service to Christ's mission of outreaching love through feeding the hungry as we help those in need." More specifically, for 2011, our Outreach goal was to "deepen our partnership with Toberman and His House." The Outreach Team is pleased to report that our church has fulfilled that calling in the following ways:

Toberman Programs - For 2011 we aspired to increase our participation in **Toberman's feeding programs**, in which the children served in their after-school and summer programs are given a hot meal or sack lunch. The following (unsolicited) quote from a parent with children in the program underscores the importance of this program, "I clean houses and I only work two days a week. My husband works construction as a helper but work is slow and he doesn't work much. I haven't been able to pay my electric bill for the last two months. I am afraid that it will be cut off soon because we don't have the money to pay it. On our limited income we have to make

sure we take care of the rent first, that way we will keep a roof over our heads. Everything else will have to come later. **We are grateful that two of our children go to Toberman. This way they eat as much as they want and are not that hungry when they go home. This helps cut down on our grocery bill.**" The church's next opportunity to feed the kids at Toberman will be on February 2nd.

We also supported **Toberman's holiday giving programs** in three ways. We collected canned food for their food pantry, we collected hundreds of toys for the toy drive (in which parents are able to pick out appropriate toys for their children) and, most poignantly, we participated in the Adopt-A-Family program. For this program purchased specific items on wish lists for 8 families at Toberman. This culminated in a festive party where we presented the wrapped gifts to our families. To see the gratitude of the parents, the joy of the children and the incredulous looks of two grandmothers is an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

In February, Gloria Lockhart (Toberman's CEO) and Kenny Green from their Gang Prevention Unit, spoke to the congregation, reminding us what an important presence Toberman is in the Harbor area and how critical the needs are for the families in that neighborhood. They also

expressed their gratitude for our continued support.

His House Programs - In August the congregation collected school supplies for the back-to-school drive that His House sponsors. We collected enough supplies to provide over 100 children with the tools to jump-start their school year.

At Thanksgiving time we held our annual Thanksgiving feast program to benefit families served by His House.

This year we were able to provide food and turkeys to over 50 families.

In addition to these seasonal programs, we have continued to make canned food offerings on Communion Sundays, which have amounted to over 1,400 portions.

This year, for the first time in our history, Dave Risher (the director at His House) spoke to our congregation on Sunday, October 2nd. Dave's heartfelt appreciation for our partnership with his ministry, along with the humility with which he serves the community seemed to reinvigorate our efforts to help that important mission.

Loaves and Fishes - This year we hosted 5 meals for the homeless and low income in our area. By doing so we served over 500 hot meals and gave guests over 500 sack lunches to take with them. In addition, donations of clothing

and toiletries were distributed. Our next meal will be on March 31st.

All in all, through these and a few extra programs in 2011, our congregation fed, clothed and made life less difficult for people in need in our own community. The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone who made generous donations, volunteered at and supported all these activities. Let's see what more we can do in 2012!

Andrea Perez
Outreach Team Chairman



RUMC members who attended the Toberman Adopt-A-Family event

Upcoming Events Save the Date!

- 3/24 Toberman Annual Gala**
- 3/25 All-Church Cake Walk
SSP Fundraiser**
- 4/22 UMW/Youth Fashion Show
& Luncheon**

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Christmas Pageant 2011 "Little Drummers"



The Children's Music Department is already working on music for worship in 2012. In addition to preparing for their Spring presentation, "Unbelievable! - The Life of Jesus" (April 15th), the choir is enthusiastically rehearsing new pieces for Sunday worship, including singing with the Tone Chimes under Trish Paulsen's direction. Be prepared for their joyful noise the first Sunday of each month!

Sunday Night Live/Youth Group is back in full swing! Dancers meet at 5 pm in the Sanctuary and games/study hall begin at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by dinner

at 6 pm and discussions in the lounge. Bring your friends and join us as we begin an exciting new year in 2012! Contact Lynn at lynnattig@verizon.net.

Youth Dinners Needed, January through June

Our Sunday Night Live program includes a weekly dinner served at 6 pm. If you would like to take one Sunday to provide a meal and help feed this vibrant and hungry group of 25-30 teenagers (clean-up helpers are also needed), please contact Lynn Attig at (310) 374-8309 or lynnattig@verizon.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Office will be closed on Monday, January 16th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Next Beacon Deadline

Please submit articles for the February issue of *The Beacon* by Monday, 1/23 to Annie Gomm at afgomm@verizon.net, or Eva in the church office, (310) 378-9273.

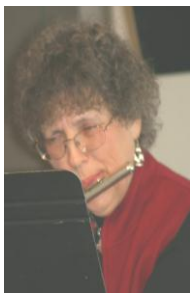
Special thanks to the following ace photographers for their images of December at Riviera: Janie Honeycutt, Lynn Attig, Sue & Gary Thompson, Donna & Darryl Howland.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*All-Church Orchestra and Chancel
Choir Performance Dec 2011*



Jim Heard



Julia Heard

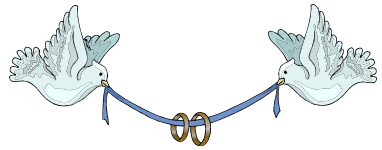


Mark Van Norman



*Advent Festival &
Hanging of the Greens*





January BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carole Base
- 3 Carol Perry
- 5 Nicholas Esposito
- 6 Laura Lynn Porter
- 7 Tom Schmidt
- 8 Michael Rivera
Vicki Stone
- 9 Briann Esposito
- 10 Susan Hoover
- 12 Bob Base
Scott Decker
- 13 Alex Alegria
- 14 Margaret Van Norman
- 15 Wing Mar
- 16 Jeffrey Morehouse
- 17 Shelby LaRue
- 19 Briana Stone
- 21 Julie Carr
- 22 Charles Lee
Ryan Petersen
Tim Miller
- 24 Nicole Bravo
Ted Ross
- 26 Diana Oropesa
- 27 Hannah Gainer
- 28 Nate Lee
- 30 John R. Base
- 31 Linda Marland
Mike Pucher (Father)
Isabella Fields

January ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Jim & Julia Heard
- 29 Joel & Martha Oropesa



In Memoriam:

Linda Hook Gunby
Passed away Dec 27, 2011



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