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Mary O’Brien

Kitchen Ministries Coordinator
Mersida Porcic

Bittinger Kitchen x21
Kissling Kitchen x30
Copy Room x26
Stained Glass x13
Nursery x29
Volunteer x12
Board of Trustees

April 2015-April 2017
(Rev. April 7, 2014)

**CLASS OF 2015**
Mark Harbison: Vice President
Amy McGeorge
Vance Walker

**CLASS OF 2016**
Marcy Moody: President of Trustees
David Pierson
Gil Pomar III

**CLASS OF 2017**
Chris Eyrick: Secretary/Treasurer
Tommy Platt
Matt Weaver

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Fellowship/Community Life Council: Kathy Para
Outreach Council: Jean Grant-Dooley
Stewardship Council: Wade Hampton
Worship Council: Kathy Dunham
Session

April 2015-April 2017
(Rev. February 6, 2014)

Class of 2015
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Norma Farnell: Chair of Education Council
Jim Langer: Chair of Stewardship Committee
Leah McNeil: Youth Representative on Session
Matthew Stevenson: Chair of Community Life Committee
Dave Tuttle: Chair of Local Outreach Committee
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Kathy Dunham: Chair of Worship Committee
Jean Grant-Dooley: Chair of Outreach Council
John Green: Rising Chair of Property & Maintenance
Wade Hampton: Chair of Administration & Finance Council
Clay Tousey III: Chair of Administration & Finance Committee

Class of 2017
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Sherrick Gilbert: Rising Chair of Administration & Finance
Darlene Hampton: Chair of Youth Committee
Kae Harding: Joint Church & School/ Assistant Clerk
Kathy Para: Chair of Worship Committee
Ed Pratt-Dannals: Chair of Adult Christian Education Committee
Deacons

April 2015-April 2017
(Rev. April 7, 2014)

Class of 2015
Shirley Flynn
Fran Howey
Hans Huntsinger
Dorothy Marsh
Pat Mason
Susan Pardue
Betty Rosenbloom
Chuck Strickler

Class of 2016
Georgene Boehmer Co-Chair of Deacons
Nancy Chamblin
Sarah Cotchaleovitch
Martha Davis
Michael Lane
Jane Lockwood
Laura Sisler
Sarah Trauger

Class of 2017
Margot Althuis
Sena Corbett
Debbie Grisnik
Ashley Knight
Merle Lear
Ken Mixon: Co-Chair of Deacons
Jane Pomar
Judy Robertson
Welcome To Riverside Presbyterian Church

Searching Thoughtfully, Serving Passionately, Living Joyfully, Following Christ

A Guide for Experiencing Riverside’s Mission

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Adult, Youth, Children, Infant and Preschool

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

The first Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion during the 11:00 a.m. service.
Sunday Adult Ongoing Classes

Herb Underwood Class
Education Building: Thompson Parlor
Teachers: Joe Meux, Bill Scheu
The Herb Underwood class, a friendly, welcoming fellowship, is an adult Bible study which meets weekly throughout the year and follows the International Sunday School Lessons.

George Simons Class
Williams Building: Music Room (2nd Floor)
“George Simons Bible Class” was “The Men’s” Bible Class established in 1923. They use the Present Word curriculum for their weekly study. The morning format includes hymn singing, prayer, fellowship, Scripture reading, and small group discussion.

The Bridge Class
Education Building: Library
Teacher: Shared Leadership
Join this group of younger and middle-aged adults for a vibrant class focusing on discussion and fellowship, as well as book studies and Bible studies.

The Ed Pratt-Dannals Bible Study
Williams Building: Library (2nd floor)
Teacher: Ed Pratt-Dannals
This popular Bible study includes reading and discussion of various books of the Bible. In the fall, this Bible Study group will be studying Robert Farrar Capon’s Parables of Judgement.

Meditation
Education Building: Room 312
Facilitator: Nancy Splane
Both experienced meditators and beginners are welcome. Come weekly or drop in – as in the meditation itself, nothing is expected or required. If you’re new, we’ll provide an introduction.
Holy Grounds  
Bittinger Hall  
If you just need a place to have some great coffee and join others in casual conversation and fellowship, please join us in Bittinger during the Sunday School hour.

Adult Electives

September 14 - October 12  
Education Building: Room 302-303  
The Gospel of Matthew: Making Disciples  
Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John Ragsdale  
It is widely recognized that Matthew wrote his gospel with a purpose, and that purpose is to make disciples of Jesus of Nazareth. Through a unique blend of narrative and discourse, Matthew explores the complex relationship between law and grace, sin and spirit, as he cleverly guides his readers along an authentic pathway to follow the one he calls the Christ. This overview will look at texts from each of the five major sections of the Gospel and is perfect for newcomers to Bible study or experienced students alike.

