



THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Met

By the Way....

January/February

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2019

On Wine and Wineskins

The idea of an *alphabet*, that is, a set of letters that represent sounds that go together to make words. Seems to have originated in ancient Egypt and migrated into the Sinai and Canaan about 3500 years ago. Coincidentally, this is also one date that many scholars support as the date of the Exodus from Egypt.

Did the Hebrew people bring written language with them out of Egypt?

That is hotly contested, and ultimately unprovable, of course. What we can say with some certainty is that the stories which make up the Torah are some of the earliest written narrative prose. As moderns, it's possible to overlook the significance of this. In this age of computers and cell phones, it's hard to remember that the written word was once the biggest technological innovation of its time, and that apparently, God's people were early innovators in that technology.

Some 500 years later (according to the Biblical narratives) iron was beginning to supplant bronze in the ancient world. This vastly stronger material was especially important from a military standpoint. Iron had been known in the Aegean region for a couple of hundred years and apparently migrated to the Middle East with the Philistines. A young soldier that was on the outs with Saul, the current King of Israel fled to fight along side the Philistines. At Saul's death, the young warrior returned to Israel to claim his throne. This, of course, was King David. Archeologists note that it is during David's reign that Israel gained access to iron weaponry, the "cutting edge technology" (pardon the pun) of their day. Did David study the craft during his time with the Philistines?

It has often been pointed out that the spread of Christianity during the early apostolic period was sped along by the Roman system of military highways. Again, God's people taking advantage of the latest technology. And when Guttenberg invented movable type in the 1450's, it is hardly a coincidence that one of the first books that he mass produced was the Bible, launching the Renaissance and paving the way for the Reformation.

This historical pattern of God's people leveraging the most powerful technologies of their age seems a little at odds with the spirit of the church today. Innovation is not our strong suit. In fact, in most congregations new ways of doing things are met with suspicion, or worse.

I wonder if Moses had a committee meeting to discuss the possibilities offered up by writing things down. Did they suggest that telling the stories around the campfire had been good enough for their parents, so it was good enough for them? Did David have whole divisions of his army that insisted on using only the traditional bronze implements of Holy War?

Whatever obstacles these leaders were forced to overcome, they persevered and found new innovative ways to tell the old, old stories of their faith.

For those of us unhappy with the prospect of change, I remind you that our ancient texts suggest there is more to come. At the culmination of all things, the Jesus of revelation says: "Behold, I make all things new..." and his saints respond by singing a "new song."

The fact of change is inevitable, and its shape is unpredictable. God seems to be endlessly creative like that.

JBurce Nettleton

Adult Ministries

Hopefully, you enjoyed a nice Christmas break with friends and family and now you're ready to roll into 2019! Be encouraged to think about how to grow in your discipleship of Jesus this year. As always, plenty of opportunities abound to help!

Wednesday Night Live

On January 9, dinner (5:15pm) and classes (6:30pm) resume. Some classes continue from the fall but others are new.

Continued:

Epic of Eden – led by Stacy Jordan & Barry Tait

Bear Fruit – led by Bruce Nettleton

New for spring:

“We Plan, God Laughs” – led by Kathy Vockery

Financial Peace University – led by Bob Keith

The Gospel of Mark – A men's class led by Danny Gribbins

Parenting – led by Kim Nettleton

...with more to come!

Mark Your Calendars!

Work as Worship Retreat – March 16

Have you ever thought of your *work* as worship?

With our jobs, homework, lawn mowing, dropping off kids, washing dishes, caretaking, errands, picking up kids, phone calls (whew!), do you have trouble finding time to stop for *worship*? Well, have you considered that those things might actually *be worship*? On Saturday, March 16, we are hosting a “Work as Worship” video conference featuring pastor/speaker Francis Chan, Hobby Lobby President Steve Green, author Jon Acuff and others. Mark your calendar and visit <https://www.workasworshipretreat.org/> for more info..

Marriage Night – May 17

Join other couples and singles here at FUMC for an evening of laughter as we learn how our marriages can honor God. This live-stream event includes speakers Francis and Lisa Chan, Les and Leslie Parrott and comedian Michael Jr.



