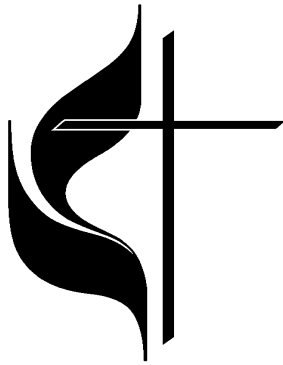


First United Methodist Church of Richmond

December, 2017



First United Methodist Church

Suzy Hutchison,
Pastor

Office: 727-2622

Fax: 727-9810

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

First United Methodist Church of Richmond provides an environment in which people are invited and encouraged to learn, live and share in the teachings of Jesus Christ and celebrate in the worship of God.



Friends - It is no secret that Christmas is my favorite time of the year. I love this time of hope, joy, peace and love. I love the excitement of knowing Jesus' birth was 2000 years ago, but feeling like something new is just about to be born into the world again.

There is so much excitement around Christmas! I prepare for the arrival of my kids and family. I prepare the house with decorations. I prepare by shopping for gifts. I prepare by stocking the refrigerator, listening to the music, attending the Christmas parties. There is much to prepare for.

There is so much excitement around Christmas! There is the drive to enjoy the moment. I sit in the wee hours of the morning before the sun has risen and dream in front of my lit Christmas tree. I dunk delicious Christmas cookies in hot cocoa, indulging in the taste and decadence. I walk through the beautifully decorated malls and down the streets of town admiring the displays and decorations that commemorate the holidays.

There is so much excitement around Christmas! I remember the birth of Jesus long before my time. I remember the Christmases with toddlers ripping through gift wrap at warp speed. I remember grandparents, no longer alive, as they arrived in their cars at our home, arms filled with presents. I remember new bicycles, doll houses and b.b. guns.

Christmas is a time that sits on the edge where the past, the present and the future meet. Christmas is remembering the child born in the manger long ago, and giving thanks for God's love. Christmas is knowing that we are lucky enough to live in God's kingdom today, and taking the time to participate with joy. And Christmas is waiting with hope for the time when God will come again, and peace will prevail.

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, December 24 this year. We will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent at 10AM that day with worship. On that evening, we will have Christmas Eve services at 4, 7 and 11PM. Our 4PM service will be co-lead by the children of the congregation. It is designed for families with young children. Our 7PM service will be carols and scriptures and includes reflections by some of the great Christians across history. Our 11PM will be a meditative celebration of communion and Christ's birth. Invite a friend to come with you, to whichever service you choose to attend.

I have invitation cards that you can give to a friend or neighbors. Their about the size of a business card. Take a few and give them away. In addition, I have large postcards. I invite each person to take home 5 or 10 and mail them to people you know, or to people in your neighborhood who may not have a church home. Christmas is the easiest service to invite people to attend. Even those who do not attend church on any other day, consider coming on Christmas Eve.

Blessings, Pastor Suzy



Peyton Harvey (granddaughter
of Sharron Jusko)
Tom
Danielle Meyers

**Family & Friends on the passing
of:**

Nelson Leach
David Schenburn
Irene Adams



On Going Concerns:

Margaret Gibson
Helen Hill
Winifred Rickert
Elenore MacIvor
Hazel Hare
Lois Michelson
Betty Jean Green
Signe Jarvis
Our Troops All Over the World
Pastor Brown Gaysue and our sister church
in Liberia



Serving in the Military:

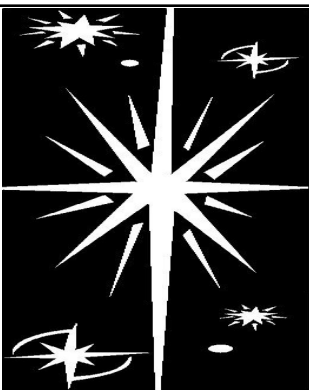
James Skoryanc (Rudolph)
Bryan Oke (stateside; Quick)
Christopher Elam (Germany; Fuerstenau)
Paige M. Hoag
Thomas Blake (Stateside; Rowley)
Collin Keller (Turkey; Hutchison)
Kelly Walkowski (Marine Boot Camp)
John Johnston (Patchel)
Jack Monroe (McClellan)
Jamie Brooks (Walkowski)
Nick Miller (stateside)
David Patchel
William Stoffel, Jr (Gibbs)
Kyle Darmanin (Evans)



