

150 YEARS OF HISTORY

First United Methodist Church of Riverside, CA



SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

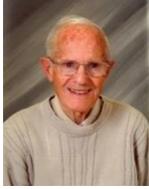
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RIVERSIDE

150 YEARS OF HISTORY



We dedicate this written history to two people: Robert Fitch and Maribeth Peck. With photos and scrapbooks, file cabinets and typewritten notes, they both understood the importance of history and worked long hours to document and save it. Any History recorded is obviously as seen in the eyes of the beholder. They knew that others would come to take their place. This summary was initially outlined and drafted by Robert A (Bob) Nelson with a committee of diligent long-term members



researching, assisting, and reviewing (Kris Lovekin, Greg Laird, and Mike Alfred) with total overlapping FUMCOR membership and involvement exceeding 150 years. In addition, factual input and drafts of various sections were received from Lynn Ashworth, Lyn Knowles, Karen Wilson, Lee Ann Salmon, Loretta Cudney, Brian Tomlinson, David Fraser, Alex Arana, Gayla Lonsbery, & Barbara Jo Wilson

OUR EARLY HISTORY

A great summary of the first 125 years of our ministry in Riverside is attached as [Appendix A](#). It includes the 75 years prior to the 1947 tragic fire of the downtown sanctuary located at the corner of 6th & Orange Street, only 40 steps from what has become our city's famous Mission Inn. That summary was written in 1997 at the time of our 125th Anniversary.

We have an auspicious beginning, the second church to open in a tiny village called Riverside, dedicated to education, work and freedom to worship.

There is evidence of welcome to soldiers during war time, active ministries in theater arts, music, Bible study and a congregation supportive of missionary service and mission trips.



Dedicated members raised money and built bigger and bigger church buildings. When it was time, some First church members planted new churches in other parts of the city, including Highgrove UMC, Arlington UMC, Wesley UMC, Grace UMC and Rubidoux UMC.

We had 75 years on Sixth Street and then a dramatic fire in 1947 that took the church down to blackened studs. See [Appendix B-6](#) for a descriptive summary of "The Fire."

Trustees already had the land on Brockton Avenue and a plan for a church. Neighborly churches like First Congregational and the Seventh Day Adventists and Calvary Presbyterian helped us find temporary space while we constructed a new church building and opened a preschool in our brand-new education building.

New life comes from fires in the forest. It was certainly the case at our church. The '50s and '60s were boom times for construction and membership. The church added a parsonage, a scout house, a fellowship hall, a sanctuary, a bell tower, a new organ and nearly all the stained glass windows.

The church enjoyed large and active youth and music programs in the '70s and '80s with a church van that served to take young people across the country on the Bicentennial Mission tour and closer to home on choir tours and the Sierra Service Project. The church continued an emphasis on adult fellowship groups such as Fidelis and Builders as well as active United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

We will list here in a nutshell, some of the prominent physical milestones noted in the referenced 125-year History in [Appendix A](#):

Year	Members	Historical Action
1872	10	The date we were chartered; Riverside population 500
1873	----	The City of Riverside was incorporated
1890	----	Helped start Highgrove UMC
1893	422	Helped start Arlington UMC
1907	----	Helped start Grace UMC
1929	1617	Membership at the time of the 1929 Stock Market Crash
1936	1206	Membership 7 years later
1941	----	WWII Pearl Harbor Attack
1945	----	Bought 13 acres on Brockton Ave. for a new church someday; end of WWII
1947	----	Tragic fire of the downtown church.
1948	----	Fellowship Hall & Education Building completed on Brockton Avenue and used for services; also new Parsonage on Chapman Ave completed
1949	1457	"Nursery School" starts
1955	2109	First Services in new Sanctuary
1955	----	Scout house built
1957	----	Helped start Wesley UMC
1961	2669	Tower & Carillon completed
1963	----	Helped start Rubidoux UMC
1967	----	New Office & Expanded Education Building completed
1968	2663	Antiphonal Organ completed
1990	----	Sold the Chapman parsonage

BACKGROUND FOR OUR STORY

Our summary will focus on the most recent 25 years of history on Brockton Ave. at our church affectionately called FUMCOR. Our story will include input from others, pictures, statistics, recollections of highlights, and charts and tables to help recall staffing, missions, membership etc.

We have also included a major section, [Appendices B-1 through B-12](#) to this report presenting monthly articles written by team members Kris Lovekin and Mike Alfred featuring historically significant issues presented to the congregation during our 150th Year of Celebration. They are referenced herein as appropriate to amplify our broader 25-year summaries of focused activities.

DIGITIZING HISTORY

A small committee has been working throughout the year to organize and digitize the recorded history of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside. Led by Robert Nelson, this team has successfully stored a large quantity of our history in the cloud for both research and preservation. The photo shows stacks of boxes of historical records that are being researched piled in one of several closets. Digitized **Historical Church Directories**, as just one example, are shown herein in [Appendix C](#). The actual “library” of historical documents digitized that can now be accessed is, of course, much larger than this sample.



CELEBRATING THE 150 YEAR MILESTONE

Just like in years before, we celebrate our milestones with guest preachers, tours, food and a few speeches. We started it off with a sermon from the Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley on April 24, 2022. Jan (shown at left with Pat Beals) grew up in this church, became a pastor and was eventually our District Superintendent. She is one of several ministers who heard their call while they were at FUMCOR, including Gary Kriege, John Farley, Jan Ritzau Farley, Debbie Peck Pitney, Sue Lemly, Bill Harwell, David Youngblood, Jim Earhart, Val Weise, Kate Hunter and others.

Other seminary students served at the church while they studied for the ministry, including Scott Allen, Catie Coots, Harriet Wilkins, Sunny Lee and Mateo Mamea, among others. Throughout the year 2022 we have enjoyed several “marking events,” denoting the celebration. The culminating event is a lunch on Sunday, Oct. 16 please refer to [Appendix D](#) for the flyer listing **150th Calendar of Events** held during the year.

OUR SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS

The tone and heart of our ministry in the Methodist system is placed in the hands of our Senior Pastors as they guide the church. Appointed by the Bishop of the California-Pacific Conference, we ask a great deal of our pastors. We expect inspiring sermons, great administrative skills, grief counseling, hospital visits and a myriad of other tasks too numerous to mention, all while attracting new members.

It is an almost impossible task to fulfill, requiring something close to sainthood. But together, with the help of many members, these bases get covered. We quickly grow to love and care for them as well as they do for us, each with our own gifts, graces, and flaws. In 1997, just 25 years ago, their “flock” (our membership) stood at 681 people.

HISTORIC SENIOR PASTORS (1873 – 1996)

To find our historic list of pastors, go to [Appendix E](#).

RECENT SENIOR PASTORS (1997 – 2022)

Those serving during the most recent 25-year period are:

Rev. Robert Shuler 1985 -2003.

Rev. Shuler, known affectionately as “Bob” was a fifth generation of ministers in his family, coming to FUMCOR from Rolling Hills, CA. He served the longest of any in our history, some 18 years. Rev. Shuler’s voracious reading and his vast library of Christian perspectives were often evident in his sermons. Rev Shuler’s last six years overlap the first part of this 25-year summary.



Rev. Brian Kent 2003 – 2010.

Rev. Kent came to Riverside when membership had reached 331. He enjoyed a seven-year stint at FUMCOR following a missionary tour in Russia. Pastor Kent was our only pastor who also had great talent playing the marimba, and in his spare time, did outstanding woodworking. His joy in ministry was always prominently evident.



Rev. John Yoon 2010 – 2016.

Rev. Yoon served our church well for a 6-year period, coming to Riverside from a church in Yucaipa. Membership was 353 upon his arrival. His quiet, humble and thoughtful ministry was always well received. John’s ministry was greatly enhanced by his special wife, Mina, adding tons of joy, support and welcoming.



Rev. J.T. Kim 2016 – present. Rev Kim has led our congregation for the past 6 years, coming to us from his last assignment in National City when our membership was 281. His ministry has encompassed one of the most challenging tasks of all predecessors: defining how to minister during a long 2+ year Covid-19 pandemic. His Biblical messaging to the congregation and beyond is superb and is greatly enhanced by his technical abilities with the computer and use of video imagery.



SUPPORT STAFF

Support staff are indeed the heartbeat of all ministries and should be recognized in documenting our history. While the list is not comprehensive, we have included an attempt at a list of ministers, leaders, choir directors and some of the senior office staff in [Appendix F](#).



This photo of FUMCOR staff was taken in February 2020, just before the Covid Pandemic shutdowns.

L to R back row; David Lines, Karen Wilson, Dowan Lee, and Yvonne Flagg; Front Row: Jesse Ruiz, Becky Ruiz, Pastor J.T. Kim, Barbara Jo Wilson, and Stephanie Chandler

CENTENARIANS

We honor our elders, who have reached their 100th birthdays, loving and supporting our church faithfully. Members Bessie Ridley, Beulah Leake, Bill Wolter and Velma Wellborn all are still living past their 100th birthday. Dorothy McBride passed at the age of 103. We revere and honor them all.

OUR OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND FACILITY

MUSIC

One of the most outstanding programs at the First United Methodist Church has always been the whole gamut of its **Music Ministries**. It has been aided by the foresight of our predecessors who provided facilities with a magnificent organ to form a centerpiece and anchor for its choirs.



The **Organ** underwent a major repair and upgrade in 2006 with a congregational fundraising effort totaling \$70,000. Professional Organists, David Tinoco, Marc Longlois, David Lines, and Robert Phillips have each so very admirably pulled out all the stops during this recent 25-year period.

We also honor the legacies of notable prior wonderful organists of Larry King, Donna Young, Dorothy Hester, David Christensen, Frederick Bacon-Shone, and Melody Armstrong all privileged to serve in that capacity with our

Aeolian-Skinner organ. And we should not forget Manta (Love) North, the one and only organist since 1908, some 40+ years, 38 at the prior downtown church, till it was lost in the fire in 1947.

Please refer to [Appendix B-3](#) in this report presenting the October 2021 Messenger article featuring other significant organ history.

The **Aldersgate Chorale** faithfully sings weekly to enhance the worship experience using a mix of classic, traditional, and modern music. It has been led by Directors Kimberly Jeter-Lewis, David Tinoco, Alice Wymer, and Yvonne Flagg during this past 25 years. They built upon earlier musical leaders, David Young and Richard Steffen. They have each been remarkably effective in their demands of the members for musical expression to match the intent of the composers with glory to God. The choir presents a Christmas or Easter musical program, sometimes featuring all the choirs working together, as the featured element of the service.





The **Handbell Music Program** was revived and has been led by Gayla Lonsbery since 2007. The program includes both an adult (Allegro Ringers), Youth Bells, and children's (Chime Choir) group. They perform periodically with great appeal and skill.

An annual event featuring each of these groups in a June Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary concert has been their custom in recent years. A feature article by Mike Alfred from the May 2022 Messenger regarding some of the choir's early history is included in [Appendix B-10](#).

The Response, our praise band, got started in 2012 due primarily to the initial leadership of Wayne Speir. Now led by another founding leader, John Zeeb, the group has added a new musical dimension at selected services with a combination of 6 to 10 keyboard, guitar, drum, and vocal participants.



OUR PRESCHOOL - "FUMPS"

The Preschool opened its doors for the first time in September of 1949 to 24 children. The Church Library and what became "Mary's Kitchen" were originally our first classrooms and the playground extended from the youth patio to where the Koinonia room is. In those early years all preschool staff were First Church members. It began with directors Faith Ruddell, followed by Natta Lee Whiffin who directed for 35 years, Libby Gabel for 5 years, Lee Ann Salmon for 30 years and presently, Karen Wilson since 2016.

The wisdom of their leadership and a shared philosophy "Play is the Work of the Young Child" has anchored our preschool, called "FUMPS," in this Riverside community. In the mid-sixties the new wing was added, and the preschool now had 6 spacious, sunlit classrooms, a new play yard with sandboxes, slides, swings and a two-story climbing structure that looked like a rocket ship.



Carol Stalder (shown at left), retired in 2010 after serving 44 years. When she arrived, she was the youngest teacher and always climbed up the “rocket ladder” to rescue a child who had been exuberant at the start of the climb but refused to climb down! Over the years our student population climbed steadily until we had full enrollment. One young 3’s classroom, one older 3’s and four 4-year-old classrooms equaling 72 children per morning ranging in age from 2 years 9 months

thru 5.

The choice of a 2-, 3- or 5-day schedule remains to this day serving around 144 families each year. Thanks to a flexible staff, we try to meet the needs of our working families. Over the years we have added a Lunch Bunch program extending hours until 2 p.m., a 7:30 a.m. Early Drop Off and now a Late Pickup at 3:30 p.m.

Escalation of health and safety regulations and mandates imposed yearly from State licensing and local government and health officials, and the Safe Sanctuaries staffing demand increased costs of time and finances. In 1998 we added 2,500 square feet to our play yard to meet new equipment spacing and safety surfacing standards.

We celebrated the preschool’s 60th birthday in 2009 with past and present families and staff. Our 4’ chain link fence grew to a 6’ height as preschoolers became braver and better climbers and by 2012, to prevent nighttime visitors, the entrances to the preschool grounds were gated. In 2020 FUMPS reopened after the Covid shutdown and remained open thanks to the intense research and thorough planning of director Mrs. Karen Wilson and her staff of 17 experienced teachers.

