

## News from The Growing Place

The Growing Place is buzzing with excitement this year.

In January we had our yearly visit for renewal of our licenses. We did well with the visit and licenses are renewed. Classrooms are filled.

The Growing Place has a new Administrative Assistant, Mary Smith. Mary worked at The Growing Place as a Lead Teacher in our Part Time classrooms and our Full Time 4's. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development. Please help us welcome her back.

Graduation Pictures will be taken on March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Some of our

classrooms will begin practicing for our Preschool Graduation.

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 12<sup>th</sup>, remember to set your clocks forward an hour on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Spring Break will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Part time program will be closed for this week.

There will be no school for Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade but care will still be offered for the week.

Easter will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful Holiday! What a Savior we have, a man that would lay down His life so that we could be saved! A man that died and rose to live again for our sins. When I think about the love that HE has for people it makes my heart smile, because I know that HE loves me. Even while living for Satan, YES Jesus loved me.

## THE COLUMNS

I leave you with this thought: No matter who we are or what our sins are, there will always be one that is near and listens when we pray. He is the one that extends grace to each of us. When you feel all alone and not sure of where to turn, just call on Jesus and He will be there for you.

### Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.



If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please call or e-mail the Church Secretary.



# THE COLUMNS

A Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

By the Way....

March/April  
2017

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

### Disciples

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Our church's vision statement is short and catchy: "Making disciples who make a difference."

In fact, it's so short and catchy it comes off as a bumper sticker or t-shirt quote, a quick hitter designed to get a response, rather than something to be studied and reflected upon. Recently, I've been involved in two separate groups, however, that are doing just that... studying and reflecting on our church's vision statement.

The first question, of course, has to be "What is a disciple?" Until we know what a disciple looks like, we'll have difficulty developing any sort of plan about how to make one. The answer to this question is a little more complicated than might first be assumed.

For all of my growing up years, I interpreted the call to "make disciples" as being pretty much the same thing as convincing people to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I don't think anybody in my early Christian life ever talked about discipleship in any other way. So "Making Disciples" was pretty much synonymous with "evangelism," which was routinely practiced by sharing simple tracts with friends. Certain "gifted" evangelists might go door to door and try to win the souls of strangers. A few dedicated souls were sent overseas to places where people hadn't heard the gospel, or took up careers as traveling evangelists... people who traveled from church to church to preach revival meetings.

As I matured in my faith, I came to understand that coming to faith in Jesus was just the beginning of "discipleship." Not too long ago, I heard a speaker who put the idea into fresh perspective by looking back at what discipleship meant among the people of Jesus' own time. In short, being a disciple is not just believing in the person you're following, or even just knowing all that the master teaches. Discipleship in Jesus' day was more akin to apprenticeship. A disciple was supposed to be in training to DO what the master DID.

This is a particular challenge for people who would be disciples of a man named Jesus. After all, he was sinless and the Son of God... two things that are well beyond our reach. But still, the challenge stands. Discipleship in its Biblical sense is about the things we DO, more than the things we profess or know. What things did Jesus do that we are supposed to imitate? With our staff, we went through the gospel account and made a list of the things Jesus did and the things he commanded his disciples to do. That list will be the basis of our worship time together during the season of Lent.

But I'll telegraph the ending just a little bit. Our vision statement, short as it may seem, is perhaps still longer than it needs to be. The whole second phrase... "who make a difference" may be superfluous. If, in fact, we do the sorts of things that Jesus did, we won't need to worry about making a difference.

It turns out that when it comes to following Jesus, "Disciples who make a difference" is the only kind of disciples there are.

Bruce Nettleton

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**MEN'S MINISTRY**



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Don't forget to "link" your Kroger Plus Card to **FUMC Men's Ministry (#11679)**. To do so, log on to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) and create or logon to your account. If you do not have a Kroger Plus Card, you can obtain one from Customer Service at any Kroger. When you purchase items, just check the bottom of your receipt and it will show that the donation went to the Men's Ministry. **Check out the picture listed below.** Thank you for your support.

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**Men's Ministry has a new meeting time.**  
**Check out the new dates for 2017!**

**First Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- July 1
- August 5
- September 2
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2

**God's Melody Children's Choir**

God's Melody is looking forward to a new year filled with new music and new members! When current choir members were asked about their favorite thing regarding God's Melody, Haley Cartwright said, "I love the plays!" Kaci Jo Herbst said, "I like to sing," and Julien Ross said, "We have the awesome-est coaches ever and our songs are awesome and we learn how to sing better."

God's Melody choir meets every Wednesday night in the sanctuary from 7:30-8pm. All 3rd-5th graders are always welcome to join as we share our faith through song! See Chastity Ross or Susan Waterbury for more information.



All ages are needed to be a part of **The Tale of The Three Trees** by Alan Pote & Tom Long!



