



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

JANUARY 2020 | VOL. X | ISSUE 1

explorer

FAITH IN ACTION

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, creating a day of community service projects in celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday. Now, in observance of this national day of service, we are charged with taking a “day on, not a day off.” This program began as part of the President’s national call to service—working to involve all members of our communities in giving back to and supporting others.

River Road Church, Baptist and River Road Preschool will be participating in this National Day of Service on Monday, January 20 by hosting our own Faith in Action worship service and offering mission opportunities. This is a great opportunity to put our faith to work by supporting our community. We will start our day with a short Chapel service and prayer before heading out to donate our time in service. A Sign-up Genius link will be available to select an area for service during the first weeks of January.

We have several areas of opportunity right here in our church and school for service—from wiping down pews or student chairs, to picking up trash in our parking lot or raking our turf

playgrounds. Feeling crafty? We will be making encouraging cards for testing week for students at Oak Grove Elementary School. If you wish to work off site, the Reinhart House at St. Mary’s Hospital would welcome volunteers that morning.

Community service plays a much larger role in character education than just doing good deeds for others; it is the very foundation on which we build the future path for responsible citizenship. The internal concepts of kindness, respect for others, and empathy all have their start here. Children need to experience these first hand; not simply hear about them. To fully grasp this experience, we need to act as models for them. From these other qualities ensue—a sense of right and wrong, responsibility, and compassion. These are the qualities we want to build and expand on in our youth of today.

Please consider giving an hour or two of your time on Monday, January 20, as we put our faith into action and participate in this National Day of Service.

BY DANIELLE SIMONE & SANDY ROONEY

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Sunday Nights

January 5, 12, 26

- 4:15: River Road Camerata
- 5:00: Youth Choir
- 5:45: Youth Snack Supper
- 6:15: Youth Program

Events

- January 17-19: Winter Retreat
- January 26: Parent Seminar
- January 31: 1st-5th graders Movie Night at Mrs. Sandy’s

Inquirers’ Class

Sundays, February 2-23

9:00 a.m., Chapel Hall

Sandy Rooney and Marnie Fisher-Ingram will be leading an Inquirers Class for 4th-8th graders who are interested in exploring what it means to be baptized and a member of the church each Sunday morning of February at 9:00 am in Chapel Hall. Students will be sent to Sunday School immediately following. Sign up by January 29 by contacting Sandy or Marnie.

Waste Not, Want Not—Please return Advent Wreath trays (cleaned) to the designated bins in the Lower Commons or the Preschool entrance by Sunday, January 12, 2020. These can be used next year!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are so grateful for the generosity of our church. Over the past month, we have gotten to experience so much joy together as we traveled through the Advent season and started a new church year. We witnessed the baptism of two of our youth, celebrated communion together, heard the beautiful music of our Chancel Choir, sang carols together, remembered those that have moved on, worshipped by candlelight, rejoiced in the coming of our Lord, and prayed for His love and hope to spread throughout our communities. What is most humbling about that is to realize that none of it would be possible here at River Road Church without the generosity of those that came before us and everyone that supports the church today.

We focused this stewardship season on how we as a congregation can *Donate It Forward* through our financial commitment to River Road Church's ministries and missions. We are blessed to have had so many of you all willing to make a pledge for the 2020 operating funds needed to fulfill our church's calling in our communities. The following numbers share how our congregation has stepped up and pledged monetary support for the 2020 budget year (numbers are as of December 9, 2019):

1. \$1,182,094 has been pledged with 221 pledge cards received.
2. 205 family units who pledged \$1,085,057 for year 2019 have pledged \$1,145,244 for year 2020.

Type of Pledge	Number of Families	% of Families	Total \$ Change
Increase	94	46%	+73,743
Same	94	46%	-
Decrease	17	8%	-13,556

3. 16 family units have pledged \$36,850 who did not pledge last year.
4. We have not received pledge cards from 49 families who pledged \$145,570 last year. If those families get a pledge in before the church operating budget is approved for the same pledge amount as they did for 2019, our pledge total will be \$1,327,664, which is a 6% increase in pledges.

We hope that you considered making a financial pledge to the 2020 operating year. If you have not had a chance and would like to still make a pledge for 2020, we welcome the support and you can get this information to LeAnne Lane directly at leannelane@rrcb.org or calling the church office at 804-288-1131. We are also happy to notate an adjustment to your pledge if this year's Advent season helped you feel moved to increase your annual support.

First Sunday Food Share

Sunday, January 5

River Road Church has a long history of working in many capacities with our three Baptist Centers: Church Hill, Oregon Hill, and South Richmond. On the first Sunday of each month, you are invited to bring a bag of food for the Centers and place it in one of the green grocery carts in the Upper or Lower Commons. To best serve our centers and their communities, the center directors are requesting smaller-sized products.

