

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

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PREACHING SERIES FOR JULY & AUGUST: EXODUS

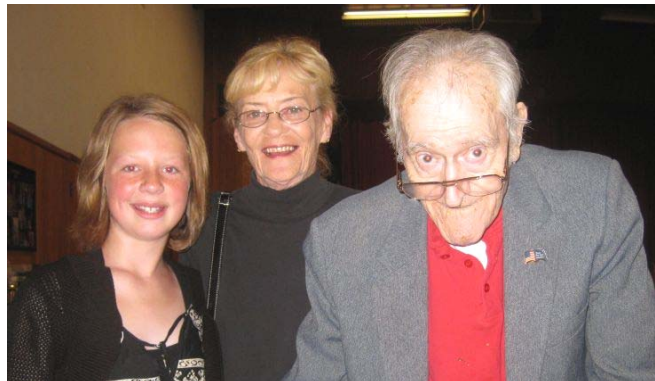
Texts for Sunday Exodus 3:1-20

If we look back over our lives, it is easy to see the hand of God in our lives. But when we are in the midst of our lives, it is often unimaginable to see where we are going. Moses had escaped Egypt and now lives with his family in a safe place. God appears to Moses in a burning bush and lays out the plan that we now know as the Exodus story. What would it take to get us to take such a journey today? Is our contentment greater than the call of God?

**General Assembly in Indianapolis
July 29-August 2**



Lily & Gillian



Saydee, Barbara & Al

FROM THE MINISTER

I have been reading a book by Anthony Robinson called Transforming Congregational Culture. One of the chapters talks about the move from democracy to discernment, from the vote of the majority to listening to the Holy Spirit. A story is shared about a meeting of a small congregation, where a 9-year-old Joshua was present. "The congregation was struggling for survival and debating on whether or not to close its doors... Discussion went back and forth for a long time until there was a lull in the conversation. Someone asked Joshua, 'What do you think?' The boy thought for a moment and then said 'You're going to need the bible, and you're going to have to be brave.' It became clear that the Holy Spirit had chosen to speak to that church through a child."

New Beginnings asked the congregation if we were ready to hear God's call again as a congregation. And we all seemed to say yes. But our western culture may be getting in the way of hearing and seeing that call. We are used to studying the facts, making recommendations and reaching a decision. The weakness of the leadership training for Unbinding the Gospel so far, is that we are too eager to discuss and not as willing to engage in prayer and bible study, which should lead to the discovery of where the Spirit is leading.

God has begun to change us again. God has already called some among us and we are in the midst of it all. Just because we can't grasp it all in our minds or haven't voted on the possible ways God will change us, doesn't mean we aren't willing and able to go where God leads us. The call of Moses, which we will revisit this Sunday, includes the overall plan presented for Moses to return to Egypt. But I wonder if Moses really enjoyed the big picture at first. Let us not be afraid to listen and remember that change may take us 40 years or just 5 years. But, we will be different, if we let God into our lives through a new way of trusting and living.

Chris C. Nettles



Farolyn & Richard

WE ASK PRAYER FOR

Al Charlton,
Unity Hixinbaugh,
Wanda Copenhaver,
Alice Estep,
Jewell Magill's son, Charles' health,
Dorothy Victory's dad, fighting cancer,
Gladys O'Neill's husband is
looking for a job,
Reba Mathis,
Rosie & Jim Stock's son in Colorado,
John Magill has had a stroke,
Sandi Smith's son is leaving Iraq at the end of July-
home by August 1,
This is his 3rd tour of duty in Iraq.
Donald, Darrell and Jeremy Ainsworth that
they can find a job,
Bondesen's continued prayers for our daughter Diana
and Brenda and our son Albert who was discharged
from his job,
Herbert Mitchell daily spiritual guidance,
**Martha Sarbeck growth for church, new and
better jobs, family, peace, health, family friend:**
**Hugo Bustamante Sr who is in
Long Beach Care Center,**
Lucian and Emily Nelson, Emily's arthritis.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

There will not be a book discussion in July. Read a book of your choice and share it with us when we meet again on August 22 @ 8:30 AM. We will be meeting in a new location @ Coco's on Trautwein by Kohls.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Dorothea McCarver for meeting us every Sunday at the front door of the church with a bulletin and a sweet smile. Shirley Baker was home recovering.

TAMALE MAKING LESSONS

A date for making tamales has been cancelled from Friday, July 17 to a yet-to-be-determined schedule. It takes all morning to fix them and all afternoon to cook them. And we can't have access to the kitchen on weekdays. We will have a tamale making lesson later. But as a reminder, this labor intensive project is not intended for the homeless ministry.

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2009

WORSHIP LEADER Laurie Coates
SONG LEADER
Sherry Nettles & Cathy Losee
COMMUNION PREP Linda Brandt
HOSPITALITY MINISTRY Shirley Baker
HOSPITALITY TIME:
Scott & Jennifer Lambert

Worship Attendance: 67

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

10:00 AM Bible Study
1:00 Friendship Group

SUNDAY JULY 12

10:30 Worship
10:45 Worship & Wonder
11:40 Hospitality

MONDAY JULY 13

6:30-8 PM Youth Group

THANK YOU FOR OUR 4TH OF JULY POTLUCK

We thank Ernie & Vicki Garcia, Brian Nettles,
Sherry Nettles, Lester Nettles, Claudia Gray, Laurie
Coates & Dee Needam.

NEW BEGINNINGS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We will be working on Chapter 9 next Monday and will engage in the 40-day Prayer Journal right afterwards. Because of some scheduling conflicts, we will not meet on July 20 or July 27. See you on the 13th then.