October 5  
Kissling Hall  
Fonkoze Comes to Riverside, and Riverside goes to Haiti!  
What better day than World Communion Sunday to meet some of Fonkoze’s board members and hear about the exciting opportunities there will be for trips to Haiti in February and July of 2015 for both high school youth and adults!
October 19
Education Building: Room 302-303
The Camino de Santiago- A journey of the body, mind and soul
Teacher: Joe Eberly
Joe Eberly will share his experience of a five-week walk from France across Northern Spain to the tomb of the Apostle James in Santiago de Compostela.

October 26
Education Building: Room 302-303
Teacher: The Rev. Emily Proctor
At least four other Presbyterian Churches are active in the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation, and Empowerment (ICARE) in Jacksonville, along with more than 30 other congregations. These diverse congregations work together throughout the year to address issues of concern to their communities, from education to youth crime to homelessness to jobs to mental health access. Come hear the testimony of those who have been involved, ask questions and help the Global Outreach Committee discern whether this is something our congregation should consider re-engaging as a “peace and justice” ministry.

November 2-16
Education Building: Room 302-303
Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer
Come and hear Reverend Goyer’s thoughts on the concept of time and the ways in which we experience and use time, including some reflections from his sabbatical.

November 23
Kissling Hall
Advent Celebration
This intergenerational activity will be an opportunity to prepare for the Advent season. We will create advent wreaths and prepare Advent calendars along with other Advent activities. A light breakfast will be served. Great for all ages.
November 30 - December 21
Education Building: Rooms 302 - 303
Protestant Perspectives on Mary
Teacher: The Rev. Emily Proctor
Who is Mary? “Blessed Virgin” or unwed pregnant teen? “Queen of Heaven” or exasperated mom? “Obedient Handmaid” or contentious prophet? Most people are familiar with the Catholic Perspective on Mary, but you may not be aware of the rich and unique protestant perspective on who Mary was and what she may have to teach us today. In this four-week study, we will let scripture be our guide, as well as the perspectives of scholars in the book Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary, by Eds. Beverly Roberts Gaventa and Cynthia L. Rigby (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002). Come join us!

December 28
No Sunday School

January 4-5
Ages and Stages
Teachers and locations: Vary
In January we are offering several 4-week seminars focused on dealing with family issues at different stages of life. Are you a caregiver, the parent of an adult child, recently retired, in the midst of full-time parenting, or experiencing the stress of parenting teens? We will have members of our staff and congregation, as well as guest speakers, lead 4-week workshops that address these types of family issues from a practical and faithful perspective.

January 4 - February 22
Williams Building: Conference Room (2nd Floor)
Honest to God
Teacher: Jamie Hoener
In 1963, John A.T. Robinson, the English bishop of Woolwich, published “Honest to God” which “set off shock waves around the Christian World.” In this book, Robinson sought to synthesize the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Rudolf Bultmann and Paul Tillich, and make their thoughts accessible to the population at large. Please join us for a study of this influential work which now, more than 50 years later, remains extremely relevant in our postmodern age.
February 1-22
To Be Announced

March 1 - March 29
Education Building: Room 302-303
Faith and Film
Teacher: Charles Cooper
Join us for a discussion on faith and film with one of Riverside’s most popular teachers.

April 5
Bittinger Hall
Easter Conversation with Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer
Come hear an Easter day reflection and enjoy a light breakfast.

April 12 - May 17
Education Building: Room 302-303
Peace and Justice
Presented by Global and Community Outreach Committees
The Global and Community Outreach Committees will lead us in examining specific issues of peace and justice here in Jacksonville and beyond. Congregation and community members involved in these issues will be invited to speak. We will also consider how we as individuals and as a church community respond to issues of peace and justice.

April 12 - May 17
Williams Building: Conference Room (2nd Floor)
Living the Questions
Teachers: Various
Living the Questions is an alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what’s next for Christianity. Featuring many acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, the 20-minute video segments include conversations with leading voices of faith, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines.
Sunday Youth

6th - 7th Grade
“re:form”

**Education Building:** Room 304  
**Teachers:** Bob and Amy McGeorge

re:form Ancestors is an animated DVD-based Sunday school curriculum. This class will engage young people in relationships and practical applications of people of the Old and New Testament. We will be learning about Noah, Moses, Rahab, Samson, Mary and Martha, the Disciples and so much more. Come join us for some fun!

---

8th Grade, Confirmation

**Education Building:** Room 310 - 311  
(Class schedule will be given to 8th grade parents for special events/dates)  
**Teachers:** Breanna Sooter, Kellie Perkins, Diane Tuttle and Kae Harding

Throughout this school year we will look at God’s relevance to our lives by identifying the core values and beliefs that we hold. Youth will be challenged to consider the meaning of baptism and Christian lifestyle. Through group discussion as well as group retreats, service projects and time with adult mentors, this class will prepare those choosing to be Confirmed as members of the church in May 2015.

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9th through 12th Grade

729 Post St (Youth Building)

**Echo the Story**  
**Teachers:** Mark Rosenberg and Breanna Sooter

Echo the Story curriculum is a dynamic way for students to think creatively and seek meaning for their lives. Our high school students will explore faith and interpret Scripture together through video clips, Scripture, stories and sketch journals. Our hope is that we can invite our youth to respond to the story while deepening their own faith and finding commonality among their peers.
Youth Sunday Evening

“4:59 at 729” is Back!

