

**RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
CHRIS C. NETTLES, Minister**

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**Third Sunday of Advent Luke 3:7-18**

**NEXT SUNDAY DECEMBER 13  
ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY  
& POT LUCK LUNCH**



**Jill, Kipton, Cason & Scott**

**Special Upcoming Events –**  
December 20—Choir Christmas Cantata,  
December 24 -- Christmas Eve Communion Service,  
January 3 – Ugandan Orphans Choir

**FROM THE MINISTER**

Today we are having three of the churches piano's tuned. The one in the sanctuary has been tuned in the past 3 years but the others have been waiting for more than five years. It is a small thing, but it can make quite a difference to anyone who is accompanying singers. In this season of advent and joy, we are all asked to get our lives in tune with the one who is coming among us. God's decision to arrive on earth in the birth of a baby is an unusual choice. Given all of God's powers, it could have been another more dramatic arrival.

Each time we experience the insignificant moments of peace and new beginnings, we need to be reminded that this is often how God comes to us. The days when we get good news or meet a new friend are more God moments than the large crowd gathering we are waiting for. Yet most of us are still awaiting something that will make all things better. When we win the lottery or everybody gets along -- then we will know God is here in our midst. But what if God's arrival in our lives is more about small things that often go unnoticed by the majority? What if

we opened our eyes to see, our hearts to feel and our ears to hear, our mouths to taste each and every day's experiences? A friend of mine's mother is living in later stages of Alzheimer's disease. But despite her impairments, she is blessed with a wonderful spirit of delight. Everything she experiences is wonderful. She expresses herself with a childlike simplicity and joy. We need to pray for the gift of delight and to be thankful for each and every opportunity to be with those God loves.

**Chris C. Nettles**

Francis Hiltabidel died Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
We ask prayer for her family and for James Bullock.

A memorial service will be held Friday  
December 18<sup>th</sup> in Hemet.

Jim Stocks fell in Colorado. He was treated at  
urgent care and had 11 stitches,

For the homeless and for shelters, Continued  
prayers for my cousins in Maine and Mass.,  
Peace on Earth,

Be with my children,

Al Bondesen's mom, Kathleen Neal,

Prayer for our church without ceasing,

Jim & Wanda Copenhaver,

Blessings on this congregation,

Jewell Magill & Charles,

We pray that we all keep

our faith during these troubled times!

Prayers for our troops,

Health of our church.

Al, Unity & Sally,

Prayers for balance in families with the stress &  
the economy,

Jeff Stewart's 16 year old nephew is being  
treated for brain cancer,

For our church to be a place where both doubt  
and faith are welcomed,

Jane Spinney's recent biopsy found no cancer.

**Thank You to Roger Moore for trimming the  
large cedars in the parking lot.**

#### **THANK YOU**

We thank all who helped with the Bazaar  
and the Alternative Christmas Fair. The CWF  
made \$350 from the bake sale. Vicki Garcia  
organized the Bazaar. She and Jennifer Lambert  
did lots of hands on advertising and set up for the  
Bazaar. Traci Tillinghast, Mary Stuart and Sandi  
Smith organized the bake sale. Linda Brandt  
headed up the lunches.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Alternative Christmas Fair  
received only about half of what it did last year;  
still over \$6,000 was received. Linda Brandt  
made the soup for the Alternative Christ Fair.  
Traci and Lee Tillinghast served lunch to our  
guests. Sandi Smith did all the planning for the  
Alternative Christmas Fair and hosted the  
Church World Service display.



**Jennifer, Linda & Sandi**

#### **LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS**

Worship Attendance: 75



**Sandi**

#### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 13**

9:15 AM Adult Church School

10:30 AM Worship

10:45 AM Worship & Wonder

12:00 PM All Church Christmas Party

#### **MONDAY DECEMBER 14**

No Youth – Wednesday Ice Skating

#### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16**

6:30 PM Youth Ice Skating in

Downtown Riverside

#### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 13**

WORSHIP LEADER Ernie Garcia

SONG LEADER Sherry Nettles

COMMUNION PREP Farolyn Hanscom  
& Lynn Cooper

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Shirley Baker

HOSPITALITY Christmas Party Pot Luck