



# THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

## By the Way....

July/August

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2018

### Treasure Maps

As I write this, I'm getting ready to travel with my family for vacation. This year's trip takes us to the Carolina seashore. To be honest, I'm not much of a beach guy... at least not in the lay and bake in the sun for hours sense. I can splash around in the waves for a bit and I'm pretty much done.

I do like walks on the beach, though. Especially those early morning moments before everybody else has arrived. There is a special sort of solitude that seems to only happen at the beach. Maybe it has to do with being able to see the nearest people as specks in the distance, or with the wash of white noise from the surf which enforces a sort of counterintuitive silence.

I think another reason I like walks on the beach is that I've never quite outgrown the notion that I'll discover a pirate treasure. Don't laugh. It happens to people.

In fact, I never take a walk on the beach without discovering some sort of treasure. God is endlessly creative in making beautiful things, and I've discovered many such on beach walks. Some of them can't really exist anywhere else. I've picked up glistening rainbows from the sand that turn to very ordinary bits of rock or shell when they dry out in my pocket or on my night stand. It's really not that big a stretch to think I might find a giant pearl or stumble over the lid of a wooden chest full of doubloons sticking up out of the sand.

Jesus told a pair of stories about such finds. (See. It's even in the Bible! We'll see who's laughing when I come home carting a treasure chest.) In each of his stories, Jesus remarks that the wise course of action upon stumbling on hidden treasure is to sell off everything to obtain the precious treasure. Buy the whole plot of land, if you have to, to get possession of that which is priceless.

The point of the parable, of course, is to think of God's

Kingdom as something beyond value, for which we ought to be able to sacrifice any amount of worldly wealth. In practice, though, the parable breaks down a bit. God's Kingdom is not quite as concrete as a treasure chest. We can't thump on it to make sure it's real, or get an objective appraisal from an outside source. God's Kingdom is a spiritual reality which is sometimes difficult to define and almost always more a matter of faith than of sight. Of course I would buy a field with a material treasure chest in it if I had seen and touched the treasure. But would I buy a field simply because I *believed* it had a treasure in it, perhaps based on a fragment of a treasure map or a sliver of a dream?

The prophet Jeremiah is faced with almost exactly this dilemma in Jeremiah chapter 32. His cousin is trying to unload a piece of property outside of Jerusalem. The property is of questionable value, because it has been overrun by the invading Babylonians. Jeremiah can buy it for the equivalent of "back-taxes."

Jeremiah is in a quandary, because he is on record as believing that the Babylonian invasion was inevitable and that resistance was futile, that Jerusalem and the whole nation of Israel was destined to fall. This will not be good for real estate values.

But Jeremiah also believes that God will ultimately forgive and restore His people. Jeremiah buys the land. His faith is that in spite of all appearances in the moment, God has a special future for His people. He invests in an invisible future.

Well in advance of Jesus' parable, Jeremiah has already lived it out.

It takes a special sort of boldness to invest ourselves in things we can't yet see or prove, but it is exactly this sort of boldness to which God's people have always been called.

*HBruce Nettleton*

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Team very faithfully visits our Congregational Care Friends. This team of eighteen are dedicated to their commitment and very quietly serve our members who can no longer attend regular services. Communion has been served on Communion Sundays to those Friends who want communion. Flowers were delivered for Valentine's Day and Easter Tulips were delivered so our Friends could enjoy a part of our Easter blessing. We are currently working on a July 4<sup>th</sup> remembrance for our Friends.

During the winter months, oftentimes, we hear how lonely it can be for those who cannot get out and about as they once did. It can be lonely in the warmer months as well. We can all do small things to help relieve that loneliness. What about a short phone call to say "Hello. I am thinking of you and praying for you", or sending a card with the same type of sentiment. Even in today's highly technical world, the handwritten sentiment can go a long way in making people feel remembered. Also, just because there is a Congregational Care Team, does not mean others cannot visit our friends as well.

As we move forward with our mission of caring for our friends, please join us in remembering birthdays and anniversaries. Listed below are our Congregational Care Friends with Birthdays and Anniversaries. You will find a list of our Friends with addresses on *THE RAMP*.

