



THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

By the Way....

November/December

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2017

Language is a funny thing. It seems like the more important a thing is, the less directly and more euphemistically we talk about it. We almost never talk directly about the birds and the bees, for example. And the number of euphemisms we use to talk about going on to Glory is astounding. In fact, you can often tell what part of the country people are from and what generation they were born into by the way they talk about death.

In the Bible, Mary was “with child.” But before we had our children, Kim was “expecting.” You never had to tell anybody *what* you were expecting. They just knew you were talking about an addition to the family.

We survived our first pregnancy with a book that Kim has since passed on to each of our daughter-in-laws in the appropriate hour. The book was called *What to Expect When You're Expecting*, and it walked us through the whole nine months with helpful hints and lots of “it’s okay, this is normal” moments.

It’s hard to believe we’re talking about this already, but this newsletter covers events in church surrounding the upcoming season of Advent and Christmas. It’s a busy and festive time of year, both within and outside of the church. Sometimes, in fact, it’s so busy that we miss the wonder of it all.

Advent is a season in the life of the church given over to *expecting*. In some ways, if somebody asked us, we’d even say we were expecting a baby. Christmas even comes with its own “let me tell you about my birthing experience” story.

“We were out travelling, and I knew we weren’t going to make it home in time to have the baby there. Instead, we were in this overcrowded little burg miles from home. There wasn’t even a hospital or a hotel room. We wound up in a barn, without a doctor. It’s a miracle we survived!”

We *are* expecting during Advent, and there’s a baby involved, but the answer to the question “*What* are you expecting?” is more complicated than that.

In the generations leading up to the birth of Jesus, God’s people answered this question in a lot of ways. There was a

lively belief that God was sending something remarkable and miraculous, but an awful lot of disagreement exactly what form it would take.

Some believed that God’s coming would be apocalyptic, that the heavens would shake and God himself with all of the trappings of divine power would come down from Heaven and commence smiting left and right. The world as it had been known would come to an end, and a new world would be created with God in charge and His people vindicated against their faithless, heathen enemies.

Others had a more worldly view. The Essenes at Qumran were awaiting the rightfully anointed Priest of God to return and purify the Temple so that true worship could begin again. They were joined by the Zealots, who didn’t necessarily look for a new priest, but rather believed that God would send a conquering military hero who would place the rightful king of Israel upon his throne.

The Pharisees believed that God would restore the fate of his people when the people had finally surrendered to complete obedience to God’s written commandments. The Sadducees believed that God was quietly working His healing will through the earthly powers-that-be, many of whom (coincidentally) happened to be Sadducees themselves.

Exactly *what* they were expecting varied wildly. The one thing they all held in common was that they were expecting *something*, and they were expecting it to be big and change everything.

It’s fair to say, though, that nobody expected what actually happened next: God clothing himself in human flesh to serve, suffer, and die at the hands of sinners. God’s work in the world came in such an unexpected form that all but a handful totally missed it and only learned of it after the fact.

As we move into Advent, we do so with a sense of wonder and expectancy.

Even if, perhaps, we’re not exactly sure *what* to expect next.

HBruce Nettleton

MISSIONS



As the exciting season of Advent approaches, we are reminded of the gift of **hope** the birth of Christ has given to each of us. Listed below are opportunities for us to share HIS gift with others during this blessed time of year.

