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February 2016 | Quarterly Newsletter



Welcome!

I hope you had a great Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior. Our family had a full house this Christmas with the visit of my mom, older brother, and their families. We even managed to find our way up to the tubing hill at Salt Creek Falls. Of course I did get stuck on the side of the hill, but that's another story.

As I've been praying about 2016, I'm really anticipating God doing some awesome things at Riviera this year. We have been blessed with one of the best staff and leadership teams in the area. And I'm very thankful for all the volunteers we have in the different ministries. With these important pieces in place, I'm looking forward to seeing how God will empower us to accomplish His mission this year.

As I've been sharing from our series, "Secrets of a Fruit-Bearing Life," we can only be fruit-bearing branches if we abide in the Vine. I want to encourage you to set aside time throughout your week to be in the Word and in prayer. It's in that place of solitude with Jesus that we hear from Him and He provides the direction and empowerment to live a fruit-bearing life. I also want to encourage you to be praying for one person this year that you could disciple or share Christ with. There is no greater joy than being a part of leading someone to the Lord. I know that God wants to use us in His harvest if we have a willing heart. I will be starting a new sermon series in Galatians some time in February, and I'm looking forward to spending some time studying the incredible Good News of salvation in Christ. May your 2016 be a bountiful harvest!

In His grace,

Pastor Toby Gallego

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Riviera Baptist Church is to bring God glory through loving Him, loving one another, and sharing God's love with our world both locally and globally.

LEADERSHIP

Senior Pastor

Toby Gallego

Youth Intern

Skylar Collins

Worship Director

Annie Pasquinelli

Children's Ministry

Michelle Goetzinger

Head Deacon

Chuck Cole

Treasurer

Barb Dopkus

Office Assistant

Tina Averill

Newsletter Editor

Annie Pasquinelli

January 2016

Where The Spirit Has Moved: Holiday Recap 2015



A Christmas Noel



The RBC Youth Worship Team was busy in December preparing their Christmas Eve special music. Not only did most of the YWT contribute other individual works for the service, but they all arranged and performed a special piece together—a song written by Chris Tomlin entitled “Noel.”

Each member of the YWT contributed at least one solo to the RBC arrangement. Sofia Gallego and Emilie Rice were contributing instrumentalists, playing violin and drums respectively. The other girls—Lauren Rice, Hannah Rice, Anna Gallego, and Karena Desjaden—each sang vocal solos, and some even performed harmony and echo parts that they composed themselves to complement the sparse original music.

The YWT will be back this Easter to perform another special song.



Celebrating 2015

By Karen Glenn

New Year's Eve can be ignored, embraced, or celebrated as a time of fellowship and reflection. We tried to embrace it at RBC this year by kicking off a potential new tradition. The plan for the night was to enjoy dinner together, share praises, have prayer, and then watch a movie and play games with anyone who wanted to stay.

The movie, *The Star of Bethlehem*, is a historical investigation into what the star for Jesus likely was, as researched through precise computer astronomy software. The inspirational film depicts the discovery of real astronomical events, revealing celestial clues, and the incredible significance of the star.

Thanks to those who participated, brought food to share, and fellowshiped with us. What better way to end the year? Looking into 2016, we have much to praise and thank God for! Make it a year of spiritual growth and connecting in the body of Christ. It's all about HIM!

Seasonal Giving

Compiled by Tina Averill
and Barb Dopkus

Awbrey Park Food Ministry

- * 20 families served
- * 10 volunteers to put boxes together and deliver
- * \$400.00 required to fill out the boxes after donations



Envelope Ministry

- * 7 church families presented with gift cards

Operation Christmas Child

- * 44 boxes contributed

Lottie Moon Int'l. Missions

- * RBC Goal: \$2,000.00
- * \$2,000.00 donated!



Close only counts... Above and center: RBC at the 2015 Men's Roundup. Photos by Jim Dopkus.



Flashback February



Noel, noel! Christmas Eve at RBC had seasonal music by the YWT, above. Photo by Julia Rice.



Following God

We are excited to announce that three of our congregation have courageously displayed their commitment to Jesus last year! Hannah Rice, Anna Gallego, and Stephanie Fittinger were all baptized on December 13th, 2015 at a special service at 10:40a.m. We also have three new members in our congregation. Stephanie Fittinger, Mark Henderson, and Ron Wilson were all accepted into our church in December of 2015. Here's to more boldness for Christ in 2016!

