



*As I write this just before Christmas I am thinking of the gift of God that comes to us in the Christ child. Mary said, "Yes" to the angel's strange words that she would be the mother of the savior of the world. She let God's grace form in her. The following from Saint Ignatius of Loyola invites us to say "Yes" to God's grace forming us.*

***There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace.***

*As we look back on 2009 and forward to 2010 I am reminded of a quote from Dag Hammarskjöld's Markings "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes." Gratitude and anticipation are great gifts of God's grace. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 urges us to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I do not look at this in a fatalistic way that says, "It is God's will that you suffer, so be thankful." In the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18:14, Jesus says of the joy of the shepherd, "In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost." It is not God's will that we should suffer. Rather it is God's will that we should be joyful, prayerful, and thankful in the midst of whatever happens to us. We have the power to choose how we will respond to whatever it is that happens to us. In that moment of choice we can choose joy, prayer, and gratitude and in so doing we will transform ourselves and the moment.*

*Paula D'Arcy in A New Set of Eyes: Encountering the Hidden God reflects on the moment when she realized that her husband and daughter had been killed in an accident caused by a drunk driver and that she and the baby within her had survived. In a moment her life had changed dramatically and she tried to understand how a moment could have such power.*

***"But the moment actually held no power. The moment could do nothing. It waited to see what I would meet it with. By my act, the moment would confine me or free me. Against Spirit, the moment was impotent."***

*As we begin a new year, may we look back with gratitude and forward with anticipation. May we be rooted and grounded in the love of God which comes to us in each moment so that we may respond with joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. May we let God's grace form us as individuals and as a community of faith into all that God intends.*

*Shalom in Christ,*

*John*

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

January...

3<sup>rd</sup> Laura Shadoin  
6<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth  
Watson-Hopkins  
12<sup>th</sup> Jim Reese  
15<sup>th</sup> Kay Farling  
Joe Ervin  
16<sup>th</sup> Pauline Miller  
30<sup>th</sup> Joe Speece  
31<sup>st</sup> Jordan Murphy



February...

4<sup>th</sup> Mary Schumacher  
6<sup>th</sup> Bill Watson  
7<sup>th</sup> Darwin Keyton  
8<sup>th</sup> Shirley Modesitt  
9<sup>th</sup> Inga Hill  
10<sup>th</sup> Pat Terhune  
15<sup>th</sup> Joyce Kendall  
18<sup>th</sup> Terry Jacobs  
19<sup>th</sup> Bill Campbell  
21<sup>st</sup> Betty Bailey



February 26<sup>th</sup>

Tom & Janet Schamp



## January-February Reminder

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*Give thanks with a grateful heart for...*

Andy Pittenger for donating the labor and landscaping along the Wheeling entrance. Can't wait 'til Spring to see it in bloom.

Viv Jacobs and the Photo Directory Team for coordinating and planning the Riverside Pictorial Directory.

Eric Murphy and Shelby for painting the beautiful Christmas scenes in the windows and doors around the church.

Karen Blank for coordinating the Book of the Month program.

Tony Collins, Julia Pittenger, Noelle Allison and the Riverside and Gethsemane choirs for the many, many rehearsals to be able to present the beautiful cantata.

The Worship Team for "Hanging the Greens" and to Pastor John for organizing a beautiful Celebration.

The Media Team: Mick and Jan Phelps, Dale and Debra DeHaven, Tim Heniser, Diane Baldwin and Janet Schamp for faithfully serving each Sunday morning.

To everyone that donated clothing and household items to Terry Shroyer. Terry is very appreciative and wishes to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

The Salvation Army wishes to thank Riverside, on behalf of all the people in the community who will be helped due to our continuing gifts.

Helen Kreps (Steve Krep's mother) writes... Thank you so much for those who sent or signed cards for Steve. He is sending them back home, and we are keeping them for him. He plans to frame them. Mary and I get encouraged also when we read the cards and wonder how you all found such "right" cards out of the thousands that are out there... must have had a touch from above.

To everyone who supported the Heifer Project this year.



*Ministry Support*

**Trustees' Corner**

The Trustees ask for your prayers as we begin a new year. We welcome our new members: Herb Blank, Mick Phelps, Pat Brown and Kay Rankin. Riverside would like to thank you for volunteering your time and gifts. Continuing to serve are Harold Grile, Bill Watson, Susan Reno, Beverly Reese and Tom Schamp. With God's help we will continue to provide a safe and comfortable facility in which you can worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please contact any Trustee with requests or suggestions on how we can make Riverside more hospitable.

**Weather Related Church Closing Information**

The Trustees wish to advise you that if the city declares a snow or other emergency and requests that travel be restricted to essential or emergency travel only, Sunday services will be cancelled. This would also pertain to any meetings scheduled during the week. We, however, encourage you to use good judgment when the streets and roads are hazardous to travel on when a State of Emergency has not been declared.