Mission events scheduled for November & December:

October 2017: Continue work on Christmas Stockings for Prince of Peace Home for Girls Guatemala (Women's Ministry)

October 11, 2017: Packing of Hygiene Kit Donations for U.M.C.O.R. Drive

Nov 6, 2017: Deadline to receive Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Nov 11, 2017: Packing of O.C.C. Shoebox Container

Dec 4-8, 2017: Redbird Mission Work Team/ Getting Redbird ready for Christmas

December 2017: Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Angel Tree Activities

2018 Events Scheduled to date:

January 13—20, 2018: Construction Team to Guatemala

March 10-17, 2018: V.B.S. and Women's Enrichment Ministry in Guatemala

(We have not yet received the go ahead from U.M.V.I.M. for possible projects in Texas, Florida or Puerto Rico)



You are invited to join our FUMC adult team at the Redbird Mission this year. We will be working and enjoying Christian fellowship at the Work Camp from December 4-8. For a change this year, we will have the privilege of preparing the camp for next year's 2000+ volunteers. The fee is \$180 each, which covers room, board, etc. Curiously nudged? Contact Amos Stone (859-623-2368) or at amos_stone@bellsouth.net. In addition, if you would like to help financially with this effort, a check can be written to First United Methodist Church, with memo line "Missions Fund".



Dear Church Family,

First I greatly appreciate Monica Tillie and our Missions Ministry Teams active involvement in our church's kickoff for Operation Christmas Child this summer. Although we are still far from our goal, I believe this church family will reach 300 shoebox gifts! You have until Nov. 19 to bring in your shoeboxes.

Many of you have asked whether I am still involved in Operation Christmas Child. My answer is a resounding YES! I am still the Drop Off Center Coordinator for the *thousands* of shoebox gifts that will be brought to our church during National Collection Week, Nov. 13-Nov. 20. In fact, we are celebrating FUMC's 10th year as a Drop Off Center!

We need lots of volunteers to greet the donors, accept and count their gifts, and pack them into cartons. There are 8 daily 2 hour shifts. You can commit to 1 shift or all of them. Church family of all ages can help with this ministry! We need people to greet and pray with the donors, to count the boxes, keep tally of our numbers and to pack the boxes into cartons. We need strong people (and Boy Scouts!) to load the cartons into our Big Truck and a good driver to transport our boxes to the Winchester Collection Center on November 20. From there they go to Boone, N.C. to be processed and sent all over the world to bring the Good News of God's Love to hurting children.

Many of you have helped in the past. I so hope you will bring your experience and help again! New to this ministry? We will gladly train you! Our shift schedule is below:

Mon. 11/13: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Fri. 11/17: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Tues. 11/14: 6-8 p.m.	Sat. 11/18: 9-11 a.m.
Wed. 11/15: 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Sun. 11/19: 1-3 p.m.
Thurs. 11/16: 5-7 p.m.	Mon. 11/20: 9-11 a.m.

Signup sheets available at **THE RAMP**, but you are also encouraged to call or text me with questions or to volunteer. Have a group that wants to work a shift? Need service hours? Want to help with hospitality? Let's talk!

God bless all of you for participating in Operation Christmas Child.

Elizabeth Bendure 859-893-1366
FUMC Relay Center Coordinator

The Growing Place

Can you believe it is Thanksgiving time? At The Growing Place, we have our annual Thanksgiving Feast where family members are invited to attend. It is a wonderful time for our children and their families to eat lunch with our teachers and to enjoy a time of fellowship.



Our Thanksgiving Break is from Thursday, Nov. 23rd through Friday, Nov. 24th. We return Monday, Nov. 27th.

Our Christmas Break is December 21st through January 1st. We return January 2nd.

The Growing Place has only two openings.



The Growing Place has reached a milestone of becoming a **5 STAR** facility!!

Being a **5 STAR** comes with money incentives to buy things needed in the classroom. Please feel free to congratulate the staff of The Growing Place for a job well done! We could not have done it without them.



2017 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Would you like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of your loved ones or in honor of someone special? Or in lieu of flowers, you may choose to make a donation to the Sharing Ministry.

The cost is **\$8.00 per poinsettia**, order forms are available on **THE RAMP!** Please make checks to FUMC, please write poinsettia or sharing ministry on the memo line.

Substitute Home Meal Program Volunteers Needed



One of the missions of the FUMC is to help the Madison County Home Meals Delivery Program deliver hot meals to shut ins and others in need in the community. Our church rotates deliveries with other churches and organizations on a regular 3 week schedule Monday through Friday throughout the year. The church is responsible for deliveries on one route which is in Richmond. We do not cook the meals but only deliver them.

