



THE COLUMNS

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Richmond First United Methodist Church

By the Way....

September/October

Words from our Senior Pastor Bruce Nettleton

2018

Let's Start at the Very Beginning...

If you've been worshipping with us over the last couple of months, you know we've been spending some time trying to address questions framed by the congregation. We've dealt with issues like free will, why bad things happen, the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and the doctrine of the Trinity, just to name a few. As we have turned to scripture to answer these sorts of questions, it has become evident to us how many of our answers are rooted in the very first few chapters of the Bible, all the way back in Genesis.

This is interesting to me, because these verses have also been one of the church's biggest traditional battlefields. The debate between scientific theories on the origins of the universe and a literal reading of the Biblical text are far from behind us. Do we read these chapters as literal truth, or as metaphor?

A closer look at the texts themselves, I think, tells us that this is the wrong question. Genesis chapters 1 and 2, whatever you may believe about cosmic origins, are clearly organized and crafted with theological points in mind. Genesis 1 begins with God, who for the first three days of creation crafts the environment of the heavens and the earth, the land and the sea, the day and the night. Each of these acts of creation is described in terms of separating one thing from another.

The second three days describes God making things to fill the environments he has created. This creative flurry has God making things out of nothing and placing them in their places, and it culminates with the crowning glory of creation: humans. Humans are placed in the world and given dominion over it. In case we missed this little theological point, the author repeats it.

The seventh day God proclaims his work good and complete. This statement, in its original context, could have hardly been a more revolutionary concept. Looking at the world around them, ancient humans seemed to have arrived at a world picture which assumed there must be competing divine forces at work. Obviously, humans are not in control, and whoever is steering this world seems to have trouble making up their mind what they want. The best explanation is a panoply of gods in some cosmic game of tug of war.

Genesis 1, however, begins with a raw, unsupported claim that there is one creating God who made everything complete and good. This is a faith statement *par excellence*.

After the structured poetry of chapter 1, chapter 2 is an abrupt

change of pace. Now we have a storyteller telling the sort of tale one might hear on a front porch or around a campfire. The order of things is a little different. God creates an empty garden and then creates Adam to live in it. He then creates plants and gives Adam the charge to tend them for his food. Eve is not far behind, because leaving a man alone in the garden is not a good idea. God gives a single commandment, which Adam and Eve eventually (almost a whole 15 verses later!) reject. This disobedience is so contrary to the nature of the universe that it rips the fabric of the cosmos, introducing the chaos in which we as humans now live.

The point of this story is not to explain the fossil record, but to help us understand how evil could enter a world created by a single, good God.

Aside from God's sovereignty and goodness, though, there is another point driven home by chapters 1, 2, and 3 of Genesis. At the climax of the poetic progression in chapter 1 it is repeated twice. In the folksy story of chapters 2 and 3 it is stated both before and after the tragic events of humanity's fall from perfection. We are told over and over again in these chapters that humanity has been created for a reason and with a purpose. We are to assume responsibility for God's created world.

In the ancient world, there was a name for someone who was given the responsibility to care for their master's belongings. They were called *stewards*. What they *did* was called *stewardship*.

The idea of stewardship has often been misapplied in the church today. When we use the word, we're usually talking about a once-a-year campaign to pry money out of the congregation's pockets to fund the budgetary requirements of the church. In fact, stewardship is the ongoing task of making sure that all creation is kept moving towards its ultimate healing in Christ. To try to capture this on a bar graph or percentage points of revenue versus expenses is like trying to critique a novel based on the font in which it was printed.

The tithe is a Biblical concept. So is supporting the sanctuary and the clergy, and seeing to the needs of the poor. But these are all details in the service of the greater story. As Paul puts it: Creation is groaning in the pangs of childbirth as she strains forward towards her redemption through those transformed into the image of Christ.

Stewardship is not an annual activity. It is the life we have been created to live since the foundations of the world. Everything we do that is not rooted in stewardship is distraction.

Bruce Nettleton

The Growing Place

Summer is over and school has started! Our children are continuing to learn and play, enjoying the cooler weather.



Our Family Picnic was great fun at Million Park! We barbecued hot dogs and had all the trimmings!



