



I have been pondering for some time and prayerfully seeking God's will for Riverside as we journey together "on the servant journey toward unity with God and the fullness of Christ. ([John 17:20-23](#), [Ephesians 4:11-13](#), [Philippians 3:8-14](#))." At a recent meeting of the Riverside - Normal City Neighborhood Association several comments were made about the vision to revitalize the neighborhood and encourage the transition from rental units for students to single family dwellings. One comment suggested this vision includes Ball State, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, and the city of Muncie. One of the challenges we have faced as a congregation is that 70% of the neighborhood houses are rental units primarily for college students. The question for us is will Riverside UMC be ready for the transition in the neighborhood? And a deeper question for us is will Riverside UMC even be here when the transition comes?

We know we are an aging congregation in an aging building. Both create challenges. Remember, however, that God made his covenant with Abram and Sarai when they were 99 and 90 and barren. We are here today because even though Abraham and Sarah laughed at the idea of Sarah having a baby they trusted God ([Genesis 17:17 & 18:12](#)). Are we willing to listen for God's invitation to be a blessing to all the families of the earth? Are we willing to go where God leads? ([Genesis 12:1-4](#)).

Our trustees have worked almost every Wednesday to repair and maintain our place of worship. However, there are major issues with our aging buildings that must be addressed if we are to continue using them. Larry Campbell, Trustee Chairperson, provides this partial list of critical issues in the order they need to be attended to:

1. Flashing around the bell tower which is causing a leak in the sanctuary needs to be replaced. McGuff roofing will install 16 feet of copper flashing and replace 18 slate shingles for \$3,375.
2. Repair east entry steps and decking. This is a hazard to persons using the steps as well as creating a water problem in the basement. We have an old estimate on this repair, but it does not include the drain part of the water problem. Much of the drain problem cannot be determined until the deck and fill are exposed. The estimate is \$14,900.
3. Tuck pointing, caulking, and sealing the brick on the old part of the church. This would mainly be in the vicinity of the parapets, windows and cap stone areas. This is creating water seepage into the building. The old estimate on this is \$28,700.
4. Repair/replace fascia, soffit, (wood, aluminum, or vinyl) and possibly gutter and down spouts on old part of church. This is also causing water seepage into the building. No estimates yet.
5. Repair and caulking of the windows in the education wing. This is creating a heat loss problem as well as some water leaks. The old estimate is \$4,690.
6. A long term project would be the repair of the window well retaining wall around the education wing. The top of this wall has moved it toward the church by 6 to 12 inches. It continues to move. By this movement, one of the horizontal braces seems to have caused a crack in the north wall of the Add-A-Link room. We are continuing to monitor this situation. No estimates.

Just considering the critical upkeep, utilities, repairs, and maintenance on our properties, not counting other important projects in missions and ministry, we do not have the money available to address these needs.

Endowment interest can only be used for new programming not general operating expenses or maintenance. Endowment principal cannot be used without changing our covenant with ourselves and without admitting to ourselves that we cannot maintain our facilities with current giving. Which brings us back to the question will Riverside UMC even be here when the transition comes?

The even deeper question is what makes Riverside UMC a church? Is it the building or is it the people and what they do together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? Jesus proclaimed in [Matthew 18:20](#), "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." And responding to one who would follow him, Jesus said, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."¹

Shalom in Christ.

John

¹ [Luke 9:58](#).

PASTORAL CARE FROM JULY 9 – 29

The Reverend Jerry Thomas will cover pastoral care while Pastor John is on vacation visiting his son, Josh, and daughter-in-law, Yijun, in China. Jerry can be reached via cell phone at 765-209-1414, home phone at 765-405-1674, or e-mail bikerpreacherjt@comcast.net.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN JULY

Sunday, July 12 - Bob Riggles our missionary to the Cardinal Tribe at Ball State University will bring the message and share what is happening with the Cardinal UMC Campus Ministries (CCO). The scripture text is Ephesians 1:3-14 and the sermon title is "What's the Plan Stan."

Sunday, July 19 – Sarah Turner our missionary teacher at Windermere High School on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas will bring the message and also share at the missions luncheon following worship. Her scripture is Exodus 3 and 4:10-14 and her sermon title is "We Are Called."