We have a group of dedicated volunteers but need 1 or 2 substitutes who can fill in as needed when our regular volunteers are unable to deliver. Volunteers must have a vehicle and 1-1 1/2 hours to deliver the meals. Meals are ready for pick up around 10 a.m. and the volunteer is usually finished by noon.

Please call Harold Howell at 623-2134 for more information on this vital program.



Do you have something that you would like to have added to the Columns? Feel free to contact Lori by calling 623-3580 or email her at richmondfumc@richmondfumc.org for more info. The plan is to have a Columns every 2 months. The **DEADLINE** for the January/February Columns is December 1, 2017.

Adult Ministries

Wednesday Night Live! As a reminder for some and news to our newer members, Wednesday Night Live is our middle-of-the-week gathering for dinner, fellowship and discipleship. We gather for dinner (5:15pm-6pm in the gym) and then in small groups (6:30pm-7:30pm, top floor of the MMC).

For a list of WNL classes, visit our church's website at richmondfumc.org → News → Church News → find the post titled "Wednesday Night Live – Fall Semester!" Or visit **THE RAMP!**

Congregational Care Team: Led by Rindy Russell, our newly-formed Congregational Care team has been trained and sent into the homes of our church family members who can no longer attend services regularly. This team of 16 FUMC members has said, "Here I am, send me!" and we have sent them to visit, hug, talk, listen, pray and serve communion. Please pray for this team as well as those they are visiting. If you would like to serve on this team, or know of people that would like to be visited, contact Rindy Russell or Jamie Jordan.

THE RAMP: Located on the 2nd floor of the main building near the church office, **THE RAMP** info center is where you can find brochures on most ministries as well as the WNL and Sunday School classes being offered.

Pray It Forward: We continue to pray for each other through the Pray It Forward initiative. MANY of you signed up to pray for others – and to be prayed for. Please contact April Cain or Jamie Jordan (adult@richmondfumc.org) if you would like to get involved.

Special Wednesday Night Live Dates:

Nov 22 – No WNL for Thanksgiving
Dec 6 – The last WNL gathering for the fall semester
Jan 10 – Start of the spring semester of Wednesday Night Live (dinner and classes)



EMERGE Youth Ministry

I'm writing this in early October, and the calendar for November and December is already filling up – the church calendar and my own calendar. I haven't even started thinking about Christmas gifts yet, but it will be Advent before I know it.

So now is the best time to get our youth dates for the holiday season down on your calendar – those things will be here before you know it. We'll have some special events during our regular time (like an interactive movie Dec. 6), but also some other special events (fall retreat, Christmas parade), and some Wednesday events when our regular church Wednesday events are canceled ("Famsgiving," progressive dinner). See list below for dates!

If you have questions about any event, check the church website and/or **THE RAMP**, and ask me if you can't find the information you need there!

Jonathan Kleppinger
Youth Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3-5 – Fall Retreat
Wednesday, Nov. 22 – "Famsgiving" Meal (no WNL meal)
Friday, Dec. 1 – Christmas parade (joint float with Children's Ministry)
Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Interactive movie "The Polar Express" for youth
Wednesday, Dec. 13 – Progressive dinner for youth (no WNL meal)
Wednesday, Jan. 3 – Emerge bowling at Galaxy (no WNL meal)



11/1: Rebecca R. Wilson
Glenn Green
Meredith Meeker
Taylor Strunk

11/2: Zak Coleman
Jane Dzelzitis
Molly Ford

11/3: Carl Hogsed
Nancy Azbill
Mark Morrow
Susan Gardner
Carolyn Gordon
Justin Cobb
James Short

