

# The Spark

FEBRUARY 2022

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



The **Souper Bowl of Caring** began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

*Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.*

22 churches raised \$5,700 in the first year. The number of groups involved has steadily grown each year, and so has the amount raised and put back into the communities. (From Wikipedia)

Henry Barrow, husband of Sandy Barrow, was a long time Riviera member who passed away February 26, 2020. Henry had a terrific career background which included being a member of the first broadcast team for the Miami Dolphins. In the 1990's, Henry became involved in Riviera's Youth Group, learned about the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, and created Riviera's version of this important event.



Souper Bowl 2013

Henry led the youth in the planning to cook soups – usually chicken with vegetables and a vegan option – to serve to Riviera's congregation on Super Bowl Sunday. He and the youth purchased or got donated ingredients and on Saturday mornings, fueled by a box of donuts Henry brought in for the group, they started slicing and dicing ingredients and began cooking.

Souper Bowl Sunday was always a fun day at Riviera. Members of the congregation brought salads, breads, and desserts to round out the soup lunch. After Worship service, we lined up in Fellowship Hall to be served soup by members of the Youth Group supervised by Henry. It was always interesting, fun, and delicious!

Following the spirit of the **Souper Bowl of Caring** organizational events which support food-related community charities, funds generated from Riviera's Souper Bowl events support our Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Continue on page 2

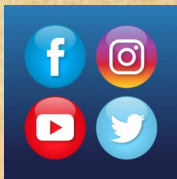
## Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

**We are a Matthew 25 Church**

# Clerk's Corner...

Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586  
11:00am Sunday Worship Service  
Office Hours M - F 9:00-5:00  
[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
Connect with us on social media



@RivieraChurch

All The People  
Ministers

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

Anna E. Rosas  
Youth Education and Outreach Assistant  
[rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)

Barbara Prieto, CCA  
Certified Church Administrator  
[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton  
Rev. Dr. David Welton  
Parish Associates for Visitation

## Session Members

Susan Mazzola  
Clerk of Session

Susan Admire  
Karen Collier  
Laura Fothergill  
Amparo Hernandez  
Elaine Lanaris  
Barbara Overton  
Bryan Page  
Rey Prieto  
Michele Ready  
Alejandra Rondon  
Butch Sorenson  
Mimi Sutherland



Happy Valentine's Day!

There's so much going on at Riviera that instead of reiterating everything here, I'll let you read the rest of The Spark – from beginning to end, please.

There's our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 6 and especially read about what we're doing this year for SOUPER BOWL Sunday, February 13.

Love is all around us as this annual event gets a bit of a makeover for celebrating during the pandemic.

I'm very excited about it so will keep this brief so you can read on.

*Susan Mazzola, Clerk of Session*

Since the **Souper Bowl of Caring** events are fundraising events, there was a charge for the soup meal at Riviera. Henry creatively announced the charges:

Free if you intend to root for a team  
\$10 if you know who's playing in the game  
\$20 if you know who's playing, but you don't care

For 2022, the charges are slightly different (after all, there's no free lunch!):

\$5 if you intend to root for a team  
\$10 if you know who's playing in the game  
\$20 if you know who's playing, but you don't care

Riviera's 2022 goal is \$750. Whether you attend the Riviera **Souper Bowl of Caring** event or not (it's virtual after all), please support our goal with a donation to help further our mission and vision to #TackleHunger.

\_\_\_\_ YES, I want to #TackleHunger here is my donation of  
\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ other

Credit card donations at [www.rivierachurch.org/give](http://www.rivierachurch.org/give)

Or mail a check to Riviera Presbyterian Church 5275 Sunset Dr. Miami, FL 33143

# Clerk's Corner Continues...



Due to the pandemic, Riviera has not had an opportunity to share lunch together in Fellowship Hall since March 2020. However, Henry Barrow's leadership with the Youth Group and in creating this beloved event is an important part of Riviera's history that will be continued.