Sunday, July 26 – Lori Kate Lowenhar whose parents live near Jan & Mick Phelps will share her music from the Heart of Galilee. Heart of Galilee is an international Klezmer (traditional eastern European Jewish music) trio privileged to call Israel their home. The clarinetist, Lori Kate, is a former member of Jews for Jesus' Liberated Wailing Wall. Their *Eternally Grateful* CD is a collection of Israeli traditional and Messianic worship songs that reflect the sorrow, longing, hope and passion of the Jewish people.

SUMMER RAINS SOAK LOWER LEVEL

On Friday evening and Saturday morning June 26-27 Muncie received around four inches of rain in a very short time. This overwhelmed the storm sewers and the overflow went into the sanitary sewers which backed up and forced water up through the toilets on the lower level. The water was extracted from carpet in the basement and most of the carpeting was removed on Saturday afternoon. Commercial dehumidifiers are drying out the education wing. The entire basement is in the process of being disinfected and all carpet removed. We are waiting for our insurance adjuster to determine next steps which may be complicated by asbestos tile having been exposed and come loose as the carpet was removed. Our deductible is \$1,000.

July

Joe Mitchell	7/1
Amy Clevenger	7/2
Gwynneth Pittenger	7/6
Julia Cougill	7/6
Ruby (Kelsey) Miller	7/8
Peggy Polk	7/10
Marge Salisbury	7/12
Stephanie Turner	7/15
Jerry Golden	7/18
Mike Modesitt	7/18
Frank Campbell	7/26
Cindy Miller	7/30



August

Ann Golden	8/1
Ruth Garringer	8/2
Odessa DeHaven	8/9
Donna Pittenger	8/10
Mary Ann Beuoy	8/13
Jeanette Taylor	8/14
Marlene Boyer	8/16
Rex Pittenger	8/24
Larry Souders	8/31

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Tom & Janet Schamp are shutting down their home phone number, 282-9741. To contact Tom call (765) 749-4410 and to contact Janet call (765) 749-4664. These phone numbers are listed in the current church directory.



July 12	Andy & Debby Pittenger
July 18	Maurice & Nancy Carver
July 26	Rex & Cindy Miller
August 9	Larry & Jeanine Souders
August 17	Mike & Shirley Modesitt
August 24	Larry & Nancy Campbell
August 25	Doran & Joyce Kendall
August 26	Rex & Donna Pittenger
August 26	Fred & Elaine Wallace
August 27	Rich & Aonde Carraway

Thanks with a grateful heart for...

- *Everyone who helped make the Mitchell Teachers appreciation lunch a huge success.*
- *Judy Turner and the volunteers for preparing the meal for the Kids Hope Mentors & Prayer Partners luncheon.*
- *The ladies who baked, packaged and handed out the cookies for the men on Father's Day.*
- *Fred Wallace for sawing up the felled tree so it could be hauled away.*
- *The Trustees that are coming in every Wednesday to make repairs so our church building will be comfortable, safe and secure.*
- *Everyone who worked at the Christian Ministries Food Pantry in June.*
- *Ron Brown for repairing the leaking sink in the utility room at the parsonage.*
- *Larry Campbell and Ron Brown for removing materials soaked by the water damage.*
- *Scout Troop 1 for mopping up the water in the kitchen and fellowship hall on Saturday morning following the heavy rains.*
- *Tom Schamp for all he does around the church on a daily basis.*
- *Barry Turner and Dick Murray for removing the old church sign that had been vandalized and broken.*

Thank
You

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

An Intentional Senior Adult Ministry team has been formed and met recently to determine the path forward. The team is headed by Tom Schamp and he is joined by Aonde Carraway, Julia Pittenger, Dick Murray, Laura Shadoin, Jan Johnson and Barry Turner. It was suggested that we should make a needs assessment and resource inventory of our older-adult members. To this end the team will contact our older-adults and set up a time and place to sit down and discuss how the church is providing an intentional ministry by, with, and for all older adults. The team is asking you to add us to your daily prayer list. Please ask God to bless our efforts for the good of all God's people.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES for Mitchell Elementary Students