"I will never forget December 13th 2015, the day I got baptized. When I got baptized I was really excited because I got to show other people my love for Christ. I was so happy to follow the example Jesus gave us. And even though getting baptized does not save you, it is a way to show others that I love God, just like Jesus. God has been with me through some hard times. I am glad that I get to learn more about him. And now that I am baptized I get to live my life for God and help bring others to know Christ."

-Anna Gallego

"I didn't really expect anything [when I got baptized]. I was actually a little bit embarrassed, but when I came up from the water I felt like new. I feel like God is in control, but other than that I feel like I'm living my regular old life, like nothing ever happened."

-Hannah Rice

Christmas Poetry

Written by Karen Glenn
Read by Lauren Rice, Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DEPRESSION

When the holidays roll around our expectations soar.

To all traditions we feel bound,
which brings headaches galore.
The tree and decorative lights can
be a hassle, too.

We lose the joy and sweet delights
by what we HAVE to do.

But, think instead of "feeling guilt,"
what privilege that we have
To show others the love we've felt,
will heal us more than salve.

When "dos and don't's" of
Christmas Day become too hard to
take,
Find hope in HE whose own birthday
we're trying to celebrate!

© July 25, 1988

Revised December 2015

To Charles Schultz



CHRISTMAS GRACES

Christmas is rejoicing
Christmas is a birth
Christmas finds us singing
Gathered by the hearth.



Christmas is a gladness,
Counting blessings, too.
Celebrate spontaneous
Love that's ever true.

Christmas is believing
Faith in what God's done.
Faith brings hope and loving
Blessings in His Son.

Christmas is the Christ Child
Come in human form,
Love on this world was piled
The night He was born.

Christmas' three graces,
Faith, Hope, and love pure;
Come only from Jesus
Bringing joy quite sure.

© July 19, 1988

Revised December 2015



Star Wars Versus Singers. As the worship teams practice below, these figurines line up for battle under Gavin Rice's leadership. Photo by Julia Rice.

Current Events: What's Happening at RBC

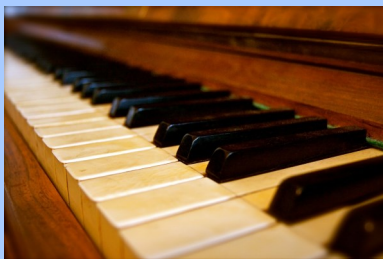
Library Upgrade

The RBC community library has been restored to full working order, and is now open to anyone who'd like to browse its shelves!

After fielding many complaints from members of the church who couldn't find what they were looking for in the shelves, Sylvia McDowell spearheaded the project of restoring the usability of the library. She and a number of other members have finished reorganizing, reshelving, and cleaning the library after three months of hard work. Now, anyone can go into the library and rent books that could help them with their spiritual journeys—and entertain them for hours.

"We have some wonderful books, and the doors are never locked," said Sylvia, who also noted that we are using an honor system for borrowing so that readers can check out books whenever they please.

She has also offered to teach book cataloging to anyone who is interested in becoming the RBC librarian. If you would like to know more about this position, or want to donate books, please contact Sylvia McDowell.



New to RBC: Acoustic Piano!

After some careful searching across the Internet —eBay and craigslist included—the RBC worship department was able to acquire a quality, affordable acoustic piano for the sanctuary! Ron

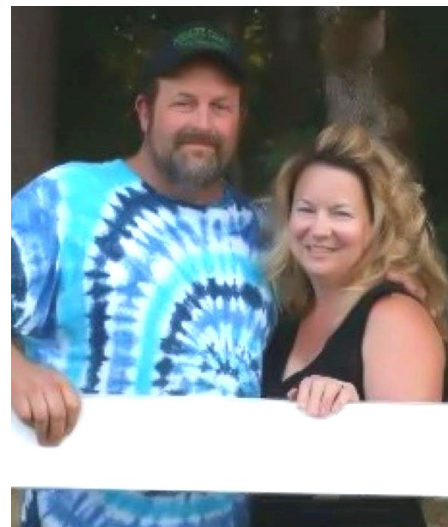
Wilson, who headed the project, and several other of RBC's burliest men moved the piano onto the stage just a few weeks ago. "Piano is my instrument," said Ron Wilson, who will be playing the instrument at nearly all of RBC's Sunday worship services. "Now I'll be able to really play the best music for us." He will also be helping to tune and maintain the piano.