Fall pictures have been taken! We will be having another Pumpkin Festival this year. Last year, we got pumpkins from Baldwin's Farm and the students each picked a pumpkin and had their picture taken.



Halloween is quickly approaching! We will have our annual Halloween costume parade in the MMC Building! Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Paw Patrol Characters, princesses and more!



We have lots planned for The Growing Place. More fun times await us! Until next time...enjoy the fall season!

Adult Ministries

Growing up, I had a friend who really wanted to be someone else. He and I played basketball together – a lot. And that's where it became apparent who his idol was. Much of the time, he had his tongue wagging as he drove to the rim to score. He wore red and black often – colors of the Chicago Bulls. When it wasn't red and black, it was UNC Tar Heel blue. And he was always the first person to buy the newest Nike Air Jordan shoes. Growing up when I did, we ALL wanted to be Michael Jordan. But my friend took it to another level entirely.

I find it helpful to remember who it is that I want to be when I grow up spiritually. Left to my own, Jamie will go on his own course.

And it won't be pretty. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to run our race keeping "our eyes fixed on Jesus" (12:2). That makes me pause. How fixed are MY eyes on Jesus?



What about us as a church? How fixed are WE on Jesus?

Our church's mission statement, our purpose, is to "grow disciples who make a difference." Have you heard that before? One of the main ways we do that is to come together to study the Bible. September marks the start of a new semester of Wednesday Night Live – and a new crop of classes!

This semester, we'll offer some classes we've offered before. They're our core Stepping Stones classes – ones that we'd like everyone to take. We'll also offer some new classes, such as a parenting class and one on cooking.

So, as a Christian, who do you want to be as you grow up? Do you have His moves? What about His words? What class do you most need to be part of this semester? Maybe it's time to get uncomfortable and do something different. For some, that might mean simply taking a class. For others, it might mean a new group of people or something out of the norm. Regardless, take a look at the list of classes on our website or on the RAMP flyer and join a class that will help you fix your eyes on Jesus and GROW! The first Wednesday of classes will be on Sept. 5. Contact me (Jamie Jordan) at adult@richmondfumc.org if I can help you find the right class.

Jamie Jordan

LOCS Ministries Supported

Fall/Winter 2018

\$3,180	Gift Certificates (clothing for those in need)
\$456	Compassion for Christ (two adopted children)
\$1,000	God's Outreach Food Pantry
\$1,000	FUMC Sharing Ministry
\$200	Kidz Konnection Klub, Inc.
\$200	Red Bird Mission
\$200	CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
\$2,000	FUMC (\$1,000 MMC, \$1,000 FUMC)
\$200	Project Read
\$200	Health Now Clinic (in memory of Harry Smiley)
\$300	Hope's Wings (in honor of Vicky Petry)
\$300	Gilmin Home (Berea)
\$300	New Liberty Family Shelter
\$300	Salvation Army Canteen
\$100	Estill County Center for Pregnancy and Parenting
\$200	Christian Flights International (nutrition clinic)
\$200	Pregnancy Help Center
\$200	Prince of Peace Orphanage (Guatemala)
\$200	Winchester Beacon of Hope Emergency Shelter
\$200	CHOSO Chosen Junior School (Uganda)
\$250	Yehor Vitel Education Fund
\$300	Aldersgate Camp
\$200	Refuge for Women
\$300	FUMC Youth
\$200	Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry
\$9,006	TOTAL



QUARTER MANIA

The United Methodist Men's annual Quarter Mania event took place Saturday, Aug. 19. There were 65 people in attendance and a total of \$2,513.45 was raised for church and local ministries.



GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Malcolm Poulter Golf Scramble was held Saturday, July 14, at Battlefield Golf Club. A total of 40 golfers participated, and \$1,565.45 was raised for the Malcolm Poulter fund that helps children in the



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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

celebrates 25 years!

Dear Church family,

During the July Unity Sunday, our church was recognized for 10 years as a Drop Off Center for Operation Christmas Child!

Although I accepted the plaque with Pastor Bruce, it is *all of you* who have faithfully volunteered to greet donors, count (& recount!) shoebox gifts, and pack them into cartons, who made it happen. Your patience, prayers and hard work have been invaluable. Thank you!



