



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.

## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

As I look outside, it seems spring may finally be here! The sun is shining and the trees are blooming. It brings to mind the words of the classic hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas Chisholm: "Summer and winter, springtime and harvest / Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above / Join with all nature in manifold witness / To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love."

This time of year I sing those words with a little more emphasis than I do in the cold winter months. We do have so much to be thankful for at RBC. We had a wonderful Good Friday Prayer Walk and Easter celebration. We had our largest attended Easter Sunday in the 5 years I've been here. More important than the size of our services was the excitement our people had about inviting friends and family to come and fellowship with them at Riviera.

Another thing I am grateful for is our study in THE STORY. It has been an incredible journey this year as we started in Genesis back in the fall and now we are focusing on the life of Jesus. I must say this study has been more enjoyable than I expected it to be. It's been encouraging to my own walk as we've studied God's plan through the Old Testament and into the Gospels. It's clear that God uses the foibles and follies of his fallen creation to knit together a larger story of redemption.

I've also been grateful for the record number of participation in growth groups and men's and women's activities. This spring we had 5 Growth Groups on Sunday mornings and 4 in the midweek. It's encouraging to see how much our people enjoy being together. We had 14 women go to the Women's Retreat this April, and a good list of men have signed up for the Men's Camps.

Lastly, what I'm most grateful for is the addition of the Atwell family to our church. It has been a blessing to see our congregation show them hospitality--and to see them return that. In this short time they connected with so many of you, and I'm excited to see God use their gifts to build up the body of Christ in Eugene.

God is doing great things at RBC. I am reminded of the verse the Lord gave me at the beginning of the year: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church." We can expect good things in the months to come. Not because we are so talented and capable, but because His power is at work within us!

In His grace,

*Pastor Toby Gallego*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Easter 2018  
Mission Notes  
Ascent Program  
**AND MORE!**

## LEADERSHIP

**Toby Gallego**

*Senior Pastor*

**Matt Atwell**

*Associate Pastor of Discipleship  
& Family Ministries*

**Annie Pasquinelli**

*Worship & Media Director*

**Tina Averill**

*Office Assistant*

**Anna Buettner**

*Youth Intern*

**Barb Dopkus**

*Treasurer*

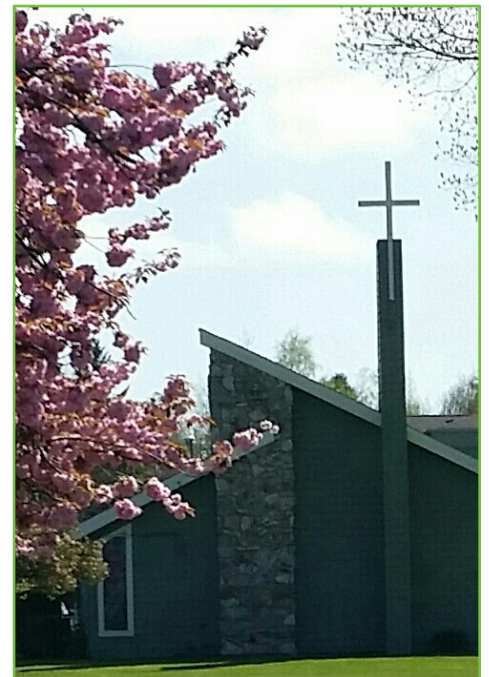






Photo by Jim Dopkus

## COURAGEOUS

By Vanessa Gallego

This year the women had an amazing time at Grove Christian Camp in Cottage Grove. The Riviera women gathered together with over a hundred others from all over Oregon to talk about what it means to be a courageous woman in our world today. Fellowship, fabulous food, and rest made it a weekend to remember! If you didn't make it this year hope to see you next year!



## A SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Last month, our Easter services were the highest attended in at least 5 years! It was truly a season of celebration, and we were happy to see RBC so full of reverence, joy, and love as we remembered Jesus' great sacrifice and even greater victory.

On Good Friday, we held another Prayer Walk in the sanctuary. Attendees were given a guide that took them through the stations of the cross and the story of the crucifixion. At each station, these moments were accompanied by props, activities,



prayer meditations, and paintings commissioned by RBC and created by Annie Pasquinelli. The last in this series of paintings, an abstract representation of Jesus dying on the cross, can be found in the back of the sanctuary by the exterior doors.

Our Easter Sunday festivities included the traditional brunch potluck. With well over 120 people in attendance that morning, it was a time of family, food, and fellowship in the name of Love!



## MISSION FIELD NOTES

*Written by Elizabeth Mosobase*

It has been challenging and wonderfully refreshing getting back home and settling into our new normal as a family of four in Lesotho. After nearly 8 months of being in and out of the country for our annual trip to the U.S. and the birth of our son, it took some time to get back into the swing of things with the LXP Lesotho ministry, village life, and our small snack shop in town. Thankfully, our two LXP staff members kept things running in our absence and we were able to regain momentum when our programs reopened.

Our kids and youth programs continue to thrive and we had a fantastic time at camp over Easter weekend. Our theme was “Fan the Flame” and we focused on cultivating our passion for Christ in all areas of life. It was a fun way to look at the Greatest Commandment and we trust that those who were coming to camp for the first time or the 18th time have gone home with renewed passion. In the village we continue to meet weekly with a group for Bible study and were so blessed to have two of the members of this group lead a session at camp. Seeing people grow in faith and share with others what God has been teaching them is such a joy! Our computer skills training class is also doing well and each session we have a full roster. The Abstinence Club that meets at a local high school to encourage godly and sexually pure lifestyles got off to a slow start due to changes in the administration at the school; we were able to meet with the students last week and trust we can get a consistent group to meet.

