

# RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

OCTOBER 2018

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*At Riverside Community Church, we believe that when God brings a person into a relationship with Himself, He also brings him/her into a family relationship in the local church. There is more than just believing. There is also belonging. This newsletter is intended to help those of us who are part of this church family grow in our relationship with God and each other. We want to stay in touch with one another. We want to share what God is doing in our midst.*

- Kerry Nenn, Editor

## Be Fruitful: Kindness

By Pastor Paul Sommerfeld

When my family moved from California to Texas in 1980, one thing I was struck by was the kindness of people in the South. Whether it was a pleasant greeting as we walked into a store, a warm smile and "howdy" from a passerby, or a "Yes, ma'am" or "Yes, sir" from a young person, it stood in contrast to the culture I grew up with in Southern California.

Years later, as a young business traveler, I was in for another surprise when I took my first trip to New York City. All of a sudden, Southern California didn't seem so bad anymore. Now I don't want to paint with too broad of a brush, but even today, I see a noticeable difference in kindness as I travel to different parts of the country. And as I look back at the last 40 years, there's been a sharp decline in kindness in almost every part of the country. We're as likely now to encounter a disinterested, irritable or rude person as we are a kind person. What has become of our "One nation under God"?

Kindness is the fifth fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. It comes from God because it's an attribute of God. In fact, God's kindness plays a major role in our salvation. Titus 3:4-5 says, "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." And Romans 2:4 says that "God's kindness leads you toward repentance." So His kindness is the reason for His plan of salvation, and it's also what draws us to Him.

It's only natural then that God would desire kindness to be a characteristic of those He has saved. He says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you," (Ephesians 4:32). And, "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience," (Colossians 3:12). Kindness, like the other fruit of the Spirit, is a spiritual barometer. It tells whether we are spending time with God, soaking in His Word, meditating on His truths, and enjoying fellowship with Him in prayer. When we do, the kindness of God is transferred into our lives.

So let's not be conformed to the pattern of this world. Let's be different. Let's pursue a deep, abiding relationship with God, and let's be fruitful in kindness. In faith and love, Paul

## 1 Day. 5 Chapters. 36 Men.

The September 22nd Men of Acts Retreat was blessed with great fellowship, glorifying worship and Godly teaching that encouraged the men to grow in Christ.

At 36, the attendance of the retreat was triple the number from last year's event. Attendees ranged from brand-new to Riverside to the founder of Riverside.

The retreat kicked off with a tasty continental breakfast followed by worship led by Matt Stalter and team. *(continued on page 2)*



## FAMILY PROFILE

### Meet the Hyslop Family

Brian & Sheri  
Lacy, Abby



#### **Favorite Hangout**

Brian: Outdoors; Sheri: Back yard  
Abby: Fusion

#### **Favorite Movie**

Brian: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Sheri: *I Can Only Imagine*  
Lacy: *Warhorse*; Abby: *Lord of the Rings*

#### **Favorite Book**

Brian: The Bible; Sheri: *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer  
Lacy: *The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner  
Abby: *Thr3e* by Ted Dekker

#### **Favorite Game**

Brian: Football; Sheri: Phase 10  
Lacy: Balderdash; Abby: Spoons

#### **Favorite Quote**

Brian: "Give me liberty, or give me death!" - Patrick Henry  
Sheri: "To be right with God has often meant to be in trouble with men." - A.W. Tozer  
Abby: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke

#### **Three words that best describe your family**

Growing in Christ

#### **Where are you on a typical Saturday night?**

At home

#### **How did you hear about RCC? How long have you been attending?**

We heard about Riverside through friends. We have been going for six months.

#### **In your opinion, what is the best thing about RCC?**

The sermons, worship and people.

#### **Kids:**

Trevor, 27, married to Danielle, 30  
Noah, 23; Lacy, 17; Abby, 12

## 1 DAY. 5 CHAPTERS. 36 MEN.

(continued from page 1)

The teaching for the day encompassed all five chapters of the book of James and focused on growing up in Christ, with an exhortation to the men to be mature in the Lord.



The retreat included individual reflection times as well as small group times to discuss what the men were learning and to pray for each other.

Tom Vislisel reports, "God blessed us with amazing weather for the day, and my small group decided to meet outside and enjoy the sunshine. A number of men decided to enjoy their individual reflection time outside as well."



Many of the men said they were blessed by the day, although some mentioned they ate too much because the food was so good. Scott Netzley put together a gourmet lunch and an outstanding BBQ dinner and bonfire.



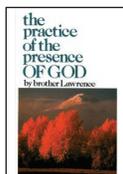
The entire retreat was filled with great fellowship, and it concluded with some exciting news.