Good stewardship of income from tuition fees and creative fundraising balanced against the rising costs of salaries, supplies, nutrition, continuing education, maintenance, insurance and quality program enhancements is reflected in our yearly budget line items. Thanks to the generosity of our church congregation and preschool families FUMPS has continued to make available scholarships each year to children who would benefit from a preschool program, but for financial reasons may not be able to attend. The school encourages staff belonging to professional organizations such as CRECEF, First Five and the Childcare Consortium which helps keep staff informed, motivated, creative and validated.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

The UMW has continued as one of the strongest Fellowship/Study/Mission focused groups in our congregation.

Over the past several decades UMW has had several titles to describe their ongoing mission. As of March 2022, they became known as **United Women in Faith** with a logo of “faith, action, sisterhood.” There will be a new look at their programming which addresses the situations of today’s women and youth. This summary will nonetheless, refer to them as the UMW, the name we knew for virtually all of this reporting period.

The officers have been elected yearly and typically serve two-year terms. The following presidents have served during this 25-year summarized period: *Velma Welborn, Phyllis Chandler, Lynn Ashworth, Jean Taylor, Glafira Tinoco, Paulette Bruggeman, Bertha Harris, Lisa Laird, Cindy Qualtieri.* Over this period, UMW has lost members via full time employment and deaths. The UMW education and programming comes from the National Office of UMW in the form of yearly program books, reading program books, and Response magazines.



For the past several years their budget has been typically around \$8,000 with approximately \$5,000 designated for local and wider missions.

In the last few years UMW has participated in the KIVA program, a worldwide finance program that loans small amounts of money to people who want to start or maintain a small business. The first loan was in 2017 for \$25 to “Perla” in Peru. She used her motor bike as a taxi and needed a loan to repair her motor. As the money is repaid, it is reused for other small loans. Some 56 loans have been made during this recent 5-year period. The picture shown represents a typical “customer” using a loan for a clothing repair or production project.



The money for this and other missions is raised by having a Bazaar every Fall. Weekly craft sessions through several months of the year provides fellowship and inspiration helping prepare for it. Our UMW became known for offering embroidered tea towels for sale making very nice Christmas gifts. Shown in the picture are Sonia Moore and Shirley Parks manning the tea towel booth. Unfortunately, embroidering is a diminishing talent and hobby, perhaps making the towels even more cherished for sale. Mission money is also raised by having bake sales, teas, fashion shows and rummage sales.

The members have planned, worked, traveled to meetings, lunched, chatted, and worshipped together for many years and are truly sisters in “faith, love, and action”.

An interesting article presented in our April 2022 Messenger, see [Appendix B-9](#), is included for further important memories and contributions of UMW activities.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Seventeen women attended the first Women's Retreat in 2006 at the Aldersgate Retreat Center, in Pacific Palisades. The theme was "Getting to Know God, Others, and Myself" led by Rev Diane Davis. Wow! What a great experience of sharing, bonding, and friendship. The retreat was repeated there annually through 2015. Here are the themes for these weekends:

- 2006 Getting to Know God, Others, and Myself, Leader Rev Diane Davis, 17 women
- 2007 My Inner Sanctuary, Leader Tina Carey, 31 women
- 2008 Friendships, Leader Jan Wiley, 34 women
- 2009 Creating Space for God, Leader Rev Karen Gardner, 31 women
- 2010 God the What, Leader Carolyn Bohler, 33 women
- 2011 Spring Cleaning of the Women's Heart, Leader, Pennie Spier, 27 women
- 2012 Finding the Amazing in Grace, 32 women
- 2013 Hatitudes, Discovering the attitudes that women wear, Leader Pennie Speir, 24 women
- 2014 The Five R's, Renew, Reflect, Relax, Receive, Rejoice, Leader Katherine Hunter, 27 women
- 2015 Garden Getaway, Leaders, Mary Ellen Burch, Loretta Cudney, Barbara Jo Wilson, 30 women
This was our last retreat at Aldersgate because they were not going to continue offering the facility. These retreats were so special. The ladies all participated in a Sunday Worship Service that always brought a warm, caring, closeness that led us to share our experiences in the "Mother's Day" Service. Retreats moved closer to home at the UCR Botanical Garden at this time and began our "One" Day Retreats.
- 2016 Simply Relevant/Chocolate Boutique, Leaders Mary Ellen Burch, Loretta Cudney, Barbara Jo Wilson, 51 women
- 2017 Sweet Life Café, Leaders Mary Ellen Burch, Loretta Cudney, 47 women
- 2018 Telling our Story, 30 women
UCR decided to not have outside UCR bookings at this point and retreats were curtailed.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

The UMM have pursued a focus in their various activities to promote programming and events which help each other know and understand our church members better and provide scholarship assistance to our youth. Speakers at their typical monthly luncheons in Fellowship Hall have been drawn largely from the congregation to highlight their unusual careers and/or Christian walk.

A long-term Men's Prayer Breakfast group was also promoted by the UMM with a weekly Thursday morning 6:30 AM breakfast/study group meeting at the church.

The group was initially formed in 1973 by Dave Mann and was continued with typically 8 to 12 evolving members; it was led by Bill Kerrick after Mr. Mann passed in 1985 having continued nearly 45 years until early 2018 when health and other circumstances discontinued the group.





Other maintenance and repair projects around the church campus and several local mission projects have also been supported by the UMM. Here we see the men completing the foundation for our lighted driveway entrance sign. Presidents between 1997 and 2006 were *Paul Roby, Bob Nelson, Bob Fitch, Howard Nolan, Bill Ashworth, Bill McInroe, Gary Bruggeman, Daryl Salmon and Matt Gorder.*

The men promoted collection of recyclable newspapers in their shed and bin at the rear of the parking lot for several years to raise funds for their projects but abandoned the process in 1999 when

convenient curbside recycling at every residence, mandated by state law, became prominent and dried up their bin collections.

The men's ongoing scholarship program was initially funded by the recycling efforts but moved on to a traditional Silent Auction of items (typically every May) made or donated by the congregation. The initial promotion of this Scholarship emphasis was championed by Paul Roby, a long-time member of UMM and professor at Riverside Community College. Sales were enhanced annually by great wood carvings from Bill Parks and outstanding woodworks from Dale Grout.

Money raised is used primarily to aid with scholarships adding to those from the **Fitch/Kriege** and the **Russell/Riley** Memorial Scholarship Funds established prior to this period. Selections are coordinated with and made by the **Education Committee**. The students of record, more than 40, who have received FUMCOR scholarships from these combined sources are listed below. Scholarships have ranged from \$200 to \$1,500 depending on the request, need and availability of funds. Those who have received a scholarship more than once as they progress through their education are noted with an asterisk (*).

**Gayla Sims, Emily Novick, *Michael Noble, *Tina Wymer, *Melissa Beals, *Kaley Weakly, *Adrienne Austin, Sione Tupou, Christian Tupou, Salote Ohai, Delphine Sims, *Kyle Weakly, *Ben Weise, Delphine Sims, *Samantha Bales, *Derrick Austin, Emile Noble, *Bobby Binford, *Jessica Weise, *Joshua Yoon, *Kelsey Weakly, *Julia Clark, *Christopher Yoon, *Brad Tomlinson, Annie Clark, *Alex Othon, Paloma Clark, Daniel Noble, *Cassie Lonsbery, *Erika Noble, *Emily Noble, Emma Speir, Sawyer Koenig, Emma Speirs, *Rose Musarra, *Alice Musarra, *Jennifer Walker, *Sophie Weiss, *Leslie Tomlinson, Kyle Grimes, Billy Gwira, Nana Gwira, and Sean Lomax.*

The United Methodist Men are proud of their contributions to this Scholarship program typically totaling between \$1,000 and \$1,500 each year during most of this period.

MISSIONS ... METHODIST HANDS UNITE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Missions and outreach are second nature to the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, with active members making plans during monthly meetings of Church and Society/Missions.



The church has served meals at homeless shelters, supported foster youth attending local colleges, offered support to refugees in the U.S., supported missions to the Philippines, and given enough money to Heifer Project International to fill multiple arks of farm animals. They have organized a speaker series on LGBT issues, hosted an Iftar dinner for the local Muslim community, and collected school supplies to distribute to local students.

One of the group's sources of money is a ministry called "His Helping Hands." Congregation members call in to request a home repair. Volunteers make the repair. And the recipient donates to the church

missions fund. Greg and Lisa Laird have organized that effort since it began in January 2017.

A major new initiative in recent years is the Alternative Gift Fair, held in early December, bringing the community together, as pictured here at our church. This large interfaith craft and gift fair supports nonprofits and charities, allowing the vendors to make money for a good cause and the buyers to come away with holiday gifts for friends and family. In 2010 Kris Lovekin teamed up with Dave Mowry, a former Methodist and a member of the Universalist Unitarian Church in Riverside, to move the fair from First Christian Church to First United Methodist, taking advantage of a larger parking lot and a big Fellowship Hall. This draws community members to the church.

Mission trips are a special highlight. In the Spring of 2007 Robert Nelson organized a trip to Gulfport, Mississippi. The team of 23 people volunteered to work on repairs to homes damaged 18 months earlier by Hurricane Katrina. They stayed at Trinity United Methodist Church and met many people traumatized by the devastation of the storm. Their assignments took them around the community to paint walls, install flooring, shore up outdoor structures and make other important repairs. The team even participated in a church barbeque event. In the



picture we see youth members Ben Weise and Aris Stepe working to shore up a shed in Gulfport, Mississippi damaged during Hurricane Katrina.



More recently, Lyn Knowles organized a trip to the United Methodist Committee on Relief Depot in Salt Lake City in 2019. The aim for the team of seven people: box and organize hygiene kits and school supplies for delivery after

disasters. It was hot work. The team also had a chance to visit the Latter-Day Saints thrift and grocery operations and to collaborate with a team from an Orange County Church.

The “Hunger Ministry” at FUMCOR provided hot meals to families living in homeless shelters through teams of church volunteers. It also distributed lunch bags to homeless individuals living on the street. This program began in 2003 and continued for approximately seventeen years. The early years were under the guidance of Sigmar and Debbie Hofmann and Micheline Scoggins, with the later years coordinated by Greg and Lisa Laird.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Members of the First United Methodist Church established Meals on Wheels (MOW) in 1972, working out of the FUMCOR kitchen.

Their mission was to ensure senior, disabled, and housebound neighbors were served with fresh, nutritious meals, a friendly visit and safety check and not left feeling alone. Seniors with this support could thus live independently in their own homes, where they want to be. The program has expanded over the years but continues operating with a distribution center located at FUMCOR; food preparation is now done elsewhere to meet the growing demand.



Riverside Meals on Wheels, Inc., now delivers hot and/or cold meals daily on 14 routes to housebound seniors, and to other individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities, residing in Riverside and surrounding communities. Meals are delivered by volunteer drivers between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. logging some 5600 miles each month. Menus



are formulated for senior nutrition, and the general diet is reduced salt, fat, and sugar. Menu options are offered for those with dietary restrictions, including diabetic and vegetarian meals. Daily contact with one of our volunteers is an added safety or security check and can often be the only contact our seniors receive for the day. We have a network of 145 dedicated volunteers who drive their own vehicles to deliver meals. Customers are charged a low-cost fee, with donations from the community and other fundraisers to lower the cost.

The Regional distribution center also temporarily occupied FUMCOR property in the Spring and Summer of 2022 while they were transitioning to new quarters. FUMCOR rented additional space to them during this period for their staff to work out of the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall and for their fleet of trucks parked in the parking lot. Our long-term symbiotic relationship no doubt helped to make this possible.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The work of the Trustees is a never-ending job. They carry responsibilities that go well beyond what this heading implies encompassing issues of safety and security and legal requirements of the Church. We will highlight a few of the issues enumerated by Brian Tomlinson, serving as its longtime chairman since 2008. Other members serving as chairman earlier in this period include *Bob Binford, Andy Plumley, Daryl Salmon, David Weise, Sharon Topham, and Bob Nelson.*

During this focused 25-year period the Education Building stairwells and upstairs decks were refurbished in 2007 and a new Fire Alarm System for the Sanctuary and Main Office was installed in 2008. A new FUMCOR sign was added in 2009 and the entire parking lot was resurfaced in 2011. The exterior of all buildings was repainted in 2014.

An ongoing review and updating of ADA (Disability) requirements in our restrooms as well as access ramps, where needed, have been installed incrementally over several years. Installation of more efficient lighting has been underway throughout the campus by Daryl Salmon for the last several years, seeking other volunteer help as needed. Part time campus security staff was added for the first time in 2015. Automated gateway entrances off Brockton Avenue were completed and the rear entrance to Palm Avenue closed in 2021 to improve security.

The Sanctuary sound system was improved, and a media control-center was added in 2021 for in-house screen-views and for livestreaming our services. Dan Lonsbery and daughter Cassie are shown faithfully working the controls (at right.)



New pew cushions were added in 2018. Three separate cell tower contracts were renegotiated as they came due providing a continued income source to the church.