This year, in the spirit of our gratitude to past Souper Bowls and Henry Barrow, we'll celebrate by sharing recipes for our favorite soup, making the soup for ourselves, and "sharing" our soup meal together on a special Zoom for all of Riviera's members and friends.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Put these items on your calendar:

Email your favorite soup recipe to Riviera by Tuesday, February 8—[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

Request the Zoom link by Thursday, February 10

Make your soup ahead of time.

Join the SOUPER BOWL celebration on Sunday, February 13, 5:00 pm.

We look forward to your participation. You may want to have a glass of your favorite wine (or other beverage) to toast Henry during our meal together.



## Transition to Transitional Pastor

### ***February Update***

Are we getting to the home stretch? Not quite, but your Riviera Transition Team is happy to be speaking with several qualified Pastors who are eager to serve at Riviera. We hope to narrow down our search and proceed to the next steps. What are they you ask? Next steps involve checking references, having the candidate(s) meet in person with key representatives from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and an in person meeting with the Transition Team in Miami.

As always, we appreciate the support and guidance from Presbytery and especially from The Reverend Pat Ashley, our liaison from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

Direct any specific questions to [rivierachurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivierachurch@bellsouth.net) or contact one of the Transition Team members: Cris Sweeny, Michele Ready, Bryan Page, Susan Mazzola.



# Worship News...

## An Unexpected Journey: Walking the Labyrinth with Riviera Presbyterian Church

By Laura Fothergill

I have walked on a labyrinth since 2003, not quite twenty years of putting one foot in front of the other, winding along a path filled with adventure, joy, grief, community, isolation and all the holiness of a life filled with God's spirit. Some time during 2003 I was asked to assist with re-painting and fixing a project started by then Parish Associate Rev. Sally Campbell-Evans. Families and individuals of Riviera had spent time painting sections of winding paths and borders on four large fabric canvases. The only issue was, they never worked together and the paths were different sizes, different widths, the four canvas puzzle pieces didn't fit together. Over weeks and months I carefully re-worked, re-painted, and put together each border, each path into a large room-size Cretan Labyrinth. This was my first introduction to the labyrinth.

Over time, the spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth became a part of the Riviera community during holy seasons of Lent and Advent as well as confirmation classes, retreats, grief work, and for spiritual formation with young adults. The original homemade canvas Cretan Labyrinth along with an additional purchased canvas Chartres Labyrinth are extremely special tools that are rooted in our community's spiritual and social justice values. A walk along a labyrinth can be used for many reasons and can provide healing, awareness, pray space, personal intention, and commitment amongst providing a powerful way to be together as a community, as a body of Christ, and as a loved child of God.

It is this time, a transitional time in Riviera's community, between Pastors, and during our Covid-19 pandemic that each of us have an opportunity for our own growth as well as for our community. I personally invite you to join me and Anna Rosas for an opportunity to take a moment to be together and to experience this special tool. Due to safety protocols we will take our first steps outdoors at a community labyrinth located in Pinecrest. All are welcome. For questions and thoughts about labyrinths feel free to reach out to [me](#), and for further resources about labyrinths check out resources by [Lauren Artres and the Veriditas Movement](#).

**Outdoor Labyrinth Walk**  
**Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:00pm**  
Morningstar Renewal Center – Chartres Labyrinth  
7275 SW 124<sup>th</sup> Street Pinecrest, Florida 33156

—Laura.Fothergill@gmail.com

Picture of: *Riviera's Labyrinth Taize 2016*



# Mission News...

**The Mission Committee** continues to be very active and busy during these challenging times. We continue to walk our walk as a Matthew 25 congregation:

**Hunger issues:** Both locally and globally, as evident with our ongoing commitment to the Food Pantry that distributes family and single food bags of food and essentials bi-weekly. On average, we distribute 35 bags/month for families and 10-20 single bags. In addition, we recently created signage for the Food Pantry placed on Sunset Drive that will increase the awareness of this community Pantry and assist with spreading the word.



