



THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

By the Way....

November/December

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2018

In The Bag

I have lived long enough to see a lot of things change, but one of them is lettuce.

Twenty years ago, shopping for lettuce was fairly straightforward. A shopper went to the produce aisle in the grocery store and sorted through the heads of lettuce on display. Of course you wanted to find one that was crisp and green, with no browning at the edges of the leaves. Larger heads of lettuce were generally favored, because we all knew the lettuce at the core of the head would be white and bitter. In short, the bigger and greener a head of lettuce, the better.

This presented a problem for the lettuce farmer. What is the right combination of chemicals and nutrients to make my lettuce grow in larger and greener heads?

There were technological answers to this question, of course. Like all technological answers, cost was a factor, and those who farmed on an industrial scale were at a distinct advantage over those who grew lettuce on a few acres of family-owned land. A sort of agricultural arms race broke out in the lettuce industry. The stakes were high. If your competitor grew lettuce heads significantly larger and greener than your own, yours would wilt on the wagon, unsold.

So let me ask you something. When was the last time you bought a head of lettuce?

For many of us, it's been years. This is because somebody, somewhere, realized there was a way around the whole technological race to produce bigger and better heads of lettuce. Some enterprising genius started buying up the smaller heads of lettuce and pre-shredding them, packaging them as ready-to-go salads. This is what I call a "game-changing idea." Somebody circumvented a game they couldn't win and created an entirely new industry.

Today, you can buy a dazzling variety of different mixes of greens and vegetables, from Caesar salads to cobb. Some come with croutons and single serving portions of specialized salad dressing. I have a friend whose husband came home from the grocery store with seven bags of salad because they were on sale and he couldn't decide which variety to choose.

We live in a time of unprecedented change and challenge, and the mainline church is struggling. Most of us assume that the only way to survive is to build ourselves bigger and better. The "megachurch" is the modern model of church success. Build a huge facility. Hire a diverse, multilevel staff. Plug in and turn it up loud. Broadcast it.

But this is a survival of the fittest level of game. Not every church can compete at this level. This leaves me wondering what the game-changing idea might be.

After all, the Christian mission was around for a long time before the megachurch came to town. Churches met in homes and barns and catacombs and smithies. Disciples were made in grass huts and log cabins and little white frame buildings with steeples. It all started with a dozen or so fishermen and their friends who had never seen a piano or an organ or an electric guitar.

I'm not saying we should go backwards. That's almost never the right answer. But I do think we need to start to challenge the assumptions of this current age and try to find a vision of God's next big thing.

Jesus warned his disciples of the danger of storing old wine in new wineskins, or patching an old garment with a new piece of cloth. He witnessed a need for a radical reimagining of God's people and their mission in his own day. Over the intervening centuries, the church has gone through numerous metamorphoses. We are almost certainly due for our next.

By definition, we don't yet know what it is. What is certain, though, is that we will not see it unless our eyes... and our minds... are open.

Bruce Nettleton

Adult Ministries

"Why should I attend Sunday School?" Well, read what some who do have to say!



- "It's a time when I can plug into a small group of open, accepting, growing Christians and share my faith journey and my life."
- "I attend Sunday School because it is the best way to build closer connections in the church and to delve into deep discussions."
- "Sunday School is my small group/my community--- I am protective of this time because our group truly prays and cares for one another. I am involved in other groups at my church, but often the 'service' aspect outweighs time for prayer/sharing, so I'm thankful to have a place for that-- it allows me to really feel connected to the church beyond corporate prayer/worship/teaching. ... I appreciate that our group has a mix of age, gender, and marital status."
- "Sunday School is where fellowship and active learning take place. I actually get more out of Sunday school than anywhere else."
- "Sunday School has been a 'habit' since I was a very young child. I can still remember the sand box in my tiny tots class with figures and houses from all over the world. Sunday School gives an opportunity to study the Bible and issues relating to our lives as believers, all in a setting that allows for discussion and practical application of truth to one's life. It also builds relationships in a more intimate group than the worship service. We can pray for one another and encourage and serve one another as well."



- "Sunday School is a place to get connected with a small group of people from church. It is a means of feeling like you belong. To me, it is a huge stepping stone to helping you settle into a church."

- "Sunday School is an underappreciated core discipleship tool..."