If a meeting is cancelled, please contact Tom Schamp (765)749-4410, and let him know. He will contact WLBC 104.1, WTHR Ch 13 and Fox59 Ch 11. An e-mail will be sent to those who have given their e-mail address to the church. If possible, an announcement will also be placed on the church's answering machine. If in doubt, please call the church 288-4257 or Pastor Young at 288-3826 or his cell at 278-8733. Committee Chairs may also consider establishing a telephone chain call procedure for their committee.

If a snow or other emergency prohibiting travel is not declared we will have church for those who can make it safely to Riverside. If you do not feel safe traveling to church, please stay home. If you have a responsibility at church for the Sunday in question, please stay home, but notify the church of your decision to do so. That will keep us from worrying about you being stuck in the snow and allow us to recruit a replacement among those who are able to travel safely.

You don't have to be in church to worship God. Jesus in John 4 tells the Samaritan woman that location doesn't matter. We are to "worship the Father in spirit and truth"(John 4:23). However, Luke tells us that "on the Sabbath day [Jesus] went into the synagogue, as was his custom"(Luke 4:16). And Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

## Riverside Website

Perhaps you've noticed, if you've visited the Riverside website recently, that the upcoming sermon title and scripture lesson is on the homepage, [www.riversideumcmuncie.org](http://www.riversideumcmuncie.org). In order to make it easier for you to prepare for Sunday worship we've created a way for you to read the scripture. You will notice a line beneath the scripture. Simply move the arrow over the scripture and you'll notice the arrow changes to a hand with a pointed finger. Simply click the left mouse button and you will be linked to a page where you can read the scripture.

### *Extravagant Generosity*

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ENDOWMENT (a wonderful fund) Can you imagine the joy of Wayne and Margaret Hoover, looking down on Riverside, as they see how their endowment benefits the ministry of their church. Many others, before them, are smiling, knowing a part of their God given wealth will live on at their church.

Have you given thought to sharing with your church when you no longer need your earthly goods. How could it benefit others in ministry?

You have the assurance, through our Endowment Document, that your endowed gift will live on. Would that give you joy?

#### Annual Mission Giving by the United Methodist Women

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Lucille Raines Home                         | \$ 200.00  |
| Covenant Partners                           | \$ 100.00  |
| Riverside Caring Friends                    | \$ 50.00   |
| Bags for Covenant Partners                  | \$ 52.97   |
| Christian Ministries                        | \$ 200.00  |
| Christmas Gifts for<br>Christian Ministries | \$ 455.00  |
| Total                                       | \$1,057.97 |

This is only monetary giving and does not include the many volunteer hours at Christian Ministries, Covenant Partners, Muncie Mission and Ball Memorial Hospital.

*Congregational Care & Discipleship  
Intentional Faith Development*

**BOOK NOOK**

**FEBRUARY BOOK OF THE MONTH**

***THE RHYTHM OF LIFE*, By: Matthew Kelly**

*The Rhythm of Life* is a national bestseller on the New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and Publishers Weekly.

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Do you ever feel that if you weren't so busy you would be happier, healthier, more effective, more caring toward the ones you love?

If you are looking to lead a life filled with passion and purpose, this book is for you. Acclaimed author and speaker Matthew Kelly offers inspiring, take-charge strategies for discovering you deepest desires and identifying your unique talents – and becoming the-best-version-of-yourself. He helps you bring into focus who you are, why you are here, and what possibilities stand before you...

**Want to order *The Rhythm of Life*?**

Cost: **\$11.55 (includes tax)**

Deadline to order: **January 31, 2010**

Make checks payable to RIVERSIDE UMC (AT THE TIME YOU ORDER)

**Put "Book of the Month" on subject line of check**

**We are happy to see so many people taking advantage of using our church library and Book of the Month orders!**

**When you go in the library, please note that some of the more recent additions of books are displayed on a shelf by themselves for ease in finding. In addition to these, when looking for books that you might like books are categorized into FICTION (color coded with a red sticker), or NON FICTION (coded with a blue sticker, and REFERENCE (coded with a green sticker. NON FICTION books include biographies, Christian Living, Family, Church, Social Concerns, and Devotionals. Reference includes things like Bible Study, Bible reference, CD's, Bibles, etc.**

**Take the time to browse our library if you have not already! There is a check out sheet to sign your name and title that you want to check out!**

### Prayer Walking

Will not be walking the months  
of

January and February

We will resume in March.

*Psalms 145:5*

*On the glorious splendor of your  
majesty, and on your wondrous  
works, I will meditate.*

*Isaiah 6:3*

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord  
Almighty; the whole earth is full  
of this glory!*

## Alpha

Interested in being a facilitator for Alpha? Training will begin at Riverside on Thursday January 7 at 6:00 p.m. We need to have your reservation by Monday January 4 for the training sessions. If you are simply willing to host Alpha in your home, would like to take the Alpha Course (basically Christianity 101), or could help with food during the course, please contact Pastor Martha. Contact number for any Alpha participation is 284-6877.

