

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

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**Text for Sunday John 4:7-10
“Barriers and Bridges”**

Is the encounter of Jesus with the woman at the well a bridge or a barrier moment? Jesus on one hand lives much of his life according to the rules and still he seems to be free to move past the cultural and religious barriers, when he feels the need. Today our barriers are often under the heading: **different from us**. Most congregations have a flavor and I am not talking about race -- though that could be added into the ways we tend to gather. I am talking about a scale of ease with which we find it comfortable to share our faith. It begins with our children and their friends. Then it moves to non-committed participants and those transferring from similar and different theology. Then it moves to drifted from church and far from church (sometimes the result of being hurt). Finally, most congregations are not able to share with others who are not “Christian similar” and not “Christian different”. Where is our comfort zone and are we willing to be led to share with the many flavors created by God? This Sunday we will participate in 3 adult baptisms of people who were never baptized. What a joy to be a part of the Church.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 24
8:30 AM Women’s Book Club**

@ CoCo’s on Trautwein

You are invited to join in discussing “The Glass Castle.”
Please come share your faith and life.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Potluck Lunch

Tuesday October 27

11:30 AM

Come join us

An activity is being planned.

Please bring your own table service.

See you there

FROM THE MINISTER

Our forty Days of Prayer is a third of the way from the beginning. Many are finding it to be a new way to deepening our faith. A few of us are still uncomfortable in keeping a scheduled time. But it is not too late to start this week by setting up a time and place to listen for the spirit’s leading and God’s insights for our lives. I read with some interest that “Evangelistic churches help people grow in their faith life through spiritual practices.” (Unbinding the Heart, page 83). It reminded me that the purpose for our sharing in this process was and is to help one another grow in our faith. So far, I feel that we are on the road to doing just that. For those who already have a daily habit of prayer, this is just another way. But for those who lack a scheduled time and place, this can be a new beginning of discovery.

The exercise for this week is to move through our church building (either mentally or physically) and to think about those who used each room. In each room we were to bless the space and pray for those who will enter it. Ministry is not just what we do in the building but how we live in the community as well. But a

part of our ministry is all that takes place in our building. Too often those who use some of our space feel privileged for a space that meets their needs but are unconnected to the congregation. If we can give prayer to the families whose children, families and teachers attend or work in the preschool, we can more fully work toward their maturity and recognition that God loves each one. Also as part of the room visits, we asked God to melt away the conflict that may have taken place in these rooms. We forget that many have felt cut off from God and others in our building over the years. So there may need to be prayers for healing before we can experience the blessings.

Chris C. Nettles

WE ASK PRAYER FOR

Sally Randall was hospitalized at Parkview last weekend (Oct 10-11) for her feeding tube port, Al Charlton's strength, give him a call 316-7841 & a word of encouragement, Alice Estep is still in considerable pain, Health for Al Charlton & for the church, Maria Dulaney & family, Jim & Wanda Copenhaver

That I continue to grow in my faith & my life,

Help the church to grow and save new souls with our faith for God.

We pray that we all keep our faith during these troubled times!

Ernie Vasquez asks God to guard his son Augie and bring him home,

Jesse asks prayer for his brother to come home, Prayer for continued health of our church.

President Obama & for Congress for effective health care reform,

Forgiveness in our hearts,

Barbara Shively asks for help to deal with her eye problems,

Peace

Al, Unity & Sally

Jane Spinney had good results of her test,

Continue on a great road of recovery and continue meeting wonderful people,

For health: I found a lump on the right side of my neck,

Unity says hi to everyone & thanks for remembering her with communion,

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

Albert's employment search, prayer for all our military,

Madlyn Hatzer for strength and mobility,

For our church to be strong, Family and homeless feeding ministry,

Daily spiritual guidance.

Pray for our church to become stronger!

Reba Mathis for strength,

Shawn Tallent for employment,

Shirley Baker to experience god's healing hand,

Inspiration for growth,

Vicki Garcia is still in Virginia awaiting the birth of Amber and Eric's baby Abigail: maybe Wednesday?

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS

Worship Attendance: 67

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25

WORSHIP LEADER Cathy Losee
SONG LEADER Mary Stuart
COMMUNION PREP Barbara Watson
HOSPITALITY MINISTRY Shirley Baker

TIME CHANGE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1st

Fall back One Hour

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be going to the Haunted House at Scandia Amusement Park on Friday night. We will meet at the church about 6:30 PM. Parents, please remember to provide a signed permission slip when you drop off your teenager(s).

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

10:00- 10:45 AM Unbinding the Heart
Small Group Study in Challenger's
Class room

1:00 PM Mary-Rebecca Group @ church
6:00 to 7:00 Unbinding the Heart

Small Group Study in Koinonia Class
With supper provided.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – Join us, we are
learning a new song

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23

6:30 PM Youth group goes to Scandia

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24

8:30 AM Women's Book Club @ CoCo's on
Trautwein

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2009

10:30 AM Worship

10:45 AM Worship & Wonder

12:15 PM Please Join us for Unbinding

The Heart in Koinonia Classroom,

Lunch included

MONDAY OCTOBER 26

7:00 PM Youth Group

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

11:30 AM Fun & Fellowship