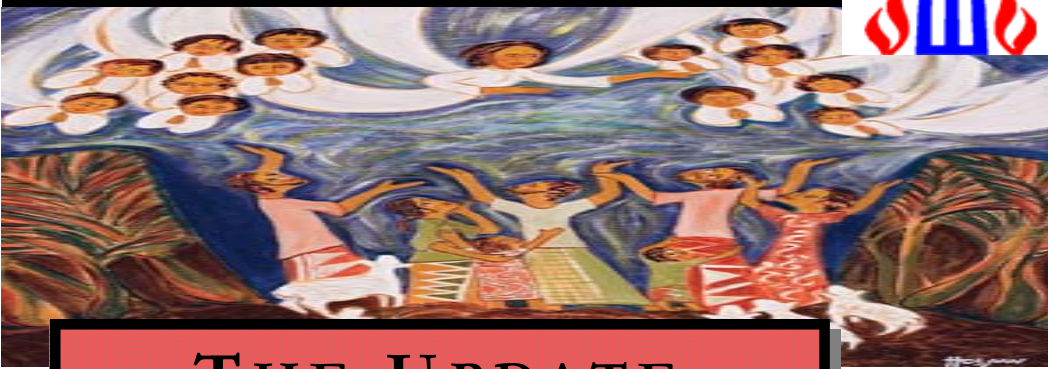


Presbytery of Riverside



2011



THE UPDATE



A message from Anita....

As I was making pies for the Thanksgiving dinner I would spend with the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) Volunteers in Mission serving among people who are temporarily without shelter in a depressed area of Hollywood, I was watching the Hallmark channel. I find it best to view something on TV that requires very little attentiveness while baking. If I watch a program that's engaging, I'm likely to leave the eggs out of the pecan pie or the flour out of the apple pie filling.

I was struck by the string of secular Christmas movies offered during the few days before Thanksgiving, when somewhere between the apple and pumpkin pies, it occurred to me that the commercials bracketing the movies were all presented as a run-up to "Black Friday." The combination of movies and commercials were an attempt to put viewers in the mood to buy, buy, buy.

When I tuned into my favorite NPR station while driving to work the next day, what did I hear—commentary on "Black Friday," with a few remarks about "Cyber Monday." What's going on? Is it my imagination, or has the pressure to spend money during the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas increased exponentially in the last few years? Why, it's almost as if it is unpatriotic not to spend, spend, spend! Honestly, how many 20% off *Bed, Bath and Beyond* coupons can one person (or even one household) use?! If we don't spend money and buy things not needed by people we love, we'll hurt the economic recovery. How did we become a nation dependent on Christmas in all the wrong ways? A sacred time for Christians of recalling God coming among us (Emmanuel) has become a business-driven celebration of consumption.

Mary sang

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty. (Luke 1:52-53)*

God coming among us is meant to turn the world upside down. But we are an easily distracted people—readily

Good News of Great Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and hour of great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously. **Thank You!**

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

GIVE
through
your church



Text **JOY**
to 20222
\$10

www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Continued on Page 4



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Calvary PC



Open Invitation to any of the following:

12/7 Calvary Women at 10am - program - testimony, flutes, dancing, discussion on Apache culture from Apache Redhawk, the minister, his wife and a friend.

12/11 Children's Pageant in 10:30 am worship

12/21 at 9:45am – Prime Time for Seniors & Retirees – Dr. Beverly Howard, Prof. of Music at Cal Baptist Univ., to tell the stories of Christmas Carols.

12/24 Christmas Eve service at 8 pm

12/25 Christmas Day service at 10:30 am

Calvary's 56 year relationship with **Casa Blanc Home of Neighborly Service** continues this year with a shopping event on December 3 where we take parents to the store so they have the joy of picking out presents for their own kids.

We provide them with gift cards to use. Then back to Casa Blanca where we provide wrapping paper and ribbons for them to wrap the presents. Meanwhile, our youth group throws a party for the kids while their parents are out shopping.

Later in the month we will also deliver scores of wrapped presents for children from other families who could not go on the shopping excursion.

Call 951-686-0761 for further details.



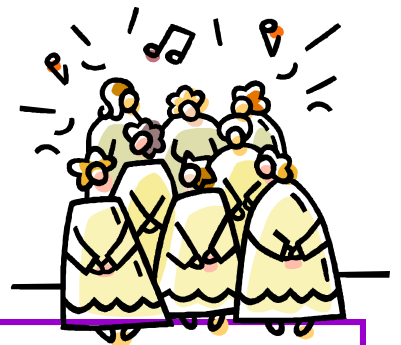
1st PC Hemet

HAPPY HARMONEERS CHRISTMAS CONSERT

The Happy Harmoners, under the direction of Mary Ellen Van Osterbridge will present their Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 10th 2:00 PM** in the Church Sanctuary.