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Ted Brock         | November 6   |
| Charleen Campbell | March 17     |
| Betty Chaplin     | August 17    |
| Floyd Coleman     | February 2   |
| Darcia Coleman    | July 9       |
| Coleman Anniv.    | November 28  |
| Ruby Collins      | July 12      |
| Ed Conder         | September 18 |
| Geri Conder       | September 16 |
| Conder Anniv.     | March 22     |
| Shirley Haney     | September 17 |
| Leslie Hoffman    | July 1       |
| Jackie Hoffman    | September 14 |
| Hoffman Anniv.    | June 11      |
| Barbara McMahan   | not listed   |
| Katy Moss         | August 7     |
| Hugh Peavler      | July 5       |
| Claudia Smiley    | October 26   |
| Lawrence Wakeham  | September 12 |
| Anna Way          | February 21  |

As we serve our Community of Faith we appreciate and thank you for your support.

## Barbara Singleton Shares Her Love of Handbells

Dr. Barbara Singleton may be retired from her job as a teacher and consultant in early childhood education, but she continues to "teach" as part of an extended FUMC music ministry. On the first and third Thursday of each month, Barbara and her husband Tim work with the residents at McCready Manor to read music and play hand chimes. It was an idea inspired by Ginger Wallace and Shirin Gardner that grew into another outreach ministry of FUMC. "The ringers and the activities staff appreciate our church's sharing the two octaves of chimes that bring music to the residents there," Singleton said.

Singleton has been ringing and directing handbells for 32 years. She started in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but has played and directed handbells in West Lafayette, Indiana, Lexington and Richmond. She was a charter member of Alluring Community Handbell Ensemble in Lexington which is still an outstanding handbell choir in central Kentucky. She has also served six years as Kentucky State Chair in the handbell Musicians of America. It has been a labor of love shared by her husband Tim and their children. Daughter Amy and grandson Caleb both ring at McFarlin UMC in Normal, Oklahoma.



For the past 16 years, she has directed handbells at FUMC and shared her passion with ringers who have played for services in area churches as well as FUMC, and on at least one occasion, accompanied the Lexington Philharmonic as part of its Christmas concert.

Singleton would welcome anyone who might like to try ringing. "We are always in need of additional ringers," she said, "more ringers would give us the ability to utilize our five octaves." The FUMC Cannon Bells Ensemble currently has eight regular ringers; five more would make it possible to use all the octaves. Singleton would welcome anyone for a rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 or at McCready on the Thursdays that they are there.

Singleton points out that handbell ringers tend to become addicted to ringing because of the unique sound of handbells ringing melodically together. "One way for new ringers to hear and feel the music is to attend a festival with many handbell choirs ringing the same music. It's hard not to get goosebumps listening to 600-800 ringers ringing together," she said.

While she encourages new ringers to join the group, she expresses her appreciation for the support of FUMC over her 16 years here. "Our ringers enjoy making music that lifts praises heavenward and blesses each of you," she said.

"Anytime would be a good time to join us," Singleton added. Anyone interested in becoming addicted should give her a call at 624-5861.

# The Growing Place

We made it thru graduations and transitions in May!

You will be seeing new faces at The Growing Place. We work hard to keep familiar employees at all times, sometimes change is a good thing to help us grow. Please help us welcome our new staff.

## New Staff

Emily Dietz

Full Time Preschool Assistant Teacher

Savannah Falin

Full Time Infant Room Assistant Teacher

Jacqueline Noel

Part Time Floater/Closer Infant Room

Brittney Owens

Full Time Floater/Assistant Teacher

Along with new staff, we have opened up a Part Time summer classroom this year for our Part Time families.



Summer at TGP is more relaxed as families and staff are taking vacations and enjoying the time off that they have. During the summer, the Public Library hosts a lot of fun things and the 3's, 4's and Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade groups are able to attend the fun festivities as they become available. Ms. Shelly's Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade group also takes walking field trips to different businesses located here in town. Each summer Kona Ice comes to TGP and the children enjoy a cool treat. The days of summer are fun filled and delicious.

