



THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

By the Way....

January/February

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2018

Happy New Year!

Some years ago, Kim and I had close friends who had moved to Massachusetts. On a couple of different occasions, we drove up to the area to visit them and take in the sights. One of the things I found striking about the area was the way places tended to be named.

There's the state's name itself, of course. Massachusetts refers to the tribe of native Americans who inhabited the area before the arrival of European colonists. It's a word that means "big hill" in Algonquin. Throughout that part of the world, native American place names abound. My favorite is the name of a Lake near Webster Massachusetts:

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg. It should come as no surprise to discover that this is the longest known place name in the United States. The locals finally have broken down and renamed the place "Webster Lake," but its older Native American name roughly translates to "I fish on my side, you fish on your side, and nobody fishes in the middle." It's not only a distinctive place name, it's a whole story waiting to be told.

The other great tradition in Northeastern place naming is to affix the word "new" to the front of some other existing place name. We call that whole part of the country "New England," which was one of the most densely settled parts of the "New World." It includes states like "New York," and "New Jersey," and cities with names like "Newhaven," "Newport," "New Bedford," "Newcastle," and of course "New York," which is actually the new name of "New Amsterdam."

These two naming conventions collide in the Northeast with neither giving quarter to the enemy. One celebrates the ancient heritage of the land, the other celebrates what our European ancestors thought of as a fresh start, or do-over.

For most of the early colonists landing on our shores, the trip to the New World had begun as a longing to escape their old life. Some had fallen hopelessly into debt, others were escaping a criminal past or had become personae non grata in the Old World. Many came to escape religious persecution, or to leave the orbit of a broken economy that offered no hope of improving their lives. A handful were sent by European interests to be governors or overseers on behalf of the old world order, but the vast majority came with hopes and dreams of a brand spanking new future.

The longing for a fresh start was not an American invention, of course. John, in the book of Revelation, records the vision Christ gave him of a "new heaven and a new earth." Centuries before that, Isaiah had declared on behalf of our God: "Behold, I do a new thing." The Psalmist implored "Sing a new song unto the Lord, all ye nations."

And we've not given up our infatuation with the "new." Walk through the local grocery store and count how many times the word "New" appears on some sort of starburst on the outside of the product packaging. The companion word to "new" is usually "improved." When the word "improved" does not actually appear on the label, it is, of course, inferred. Our assumption is that the new is better than the old.

This is the essence of hope, if you think about it. Things are bound to get better.

And so we enter a "New Year." It is a human impulse to take this opportunity to say "It's going to be better," or even "I'm going to be better" this year. That's what it means to live in hope.

As people of faith, we would do well to cry out with the Psalmist in Psalm 39:7:

"And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

Bruce Nettleton

The Growing Place

Busy, busy, busy; that's how we have been at The Growing Place.

*December came so fast it seems, and with the closing of the year we had fun and exciting things happened at The Growing Place!

*We decorated for Christmas and the children told the story of the meaning of Christmas through song for our families.



*We participated with the Angel Tree to bring gifts to children in need.

*The Growing Place was closed December 21 thru January 3rd.

*January we will have our state licensing visit for the year.



* It seems the year has gone by in a blur; but as I sit at my desk and reflect on the year, I am reminded of how blessed we truly are. We have become part of the lives of so many new families with great joy. We have met with life and death throughout the year, as well as, with tears of sadness and joy. Hugging friends and loved ones along the way to let them know that we are there when needed.



*I leave you with a verse from the Bible: John 15:17 says, These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Music in Ministry

Are you feeling a bit down, don't have the energy you once had, need something new and exciting in your life? January would be an excellent time for you to join in some aspect of the Music Ministry. There are many reasons why participating in music can be beneficial in your life.

Music provides discipline. You are needed and expected to be present each time to participate. Your fellow musicians are counting on you. This may give you that extra motivation to get up and get going.



In music you can lose yourself and find yourself. Daily cares and concerns fall away as you sing. Music is so much bigger than we are. Singers really feel closer to the Lord as they sing His praises. Music fills many spiritual needs. It is true that he who sings prays twice.

Music makes you feel better both physically and mentally. While singing, endorphins are released and the body relaxes. Being surrounded with lovely music makes your cares and concerns fade away and you do feel refreshed.



Music promotes unity out of diversity. All the different voices come together to make one delightful sound that is so much better than any individual voice. There is no social strata in music, everyone works equally hard and all are needed on an equal basis. **And, IT'S FUN.**

All these benefits, and others, can be yours if you join with us in the Music Ministry (Choir, Bells, Praise Team). Try something different this New Year and join us.