Youth Building
4:59 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

We meet every Sunday evening from September - May (with a few exceptions like Christmas break, etc)

All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join in our youthful faith community. We will all start at 729 Post St. and then we will break off for Middle School and High School groups. Recreation, art, sports, music and food are regular components of our evenings. Topical discussions will tackle all kinds of life-issues, for example, treating people with respect, meditation and prayer, remaining tolerant while standing up for your own values, gossip, modern idolatries and so much more. We come back together for dinner at 6:30pm. Pickup is at 7:00 p.m. at the Rice Sports Zone. Rain Plan: (or the “it’s too hot outside” Plan), Pickup at 729 Post St.
Other Youth Events

We have weekend events / retreats throughout the school year and weeklong trips for middle and high school students throughout the summer. Fundraising events sponsored by the Youth Committee support these special experiences.

Every Wednesday, Prayer Lunch with Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) 6th graders in 729 Post St. (Youth Building)

Middle School and High School Small groups; see Breanna for time and location.

Confirmation and Middle School Retreat, October 3-5

Questions about any youth activities or events? Please contact Breanna Sooter, Director of Youth Ministry 524-3717 or breanna.sooter@rpcjax.org

Our monthly youth calendar will detail all of our retreats, trips and special events. To be added to the mailing list, please email breanna.sooter@rpcjax.org
Sunday Children

Kindergarten through 5th grade

These elementary classes meet on the third floor in the Education Building. The curriculum is “Walk with Me” and covers both Old and New Testament stories. The stories are experiential, age appropriate and combined with the expertise of an outstanding teaching staff. This curriculum comes alive for the children.

Kindergarten
Education Building, Room 301
Teachers: George and Judy Gabel, Pat Setzer, Beth Touchton

1st Grade
Education Building, Room 305
Teachers: Bookie Ziegler, Nancy Warner, Paul Heeg, Cliff Huber

2nd – 3rd Grades
Education Building, Room 307
Teachers: Dick Schwalbe, Ryan & Karen Prince,

Studio 45

4th - 5th Grades
Education Building: Room 306
Teachers: Kristin Swiercek, Marc & Jane Courtney Davis, Jimmy & Susannah Doherty, Emily Speckman

This is an exciting class for our 4th and 5th graders. Because this is an age of exploring and thinking more deeply, these young people will continue to learn the Bible, and actively participate in outreach and worship opportunities. The class will be interactive and relational, preparing them to be a community as they approach the teen years.
Sunday Infant and Preschool

Nursery

**Williams Building:** Rooms 104 - 105

The Riverside Presbyterian Church nursery staff is well trained and takes great care to provide love, safety and formation activities in the nursery. The nursery is available during Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School, as well as many other weekly meetings, classes and services.

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Godly Play 9:30
for 3 & 4 Year-olds

**Williams Building:** Room 103

**Teachers:** Sarah Trauger, Sarah Cotchaleovitch, Lindsey and Chris Eyrick

Godly Play is a Montessori-based program especially designed for young children. In Godly Play, manipulatives (wooden pieces representing places and characters in the Bible stories) are used as the story is being told. This method uses sight, hearing and touch to help children learn. Godly Play is an approach that allows children to experience God, as well as learn about God.

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Wonders of Worship

**Sunday, September 14 - October 19**
This program, specifically for 1st graders, teaches children about all aspects of worship and prepares them to be full participants in worship. They learn how to read a hymnal and follow along in the bulletin and study the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles Creed, and the Doxology. At the conclusion of their class, 1st graders will be presented with Bibles in worship and will be invited to be full participants in the worship service.

**Riverside Play Group**
(Kindergarteners and younger)
Riverside Play Group is a time of fellowship and fun for children ages birth to 5 years old and their families. The playgroup is a fantastic way to meet other parents while your children make new friends. Siblings are welcome.
Saturday, October 18
Saturday, January 10
Saturday, April 11

**BLAST** (5th graders)
BLAST is a youth program designed to help 5th graders transition into youth group. BLAST meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month, January through May, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service for a variety of activities such as photo scavenger hunts, service projects, pool parties and more.

**Extended**

**Williams Building:** Room 102
Each week during the 11:00 worship service we offer this program for children ages 2 - Kindergarten from 10:30 a.m. through the conclusion of worship. Children meet on the first floor of the Williams Building. They have an opportunity to play, have a snack and learn.
Wednesday Night Fellowship

Begins on Wednesday, September 10, at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday nights at Riverside are a time of food, fellowship and learning for the whole congregation. Children, youth and adults are offered opportunities to form community and learn together. We hope you will join us in Kissling for dinner beginning at 5:45 p.m! Nursery provided.