### **WELCOME TO YES!<sup>3</sup>**

Imagine a Life in which you can say:

Yes! to God

Yes! to Your Neighbor

Yes! to Your Self

It's Never to Late to Get a Life, Say Yes to **YES!<sup>3</sup>**

Pastor John will lead a seven week experiential, small group, study based on *Core Elements of the Appreciative Way* using the **YES!<sup>3</sup>** participant's guide. We will meet on Thursdays beginning January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and end February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Therapy Dog Training

Will take place at Riverside in 2010, with sessions being beginning in February, May, August, and November. Please contact Deb Dolak for more information about this wonderful course and ministry possibilities following.

## January-February Reminder

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### January & February Hosts and Minglers

| DATE     | OUTSIDE DOOR                | INSIDE DOOR     | LOBBY MINGLER   | SANCTUARY MINGLER |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 01/03/10 | Bob & Fred Wallace          | Kay Farling     | Ann Beuoy       | Pat Ashcraft      |
| 01/10/10 | Mark & Amy Clevenger        | Lynn Wright     | Dorothy Bowman  | Viv Jacobs        |
| 01/17/10 | C. Gronendyke & R. Groce    | Bill Campbell   | Nellie Campbell | Diane Baldwin     |
| 01/24/10 | R. Pittenger & R. Garringer | Donna Pittenger | Cindy Miller    | Wilma Carney      |
| 01/31/10 | Bob & Earlene Harvey        | Sandy Abbott    | Virginia Sharp  | Lynn Wright       |
| 02/07/10 | Jack Stanton & Ron Brown    | Pat Brown       | Henry Dorton    | Kay Farling       |
| 02/14/10 | Larry & Nancy Campbell      | Ann Beuoy       | Ruth Garringer  | Sandy Abbott      |
| 02/21/10 | Mark & Amy Clevenger        | Dorothy Bowman  | Hester Mitchell | Odessa DeHaven    |
| 02/28/10 | Jack & Jeanne Richardson    | Wilma Carney    | Debbie DeHaven  | Gladys Hunter     |

### **Riverside liturgist 2010**

Jan. Dorothy Bowman

Feb. Nancy Campbell

March Janet Schamp

April Mary Schumacher

May Susan Reno

June Diane Baldwin

July Laura Shadoin

Aug. Fred Wallace

Sept. Cindy Miller

Oct. Amy Clevenger

Nov. Nancy Thompson

Dec. Fritz Dolak

Subs Diane Baldwin, Fred Wallace, Sandy Hunter

**RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE**

**COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY**

**Community Day** will continue on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please bring your Personal Care Products bag by Tuesday, January 26th for the next event on January 28th. Also, please see Susan Reno or Mary Schumacher if you would be willing to share part of your day on those Thursdays from 10-2 with the people at Covenant Partners. You will be blessed.

The man slowly looked up. This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life. His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before.

"Leave me alone," he growled..... To his amazement, the woman continued standing. She was smiling -- her even white teeth displayed in dazzling rows.

"Are you hungry?" she asked.

"No," he answered sarcastically. "I've just come from dining with the president.. Now go away."

The woman's smile became even broader.

Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm. "What are you doing, lady?" the man asked angrily. "I said to leave me alone.

Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked..

"No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?"

The officer scratched his head.. "That's old Jack. He's been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that cafeteria over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for awhile."

"Are you crazy, lady?" the homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!" Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything.."

"This is a good deal for you, Jack," the officer answered. "Don't blow it."

Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived.

The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by his table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked."What is all this, is this man in trouble?"

"This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered.

"Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business."

Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want to come here in the first place"

## January-February Reminder

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The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?"

"Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms."

"And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?"

"What business is that of yours?"

I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, president and CEO of the company."

"Oh..."

The woman smiled again.. "I thought that might make a difference."

She glanced at the cop who was busy stifling a laugh. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?"

"No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty."

"Then, perhaps, a cup of coffee to go?"

"Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice."

The cafeteria manager turned on his heel. "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer."

The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said.

"That was not my intent.... Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this."

She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently..

"Jack, do you remember me?"

Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes. "I think so -- I mean you do look familiar.."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry."

"Ma'am?" the officer said questioningly. He couldn't believe that such a magnificently turned out woman could ever have been hungry.

"I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment.. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy."

"I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble. Then, when I looked over and saw you put the price of my food in the cash register, I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So you started your own business?" Old Jack said..

## January-February Reminder

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"I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business that, with the help of God, prospered.." She opened her purse and pulled out a business card.. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons. He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office."

She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. If you ever need anything, my door is always open to you."

There were tears in the old man's eyes. "How can I ever thank you?" he asked.

"Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To God goes the glory. He led me to you."

Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways.. "Thank you for all your help, officer," she said.

"On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And..And thank you for the coffee."

Have a Wonderful Day. May God Bless You Always and don't forget that when you "cast your bread upon the waters," you never know how it will be returned to you. God is so big He can cover the whole world with his Love and so small He can curl up inside your heart.

***YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW***

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Christian Ministries Food Panty      February 24, 25, and 26

Christian Ministries Sleep Room      March 14-20      Morning and Evening meals are needed

Sign up boards will be available soon

Or

Contact Sandy Abbott