

March 2012

Riverside United Church



The Current

WORSHIP CALENDAR

March 18

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Lent 4 and end of March break

March 25

The 8:44 am—Worship
10:30 am—Lent 5 - Installation of Church Council

April 1

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Palm Sunday

April 5

6:00 pm—Maundy Thursday Pot-Luck & Worship

April 6

10:00 am—Good Friday Service

April 8

7:30 am—Easter Sunrise Service
The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Easter Holy Communion

April 22

The 8:44 am—Worship
10:30 am—New Members

April 29

The 8:44 am—Worship
10:30 am—Anniversary, Guest Minister Rev. Barbara Clark
and Amabile Youth Singers

May 6

The 8:44 am—Worship
10:30 am—UCW 50th Anniversary Celebration—Guest Speaker June McKay

May 13

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Mother's Day

May 20

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Victoria Day Weekend

May 27

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Pentecost

June 10

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Holy Communion

June 17

The 8:44 and 10:30 am—Father's Day

June 24

The 8:44 am—Worship
10:30 am—SALT Commissioning, JM Ford Bursary Presentation and
Canada Day Observance

REVEREND'S RUMINATIONS—Rev. Phil



"So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

Matthew 28:8

Mary Magdalene and Mary walked to Jesus' grave, expecting to find death. It's understandable. Images of violence filled their minds. Thoughts of their vulnerability and mortality deadened their spirits. Death had become the defining story of their lives.

Instead of death, the women met a resurrection messenger who said, "He is not here: for He has been raised, as He said." As they hurried to tell others, the risen Jesus met them. They were changed. Now resurrection, not death, would define their lives.

Jesus lives! Now resurrection, not death, defines our lives. Jesus continues to meet you in resurrection messengers, just as Jesus met me in "Darren," a First Nation's man I met in British Columbia. As we walked through

the ruins and rubble of his life - his father was a survivor of the residential school system where he successfully learned to despise all things aboriginal, including his own native language and tribal traditions. Even years later when his mother came to live in the household she was forbidden to sing the lovely songs and lullabies of her tradition. Darren grew up knowing he did not belong - anywhere. Then seven years ago at the urging of friends Darren attended a seminar on aboriginal culture and traditions. This began his journey home, a journey of reclaiming his identity, healing, and self respect. "We will not be defined by the ruins and rubble of life, but by restoration, for we are a people of the resurrection."

Baptized into Jesus' death and raised to newness of life we, too, are people of the resurrection. We, too, are resurrection messengers. We, too, are about God's work of restoration.

The world aches to hear the message we have to tell. Sing with joy! Jesus lives! We are a people of the resurrection.

Caregivers & Baby/Toddler Gathering
Wednesdays 1:30—2:30 in the nursery.
Contact Marilyn Arthur (519-472-6071) for information.

THE PARSON'S PEN—Gordon R. Geiger

In the film “Fiddler on the Roof”, one of the musical numbers is “Tradition”. The song tells us that the village, Anatevia, has certain traditions which have been cherished because in them the people found meaning and security. However, changes are coming and as the story continues we find that the Matchmaker's work is giving way to youth choosing their own partners and even Poppa's authority is challenged.

I couldn't help relating this story to life at Riverside. Because we are a relatively young congregation, we have not become so set in our ways that there is a lot of opposition to changes in our worship. We have also learned that it is often the traditions we cherish that are obstacles to gaining new

members. One example can be found in our approach to music. Many churches treasure classical music, but statistics suggest that only two percent of the population would choose it as their favourite. We at Riverside have wonderful variety in our music. Other examples of change have come in the use of modern translations of the Bible and in the wording of the Service of Holy Communion. The latter now reflects modern Biblical scholarship making the service more meaningful for most people.

However, a word of caution is appropriate. In our attempts to modernize let us be sure to preserve the fundamentals and not “throw the baby out with the bath water”.

TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH EVENTS

It has become clear that there is often a desire for persons in the congregation to attend events – regular or special – that are held throughout the year. However, transportation has not always been readily available. In order to encourage as many of the congregation as possible to participate in these events, it would be helpful if committees planning events such as lunches, dinners or fellowship events to include in their promotional material in the bulletin, a phone number or email address of a group member who would agree to find a ride for someone if needed. Both the Membership Committee and the Church Council have supported this proposal and it is hoped that groups will endeavour to incorporate this into the planning of future events. For further information, contact Kathy Haines, Membership Chair at 519-471-7233 or email: kathyhaines@rogers.com

Kathy Haines

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS—Marilyn Arthur

Children at Conference- 'Surf's Up'

When: May 4-6th

What: A conference for children 8-14 years of age to come together during the weekend of the London Conference Annual Meeting to be in fellowship with other children from different United Churches to play games, worship, make crafts, sing, play etc.