Schedule

5:45 p.m.  Dinner
6:20 p.m.  Minis and children workshops (see page 21)
6:30 p.m.  Youth and Adults classes (see page 20)

Searching Thoughtfully, Serving Passionately, Living Joyfully, Following Christ
Wednesday Night Adult Electives

September 10, 17, 24 & October 8, 15, 22
Education Building: Thompson Parlor
1 Samuel
Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Tim Simpson
Rev. Dr. Tim Simpson is writing a theological and political commentary on the book of 1 Samuel. Each week, Tim will share what he has studied for the week. Tim will get the opportunity to “try out” his work with an interested group of believers and participants will get the opportunity to be a part of creating relevant scholarship for the life of the larger church.

Begins on September 10
Parenting Conversations
Parents of all age children and parents of teens are invited to casual conversation about parenting. We will share our struggles and offer encouragement as well as spend time in prayer with one another. Hope you can join us.

Wednesday Night Hobby Electives

Begins on September 17
Gentle Yoga- Education Building Room 302-303
Teacher: Carol Proctor
A very gentle yoga class, consisting of yoga postures, breath work and meditation. You will need a yoga mat and towel. Please call the church office if you are interested.

Begins on September 10
Stained Glass
Stained Glass Studio
Teacher: Joe Eberly
Have you ever wanted to do Stained Glass? After the 5:45 p.m. dinner, the class will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. The cost is $40 which includes all tools and materials. Beginners are welcome and space is limited. Please call the church office if you are interested.
Riverside Presbyterian Church has launched iRiverside ... an online tool that allows members to have greater access to all things Riverside. Members who are comfortable in the digital world may, when and wherever they choose: register and pay for events, view their financial statement, and if so desired set up online giving. In addition, members will be able to view the membership directory and church calendars through this church membership portal. For those members who do not feel comfortable or are unable to utilize this online service, this will in no way affect how you currently interact with Riverside.

» View Membership directory  » Pay for Events
» Access Church Calendars   » See Your Giving History
» Make Changes to Your Information   » Print your Statements
» Register for events  » Give Online

Ways We Communicate with You

rpcjax.org  Facebook  LinkedIn  Twitter
Wednesday Night Youth

All youth, 6th-12th are invited to come eat dinner with the rest of the church in Kissling Hall at 5:45 p.m. After dinner, youth head outside to the Rice Sports Zone to play games until 6:30 p.m. Middle School and High School Encounter Groups will be held in 729 Post St. (Youth Building) from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This year, our Encounter Groups will be focusing on one theme per month. For the first three weeks of the month we will discuss/act/write to immerse ourselves in the theme. Our goal to be completed for the fourth week will be participating in Wednesday Night Worship to express (in many forms) what we have learned or are learning. This will be a great way for our middle and high school youth to be involved in worship perhaps through music, liturgy, prayer, dance or drama.

Wednesday Night Children

Minis
Preschool children are invited to a time of fun and music. They will have a short Bible time followed by music and movement with Lois Gurney.

Children K-5th grade
On Wednesday nights, children will experience the Bible and Christ’s love through music and movement. Children will play hand chimes as well as other instruments, sing, and learn Scripture through movement and drama. They will share their music and dramatic interpretation in Wednesday Worship as well as in the Sunday service.

Special Wednesday Night Intergenerational Events

October 1  Wednesday Worship
October 29  Shiver at the River-Fall Carnival
November 5  Wednesday Worship
November 12  Doing Dishes-Intergenerational art project
November 19  Thanksgiving Community Meal
December 3  Wednesday Worship
December 10  Caroling at The Presbyterian House
January 7  Wednesday Worship
February 11  Wednesday Worship
February 18  ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
March 25  Wednesday Worship
Weekday Opportunities
And
Other Special Christian
Education Events

Searching Thoughtfully, Serving Passionately,
Living Joyfully, Following Christ
Beginning September 10
Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study
Education Building: Library
Teacher: Rev. Dr. Steve Goyer
Join this Wednesday Women’s Bible Study in the church library from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 most every week from September through May.

Presbyterian Women
As a member of Riverside, women are members of Presbyterian Women. We are a church-wide organization committed to nurturing our faith through prayer, service and Bible Study. Circle meetings are held monthly and childcare is provided for daytime meetings. Our Bible Study will be on the Epistles. In addition to Circle meeting, there are four gatherings where applicable topics by outside speakers are discussed and a simple luncheon follows. Presbyterian Women afford women members the opportunity to get to know women in small groups, making that time a personable chance to feel connected.

Meditation
Facilitator: Nancy Splane
Sunday 9:30 a.m. and Monday 8:30 a.m.
Education Building: Meditation Room (312)
(Also: St. Vincent’s Spirituality Center - Wednesday noon)
Both experienced meditators and beginners are welcome. If you’re new, we’ll provide an introduction. Our time together includes music, readings and silence. You may think you can’t do this – we all thought that at first and discovered that although it isn’t always easy to keep at it, you don’t have to be a monk to meditate. Go to wccm.org, The World Community for Christian Meditation, to learn more about this ancient Christian practice or call Nancy at 502-2633.
New Small Groups

Riverside has several small groups that meet on a weekly basis. We are starting several new small groups in the fall. This is a great opportunity to be in community with other church members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Group</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers of Young Families</td>
<td>Molly Rattigan &amp; Mandy Alvarez</td>
<td>Wed. 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Group</td>
<td>Margot Althius</td>
<td>Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples’ Group</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Diane Tuttle</td>
<td>Every other Tues. evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults Group</td>
<td>The Rev. Emily Proctor</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Group (men in 30s &amp; 40s)</td>
<td>Ben McDonald</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in joining any of these small groups please go online to iRiverside to sign up or contact Emily Heeg at the church office.