From the Editor

Deadline for the
January
Newsletter is
Monday,
December 11th

Promptness with your
article is greatly
appreciated.
Thank you.
Jennifer



*Christmas Greetings from the church staff~
Suzy, Randy, Kim, and Jennifer
May the love, peace, and joy
of the season fill your hearts
now and throughout the year.*

United Methodist Women News...

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Romans 12:6 (NRSV)



United
Methodist
Women

We give thanks for the gifts that enable us to do crafts, prepare a dish, make bake sale 'goods' and gather White Elephant 'stuff'. It was obviously appreciated by family, friends and our community, as we have reached \$5,800.00. We are blessed now to put those earnings to work for our various mission projects! From March thru November, every Wednesday 'Busy Hands' gather to do crafts and fellowship. Many work at home on projects throughout the year. On 'kick-off' day of Bazaar Week we had 22 women working together to get things organized, what a great time! Thank you, Beth Fruin for the great lunch! How many ways can we say **THANK YOU** for a job well done? May you all feel the joy and continue to be a blessing as our work in mission continues!



**ALL THE WOMEN OF F.U.M.C.
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.
Dessert will be served!
At the home of Hostess Susan Foster
69894 Circle Lane, Richmond**



Please honor Susan's gracious invitation for an afternoon of Advent fellowship. Our tradition has been to bring \$5.00, or any amount you can share. Other options are new blankets, child activity items, toiletries, pajamas for women and children. Our gifts are extremely appreciated at Turning Point, Macomb County Shelter for women and children victims of domestic and sexual violence. Call the church office 727-2622, or Donna, 727-4893 for directions or a ride.

REMINDER: No Busy Hands until further notice. Well deserved rest, ladies! Keep looking for new ideas!
No January Meeting!

We will see 'U' at Susan's home! Remember, 'U' make 'U'MW!!!

In His service,
Donna Quick, President





HELP US DECORATE OUR "MITTEN" TREE!

Scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens are needed!
The donations are distributed to families in need at Christmas time by the Richmond Lions Club.



Our Christmas Schedule will be as follows:

Sunday, December 24th~
10:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services at
4pm, 7pm, and 11pm

Join us for the music and
message of the Season!



Hanging of the Greens

We will gather at 10:00 a.m.
on Saturday, December 2nd
to decorate the church for Christmas.
All are welcome! Especially people willing to
climb ladders to trim the trees.
Remember, many hands make light work!
Thank you!

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To a child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
~Oren Arnold



CITY OF RICHMOND
ANNUAL SANTA PARADE &
TREE LIGHTING
Friday, December 1st, 2017
6:30 p.m. at the Richmond Aud



Poinsettias can be
ordered now until
Monday, December 18th!
Pick up an order form
at church or call the
church office, 727-2622.
The cost is \$9.00 per plant.

Birthdays for December

1st ~ Lorie Rix
 5th ~ Russell Grose
 Glenn Quick
 8th ~ Sarah Foster
 9th ~ Daniel Walkowski
 11th ~ Donna Dawe
 22nd ~ Sean Denny
 26th ~ Al Robson
 30th ~ Phylis Fuerstenau



If you or your family member have a birthday or anniversary this month, but are not on this list, please contact the church office so we can update our information. Thank you!

The Flower Chart for 2018 is up and ready for you to sign in your name for the Sunday you would like to provide flowers. These flowers are paid for by members of our congregation with specific dedications listed in the bulletin and are furnished by Maniaci's Richmond Florist. This is a wonderful way to provide flowers as a memorial or to honor someone, or celebrate birthdays and anniversaries during the 2018 church year. Please make sure your flower payments are in the office **before** your scheduled Sunday. Cost is \$17.50, payable to the church. You may bring your payment to the office or put it in the offering in an envelope marked "altar flowers". Thanks, *Jennifer*

Below is a copy of the Altar Flower Calendar for the final month of 2017, and the beginning of 2018! It shows the dates that are available. Call the church office (727-2622) if you would like to reserve a Sunday.

