



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

MARCH 2020 | VOL. X | ISSUE 3

explorer

WELCOME THE SEASON OF LENT

With the thought of fasting or giving up a beloved indulgence, many may feel a little uneasy about welcoming this season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and extends until Easter. Instead of hesitancy, I would like to invite you to approach the season with receptive minds and hearts, to welcome the work that God might do within your spirit. As our creator, there is no other one who deeply and with compassion, understands the individual inner workings of every person. If we trust that the Lord wants what is our best, fullest, most beautiful way in life, it should be more than a welcome we extend, but even an embrace.

Embracing the Spirit, who will help us sift through our thoughts, feelings, and those hidden recesses deep inside where we hide hurts away, can be a pathway to healing. Giving God permission to love us enough to help us forgive ourselves, and fill us up so we can forgive others, is a journey towards freedom. Embracing God, who sacrificed for us, can grow our gratitude, endurance, and calling—affecting how we move through life, serve the world, and live in relationship with Christ.

Seeking God through daily scripture reading, setting aside a distracting habit, taking time to journal or draw, walking in nature regularly, practicing acts of service—these are just a few avenues

to pursue communion with God. Settling our insides long enough to sense peace and connection to our Source, offers an opportunity to live with greater intention and depth, and be better grounded, equipped to give, and centered in God.

Receive ashes. Recognize that you are gifted with life, able to live in an amazing body, with all the beauty and limitations that come with this. Acknowledge imperfection and sinfulness, and open wide to the truth that God already knows and receives all of us just as we are. Bow in thanksgiving and offer generous gifts of sacrifice in these weeks ahead. With a measure of humility, seek from our Savior that which you need, even if you are not sure what that is. The knowledge of God reaches beyond ours, and God works in ways of which we may not even be aware.

Consider Jesus—his life surrendered to God in faithfulness and his love given out in every way—words, touches, presence, his body broken. Reflect on the gifts that God has extended for hope to overcome our doubts, love to overcome our hatred, and life to overcome the death we all face. As God’s immense gift of love dawns on you in new ways, offer a welcome. Offer an embrace.

BY ANNA PERRY MILLER

MINISTER ON CALL — 804-464-7968

If you have a pastoral need over the weekend or a holiday, please call the number above to reach a member of our ministerial staff. Please note, this is a shared number and text messages are not monitored.

YOUTH SUNDAY — March 22

On Youth Sunday, RRCB youth lead in all elements of worship. Our youth have the opportunity to serve communion, lead in prayer, read scripture, and song, along with fantastic preaching.

We teach our youth that their voice matters, and by providing them the opportunity to lead, we are putting that into practice.

TFC Wednesdays, March 4-25

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**
- **5:15-6:15: Wednesday Night Dinner**
- **5:45-6:15: TFC-Kids:** Missions or Games
- **6:00-7:00: TFC-Youth:** Games & Dessert
- **6:15-7:00: Children's Choirs**
 - Crusader (3rd-5th grades)
 - Carol (1st & 2nd grades)
 - Cherub (Pre-K & Kindergarten; 6:45 end)
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults:** "The Grace of 'Les Mis' with Roy Terry and Andrew Terry — This is a study in which we will be challenged during lent in several significant areas of our spiritual walk. Roy and his son, Andrew, will graciously lead us through this study for five weeks.

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Chaperones

Do you love spending time with our youth? Do you love seeing these teenagers laugh, grow in their faith and worship together? Contact Marnie to volunteer. Fees are covered by the church.

March 27-29: March Mission Madness (Richmond)

1 male and 1 female chaperone needed (We will be staying at a hotel and the host church is Second Baptist Church.)

July 6-11: PASSPORT Camp (Furman University, SC)

2 male chaperones needed (6 youth parents have volunteered)

First Sunday Food Share

Sunday, March 1

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. The center directors request 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

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, March 3

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, March 3

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).

Youth Sunday Nights

March 1, 8, 15

- 4:15-5:00: River Road Camerata
- 5:00-5:45: Youth Choir
- 5:45-6:15: Youth Snack Supper
- 6:15-7:30: Youth Program

Events

- March 21: Preschool Fun Morning
- March 21: Youth Sunday Rehearsal & Dinner
- March 27-29: Youth March Mission Madness

FIXERS

Thursdays, March 5 & 19

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.)

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

Thursday, March 5 | Mondays, March 9, 16, 23, 30

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.

The Comma Club Luncheon & Program

Tuesday, March 10

12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The program will be travel reflections on Egypt and the Holy Land as presented by Bonnie and Oliver Way. Please make your reservations by Friday, March 6 by calling the Church Office, or filling out the form online rrcb.org/seniors. Lunch is \$12 per person. *The group is primarily made up of senior adults, though it is not a requirement; anyone interested in a program is invited.*

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

Friday, March 13

12:00 p.m., Chianti Ristorante (Gayton Crossing)

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

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

Saturday, March 14

9:00-11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

We will be packaging at least 12,000 nutritiously sound meals for distribution through the Rise Against Hunger network. The meals we packaged in October were sent to Rise Against Hunger's in-country partner Muslim Aid in Somalia in November. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and will last until 11:00 a.m. or all meals are packaged.