Several Al-Anon groups were co-sponsored to meet on our campus.

Five beautiful Shamel Ash trees in our front lawn were felled in 2022 due to interior rotting and safety concerns. The trunk of the most prominent tree near Fellowship Hall has been carved into a commemorative cross and base memorializing our 150th anniversary. (shown at left)

Our fine facility was for a long while used as the office home of the District Superintendents as they served our regional area, a tradition that ended in 2014. For 12 of those years (ending in 1989), FUMCOR's own Mary Lou Kerrick was the excellent secretary and we felt specially connected to our leadership right on our own church property.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

FUMCOR member Ruth Halpenny initiated the Stephen Ministry program at FUMCOR in the 1980's. The program flourished at first but over time participation dwindled and activity was suspended.

In 2017 David Fraser, with the blessings of Pastor J.T. Kim and the Church Council, attended a weeklong Stephen Ministry Leader Training in Anaheim, California and was certified to be a Stephen Ministry Leader. Marie Madden who had recently moved to Riverside from her home in Texas to be with family and began attending FUMCOR, had been a Stephen Minister at her congregation in Texas. Marie took the leader training in Texas and was certified as a Stephen Ministry Leader. David and Marie conducted the 50-hour training for Stephen Ministers at FUMCOR which concluded in July 2017. Lynn Ashworth, Allison George, Greg Laird and Dowan Lee all completed the training.

Members of our congregation who are stricken with grief after losing a loved one, those recovering from illness or those suffering in any way receive regular, usually weekly, visits from one of our Stephen Ministers. Men serve only men and women serve only women. Stephen Ministers listen with compassion, provide both emotional and spiritual support, pray with their care receiver, and help them through their time of suffering. Stephen Ministers bring God's healing, love, compassion, and strength to those they serve. They bring Christ's light to those in darkness. Stephen Ministers serve God and act as messengers of God's grace and love.

Since 2017, nine members of our congregation have been supported through difficult times by their Stephen Minister. The length of time that the Stephen Minister is engaged with their care receiver is very flexible – there is no set standard – and the care receiver with the guidance of their Stephen Minister determine when to end their formal caring relationship.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Ministry has always been a huge part of FUMCOR'S history. A 1999 report written by Christine A. Jones, hired as the Director of Christian Education during Rev. Shuler's ministry, provides the basis for the first part of this report. She focused on the needs of both the children and teachers, which brought some very good results. Regular Christian Education meetings were held so that programs like "Learning Your Bible Class" for 3rd graders were continued.

In 2002, records showed that church school was offered for Pre-K (3 yr old's), K, 1st – 2nd graders, 3rd-4th graders from 10:20 – 11:00AM during worship service. Children's Moments became a part of the weekly worship service and still continues. The 5th – 6th grade students remained in the Worship Service and on the 1st Sunday of the month, all children were brought to the Sanctuary to participate in communion with their families.

The fifth Sunday of the month was designated as “Family Sunday” so only nursery and pre-K – K children went to classroom.

In 2003, Paster Sheila Kane promoted the children’s Family Programs. As recommended by our conference, FUMCOR adopted and implemented our first policy to make sure more than one adult worked with each class of children. FUMCOR continues to follow the Conference Guidelines to make sure that adults working with children are screened and trained. We want all children and youth to feel safe.

During Pastor Kane’s ministry, many new ideas, programs, and family events were introduced. When Janet Nolan’s family wanted to honor her, the Christian Education Committee used the memorial donation to create “Janet’s Corner” in the Club Ark Room, full of children’s books.

In 2006, the Education Committee, the Director of Sunday School and teachers purchased and used the Cokesbury curriculum. They introduced a 3 yr. program to establish continuity from year to year. This curriculum was used until 2020 when we offered other options.

The family ministries from 1997 to 2020 included Family Bowling Night, Movie Night, Parent’s Night Out, Parenting Classes, Hot Cross Buns, (Palm Sunday) Butterflies (Easter Sunday), Christmas programs, Game nights, Shoebox Mission and Stop Malaria. During the pandemic we offered Sunday school activities remotely. Most of all, during all these 25 years, we have been blessed with very supportive members who have graciously given donations and time to support a wonderful time for children’s Ministries.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is a regular summer tradition with fun-filled, God-based themes: “Polar Express,” “Beach Party,” “Fiesta: Getting Fired Up For Jesus,” “Avalanche Ranch,” “Camp Edge,” “Serengeti Trek,” and “Food Truck Party.” Average attendance for our VBS (prior to Covid) was between 80 and 120. Children attending were 3 yrs old – 4th Grade with 40 to 60 volunteers. VBS had to take a break in 2020, but smaller programs worked well in 2021, led by Pastor Mateo Mamea (pictured at right) and 2022 led by Barbara Jo Wilson.



BUILDERS

The Builders group began before this 25-year reporting period and was seen as way to get to know and socialize with fellow “middle aged” members of FUMCOR and those approaching retirement. It was a logical successor to those in the Fidelis Group who had become their generational Seniors. The group met monthly



for dinner throughout the year, typically in Fellowship Hall, followed by a program of interest, giving the members another chance to connect and learn about other facets of FUMCOR or the community. One of the unusual Builder’s programs discovered was in 2009 which had local owners of sheepdogs demonstrate their usefulness. Here you see President Bill McInroe present a check to ministerial student Val Weise in 2009. Like all age-targeted fellowships, the Builders organization came to an end in 2011 as their own members became elders.

THE OVER FORTY FELLOWSHIP GROUP

This group, known affectionately as the OFF Group, began in 1993 as an effort to focus on a middle age grouping of members somewhat past the young child-rearing phase of life. It was established to promote a Christian Fellowship experience, meeting typically once a month in member’s homes or backyards. All members in this broad age category were welcomed.

Potluck contributions centered around the host’s focus were enjoyed with a house full of chit-chat and laughter carrying on into the evening. Although the group had no official “officers” or structure, they generally looked to member Gail Murray to find and keep the list of where we would meet next.

Backyard barbeques of hot dogs or hamburgers (and even once with steak) were part of the norm. A cookie exchange near Christmas was also anticipated at meetings near Christmas. The group gradually became known as the “Way Over Forty” group and of course stopped its efforts during the Covid scourge.

One of the more memorable meetings was gathering at the Riverside Airport hangar for a hot dog and the works where Dave & Loretta Cudney kept their small airplane. If you got there early, you might even catch a ride in the plane with Dave. Here you see Dave with passenger Greg Laird (April 2010) ready to take off.



The OFF group, the Agape Fellowship and all small group ministries owe a lot to the warm traditions from those earlier in our church life, including the Arcadians, the Builders and Fidelis, among many others.

SCOUTING

Over the past 25 years FUMCOR continues its long tradition of chartering various scouting groups who share and help maintain our Scout House. While we have had various troops here (Girl Scout Troops # 362 and #1641 and a Cub Scout Pack 65) Boy Scout Troop #270 is still active.

Other associated branches still active are the BSA groups The Order of the Arrow, Foxfire, and Explorers. During the past two years the United Methodist Church (Cal Pac Conference), along with other denominations, have worked through the unfortunate situation with the BSA bankruptcy and other issues that put a stain on the fine work these organizations do with our youth. We will continue to support them as they provide a valuable service in helping our youth become contributing and upstanding members of society.

OUR FACILITY



No summary of FUMCOR would be complete without some reference and discussion about our church facilities. The beautiful Sanctuary, completed in 1955 anchors the campus surrounded by outstanding Education classrooms, a large Fellowship Hall with a stage and modern spacious kitchen.

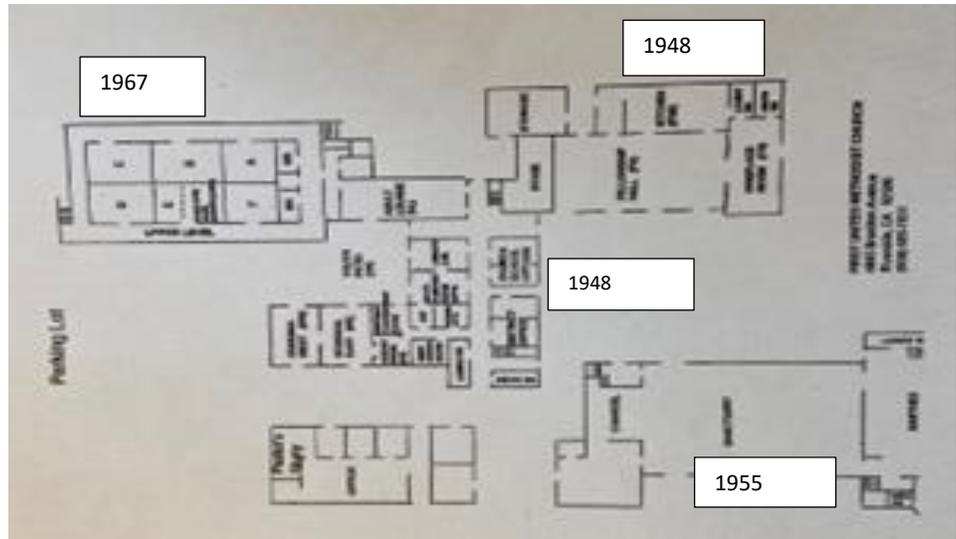
We have well computerized office space, choir practice rooms and many other related support facilities. The powerful organ installed when the sanctuary was built, and significantly remodeled and upgraded in 2006, is a coveted practitioner's instrument enhanced as well with an antiphonal set of pipes. The Bell tower carillon adds a melodic identity to our place in the City.



Beautiful stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary bring historical Biblical tradition to life. Recording cameras and technical equipment for audio-visual

displays and broadcasting capability have been added during the recent 2-year Covid pandemic lockdown. These latest improvements have clearly enhanced our facility and outreach capabilities.

A portion of the Education building completed in 1967 is used for a preschool. It typically brings some 72 youngsters ages 3 to 4 onto our campus five days a week. The campus is also blessed with a separate Scout house facility in the rear of our parking lot (built in 1948) allowing sponsorship and “weekly housing” of a Scout Troop.



Our large parking lot underwent major repair in 2011, pulverizing, regrading, compacting and repaving the entire area.

Incremental efforts to make facilities handicap accessible have been made throughout the campus. New street visible lighted signage was added in 2009. Gating controls were added in 2021 to reduce illicit traffic during the pandemic.



The beautiful red center aisle offsetting architectural simplicity is both a bride’s dream and congregational joy to participate in worship. Sanctuary seating is available for 650+.

In summary, at this 150th time of Celebration of Ministry in Riverside, this beautiful facility seems able to handle a membership of 1,500 or more.

Our plan is to fill it with members seeking the joy of a Christian life anchored in the church. That is our prayer.

OUR CHALLENGES

Like all churches, we are challenged with the numerous competing interests for Sunday morning, from youth sports to the digital world.

In Matthew 22, Jesus was asked, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: 'Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.' And the second is similar: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Our Mission, no doubt, is to remain excellent at both commandments where people see our church as a light that draws them into our circle of love, support and effectiveness in ministering to both physical and spiritual hunger. We are also working in concert with Wesley UMC in an effective homeless program called Project HOPE.

The international United Methodist Church has ongoing discussions about changing the Book of Discipline to accommodate same sex marriages and the ordination of LGBTQ individuals. While this is an issue nationally and internationally, our own church has not let this issue divide us.

The COVID-19 pandemic created the need for online services, and so we scrambled to broadcast our first online service via Facebook on Sunday, March 22, 2020. We continued every Sunday, as we added new equipment for better audio-visual production, mostly with the gracious expertise of the Lonsbery family.

In-person services returned more than a year later, on June 20, 2021, coupled with continuing livestreaming access via Facebook. Committee meetings work well on Zoom. Crucial services such as Meals on Wheels continued throughout the pandemic on our campus.

We were able to continue our missions work in creative ways, with parking lot events that kept us outside while we collected socks, or diapers, for use by Project HOPE. In December 2021 we held our Alternative Gift Fair outside, and regular visitors said they might even like it better outside.

In June 2022 we got back to using the Fellowship Hall as a gathering place for the Ashworth wedding reception on June 11 and the United Methodist Men's scholarship luncheon on June 12.

Annual operating budgets have ranged from \$443,273 at the beginning of this 25-year reporting period (i.e. 1997), to a high point of \$586,755 in 2020. The budget in our 150th year is \$575,912. The consumer price index has increased to 185% of the 1997 level during that same period.

Membership at FUMCOR has been on a decline since its peak in the late '60s as noted in [Appendix G](#). We face a reality of a small congregation occupying and maintaining a facility that could (and let's agree should) anchor a much larger one. Core leadership remains very strong and capable but challenged to find the formula for growth.

Enrichment and renewal efforts are a periodic focus. Pastor Kim and other ministers have typically held weekly Bible study and/or spiritual enrichment classes throughout this period.

At the beginning of 2022, the congregation renewed their commitment to fulfill the Great Commission.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. “

The plan is to reach out to the community to connect with those that are seeking and/or needing a spiritual life with Jesus. We have formed five teams to concentrate on different aspects of this endeavor. With God's blessing, we hope to be a conduit to a meaningful and prayerful life for our community.