Anniversaries in December

December 16, 1995
 Vern & Jennifer Patterson

December 17, 1994
 Tom & Christine Rowley-Hebel

December 28, 1951
 Art & Jean Brederland

December 29, 1986
 David & Suzy Hutchison

December 30, 1989
 Russell & Kim Grose

**December, 2017**

3 _____

10 _____

17 _____

24 Poinsettia _____**January, 2018**

1 _____

8 _____

15 _____

22 _____

29 _____

February, 2018

4 _____

11 _____

18 _____

25 _____

March, 2018

4 _____

11 _____

18 _____

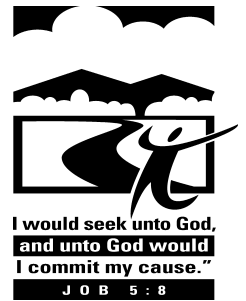
25 _____



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
 The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
 The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

~Author Unknown

OUTREACH & MISSION NEWS



A Special Blessing We Can Be.....

The Leadership Board approved adopting a family for the holiday season. It will be a working family of seven who are one of our Backpack Families. The school social worker will obtain the families permission and then their Christmas lists will be placed on a Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Please select an item and bring it to the church for a holiday delivery. If you have questions please contact Jeanine Avery.

Kids Coalition Against Hunger

Working slots were filled and an assembly line process was utilized to package the food. The funding of \$3,000 was secured. A big thanks to our UMC congregation who were very instrumental in the success of this project. It is a good feeling to know the food packages will reach very needy children around the world.

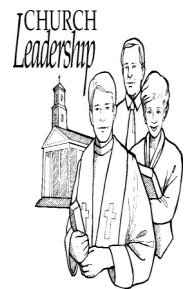
Submitted by,
Patricia Gibbs



Don't forget to pick up your
Advent Devotional Booklet
"What Child Is This"
from the back of
the sanctuary.
Advent begins
Sunday, December 3rd.

A Leadership Board
meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, January 11th, 2018
At 7:00 p.m.

If you are on the board and
unable to attend, please
contact the church office.
All are welcome to attend
this meeting.



Share your Musical Talents!

We need special music for our Sunday
Services! If you teach, play, sing, know
someone who sings or plays
and needs an outlet.

We want to hear from you!
Contact the church office if
you are interested, 586-727-2622



**Would you like to receive our
Weekly E-mails and Newsletter?**

There is a sign-up sheet at the
back of the sanctuary or e-mail
fumc@methodist.comcastbiz.net the
church office and we will get you
added to the list!



Facts and Figures as of

Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:00am ~ 52
Weekly Givings Total \$2,560.04

Sunday, November 5, 2017 10:00am ~ 75
Weekly Givings Total \$3,335.00

Sunday, November 12, 2017 10:00am ~ 65
Weekly Givings Total \$2,637.00

Sunday, November 19, 2017 10:00 a.m. ~ 81
Weekly Givings Total \$ 1,896.00

Sunday, November 26, 2017 10:00 a.m. ~ 65
Weekly Givings Total \$2,535.00



BUSY HANDS



We will be on vacation from Busy Hands
Through the winter months.
Look for us to start getting our hands busy again in March 2018!



Blue Water District Laity Christmas Gathering

All laity in the local churches in the Blue Water District are invited to join Rev. Elizabeth Hill, District Superintendent, in celebration of Christmas on **Friday, December 1st from 5 to 8 PM at Sandusky: First UMC**. Drinks will be provided along with musical entertainment. Please bring your favorite sweet treat to share (e.g. cookies, fudge, candy, etc.). *RSVP the district office at bluewaterdsit@gmail.com by November 27, 2017 with the count of laity attending from your church(es).*



Support for Our Military

We have a list of our soldiers addresses at the church office. Please see Jennifer if you would like a copy so you can add them to your Christmas card list.

