



# Connections

## March 2019

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Part of the vision process that the church has engaged in over the last year and a half has involved looking at aspects of our history. As you may recall, River Road United Methodist Church began as Broad Street Methodist Church located at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Broad Street in downtown Richmond. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859 the cornerstone was laid for the church building, and on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1861 the building was dedicated with 165 members. It is interesting to consider that for the majority of our church's life, we were an urban church!

A particularly vibrant time in the life of the church was between 1915-1933 when the church doubled in size from 600 to 1200 members and expanded the building to include 60 additional feet of frontage road on Broad Street (that they paid \$50,000 at the time). This growth was a direct result of the outreach and engagement the church had with the community. Records from that time indicate that community groups utilized the church and ministry programs occurred seven nights a week. These included employment training, night classes (both small groups like Bible Studies and some community groups), sports activities (basketball and volleyball), as well as "wholesome activities" for young men and women to meet. In other words, the church was the recreation and social center as well as the spiritual hub for the community.

I share this because I want us to realize that within our church identity and historical narrative is a willingness to reach out with the gospel and a flexibility to contextualize faith to meet people where they are. The combination of contextualization and outreach is vital as we seek to make disciples in our current location and culture. During the previously mentioned time period, the church served as the hub for community of all sorts-social and spiritual. As we know, times have changed and currently, in our culture people are finding community through all kinds of groups and commitments distinct from the church. In part this is due to a variety of options and more immediate and accessible communication (thanks Instagram and Facebook). But we also have to be honest that at this time in our history we have more "baggage" for people to sift through when they consider becoming a part of the body of Christ. In fact, statistics about the status of religion in America will often talk about the "nones" people who claim no religious affiliation or the "de-churched," people who were a part of a church but have intentionally left. We also have to own the ways in which we have "failed to be an obedient church" as our prayer of confession as part of the Holy Communion liturgy states in how we have excluded people from the community of faith. In other words, it is even more challenging and necessary for us to communicate the compelling reasons for being part of a church community. We have to demonstrate the importance of being a part of a faith community and how it connects us with the Holy Spirit that brought us into being. How being a part of a faith community empowers us to do the work of justice and mercy and reminds us to walk humbly with God no matter where we are walking. Of course, we cannot only say the words but must live out the gospel in the ways that we treat one another. Without the living and breathing reminder of the body of Christ-being part of church-I assure you, we will drift into a less purposeful and more self-centered way of living in the world. And the world is in need of the light of the world in Jesus more than ever. I encourage us to do the faithful translatable work of communicating the importance of faith and community. And most importantly, that we live out authentically what it means to be loved to life by Christ by the ways in which we live with each other.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Darcey

**new MEMBER SUNDAY**

## Worship Series: Follow

A hallmark of authentic Christianity is that we follow Jesus in terms of a priority relationship. This means we move from appreciating his teachings and the ways he treated people to asking God to help us to live in the same way. This Lenten season, we are going to look closer at the ways Jesus actually lived in the world and hold up our ways alongside his. If we say we follow Christ—are we trying to live as he did? This Lent, we will take up the challenge and lean upon the Spirit to become even more a follower of Jesus.

## Capital Campaign Update



### Finance Update



Greetings from the Capital Campaign Committee! This is our first Newsletter update since December. With most of the campaign projects completed we will plan to include Newsletter updates on an as needed basis this year. As always feel free to reach out to anybody on the Capital Campaign leadership team if you have any questions between the updates.

Since December, the new furniture for the Welcome Center has arrived and is now in use. The replacement doors to the courtyard from both the Welcome Center and the Adult Education Building are now at RRUMC but in storage until installation in late March to early April.

If you have any questions please reach out to anyone on the Capital Campaign team

- Jon Francisco—Chair
- Paul Pitts—Projects Lead
- Rhodes Ritenour—Communications Lead
- Eddie Clark—Finance Lead

### Project Update

Roof Replacement	●
Install Fire Detection	●
Paint Fellowship Hall Interior Walls	●
Paint Interior of Sanctuary	●
Fellowship Hall Makeover	●
Replace Fellowship Hall Carpet	●
Replace Welcome Center Rug	●
Re-carpet Sanctuary	●
Add Wall Banners in Sanctuary	●
Replace Floor in Sanctuary Back hall	●
Repair Sidewalk – Preschool plaza	●
Rework curb under overhang for ADA	●
Improve ADA access near dumpsters	●
Replace Fellowship Hall A/V	●
Re-cover or replace Fellowship Hall Chairs	●
Replace Welcome Center Doors to Courtyard	●
Replace Adult Ed. Building Doors to Courtyard	●
Furnish Welcome Center	●
Furnish History Corner	●