Our family is doing well. We get to see Godfrey’s family often as they live nearby. Our yard is always full of children after school, so there is no shortage of playmates. Sophie is now two and a half and Liam will be six months. We are thankful for good health and are trusting the Lord for wisdom as parents and leaders, provision for personal and ministry needs, and additional volunteers and staff members to share the work load.

As our family has grown, we are in need of additional monthly financial supporters. Our ministry base and vehicle are currently in need of some repairs so we are trusting for additional income to cover those once-off expenses. Please pray for Sophie as she seeks to build friendships with the neighbor children, that Liam will continue to thrive, that Elizabeth will find balance in all areas as she is primarily home with two young children, and for Godfrey as he heads his family, business, and ministry organization that he will be close to Jesus and have the strength and wisdom to lead well.





YOUTH MINISTRY

## HEAR THE WORD. DO THE WILL.

The RBC Youth Ministry program is rebranding—but what does HD mean? Taking a cue from James 1:25, the HD Youth Ministry exists to make multiplying disciples that become hearers of God’s Word and doers of God’s will.

Our core values are evangelism, discipleship, community, service, and worship. These cornerstones will help guide our activities and programs. We currently meet on Sundays in the morning and evening. Special events will be posted on the website and in our youth newsletter. Talk to Matt Atwell if you’re interested in joining us or volunteering!

“But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works – this person will be blessed in what he does.”

-James 1:25



## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: BARB DOPKUS

A lot of ministry programs here take place behind the scenes to facilitate our church running smoothly. Barb Dopkus is one of those dedicated servants of God who does just that.

Barb first started coming to Riviera around the turn of the millennium, when her oldest grandson was still a baby. They had moved from Creswell to Springfield at the time, and their youngest son Shawn married Jamie, the daughter of Mike and Cindy Lentz. After the move and the wedding, Barb and Jim Dopkus wanted to find a church closer to their house. They decided to try this church out here on River Road, and they’ve been coming ever since!

Over the 18 years or so that Barb has been attending RBC, she has worked extensively with some of the youngest members of our congregation, namely preschool and kindergarten. She started out doing the preschool class with Barbie Ellis, and later went upstairs to teach kindergartners with Pete Goodale. In connection with the young children’s ministries, Barb has helped with numerous years of Vacation Bible School, especially with the pre-K classes.

Over the years, as attendance has changed, things



have shifted with these programs. When attendance in this age group went down, they combined pre-K and kindergarten classes for several years. However, things have started to pick back up, this department is looking to split these classes again to better serve their charges.

Barb absolutely loves working with this age group. She enjoys interacting with the people involved,

*Continued on next page...*



## JOINING TOGETHER FOR OUR CITIES

### MORNING+EVENING PRAYER 7:00am / 6:00pm

May 14: Grace Community Fellowship (Psalm 121+122)

May 15: Willamette Christian Center (Psalm 123+124)

May 16: The Box (Psalm 125+126)

May 17: Twin Rivers Church (127+128)

May 18: Riviera Baptist Church (129+130)

### MOUNTAINTOP PRAYER

May 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Skinner Butte (Psalm 131+132)

### COMMUNITY-WIDE WORSHIP

May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Willamette Christian Center (Psalm 133+134)

## ASCENT & COMMUNITY-WIDE WORSHIP



The OneHope organization has joined forces with many local churches to bring us the Ascent program, which aims to bridge individual churches to the wider Church and bring us together as the body of Christ to learn, worship, and praise Him together.

This program is part of a bigger program called CityFest, which is an enormous outreach

Event that will bring people together all across Lane County to reach out into the community.

Join us in preparing for this event by getting our hearts ready to share. There are morning and evening prayer times listed above. On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Riviera will be meeting at the top of Skinner Butte for the Mountaintop Prayer. Then, cap it all off with a Sunday night worship time.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: Continued...

and making connections with the kids. She's taught Nancy and Phil Jessing's twin granddaughters, John Averill, and Gavin Rice, who was in her last kindergarten class. Barb says Gavin was not too keen on staying in the class by himself the first day he arrived, but by the end of their time together, Gavin told her how much he loved being there. "I felt the same way!" Barb explained with a smile.

Barb has also been Riviera's Treasurer since 2014. Everyone on staff is thankful to have her sharp eye on our accounts, and we have been blessed to have her volunteer in this ministry as well as the nursery and young children's departments.

Barb has several goals for herself and her ministry programs moving forward. She would love to see more people get involved with the nursery and pre-K departments. On the financial side, she has seen us make great improvements in the way we do our budgeting.

Personally and spiritually, Barb wants to be more outgoing and less of a planner. Since retiring in 2017, she has a lot more time on her hands. She wants to learn to wait on God's plans more, and allow Him to lead her into whatever paths He has planned for her.

Thanks for everything you do, Barb! We love having you here at Riviera!

## RIVIERA: LOOKING *FORWARD*

Summer is on its way, and that means we're going to begin preparations for our annual summer activities! If you're interested in getting involved with these events, talk to the RBC leadership and keep an eye out for new information, coming soon!

- Vacation Bible School (June 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Youth Spaghetti Feed & Dessert Auction (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- All-Church BBQ & Softball Tournament (July 1<sup>st</sup>)
- ...and More!



## MAY / JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mother's Day Brunch
<b>13</b> Mother's Day	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ascent @ RBC	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Memorial Day	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Youth Spaghetti & Dessert	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Campout	<b>9</b> Auto Training Class