Please remember our soldiers who are giving of themselves to protect our precious freedoms. Pray for our soldiers and our country. God bless the USA!

Signs Of Life: 7 Ways To Find A Great Small Church To Attend And Serve

A lot of people would like to worship in a small church if they could find a good one. That's what I keep hearing, anyway.

So, with all the small churches around, why do so many people seem to have a hard time finding a good one? It's not because they don't exist. They do.

I think it's because we don't know what to look for. A lot of people think that the only difference between a quality small church and a quality big church is the size. That's not the case.

A quality small church experience is different than a quality big church experience. But too many people don't know what those differences are, so they don't know what to look for in a good small church experience. Usually, I write to church leaders about how to help small churches become better and healthier. Today I want to address church attenders, members and volunteers – specifically those who are looking for a healthy small church to attend, volunteer and worship in.

There are several characteristics to pay attention to, but they all answer this essential question in some way...

Are They Doing the Small Things Well?

If you're looking for a good, small church to worship and serve in, you need to look for a church that does small church things well, instead of trying to do big church things on a smaller scale.

With that in mind, here are a few characteristics to look for, based on some of the differences between big churches and small churches.

1. Don't look for a precisely-groomed facility, look for a well-used one (if they have one)

You know that small church you've been driving by, but have ignored because they don't have a perfectly-manicured lawn or updated sign? The next time you drive past it, ask yourself if the frayed edges of the facility are because they're being well-used, or because they're being ignored.

If the facility is well-used, but slightly tattered, those aren't signs of neglect, they're signs of life. It's the same for a church that doesn't own a facility. Don't let the fact that a church is renting on the weekend convince you that it's not worth your time. Renting is a viable financial option for a lot of very good churches doing great kingdom-minded ministry.

2. Don't look for highly-trained greeters, look for healthy relationships

On several occasions, I've attended churches that had all the signs of being the cool, new thing. They had everything from great signage to parking lot attendants, to a free latte for first-time guests. But once I got inside, there was a stale, dead presence.

In one church, not only was no one friendly to us as visitors, but the regulars weren't even friendly with each other. They might as well have been waiting for the start of a movie in a theater full of strangers.

A well-trained team of greeters can be helpful, but it's not a substitute for actual friendliness. And, in a smaller church, if it truly is friendly to newcomers, the fact that they don't have "official" greeters doesn't matter.

3. Don't look for musical excellence, look for sincere worship

I love great, live music. I truly believe it is enriching to the soul.

But a church doesn't need musical excellence to have sincere, heartfelt worship.

Many small churches have no one with enough musical skill to lead the congregation in singing every week. Our church struggled with that for many years.

Continued on page 9>

If the church is truly worshipping the Lord with all their hearts, look past the musical deficit and join in the worshipful atmosphere.

4. Don't look for high-end graphics, look for regular updates and interaction

Not every church has a website. But even the smallest one should have a Facebook page.

A church that's vibrant and active might not have all the coolest bells and whistles, but they're going to be active. Look for a Facebook page with regular news and updates, and/or a website that tells about upcoming events, not ones that happened months ago.

5. Don't look for a place that offers to meet your needs, look for a place that needs what you have to offer

One of the great gifts that small churches can offer people is the opportunity to be needed, not just served. A great church experience isn't about what the church can do for you. The church is us, after all. It should be about what we can do for each other.

6. Don't look for a church that serves you, look for a church that encourages you to serve others

While the previous point was about opportunities to serve inside the church, it's also important that the church serves others. Too many churches, large and small, offer service opportunities that only enrich what goes on inside their own walls.

Find a church that does ministry *from* the church, not just *in* the church.

7. Don't look for signs of technical excellence, look for signs of life

Church is messy because life is messy. This is true in all churches, but it's often more evident in smaller ones. When a church gets bigger and can hire more staff and own a larger facility, much of that messiness can be managed – as it should be, whenever you can do it. But a small church is more like a family unit. And families have issues. No church is perfect, because no family is perfect.