Again this year Riverside will be partnering with Mitchell Elementary School to provide school supplies for up to 25 students who will be selected by the Principal and Guidance Counselor. The selection criterion was for those in need and those who would be very appreciative. In the upcoming weeks a list of school supplies will be made available and you will be given the opportunity to both select a student and purchase their school supplies or you may make a donation and someone serving on the committee will shop for you. Please note School Supplies on the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope. On Monday, August 10 at 6:00 pm we will have the opportunity to gather at Mitchell Elementary School and actually meet the families and the students who will be using the supplies. Having an opportunity to formally meet the families and spend a brief amount of time with them was special when we did it last year. Even if you are unable to purchase school supplies or donate for the purchase you are invited to join us at Mitchell School. You may be that one person a family connects with.



RIVERSIDE CHOIR



Remember the sounds of our Riverside Choir last year? With numbers like *Shout to the Lord*, *When You Believe*, *Days of Elijah*, and all of the other show-stopping, eye-popping, worship-lifting, praise-giving songs? Well we are not all that far away from another season of harmonizing and joyful hallelujahs! The only difference is this time YOU will be a part of it too! Whether you have sung with our choir in the past, some other choir in the distant past, or alone in your shower making music with the soap bubbles, we want YOUR voice adding to the chorus of voices raised towards heaven. Join us for a no-commitment pitch-in supper Sunday, August 30th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to kick off the year of our Riverside Choir. Practices will begin the following week, Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm (unless we decide that time will not work--come to the pitch-in to voice your opinion!). If you have any questions, please contact Colin Hart at cphart42@gmail.com or by phone at (812) 345-0230.

WOODCARVING

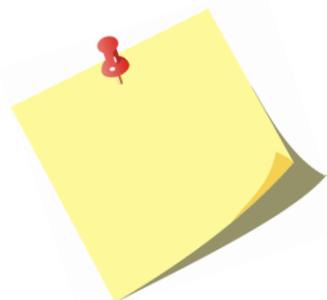
The Riverside Woodcarvers would like anyone interested (in anything) to join us. We meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays from 10:00 am to noon. We talk about everything—any subject except politics. We also need serious advice. One of our carvers cut off Santa's knee. What do you do? Nothing was the suggestion. Now Santa can park his sleigh in the handicapped spots. Bring your thoughts and enjoy the fellowship.

CLOSE KNIT FRIENDS

The Riverside Knitting Group had their first gathering on March 31, 2015. The group has recently adopted the name "Close Knit Friends." The first few weeks were spent learning how to knit a simple dishcloth. Many were re-acquainting themselves with the art of knitting after a long hiatus, some are proficient knitters, and some of us are beginners! Before long, several prayer shawls were underway. The first prayer shawl was completed by Aileen Ford and blessed at morning worship on May 31. It was given to 11-month-old Ellie Rose Clevenger before her heart surgery. We are told she enjoyed rolling around on it prior to surgery! Three more shawls were blessed at morning worship on June 21st. The knitting continues!!! This group of "close knit friends" is a blessing to one another and as a new ministry of our church. All are welcome and anyone can join us at any time. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm. This has become a very blessed time for us as we share in prayer, conversation, and knitting in God's name.



NOTES TO AND FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY



“Dear Riverside UMC – Thank you so much for helping with Colin and Emily’s graduation reception last weekend. You helped make it a very memorable day. We can certainly see why Colin and Emily enjoy Riverside so much. You shower them with love and kindness. We’re very thankful that God led them to you! You’re an amazing group of people. Shalom ~ The Hart family”

Jama Tyburczyk (our custodian) says a special Thank You to Caring Friends for the cards when her son, Brad Howell, was ill.

“Dear all Caring Friends - The family of Tressa Souders thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy. Thanks for your love. It really helps. ~ Larry and Jeanine”

“To our dear sisters in Christ at Riverside UMC - Thank you for your help at the pork chop dinner. You helped make the fund raiser for Covenant Partners a success. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the fellowship. God bless each of you. ~ Mary (Schumacher), Joyce (Kendall), and Melinda (Shocklee). We appreciate you very much. ~Pastor Linda and all your friends at CPM”

COVENANT PARTNERS MINISTRIES

Community Day Dates

Bags are due: Monday, July 20 for distribution on Wednesday, July 22.