*Romans 8:6*

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Won't you join our VBS TEAM?!



July 25-27

6-8:30 pm

Nightly Registration begins at

6 p.m.

Do you **LOVE** people?



**Interested?**

Contact us at:

Call: 623-3580 (Church Office)

Text: 571-243-5531

Email: [children@richmondfumc.org](mailto:children@richmondfumc.org)

Drop by Room 215

Sequoia Wheeler

Children's Ministry Coordinator

P.O. Box 27 • 401 West Main Street

Richmond, KY 40476-0027

[www.richmondfumc.org](http://www.richmondfumc.org)

Office (859) 623-3580 • Fax (859) 623-3596





**Do you enjoy playing golf? Do you enjoy giving to good causes?** These two items meet for an awesome experience on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 9:00am for the Men's Ministry's Second Annual Malcolm Poulter Memorial Golf Scramble. This fun event raises funds to help children go to the Aldersgate Camp as well as other mission needs. Talk to any member of the Men's Ministry for more information or better yet come to one of our meetings held the second Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. For more info please contact: Bryan Gardner at 859-625-5257 (h) or 859-967-9071 (c)



**Do you want your business to reach members of the church and the Men's Ministry?** If so, talk to us about sponsoring a hole at the Malcolm Poulter Memorial Golf Scramble that will be held July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Battlefield Golf Club. Hole Sponsorships are a great value at only \$100.00. Contact Bobby Herbst at 859-200-5755 to sign up!



**Donations are being solicited now for the Third Annual Quarter Mania Auction.** This year the auction will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. Be part of the most talked about charity event in the Blue Grass! New Items only, please. Gift Cards are welcome. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by federal and state law [503(c)]. For more info please contact Bryan Gardner (see phone numbers above).



## Little Ones' Consignment Sale

Fall/Winter 2018: August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

Hours:

Fri. 7am-6pm and Sat. 8am-2pm



The Fall/Winter 2018 Consignment Sale will be held on August 3 & 4. 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:

- **Sign up to volunteer during the sale.** If you'd like 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 presale on Thursday, August 2.

- **Sign up to bring food/drinks to help feed our volunteers.** Contact Sharon Flanery 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](http://www.locsofrichmond.com)

for the latest information about  
**LOCS!**



7/2: Ben Lane  
Sean Smith

7/3: Bob Bliss  
Chad Sweely  
Nicholas Harover

7/4: Juanita Wagers  
Sherry Draeger  
Robyn Nichols  
Chris Copeland

7/5: Hugh Peavler  
Danny Gribbins  
Cameron Craig

7/6: June Harnack  
Michael Hensley  
Nathan Downer  
Brendan Wood

7/7: Robert Richards  
Mary Lou Hamilton  
Judith Leonard  
Paige Porter  
Caroline Neely  
Alex Grise

7/8: Josephine Lane

7/9: Darcia Coleman  
Andrew Yoder  
Aiden Dubler  
Mallie Kleppinger

7/10: Jojean Barton  
Paula Beth Ciolek  
Tricia Mosby  
Jeanne Smith  
Kayden Gibbs

7/11: Marcus Selski-Green  
Raygan Dubler

7/12: Gretta Cosby  
Michael Southgate

7/13: Pat Ison  
Francis Leake  
Rodney Cobb  
Debbie Slone  
Jackie Bliss  
Tre Robinson

7/15: Judy Calitri  
Kristina Ritter  
Nathan Harrison

7/16: Sabrina Cobb  
Salome Nnoromele  
Mike Ballard  
Autumn Maynard

7/17: Betty MacGregor



7/17: Will Snell

7/18: Brent Haynes

7/19: Frances Brock  
Lindsey Gordon  
Lydia Conforti  
Jamie Ford  
Linda Grant  
Mindy Ison

7/20: Judy Richards  
Mary Sweet  
Greg McClellan  
Melanie Sharp  
Anthony Cook  
Daphne Cobb