At the end of the day, it was announced that Jim Allen and Scott Netzley will be starting two brand-new men's groups to help continue the men's growth in Christ. Praise God for the work He is doing in the men of Riverside!

# Friends—Loving God and One Another

## FALL SEES MINISTRIES IN FULL SWING

After a brief summer break, the women of Riverside have kicked off the fall with a host of activities. From Bible studies to crafting, September saw the ladies meeting regularly for growth and fellowship.



**LOL** - Ladies of Literature met on September 12th to discuss Brother Lawrence's book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Their time together included rich conversations about communication with God, motives, forgiveness, and joy.

**SSS** - The Second Sunday Sisters meet – you guessed it – on the second Sunday of each month. But, what do they do? On September 9th, these women spent the afternoon creating gifts to distribute to residents of the White Oaks memory loss unit. Each month, the ladies work on blankets or other projects, then they schedule visits to senior living centers to distribute their finished works. They seek out those who have few visitors and spend some time getting to know the residents. They've recently branched out from blanket-making to add "fiddle muffs" to their repertoire. Not sure what that is? Ask Chris Bolliger the next time you see her.

**Impact** - Led by Barb Wilson, the women of RCC have joined ladies from across Chicagoland to dig into a nine-month study of 1 & 2 Peter. In September, Impact attendees learned about the life of Peter and God's transforming work in his journey. The women have enjoyed teaching and small group times, where they have been studying, discussing, memorizing, and praying. As these ladies learn the truths from God's word, the study is making an impact on the lives of the women and those around them.



**LATTE Crafting Event** - For two days in September, LATTE transformed Riverside classroom space into crafting central. Women gathered with their latest projects to cut, glue, sew, organize and fellowship. The crafters worked on everything from scrapbooks, to cards, to tree skirts, to mats for the homeless. Regular crafters as well as new faces enjoyed many hours of creating - both projects and relationships. In a spirit of loving welcome, Rickie Grady secretly crocheted a



cross while everyone was working, to present as a gift to their visitor, Carmin.

**LATTE Bible Study** - A second Bible study, led by Rebecca Strader and Debra Sommerfeld, is taking about 20 RCC women through a video series, *Discerning the Voice of God*, by Priscilla Shirer. In November, they will start a 12-week study of 1 Corinthians by John MacArthur. Everyone is really enjoying the teaching and their time together in God's word. Rebecca Strader notes, "We are waiting to see what God does in each of our lives as we learn to listen to Him and obey Him."



## NURSERY NEWS

by Suzy Francis

The Lord has abundantly blessed the Riverside nursery with up to ten lively little tots, a host of loving parents, and a staff of committed, patient, caring adults. At the suggestion from one of the parents, a new mini-teaching time started in September. Children are enjoying the singing, finger plays and short Bible lesson, as well as the introduction to a bit of structure during the nursery hour. As always, there will be plenty of time for playing and social interaction that kids also enjoy so much.



## Upcoming Events

### October

- 13 Worship Workshop 8-11:15 am @ church
- 14 SSS 2-4 pm @ Chris Bolliger's home
- 19-20 LATTE Craft Event @ church
- 27 LATTE Retreat 9 am - 4 pm @ church
- 28 Harvest Dinner

### November

- 2-4 Fusion Retreat
- 3 Men's Breakfast Study 7-9 am @ church
- 11 SSS 2-4 pm Location TBD
- 14 LOL 10 am - 12 pm @ Jen Schuldt's home
- 16-17 LATTE Craft Event @ church

# The Real Purpose



Fusion, Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:00 pm. We play games. We laugh. We have a lot of fun. But what is the real purpose of Fusion?

Our goal is to make sure each student knows what it means to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to see that God speaks to each one of us personally as we study the Bible. We want them to know Jesus is with us when we're frustrated and all knotted up inside, to know Jesus is with us when we jump up, wildly celebrating, and to know Jesus is with us when we fail our parents,

our teachers, our friends, ... ourselves.

We want the students to know that our faith is supported by fulfilled prophecy and historical evidence and bolstered by our Living God who personally touches our lives with answered prayers and love, joy, and peace that the world cannot give. We hope to inspire them to confidently follow the Spirit's lead to give hurting friends God's answers to the tough questions of life.

We want them to see God's work changing our thoughts and desires to match His thoughts and desires, and to trust that God alone by "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:3

Truly, our God loves us so much more deeply than we can even begin to convey, but we hope the students walk out of Fusion more in AWE of GOD than when they walked in. That's the real purpose of Fusion.

- Debra Sommerfeld



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