

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

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**Genesis 15:22-18:27**

**Wilderness Wanderings-the adolescent people-hard to grow up**

I like the words of Terrence Fretheim: "If God wants a mature child, the possibility of defiance must be risked. Parent and child often end up testing one another." Anyone who has a teenager knows that for a few years life can be full of ups and downs. Parents are trying to guide and teens feel the goal is control. It can be a time of rebellion as the desire for independence collides with the goal of protecting. A pattern exist in families that is not so different from the pattern for Israel in the wilderness: need, judgement, repentance, intercession and God responds.

**NEW BEGINNINGS  
& UNBINDING THE HEART**

We will launch a church wide introduction Unbinding the Heart, in the early fall.



**Jane & Virginia**

**FROM THE MINISTER**

After serving for many years in the same congregation, one discovers that relationships can be the source of great strength and unthinkable pain. Despite God's promises about eternal reunions, many of us still find it difficult to imagine being apart even for a short time. The view from the pulpit on any Sunday reveals not only who is present, but who is missing. Spouses who always came together, now come alone. Anniversaries once celebrated at church are not mentioned anymore. Children who grew up and moved on to new places are missing too. Though they may return every year for a visit, this church home is not where they are active now.

There are some who are so fearful of losing relationships that they don't have any. We have been crushed by death, divorce and discord. So their solution is to live distant and unconnected lives. We are sure, that this choice is best for us. We keep our distance, so that no one can hurt us. But our solution takes away all the small connections that make life both

meaningful. We miss so much. Yes, we miss the pain of parting but we miss the joys of life too.

Every Sunday we get to meet new friends and learn a little bit about them. Their faith journey may not have been just like ours but they are with us, breaking bread and celebrating Christ's love. In time our pew buddies can become our friends and family. Their pains become our pains. And if they should die, our hearts ache as if they were our own. This is the cost of the cross in real life. It brings us God's love at the same time it reminds of God's sacrifice. Long after we are all gone from this life, there will be those gathering for worship who will remember who nurtured their faith along the road of life. Relationships are the source of unthinkable pain and great strength.

**Chris C. Nettles**

### STUFF THE BUS

Our church is participating in "Stuff the bus" program for Operation Safe House, Teens in Crisis Program. Please donate and bring to the church: toiletries, blankets, pillows and non-perishable foods. Our church will be taking this to the Riverside Plaza on August 28-29 for pick up. Thank you

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The book club is meeting again on Saturday, August 22 at 8:30 AM. We are meeting at a new location: Coco's on Trautwein next to Walgreen's (corner of Trautwein & Van Buren). Please bring a book to share for our book selection.

### CHURCH BOARD MEETING SUNDAY AUGUST 30

#### WE ASK PRAYER FOR

Sally Randall was admitted to Parkview following her outpatient surgery.

Thursday morning her airway was blocked resulting in her heart stopping.

They were able to get it going but she remains in ICU on a ventilator in a deep sleep.

Glendora Mazingo was moved to Community Care & Rehab for therapy but expects to go home this week,

Youth group to come together as a group, Children of the Church,

Family and homeless feeding ministry,

Dick Haynes is still having pain since his back surgery,

New Beginnings,

Daily spiritual guidance.

Pray for our church to become stronger!

Bill Carlson struggling with cancer

Unity Hixinbaugh,

Jim & Wanda Copenhaver,

Charles's health, Jewell Magill's son,

Ernie Garcia as he continues

to look for a new career,

Reba Mathis for strength,

Rosie Stock's son, Robert's continued health,

John Magill is recovering from a stroke,

Jewell Magill asks for prayer for her son Charles and for herself,

Jim & Wanda Copenhaver,

Shirley Baker for rest & strength,

Shawn Tallent is out of work again.

LaShawn is going back to college this fall.

### SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2009

WORSHIP LEADER Cathy Losee  
SONG LEADER Mary Stuart  
COMMUNION PREP Sandi Smith  
HOSPITALITY MINISTRY Shirley Baker

HOSPITALITY TIME

Franklin & Mary Stuart

### LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS

Worship Attendance: 64

### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12

AM Bible Study will resume in September

4:30 PM Nursery School Board in office

### SATURDAY AUGUST 15

8:30 am CMF (Men's Breakfast)

@ Little Green Onion on Brockton

10:30-12:30 Homeless Ministry

### SUNDAY AUGUST 16

9:15 AM Adult Church School

10:30 AM Worship

10:45 AM Worship & Wonder

11:40 Hospitality time

### MONDAY AUGUST 17

6:30-8:00 PM Youth Group Tonight