Bags are due: Monday, August 24 for distribution on Wednesday, August 26.

Please put the following in a paper bag with handles:

- 1 hand soap, 1 dish washing liquid,
- 1 box of tissues, 4 rolls of toilet paper,
- 1 small bottle/box laundry detergent.

Finance Committee Update

Thank you for your generous support of ministry in the name of Jesus the Risen Christ through Riverside. Your giving helps us nurture each other in the faith through weekly worship and Bible Study.

With the challenges of weather in January giving toward our annual budget was lower and expenses were higher. Currently we are approximately \$6,500 “in the red” for the year, leaving us with several budgetary challenges that are being addressed now and in the coming months. In the near future, we will be communicating to you all updates and possible avenues for addressing this shortfall, and we always welcome hearing your advice and input on our finances.

We were able to borrow \$3,000 from our designated funds on May 22nd to cover cash flow. The \$3,000 was returned to our designated funds on May 27th. On May 26 we borrowed \$4,500 from our emergency fund savings account. This has yet to be replaced. Having paid off the mortgage for the elevator and drive up canopy and our loan to ourselves for the Neely property in 2013 with funds from the Fullhart estate, this \$4,500 is our only debt at this time. Our checking account has a balance of \$11,170 as of June 30. That includes the \$4,500 we took from the savings account which now has a balance of about \$9,700.

Our endowment funds total approximately \$404,000 [This is approximate because it includes stocks and money market funds and their value fluctuates.]. Our endowment fund document states, “The objectives of the Endowment Fund are to conserve principal and make use of only distributions as determined by the Committee.” The document also restricts borrowing from the Undesignated Account principal to “unusual circumstances,” and only with ¾ vote of the Charge Conference.

It is evident that God has blessed Riverside in many ways and we are confident that God will continue to bless Riverside. Your stewardship of what God has given you is truly a blessing.

With the Love of Christ,
John McKillip
Finance Committee Chair

News from the Missions Team

Everyone who attended the Festival of Music for Missions on June 6th was blessed by amazing music and talented performers. Thanks to Colin for organizing the program and being an outstanding master of ceremonies, to everyone who provided delicious desserts, Tom and Janet for all of their media work, and especially the wonderful performers who shared their time and talents. Through donations and tickets sales we raised \$2,405 for Missions. As of June the total for our three mission projects, Africa University, Ebola in Sierra Leone, and Sarah Turner, our missionary in Eleuthera is \$3,762.98. We are one third of our way to our goal of \$9,000. THANK YOU RIVERSIDE for being so GENEROUS!

IMPORTANT DATE – SUNDAY, JULY 19 – our next Quarterly Mission Sunday. You will be asked to put the money from your M&M (Money for Missions Jars) in a plastic bag with your name and envelope number on the bag and bring it to church for a special blessing during worship. There will be a dinner provided by the Master’s Charges class following the worship service. Sarah Turner will be sharing about her experiences her first year in Eleuthera as a missionary teacher. Our goal for this Mission quarter is \$1,200, so keep adding to your jars each day. We need everyone’s help with our M&M jars – a few coins each day will help reach our goal! Your support for our Mission projects is always appreciated

GREETER SCHEDULE

July and August

Date	Outside Door	Inside Door	Sanctuary Mingler
July 5	Bill & Nellie Campbell	Sandy Jordan	Kay Rankin
July 12	Jack Stanton & Herb Blank	Karen Blank	Sandy Hunter
July 19	Bob & Sharon Harrison	Judy Turner	Barry Turner
July 26	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Sara Mitchell	Sandy Abbott

Aug 2	John & Sarah McKillip	Marge Salisbury	Janet Schamp
Aug 9	Joe & Judy VanWinkle	Lynn Wright	Cindy Miller
Aug 16	Dick Murray & Jan Johnson	Laura Shadoin	Susan Reno
Aug 23	Ron & Pat Brown	Marlene Boyer	Leta Settle
Aug 30	Frank & Betty Campbell	Aonde Carraway	Tammy Holt

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Below is a list of members who are unable to attend our services. Please contact the church office at 288-4257 if you know of others who were not included on this list.