● Complete ● In-Progress ● Not Started

**SMALL GROUPS****SUNDAY MORNING 9:00**

- (Room 211) Good News  
 (Room 202) Contemporary Christian  
 (Room 106) Preschool (3 years & fully potty trained until they start kindergarten)  
 (Room 109) Early Elementary (K-2nd grade)  
 (Room 105) Older Elementary (3rd-5th grade)  
 (Youth Basement) Youth (6th-12th grade)

**LENT**

Lent is a six week period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday where we pay attention to the life of Jesus and how he consoles us, challenges us, and changes us. These small groups will help us attend to Jesus, experience his presence, and help us make his kingdom real in our lives and in the world. These small groups will begin on Sunday, March 10 and meet through Sunday, April 14. We will meet at church, with dinner served at 5pm and small groups meeting from 5:30pm-7pm. **To register or to ask questions, contact Ed Kross at [ed@riverroadumc.org](mailto:ed@riverroadumc.org)**

**Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis**

**Led by Sheri Clark**

**Deeper Connections: The Life of Jesus**

**Led by Bob Wilson**

**Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton**

**Led by Dave Johnson**

**Entering the Passion of Jesus:  
A Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine**

**Led by Ed Kross**

**March Birthdays****March 1**

Barb Abu-Jaber

**March 2**

Cathy Clark  
Bill Gayne

**March 3**

Susan Schermerhorn

**March 4**

Malinda Eastman

**March 5**

Joe Dailey

**March 6**

Judy Metz  
Gabbie Rhodes  
Sarah Rhodes

**March 7**

Janelle Graeter

**March 8**

Charlie Dameron

**March 10**

Barbara Gifford  
Dakan Honea  
Izzy Honea  
Bradford Hulcher  
Beth Stuckey

**March 14**

Becky Beattie  
Pat Clark

**March 15**

Bob Sanford

**March 17**

Howard Edmiston  
Marie Huggins  
Violet Swann

**March 18**

Meghan Grau

**March 22**

Carolyn McCracken  
Beverly White

**March 23**

Catherine Conner

**March 26**

Starr Alexander

**March 27**

Helen Green  
Martha Williams

**March 31**

Jim Hotinger  
Olivia Messer  
Gene Waters

# **Revolve Youth - Newsletter Information for March**

Alex Lee Contact Information:

Phone: (919) 623-6405

Email: youth@riverroadumc.org



**Looking back at Janaury:**



A big shout out to the Benson family for hosting our first youth Super Bowl Party! What a great turn out and blessed time it was. Here's to hoping for a more exciting game next year!

Jack and Eli were the winners of our bi-weekly youth raffle in February! All you have to do is join us Sunday evenings for a chance to win.

## **Mark your calendars! Here is what's coming up for our youth!**

**SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm – 7:00pm – Come join us for dinner, games, and a time of discipleship!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> @ 3:45pm – 5:00pm – Confirmation classes meet!

**ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY** March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Come join us as we celebrate everyone's birthday on this single evening! There will be twelve tables for each month of the year, and each one will have its own cake. Tons of fun to be had!

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT** March 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Youth that are part of this year's confirmation class will be going on a retreat near Shenandoah River State Park! We will enjoy a weekend of hiking, worship, and games as we continue to journey through what it means to be a Christian.

**SUMMER MISSION TRIP** June 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Summer Mission Trip at Passport Missions in Danville, VA! Please contact Alex for more information.

Grace and peace,  
Alex Lee

**Save the Date:**

- **Easter Egg Hunt- April 20th**
- **VBS- June 17th-21st**

**Nursery**

Professionally-staffed Nursery is offered in room for infants, toddlers and preschoolers for all three service times (8:30, 9:30, 11:00) and Sunday evenings (September - May 2019) from 5-7 pm.

**Sunday School Classes****Toddler**

A special class specifically for transitioning out of the nursery. 2-3 years olds welcome! Once potty trained they will move up to the preschool class. Led by Meg Eastman, Alana Ritenour, Alicia Moosally, and Elizabeth Buchholz.

**Preschool-potty trained 3, 4 and 5-year-olds**

9:30 am in room 108. Led by Penny Condrey, Tracy Wood, Carrie Francisco, and Meg Walunas.

**Kindergarten -2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

9:30 am in room 107. Led by Jaimey Honea, Lara Malbon, Kim Cosby, and Megan Gilliland.