UNITED METHODIST
MEN



MEN'S MINISTRY

Have you signed up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program? When you do so, you will be helping our church. Simply go to krogercommunityrewards.com and create your account. Indicate that you would like your donation to go to First United Methodist Men's Ministry. Every time that you shop, a donation will go to this group. Please see the receipt below.



The Growing Place

We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas Season!

With the new year comes a season to be busy. We will be having our annual state review in January.

Children will be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King in the month of January.



Let It snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!



February is the month of celebrating love. Valentine's Day Parties and exchanging of Valentine's on February 15th. Although we celebrate in February, love should be a daily part of our lives.

In closing I leave you with this verse:

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

I John 4:10

Little Ones' Consignment Sale

Spring/Summer 2019: March 1st & 2nd

Hours are Fri 7am-6pm and Sat 8am-2pm

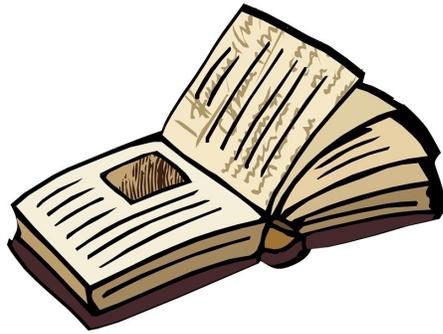
The Spring/Summer 2019 Consignment Sale will be held on March 1 & 2. The Little Ones' Consignment Sale (LOCS) is a community sale held in the MMC twice a year in which children's clothing and other child-related items are sold. LOCS proceeds go to benefit those in need in our community as well as internationally. Here is some information about the sale and ways to help:



- **Onsite Registration will be January 12 (snow date of Jan 19) at 9:00am in the MMC.**
- **Sign up to volunteer during the sale.** If you'd like to sign up to work the sale, please go to our website or contact Kathy Vockery at 358-5270. Working a 3 hour shift allows you to shop the pre-sale on Thursday, February 28.
- **Sign up to bring food/drinks to help feed our volunteers.** Contact Sharon Stone at 200-3116.

Donate wire hangers for items that need to be hung on racks. **(WIRE HANGERS ONLY!)** Hangers can be dropped off in the container by the back door or the week of the sale at the MMC.

Visit our website at www.locsofrichmond.com for the latest information about LOCS!

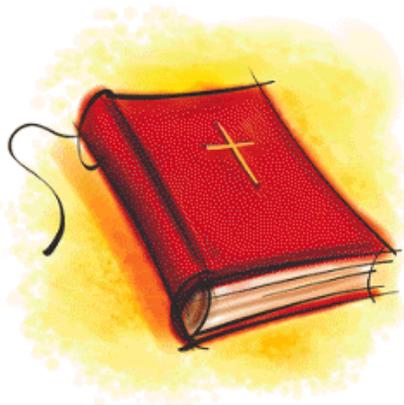


I want to let you all in on a secret treasure here at the church. Our church library! There are Biblical resources, books for your spiritual journey and even novels for the avid reader. Not to mention a quiet spot to read, reflect and pray.

I had need of some help during a recent personal crisis. I was already in the library for our Mom's in Prayer meeting and I got to looking at what was available. I was truly blessed to find several books that helped me understand the journey I was on. Their publish date isn't current but the advise they had to offer was no less pertinent.

So if you are looking for helpful would information, a subject you would like a Christian perspective on, a new subject to explore or a good book to curl up with on a cold winter night check out our church library.

Sharon Stone (formally Flanery, formally Stone!)



