



January 2021
NEWSLETTER

WE EXIST TO GUIDE PEOPLE TOWARD THEIR
NEXT STEP IN CHRIST.

IN THIS ISSUE: Year in Review | Ministry Updates | “The Cotton Patch”

Our thoughts about 2020 may just be that we are glad it is behind us—focusing only on those things we feel we lost last year. Let me challenge you to think about the blessings of 2020. Some may have incredible stories of God’s provision. God’s comfort. God’s mercy.

The body of Christ at RC3 stayed faithful in giving to the Lord. We had opportunities for outreach beyond the doors of River Cities Church. We served lunch and gave “survival kits” to the faculty and staff at Altizer Elementary. Our SHARE Ministry was very creative in reaching out to our beloved seniors and serving them throughout the year. RC3 Kids and Student Ministries continued to connect with their respective kids to encourage them throughout the year. Pastor Bryan and his team took 45 students to summer camp. It was a week filled with fun, but was also spiritually challenging. The RFKC staff pulled off a successful virtual camp for 30 kids in the foster system. Our AWANA leaders encouraged the kids to continue memorizing Scripture even when they could not met together. Many people brought a shoebox filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. RC3 shipped 185 boxes, with the extra \$6 for discipleship materials included in most of them! The Worship Arts team continued to give their best to create a worshipful service each of the 52 weeks of 2020. Pastor Rob orchestrated a beautiful Christmas Eve service for us. Our December *Give This Christmas Away* projects sent 281 coats/hoodies to the Street Ministry, 946 pairs of socks to the Huntington City Mission, over 400 baby items to Two Hearts Pregnancy Center, and 195 books to Bulgaria! We’ve had baptisms and we’ve had folks join RC3 membership. These are just a few of our blessings in 2020!

As we think about this new year, may we strive to live in grace & truth just like Jesus. After all, we are made in His image (Genesis 1:27). In order to be like Jesus, simply remove everything that does not look like Him. We do not want to portray a blurred image of our Savior. Give the world that watches us closely, an undistorted image of the Savior who truly lived in grace & truth.



-Pastor Larry

Only If

- We should fear
only if the Lord is not in control.
- We should worry,
only if the Lord is not able to meet our needs.
- We should strive
only if the Lord is not our Shepherd.
- We should doubt
only if the Lord is not faithful.

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, if you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23



In addition to our four pastors, the following men will serve on the **2021 Board of Elders:**

Kurt Buchanan, Charlie Hagley, Tom McGahan, Billy Perry, John Savory, Jeff Smith

2021 Board of Trustees:

Todd Childers, Jay Fedczak, David Lamb, Jesse Lewis, Josh Watson

2021 Board of Deacons:

Chris Boone, Jesse Cottrell, Gerhard Esterhuizen, Chris Greenwood, Bob Hogsett, Randy Jackson, Waymond Turman

2021 Church Officers:

Diana Bishop (Clerk), Beth Cutler (Financial Secretary), Melinda McComas (Missions Secretary), Angie Wetzel (Treasurer)

Small Groups

Biblical Theology | Community | Outreach

Most of our Small Groups have resumed meeting in person. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, groups will have to adapt to the changes necessary to provide a safe environment for everyone. At this time there will be no childcare offered for groups. (When the C-19 spread decreases, restrictions may be relaxed cautiously and safely.)

Leaders will be in contact with you to give the latest update on your particular group.

We will continue to do our best to keep you informed as we prayerfully consider how to have all our ministries fully functioning again. Look for updates on social media, Sunday bulletins, and this newsletter.

We encourage you to pray with us and share your input with one of the pastors if you have a suggestion to be considered.

We have maintained our sanitizing protocols, our Greeters continue to open the doors for everyone, masks are provided for those who enter without one, and the Worship Center seating is socially distanced. We want you to feel safe to return to corporate worship.