Support Groups

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** – This group meets in the Youth Building on Tuesday evenings at 6:00, Thursday evenings at 6:00 and on Saturday mornings at 10:00.

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** – This group meets in Bittinger Hall on Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

**Moving Beyond Divorce** – A six-week group for all who are now going through or have gone through a divorce or separation, who seek a group to support their journey and to find tools for self-growth, healthy parenting and recovery, in the family of Christ. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. October 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11,18.

**Caregivers Support for Memory Loss**

**Contact:** Betty Rosenbloom
Special Christian Education Events

Parenting Workshop Weekend
Friday September 26 - Saturday September 27
Riverside Presbyterian Church and Riverside Presbyterian Day School are teaming up to offer a weekend of parenting workshops on a wide range of parenting topics. There will be one session of workshops on Friday night and two sessions of workshops on Saturday. Look for more information soon.

Women’s Getaway: Rest, Relax, Renew, Rejoice!
“Come with me, by yourselves, to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31
Friday October 10 - Sunday October 12
Join us for a weekend of renewal at Camp Weed Cerveny Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida.

Church-wide Retreat
Saturday April 18 - Sunday April 19
With the fast pace of our lives, the one thing that suffers most is our relationships. This weekend is designed to enable us to breathe deep of God’s creation and re-connect with church, family, God and self. There are great activities for all ages in a relaxed and comfortable setting at Camp Montgomery.

The Mustard Seeds
Do you like green, growing things? Do you like stuff to be attractive and tidy? If so, then there is something happening that you may want to be part of. Everyone is welcome - even those who say they have black thumbs. This new group is called "The Mustard Seeds" (Matthew 13:31-32). This group has as its mission making the landscaping around Riverside look just a little better. Oh, yes, we do have some "mow, blow and go" guys but they don't do the little things like sprinkling a bit of fertilizer when it's needed or trimming dead material out of plants or pruning back things that are overgrown. One of the best things about this group is that it only needs to work occasionally and you have lots of fun company while you are working. If you want to see something that has already been done then check out the new Caladiums at the back entrance to the educational building. If you'd like to be part of this effort look for our table on Rally Day and sign up.
Community Life

Community Life serves Riverside Presbyterian Church by strengthening ties within the congregation in a spiritual and social atmosphere. The role of connecting members is vital to the well-being of our church. We accomplish this goal by providing church-wide programming and small group fellowship. This committee plans, promotes, recruits and serves at numerous outings, gatherings and special events.

Current ministries of this committee include, but are not limited to:

- **Holy Grounds** – Each Sunday all are invited to stop by “Holy Grounds” in Bittinger Hall for fellowship as well as information about church events and volunteer opportunities. Holy Grounds takes place between both church services and briefly following the 11:00 a.m. service. There is coffee, tea, juice and other refreshments to enjoy. Holy Grounds requires volunteers from our congregation in order to be a success. These “coffee angels” are essential to this new venture and help embody our spirit of hospitality and fellowship. We hope you will consider becoming a coffee angel.

- **Lunch and Learn** - monthly trips to various venues where all church members are invited to engage in an educational or cultural event, fellowship and break bread together. This fall, outings include:
  - QuiltFest at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on Thursday September 25
  - Camp Montgomery on Thursday October 23 for SAM, the Senior Adult Ministry Conference
  - Mandarin Historical Museum on Thursday November 13

- **Riversiders** is for all adult members! It is a potluck dinner from 6 – 8 p.m. held at a church member’s house and occurs every 3-4 months. This fall, all are invited to the home of Matthew and Jessica Stevenson on Sunday September 28. A Christmas gathering is scheduled for Saturday December 13 in the community room of the Hospitality Inn with Tom and Jane Miller on 103rd St. Childcare is provided at the church with a reservation. Then in 2015 we will be hosted by Jim and Dana Riley in February and Jack and Jane Lockwood in April.
Community Life

- **Dinners for 8:** Dinners for 8 will be starting in January. This is an opportunity to meet and have dinner in small groups, and all adults welcome. In October you will receive a letter explaining more about the dinners, and you will have a card to return if you are interested in participating. Groups will be formed based on dining preferences.

- **Hiking Trip:** We will explore a portion of the Appalachian Trail when we travel to North Georgia for stays in Dawsonville and the HIKE-INN Thursday–Saturday, Nov. 6 – Nov. 8.

  Mark your Calendars now for these special **All-Church Sunday Meals**, food and fellowship events held for the whole church: Breadbasket donations defray the costs of meals.