Julia Cougill, 1812 E 17th St, Muncie 47302

Marcia Durnal, Signature Healthcare, 4301 N Walnut St., Muncie, Indiana 47303

Kay Farling, Brookdale Place at Willow Lake, 2725 Lake Circle Dr. #216, Indianapolis 46268

Pauline Miller, 2113 N Maplewood Ave, Muncie 47304

Fritz and Ruby Miller, 99 Lakeshore Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901-7845

Anna Mae Schenck, Fall Creek Retirement Village, 625 E Water St, Apt 8, Pendleton 46064

Della Stafford, Westminster Village, 5801 W Bethel Ave, #517, Muncie 47304

Jeanette Taylor, Golden Living Center, Memory Care Unit, 2701 Lyn-Mar Drive, Muncie 47304

Bill Terhune, Harbour Assisted Living, 3110 E Coliseum Blvd # 215, Fort Wayne IN 46805-1554

Louise Whitaker, Westminster Village, 5801 W Bethel Ave, #501, Muncie 47204

COLIN & EMILY, OUR RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES

We thought you might like to know a little more about the college careers of our music directors, Colin and Emily Hart.

Emily began as a vocal performance major, but felt called to switch paths after taking her first Natural Resources and Environmental Management class. While we all know that she has continued to sing and bless others with her voice, Emily wanted to study in a field that would allow her to bless the lives of many people all over the world. For that reason, she worked with the Honors College to create her own major focused around environmental and social sustainability, exploring how we can rectify our current ecological degradation while protecting and empowering the impoverished communities that are often most affected by such destruction. Over her four years, Emily published research professionally, presented at several national conferences, worked as an Honors Journal editor, interned at the Ball State Peace Center, served as an honors peer mentor, and crafted a thesis exposing, critiquing, and subverting our current global food system. Emily graduated magna cum laude while also earning academic honors in writing. Emily will be a graduate assistant starting this fall while working toward her Masters Degree.

Colin also changed majors several times during his undergraduate career; however, he always remained within the theatre department—from whom he has now earned a degree in Theatrical Studies. Since he began as a student in 2011, Colin has been part of over a dozen theatre productions, working in a wide array of capacities. His work for the theatre department has been recognized nationally, winning awards from the Kennedy Center, the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of America, the American Theatre of Higher Education, and the American Theatre Institute. As a result of these awards, he has been invited to present at several national and international conferences, and has been published professionally. In addition to winning a Udall scholarship for his work in environmental arts, being named a Marshall finalist, and a Fulbright alternate, Colin was also awarded a fellowship at the Eugene O’Neil Theatre, the premier theatre development center in the nation, where he worked with Tony award-winning directors and Pulitzer prize-winning playwrights. Spring semester, he graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was named the Overall Outstanding senior in both the Theatre Department and on Ball State’s campus as a whole. Colin was home schooled thus he never got to participate in a high school graduation ceremony. On BSU’s graduation day, he was one of only 11 students who got to walk across the stage at the general graduation ceremony due to their 4.0 GPA.

2015 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AWAY WORK CAMP

We are planning our 2015 Away Work Camp trip for the week of September 13, 2015. We are planning on going to Valparaiso, Indiana, which is about 20 minutes from the Indiana Dunes State Park. I anticipate we will be working on finishing a house (new construction). I believe we will be staying in a church as we have in the past. The cost will be \$95 per person. This is a great opportunity to have some fun and help someone less fortunate to have a new home. Anyone is welcome to join the group if they are willing to have some fun and do whatever they can to help with the camp. They do not have to attend Riverside. You do not need to be a skilled handy person. We will be meeting at the church at 7:00 pm on August 20, to make final plans. If you are interested in joining the group or in obtaining more information, contact Joe Speece, H 765 759 5017, e-mail jmspeece@aol.com and/or Nancy Campbell 765 759 9819 to be placed on the mailing list to get the latest information.