11/4: Andrew Stewart
Jeff Cain
Daudi Saangonyo
Jonathan Chassé
Dakota Coleman

11/5: Charlene Stone
Tonya Short
Kaili Whitehouse

11/6: Mary Jo Baedecker
Mark Cole
Emily Downer
Jacob Brooks
Catherine Tait

11/7: Tim Singleton
Harvey Cozart
Becky Hatfield
Arionna Dawson
Allya McFall
Elijah Moore

11/8: Jo Wernegreen
Peggy Coe
Lindsey Baker
Parker Presnell

11/9: John Ferguson
Pam Harrison
Tracy Smith

11/10: Patrick Nnoromele
Fred Beck

11/11: Mary Ann McKinney
Christie Cain Harper
Jessica Banks
Lincoln Herbst
Logan Herbst

11/12: Lori Chassé
Amanda Lewis
Gary Yerace

11/13: Sybil Fagan
Rita Smart
Bill Grise
Melissa Lindsey
Zachory Dalton

11/14: Stephen Koerner
James Stone

11/15: Thea Shearer
Gia Riley



11/16: Eugene Wuestenhagen
Carol Wells
Tyler Robinson

11/17: Bobby Barton
Brian McCready
Chris Morrow
Zachary Karnes

11/18: Ephraim Otieno
Cody Lamb
Annabelle Conforti

11/19: Abby Thompson

11/20: Lynda Park
Elizabeth Ellis
Tanner Lawson

11/21: Joel Babbitt
Riley Kissick

11/22: Dale Reed
Cheryl Muncy
Addison Neal

11/23: John West
Gary Ford
Elizabeth Reed

11/24: Shirley Allen
Amber Snell
Hannah Jordan
Morgan King
Thomas Longwell

11/25: Nancy Wuestenhagen

11/27: Rick Cowan

11/28: Susan Shearer
Cheryl Buck
April Cain
Sara Moore
David Wills

11/29: James Reffett

11/30: Frances Sharp
Alexandria Rogers
Breanna Cox
Sawyer Hoaglin



11/7: V.J. & Rosette Salins

11/8: Jeff & Thea Shearer

11/14: Dave & Carol Woolverton

11/17: Richard & Carla Stone

11/18: Dave & Karen Purvis

11/19: Mike & Kathryn Phelps

11/21: Brian & Stacy Brockman

11/22: Gene & Donna Strange
Michael & Jill Singleton

11/23: Alan & Becky Hatfield

11/24: David & Rella Evans

11/26: Andy & Donna Bentley

11/28: Floyd & Darcia Coleman
Dave & Ellen Thomas

11/30: Tim & Denise Harover
Steve & Paula Strunk



12/1: Janice Jones
Eric Metcalf
Hannah Moore
Hope Moore

12/2: Bill Tomlinson
Elizabeth Bendure

12/4: Joyce Kiogora
Rusty Way
Stephanie Griffey
Susan Ratliff
Justin McFall

12/5: Diana Botner
Donna Bentley
Caleb Jordan

12/6: Kaci Jo Herbst

12/7: Freida Shoemaker
Sean Strunk

12/8: Ellen Thomas
Donna Meinze
Bob Riley
Melanie Calitri
Joseph Bowling
Gavin Bice
Aiden Moore

12/10: William Ridgley
Dave Thomas
Zach Grise
Cameron Lovell

12/11: Morris Thompson
Nicole Whitaker
Beverly Johns

12/12: Dorothy Mercer
Feralith Perkins
Terri Killin
Danielle Brown
Mike Park
Chance Muncy