MMC NEWS

Hello Again,

Happy New Year!! It seems like January is always a time to look to the future and contemplate new possibilities. It is also a time that encourages self-improvement and personal growth. Why not take this time of the New Year to take part in new beginnings?

If you are interested in ways to improve your physical health and wellbeing then why not start at the MMC? The MMC offers open hours each week day, free of charge to both members and visitors, to our gymnasium, walking track, and exercise equipment.



If you are interested in ways to improve your spirit, the MMC houses several ministry and spiritual growth opportunities each and every week, including our weekly Thrive service, WNL classes and small groups, and the MMC is the home of Emerge our ministry to students 6th grade-12th grade. We also have several service and volunteer opportunities each week.

If you have any questions about what Richmond FUMC has to offer in 2018 please feel free to contact any church staff member who are always happy to help.

To counting our blessings and being a blessing,

Jamie Salyers,

MMC Coordinator



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMW wants to thank everyone who helped with, sold at, or shopped at the craft fair...we met our goal and are happy to announce that the church school room in Guatemala will be fully furnished!

Please pray about getting involved with Women's Ministries...we are all about fellowship but we are also very service oriented. As always, all women are invited to attend the meetings. We love new ideas and faces and we will begin planning our fun Spring "retreat" soon!

Upcoming Meetings

January 23 7 pm M212

February 27 7 pm M212



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 March/April Columns is February 9, 2018.

Adult Ministries

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19a) Part of our response to that commission from Jesus is called “Wednesday Night Live.” This “Wednesday Night Live” consists of dinner (5:15pm) and discipleship classes (6:30pm) held mid-week on...you guessed it... Wednesday! We had a great fall semester and we look forward to another one in the spring. These classes are for learning but also much more! It’s in the Sunday and Wednesday classes that we get to know each other, support one another and walk with Christ together. Classes resume after the holiday break on January 10.

For a list of classes, visit the FUMC website at richmondfumc.org or grab a brochure at the RAMP!

Congregational Care Team: Our Congregational Care Team continues to visit, pray with, and serve communion to those in our church family who are unable to attend our church services. If you would like to serve on this team, or know of people that would like to be visited, contact the church at 623-3580 or richmondfumc@richmondfumc.org.

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 Wednesday and Sunday classes being offered.



Special Wednesday Night Live Dates

- Jan 10 – Start of the spring semester of Wednesday Night Live (dinner and classes)
- Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday (5:15pm dinner in gym; 6:30pm service in sanctuary)
- Feb 28 – Classes at 6:30pm but no dinner (due to consignment sale in gym)

EMERGE Youth Ministry

I am guessing that if you are reading this, you are not a youth. And the odds are that you are not a youth counselor, either. But you are reading it, which obviously means you care about the youth ministry of our church. Are you interested in helping us out? There are plenty of opportunities that do not involve being a “full-time” youth counselor. You can pray for youth, open your home to youth, provide food for youth events, mentor a youth, donate to youth ministry or missions or scholarships, pray for youth (yes, I wrote that twice), or offer any other gifts and talents you have to help. Talk to me about how you can help. One of the most meaningful gifts we give to our youth is the connections with other adults in the church!

Jonathan Kleppinger



Upcoming Events

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|-------------|-----------------------|
| Jan. 19-21: | Winter Blitz |
| Feb. 14: | Ash Wednesday Service |
| Feb. 23-24: | 30 Hour Famine |



The first of December, nine of your brothers and sisters made a trip to the Red Bird Mission. We repaired a cabin at the camp for next year’s volunteers. Consider joining our Red Bird Team in 2018!