Based on an American folk tale, this musical shows the story of Jesus's life from the perspective of three trees. Each tree has a dream about what it hopes to be, but those dreams taken and shaped by God become even greater than each tree could possibly imagine. This will be performed sometime during Holy Week before Easter. See Chastity Ross or Susan Waterbury to be involved with this outstanding musical. You can do it!



**Kitchen Shower for Hope's Wings**

Join the women of FUMC in supporting Hope's Wings with a Kitchen Shower at 7 p.m. **Tuesday, Feb. 28** in MMC 212. Our Christmas Craft Fair raised money for new countertops and backsplash in the Hope's Wings' kitchen. Many thanks to Alan Bradshaw for doing amazing work with the installation. Now, we need to fill the cupboards with pots, pans, and other cooking tools.



Look for bins around the church to make Hope's Wings' donations. In March, we will collect detergent, liquid hand soap, and other cleaning supplies. Be on the look out for new ideas each month.



**Save the Date for Spring Retreat**

Put Saturday, April 22, down for a one-day retreat with the wonderful women of FUMC. Think GROW! More details to come.



**New Leadership**

Laura Bauer is stepping up to be our president. (Thanks so much, Laura!) Kathy Combs is moving into the treasurer's role after three years as president. (Thanks for your leadership, Kathy.) Ginny Whitehouse is continuing as missions and communications coordinator. More women are needed to take leadership positions and just be part of the fun. Join us every fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in MMC 212.



Hopefully, you've found a Sunday school class or a Wednesday Night Live class to get involved in. Maybe you're doing both! These small groups are crucial to growing in our discipleship. And they're important for praying for each other and supporting one another when life gets tough. If you haven't yet, check the church website for a list of classes or just ask around for suggestions.

Did you know we usually have someone praying for each of our church services? We're looking for others who would like to join our team of pray-ers. Check out the "Prayer Reminders" article in this issue.

Serving Together: Each semester of Wednesday Night Live, we dedicate one Wednesday to doing something as one church. This semester, we're going to SERVE! On March 22, children, youth and adult ministries will join together to serve others. You'll be discussing how to get involved in your WNL class.



**Special WNL Dates**

- March 1** - Ash Wednesday - A light supper at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall followed by worship at 6:30pm in the sanctuary (no WNL classes).
- March 22** - Serving Together!
- April 5** - Madison County spring break - no WNL classes or meal (The Emerge youth ministry will be meeting.)

**Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12, 2017**



**ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS NOW!**

You may choose either Tulips or Lilies. Order forms will be available in the bulletin beginning March 19.

**Cost will be \$8 each.**



**NEW COLUMNS FORMAT**

As an act of stewardship with the church's resources, *The Columns*, our bi-monthly newsletter is moving over to electronic format beginning with the May/June issue. We will email the newsletter to each member for which we have a valid email address, as well as posting it on our church webpage. If you are unable to access your newsletter electronically, please contact the church office and we will be happy to continue to mail you a hard copy.

Also, for the most up-to-date church news, remember to visit the church web page at [www.richmondfumc.org](http://www.richmondfumc.org).

**Aldersgate Work Camp**  
April 28-29, 2017  
Contact Mike Park:  
859-353-1658  
[pcm.jmpark@gmail.com](mailto:pcm.jmpark@gmail.com)



This service will be April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the **MAUNDY** sanctuary.  
*Thursday*



**More than Eggs** is back and set for Easter Weekend April 15 from 10 am - noon. Mark your calendar and come experience Easter as never before. We will have games, bounce house, and more while your family waits to go on their tour.



**Easter Sunday: April 16**

- 7:00 a.m.: Sunrise Service in MMC Chapel
- 8:30 a.m.: Traditional Worship
- 9:40 a.m.: Sunday School
- 10:45 p.m.: Blended Worship
- 2:00 p.m.: Hispanic Worship in Fellowship Hall
- 5:42 p.m.: Thrive in MMC Gym



Open Chapel times in the MMC chapel- Sundays at 7:30am, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am. Prayer gatherings: 2nd & 4th Monday's of each month at 5:30pm in the MMC chapel.

We are in need of more people to pray for all 3 services. Please contact April Cain at 859-806-0828 or [aprilcain@gmail.com](mailto:aprilcain@gmail.com).

If you would like to be involved in the new Pray It 4Ward ministry or just want to know more about it please contact April.

**Pickleball?!**

It's a ball game for young and older adults (it's going viral in retirement communities). We now have a court laid out on our gym floor (Pastor Bruce & some of the staff are hooked). Come take a look and join the fun Friday mornings 08:30 - 11:30. Questions: call Amos 859-625-4721.



Do you have something that you would like to have added to the Columns? Feel free to contact Lori by calling 623-3580 for more info. The plan is to have a Columns every 2 months. **The DEADLINE for the May/June Columns is April 7, 2017.**