Where: Calvary United Church, London ON

Cost: Ranges from \$100-130.00 (see Marilyn for details)

Registration Deadline: April 9, 2012 (this fills up quickly)

London Conference Youth Forum- 'Walking the Plank'

When: April 12-15th

Where: Pearce Williams Christian Centre

Cost: Ranges from \$120.00-160.00 (for more details talk with Marilyn)

Who: For all youth in High School

What: This four day conference is a wonderful opportunity for young people to gather with other youth from different United Churches within London Conference. During the weekend the youth will be involved in theme discussions with the former United Church moderator, David Giuliano, be a part of a small group, worship, play games, and choose different workshops.

YATS (Young Adults in Transition)- 'Where are You on the Wave'

When: May 4-6th

Who: All those who are finished High School-Age 30

Where: Hellenic Centre and the Radisson Hotel (during London Conference Annual Meeting)

Cost: Ranges from \$150.00-190.00 (includes hotel- see Marilyn for details)

What: Participants will be fully immersed within the London Conference Annual Meeting. At the close of each day the YATS will gather together at the hotel for fellowship, worship and fun.

Registration Deadline: April 2, 2012

If you are interested in being part of one of these amazing conferences please see Marilyn Arthur and/or pick up a registration form outside of the church office.

Riverside's Vacation Bible Camps

- When:** July 16-20th and August 20-24th (Creative Arts Camp)
Time: Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm and Friday from 9am- 2pm
Who: For children ages JK-Gr. 6 (must be 4 years of age)
Cost: \$80.00/child or \$210.00 for a family of 3 or more (subsidy available)
What: Crafts, games, out-trips, swimming, biblical stories and skits, friends, fun, etc.

To register please email Marilyn@riverside.on.ca or call 519-472-6071 to reserve your spot.

Camp Kee Mo Kee

Middlesex Presbytery's residential camp is a wonderful opportunity for children, ages 6-16 years of age, who want to attend a weekly overnight camp. Camp Kee Mo Kee is located in Komoka. For more information please visit their website at www.keemokee.com

REFLECTIONS—Marilyn Arthur

During a discussion in teen worship on the first Sunday of Lent, one of the youth asked me, "What does Lent mean for our lives"? Then we had some really great discussions.

What does Lent mean for our lives?

One of the things we are called to do during the season of Lent is to take intentional time for spiritual renewal. Lent is often a time when we can find ways to better ourselves and/or add something to our lives that will make us more whole, more sane and happier. One of the youth asked, "Aren't we supposed to be doing this everyday of our lives?" I agreed with this young person. We are called to do this everyday of our lives, but do we?

The season of Lent invites us to take this time for spiritual renewal. This season calls us to take time to learn more about who we are and what we want for our lives. It is also a time to intentionally spend time with God and to listen to what God is calling us to be and do in our lives.

A few weeks previous, we were discussing the Christian practice of 'Time' in teen worship. I introduced them to a NAP time (Non-Active Period). Our lives are often busy and full. We move through our schedules (as wonderful as they may be) each day, completing our tasks and fulfilling our daily responsibilities. I think it is fair to say that not many of us have the opportunity or take the opportunity each day for a NAP time. NAP time is a period of time each day that we are called to take for ourselves. This NAP time is a time when we are invited to spend each day renewing our spirit. NAP time is taking time for us and taking time for God. NAP time is taking some time each day to thank God for our lives and what nourishes us. NAP time is taking a few moments each day to quiet our minds and our spirits.

I ask you to think about what Lent means for you personally. My hope and prayer for you is that you allow yourself time each day to take a Non-Active Period. May it be a time where you are thanking God for your life, renewing your spirit and learning more about who you are.

As we move through Lent into Easter may this period of reflection allow you to share in the story of the resurrection where you find hope and new life. May you find within the story of the Risen Christ new opportunities and new beginnings.

Children and Youth Activities

For a list of activities, events and conferences for children and youth please go to www.riverside.on.ca and click on the 'Children and Youth' page. If you have questions please feel free to contact Marilyn Arthur.

RIVERSIDE QUILTERS

The Riverside quilters have been busy over the last couple of months. A few people have donated fabric to the quilt group and we have been pleased to accept this material. We have been using it to make lap quilts and small tote bags, to be used on walkers. These items will be given to a seniors home. We

have also been using the fabric to make pillowcase dresses. Thank you so much for thinking of the quilters. Currently we are making a quilt for a nursing home and in the fall we plan to make 3 small wall hangings with nativity scenes for the Christmas season.