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

9:30 am in room 109. Led By John Honea & Robin Ely.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL OUR WORSHIP SERVICES! Please attend worship with your children, grandchildren, and guests! Worship attendance is very important, even at a young age, for spiritual development. We are ALL created for worship! Worship bags, Storybook Bibles, and activity binders are available at all three services.

If you feel like you need somewhere quieter to worship during the 11 am service the Cuddle Room is available with a live feed of the service and activities for your child in the back of the sanctuary. Please see an usher if you have any trouble finding these things.

**Important Dates**

- **April 14th- children will be singing during 11am service**
- **April 14th- last evening of M+M until fall**

Dinner is served from 5-530pm. From 5:30-6:15 K-2 will be in the choir room with Joy Price. 3-5 will be in room 109 for missions with Danielle Rinker. At 6:15 K-2 will come down to missions and 3-5 will finish up the night in the choir room.

5 and under are always welcome in the nursery.



**Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle – March 12**

The Frances Allen/Alice Weed Circle, led by Pearcy Flippin and Jane Bren will go to The Hermitage Richmond to give the monthly birthday party for residents there. The party will be at 2:00 PM; a group will leave from church at 1:00 PM to set up for the party or you can meet them there (1600 Westwood Ave., Richmond 23227).

**Women's Prayer Breakfast – March 14**

The monthly Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet at 8:30 on Thursday, March 14, at Metro Diner in Short Pump, 11525 W. Broad Street at the intersection of Broad Street and Pump Road. No reservation needed—just come on out and join the group—bring a friend.

**Women's Retreat – March 22-23**

The "Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Retreat" will focus on the story of Ruth and Naomi from the book of Ruth and the significance of making God our foundation. Time will be spent in digging into God's Word, participating in uplifting worship, Christian service and relationship-building activities. The retreat is open to all women—ask a friend to come!

Leader: Jamie Breeden, 804-314-9910  
[jamie.breeden@comcast.net](mailto:jamie.breeden@comcast.net)

Time: Friday, March 22, 5:00 PM until  
 Saturday, March 23, 5:00 PM

Location: Roslyn Retreat Center  
 8727 River Road, Henrico

Cost: \$125, includes room and all meals

Registration Deadline: **March 4** – Stop at the sign-up desk in the Welcome Center, or Contact Jamie Breeden (contact info above).



Where women find shelter in God.

*G*od is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. –Psalm 46:1

**UMFS - Annual Flower Pot Collection**

The UMFS Charterhouse School's Horticulture Program has a Green Thumbs Club which helps students learn valuable real-world business experience and customer service skills as they grow and sell plants they have tended to all year (herbs, vegetables, succulents, flowers, etc.) at their annual plant sale each May. For several years RRUMC members have been the primary contributors of the much needed terra cotta flower pots that the students use and also of the glass containers the students create their beautiful terrariums in in preparation for the sale. All sizes of pots are needed. If you have any clay/terra cotta flower pots you no longer need and can contribute please bring them to church during the month of March and leave at the base of the Grand Staircase on the parking lot side of the church. Or, if you wish to have pots picked up at your home, call Charlotte Allred (305-5423) to arrange a time. Then save May 8-9th on your calendar and come to their annual Plant Sale in front of the greenhouse on the UMFS campus! Thanks in advance for sharing God's love through your support of the Green Thumbs.

*I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes we're the church together!*

### CARITAS

What a beautiful blessing of serving (February 16-22) at the Healing Place for CARITAS guests and the gentlemen of the HP program! **THANK YOU TO ALL** who donated their time of: hands on lunch making, casserole baking, delivery of lunches, serving the dinner to the guys on Saturday night and for the prayers! We gave approximately **86** hours of hands on time from **33** folks (not including the casserole makers); **23** casserole makers and **23** food "donaters"! We delivered **252** lunches which means: **252** peanut butter sandwiches, **126** ham sandwiches and **126** turkey sandwiches!! Our unconditional **LOVE** was continued and appreciated! Please visit the kitchen to read the HEARTS of thanks! Also, MARK your calendars for the next opportunity to serve CARITAS! We'll have the women on site here at RRUMC the week of August 10-17.



### MISSION MOMENTS AND LENT

During the Sundays of Lent, the Missions Committee will be talking about the missions that River Road supports. That's because the Easter offering boosts the Missions Committee's budget. Thank you church family for every contribution, whether an offering, a donation of food or school supplies or a million other things that help so much, sponsoring child in Sierra Leone, or your volunteer time. We thank God for you, and we thank God for the work He has given us to do together. We welcome you in all our endeavors and as always, let us know if you have questions.