  - Rally Day Celebration of the Arts that includes Breakfast - September 7
  - Celebration of Arts Luncheon featuring the sabbatical of Rev. Steve Goyer – September 14
  - Alternative Gift Fair & Lunch- November 16
  - Christmas Concert & Dinner- December 7
  - Palm Sunday Luncheon- March 29, 2015
  - Patriotic Concert & Dinner & Ice Cream Social – June 28, 2015

Other special meals and events include **The Shiver at the River Carnival of Fun** annual event on Wednesday evening, October 29, for the church and community. A free carnival with games, food, fun and more! On Wednesday evening November 19, **Thanksgiving Dinner with the Riverside Presbyterian Apartments** and a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on February 17, 2015.

- For the middle age young adults at Riverside Presbyterian; **The Bridge** is a potluck dinner group that meets in members homes. Bring a dish and join the fun! Childcare is provided at the church with reservations. **Great Dates** are marriage enrichment mini-workshops and then free childcare in the nursery for you and your spouse to have a date and reconnect. **Pinch of Salt** dinners out are held several times during the year.
- For the sports minded, Riverside Presbyterian supports a **Youth**
Basketball League for church and community. This program starts in the fall and runs through the winter. Participate as a player, coach or referee. Registration begins September 15 - October 15. Practices begin on November 10 and the season opens December 6. Over 750 people are involved in this ministry.

- Three weeks of free baseball Reviving Baseball in the Inner-City (RBI) camp is held every summer! Children from the church and community are invited to come join in the fun while learning baseball skills, teamwork, free food and devotions. We end baseball with a free trip to the Jacksonville Suns! Next year’s camp will be held Mondays-Thursdays, beginning in late June.

- Did you know that Riverside has a complete Stained Glass Studio and Art Room? Classes for beginners to those experienced with Glass are held on Wednesday mornings and evenings. A free CEW Art Class is beginning in September for elementary students from our partner schools. A Quilting group also meets weekly at the church on Friday mornings.

- Blood drives are held on a quarterly basis, the first this school year being on September 28. Appointments can be made on-line by going to igiveblood.com and entering the code 1285 for drives being held at Riverside Presbyterian, or call Jan Nicholas at 355-4585 x25.

Do you have an event you’d like to suggest? Give us a call!

Would you like to be a part of planning Community Life activities? Meetings are held monthly on the First Tuesday of each month, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Come Join Us.
Community Outreach

Searching Thoughtfully, Serving Passionately,
Living Joyfully, Following Christ
Community Outreach

The goal of the Community Mission & Outreach Committee of Riverside Presbyterian Church is to provide volunteers and financial aid to ministries, missions and organizations in our surrounding community; and to support those ministries and programs we feel provide the best and largest impact for the areas in which they serve. If you would like more information about supporting one of these missions; either through time or talents; please contact Jan Nicholas, director of Community Life and Community Outreach at 904-355-4585 x25, or jan.cox@rpcjax.org. The missions & ministries we currently support are;

**Angelwood** – The mission of Angelwood is to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families. Volunteers help maintain their group homes or support their summer day camp.
*Contact:* Diane Tuttle, 904-708-0844

**Caring Tree** – For over 15 years, Riverside has worked with neighborhood schools and organizations to find families in need. People from the church and Day School anonymously help these families celebrate Christmas by providing gifts and food. Volunteers are needed to help organize, purchase, sort and deliver the gifts during November and December each year. Caring Tree Sunday will be December 14 this year.
*Contact:* Jo Pratt-Dannals, 904-356-9224

**Children’s Enrichment Workshop** (CEW) – CEW is a coalition of Riverside schools, churches and businesses working together to provide positive enrichment activities for school students. Currently, besides attending CEW meetings, Riverside provides three field days in the spring, one per school for West, Central and Fishweir Elementary schools, as well as providing supplies for these schools’ offices. An after school art class will be offered this fall.
*Contact:* Merle Lear, 904-387-6245

**Downtown Ecumenical Services Council** (DESC) – DESC is headquartered in the basement of First Presbyterian Church downtown. It is supported by Riverside and several other churches who have come together to provide emergency services for people living on the financial edge. Help includes referrals to appropriate agencies, groceries, clothing and one-time assistance with rent, utility or mortgage payments. Volunteers are needed to answer the phone and to help with clothing distribution.
*Contact:* Dave Tuttle, 904-563-3358
Habijax (Habitat for Humanity) – is Jacksonville’s Habitat for Humanity affiliate program. Riverside has been involved in building and remodeling Habijax homes since the program began in Jacksonville in the late 1980s. The houses are newly constructed or renovated. Volunteers are needed at many times of the year for all aspects of building and renovating, preparing lunches or doing landscape and yard work.

**Contact:** Joe Eberly, 904-465-4078

I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless – provides shelter, meals and health care to adults and children. Adults are also given job counseling. Riverside is one of many organizations that prepares and serves a dinner meal once each month at the Center for over 400 people. Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve on the second Thursday of the month.