EMERGE Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry doesn't waste any time as we kick off this school year. We've got overnight trips coming up in January (Winter Blitz) and February (30 -Hour Famine), and we'll be doing our Super Bowl wings/desserts sale in January. That sale will be a big portion of our fundraising for our regional mission trip with Christian Appalachian Project, which we'll take in July! As always, we appreciate the support of our church family that enables us to do all these things!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Blitz — Jan. 18-20

Elevate356 — Jan. 28-29

30-Hour Famine — Feb. 22-23

Jonathan



January

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Shelby Thomson
 1/2 David Moore
 1/4: Matthew Bendure
 Marlowe Smith
 Toney Way
 1/5 Trudy Tait
 Jenny King
 Chris Harover
 Donna Paoella
 1/7 Charles Perkins
 Katie Upchurch
 Jonathan Huff
 Sara Morehead
 1/8 Jared Howard
 David Poff
 Amanda Lamb
 Anna Boyle
 1/9 Richard Smart
 Dave Purvis
 Billie Jo Lamb
 Dylan Shanks
 1/10 Jon Clevenger
 Austin Higginbotham
 Mike Williams
 1/11 Robbie Shoemaker
 1/12 Tim Harover
 Catie Poff
 Sue Rice
 Max Williams
 1/13 Judy Adkins
 Scott Bice
 Jeff Shearer
 Lyndsey Alexander
 Hannah Nnoromele
 Adley Muncie
 1/14 Maribeth Upchurch
 Debbie Crafton
 1/15 Steve Miller
 Kim Hartman
 1/16 Ben Kleppinger
 Tyler Sanslow
 Clark Haynes
 Grace Tillie
 1/17 Suzanne Nayle
 Peggy Brewer
 Landen Higginbotham
 Taylor McVey
 1/19 Stuart Carter
 Diane Dearingler
 Sarah DeMers
 1/20 Tom Snyder
 Alan Presnell
 Michael Smith

1/21 Chris Harrison
 Dan Deal
 1/22 Jill Allgier
 1/23 Ben Hodges
 Holly Ratliff
 1/24 Billy Way
 K.C. Alleruzzo
 Stuart Witt
 Paige Stamper
 Rose Snell
 Nathan Wells
 John Dunlap
 1/25 Jim Deaton
 Jonathan Conforti
 Quinn Castillo
 Jennifer Denereaz
 1/26 Lois Aurand
 Donna Clouse
 Elizabeth Combs
 Mary Adams
 David Kotheimer
 1/27 Jacob Hardin
 Joseph Stephens
 1/28 Denise Collier
 James Short
 1/30 Connie Freeman
 1/31 Virgil Brewer
 Jennifer Brown



1/2 **Jonathan & Courtney
 Kleppinger**
 1/3 **Chris and Brooks
 Jackson**
 1/8 **Henry & Cristy Costales**
 1/11 **Dale & Alison Emmons**
 1/25 **Shelby & Jackie
 Thompson**
 1/29 **Bobby & Diana Botner**

february BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Melissa Cozart
John Strange
Jason Crafton
Katie Ratliff

2/2 Floyd Coleman
Shirin Gardner
Pat Howard
Herb Pettit
David Anderson

2/3 Mary Lou Stephens
Faron Glover
Tyronna Riley
Bodie Snell
Spencer Stone

2/4 Liam Johnson
Elias Reynolds

2/5 Renee Nystrom
Zachary Cruse
Woodrow Lackey

2/6 Chuck Beaver
Angie Brock
Macy Taylor

2/7 Heidi Nystrom
Marva Taylor
Tony Stamper

2/9 Paula Jones
Kathleen Cox
Charon Shasby
Dylan Smith

2/10 Carol Van Winkle
Erin Stone

2/11 Mike Land
Michael Nettleton
Joshua Petry
Barry Mosby
Larry Coomer

2/12 Naomi Brock
Molly Karnes
Joni Stephens
Daniel Marifjeren

2/13 Ruby M. Smith
Braxton Dorris
Christy Ramsdell

2/14 Tom Harper
Charlotte Smith

2/15 Joseph Van Winkle

2/16 Fred Sweet
Margaret Yoder
Dustin Haynes
Eric Yoder
Hayden Hoadlin
Duke McClellan
Tom Slone