Lenten jars, for saving money for Rise Against Hunger, will be available again this year. It is a way to prepare for Easter and at the same time is a big help in covering the cost of the meals we pack for those who are hungry.

### RRUMC IS GOING ON A MISSION TRIP TO FLORIDA JULY 21-27

Hurricane Irma has gone but the recovery and repair have not. The week of July 21-27 RRUMC is sending a group of 10+ missionaries to the Tampa Bay/St. Pete area to help with urgently needed home repairs. Desda White who is now a Disaster Case Manager for the Florida Conference United Methodist Church made this opportunity known to the Missions Committee. We had been seeking a mission trip for our church family and are so thankful God gave us such a clear answer.

Mission teams are needed to rebuild homes in the St. Pete/Clearwater/Tampa Bay area due to the destruction from hurricane Irma in 2017. Over 100 homes belonging to those living below the poverty level before the storm did not receive help right away or did not have insurance for repair and still desperately need help.

An \$8 million grant will cover supplies and materials. We will fly there, and stay in nearby churches. We plan to fundraise so that money is not an issue to anyone wanting to go. All those 14 years and older are welcome on this trip.

For planning purposes, we need a non-binding expression of interest. If interested, email your name and contact information to Jim Banta at [jamesbantacorp@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbantacorp@gmail.com) OR sign up in the Welcome Center. An informational meeting will be held in April.

### SAVE THE DATE

Geranium Sale to benefit Shalom Farms – Sunday, April 7

Rebuilding Together – Saturday, April 27

AlterNatives in the Welcome Center – Sunday, May 5

Shalom Farms Volunteer Day – Saturday, May 11

Email, text, or call Ellen Reaves at [ellenreaves@verizon.net](mailto:ellenreaves@verizon.net) or 804-229-4277 for more info.



**8800 River Road  
Henrico VA 23229  
Phone: 804-740-7061  
Fax: 804-740-3367  
Preschool: 754-0227**

**March 2019**

**Articles for the  
April 2019  
Connections are due  
March 22, 2018.**



We're on the web at  
[www.riverroadume.org](http://www.riverroadume.org)

### Church Family –

One of our strengths at River Road UMC remains our giving and outreach via a wide variety of missions supported directly by our congregation. As we look back at 2018, here is a quantitative update as to outreach that occurred:

**\$53,258** in Budgeted Giving. These are funds from our annual operating budget of \$710,000 and are directly allocated towards monetary support of Missions Outreach. \$30,258 supports Missions determined by our Conference as part of our annual apportionment, and an additional \$23,000 for missions determined by our congregation.

**\$98,850** in Additional Giving from missional appeals to our congregation. Throughout the year, funds and donations of gifts occur. Examples (among a long list of items) of this type of giving include our Church Yard Sale, Ginter Park Food Donations, Thanksgiving Boxes, Gifts for the Manager and sponsoring of a child in Sierra Leone. \$64,600 in funds have been received via these appeals along with an estimated \$34,250 in goods donated.

**4,600 hours** of time have been given by members of our church in support of the wide variety of missional outreach. Whether time spent with our MICAH schools outreach, CARITAS, Rebuilding Together, Angel Tree or other initiatives – it adds up quickly.

These numbers are representative of the ways the Holy Spirit has enabled us to impact the world for good in God's name. The numbers above are just the *tip of the iceberg* in terms of what God does with our willingness to live as stewards of Christ's message into the world. Thank you for all the good works that we do both inside and outside of our congregation to live as Christ in the community and world.

## Open Arms Christian Preschool



In February the children honored their fathers and male figures with a brunch with a buddy day. The children were excited to show their fathers everything that they do in their classroom and together they enjoyed a meal in the classroom. We had over 40 adult men come and visit our classrooms that morning. Our rooms were "full" of love and joyfulness! Thank you to everyone that joined our event that day, it's a blessing to have you all in our lives!



Please remember our Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – 7:00pm. We would love to have you all with us that evening to celebrate!

Also, in March, April, & May the OACP board members will be soliciting and collecting for the OACP

scholarship fund. Please reach out to an OACP board member about giving to this wonderful cause and keep a look out for bulletin inserts. We want to share the love of learning through Christ with all children and families!

We have officially began accepting application for new students at OACP for Summer 2019 program as well as the 2019-2020 school year. Because of current enrollments and smaller class sizes our openings are very limited. If you or family/friends are interested in enrolling in our program please reach out before spots fill up! Contact Preschool Director, Nora Hamlet, at 754-0027 or visit our website at [www.openarmschristianpreschool.org](http://www.openarmschristianpreschool.org).