Susan O'Hara

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Riverside has a new and exciting committee! The Heritage Committee has formed in order to create an organized archival history of this congregation. We have pictures, newspaper articles, memorabilia, and all kinds of things saved from Riverside and Hyde Park. The plan is to inventory and store these pieces of our histories and, in a revolving fashion, create displays for the congregation to enjoy. There are so many memories! We shall continue to seek more artifacts from the congregation, and would be happy to receive pictures and

articles, items, etc. from you. We'd be glad to make careful copies and return originals if wished.

N.B.: titles, dates, names of those in pictures, labelling of events, etc. whenever possible, are very helpful! Our heritage is a wonderful story, and it is time to get to know it again!

If you can contribute to the archives, please contact Marilyn Durham, Roland Haines, Nancy McClure, Brenda Benson, Pat Mack, Marg Jones, or Irene Corbin.

Brenda Benson

THE LEGACY TREE—THE PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

Have you wondered about our beautiful tree sculpture adorning the wall in the front hall, the Narthex? It has been there for quite a while, with a few of the leaves having names engraved on them. This is our Legacy Tree. It commemorates the thoughtful givings of individuals and families who, through their estates, have bequeathed monies, in a variety of ways, to the ministries of Riverside Church. These donors wanted to reflect their love and support for our church through Planned Giving. They have made a difference to us all! If you are so moved, now or in the future, to participate in Planned Giving initiatives for Riverside, watch for the posters and pamphlets that are arriving this spring.



Brenda Benson

50th ANNIVERSARY OF UCW

1962-2012

Ladies, search through your closets for a fancy hat and circle your calendars for May 6th! This will be a day of honouring all past-presidents and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the U.C.W. June McKay will be speaking on the theme "Tapestry of Love" at the 10:30 worship service which will include a special women's choir.

The refreshments served in the auditorium following worship will include cake and tea served in a silver tea service.

Don't forget your hat!



FAMILY NEWS

Stephanie Helsel is volunteering for six months in a government-sponsored program, Katimavik, which means "meeting place" in the Inuit language. Her present three month posting is in St. Pierre Jolys, Manitoba. Her second posting (until the end of June, 2012) will be in Goose Bay, Labrador. She would appreciate being upheld in the prayers of the Riverside congregation. Stephanie is the daughter of Nancy Helsel, granddaughter of Bill and Norma Clare.

Alex Harrison has just been admitted to the Police Foundations course at Fanshawe College for this September. Congratulations Alex, from proud parents Doug and Jennifer Harrison, and family.

Martha Geiger, an M.A. student at the University of Guelph, will spend 4 months in Botswana this summer doing research on donkeys. **Paul Geiger** has accepted a hockey scholarship offer from Clarkson University, N.Y. state, beginning Sept. 2012. His sister, **Natalie Geiger** will graduate in May from the University of Notre Dame where she has been on a full sports scholarship (track). These three young people are grandchildren of Gordon and Audrey Geiger.

Following their marriage last September, **Dana Price** and her new husband, Greg George, accepted contract positions in Qatar in the Middle East. In early January they moved to London, England where they are now working on the upcoming Summer Olympic Games.



OUTREACH and SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Outreach and Social Action Committee had a busy agenda leading up to Christmas.

The Giving Tree Tags were all returned with gifts appropriate for the age. The gifts were taken to Holy Family Parish who handle the arrangements for this worthwhile project each year. This is one of many charities organized to collect Christmas gifts for children that otherwise would go without.

White Gift Sunday food donations were delivered to St. Paul's Daily Bread Food Bank and gratefully received. Cash donations of \$1,156.00 were used to purchase gift items from the Riverside Gift Catalogue as chosen by the youth and Marilyn Arthur.

Riverside members also contributed \$1,069.00 to purchase items they selected from the Gift Catalogue. It is great to see that Riverside members are fully supportive of the Gift Catalogue and thanks to Myrna Schneider for updating and printing the catalogue.

The "Out of the Cold" chili luncheon was well attended on Feb 12th and only a few desserts remained. A donation of \$1,500.00 will be sent to First St. Andrew's United Church to support their

Monday night meal program that has seen 190 in attendance on some nights, the average being 160. Thanks to all who contributed to making this another success.

There will be envelopes in the pews in April for donations to our local Good Neighbour Project that will be preparing for planting of the spring crop on 24 acres near Thorndale. All Funds raised go to the Food Grains Bank in Winnipeg and are matched by CIDA (Federal Government Agency) 4:1. Riverside made donations of \$1,342.00 in April 2011.

At the end of Dec. 2011, \$25,000.00 was forwarded from the local project. Many of the farmers and elevator operators make generous donations of their labour and supplies.

Outreach continues to support the Limberlost Welcome Pails Project for newcomers. We are also continuing to sponsor 2 youth through World Vision.