March 19-21

Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters
Andrews, NC

Cost: \$155/per person
(includes lodging & meals at camp)

Email Pastor Scott for more information.
scott@roundchurch.net



What's Your Lagniappe?

One of the best meals I ever ate was at a restaurant in rural Louisiana. The baked seafood entrée was marvelous—crabmeat, scallops, crawfish, onions, crushed red pepper, paprika, more than a little garlic. . .and something else. It included a zing I knew, but couldn't quite identify.

Others at my table took a taste and had the same reaction: it's spectacular, but what is that flavor? The chef, a jovial woman whose accent dripped of the bayou, was thrilled that we couldn't discern her secret. "Tis cinnamon" she finally revealed. "Dat's dee Lan-Yap."

"It's the what?"

"You-uns know. . .*lan-yap*." Our blank expressions prodded her. "LAN-YAP, Dee spayshul tooch." I couldn't wait to find a dictionary (although I did manage to restrain myself until the bread pudding with lemon sauce was finished off).

It took some work to find the proper spelling, but it's right there in Webster's: Lagniappe. Literally, a lagniappe is a small present given to a customer at the time of a purchase. The 13th bagel in a baker's dozen is a lagniappe, as is the little toy you get with a Happy Meal.

But the word means more in the Cajun lingo. It's the unexpected, wonderful, surprising "spayshul tooch." The unusual blend of cinnamon in her seafood dinner was our chef's lagniappe. The guy who acted on the ludicrous idea of pouring hot fudge sauce over cold ice cream provided a lagniappe for the ages.

The essence of the two meanings is the same; lagniappe isn't necessary, rather it is above and beyond what is required, expected, or deserved. Lagniappe is something that makes you want to return for more.

River Cities Church has lagniappes. Anyone who has listened to Paul understands his recitations are a major league lagniappe. When Dave's fingers move swiftly over the bass, that's lagniappe. Snowbird for our teens—lagniappe. The AWANA store—definitely lagniappe for our kids. Your favorite teacher making the Bible come alive for you—lagniappe. And what better lagniappe than when the choir sings "Total Praise"!

These lagniappes are all little snapshots of the most important gift of all, the one that is farthest above that which we deserve. ***"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord"*** (Romans 6:23).

So be thinking of what you can do to provide a little something special to those you meet at River Cities Church, making them want to return for more and to learn what's different about you and this congregation.

What's your lagniappe? sc



Purity Retreat
(registration now closed)
February 19-21

Snowbird Summer Camp
June 28 — July 3

If you are interested in earning a full scholarship to SWO this summer, here is your challenge! Memorize and recite the book of Philippians. You may memorize in the translation of your choice. (Only students who are members and/or regularly attend RC3 are eligible.

Pastor Bryan Hagley

304.736.8197 | bryan@roundchurch.net | Insta & FB: RC3 Student Ministries

*Should you find yourself
in quarantine again. . .*

- Q**uiet your soul
- U**nite as one with God
- A**ct with Godly love
- R**ead your Bible
- A**ctivate your faith
- N**ourish your soul
- T**alk with God
- I**ntercede for others
- N**estle in the presence of God
- E**levate God in worship

ANNUAL MEETING

January 24 @ 6 PM
Worship Center

Year in Review Reports
2020 Closing Financials

*save
the date!*

HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY
(formerly Empowered to Connect)
Friday, April 9, 2021

The Life Skills Ministry is excited to announce **Hope for the Journey** and follow-up small group for foster care and adoptive families. This event will help shepherd parents and caregivers with a deeper understanding of their child's needs.

PURSUIING CHRIST TOGETHER
(Lifeway Women's Live Simulcast)
April 17, 2021



We encourage you to continue working with your children
to help them memorize scripture from their books.
Hopefully club will resume soon.

If you prefer to read this newsletter on our website or if you prefer to not receive this publication in the mail,
please let us know by emailing mary@roundchurch.net or call the church office @ 304.736.8197.