2/17 Audrey Brown

2/18 Ralph Azbill
Ray Jackson
Brain Brockman
Jane Wang

2/19 Nancy Tomlinson
Lisa Clevenger
Ryan Reynolds

2/20 Carol Cannon
Linda Hensley
Josh Petry
Anna Way

2/21 Kristin Auble
Chloe Calitri
Briley Davis
Monica Gale Heard

2/22 Casey Wiley

2/23 Ross McClellan

2/24 Grover Harrison
Melissa Mastin
Ronald Hansen

2/25 Barry Tait
Alan Joyce
A.J. Phelps
Courtney Goolsby

2-26 Ann Blum
Julie Secor
Kristen Brewer
Matthew Strunk

2/27 Chastity Ross
Demetrius Fassas
Lorene Hensley
Michael Shultz

2/28 Dave Alexander
Sarah Baird
Sean Hamilton
Kristina Huff
Sarah Knapil



2/4 Bryan & Susan Gardner
2/10 Michael & Linda Hensley
2/12 Dave & Janet Alexander
2/13 Phil & Pam Thompson

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



JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER
FUNDRAISER DINNER

EKU WESLEY FOUNDATION

February 2 2019 | 6:00 pm
Richmond First UMC
401 W.Main St. Richmond Ky
RSVP by Jan 26th.
ekuwesleyfoundation@gmail.com

\$20 individuals or \$120 for 6 person table
Dinner, dessert, and programming provided





Dear Church Family,

Another National Collection week is behind us. And for the 11th year, I thank you for your support of our Drop Off Center. The only numbers I can guarantee correct are that we packed 2,964 Gospel Opportunities into 172 cartons and drove them to Winchester in a 26' Penske truck. Also that our Boonesboro Area Team collected 6.6% more shoeboxes than last year and F.U.M.C. is a big part of that. Every year, we are reaching out further into Kentucky and providing more Drop Off Centers in rural parts of the state.

We had at least 65 volunteers help at our Drop Off Center which included Herb Pettit's entire Boy Scout Troop coming to load the cartons on the truck. Although most were from our church family, we also had students from EKU, other churches, and a young woman who just moved here recently from Colorado, saw the banner out front, and called me asking if she could help. Of course I said yes!

I also asked a few prayer warriors to be actively praying for our endeavor. I thank them for their dedication. Despite my worries, we always had enough volunteers, and our Wednesday evening shift which is typically very hectic, was the best we have ever had!

So once again, I thank ALL of you who prayed, helped, provided goodies and accommodated the time and resources that our Drop Off Center requires. I realized that our church began collecting shoeboxes the first year that Samaritan's Purse began Operation Christmas Child 25 years ago. I am deeply blessed and grateful for such a wonderful church family.

In closing, PLEASE keep praying for the children who receive these gifts, God knows each ONE intimately.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bendure



Music in Ministry

A Smile from the Music Council...

Sometimes, life becomes a little brighter if we're able to laugh at ourselves...to see the humor in everyday life. And church has always provided us with those memorable moments when despite our best efforts, what we say doesn't always convey the message we intended.

Most all of us have read or heard about those church bulletin announcements which meant to convey one message that somehow got lost in translation. And, church music has been no exception to the rule of misunderstanding.

For example, no doubt one editor was trying to be positive, but the announcement in the church bulletin left a bit to be desired: **"Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get."** If we assume these kinds of efforts are successful...the following announcement from one church newsletter would seem appropriate: **"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."** Still another announcement gave a hint as to the success that some new voices might bring: **"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."**

There are a number of bulletin blunders about the choirs' performances individually as well as collectively. Read one announcement: **"Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."**

And sometimes, the "music" performance was only "implied." Said one publication. **"A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow."**

But, there can be no doubt that music is—at least is intended—to be an integral part of a deeply religious experience. As one bulletin announced, **"This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."**

Ah yes...music does indeed soothe the soul...and provides us with a smile or two as well. FUMC adult and children's choirs, bell choir and praise team invite everyone to join us as we...sing...play...and laugh a bit when miscommunication lightens the moment.



Do you have something that you would like to have added to the Columns? Feel free to contact Jamie Salyers by calling 623-3580 or email him at mmc@richmondfumc.org for more info. The plan is to have a Columns every 2 months. The DEADLINE for the March/April Columns is Feb 4, 2019.

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