Do you attend Sunday School? If not, you're encouraged to consider it as part of *your* discipleship growth! Sunday School classes begin at 9:40am and are located in the MMC and the main building. See the RAMP for our offerings or email Jamie Jordan (adult@richmondfumc.org) for suggestions. Note: On December 16, all Sunday School classes are invited to attend the children's Christmas program at 10am!

Wednesday Night Live schedule:

- November 21 No dinner or classes
(Thanksgiving holiday)
- December 5 Final dinner and adult classes for the fall semester
- January 9 Dinner (5:15pm) and classes (6:30pm) resume for the spring

Save the Date!

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.



The Growing Place

Along with the months changing so do the seasons. We at The Growing Place are busy!

November is a beautiful month as classrooms are learning about Fall. The colors of the leaves, the crispness of the air and jackets. God colors our world with such beauty. Thanksgiving is a time for being thankful for all that we have, we are truly a blessed people.



The Growing Place will be closed on November the 22nd and 23rd for Thanksgiving. We will also begin practicing for our Christmas Musical this year.

December-What a joyous month to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour!



Our Christmas Musical will be Thursday evening, December the 13th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate with music, songs, bible verses and love! We will be having a Cookie Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following the musical.

The Growing Place will be closed December 24th and we will reopen on January 2nd, 2019.



I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalms 116:17

Connie McKinney

Congregational Care Team

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39 NRSV

Who is our neighbor?

- Someone in the house next door?
- A Sunday School/Bible study friend?
- Grocery checkout clerk?
- A Congregational Care Friend who can no longer attend services regularly?

What is a visit?

- An in person, knock on the door, visit?
- A phone call?
- A card sent to simply say "Thinking of you"?
- All the above.

The Congregational Care Team visits, calls and sends cards to our Care Friends. New friendships have been forged and old friendships have been renewed throughout the past year. The Youth have joined in to visit our Care Friends. We had a multi-generational Caroling event in December 2017 and gift delivery celebrating the 4th of July.

As the Holiday Season is upon us, join the Care Team in remembering our Friends who cannot attend services, Sunday School or Bible Studies on a regular basis. Cards are always welcome. The written word carries much power and can be kept close by to read occasionally. Reverend Ted Brock will celebrate a birthday on November 6, 2018. Floyd and Darcia Coleman celebrate an anniversary November 28, 2018. Please remember these special events. Christmas is also a great time for cards. Address information for our Care Friends is available on the ramp and, for many, in our Church Directory.

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 is the date for the Churchwide Christmas Caroling. Let's see how many people we can have join in this event. The group had a great time last year and there were many memorable moments, not only for the carolers, but also for the folks they visited. The gathering time is 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Multi-generational Caroling groups will be formed and departure will take place at 6:30 PM. Food and fellowship will follow caroling back in Fellowship Hall. More information will be forthcoming in the bulletin as the event draws near.

If you would like to join the Congregational Care Team or know of a Friend to add to our visitation list, please call the church (859-623-3580).

Come, join in the Christmas Spirit and help our church family spread the Christmas joy!

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

Congratulations



Whitney and Maggy Dunlap would like to announce the marriage of their son Thomas Alexander to Julie A. Coggins. Tom and Julie were married on June 16th in Winchester, Ky by Rev. Gene Strange. Julie and Tom met in Houston, Texas at a United Methodist Church Young Adults gathering three years ago. Julie works for the FDIC and Thomas, now a Lt. JG in the Navy is in his third section of becoming a Navy Pilot. They currently live in Corpus Christie, Tx.



2018 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.

EMERGE Youth Ministry

I continue to be amazed at all the ways our church works together across generations. There are the bigger events, such as game nights where grandparents are playing games with other people's grandchildren, or a pool party with all ages present, or children and youth singing Christmas carols with choir members and others on doorsteps in December. Then there are the less-visible ways I see our youth being mentored in service roles during worship or being tutored by older, wiser servants giving of their time, or eating snacks donated by a group of ladies they may have never met. And then there are the little everyday things I take for granted, the ways our church acknowledges and cares for our youth day in and day out with love and attention and compassion. And while budgets get tight all around, there's never a question that someone will step up to write a check if the children or the youth need it. This Thanksgiving season, I'm grateful — as a former participant in children's ministry and youth ministry, as a former youth volunteer, as a church member, as a father, as a youth pastor — for the immense value our church family puts on our children and youth.