**Contact:** Blanche Coffman, 904-389-1204

Meals on Wheels – has served meals to shut-ins in the Riverside, Avondale and Murray Hill areas for over 30 years. The program operates out of a room in the Church Education building.

**Contact:** Rev. Earle Sickels, 904-388-8187

Metro-Kids Konnection – provides an after-school program for children who live in the Cleveland Arms Projects in north Jacksonville. This group participates in one week of RBI each summer. Riverside also gives financial support to this program.

**Contact:** Jan Nicholas, 904-355-4585 x25

PALS (Positive Adult Leaders for Students) – is a program which provides at-risk children with one-on-one mentors at West and Central Riverside Elementary schools. Each mentor and child spends 30 minutes to an hour a week, during the school day, playing games, reading books, or focusing on academic, behavioral or social skills. There are always more students who need PALS than can be provided.

**Contact:** Jamie Hoener, 904-728-4476

Pastoral Counseling Services - Balancing Life, Love, and Peace. Helping people do this is the aim of Pastoral Counseling Services.

**Contact:** Lou Lothman, 904-398-2437
Community Outreach

**Presbyterian Social Ministries** (PSM) – is a ministry that brings volunteer groups to Jacksonville for mission work. The ministry also partners with DESC to provide clothing for people in need. Riverside supports this ministry through space-sharing to sleep students and food preparation. PSM also rents office space from the church. PSM assists groups and congregation members with finding needed volunteer activities.

**Contact:** Dave Tuttle, 904-563-3358

**Project Leads** – is a joint project between the Church and the Day School designed to teach 5th and 6th graders about being leaders in service to the community.

**Contact:** Palmer Bell, 904-353-5511

**Reviving Baseball to the Inner-City** (RBI) – Community Life and Community Missions Committees work together to provide three weeks of summer camp experience for neighborhood and church children. Baseball, devotionals and lunch provide fun and recreation and time for children to get to know one another. Buses are provided for transportation of low-income participants.

**Contact:** Jan Nicholas, 904-355-4585 x25

**Riverside Tradition House** – founded in 1971, provides temporary residence to recovering alcoholic men. Residents are required to attend two Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week. Professional counseling and rehabilitation are offered. Church members serve on the Board of Directors and help with a variety of volunteer efforts.

**Contact:** Cliff Huber, 904-772-1564

**Riverside Presbyterian Apartments and House** – were built by the church in the 1960s with low interest government financing to provide residential facilities for older adults. They are now owned and managed by Presbyterian Retirement Communities. Presbyterian Women provide monthly socials and the Church staff conducts weekly worship/devotional services. Residents are also provided transportation to worship and outings.

**Contact:** Jan Nicholas, 904-355-4585 x25
Community Outreach

**Riverside Presbyterian Day School** (RPDS)—was founded in 1948 so a Christian education could be included in a child’s academic education. Over 500 students are currently enrolled in the programs beginning with 3-year-old Pre-School up through 6th grade.
**Contact:** Palmer Bell, 904-353-5511

**Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive**—is an activity in November and December to raise money for Salvation Army programs. Riverside supplies bell ringers to help.
**Contact:** Arden Brugger, 904-356-8400

**Sanctuary on 8th Street**—provides an after-school program to assist 50-60 elementary school children with activities. Examples of activities include helping with homework, drama, art and field trips. Since 1992, Riverside has contributed volunteers as well as financial support for the social, physical and educational enrichment of disadvantaged youth in the Springfield neighborhood just north of downtown.
**Contact:** Vickie Watkins, 904-356-3588

**Trinity Food Pantry**—offers food to hungry families in the Riverside area. The program is operated out of the Trinity Lutheran Church.
**Contact:** Jan Nicholas, 904-355-4585 x25

Would you like to be a part of planning Community Outreach activities? Meetings are held monthly on the Second Wednesday of each month, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Come Join Us.
College Ministry

Riverside has a large number of college-aged young people, and we want to stay connected to them whether they are away or in town. The Montreat College Conference January 2 - 5, 2015 and periodic local gatherings complement our secret PAL ministry.

“Secret Pals” are an adult link for these young people. Although Secret Pals are anonymous, they represent Riverside Presbyterian Church to their student and say by means of a letter or card, “We love you...we have you in our prayers.” A Secret Pal signs up for one college student, and stays in touch by mail about once a month during the course of the school year. There is a brunch in May so that the Secret Pals and college students can meet. If interested, please call Norma Lockwood, 388-3917, or Jean Grant-Dooley, 859-0359.

Music Ministry

We enjoy expressing our love for God through music in worship and throughout the week. Riverside has several choirs that continue our church’s tradition of offering high quality music for worship and special concerts, enriching our lives in so many ways throughout the year.

Music at Riverside
Chancel Choir: Sings every Sunday and is largely classical
Celebration Choir: Sings more contemporary music once a month
Hand-bell Choir: Performs at worship services once a month
Children’s Choir: Open to elementary age children and sings approximately five times a year.