Congregation members should note that the piano, like the other equipment on the main stage, should only be moved or played under the supervision of the worship team to prevent any damage to the instrument.

Spotlight on Service: Cindie Lentz

It's hard to find a more hospitable person than Cindie Lentz—and that's why she and her husband, Mike, have been such phenomenal hospitality directors at RBC for so many years. But Cindie has been contributing so much more than just her famous, mouth-watering dishes.

Mike and Cindie, who have been married 35 years and boast 3 children and 13 grandchildren, have been commuting to Riviera Baptist Church for nearly twenty years from their hometown of Cottage Grove. At home, they run Shady Oaks Plants and Produce, which is "a plants and produce business similar to Lone Pine or Thistle-down, [but] on a much smaller scale," said Cindie. This business—and the experience that comes along with it—is just one of the many



things she donates so generously to the people of RBC.

She's served at coffee hour, Wednesday night dinners, love of God banquets, potlucks, and more. She's hosted weddings and 50th anniversary parties.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Coming Soon: Looking Forward to 2016

Wednesday Night Programs: Winter—Spring 2016

Crossroads YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:15-7:30 PM

7TH—12TH GRADES

We are kicking off our new *Courage Video Series* by Francis Chan, where he shares scriptures and shows students how their faith in Christ can give them the ability to live lives defined by courage.

The four-part program will include Francis Chan hitting these topics:

Stand Alone
Stand Firm
Stand Out
Stand Tall

Not only are we providing a gospel-centered message for students to act on their faith and take a stand in everyday life with Christ, but we also have fun games and activities that relate to the lesson.



Wednesday Nights

6:00-7:30 PM

1st—5th Grades

RK2 is a NEW program coming to RBC in conjunction with Riviera K.I.D.S. The 90-minute program takes place on Wednesday nights and is organized into 4 rotations:

Bible Stories
Bible Skills Drills & Thrills
Hands-On Learning
Games

We are also always looking for volunteers to help out! If you'd like to assist in one or more of the rotations, please contact Michelle Goetzinger.



A Refreshing “Site”

RBC's newly formed Media Team has been working on building a fresh website to serve as the new online hub of our church, and it will be launching sometime in February. Don't panic, though—we'll still be using the same domain name! Just keep clicking to RivieraBaptist.com and watch for the new design, which we hope will better serve our church and our community here in Eugene.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3: SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

And anyone who's tasted her dishes knows she is a true master in the kitchen.

But Cindie has also done the lioness' share of work in other departments, as well. She's active in women's ministries, has been an angel tree coordinator, and has led many summer Backyard Bible Clubs, among so many other events.

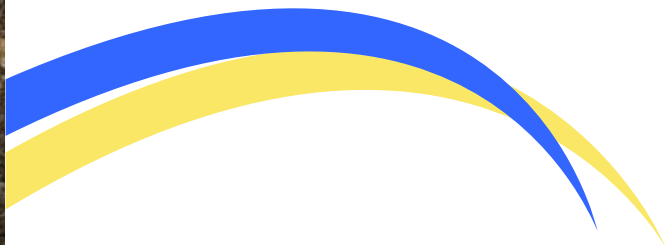
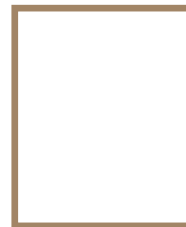
One of her personal favorites, however, is children's

ministries. She's been a mighty force behind the reboot of the Wednesday night program. "I would love to see the church ground with lots of young families," said Cindie. She is a firm believer that children are a vitally important part of our outreach program, especially in a community as un-churched as Eugene, Oregon.

Cindie is also a frequent Growth Group leader. Be on the lookout for more of her classes in the upcoming months, because it's easy to see that Cindie is all in for God's work through her life at RBC.



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February 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Guest: Ryan Moore	1	2	3 Wed. night programs begin	4	5	6
7 Crossroads Super Bowl party	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Lord's Supper	15	16	17 VWT rehearsals begin	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					