In concert with this program, Pastor Kim has promoted discipleship action through prayer, A Breakthrough Prayer Initiative as outlined in a new book “Flood Gates” to shift the church culture into a spirit driven growing church.

CONCLUSIONS

As we read this report thoroughly, we wonder and pray for what comes next at FUMCOR. That chapter will be written by all of us, our good Christian friends who make up this congregation. We seek a transformational spirit to live out our purpose and are fortunate that Jesus Christ is on our side. The History Subcommittee goal has been to write our history as best we can reasonably research or recall. Our FUMCOR members will write the future.



APPENDIX A 125 YEARS OF HISTORY

A HISTORY OF THE FIRST CENTURY AND A QUARTER

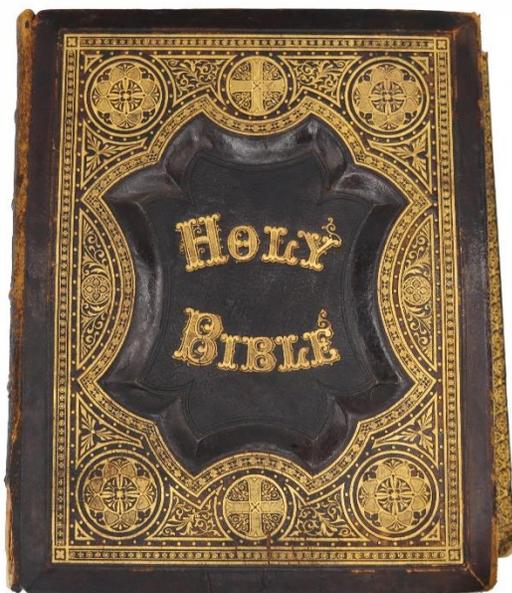
OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Note: This original summary in the FUMCOR files completed in 1997 had no pictures. The editing team for the 2022 / 150th celebration inserted helpful referenced photos and comments shown in reduced italic type.

For the following recorded history of the Riverside First United Methodist Church through 1972, we are indebted to Frank Ayers. Regarding its history from 1973 to the present, we are indebted to a 1993 church committee for its recorded story.

During the first 121 years, the destinies of First Church were capably guided by 34 different senior pastors. They were ably assisted by many dedicated associates and staff members. In addition, the many thousands of loyal members, which have made up the church family through the years, have been responsible for deeds of blessing and accomplishment that will be long remembered. The memory of these acts should not

develop a spirit of complacency --- rather it should provide an inspiration to strive toward even greater goals in the second century of our church life.



In April 1871, when a little village in California received the name of Riverside, a surveyor-minister, Rev. Alfred Higbie, preached a sermon in the office of the Southern California Colony Association. During subsequent months, seven Methodists arrived in Riverside. In the fall of 1872, these consecrated individuals requested that a San Bernardino minister, Rev. Will A. Knighten, form a Methodist Class. This was done on October 13, 1872, which became the founding date of the First United Methodist Church of Riverside.

In November 1873, Rev. Marion M. Bovard was assigned to the young Riverside Missionary Charge at an annual apportionment of \$300. Services were held in the schoolhouse on Sixth Street between Lime and Mulberry for

the first two years. On January 10, 1874, the Riverside First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at its First Quarterly Conference. The ten charter members included Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Packard, Mr. & Mrs. George D. Carlton, and Mr. C.W. Brown from the original Class started in October 1872. The other five charter members were Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Sheldon and their daughter Lois, Dr. Stephen Volk, and Mr. Daniel Battles. So far as is known, Mrs. J.H.W. Warren, born in Riverside to Daniel and Sarah Battles, was the last descendant of any of the charter members to be active in the life of the church in the later years of its first century. She took a very prominent part in church activities until the time of her death in 1962.

In September 1874, Rev. W.J. White replaced Rev. Bovard, but his year was finished out by Rev. J.L. Mann. In October 1875, it was decided that a church should be built. The Riverside Land and Irrigating Company donated one lot and the young congregation purchased a second one for \$75 – one third down and the

balance in two annual payments. This property was on Orange Street between Fifth and Sixth, where the Pacific Telephone Exchange now stands. In June 1876, the first church building was completed and dedicated. It was a brick chapel 24 by 36 feet in size and represented a tremendous effort for the 42 church members. Riverside's total population at this time was less than 500.



Original Brick Chapel at right (1876) and first frame Church Building at left (1882).

The pastor's annual salary in 1876 was \$680. In 1877, Rev. William Nixon began a three-year pastorate, which was followed by a one-year assignment for Rev. Charles H. Lawton. During the pastorate of Rev. M.F. Colburn, who began his ministry in 1881, a new frame church was built at a total cost of \$6,000 and dedicated on June 25, 1882. While Rev. A.W. Bunker was pastor during 1883 and 1884, the church grew to a membership of 154. Rev. Charles Shelling and Rev. Selah W. Brown each followed with one-year pastorates, then Rev. D.H. Gillan began a three-year assignment in 1886. Rev. William Sterling served from 1889 to 1891 and in 1891 Rev. W. Arthur Wright began a very

successful five-year ministry.

Both the Ladies' Aid and Women's Foreign Missionary Society were very active during these early formative years. In 1894, this society sent Miss Celesta Easton to India as a missionary. Other women's organizations formed during the 1890 decade were Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society, Women's Home Missionary Society, and Young Women's Home Missionary Society.

In 1893, thirteen members from Riverside First Church helped organize a new Methodist congregation in Arlington.

By 1892 membership stood at 422 and thought was given to enlarging the church building. The financial panic of 1893 caused a postponement of such plans. Rev. A.C. Williams came to the pastorate for one year in 1896 and then returned again in 1899 for two more years. Rev. B.C. Cory served the pulpit during the intervening two years. At this time, the main church building was enlarged at a cost of \$6,000 and dedication was held on February 5, 1899. The completed church was a combination of Romanesque and Gothic architecture with an auditorium measuring 54 by 66 feet. During 1899, illness caused Rev. Williams to make use of interim pastors Drs. George Cochran, F.E. Brush, and B.S. Haywood.



During 1901, Dr. B.S. Haywood was assigned to the pastorate and remained three years. A tribute to his ability was his return to Riverside First Church in 1916 for another five-year period. In June 1902, the first parsonage was completed just east of the Brick Chapel on Sixth Street at a cost of \$5,000. Later that year, Mrs. Lucia A. S. Hicks gave \$5,000 and the congregation provided another \$6,100 to construct an addition which was aptly named Hicks' Chapel. This building was dedicated December 20, 1903. It joined on the

north of the church auditorium and provided separate rooms for 29 Sunday School classes as well as kitchen, pantry, and social hall facilities. Church membership had grown to 867 by this time.

Rev. Edwin J. Inwood was pastor from 1904 to 1907, followed by Rev. Robert S. Fisher for two years. During 1907, 189 members from First Church served as a nucleus to form Grace Methodist Church in the eastern portion of Riverside. In 1909, Rev. A. W. Adkinson began a three-year ministry. During this year an Estey pipe organ was installed in the church sanctuary. Mrs. Manta Love North very capably served as organist from the installation until the organ was lost by fire 38 years later.

In 1912, Rev. L. D. Van Arman began a four-year pastorate. During this period the church membership grew to 872. In 1916 Dr. Benjamin S. Haywood returned for his second pastorate at First Church. He guided the organization through five difficult years which included the World War I period. More than 100 members served in the armed forces and the church provided a Church Home for men in nearby camps.

Dr. J. Lewis Gillies was appointed minister in 1921 and he served during a seven-year period of growth. Membership in 1922 was 1304. Sunday School attendance averaged 650 during 1924. In 1926, a Daily Vacation Bible School had an attendance of 700 pupils. The Missionary organizations were particularly active during these years, accounting for Mr. & Mrs. Leland Holland and Miss Lucille Trethway serving in China and Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Barber, Pauline Guthry, and Jessie Hooker in the home field. In 1928, Dr. Samuel Hughes began a four-year pastorate. By 1929 the church membership had grown to 1617.

In 1932, Dr. D. B. Snudden began a five-year pastorate which included the difficult depression years. But in spite of the depression, at the time of the 60th anniversary observance in 1932 the announcement was made that the church was entirely free of debt. However, in keeping with the unfortunate national trend, by 1936 church membership had dropped to 1206.

Dr. George A. Warmer was appointed to First Church in 1937. He was successful in kindling an interest in a new church building by inaugurating a building fund program in February 1940. Several years were required to raise the \$50,000 of this fund, as we were in the midst of World War II.

In 1940, Dr. Stanley S. McKee began an eight-year pastorate. During his first year, the church men's organization (Rangers) constructed a House of Youth adjacent to the church. In 1944, a folder with pictures of the church activities was sent to all members in the armed services. As new church building plans were considered, it was decided to locate away from downtown Riverside. In February 1945, the first \$50,000 toward the building program had been raised, and in November of that year, a thirteen-acre site was purchased on Brockton Avenue between Ramona Drive and Homewood Court for \$20,000. By January 1946, another \$60,000 had been added to the building fund. At that time, architects Allison and Rible were selected to eventually prepare plans for a Fellowship Hall, Education Unit, and Sanctuary.

On February 5, 1947, a disastrous fire completely destroyed all of the church facilities except the old original Brick Chapel and the new House of Youth. Rental arrangements were made with the Seventh Day Adventist Church for the use of their facilities for Sunday School and Church services. Other of the church organizations met at various locations in the city. During the summer of 1947, both the church and parsonage properties were sold, and in September of the same year, ground was broken for a new parsonage at the corner of Chapman Place and Brockton Avenue. In November, a gift of \$55,000 was received from the estate of Charles F. Marcy. This amount, added to the existing building fund and proceeds from fire insurance and sale of property, resulted in approximately \$300,000 being available for the anticipated new construction and furnishings. A 75th anniversary banquet was held at the Calvary Presbyterian Church on November 14, 1947.



The new parsonage was dedicated by District Superintendent Dr. Kenneth L. Danskin on February 28, 1948.

Seven days later a bid of \$226,934 was accepted for construction of the Fellowship Hall and Education Units. Ground-breaking ceremonies followed quickly on March 21. At Conference time in 1948, Dr. Calvin E. Holman began a three-year ministry.

On December 19, 1948, the first services were held in the new Fellowship Hall. Following completion of the Education Building,

dedication services for the two new, debt-free units were held on May 15, 1949, with Bishop James Baker presiding.



Dr. Stanley McKee occupied the pulpit the evening of dedication day. In September 1949, a weekday Nursery School was started for pre-school age children on a self-supporting basis. There were 1457 members in 1949.

In 1950, a 'Forward in Fifty' campaign resulted in more than \$110,000 being pledged by 656 individuals and families toward the building of a

Sanctuary. Dr. Harry C. Culver served as interim minister during May and June of 1951. In 1951,



Dr. Edwin E. Reeves was appointed to the pastorate, which he ably filled for eight years. By the latter part of 1952, the membership had grown to 1907 and double sessions were instituted for both Church services and Sunday School.





With building costs rising rapidly, it was decided that the Church should borrow \$75,000 to add to funds on hand to permit an early start on construction of the Sanctuary. On May 19, 1954, a bid of \$237,335 was accepted for the Sanctuary. This did not provide for the tower, stained glass windows, pipe organ, or furnishings. District Superintendent Dr. Fletcher Scharer conducted ground-breaking ceremonies on June 6, 1954. During the fall of 1954, a 'Forward in Faith' campaign resulted in \$144,304 being pledged to aid the building fund. On Sunday, **September 11, 1955, the first service was held in the new Sanctuary** and November 21, Bishop

Gerald Kennedy conducted the consecration service. Membership at this time was 2109.

During the same month, a very functional **Scout House** was erected for the church sponsored Troop 3 in the parking lot area, making use of the considerable volunteer labor and material. A program of encouraging memorial gifts for the new Sanctuary provided for stained glass windows and many other structural items as well as furnishings.



On Easter Sunday 1957, a new Church School attendance record of 1011 was established. During this year First Church, acting in the role of 'big brother,' had 78 of its members aid in the formation of the Wesley Methodist Church on Arlington Avenue in Riverside. The first service was held by Rev. William McKinney on September 22. Also in this important year, the 85th anniversary of First Church was celebrated. On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24, 1957, the new Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ was used for the first time, being consecrated by District Superintendent Dr. Fletcher Scharer.

When membership reached 2321 in 1958, a decision was made to look forward to the eventual expansion of the church facilities, at the proper time, by the addition of more Church School rooms, Youth Building, tower, lounge, and additions to the pipe organ. The following year when **George A. Boss** began a four-year ministry, the membership reached 2416. In February 1961, through the special efforts of the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild, the remaining debt on the Sanctuary was cleared. A mortgage-burning ceremony was held on Mother's Day, May 14.



Mr. & Mrs. Lewis P. Alabaster made a gift of the tower for our new Sanctuary as a memorial to their parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis Alabaster and Dr. & Mrs. Cyrus Newton Callander. The beautiful **95-foot tower was completed in 1961** and the same donors also provided a Mass-Rowe Symphonic Carillon of 74 bells. The beautiful music from the Carillon was first heard on Christmas Sunday. On the following Sunday, December 31, Bishop Glenn Randall Phillips conducted the dedication service for both the Sanctuary and tower.