A special thank you to Cris Sweeny and Frameworks for printing and donating the sign.

Ellen Anderson works endless hours managing the **Food Pantry**, handling shopping, stocking, and distribution. The community and RPC are incredibly fortunate to have Ellen's unwavering dedication and commitment to this cause.

Globally, the Mission Committee continues to support international and national organizations tackling global hunger. For example, Barbara Overton has connected with **Bread for the World**. Bread for the World is a non-partisan, Christian advocacy organization based in the United States that advocates for policy changes to end hunger. RPC hopes to host a workshop with Florence French from Bread for the World, discussing the difference between racial equity and racial equality. Be on the lookout for the date for this insightful workshop.



**Voting Rights:** The Mission Committee will make voting rights for all a priority over the next year by donating funds to local groups and volunteering and working with grassroots organizations to assure all people have access to voting.

Continue on page 6



# Mission News...



Winn Dixie selected the RPC Food Pantry as their **"Bloomin' 4Good" Program** recipients. The **South Miami Winn Dixie at 5850 SW 73rd Street** will be the highlighted store in February. For every bouquet labeled with the big red sticker "Bloomin 4 Good" purchased during February, the RPC Food Pantry will receive \$1. We have already received ~\$100 from other participating Winn Dixie's.

***Thank you, Winn-Dixie!***



**Earth Care:** The Mission Committee continues to be involved with many Earth Care initiatives via international webinars (Climate Revival-January 2022, and the Multi-Faith Climate Finance Campaign Launch in February 2022). We do monthly beach cleanups at Bill Baggs State Park, which Anna Rosas coordinates. PLEASE join us and be on the look for upcoming dates.

Join the Mission Committee if interested in participating in any mission-related cause. We are sure to have something you are passionate about!

—Elaine Lanaris



In December, we made the ladies of LEAP happy with a Target gift certificate for each one. Two of them were going to visit their children, so I am confident the cards came in very handy.

A new house is opening in January, and four ladies will be joining the six we know. Some of the experienced ladies will move to the new house, and the newest ones will join those left in the old house. The first one is due to join them on January 27th. There is a welcome note from Riviera and a \$50 Target card waiting for her. Three more ladies will join this Spring, and notes and gift cards will be waiting for them. These ladies leave prison with very little and usually need underwear and shoes. One lady bought readers!

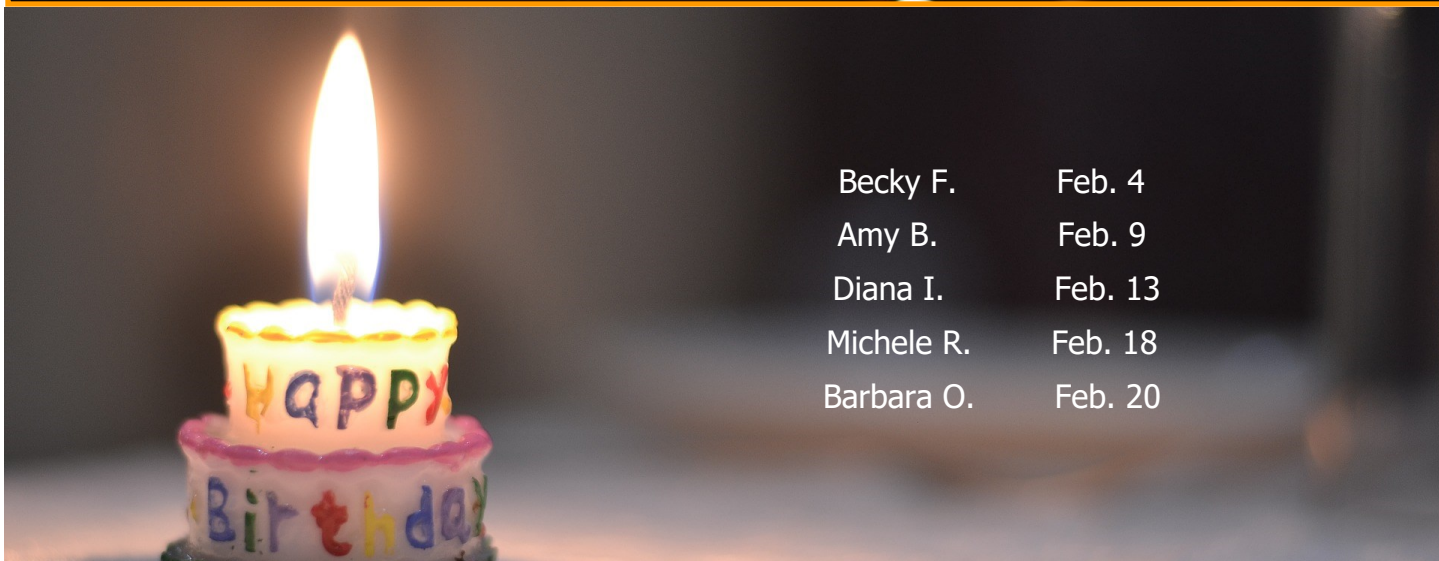
We continue to give them Winn Dixie gift cards, and each home will get one every week. I deliver them at the beginning of the month, and I use the time with them to catch up with them on how everyone is and browse the Dragonfly Boutique.