Tickets are \$8.00 and may be purchased at the door

Info Call (951) 658-7153



Victoria PC

The Chancel Choir

Directed by Steve Kester – Accompanied by Sue Sheldon
will present

“**Candles**” By Joseph M. Martin

A Cantata for Advent and Christmas Sunday December 18

During Worship

Info call (951) 686-4562

**From the Desk of Mario
Office Manager
Presbytery of Riverside**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next Presbytery Meeting is on
Saturday February 11th 2012
at First PC San Bernardino
The Presbytery meeting will follow our annual
LEaD Training Event (start time 9 am)

It's hard to believe another twelve months has already gone by. I'm about ready to take down the 2011 calendar off the wall. That's when it really hits me that I made it through another year. I feel so blessed to be able to work at the presbytery office and with all the different committees, pastors, and churches. The past administrator was Mary Straub who was here for 30 years! I speak with Mary quite often and she felt the same way as I do about the job. There's a lot of "mission" in our work. I can only pray that I am able to serve you all for that long.

December also means the Year End Statistical reporting will start in January. Sue Berry and I will have the 2012 forms ready in a couple of weeks for distribution to all the Session clerks. We had a good response from most churches last year but not all churches were timely in returning forms and recording their online statistics with the General Assembly. I'm hoping we can do better this year.

The online Statistical Report is done by each church's session clerk. One of the most important parts of the data that is entered into the report is the Church Membership total. It is **highly important** that this is accurately reported each and every year. Each church's per capita is based upon the membership number that is reported. **BUT**, the number of members reported for 2012 is what the per capita is based on in 2013. So 2012's year per capita is based on the membership number that was reported in 2011. If a church has not reported to GA in a number of years the membership number just keeps rolling over to the next year whether they have lost or gained members. GA will invoice the presbytery based off those totals.

NOW is a great time to clean up your membership rolls of all in-active and non-members before reporting to GA.

Budgets throughout our presbytery are being slashed dramatically so we need to do everything we can to cut back. Having accurate membership totals for 2012 would be fabulous!

If you have any questions about cleaning up your rolls the Polity and Records Committee can help.

I guess I'll see you all next year.

Have a Fantastic Christmas and New Year.

Peace

Mario



Date Change!

Save The Date

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

First Presbyterian Church, San Bernardino
8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Training

Presented by

Riverside Presbytery's

Sexual Misconduct Response Team (SMRT)

This training is required for all clergy in
the Riverside Presbytery, and
is planned to include all leaders of the
Presbytery and congregations.

Clergy must be certified by December 2012.

Interim Pastor Training January 23-27, 2012

Calvin Center

13550 Woolsey Road
Hampton GA 30228

For more info go to
www.calvincenter.org
or call 770.946.4276

The Presbytery Office
will be Closed from
Dec 23 until Jan 2, 2012
In Celebration of Christmas

Continued from page 1

diverted from our major focus in life—"to glorify God and praise God forever." (Westminster Shorter Catechism, paraphrased). God has come among us. To God be the glory and praise! But it is hard to hear that message and speak that message in our current context.

The U.S. Congress is at an impasse. Elders and members of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches argue over staying in or leaving. Around the world kingdoms are falling and people are protesting and economies are teetering. These are contentious, unsettled times. As Christians, we know that spending money and giving frivolous gifts will not solve the problems of this world. Santa is not coming to save us. The One who came to save us has already come, is right here with us, is coming again. Can we bolster the economy by making purchases? Will congressional leaders pointing fingers at one another and refusing to compromise keep the country from sinking into bankruptcy? Will our efforts to realign congregations strengthen the witness of the Church? All our cares and worries we trustingly place in the hands of God, and pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." My prayer is that the deep joy we know in Jesus will spill over into the lives of those around us during this blessed season. God coming among us—now that is the best idea ever.

Yours in Service to Christ,
Anita Hendrix



The Staff of the Presbytery of Riverside
would like to wish you all a
Very Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Anita

Sue

Mario

Laurie

Louis

Northkirk Presbyterian Church

Presents

"Artaban, the Fourth Wiseman"



Sunday, December 11th | 6:00 PM

Northkirk Presbyterian Church

9101 19th St., Alta Loma | 909-989-4919

Featuring: Michael Garcia, Bryce Harrison, Tha Myat Htet, Saw Shein and Northkirk Choir

The **FOURTH** wiseman? We all know the story of the 3 magi from the East, and how they traveled from far away to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby in the manger. But have you heard the story of the other wiseman? He also saw the star, and set out to follow it, but his compassion and selflessness create an interruption from his sacred journey.

The new Northkirk Christmas musical, "The Fourth Wiseman," based on a story written by Henry Van Dyke, tells the touching and tender story of the determined, yet diverted, Artaban, and his longing and struggle to reach the heavenly king.