Rev. William H. Hobbs began a four-year pastorate in 1963. In November of this year, First Church again assisted in the formation of a new neighboring Methodist Church. This latest one was in Rubidoux. In the next two years, the membership of First Church reached 2540. In 1965, a stewardship campaign was launched in order to permit starting the previously considered building expansion program for the church. In 1966, a master plan was adopted, and it was decided to borrow \$140,000 to add to the available building fund and pledges to permit realization of the plan. A bid of \$322,447 was accepted and on Sunday, October 16, 1966, a ground-breaking service was held for the additions to Church School and Administrative area facilities. In May 1967, the excellent new and remodeled quarters were declared ready for occupancy.



Dr. Kenneth P. Miller was assigned to the pastorate at the 1967 Conference. On December 17 of this year Bishop Kennedy held a special service to consecrate the recently completed building additions. On Sunday evening, **March 24, 1968, a new Antiphonal Organ** in the balcony was formally dedicated. This instrument, which completed the Sanctuary pipe organ, was a gift to the church from the Marlan Bourns family. In April 1968, the church name became officially The Riverside

First United Methodist Church. Also in this year the Koinonia Room was named. W. Pierce McCoy said “Koinonia is the spirit of generous sharing as contrasted with the spirit of selfish getting.”



Parking lot walls were built in September of 1968.

With the completion of the church property additions, programs and activities were instituted to permit using them to the fullest extent. The years 1969 and 1970 saw much dedicated effort successfully expended by church staff and members in working toward this goal. In 1969, District Superintendent Frank Matthews, presided over our first Charge Conference as First *United* Methodist

Church of Riverside.

Through the years First Church members have been inspired by fine Lenten speakers. In 1969 the Rev. Maxie Dunham was a contributing speaker. During 1971 much consideration was given to preparing a program to carry through the entire Centennial year 1972. Special events were planned-all aimed at the principal goal of commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Riverside First United Methodist Church which took place on October 13, 1872.

From its erection, lovely stained glass windows contributed to the beauty of the sanctuary. In 1970, the **Amy Reeves Memorial window, Madonna and Child**, was ordered and by 1972 it was completed and dedicated. Early in 1972, a pocket size Centennial Calendar was provided for church members. Special highlights of the year included a three-day Lay Witness Mission in February. Special Lenten Dinner programs were arranged for five Wednesday evenings before Easter – each honoring one of the neighboring Methodist Churches mentioned in this history. Special musical programs were scheduled for April and May and a dramatic historical presentation was set for May. Family pictures were scheduled to be taken in May and June for a Centennial Pictorial Church Directory.



Ella Kriege was honored with a plaque and a reception. She had assisted our pastors for eight and a half years helping to bring 1518 members into the church. A vital program in 1972 was the beginning of Meal on Wheels. It expanded through the kitchen facilities of Riverside Community Hospital and Parkview Hospital and performed great service to the entire community. The church nursery school was twenty-five years old.

The chancel was renovated, the furnace repaired, and a repair of the fountain took place. During the summer and fall, former ministers were scheduled as guest preachers for six Sundays. The Centennial Banquet was set for October 13, 1972, with Dr. Gordon Michalson as guest speaker. The Los Angeles area Bishop and Bishop James Armstrong were invited as guest preachers for two Sundays in October. Drama programs and special music, including *The Messiah*, were scheduled to close out the Centennial year and the Advent period in a most fitting manner.

The chancel renovation continued into 1973. Major improvements to the facility were the installation of folding doors in Fellowship Hall and lights on the church patio.

Pastoral leadership was expanded in 1974 with the coming of Ben Youngblood as a associate and George Sweeny as minister to the elderly.

Constant improvements and building at First Church are evident as we read of the tower lighting, the sanctuary lighting, the installation of a Honeywell alarm system, and the debt-free completion of the Education wing in 1975 and 1976.

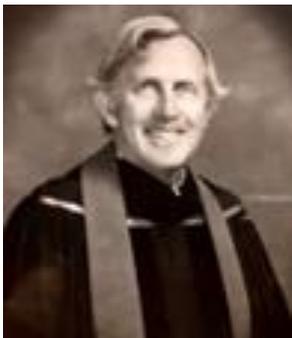
In June of 1975, Dr. Leslie Sayre was a guest preacher, further enhancing the line of fine people invited to undergird the preaching of assigned pastors. A practical experiment in 1976 was the purchase of a sixteen-passenger van for use by various groups and organizations. Technical problems brought the era of the van to a close several years later.



The pastorate of Dr. Miller ended in 1977 and that of the **Rev. David H. McKeithan** began. It was at this time that Pacific Homes, a Methodist retirement home organization, experienced a severe financial crisis. First Church joined the Conference-wide call for help to save Pacific Homes. David Young, choir director for twenty years, and Dorothy Hester, organist for sixteen years, tendered their resignations.



The landing and steps on the north door of the narthex were added in 1977 and Fellowship Hall was furnished with green “comfy” chairs soon afterwards in 1978. The exterior of the church was painted in 1979. Helping hands were extended to a **Vietnamese family, the Quachs**, in 1979.



Severe health problems necessitated the resignation of Rev. McKeithan in December of this same year. He was succeeded by the **Rev. Fred Coots** in January 1980.

Bishop Charles Golden retired in 1980 and Bishop Jack M. Tuell was elected to preside over the Pacific and Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Tuell preached his first sermon within this Conference from our pulpit.

In 1981 the Pacific Homes bankruptcy status was dismissed when the committee’s very comprehensive decision was accepted. More lighting was installed in the parking lot and the Education office and church office were painted. Sierra Service Projects were at a peak during the 80’s. New sanctuary carpeting was given by John and Dellours Hocking in memory of John’s parents.

Both Fellowship Hall and the church kitchen were renovated in 1982. First Church hosted the first Walk to “Emmaus” conducted in Southern California, guided by The Rev. Robert Wood. On March 13, 1983, Pansy Squires celebrated 50 years as a member of the church choir. The Easter banners were designed and constructed by Ruth Cameron. They have graced the sanctuary front walls each Easter season ever since. Also in this year, Susan Lemly joined the staff as coordinator of college-age ministries.

The 200th anniversary of the Methodist Church was celebrated throughout 1984. A special committee planned and directed First Church’s observances which highlighted historic moments of Methodism. A plaque commemorating the use of former First Church bricks (6th and Orange building) in making the planter outside the Education wing was installed and dedicated.



In June of 1985, the **Rev. Robert P. Shuler, III** and the Rev. Lynn Stipulkosky were appointed to First United Methodist Church of Riverside as Senior and Associate Pastors, respectively. At this session the newly organized California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church became official. The Rev. Dr. Mark Trotter conducted a course on Dietrich Bonhoeffer on September 25. In this year

missions to Mexico were initiated, the Tongan Congregation shared the facilities, live nativity scenes on the front lawn were displayed, and the Youth Projects Corps continued.

Hiking into Camp Sturtevant became a favorite youth function, and the hike of 1986 was no exception. A series of Sunday evening forums was popular, and in 1987, Dr. J. Wesley Robb spoke for two Sundays concerning Christian ethics.

The new building for the I Care Shelter was dedicated in 1988. The Commission on Missions solicited support for Heifer Project. Susan and Winnie Lemly, beloved members, moved to San Clemente seeking a better climate for Susan's nurture.

Early in 1989, the Koinonia and Fellowship Hall heating systems were installed, an Adult Lounge would be in future plans. After a 1 ½ year study, the Long Range Vision Committee presented its report. June brought Lynn Stipulkosky's assignment to a church in San Diego and the Ramona parsonage was sold. Pastor David McGarry joined the staff as Visitation Pastor.



Soon to follow was the sale of Chapman parsonage in 1990. The new edition of the Methodist Hymnal was published and 409 of these new hymnals were purchased both as gifts by individuals and through the church budget. The church office was painted and the new heating and air conditioning were placed in the Education wing. Dr. and Mrs. Dale Heath conducted a Bible seminar.

Mickey Charleston came to direct the Christian Education program.

The work of the entire church office was enhanced in 1991 when a fine computer system was put into operation. Judson Studios reinforced the sanctuary's stained-glass windows during this year.

The decade of the 1990's was one of new and renewed fellowship groups. In its 1991-1992 year, the Builders Fellowship invited the members of Fidelis to join their fellowship and provided funds for re-energizing the outside lighting in the area of the church office building. The Council on Ministries, in 1992, sponsored the formation of a new fellowship group for those people 20-40. They named themselves the Agape Fellowship. Improvements that year included repaving the parking lot and the installation of a railing outside the music room door. 1992 also marked the North Park feeding program's fifth year of service to Riverside's hungry.

Bishop Jack Tuell retired in June of 1992 and Bishop Roy I. Sano was elected to lead the California-Pacific Conference. The Scout House with its adjacent two acres of land was placed on the real estate market.

In February 1993, our new Stephen Ministers were dedicated. Taylor University singers inspired the congregation in the March 28 worship service. That same year also saw the beginning of the Over-Forty Fellowship (the OFF group).

In 1994, the Trustees worked to bathe the entire church facility in lights. A new committee was formed too – Visions 2000 – with the hope that the vision they would develop would carry the church into the new millennium.

On February 1, 1995, Melissa Crawford-Moke joined the church staff as Christian Education Director. Later that year we had a Fellowship Carnival, coordinated and supported by the efforts of many church members and committees. The Fellowship Carnival has become an annual event.

After her ordination in June 1996, Rev. Crawford-Moke was appointed by the conference and welcomed by the congregation as Associate Pastor. In July of 1996, Pastor Shuler asked that the church consider a new organization of committees more suited to our individual congregation. Through all the attention given to the church's physical complex, the life blood of First United Methodist Church of Riverside was the celebrations of the Christian Year, the mission outreach, the widespread study programs, the pastoring of children, youth, and adults, the ministry to the sick and dying, the challenge to keeping the Faith alive, and the nurturing of Christian fellowship.

APPENDIX B 150 YEARS || PAST TO PRESENT

The articles in Appendix B were a series called 150 Years || Past to Present written by Kris Lovekin and/or Mike Alfred and published in the Messengers between August 2021 – July 2022.

APPENDIX B-1 JESSIE HOOKER GAVE A WINDOW TO HONOR HER PARENTS

150 Years || Past to Present

August 2021 FUMCOR Messenger

A vandal (likely someone in despair) threw a rock at the church, and it went through one of the stained-glass windows on the patio side of the church. This window depicts the prophet Jeremiah with a scroll of prophecy and chains around his wrists. Fortunately, the rock did not hit any of the figure of Jeremiah, which will make it easier to repair. But now that our attention is on it, let us remember how this gift came to the church.



Miss Jessie Hooker, an active member of the church, dedicated this window to her parents, Charles A. Hooker and Sarah Hooker. As Jessie Hooker never married and had no children, her will specified that her entire estate would go to the First United Methodist Church. That included her house.

“She died in April 1973 when I was nine,” remembered Mike Alfred, who was confirmed at the church a few years later. “Her home on Ramona Drive became the second parsonage.”

“She died in April 1973 when I was nine,” remembered Mike Alfred, who was confirmed at the church a few years later. “Her home on Ramona Drive became the second parsonage.”

Rev. Swedenburg and his family lived there briefly, and then Rev. Ben Youngblood and his family moved in July 1974. “Their older son Neal and I were exactly the same age and quickly became friends,” Mike Alfred remembered. “I was often in the

house and Miss Hooker still had a ‘presence,’ especially with church members who knew her.”

He said the room where the children slept had been the “bird room.” Miss Hooker would leave the

windows open so the birds could come in for seed and she could enjoy their singing. A generous spirit, indeed.



3920 RAMONA AVENUE WAS THE SECOND PARSONAGE OF THE CHURCH. IT WAS DONATED BY JESSIE MAY HOOKER ALONG WITH HER ENTIRE ESTATE.

Jessie is buried with her parents at Evergreen Cemetery. There is a prominent marker. She was a prolific writer and she left scrapbooks of her own writings and newspaper clippings about Biblical archeology to the church. Eventually the church sold “Hooker House,” (we never got tired of this joke.) Proceeds helped to fund church operations.

APPENDIX B-2 UMYF AT FUMCOR

150 Years || Past to Present

September 2021 FUMCOR Messenger

"A tiny drop of water dies all alone. But an ocean of love will overcome." -- Jim Strathdee

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is an ocean of love at our church, a place for young people searching for their life's purpose. With service projects, beach trips, love feasts, summer camp and planning for youth Sunday services, young people polish their social skills, their leadership skills and their faith philosophy. In other words, they find their place in God's world.



Valerie Williams, Kris Williams, John Alfred, John Schirmer, Mike Alfred and the famous gold church van. Taken late 70's.



Dave Snelgrove, Jeff Ashworth, Todd Pendergrass at a church youth trip to Sierra Service Project.

First UMC Riverside has had many active UMYF groups across the eras. The youth room looks about the same, sprinkled with donated couches, a pool table and murals on the wall. My father, Richard Williams, knew the group by the name Epworth League when he arrived in Riverside about 1950. But in 1968, the name changed to UMYF. That year, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, calling themselves "United Methodists."