Special Events
Community Concerts: are performed throughout the year on Sunday afternoons.
Wednesday Happenings: First Wednesday each month (October through May) 12:30 p.m. followed by a light lunch.
Global Outreach & Peacemaking

Searching Thoughtfully, Serving Passionately, Living Joyfully, Following Christ
The Global Outreach & Peacemaking Committee of Riverside Presbyterian Church seeks to provide the congregation with opportunities for education about and connection, giving and service to God’s world and mission beyond Jacksonville and peacemaking efforts both locally and globally. If you would like more information about supporting one of these areas, either through time or talents, please contact Rev. Emily Proctor, Director of Young Adult and Global Outreach, at 904-355-4585 x23, or emily.proctor@rpcjax.org. Here are some ways to get involved:

**Peacemaking lunch - (Oct. 5)**
Join us Sunday Oct 5 at 12:15 in Bittinger for a simple meal and to learn more about the opportunities for peacemaking all around us.

**Alternative Gift Fair (Nov. 16)** - Provides an on-campus opportunity for our congregation to direct some of their holiday spending to help others in need and raises awareness of and funds for the participating agencies, both locally and globally. Help organize, volunteer the day of, or just come with your wallet and your Christmas shopping list in mind.

**Contact:** Beth Touchton, 904-744-0967

**Christmas International House (Dec. 18-Jan. 2)**
Christmas International House is a Christian ministry designed to offer hospitality to international students during the Christmas Holidays. It gives students an opportunity to visit in an American home and to become acquainted with different areas of the country. Be a host family Dec. 24-25 or a driver, provide snacks or entertainment, or attend Global Night.

**Contact:** Kate Overly, 904-384-3133

**Fonkoze – Partnership in Haiti (throughout the year)**
Riverside is a congregational partner of this microfinance cooperative to help provide education, literacy and small loans to women in Haiti (www.fonkoze.org). Our goal is to be a catalyst for local congregations to join forces to provide greater impact on the poverty and lives of women in Haiti. We do this by providing education, travel and fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Meet Fonkoze board members **Fri. evening Oct. 3, 2014**; and hear about upcoming trips to Haiti on **Sun., Oct. 5, at 9:30 a.m.** in Kissling Hall. You can even travel to Haiti in **Jan/Feb 2015** to see Fonkoze’s “staircase out of poverty” with your own eyes. Turn in your collected loose change to the
Global Outreach & Peacemaking

woven baskets in the Narthex on the **first Sunday of each month** to support Fonkoze’s “Ti Kredi” or “Little Credit” program for women.

**Contact:** Rebecca Langer, 904-432-7839 or Michael Fisher, 904-389-3745

Global Outreach & Peacemaking Committee

Would you like to be a part of planning or organizing Global Outreach and Peacemaking efforts? Committee meetings are held monthly on the Second Thursday of each month, 5:30–7 p.m.

**Contact:** Matthew Garman, Committee Chair, 904-318-3826

PCUSA Mission Co-Workers

Mission Co-workers are supported with monthly financial contributions as well as emails, cards, letters and the prayers of our congregation. When they are on furlough in the United States, we try to get them to come visit our congregation or presbytery to share about their ministry and contexts. We currently support:

Haiti: Mark Hare & Jenny Bent  
Malawi: Jim and Jodi McGill  
South Sudan: Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather

**Contact:** Rev. Emily Proctor, 904-355-4585, x23. For more information about any of our mission co-workers, see presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections.

Peacemaking

Join in efforts to become advocates for peace in our local, national and international community. You can get involved by supporting the events sponsored throughout the year by OneJax, a local nonprofit that works to build understanding across all areas of the Northeast Florida community for the purpose of increasing respect and improving relationships among people who represent the many religious, ethnic, racial and cultural groups in our community (unf.edu/onejax). In 2014-15, the committee is exploring the connections between justice and peacemaking by inviting the congregation to learn more about the local group called ICARE, Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment (icarejax.org).

**Contact:** Rev. Emily Proctor, 904-355-4585, x23

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Four times a year, our congregation has the opportunity to support the mission efforts of the larger church through a special offering. These include:

**Peacemaking Offering (Oct. 5)**
Most congregations receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. We retain 25% of the offering received to use for local peacemaking efforts within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50% is used by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. In 2015, this offering will be renamed the Peace and Global Witness Offering and its purpose expanded accordingly.

**Christmas Joy Offering (Dec. 21)**
Collected during Advent, 50% of the receipts from the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides need-based assistance to both active and retired church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50% supports scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the General Assembly Mission Council.

**One Great Hour of Sharing (Apr. 5)**
From the special offering received on Palm Sunday and Easter, the Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36%, while the Self-Development of People Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32%.

**Pentecost Offering (May 24)**
The Pentecost Offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the offering to support ministry with youth, young adults, or children at risk in their communities. The General Assembly’s portion provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth (25%) and young adults (25% goes to the Young Adult Volunteer Program) and supports children-at-risk programs (10%) at the national level.

**Contact:** Rev. Emily Proctor, 904-355-4585, x23.
See also specialofferings.pcusa.org.