"The Fourth Wiseman" is followed by our Northkirk Christmas Vaudeville Review! The vaudeville is chock full of music, skits and plenty of Christmas cheer. Just bring a friend and a readiness to enjoy an evening of drama, song and fun.

Free Admission

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

We celebrate the beautiful women in the household of God who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. There are women in scripture and women in our congregations who regularly do beautiful things and are remarkable saints in the faith.

The PC(USA) chose the first Sunday in March 2012 to Celebrate the Gifts of Women, however you may choose to celebrate the gifts of women any time that your congregation or women's group chooses.

For more about Women Sunday go to www.pcusa.org/allwomen



Stewardship
Kaleidoscope

for elders, pastors, presbytery staff and volunteers

When

Monday March 12, 2012
-to-
Wednesday March 14, 2012

GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY
living the faith



Where

Hilton Charlotte University Place
8629 J.M. Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262

Contact

Jessie Echavarria, Stewardship Kaleidoscope Registrar
Stewardship Kaleidoscope
816-924-1730
stewardship@heartlandpby.org

The following items were found in the archives of the Presbytery Office and are looking for a new home.

You may have them for the asking.

- Communion Service—bread plates, trays, and chalice
- Variety of picture frames
- Heavy Duty Metal book shelving—6' tall by 4' wide, 6 shelves, two sides.
- Partial books of baptism records and certificates of transfer





Stewardship, Property & Finance (SPF) Committee Report on the 2012 Presbytery Budget and 2012 Per Capita Allocation

Budgets for each local church and the Presbytery are prepared as a tool for the use of monetary resources to be used in the fulfillment of God's vision for our presbytery. These budgets support the local and Presbytery-wide missional vision, through the work of committees and the volunteers who serve on those committees as well as the staff of your local church and the Presbytery staff.


Support of local and Presbytery mission work expresses our commitment to sharing God's word and love to our communities, presbytery and the larger world. As all of the churches in the Presbytery prepare their 2012 annual budgets, there are several things that the SPF committee would like to share to help in that budgeting and planning process and to answer questions that you may have about Presbytery financials.

- 1. PCA and Mission Pledges:** Each church's annual Mission Pledge to the Presbytery along with the remittance of \$33 per church member for Per Capita Apportionment (PCA) supports the missional work of the Presbytery. The PCA remains at \$33 / church member for 2012, *unchanged for the third year in a row.*
- 2. Annotated 2012 Presbytery Budget:** An annotated budget that is intended to provide a concise view of the 2012 Presbytery budget follows this report. The full, detailed 2012 Presbytery budget is available at <http://www.riversidepresbytery.org/SPFPage> for those who would like to read the details of each account.
- 3. Questions about Presbytery Financial Information:** At the September 10, 2011, Presbytery meeting, table top discussions focused on questions that the Presbytery Commissioners and others at that meeting wanted to know about the Presbytery's finances and financial management issues; Q&A followed those discussions and additional questions were forwarded to the SPF committee. The SPF committee wanted to share the answers to those many questions and a report is available at <http://www.riversidepresbytery.org/SPFPage> for those of you who would like to learn more. If you have questions that are not addressed in this report, do send those to the SPF committee at the Presbytery office.

The Stewardship, Property and Finance Committee wishes you a blessed Christmas and a spirit-filled New Year!

Presbytery of Riverside Prayer Calendar December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

4 Ontario Nelson Grande	5 Office Manager Mario Janesin	6 Presbytery Minute Clerk Kristina Hine	7 Nominations Committee Izar Martinez Chair	9 Presbytery Moderators: Ralph Mueller Jim Shepard	9 All Church Administrators	10 All Retired Pastors In the Riverside Presbytery
11 Palm Desert Doug Garrard Denn Denning Julie Hodges	12 PWP	13 Presbytery Treasurer Louis Kimes	14 Hunger Action Enabler Evangeline Hansen	15 Committee on Preparation for Ministry Erin Thomas	16 PWP Reba Woller Moderator	17 All At-Large Pastors in the Riverside Presbytery
18 Palm Springs Christine Dickerson	19 Committee on Representation Jerri Rodewald	20 Property & Finance Donna Mistryerly Chair	21 Personnel Committee Larry Bledsoe	22 COM Ginni Rassieur Chairperson	23 Fellowships: Spirit of the Desert Inland Empire Chinese	24 All Youth Directors
25 CHRISTMAS 	26 Presbytery Bookkeeper Laurne Stafford	27 Vision Coordinating Team (Presbytery Council)	28 Polity and Records Joan Carpenter Chair	29 Vision Coordinating Team Moderator Susan Skoglund	30 Big Bear Camp and Conference Center Rick Harrison	