Don't forget to visit the Dragonfly Boutique and shop or donate. The Art Deco mirror I donated sold fast!

Ellen Anderson



# Congregational Care News...



Becky F.	Feb. 4
Amy B.	Feb. 9
Diana I.	Feb. 13
Michele R.	Feb. 18
Barbara O.	Feb. 20

If we missed your birthday or you do not want your birthday listed, please contact the church office at [rivierachurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivierachurch@bellsouth.net)

The Congregational Care team continues to be available for anyone who is experiencing a difficult time or might need prayer – for themselves or for others. Please contact Karen Collier at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) if you have any concerns.



**Would you like to find calm amid the daily stresses of life?**

**How are you managing concerns about COVID and all its uncertainty?**

Join us for a mid-day workshop, and learn to use relaxation breathing to bring peace to body and mind.

**HEALING BREATH**  
using relaxation breathing to reduce stress

**Date:** Wednesday, February 16 ~ **Time:** 12:00 - 1:00 pm ~ **Place:** via Zoom  
**Leader:** Peggy Gaines, RN - a clinical meditation specialist  
RSVP to [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link and more information.



# One More Thing...

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## Sunday Feb. 6 @12noon

Hybrid Meeting  
In Person - Zoom

**Hybrid Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday Feb 6 at 12:00 pm.**

The purpose of the meeting is to hear annual committee reports, receive the 2022 budget for information and to vote on the slate for the Nominating Class of 2022.

Join in person or on Zoom.  
Meeting ID: 829-1129-7119  
Passcode: 056833  
If you are joining us on Zoom you must be

### Zoom voting requirements

You must use your computer or device that has a web camera. It will not be possible to call in for this meeting as we do not permit that at in-person meetings.

You must show yourself on screen to participate.

You must use your first and last name during the meeting.

Stay muted unless requesting to speak.

Raise your hand in front of your face to be recognized to speak and to vote.

**Women's Study Group** will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Feb. 16 @ 7:30pm.

Join us as we get to know more about Mary.

Contact Karen Collier at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) for the Zoom link.

### **Lent@Riviera**

This Year Riviera will be exploring Lenten micro-practices as a community!

Micro-practices are small accessible spiritual experiences that allow you to encounter God each day. Stay tuned for ways you can participate!



We are getting ready to kick off the **Riviera Handbell Choir**. Stay tune for details on how you can join.

### **Per Capita**

**2022**

**\$37 per member**

**Save the Date: February 13 Blessing of the Animals Worship Service.** Stay tuned for details.