1/4: Matthew Bendure
Marlowe Smith

1/5: Trudy Tait
Jenny King
Chris Harover

1/7: Charles Perkins
Katelyn Upchurch

1/8: Jared Howard
David Poff
Amanda Lamb

1/9: Richard Smart
Dave Purvis
Billie Jo Lamb
Jon Clevenger

1/10: Robbie Shoemaker

1/11: Tim Harover

1/12: Catie Poff

1/13: Judy Adkins
Scott Bice
Jeff Shearer
Lyndsey Alexander
Hannah Nnromele

1/14: Maribeth Upchurch

1/15: Steve Miller

1/16: Ben Kleppinger
Tyler Sanslow
Clark Haynes
Grace Tillie

1/17: Suzanne Nayle
Peggy Brewer
Landen Higginbotham

1/20: Tom Snyder

1/21: Chris Harrison

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

1/25: Jim Deaton
Jonathan Conforti

1/26: Lois Aurand
Donna Clouse
Elizabeth Combs

1/27: Jacob Hardin

1/28: Denise Collier
James Short

1/31: Virgil Brewer



1/2: Jonathan & Courtney
Kleppinger

1/8: Henry & Cristy
Costales

1/11: Dale & Alison
Emmons

1/29: Bobby & Diana
Botner



**Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 11, 2018.**



2/1: Melissa Cozart
John Strange
Katie Ratliff

2/2: Floyd Coleman
Shirin Gardner
Pat Howard
Herb Pettit

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

2/5: Reneé Nystrom

2/6: Chuck Beaver

2/7: Heidi Nystrom
Marva Taylor
Tony Stamper

2/9: Paula Jones

2/10: Carol Van Winkle

2/11: Mike Land
Michael Nettleton
Joshua Petry

2/12: Naomi Brock

2/13: Ruby M. Smith
Braxton Dorris

2/14: Tom Harper
Charlotte Smith

2/16: Fred Sweet
Margaret Yoder
Dustin Haynes
Eric Yoder
Hayden Hoaglin

2/17: Audrey Brown

2/18: Ralph Azbill
Ray Jackson
Brian Brockman

2/19: Nancy Tomlinson
Lisa Clevenger

2/20: Carol Cannon
Linda Hensley
Josh Petry

2/21: Anna Way
Kristin Auble
Chloe Calitri
Briley Davis

2/24: Grover Harrison
Melissa Mastin

2/25: Barry Tait
Alan Joyce
A.J. Phelps

2/26: Ann Blum
Julie Secor
Kristen Brewer-King
Matthew Strunk

2/27: Chastity Ross
Demetrius Fassas

2/28: Dave Alexander



2/4: Bryan & Susan
Gardner

2/10: Michael & Linda
Hensley

2/12: Dave & Janet
Alexander

2/13: Phil & Pam
Thompson

2/14: Richard & Charlotte
Smith

2/18: Spencer & Susan
Waterbury

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

OCC National Collection Week and Beyond

This November marked the 10th year that FUMC served as a drop off center for Operation Christmas Child. We received a total of 3,001 shoebox gifts. Our church family packed 176 of those gifts! When we think about the multiplication effect of these gifts, the Gospel impact is staggering. Each shoebox represents a child who is part of a larger community in a country that desperately needs to know about God's best gift, Jesus Christ.

Our Drop Off Center is only as good as the many willing hands & hearts of its volunteers (& cookie bakers!). Well over 50 volunteers helped to greet, count, pray for, & pack those gifts into 174 cartons. I wish you could have seen Herb Pettitt's Boy Scout troop load our 26' truck! To give you an idea of the scope of this project, we had 27 different church & community groups donate boxes. We also had a few volunteers from the community join us in receiving these gifts.



This year I took the next step & "followed our boxes" to the Boone Processing Center with two other faithful OCC volunteers, Bobby Jackson & Linda Grant. We had the privilege of touring the Samaritans Purse headquarters & understanding better the many areas & ways they provide relief worldwide & year round. We also worked two shifts at the Processing Center. There the cartons were unpacked, & each shoe box inspected to be sure any monetary donations were found, & that nothing inappropriate or harmful was packed. We carefully repacked all the items, & if there were scant items, we added filler items. Then, back into the cartons they went, this time sorted by gender & age; as many as we could fit! And all of this was done as quickly & efficiently as possible. On our first day there, over 51,000 shoeboxes were ready to ship to Rwanda. The second day we were told our boxes were heading to Uganda & Tanzania. It was a joy to see boxes from all over Kentucky, & I even think I saw one from our church!



There was a great sense of excitement & joy at the processing center, as volunteers from many churches & organizations from the surrounding states gathered with one mission. We stopped regularly to pray for this project, & enjoyed sharing our stories with others.

Two of the questions asked frequently are "where do our shoeboxes go once we deliver them to the Collection Center in Winchester?" & "why is Elizabeth so obsessed with making sure we have an accurate count when we pack our cartons?" Our shoeboxes go to Boone, N.C. but there are 7 Processing Centers across the United States preparing all the boxes for their journey prior to Christmas. They base their totals on the numbers we write on each carton as it is received at a processing center.



The receiving countries are contacted a year ahead to ensure that there are partner churches & ways to transport the gifts once they arrive, whether by donkeys or camels or canoes! They don't all arrive by Christmas, but when they arrive, they all carry the Gospel message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please keep these Gospel Opportunities in your prayers, as they travel around the world!

My thanks to all of you who support & help with this ministry, & to our God who lets us be His hands & feet here on earth.

God bless you all,
Elizabeth Bendure,
The OCC Shoe Box Lady



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