7/21: Bob Shoemaker  
Stacy Brockman  
Joshua Singleton  
Carl Hogsed  
Josh Moore

7/22: Jackie Thompson  
Carol Woolverton  
Bobby Herbst  
Heather Gale  
Sam Rhodes  
Tara Lewis

7/23: Katie Blakeney  
Michael Sharp  
Richie Heinlein  
Hunter West

7/25: Michelle Rogers  
David Moore  
Scott Collier

7/27: Scott Collier



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](mailto:richmondfumc@richmondfumc.org) for more info. The plan is to have a Columns every 2 months. The DEADLINE for the September/October Columns is August 3, 2018.



8/1: Phyllis Shuster  
Dale Emmons  
Robert Cartwright  
Allen Deaton  
Jonathan Kleppinger  
Katherine Carter

8/2: Alison Emmons  
Mandy Hale  
Kaitlyn Cain

8/3: Barbara Perkins  
Jennifer Bice  
Bentley McIntosh

8/4: Gene Strange  
Stephanie Hollister  
Meg Mandl

8/5: Nancy Randolph  
B.J. Sweger  
Audrey Alleruzzo  
Lydia Downer

8/6: Betty Jo Thompson  
JoAnna Glover

8/7: Katy Moss  
Duane Deyo  
Brooke Bentley

8/8: Ella Park  
8/13: Nettie Brock  
Chris Cobb

8/14: Bray Snell

8/15: Sue Mahanna-Boden  
Scott Knight

8/16: Larry Cooper  
Daniel Rice

8/17: Betty Chaplin  
Bobby Jackson  
Emily Upchurch  
Lauren Upchurch  
Xavier Tillie

8/18: K.S. Park  
Diane Sallee  
Tom Pinckley  
Laura Barker  
Jamie Salyers  
Evan Pettit

8/19: Pat Miller  
Natilee Wells

8/20: Frank Smith  
Greg Gillum  
Colin Jackson

8/21: Tine Grijalba  
Jim Buck



8/21: Jami Nichols  
Alex Fassas

8/22: Randy Boden

8/23: Suzy Lippman

8/24: Cassie Smith  
Nancy Bidwell  
Grant Brockman  
Mikayla Ballard

8/26: Susan Lovell  
Doug Howard  
Sharon Flanery  
Scotty Deyo  
Ashley Carter  
Madison Nicholson

8/28: Les Ramsdell  
Barb Singleton  
Jill Boden  
Scott Whitehouse

8/30: Jan Ramsdell  
June Jones  
Gabe Ellis

8/31: Donald Feltner

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

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](http://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.





- 7/1: Jim & Paula Deaton  
Bodie & Amber Snell
- 7/3: Ray & Bobby Jackson
- 7/4: Steve & Pat Miller
- 7/5: Faron & JoAnna Glover
- 7/6: Mark & Elizabeth Morrow
- 7/7: Steve & Tara Lewis
- 7/8: Paul & Donna Hale
- 7/12: Greg & Barbara Sargent  
Roger & Deborah Whitehouse
- 7/14: Robbie & Bel Riley
- 7/15: Tom & Iddah Otieno
- 7/17: Jeff & April Cain  
Dammian & Dara Stepp
- 7/18: Hal & Diana Howell
- 7/20: Larry & Ann Bailey
- 7/21: Bruce & Kim Nettleton
- 7/27: Tony & Kandy Stamper
- 7/29: John & Cheyenne Dawson
- 7/30: Ken & Kristin Auble
- 7/31: Pat & Louise Ridgley  
Kelly & Maribeth Upchurch



- 8/2: Gene & Nancy  
Wuestenhagen  
Patrick & Salome Nnoromele  
Nathan & Emily Downer
- 8/3: Gene & Jamie Higginbotham  
Mike & Denise Ballard
- 8/5: Ron & Ruth Wolfe
- 8/13: Jim & Cheryl Buck
- 8/15: Morris & Betty Jo Thompson
- 8/17: Roger & Sheryl Jurich
- 8/18: Ben & Josephine Lane  
Sanford & June Jones
- 8/20: Jack & Pat Ison
- 8/23: Scott & Jennifer Bice
- 8/25: Don & Marthelyn Feltner
- 8/26: Bob & Carol Rogow
- 8/28: Martin & Frances Brock
- 8/31: Grover & Pam Harrison