Every 3rd Sunday of the month, Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will be on sale during fellowship time after the 10:30 worship service.

Doug Allen

CELEBRATIONS

Births

Oliver Thomas DaPonte, son of Emily and Andie DaPonte, grandson of Ken Donaghy

Isabelle Fraser, daughter of Ken & Laura Fraser

Tai Riach, son of Kathryn Riach and David Honor

Maiya Marie Zoern, daughter of Shawna and Kurt, granddaughter of Brenda and Kerry Benson

IN MEMORIAM

Mildred Budd, grandmother of Marilyn Arthur
Brother of Carol Beattie
Art King, father and father-in-law of Eva & Brent Lipskey
Bob McCulloch, husband of Pat McCulloch
Gordon McFalls
Maisie Orchard
Mother and mother-in-law of Barry and Joanne Playford
Gene Taleski
Irene Robb, wife of Jack Robb
Vivian Vanstone
Mother of Bill Wreaks



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE BIBLE STUDY (MIBS)

The Men of MIBS recently completed their latest—and most dangerous—mission. The men climbed to the summit of Parable Mountain (29,000 feet) by studying and discussing all 29 parables of Jesus. The men will now take a well-deserved break before beginning their next mission in the fall.

Gary Alan Price

RIVERSIDE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual church meeting was held on Feb 26, 2012 after the 10:30 worship service. There was a large turnout of members and adherents to review the past year. Among the items presented and approved were The Riverside Structure of Governance Manual, the financial statements for 2011, the 2012 budget and the reappointment of Marilyn Arthur as our Director of Children and Youth. Updates concerning the property/parking issue, our Joint Needs Assessment request and Neila's retirement were also presented.

Susan O'Hara

PHOTO CONTEST



Congratulations!

to **Lee Wilson** with her
winning caption:

**“What part of ‘Sorry,
we don't have butter
pecan’ doesn't she
understand?”**

She wins a pound of
Fair Trade Coffee.



We need your help! Caption Time!

Please submit your entry
to
Carol Atkinson,
ecgravett@hotmail.com, by
May 29th or place in the
newsletter mailbox in the
breezeway.

THE THREE CANTORS
Riverside United Church, Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$20.00, Contact: Sheila Greenslade 519-471-3649
or the church office. Proceeds to support hunger relief.

Please send any comments or suggestions about the newsletter to
Becky Crowe, crowe.rebecca@gmail.com or Carol Atkinson,
ecgravett@hotmail.com
Thank you.



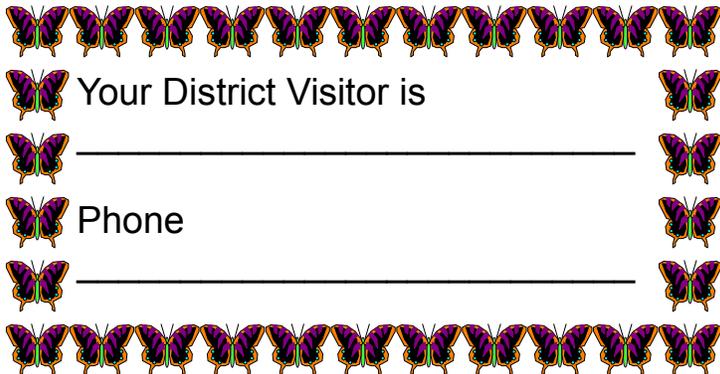
Our Mission Statement

Riverside United Church is a diverse and inclusive Christian community. We are a mix of age and experience sharing our faith journey in a supportive and respectful environment, empowering us to be at work in the world.

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 www.riverside.on.ca

District visitors and newsletters

The main priority of a district visitor is to provide a link between the church and families in their district. For many years the newsletter delivery has been done by the district visitor. However many visitors have expressed concern that they are having trouble finding the time to get the newsletters delivered within the first week after publishing. We are working to change that. Starting with this issue, newsletters will be sent via computer to those of the congregation whose emails we have, thus reducing the number of paper copies needed to be delivered. Printed copies of the newsletter will still be delivered to those people who do not have an email address. This is being done for several reasons. First the cost of printing the newsletter will decrease substantially to approximately 1/4 of the cost now and we will also be saving paper. Secondly, by having fewer newsletters to delivery by hand, the district visitors will have greater flexibility in contacting the families on their list. District visitors will be able to choose how to stay in touch with the families – by phone, email or in person. If you have any concerns or questions about this change, please contact the district visitor coordinator, Susan O’Hara at 519-472-3320.



Your District Visitor is _____

Phone _____

ON-LINE Edition
 Contact Jan Barnwell at
jan@riverside.on.ca or
 Susan O’Hara at
paohara@rogers.com.
 Let them know you would
 like to receive the
 newsletter on-line.