Jonathan

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 20 (T) — "Famsgiving" in fellowship hall, 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 5 (W) — interactive movie during WNL for youth, 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 12 (W) — progressive dinner for youth, 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 19 (W) — caroling with church, 6-8 p.m.
- Jan. 18-20 — Winter Blitz conference in Louisville (Nov. 28 deadline for tickets)



11/1:	Rebecca Wilson Glenn Green Meredith Meeker Taylor Strunk	11/16	Eugene Wuestenhagen Carol Wells Tyler Robinson Bobby Barton Brian McCready Chris Morrow Zachary Karnes Ephraim Otieno Cody Lamb Annabelle Conforti
11/2	Zak Coleman Jane Dzelzitis Molly Ford	11/17	Abby Thompson Lynda Park
11/3	Carl Hogsed Mark Morrow Susan Gardner Carolyn Gordon Justin Cobb	11/18 11/19 11/20	Elizabeth Ellis Tanner Lawson Joel Babbitt Riley Kissick Dale Reed Cheryl Muncy Addison Neal
11/4	James Short Jeff Cain Daudi Saangonyo Jonathan Chasse Dakota Coleman Andrew Stewart	11/21 11/22 11/23	John West Gary Ford Elizabeth Reed Shirley Allen Amber Snell Hannah Jordan
11/5	Charlene Stone Tonya Short Kalli Whitehouse	11/24	Morgan King Thomas Longwell Nancy Wustenhagen
11/6	Rev. Ted Brock Mary Jo Baedecker Mark Cole Sean Craig Emily Downer Jacob Brooks Catherine Tait	11/25 11/27 11/28	Rick Cowan Susan Shearer Cheryl Buck April Cain Sara Moore
11/7	Tim Singleton Harvey Cozart Becky Hatfield Arionna Dawson Aliya McFall Elijah Moore	11/29 11/30	David Willis James Reffett Frances Sharp Alexandria Rogers Breanna Cox Sawyer Hoaglin
11/8	Jo Wernegreen Peggy Coe Lindsey Baker Parker Presnell		
11/9	Dr. John Ferguson Pam Harrison Tracy Smith		
11/10	Patrick Nnoromele	1/7:	V.J. & Rosette Salins
11/11	Mary Ann McKinney Christie Cain Harper Jessica Banks Lincoln Herbst	11/8: 11/14: 11/17: 11/18:	Jeff & Thea Shearer Dave & Carol Woolverton Richard & Carla Stone Dave & Karen Purvis
11/12	Logan Herbst Lori Chasse' Amanda Lewis Gary Yerace	11/19: 11/21: 11/22:	Mike & Kathryn Phelps Brian & Stacy Brockman Gene & Donna Strange
11/13	Sybil Fagan Rita Smart Bill Grise Melissa Lindsey	11/23: 11/24: 11/26: 11/28:	Michael & Jill Singleton Alan & Becky Hatfield David & Rella Evans Andy & Donna Bentley
11/14	Zachory Dalton Stephen Koerner James Stone Thea Shearer	11/30:	Floyd & Darcia Coleman Dave & Ellen Thomas Tim & Denise Harover
11/15	Gia Riley		Steve & Paula Strunk



1/7:	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
11/23:	Michael & Jill Singleton
11/24:	Alan & Becky Hatfield
11/26:	David & Rella Evans
11/28:	Andy & Donna Bentley
11/30:	Floyd & Darcia Coleman Dave & Ellen Thomas Tim & Denise Harover Steve & Paula Strunk