From left: Pastor Bruce Nettleton, OCC volunteer Sharon Brush, Drop Off Coordinator Elizabeth Bendure, and OCC volunteers Teresa Hodgkin and Kim Jones.

National Collection week will be Nov. 12-19, and, yes, we will be accepting thousands of shoebox gifts! I will need your help even more this year, as I need to be at a conference for work November 11-13. What a blessing to be part of a church that reaches out to others in so many ways!

I am also thrilled that Linda Grant is going to be our OCC Project Leader this fall. She has been a very active committed volunteer to OCC. I can't wait to see how many shoebox gifts you folks pack under her guidance!

If you would like to hear directly from a Shoebox recipient, there will be a special Countdown event in Winchester Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at the First Baptist Church's family life center. Dania Yadago's family lived in severe poverty in three Middle Eastern countries growing up, and she will be telling her story. I would love to take a carful of people with me that morning!

God bless you all,

Elizabeth Bendure

FUMC Drop Off Coordinator



Kickoff: Sunday, Oct. 14

Operation Christmas Child is celebrating 25 years of good news and great joy through shoebox gifts! Our kickoff at Richmond First United Methodist Church will be Sunday, Oct. 14, and we will collect shoeboxes through Sunday, Nov. 11. Please consider purchasing school supplies for your shoebox NOW if you see them on sale!

Shoeboxes Wanted for OCC!

Have you bought a new pair of shoes for school (or any other reason)? Put that shoebox to good use! Save it to fill for Operation Christmas Child. And remember, smaller boxes are better, so use those size-13 boot boxes for something else!

Happen to have other extra shoeboxes around? Bring them to FUMC, and leave them outside the church office. The OCC shoebox elves will save them for our Kick Off on Oct. 14th!





9/1: Margaret Howard
 Anne Poulter
 9/2: Larah Ballard
 Isaac Bice
 9/3: Wilma Deyo
 Iddah Otieno
 Nicholas Allen
 9/4: MaryAnn Haynes
 Gloria Shadoan
 Buzz Cornelison
 Scott Deyo
 Courtney Moore
 Enid Brock
 9/6: Martin Brock
 Tina Delph
 Ally Hatfield
 Haley Cartwright
 9/7: Robert Flanery
 Kayla Clevenger
 9/8: Lucas Myers
 Daniel Yacek
 9/9: Bethany Keith
 9/10: Matthew Wills
 9/11: Marvin Perkins
 Mike Phelps
 Martha Lowe
 Kadi Herbst
 9/12: Lawrence Wakeham
 9/13: Donna Hale
 9/14: Jacqueline Hoffman
 Dave Woolverton
 9/16: Wilma Wollenweber
 Geri Conder
 9/17: Ida Reed
 Shirley Haney
 9/18: Ed Conder
 9/19: Barry Leonard
 Claude Taylor
 9/21: Jane Yerace
 Eric Perkins
 9/22: Sanford Jones
 Ann Bailey
 9/23: Ruth Wolfe
 Rainey Hayes
 David Ratliff
 Amanda Deaton
 9/24: Kyle Nystrom
 9/26: Ryan Pettit
 9/27: Janessa Deaton



9/28: Hal Howell
 Tica Welsh
 Mike Park



9/4: Jason & Angela Hardin
 9/6: K.S. & Ella Park
 Richie & Bonnie Heinlein
 9/9: Phil & Paula Jones
 James & Tonya Short
 Barry & Judith Leonard
 9/10: Craig & Kendra Myers
 9/12: Matthew & Amiee Wills
 9/15: Ron & Gloria Smith
 9/19: Jamie & Stacy Jordan
 9/28: Earl-Ray & Holly Neal



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

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 November/December Columns is October 5, 2018.