This is a great opportunity for children to participate alongside adults in a project that directly impacts the hungry in our community and around the world. Children 4 and older can participate in the event. Childcare for children 3 and under is available by request, please contact sandyrooney@rrcb.org. Visit www.rrcb/rah to register your family.

E. Carl Freeman Concert Series

Harpsichord Recital — Jory Vinikour

Sunday, March 15, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Organ Recital — Mary Brattskar

Sunday, March 29, 2:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Free tickets for both concerts are available at rrcb.org/eventbrite

WMU Connectors — Friends Helping Friends

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 p.m., Lakewood

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.

Book Lovers

Thursday, March 26

7:30 p.m., LC #102

Couples Date Night #3

Saturday, March 28, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Couples will gather at church and receive some fun and interesting questions for your discussion during the evening. During this March date night, questions will focus on your future. Each couple may spend the time wherever they choose. Take a walk, eat out, go to a favorite spot... enjoy some time talking together. Childcare is provided for those who need it for only \$5 per child. Sign up required for childcare and more information at rrcb.org/datenight.

If you missed Date Nights #1 or #2, it's not too late.

Questions are still available for you to do this at a time of your own choosing. Envelopes are located in the church office and are bright red. Pick one up and have fun!

Church Softball Team

The church will have a softball team in the Western Henrico Church Softball League again this year. This is a coed team for those 16 and older. No experience required. If you're interested in joining the team, please contact Chris Wilkinson (804-625-7379 or wilky17@verizon.net).

Hands & Hearts: Nickelsville Mission Trip

April 26-May 1

All RRCB adult church members and friends are invited on this special mission trip to serve and provide love and hope to the people of Nickelsville! The cost is \$75 to cover the cost of lodging at the Manor. The group prepares all of their meals. For more information or to sign up, contact Laura Lee Chandler (LauraLeeChandler@gmail.com or 804-337-4483).

What we will do: Nursing home ministry, food pantry organization and serving clients, painting, light construction, other ministries to be determined based on needs of the ministry and number of participants.

HISTORICAL HALLMARK

The first meal was cooked and served from the new kitchen in Fellowship Hall on March 28, 1979.

In March, 1977, the kitchen in Fellowship Hall was listed as one of eight church-wide projects recommended by the Building and Property Council. Food often had to be cooked in the kitchen in the Chapel building and carried to Fellowship Hall. Growing out of women's concerns for the inadequacy of both kitchens, a Kitchens Committee was established to work as an advisory group with the House and Grounds Committee. The Kitchens Committee is now one of the standing committees of the Board of Administration.

Happy Birthday!

March 1

Dominic Mistretta
Pam Proffitt

March 2

Gladys Fleming
Pam Hughs
Adam Jante
Ryan Nelson
Ann Margaret Proffitt
Thomas Proffitt

March 3

Janet Ahl
Richard Bower
Stedman Oakey

March 4

Charlie Early
Robert Gray
Charlie Knerr
Mike Rucker

March 5

Frank Cavallo
Doris Highfill
Elizabeth Holland

March 7

Karen Farmer
Wilson Gilliam
Ken Hynes

March 9

Ed Bischoff
James Burns
Vivian Clingenpeel
Henry Oakey

March 10

Neal Gauldin
Geoff Gilmore
Michelle Gulick
Betty Hazelwood
Mary Murphy
Glenda Palmer
Meg Rooney
Mary Beth Scherer
Emery Williamson

March 11

Shelley Lantz

March 13

Margaret Collins

March 14

Barbara Robertson
Elizabeth Wilkinson

March 15

Rob Baldwin
Sheridan Cowardin
Madelyn Grace Gobble
Joassin Pelensky (PJ)
Broadnax

March 16

Richard Fowler
Lani Gilliam
Emily Sumner
Shawn Van Tiem

March 17

Julia Bouck
Jackson Hawthorne

March 18

Karen Collier
Janet Stevens

March 19

Ronda Zukowsky

March 20

Frank Wentzel
Andrea Wherry

March 21

Gary Burnett
Jack Harvie
Rob Smart

March 22

Topper Davis
Jean Hart
Anna Mathews

March 23

Kim Early

March 24

Mark Dumas
Lovell Glasco
Carolyn Paulette
DeAnne Shelton

March 25

Coby Clingenpeel
Helen Gilmore
Don Powell

March 26

Eleanor Nurney

March 27

Owen Merritt
Harold Sheppard
Elizabeth Vaughan

March 29

Emily Cothran
Katie Merritt
Emily Tuck

March 31

Linda Benton
Anne Kirkup

Happy Anniversary!

March 3

Sally Sledge and Gary Barker – 13 years

March 5

Jamie and John Sexton – 15 years

March 6

Donna and Rob Brown – 38 years

March 11

Rinne and Ken Hynes – 31 years

March 15

Alice and Dean Wilkey – 64 years

March 16

Gale and Ed Higgins – 35 years

March 24

Judy and Griz Dixon – 24 years

March 28

Susan and Tripp Vaughan – 28 years