

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

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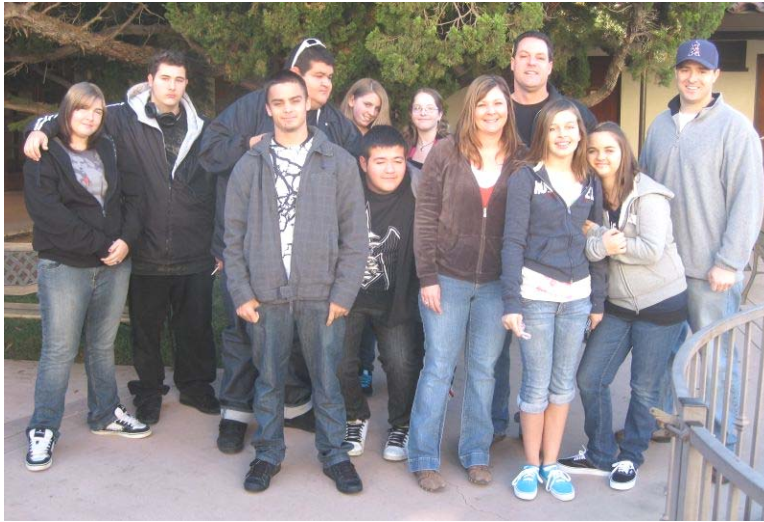
Text for Next Sunday  
Gospel of John 1:9-18

**NEXT SATURDAY**  
**Homeless Ministry 10:30-12:30**  
**“Come Help, It Will Make Your Day”**

**FOOD SUNDAY**

Next Sunday we ask you to bring extra food for our Food Pantry. The need is greater than ever with unemployment so high. While we cannot meet any family's complete food needs, the extras often can help a family make it through the week. Bring whatever you can but here are some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix that requires only water, pasta, bag of rice, noodles, cans of tuna or chicken, macaroni & cheese, powdered milk, canned fruit or vegetables, ramen noodles and some pop top cans of spaghetti or ravioli.

**YOUTH GOING TO CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE**



**Kameryn, Dillon, Charles, Brian, Brandon, Lindsey, Kathy,  
Jennifer, Scott, Gineva, Savannah & Scott**

**FROM THE MINISTER**

For two years now we have had a hose, which sprays the leg of whoever turns on the water. Yet for two years we didn't fix it. This is a small insignificant illustration, for how the church often makes decisions. After all, "it only leaks when the hose is on", so we just live with it! A friend of mine is serving as interim of First Christian in Eureka, Illinois. He was telling me how the church there has let the building get run down as it worked diligently in the community on big projects. Broken glass took years to replace and generally it was assumed that it wasn't that important to those who were active in the church. But visitors noticed those things and were weekly making decisions about the church on the basis of what they noticed.

In tough economic times, fixing a leaking hose may seem unimportant compared to feeding one's family. Compared to great need, such a decision is right, but perhaps shortsighted. The ministry of FCC is not just about those who are here, no matter what. It is about our calling to be the Church and to carry the light into the darkness. Everyday we meet

people who have not yet experienced the love of Christ or are not sure FCC can be their church home. They will add to our joy for life and giving as soon as we make room for them to join us. They will bring new insights and faith stories to add to ours in a ministry to bring light into the world. But that won't happen if we overlook the small things that will get in the way of their hearing the good news at First Christian. So the broken chair, un-swept walkway and leaking hose can become barriers to the Good News. While we can't solve all the small things that get in the way, we can take care of 1 every day. By the same time next year, we will have made over 350 small steps toward removing the barriers to hearing, seeing and experiencing the Good News. That's what we are called to do.

**Chris C. Nettles**

**“Praying for Our Community”**

Tom is on life support at  
Riverside County Hospital,  
(John Watson's dad and  
former custodian at FCC)  
The hungry in our community,  
Richard Hansom,

Sally Randall's continued tooth pain,  
Barnaby Smith serving in Iraq: 3 in his unit that  
drowned when a mine or rocket  
caused their vehicle to flip into a canal.

### Meeting Notice

There will be a short Outreach Ministry meeting on Wednesday, Jan 7 at 6:30. There are some budget items that require decisions. Then immediately following, the CROP walk meeting will convene. Anyone on the Outreach Ministry group are encouraged to attend. Additionally, if you have an interest in becoming involved with the Outreach Ministry of FCC, then you should plan to attend this first meeting of 2009.

### Unbinding the Gospel Training

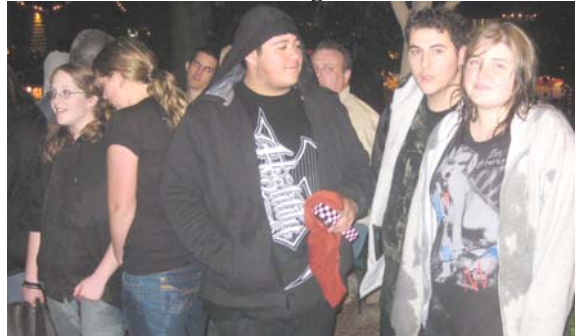
The third session of the training on Unbinding the Gospel will be at the Nettles house on Tuesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. A pizza dinner will be generously provided. This meeting is geared toward the leadership of our congregation and several are already engaged. However, we encourage anyone who is interested in the continuation of the New Beginnings study to participate.

### Good News!!!

We have been in contact with the author of the Unbinding the Gospel study program. We have been invited by her to pursue inclusion in a nationwide Evangelism program and academic study. This could become a real opportunity for Riverside FCC to study and fellowship in a prayerful and powerful program with other congregations around the country. We look forward to the details of this program.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2009**  
**WORSHIP LEADER** Steve Gray  
**SONG LEADER** Sherry Nettles & Cathy Losee  
**COMMUNION** Linda Brandt  
**HOSPITALITY MINISTER** Shirley Baker  
**HOSPITALITY** Youth Group  
**HOME COMMUNION** Ernie Garcia

**How cold is the water on a rafting ride on a December night?**



**Ask one of these youth?**

### THURSDAY JANUARY 1, 2009

Happy New Year

### SATURDAY JANUARY 3

10:30-12:30 Homeless Feeding

### SUNDAY January 4

9:15 AM Adult Church School

10:30 AM Worship

10:45 Worship & Wonder Children's Ministry

### MONDAY JANUARY 5

6:30-8:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7

6:30 PM Outreach @ Church

7:00 PM CROP Walk @ Church

7:00 PM Bereavement Group @ Barbara Drake

### THURSDAY JANUARY 8

9:00 AM Quilting

7:00 PM Choir

Worship Attendance: 73  
Youth Group: 9 youth & 4 adults