# Adult Ministries



**August 29 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Kick-Off Pool Party**  
**Lake Reba**  
**for FUMC's Fall Semester**



**September 5 at 5:15 p.m.**  
**WNL (Dinner & Classes)**  
**Kick-Off for Fall Semester**

**WNL**  
**BEGINS!**

## Boy Scout Troop 401 Annual Yard Sale

**Saturday, July 21**  
**FUMC Parking Lot**

***DONATED ITEMS NEEDED!***

We are in need of clean, sellable items for our annual yard sale, which is our biggest fundraiser for the Troop for the year. Proceeds help our Scouts with camping trips, summer camp, achievement awards, and other costs associated with Scouting.

***Please call 859-248-6550 or email [dkemper02@gmail.com](mailto:dkemper02@gmail.com)*** and we can pick up your donated items. If you prefer to drop off donations, please contact us by phone or email to make arrangements.

**Items Needed:**

- Appliances
- Tools
- Furniture
- Exercise/Sports Equipment
- Household Items
- Books/DVD's
- Jewelry/Toys
- Outdoor Equipment/Holiday Decorations
- Clothing (ONLY Newborn to Child Size 12)
- All Forms of Donations Appreciated!!!**

## It's almost Shoebox time!



Soon school supplies will be on sale which are excellent items for packing in shoeboxes. Have fun finding that special "WOW" item to bring joy to a child's heart! Maybe a soccer ball, or a special doll or toy.

Why pack a shoebox? Because the shoebox gift is all about Evangelism, Discipleship and Multiplication! Here is a brief report from Malawi to give you an idea of the true impact of what Operation Christmas Child is all about.

### Shoebox Gifts Result in New Churches in Malawi

*Doors are widely opening up in spiritually dark villages in Malawi. Recently, following OCC shoebox outreach events, two villages in the Lilongwe region of the country witnessed the baptism of over **100** people total. These villages are hard to reach due to evil traditional beliefs and high illiteracy. At one OCC shoebox outreach event in November, over **400** children were invited including a village chief. A few days later, a children's ministry and bible study meetings were launched. Since then, two churches have been planted following the baptism.*

*In order to keep the village youth active, strong, and socially connected, new soccer teams have been formed using many of the balls that were included in shoebox gifts. PRAISE GOD!*

*One local pastor is very excited and sees another opportunity of establishing literacy and nursery centers to keep supporting the **5000** plus children in these villages.*

Not only does your shoebox gift show a child that he/she is loved, it opens doors to entire communities coming to know Jesus. And once they know Him, they reach out to others providing help and a sense of community that only can happen because they have come to love God.

Our church will be celebrating our tenth year as a Drop Off Center on July 29th, which is also Unity Sunday. I hope you will come celebrate with us!

Elizabeth Bendure



Many of us are involved in school of some sort, from elementary school through college, from students to teachers to parents. And with the break from school that comes with summer, there are people we will see again in August whom we haven't seen since May.

It's easy to anticipate that they will be exactly the same people as when we last saw them, but that's probably not going to be the case. Look harder.

In Acts 9, Saul leaves Jerusalem to bring back disciples of Jesus as prisoners. Not long after that, he arrives back in Jerusalem and tries to join the disciples. This was unbelievable for the disciples (v. 26), until they looked a little harder and listened a little more (v. 27). He had changed and came back a different person.

When we see those people this fall whom we haven't encountered for months, let's not expect them to be exactly as we left them — especially those children or youth who are growing up quickly. Let's look hard for how God has been at work changing people when we haven't been looking.

Jonathan Kleppinger, Youth Pastor



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug. 15 — Back-to-School Prayer Rally at Lake Reba**

**Aug. 29 — Church-wide Pool Party at Paradise Cove**