12/1:	Eric Metcalf Hannah Moore Hope Moore	12/22:	Teresa Lowe Benjamin Taylor Denise Harover Kandy Stamper Isabella Lamb Keith Goodacre Carol West Stephen Calitri Courtney Kleppinger
12/2:	Bill Tomlinson Elizabeth Bendure	12/23:	Laura McWilliams Patrick Ridgley
12/4:	Joyce Kiogora Rusty Way Stephanie Griffey Susan Ratliff Justin McFall	12/24:	Donna Perkins Haley Mullins JoNelda Cole David Rice Samantha Maumbe Caroline Schodde
12/5:	Diana Botner Donna Bentley Caleb Jordan	12/25:	Jamie Emmons Joseph Reynolds Bobby Botner Kevin Conforti
12/6:	Kaci Jo Herbst Sherri Williams	12/26:	Kelsey Shoemaker Benjamin Mosby
12/7:	Freida Shoemaker Sean Strunk	12/27:	Sally Smith Ralph Merten Brianna Insley
12/8:	Ellen Thomas Donna Meinze Bob Riley Jan Castillo Melanie Calitri Joseph Bowling Gavin Bice Aiden Moore	12/28:	Bryce Singleton Debbie Eison
12/10:	William Ridgley Dave Thomas Zach Grise Cameron Lovell	12/29:	
12/11:	Morris Thompson Nicole Whitaker Beverly Johns	12/30:	
12/12:	Dorothy Mercer Feralith Perkins Terri Killin Danielle Brown Mike Park Chance Muncy	12/31:	David & Susan Ratliff Fred & Mary Sweet George & Lori Chassé Stacy & Rindy Russell Kenneth & Ariel Firby George & Shelly Boulden Michael & Storm Shultz Dale & Ida Reed Alan & Neva Joyce C.L. & JoNelda Cole Marvin & Barbara Perkins Chuck & Lois Beaver Gary & Jamie Ford Larry & Susan Shearer Michael & Sally Martin Robert & Erin Cartwright Stephen & Melanie Calitri
12/14:	Diana Howell Katlyn Delaney Casey Deyo	12/3:	
12/15:	C.L. Cole Shannon Grise Grace Outlaw	12/4:	
12/16:	Donna Miracle Brook Lynn McFall	12/7:	
12/17:	Paula Tussey Angela Hardin Shannon Conforti	12/10:	
12/18:	Carrie Wurzelbacher Cassady Duarte Justin Reynolds	12/11:	
12/19:	Will Emmons Emily Robinson	12/12:	
12/20:	Doug Petry John Shearer	12/14:	
12/21:	Karen Purvis Jordan Dunaway	12/15:	
12/22:	Richard Bendure	12/17:	
		12/23:	
		12/26:	
		12/27:	
		12/28:	
		12/30:	



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

Upcoming Holiday Events from the UMW



Christmas Craft Festival

Saturday, Nov. 17

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First United Methodist
Richmond

Multi-Ministry Center
401 W. Main Street

**Silent Auction Baskets
Treats, Breakfast, Lunch
Community Crafters & More**

Sponsored by United Methodist Women's Ministries

*More
than Tea*

Women and Girls of All Ages Invited

December 6, 2017

6 p.m.

Richmond First United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall

*See Laura Bauer or Women's Ministry
members to get tickets and to sign up to be
a table hostess.
859-582-4906*



Dear Church family,

Have you heard the Good News? Linda Grant is our new Project Leader for our OCC Collections & October 14th was our official kickoff for Operation Christmas Child!

It is also a huge blessing that FUMC continues to be a Drop Off Center! As the Drop Off Center Team Leader, I am looking forward to working with volunteers to pack thousands of shoebox gifts! Families, groups & individuals will bring their shoe boxes to our church during National Collection Week, Nov. 12th through Nov. 19th!

Want to be a missionary but can't leave Richmond? The shoeboxes we pack will travel to the farthest ends of the earth and reach children in even unreachable areas!

We need LOTS of volunteers to greet the donors, accept & count their gifts, & pack them into cartons. There are 8 daily 2-3 hour shifts. You can commit to 1 shift or all of them. This is truly a project in which everyone can participate! We need greeters, prayers, counters, & packers. Herb Pettit's Boy Scout Troop does an awesome job of loading our cartons on our 26 foot truck! I also need a good driver to transport our boxes to the Winchester Collection Center on November 19th! From there they will be loaded onto a really BIG truck and taken to the Boone NC Processing Center to be shipped all over the world & bring Good News of God's Love to hurting children.

Last year our Drop off Center packed 3,000 shoeboxes into 174 cartons. This year we hope to pack even more! I will be counting on my faithful past volunteers as well as first-timers to make this happen. The times you can sign up for are below:

Mon. 11/12: 11am-1:30pm
Tues. 11/13: 6:00-8:30 pm
Wed. 11/14: 6:30-9:00 pm
Thurs. 11/15: 5:00-7:00 pm
Fri. 11/16: 3:30-5:30 pm
Sat. 11/17: 9:00-11:00 am
Sun. 11/18: 1:00-3:00 pm
Mon. 11/19: 9:00 am -Noon

Sign up sheets are already available on the RAMP but please also 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? Have a heart for Prayer? We need you!

Elizabeth Bendure 859 893-1366
FUMC Drop Off Center Team Leader

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 January/February Columns is December 3, 2018.

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