In my era in the '70s and '80s, we raised money for mission projects with car washes and newspaper drives, rock-a-thons and rent-a-youth auctions. We had our own youth newsletter, a planning committee to make sure we had things to do each Sunday, short trips to retreat centers in the mountains and long trips across the country (The Bicentennial Mission Tour in 1976.) We raised money all year to work for a week each Summer with the Sierra Service Project, weatherizing homes so native people would have more protection from the elements. We showed the love of God to others with our actions, like visiting a convalescent home with youth leader Jan Ritzau, who later became a Methodist Minister and our District Superintendent. And of course, we all had to go to Summer camp at Wrightwood and Colby.

Mateo Mameo was our youth leader in 2021 and half of 2022. He started building a UMYF program on the traditions of the past, as well as on the possibilities of the future, so that our youth will not feel alone. We want them to have an ocean of love to help them overcome the obstacles of life. We are here to support the youth of the church.

APPENDIX B-3 ONE ORGAN LOST TO FIRE; ANOTHER INSTALLED ON BROCKTON AVE

150 Years || Past to Present October 2021 FUMCOR Messenger

Starting in 1909, The First Methodist Church on Sixth Street had an impressive two manual Estey organ, played by Manta Love North. She was the wife of Alfred North, a nephew of Riverside founder John Wesley North. She remained the church organist for an astonishing 41 years. For decades after that she remained an active member of the church family.

That church burned in 1947, along with the organ. Manta North played a small electric organ while the Methodists built on Brockton Avenue. She stayed in Riverside and died at the age of 98, having raised three children. She still has a granddaughter in Riverside to this day.

The organ we use today was consecrated on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1957 during the tenure of organist Donna Young.

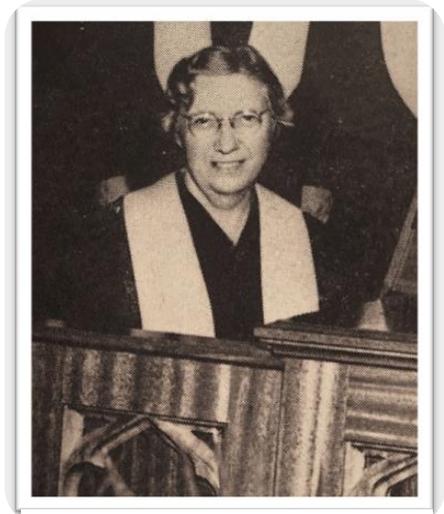
Built by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts, it contained 1,441 pipes in 27 ranks and 22 speaking stops. The Abbott and Seiker Organ Builders completed the organ in 1965, adding 1,094 pipes in 20 ranks and 16 stops.

The Bourns family of Riverside funded the addition of an Antiphonal division, which Abbott and Seiker installed in 1967, adding 427 pipes in 7 ranks, and 5 stops. The total size of the completed organ was 2,967 pipes in 54 ranks and 44 stops.

In February of 2006, after an extensive fundraising campaign led by Robert Nelson, FUMCOR modernized the console.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, the church celebrated the renovated instrument with a service and a concert featuring some of FUMCOR's organists: Dorothy Hester, David Christensen, and Marc Longlois.

In 2021, organist Robert Phillips introduced a Halloween organ concert, a new concept at FUMCOR that turned out to be popular. In 2022, he played an anniversary organ concert featuring the work of Charles Wesley and others. The concert, "Firebrands and Revolutionaries: 150 Years of Organ Music," also paid tribute to the founding patriots of the early United States. In both cases, the concerts helped raise funds toward the costs of organ maintenance.



*Manta Love North, our first organist.
She played for 41 years.*

Organists of the Church Through the Years

Manta Love North	1909 to 1950
Larry King	1952 to 1957
Donna Young	1957 to 1960
Dorothy Hester	1960 to 1977
David Christensen	1977 to 1984
Frederick Bacon-Shone	1984 to 1990
Melody Armstrong	1990 to 1995
Marc Longlois	1996 to 2016
David Lines	2016 to 2019
Robert Phillips	2019 to present

APPENDIX B-4 OUR BEAUTIFUL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

150 Years || Past to Present

November 2021 FUMCOR Messenger

Story by Kris Lovekin and Mike Alfred

Photos by Daniel Lonsbery

Our gratitude to Brian Tomlinson and Adamm's Glass of Santa Monica for the repair and restoration of the Jeremiah window, (shown on left) which was damaged by vandalism during 2020. Most of the stained-glass windows were created by Connick Associates of Boston and installed in 1955.

The windows along the patio side aisle are Old Testament Prophets. On the driveway side are New Testament Prophets. The upper, or clerestory, windows represent the Life of Christ. As we look to Advent (Sunday November 28 to Christmas Eve) take a moment to look at the first two windows.

The Annunciation window shows the angel Gabriel imparting to Mary that "Nothing is impossible for God." (Luke 1:37) As the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon her, Jesus' journey on Earth begins.

The Nativity window (shown on right) is unique in the series with the star bursting the background as Heaven touches Earth. "When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." (Matt. 2:10)

Palm branches symbolize hope and cheer while sheltering the family. There are also twelve pairs of bells ringing out the good news. This window was given "as a memorial dedicated to God and the church by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Webb and children." The engineering firm founded by Mr. Webb is still a thriving enterprise in Riverside.



APPENDIX B-5 MADONNA AND CHILD WINDOW DEDICATED TO AMY REEVES

150 Years || Past to Present

December 2021 FUMCOR Messenger



One of the newer sanctuary windows is the Madonna and Child, located on the balcony staircase near the chapel. It was designed by the Judson Studios of Pasadena and dedicated on Nov. 19, 1972, as a memorial to Amy Reeves, wife of Dr. Edwin E. Reeves, senior pastor from 1951 to 1959. The congregation held the first worship service in our current sanctuary during their tenure, on Sept. 11, 1955.

Dr. Reeves was guest preacher here on the Sunday the window was dedicated as part of the Centennial Celebration. Amy Reeves died three years before, and the congregation started a memorial fund.

Longtime member Pat Beals remembers that in the Reeves' time at First Church, they were better known as "Ed-and-Amy," like it was one long word.

The Messenger of that week describes her service: "The beautiful design in stained glass of the "Madonna and Child" has been given by Dr. Reeves and friends to express the deep love and gratitude

for the influence of her life as she served with her husband during the eight years of his ministry in this church. Hers was a quiet ministry, yet her life touched many people who felt the blessing of her presence among them. She was beloved by all who knew her."

APPENDIX B-6 THE FIRE

150 Years || Past to Present

January 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

“When fire leaped from the towering roof of the First Methodist Church on a February morning in 1947, crowds of people came running from all directions to the corner of Sixth and Orange streets. The belfry of the church was on fire with flames visible for blocks.” -- Joan Hall, from the book, “Riverside’s Invisible Past.”

Spectators saved some of the furnishings. Congregation members grabbed important documents from the office. But eventually, the First Methodist Church sanctuary at 3535 Sixth Street in Riverside had to be declared a total loss. The cause? A fire caused by faulty electrical wiring.

At the time of the fire, the sanctuary had gothic spires, two entrances and a large high-ceilinged

amphitheater big enough to seat 600 people in oak pews. It had an organ and a choir loft and a parsonage for the pastor. The cathedral glass windows let light filter in from the west.

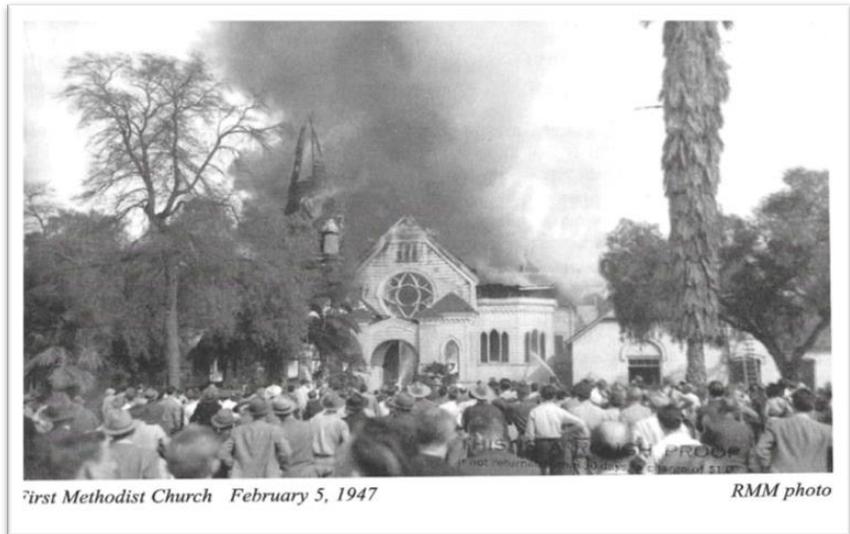
The church faced Sixth Street, near Orange Street. Expanded and renovated several times, it housed an active congregation that grew from a few dozen people who first met in a one room schoolhouse back on Oct. 13, 1872. It was one of the first church services held in the city.

In October 1882, the Methodists rang a bell that could be heard all over the city. It was 1,200 lbs., cast in the Clinton Meneely Bell Company of New York. During an expansion project, the congregation sold the bell to the City of Riverside for use as a fire alarm.

During the 1940s, even before the fire, the congregation began to plan for a new church on Brockton Avenue. Some of the most important papers saved from the original church were the drawings for the new church campus, which started with the Fellowship Hall, added the sanctuary and then added an Education wing.

Bricks salvaged after the fire became part of a planter near our current Education building on Brockton Ave.

And that loud peeling bell? It ended up in the peace tower on the top of Mt. Rubidoux. It is still there today.



First Methodist Church February 5, 1947

RMM photo



Inscription on the bell

G. Wenzel photo

|

APPENDIX B-7 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY IN BLACK AND WHITE

150 Years || Past to Present

February 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

As we mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of our congregation, we must acknowledge that the first organizers of our church were white Methodists operating in a segregated environment. Black Methodists were more likely to join the AME Allen Chapel in Riverside, which opened in 1875.

But that was not the Methodist church that John Wesley had imagined when he founded the Methodist movement. He worked to create a more racially unified church. In 1790, just before Wesley died, black people made up 20 percent of the 57,631 American Methodists, drawn by a clear anti-slavery mission.

But it didn't last. Just a few years after Wesley died, a black man named Richard Allen walked away from his Methodist church in Philadelphia, describing how white church leaders mistreated black parishioners, asking them to sit in the balcony, or to take communion after the white church goes.

Eventually, Allen formed a new congregation: Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and all across the nation Sunday mornings became what the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. called, "the most segregated hour in America."

But there were still signs of hope in Riverside, a community founded by abolitionist John Wesley North, who left the south and sought to create a colony based on equality.

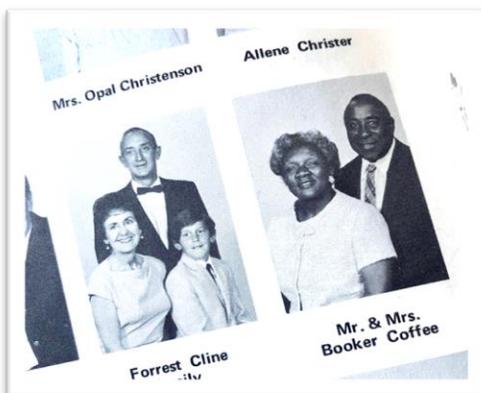
One story from the FUMCOR history files comes from the 1950s. First UMC Riverside formed a partnership with Second Baptist Church of Riverside, an all-black congregation, to help raise money for their sanctuary. The effort stemmed from a request from George Sanders, who was FUMCOR's head custodian for 32 years and a beloved figure, along with his wife Christene.

The text of a 1970 proclamation recognizes the longstanding friendship: *"The First United Methodist Church has willingly given time, labor and money in helping build the Second Baptist Church located at 2911 Vine Street in the City of Riverside. The congregation, pastor and officers shall be forever grateful for a job well done. What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others lives forever."*

When the Methodists merged with the Evangelical United Brethren and in 1968 changed the denomination's name to "United Methodist," FUMCOR started to look more racially integrated. Civil rights marches and sit-ins were common, and the times were politically chaotic. The military was integrated, Rev. King called for more church integration and some black families set their sights on First Methodist.

Eunice and Booker T. Coffee joined the church in January 1967, transferring in from the AME Allen Chapel in Riverside. Eunice was a schoolteacher and served as the president of the Riverside chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. She was one of the first black women to be inducted into the board of the Riverside Y.W.C.A.

Booker T. Coffee was a veteran of World War II and celebrated along with his brothers who all served in various branches of the military. When the Coffees arrived in Riverside, they became influential in the black community. We don't know exactly why they chose First UMC, but we know that they stayed connected to the AME church in Riverside and continued to attend social events there. Booker T. Coffee was active in the United Methodist Men. "In 1982 and 1983, we attended Annual



Conference in Redlands," remembered Mike Alfred, who was the youth representative to the conference in those years.

Some black families stayed with the AME congregations, and some followed the call to intentionally integrate. Dani Johnson-Cork (pictured at right), a member since 2008, said that her family could be counted among those who returned to the United Methodist Church with a purpose in mind.