Suggested Shopping List:

- cans of vegetables and fruit
- cans of soup and canned entrées (example: Spaghettios)
- cans of meat: small cans of tuna, chicken
- cans of pork and beans or other beans
- boxed macaroni and cheese
- packages of powdered milk
- boxes of cereal
- rice and dry pasta
- peanut butter and jelly

Christmas Decorations Clean Up

Monday, December 30, 2019

Monday, January 6, 2020

9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Helpers are needed to take down the Christmas decorations. All live wreaths and garland will be taken down and disposed of on December 30. All the artificial wreaths and garland will be taken down, packed, and stored on January 6. Start your New Year's exercise resolutions early as this task requires lots of walking all over the church.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, January 7

7:00 a.m., Reception Room

All men are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and partnership in prayer. Please make a reservation by calling the church office.

Evening Bridge

Tuesday, January 7

7:30 p.m., LC #102

Anyone who likes to play bridge is invited to join us. Contact Kitty or George Davis (804-285-9782) for more information.

Men's Group: The Huddle

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room

The Huddle is a small group of men who minister to each other, make a plan to bring their lives together on a regular basis, and keep faith in that plan and each other. For more information, please contact Bill Thurston (804-514-3360).

FIXERS

Thursdays, January 9 & 23

8:00 a.m., Reception Room

The FIXERS (Frequently Ingenious, eXtremely Energetic, Righteous Servants) are dedicated to keeping our beautiful church facility in top working order. The FIXERS meet for breakfast and fellowship, then break into teams and work on projects around the church. Please contact Daniel Ingram (804-288-1131) if you can make it.

Here's a test:

- Do you know what a weed looks like in a mulch bed?
- Do you know which end of a screwdriver to hold?
- Does holding a broom not intimidate you?
- Do you like free breakfast?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, you are qualified to join the FIXERS! Even if you didn't answer "yes" to any of the questions, you're still qualified to join the group. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to come. (As you can tell, our standards are not very high.)

WMU Connectors

Friends Helping Friends

Thursday, January 9

The Connectors will be feeding the homeless (50-70 persons) at Oregon Hill Baptist Center. The group provides and serves the meal as well as snack bags for adults to take with them.

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

The WMU Connectors program will feature a speaker from Virginia's Prison Chaplain Service. All ladies are welcomed to attend. The Connectors is open to all women and you're invited. Bring a friend! RSVP to Ray Nelson at rayzor846@gmail.com.

Interested in helping others in our Richmond Community? Being an active friend in helping to feed the homeless at Oregon Hill Baptist Center? Want to hear about missions' efforts and needs from those who are in the field and walk the walk? The WMU Connectors gathers on the third Tuesday during the months of September thru April with programs and speakers that will expand your knowledge of needs in the area. *Friends helping friends by doing the Lord's work together.*

Yoga, 5:45-7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Thursday, January 9 | Mondays, January 13, 20, 27

Hatha Yoga is a gentle form of stretching exercise that offers many health advantages. Darcie Anderson is our instructor. There is a \$10 fee for each class you attend. Beginners and newcomers are most welcome.

FLO Luncheon (For Ladies Only, 50+, Single Again, Just Single, and Caregivers)

Friday, January 10

12:00 p.m., Hutch Bar & Eatery (Gaskins & Gayton Rds)

RSVP to Jean Ellis (jean782carter@verizon.net or 804-272-7672) and let her know if you would like to carpool.

Rev. Henry Dexter "HD" Harman Memorial Service Sunday, January 19

3:00 p.m., Bon Air Baptist Church

Michelle Harman-Gulick and Kara Harman-Barrios invite their River Road family to the memorial service for their father, Rev. Henry Dexter "HD" Harman, who served in ministry for more than 50 years. The service will be held Sunday, January 19, 2019 at 3 p.m. at Bon Air Baptist Church, and a reception will follow.

The Comma Club Outing

"The Melody Lingers On: The Songs of Irving Berlin"

Sunday, January 26

2:30 p.m., Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center

Tickets and reservations were pre-sold for this event. You may contact Fred Anderson (nanapapa14@verizon.net) to see if any spaces are available. Details regarding a boxed lunch after worship are forthcoming. Call the church office to make your lunch reservation.

Panama Mission Trip

February 8-16

The Christian Medical Foundation in Panama that we have partnered with for the past 10 years has once again invited us to work with them on another mission trip! There will be 2 teams - healthcare and construction. The dates are February 8-16, 2020. If you are interested in going or would like more information, please contact Judy Collins at (804) 402-5998 or Norma Hays at (804) 240-5016. We will need to finalize the teams and make reservations soon.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

January 1 & 2

Thoughtful Faith Community

No TFC Wednesday, January 1

TFC Wednesday, January 8

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Room
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Churchwide**, Fellowship Hall
Epiphany Celebration— We will celebrate the coming of the Magi and focus on their following the star that revealed the location where the baby and family were found.