- 10/1: Landon Muncy
- 10/4: Ginger Wallace
- 10/5: Cindy Cope
- 10/6: Mackenzie Neal
- 10/7: Edna Harris
- 10/8: Carla Stone
- Matthew Ciolek
- 10/9: Bob Bachmann
- Bonnie Heinlein
- Lauren Burgel
- John Wilson
- 10/10: John Wilson
- 10/11: Blake Brockman
- 10/12: Richard Lowe
- Allison Short
- 10/13: Leah Shearer
- Drew Jordan
- 10/15: Sue Barnes
- Phil Thompson
- Dee Dee Randolph
- Jacob Stone
- 10/16: Louise Ridgley
- Triston Riley
- 10/18: Ruthie Blakeney
- 10/20: Mason Smith
- 10/22: George Duncan
- Jennifer Koerner
- Catherine Jones
- 10/23: Ravonda Cobb
- Michala Cozart
- Stella Herbst
- 10/24: Landen Cox
- 10/25: Phil Nichols
- 10/26: Claudia Smiley
- Lynn Beck
- Rob Ciolek
- 10/27: Jamie Lovell
- Olivia Lyle
- 10/28: Mark Secor
- Ginny Whitehouse
- 10/29: Adrianna Francis
- Bel Riley
- 10/30: Chas Nystrom
- Barbara McMahan

- 10/5: Richard & Teresa Lowe
- 10/11: Al & Tine Grijalba
- 10/12: David & Missy Rice
- 10/21: Stephen & Gay Sweely
- 10/24: Terrence & Rainey Hayes
- 10/30: Amos & Charlene Stone

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



Children's sabbath



On Sunday, Sept. 30, the children will lead us in worship! As a Unity Sunday, there will be one main worship service at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary (a prayer gathering will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, and a different Thrive gathering will also occur at its normal evening time).



The theme of our Children's Sabbath is "Let It Shine" as we focus on Matthew 5:14-16, where Jesus tells us to "let our light shine"!

During the service, you'll see a video featuring all our FUMC kids, worship with them as they share some of their favorite songs and even get your own "time for adults"! We'll also give out Bibles to our fourth-graders during the service.



Trunk-or-Treat RETURNS!

We will have a "Trunk-or-Treat" event in place of our regular Wednesday Night Live classes on Wednesday, Oct. 31. Church members will be invited to decorate their cars and pass out candy to trick-or-treaters in the church parking lot. Everyone can vote on the best-decorated "trunk" of a car!





Fall meetings

Join us for a good gathering to pray and plan Women's Ministry programs. We need your help in putting bows on baskets for the Christmas Craft Festival and planning tables for the Christmas Tea. This year's missions projects will support our own St. Andrews Retirement Community. Meet at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23 in the MMC, then at announced times in November.



Christmas Craft Festival

Get a head start on your holiday decorations and gifts at the Christmas Craft Festival. The doors open at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, in the MMC just in time for breakfast. Or, you can come for lunch until closing at 2 p.m. Check out the silent auction, bake sale, and the many community crafters' booths. For more information, email Laura Bauer at lsbauer@gmail.com.

More than Tea

Women and girls of all ages are invited to Christmas Tea at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend to introduce them to the church community or volunteer to decorate a table in holiday splendor. See Laura Bauer or Women's Ministry members to get tickets and/or be a table hostess.



EMERGE Youth Ministry

What's the most-used phrase in your house?

In mine, with a 5-year-old, a 3-year-old and a 17-month-old, I feel like it must be "Hurry up" or "You have to go to bed now" or "Stop putting your hand there." All these are instructions we're trying to give our children, and we don't repeat them because they didn't hear us; we repeat them because they didn't do what we asked.

God has given us instructions. They usually aren't as simple or easy-to-follow as "You have to eat all of your strawberries now," but we have them none the less. And we've heard them over and over again. So why don't we always do them?

We're going to spend a lot of time this fall semester at Emerge talking about being "do-ers" — putting into practice the words of Jesus and not just hearing them and then walking away. Because what we learn on Sunday or Wednesday matters on Monday and Thursday — maybe even more than it does on Sunday or Wednesday.

As we settle into our rhythms for this school year, I hope that we'll all find the time we need to listen to God, but more importantly, I hope we'll all let those instructions and those messages seep into our everyday life.

Jonathan Kleppinger

Youth Pastor



Oct. 19-20 Gattitown lock-in

Nov. 2-4 Fall Retreat at Aldersgate Camp