Her mother was raised in the AME Zion Church in Birmingham, Alabama and Dani remembers that she and her sister Angela were both baptized in an AME church. But their mother, F. Miriam Harris-Johnson, wanted her daughters to go to school and to church in places where they would be surrounded by people of all colors and backgrounds.

In California, they attended the Pacoima First United Methodist Church, the First United Methodist Church of Simi Valley, and the Moreno Valley United Methodist Church. "They were comfortable being in a United Methodist setting," Dani said of her parents. "They left Birmingham and came to California because they did not want the segregated scenario. They wanted to interact with other cultures." Dani, Angela and their late father Edward arrived at FUMCOR in 2008 and she said she is glad to see the congregation get more and more diverse each year.



When Mack and Elizabeth Davis (at left) arrived at FUMCOR in 2015, it was quite literally the doors and entrances that drew them in. Both Elizabeth and Mack have arthritis and found it hard to navigate the stairs at the AME church in Riverside. So they tried First UMC Riverside. They found it welcoming in a physical way, but also Pastor John Yoon made them feel welcome.

"We found the atmosphere better for us. We enjoyed the people and all the outreach to us, Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth grew up Baptist on her father's side and Methodist on her mother's, and she often went to services at both places in Baton Rouge, LA. "Those churches would have been all black," she said.

In 1961, Elizabeth moved to Pasadena for college and attended Scott UMC, which was a black church with one white member. They attended St. Paul's AME in San Bernardino, which is an active black church still. In all her church congregations she has enjoyed teaching Sunday school and working in women's groups.

"We are a military family and I'm comfortable wherever I am," Elizabeth said. "I love all people. I just want to be with good people." Their time in the military has taken them to a variety of places, including to England.

"Mack and I have visited synagogues," she said. "We like to know what is going on in the world. We like to meet and share. I am always open to learning new things."

Interestingly, she and Mack knew Eunice and Booker T. Coffee socially. "I had no idea they had gone to this church," Elizabeth said.

In an era of change, may we create in our congregation a place of diversity and life and love. May we be grateful for those who stayed AND for those who left. May we welcome new members from all walks of life. And may we create "the beloved community" described by Martin Luther King, Jr. *The way of acquiescence leads to moral and spiritual suicide. The way of violence leads to bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers. But the way of nonviolence leads to redemption and the creation of the beloved community.*

APPENDIX B-8 DIGGING INTO CHURCH HISTORY!

150 Years || Past to Present

March 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church in Riverside. We are among the earliest churches from the days when John W. North founded the colony of Riverside in 1870. There will be a party on Sunday, Oct. 16th, so please hold the date. Imagine guest speakers, tours of our stained glass windows, delicious food, and a booklet of historical pictures and stories about the life of the church.

Bob Nelson, our church historian, is digging into the history files and we have found pictures of the original plans for our Brockton sanctuary, a large theater program, active choirs, support for missions, the creation of Meals on Wheels. We have found pictures and even video of a dramatic fire in 1947 at the first church property on Sixth Street and we see other denominations that helped us through that crisis by letting us use their church properties. Thanks to the First Congregational Church and the Seventh Day Adventists!

Ruth Cameron, who designed our Centennial window, On our Centennial stained glass window installed on the stairwell near the balcony, designer Ruth Cameron included “1972 to 2072” on the very bottom of the window. So it feels current already. In fact, it feels futuristic!

Many thanks to the committee working on the anniversary celebration, including Daryl and LeeAnn Salmon, Lyn Knowles, Bob Nelson, Cindy Marr, Kris Lovekin, Greg and Lisa Laird, Mike Alfred, Loretta Cudney, Mimi Luker, Lee and Ron Bayer, Rev. Bev Devine, Kelly Weakly, Marcia Bales, Brian Tomlinson and Rev. J.T. Kim. If you want to work on this committee, let us know!



APPENDIX B-9 THROUGH THE YEARS, WOMEN'S GIFTS RENEW AND REVIVE THE CHURCH

150 Years || Past to Present

April 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

April is the month of Easter, and the month of renewal and new life. We remember it when we spot the "Resurrection" window (located on the top of the left side of the sanctuary as you face the altar.) That window is also called the "Women at the Tomb." It was a gift from the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the forerunner of the United Methodist Women.

We have always had women actively serving in our congregation in organized groups with officers and smaller units known as branches or circles. They meet for Bible study and service. They meet to make quilts and crafts that raise money for mission work. They meet for fellowship and support, leaping into action to support families in grief with receptions after memorial services. They wrap the grieving in prayer shawls. They work for racial justice, for the elimination of poverty, and for the protection of creation.

Because the Methodist Church merged and reorganized frequently, we have known these groups by many names. The Women's Home Missionary Society was formed in 1880. The name "Ladies Aid Societies" starts appearing in 1903. The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in 1921, especially for Methodist Episcopal women employed outside the home. Eventually, these various groups came under the same umbrella and in 1939 we started using the name Woman's Society of Christian Service. In 1972 that name became United Methodist Women. And recently, just in the past few weeks, the name has changed again to United Women in Faith.

But by any name, the women of First United Methodist Church of Riverside are an organized force for good, serving the risen Lord with strength and skill, like the women pictured in our Resurrection window. If you want to get involved, check in with Cindy Qualitieri, who is currently leading the group.

This is one in a series about church history to help us celebrate the founding of our church in October 1872. This year we are celebrating 150 years with a lunch after church on Sunday, Oct. 16th.



APPENDIX B-10 LAUGHTER REIGNS AS WE “RING HIS PRAISE”

150 Years || Past to Present By Mike Alfred May 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

In 1973 (when I was ten) Rita Wiggins, a piano teacher and the wife of the Rev. Perry Wiggins who was Minister of Education, formed the first Handbell Choir at First Church. My mother eagerly joined the group which practiced on Saturday mornings, the same time as the Asbury Choristers, which I never missed.

After our rehearsal I would enter the Education Building to hear the clear notes of the bells echoing in the long hallway. More particularly, I remember the laughter they shared as they tried to master this new music and "Ring His Praise." I also remember the great care they showed for the bells -- the white pallbearer's gloves, the taboo against letting one bell clank against another, and that each bell had its own special place in the case.

Initially, First Christian Church allowed us to borrow their three octaves of bells while we raised money to purchase our own. Contributions and memorials, whether large and small, started adding up. With those gifts we could afford a total of five octaves. The Engleman family donated one of the octaves as a family gift. The bells cost from \$60 to \$155 each. Today they start at \$250.



The Bell Choir first played at Christmas Eve services in 1974. A Service of Dedication of Handbells for the five octaves was held in June 1975. A youth choir and two adult choirs often played in services and gave an annual concert in May. We named our choirs the Joy Ringers and the Allegro Ringers. Creative church members sewed pads to use with the tables.



Over the years, many people have rung the bells. In the past 15 years, our current bell choir director Gayla Lonsbery added a children's chime choir and techniques that include change ringing and the use of a bell tree.

The bells play with the choir and with the praise band on occasion. During the pandemic, the bell choir offered songs for the online services by recording themselves playing and creating videos.

The bell choirs have traditionally offered a concert each June and this year the date is set for 5 p.m. Sunday, June 12 in the sanctuary. The concert finale is something popular, a showy piece that remains a surprise. Join us to find out the surprise this year.

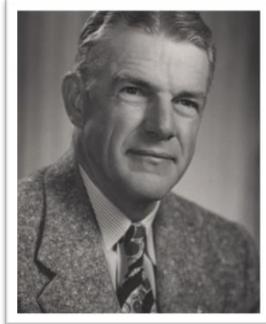
APPENDIX B-11 THE TOWER ON BROCKTON RINGS HYMNS OF WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

150 Years || Past to Present

Jun 2022 FUMCOR Messenger

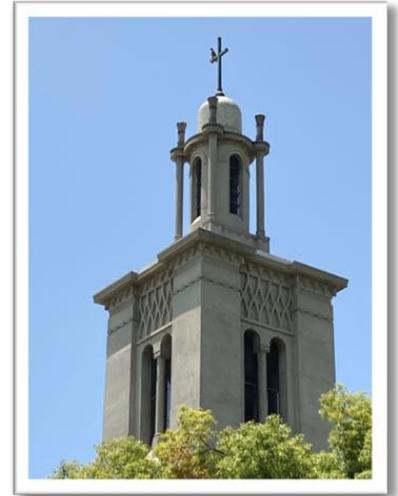
When you approach the church from any angle, it is the bell tower you see first above the trees, rising 95 feet tall from the terrace to the top of the bronze cross.

The sanctuary gained that landmark tower in 1961, a gift of Lewis P. and Ellen C. Alabaster in memory of his parents John L. Alabaster and Mary Plimpton Alabaster. They



dedicated the electronic carillon in memory of Ellen's parents, Cyrus and Ellen Callendar. It is a striking example of generosity as well as a familiar landmark for the church family that marks the time for the surrounding neighborhood.

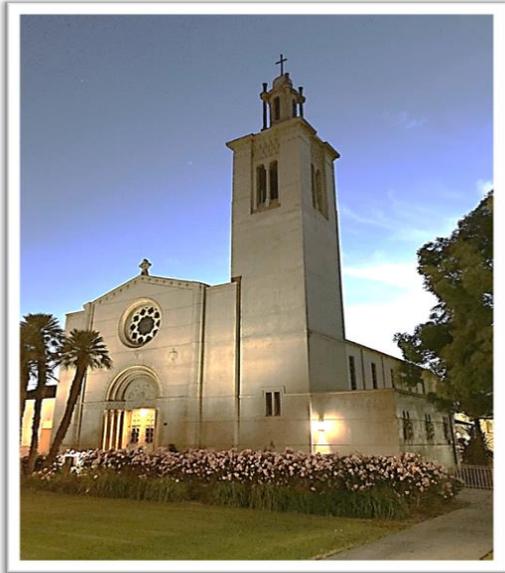
Over the past 60 years, intrepid young people have climbed the three ladders skyward to see the view. Many volunteers and professionals have made the trek to work on the carillon, or to clean the tower. But for our 150th anniversary year, we want to describe more about the substantial influence of Lewis Alabaster (at left), who moved to Riverside from Illinois as a child, attended local



schools and graduated from Poly High.

After earning a degree in business from Stanford University, he returned to Riverside and created a successful career in commercial finance. He and Ellen raised four daughters in a large home on Ramona Drive, known now as the R.C.C. Alumni House.

Lewis Alabaster was chair of the Building Committee and led the church through a time of upheaval that included the destruction of the Sixth Street sanctuary in 1947 and the construction of a new church on Brockton. He was a member of the Riverside Board of Education from 1947 to 1958, president of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, president of the Riverside Kiwanis Club and Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge. He was elected director of the Citizens National Trust and Savings Bank of Riverside in 1947.



He also knew loss. Lewis' younger brother, Lt. John Harlow Alabaster, died in a military plane crash in 1942. The church recognized that loss along with others from the congregation during World War II. The Alabasters also lost one of their four daughters.

The Alabasters moved to Carmel in 1972 where they continued to attend a beautiful Methodist Church. They made a point to visit First United Methodist in Riverside occasionally to greet their church friends. Ellen died in 1988 and Lewis died in 1996 at the age of 93.

Their gift stands as an enduring symbol of our church in the city, a musical voice that offers a friendly welcome to the Riverside community.

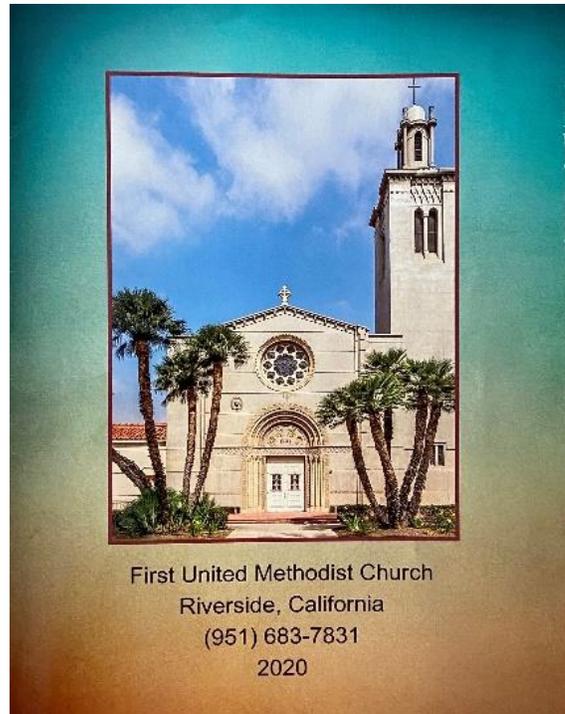
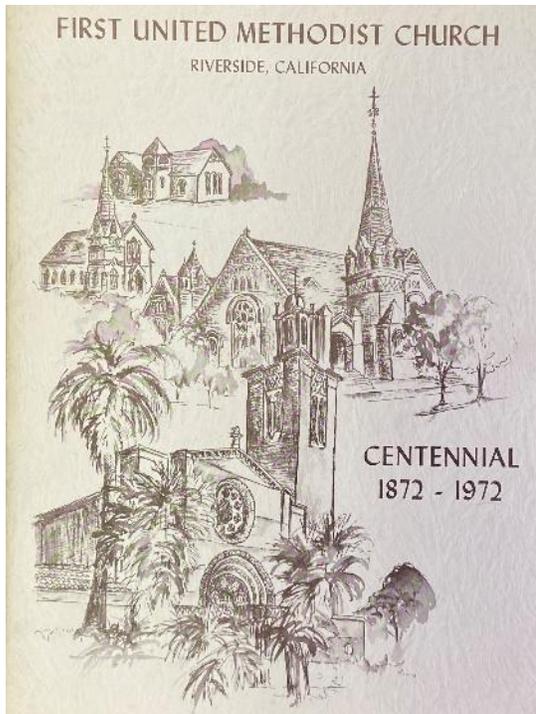
APPENDIX C DIGITIZED ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Each Directory is complete with pictures, names, etc.