TFC Wednesday, January 15

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Rm.
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **TFC-Multigenerational: MLK**— Be challenged and inspired by the faith and peaceful presence of MLK, Jr.
 - **5:45-6:15: TFC-Kids** with Sandy Rooney, UC #228
 - **6:00-7:00: TFC-Youth** with Marnie Fisher-Ingram, Youth Area
 - **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults** with Ed Pruden Assembly Rm.
- **6:15-7:00: Children's Choirs**
 - Crusader (3rd-5th grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Carol (1st & 2nd grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Cherub (Pre-K & Kindergarten), UC #232 (6:45 end)

TFC Wednesday, January 22

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Rm.
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **5:45-6:15: TFC-Kids**: Missions, UC #228
- **6:00-7:00: TFC-Youth**: Games & Dessert, Youth Area
- **6:15-7:00: Children's Choirs**
 - Crusader (3rd-5th grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Carol (1st & 2nd grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Cherub (Pre-K & Kindergarten), UC #232 (6:45 end)
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults**, Assembly Rm. — *Acts of Faith Overview with Hannah Miller* — The nation's largest faith-inspired theater festival, now in its 25th year, features over 20 productions offered during the first four months of each year.

TFC Wednesday, January 29

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Rm.
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **5:45-6:15: TFC-Kids**: Missions, UC #228
- **6:00-7:00: TFC-Youth**: Games & Dessert, Youth Area
- **6:15-7:00: Children's Choirs**
 - Crusader (3rd-5th grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Carol (1st & 2nd grades), Youth Rehearsal Rm.
 - Cherub (Pre-K & Kindergarten), UC #232 (6:45 end)
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults**, Assembly Rm. — *Psalms Bible Study* — We will take a four-week tour of the Psalms under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Bert Browning.

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Happy Birthday!

January 1

Carole Bates
Patrick Green
Erin Stuhlman
Sondra Trent
John Whitty

January 2

Donna Brown
Kitty Davis
Elisabeth Dixon
Ellie Dixon
Bonnie Suwal

January 3

Terry Booth
Don Pate

January 4

Judy Morris

January 5

Jo Ann Weinhardt

January 6

Lyle Hare
Dana Johnson
Lindsey Stevens
Lee Walters

January 7

Carol Nugent
Eleanor Phillips
Jeffra Showalter

January 8

Keith Hare
Kelly Moore
Lynn Neese
Rick Scherer

January 9

Suzette Cavallo
Bo Hawthorne

January 10

Alice Wilkey

January 11

Diana Booth
David Gulick
Jake Johnson
Bray Miller
Don Robertson

January 12

Rob Johnson
John Straw
Gary Tyer

January 13

Bess Price
Kent Savedge
Eliza Sundberg

January 14

Nancy Anderson
Al Whitley

January 15

Doris Curtis
Jim Slatton

January 16

Jack Beamon
Emily Hare
Nancy Werner

January 17

Gene Cox
Ron Crawford
Kay Howe
Claire McAllister
Mary Lee Starke

January 19

Rob Spicer

January 21

Frank Hinckle
Kate Kral
Becky Spicer
Julia Tyler
Richard Ware

January 22

Ben Burkett
Erica Gilliam
Ken Parris
Carole Royall

January 23

Justin Davis
Anne Moore
Alex Oretga
Oliver Way

January 24

Susan Gilsdorf
Peggy Stevens
John West

January 25

Steve Lowery
Will Taylor

January 26

Ann Marie Geisler
Sara Heisler
Ken Lantz

January 27

Adam Clark
Olen Stewart
Kemp West

January 28

Cindy Harris
Becky Jante
Sandy Rooney

January 29

Jody Gordon
Page Highfill
Erika Martin

January 30

Sue Baldwin
Jim Ladd
Sam Phillips
Anne Rusher
Anna Story

January 31

Margaret Almond
Sandra Carter
Charlotte Ladd

Happy Anniversary!

January 1

Currie and Sandra Carter – 20 years

January 2

Cindy and Topper Davis – 23 years

January 5

Andrew and Hilary Blanchard – 18 years

January 7

John and Joan Robertson – 59 years

January 11

Fred and Maxine Redford – 62 years

January 13

Norma and John Hays – 41 years

January 14

Terry and Sheila Marsh – 36 years
Brandon and Kristin Story – 8 years

January 20

Susan and Jim Mathers – 13 years

January 23

Bonnie and Oliver Way – 39 years

January 29

David and Trisha Hooker – 37 years