In a small church, you're not likely to find a lot of technical excellence. But that's okay, because church isn't about that. It's about family. A healthy church will have something that every healthy family has. Signs of life. Don't look for a church without a mess. Those churches don't exist – especially if it's small. Look for a church that shows signs of life inside the mess.



Bishops uphold values of mission, unity, space, contextuality in interim report on Way Forward work

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. - Placing emphasis on the values of unity, space and contextuality - all for the sake of mission – the Council of Bishops (COB) is exploring sketches of three models as possible directions for a way forward for The United Methodist Church over LGBTQ inclusion.

With the mission of God through the risen Christ at the core, the bishops this week received an interim report from the Commission on a Way Forward that offered three sketches of models that would help ease the impasse in the church, noting that the power of the Holy Spirit trumps and guides all the church's activities. The Commission serves the COB, helping prepare the COB to fulfill its mandate to make a recommendation for a way forward to the General Conference. Just as the Commission did not express a preference for any of the models in its interim report to the COB in order for the bishops to fully do their work, the COB is also not now expressing a preference for any model, while engaging deeply with them and the implications for their church and their leadership. This will provide the space bishops need to teach and engage leaders in their episcopal areas.

After receiving the interim report of the sketches of the three possible models, the bishops engaged in prayerful discerning and offered substantial feedback to the Commission, but did not take any vote on any of the sketches.

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Continued from pg. 9

The moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward noted that the values highlighted in any one model also live within the fabric of the other models. Values expressed by any one model are not exclusive to one or absent in another. The values that may be associated with the identity of any one model are there because it may be a value lifted to a higher level of preference or differentiation among the models.

“Operate with a heart of peace and an openness. All three models grew out of mission, vision and scope. Each one of these models connects to a story and experience that is represented in this body,” Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, one of the moderators told her fellow bishops.

She added: “As we talk about it, let’s be respectful of each model. When we speak about one of the models in a less than respectful way, we are speaking of someone’s experience or someone’s conscience. How we talk about these models is important because they are representative of where people are standing and how people are experiencing the church.”

The Commission and the COB acknowledge the interaction between the values of unity, space and contextuality, and the tension this interaction often creates, as part of what completes the UMC as a denomination rather than what divides it.

The Commission shared sketches of three models, with the awareness that the Commission and the COB are not restricted to these sketches and are open to learning, listening and improvement. It is likely that additional models or sketches may emerge as this process continues. Here is the summary about the sketches of the models presented to the bishops:

- One sketch of a model affirms the current Book of Discipline language and places a high value on accountability.
- Another sketch of a model removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. This sketch also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons.
- A third sketch of a model is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one COB, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice.
- Each sketch represents values that are within the COB and across the church.
- Each sketch includes gracious way of exit for those who feel called to exit from the denomination.

The values underlying these proposed models are found in two documents: [The Mission, Vision and Scope](#) document, which was affirmed by the COB; and the [Status Report of the Commission](#), released in July 2017. As part of the ongoing discernment within the church, resident bishops are being equipped to lead discussions in their episcopal areas by emphasizing the values of the proposed models as found in these two important documents.

The Commission will process the feedback received from the bishops at the Lake Junaluska meeting and will continue to welcome further input from members of the church through conversations and discussions with their respective bishops on the strengths and limitations of each model. The basic resources for these conversations were shared in a handbook with the bishops, and this handbook will be available on the Commission on a Way Forward’s website as a PDF.

The COB and the Commission have a series of meetings scheduled for early 2018 designed to continue the preparations for the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019. This includes Commission meetings in January and March; an additional COB meeting in February before a final report is discussed at the May meeting of the COB. The COB is committed to prayerfully seeking God’s future for the UMC and continues to invite the entire church to be engaged in praying for a way forward.

“Pray for the work of the Commission and for the bishops as they continue to discern God’s plan for the future of the UMC; a future that shows love for all of God’s people and a future with hope,” said COB President Bishop Bruce R. Ough.