Name	Status	Date modified	Type
1972 Directory	✔ ⌘	5/16/2022 4:37 PM	File folder
1976 Directory	✔ ⌘	5/16/2022 4:38 PM	File folder
1987 Directory	✔ ⌘	6/2/2022 4:58 PM	File folder
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2013 Directory	✔ ⌘	5/24/2022 12:25 PM	File folder
2020 Directory	✔ ⌘	5/24/2022 12:23 PM	File folder

Similar categories** of FUMCOR History are being digitized by the History subcommittee for future research, documentation, and offsite (cloud) storage purposes.

** i.e.: Messengers, Memorials, Trustee Minutes, etc., etc.



APPENDIX D CALENDAR OF EVENTS

150th Anniversary Events / First United Methodist Church of Riverside

~2022 Calendar of Events~

Guest Preacher

10 a.m. Sunday, April 24

The Rev. Jan Ritzau Wiley, former youth leader at FUMCOR and a retired District Superintendent, offered a sermon on April 24 to help us celebrate our 150th anniversary this year. She joined the choir at FUMCOR as a teenager, singing with Dave Young, and she discovered her Christian faith at camps and M.Y.F. With her guitar and a great singing voice, she led the youth program at our church in the 1970s. She said her ministry began at First UMC Riverside.



History presentation

United Methodist Men

12 Noon Sunday, May 8

Robert Nelson and Kris Lovekin gave an overview of some of the highlights of the church's 150 years in Riverside. A dramatic church fire, a long tradition of music and theater and a heart for missions work that impacts the world gives First United Methodist Church a foundation for the future.

"Always Faithful" Bell Concert

5 p.m. Sunday, June 12

First UMC Riverside sanctuary

The bell choirs of First UMC Riverside will present a concert of favorites from the year, plus a rousing finale. This is a free event. It will include The Response praise band and organist Robert Phillips.





Independence Day Celebration

5:30 p.m. Monday, July 4

First UMC Riverside parking lot

We have an annual tradition of opening up our parking lot for the community to watch the fireworks. There is a small donation requested at the entrance.

Organist Robert Phillips will offer up a program of organ music that celebrates church history and the independence of the nation. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted to support organ maintenance and repairs. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, nearly died in a house fire as a child. He was the “brand plucked from the fire” according to his mother Susanna Wesley, who said God had saved him for great things. John Wesley and his composer brother Charles Wesley created a denomination that methodically pursued prayer, exercise, knowledge, and equality. They were both staunch abolitionists, just like Riverside’s founder John Wesley North. He wanted to live in a colony devoted to intelligent, industrious and enterprising people who valued education, books, churches and the arts. His nephew’s wife, Manta Love North, played the organ at First Methodist Church for 38 years.



Organist Robert Phillips offers music to celebrate 150 years of history for the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, 4845 Brockton Ave, Riverside. Freewill donation.

3 p.m. Saturday, July 9



First United
Methodist Church of Riverside

Tour of the Stained Glass

5 p.m. Saturday, July 9

First UMC Riverside sanctuary

Mike Alfred will offer a tour of the stained-glass windows of the church, dedicated to many people and causes over the years. The tour will follow the organ concert. This is a free event.





Summer Bash

9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Saturday, July 30

First UMC patio and front lawn

Help us celebrate with a Summer Bash for the neighborhood community on the front lawn and patio of the church. Enjoy lawn and water games, a bounce house, door prizes, snacks, and we will be giving away school supplies and backpacks (while supplies last). Invite family and friends and neighbors. We want to meet you!



“The Mid-century Modern Marvels of Clinton Marr”

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5

Back to the Grind

3575 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

Scott Watson, City of Riverside Historic Preservation, will offer a program called *“The Mid-century Modern Marvels of Clinton Marr”* as part of a program to support the Museum of Riverside. Clinton Marr was a Riverside architect who was also a longtime member of First UMC Riverside. He designed our own Education Building and the Wesley United Methodist Church on Arlington Avenue, along with many other wonderful buildings and homes in Riverside. How could we resist making this part of our anniversary celebration? This is a free event.

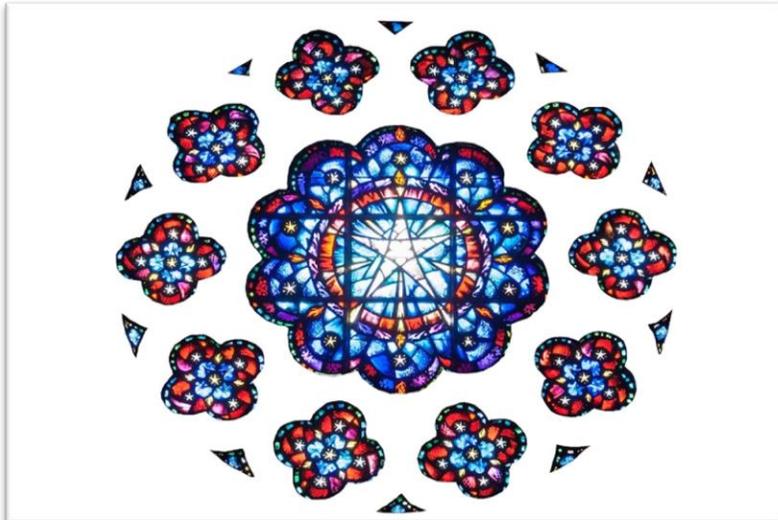
Guest Sermon

Rev. Dr. Kate Hunter

10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 21

Sanctuary

We welcome back one of our own, Rev. Kate Hunter, who has entered the United Methodist ministry and is serving churches in Northern California. At right, she stands with our Bishop Grant Hagiya on the day she is made a provisional elder.

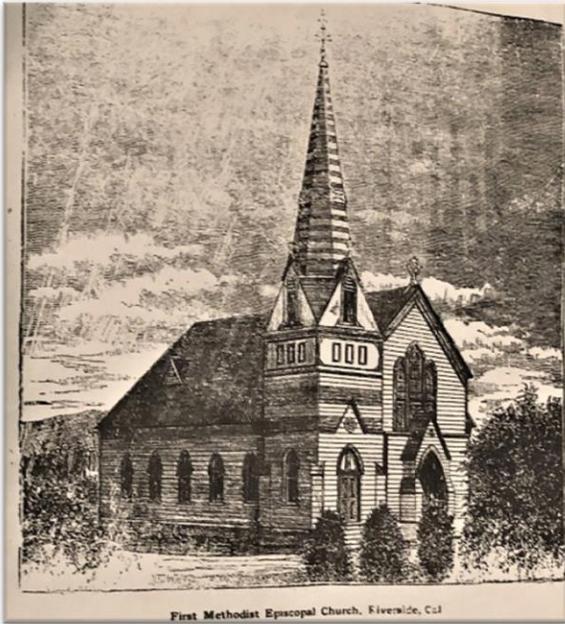


Tour of the Stained Glass

3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10

First UMC Riverside sanctuary

We will offer a tour of the stained glass windows of the church, dedicated to many people and causes over the years. This is a free event.



**History Display in the Education Hallway
Monday, September 12**

The archives committee (Bob Nelson, Kris Lovekin, Mike Alfred, Greg Laird) will display some of our historical treasures in the glass case near the Chandler Lounge, inside the education building. The display will include photographs and other memorabilia. This display will remain up at least through October.

**Choir Tune Up at the Mission Inn
7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6
3649 Mission Inn Avenue**

The Aldersgate Chorale will visit the corner at Sixth Street and Orange to remember the first location of the First Methodist Church in downtown Riverside. The church burned in 1947. The Mission Inn has invited us to sing inside to help celebrate the 150th birthday of the church, which started in 1872.



150th Anniversary Celebration

11:30 a.m Sunday, Oct. 16

First UMC Riverside sanctuary, patio and Fellowship Hall



The congregation plus invited guests will stay after the service for some presentations, box lunches and displays of videos and pictures. There will be greetings from former pastors and a third tour of the stained glass. There are plans for children's activities, ice cream, and other fun activities. We have made some coffee cups and ornaments to sell as souvenirs to help us pay for the festivities. All are welcome.

APPENDIX E HISTORIC SENIOR PASTORS

The Ministerial Staff Who Served the First United Methodist Church of Riverside, California During its First 121 Years

1873-1874	Marion M. Bovard
1874	W. J. White
1875 & 1876-1877	J. L. Mann
1875-1876	Freeman D. Bovard
1877-1880	William Nixon
1880-1881	Charles H. Lawton
1881-1883	M. F. Colburn
1883-1884	A. W. Bunker
1884-1885	Charles Shelling
1885-1886	Selah W. Brown
1886-1889	D. H. Gillan
1889-1891	William Sterling
1891-1896	W. Arthur Wright
1896-1897 & 1899-1901	A. C. Williams
1897-1899	B. C. Cory
1901-1904 & 1916-1921	Benjamin S. Haywood
1904-1907	Edwin J. Inwood
1907-1909	Robert S. Fisher
1909-1912	A. W. Adkinson
1912-1916	L. D. Van Arnam
1921-1928	J. Lewis Gillies
1928-1932	Samuel Hughes
1932-1937	B. D. Snudden
1937-1940	George A. Warmer
1940-1948	Stanley S. McKee
1948-1951	Calvin E. Holman
1951 Interim 2 months	Harry C. Culver

Ministers and Associates

1951-1959 Edwin E. Reeves	1952-1954 Llewellyn Runion
1959-1963 George A. Boss	1955-1956 John Swineford
1963-1967 William H. Hobbs	1956-1964 Thomas K. Farley
	1958-1967 Richard Reigart
	1961-1963 F. Bruce Ellis
	1964-1965 Kenneth Gosselin
1967-1977 Kenneth P. Miller	1965 (Jan.)-1968 Theodore Mitzner
	1969-1974 Everett Swedenburg
	1967-1970 Thomas Kiracofe
	1971-1972 (Dec.) C. Donald Mohlstrom
	1973-1977 (Feb.) Perry Wiggins
	1974-1985 Ben Youngblood
1977-1979 (Dec.) David H. McKeithan	
1980-1985 Fred H. Coots	1980-1982 Charles Cooper
1985- Robert P. Shuler	1985-1989 Lynn Stipulkosky
	1996- Melissa Crawford-Moke

APPENDIX F SUPPORT STAFF

Ministry Teams 1960's to 2022						
Senior Pastors	Assoc Pastors	Children, Youth, Adult Minister & Ministers of Education	Laymen Youth Leaders	Choir Directors incl Bells & Praise	Organist	Office Managers & Financial Secretaries
Bill Hobbs 1963-1967	Richard Reigart 1958-1967 Bruce Ellis 1961-1963 Kenneth Gosselin 1964-1965	Tom Farley 1956-1964 Phil Harder		Dave Young	Dorothy Hester	
Ken Miller 1967-1977	Ted Mitzner 1965-1968 Everett Swedenberg 1969-1974 George Sweeney 1974 - Ben Youngblood 1974-1985	Spencer Sturm Thomas Kiracofe 1967-1970 Don Mohlstrom 1971-1972 Perry Wiggins 1973-77	Scott Allen	Rita Wiggins		Helen Reynolds
David McKeithen 1977-1979	John Knox		Bob & Nyla Kolterman Bill & Flora Harwell	Dick Steffen	David Christenson	Charlotte Reddish
Fred Coots 1980-1985	Charles Cooper 1980-1982 Lynn Stipulkosky 1985-1989	John Knox 1979-1980	Gary & Sally Hunt Roy & Pat Phelps		Frederic Bacon-Shone	
Bob Shuler 1985-2003	Melissa Crawford-Moke 1998-2000 David McGarry 1989 -	Melissa Crawford-Moke 1995- Christine Jones John Volrath Susan Lemly 1983 - 1988	Cindy Shuler/Randy Murray Cathy Endress	Kimberly Jeter-Lewis David Tinoco	David Tinoco Melody Armstrong Mark Longlois	Dee Lyman Stan Brassfield Roger Murray
Brian Kent 2003-2010	Jae Lew 2000-2003	Nancy Davis Barbara Jo Wilson Val Weiss	Don Lasater	Alice Wymer Gayla Lonsbery Wayne Speir		Dulce Burgos Barbara Bush
John Yoon 2010-2016	Sheila Kane 2003 2007			John Zeeb	David Lines	Becky Ruiz 2011-current
J.T. Kim 2016 -Present		Mateo Mamea 2021-2022	Steve Grimes	Yvonne Flagg	Robert Phillips	

APPENDIX G MEMBERSHIP GRAPH