12/14: Diana Howell
Katlyn Delaney
Casey Deyo

12/15: C.L. Cole
Shannon Grise
Grace Outlaw

12/16: Donna Miracle
Brooklynn McFall

12/17: Paula Tussey
Angela Hardin
Shannon Conforti

12/18: Carrie Wurzelbacher
Cassady Duarte
Justin Reynolds
Will Emmons

12/19: Emily Robinson

12/20: Doug Petry
John Shearer

12/21: Karen Purvis
Jordan Dunaway

12/22: Richard Bendure

Merry Christmas



12/22: Teresa Lowe
Benjamin Taylor

12/23: Denise Harover
Kandy Stamper
Isabella Lamb

12/24: Keith Goodacre
Carol West
Stephen Calitri
Courtney Kleppinger

12/25: Laura McWilliams

12/26: Patrick Ridgley
Donna Perkins

12/27: Haley Mullins

12/28: JoNelda Cole
David Rice
Samantha Maumbe
Caroline Schodde

12/29: Jamie Emmons
Joseph Reynolds
Bobby Botner
Kevin Conforti
Kelsey Shoemaker
Benjamin Mosby

12/30: Sally Smith
Ralph Merten
Brianna Insley

12/31: Bryce Singleton
Debbie Eison



12/3: David & Susan Ratliff

12/4: Fred & Mary Sweet

12/7: George & Lori Chassé

12/10: Stacy & Rindy Russell

12/11: Kenneth & Ariel Firby

12/12: George & Shelly Boulden

12/15: Dale & Ida Reed
Alan & Neva Joyce
C.L. & JoNelda Cole

12/17: Marvin & Barbara Perkins

12/23: Chuck & Lois Beaver

12/26: Gary & Jamie Ford

12/27: Larry & Susan Shearer

12/28: Duane & Bonnie Deyo
Michael & Sally Martin
Robert & Erin Cartwright

12/30: Stephen & Melanie Calitri

**Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
Give the church office a call so we can get you added!
859-623-3580**

MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry is proud to announce that we have allocated the following amounts from our account to the following ministries, charities, and organizations for 2017:

\$1350 to the MMC

\$500 to the FUMC Sharing Ministry

\$500 to the EKU Wesley Foundation

\$500 to the FUMC Mission Team (Scholarships)

\$500 to Christian Flights International (CFI) for our support to Haiti

\$330 to FUMC Youth Group (Emerge)

\$330 to Red Bird Mission

\$330 to the American Red Cross

\$330 to the Salvation Army

\$330 to Open Concern

\$5000 TOTAL

For the 8-year period of 2009-2017 (-2015 when we did not have a Yard Sale or Quarter Auction), Men's Ministry has disbursed over \$52,000 in support to both internal and external ministries and organizations in our local community!

Over \$25,000 to support our very own MMC.

We need your continued support of our efforts!

You can support us/your church by continuing your support of the following:

- a. Kroger Community Rewards program.
- b. Ushering @ EKU home football games. WE STILL HAVE games to support!
- c. Madison County road clean-up.
- d. Any of our other "cooking" fund raisers, such as Pancake Breakfasts, Chili Lunch, BBQ Pork sales, etc.

Please continue to support our efforts to continue our ability to GIVE to others in need!



Christmas will come early for the sanctuary choir which is in the process of preparing for its annual Christmas cantata. Director John Stegner invites anyone in the church family to join regular choir members who are preparing "Darkness into Light". A Christmas musical journey by Mary McDonald, one of the most popular names in sacred music.

The cantata will be presented on December 17 at both the 8:30 and 10:45 services.

The cantata features eleven selections from McDonald, along with narration to highlight the emphasis on the season. A number of solos from the choir are included in the presentation. Those interested in being considered for the narration in the musical may contact Stegner.

McDonald's contributions to sacred music are reflected through some 800 anthems, seasonal musical and keyboard collections. Her career spans some thirty-five years. Currently, she is making appearances in churches around the country as an independent artist.

Anyone interested in joining the choir in preparation for the cantata should plan to attend rehearsals at 7:30 Wednesday evenings. Some extra rehearsals may be scheduled closer to the performance date.



Let's Go Christmas Caroling!
Wednesday, December 20
Meet in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m.
Depart at 6:30 p.m.

P.O. Box 27 • 401 West Main Street
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www.richmondfumc.org

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