

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

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It is approaching the one year mark since we pushed the "pause" button on many of the ministries of River Cities Church. We've all had to adapt to a different "normal" whether by choice or conviction. Our leadership has not ceased to ask God for wisdom and guidance in having all our ministries fully functioning once again.

We are excited to welcome our kids back to AWANA on March 3rd. It is our desire to come alongside the family and help communicate the truths of God's Word, helping boys and girls take their next step in their spiritual journey. If you would like to be a part of this dynamic program, reach out to Alan Yates at 304.654.3180.

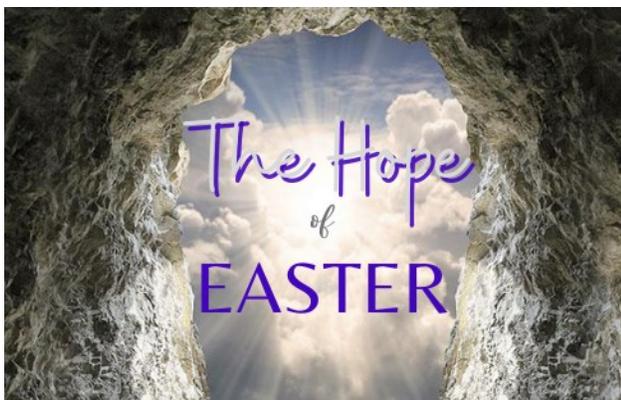
Our Student Ministries will also resume on March 3rd. Pastor Bryan will begin a new series, *Lost & Found*, on Wednesday evenings. About 20 of our teens will attend the DNOW conference at Snowbird this month.

Nursery and Sunday School will resume on March 7th. It is helpful for parents to register their children on our website or church app to let us know which service they plan to attend so that Jennie Hagley and Ronda Shockley can have adequate staff in place.

We continue to offer two worship services on Sunday morning. Many have chosen to view online or hear the audio through their phone line. It has been wonderful for many of our members who have health issues or may be out-of-town. However, some have admitted it's just easier to watch online than having the hassle of getting dressed and traveling to a *place* of worship. Sadly, others admit they are just out of the habit of watching or attending at all.

Two words are used in the New Testament to describe the church meeting: **gather together**. "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were **gathered together** was shaken. . . (Acts 4:31). "And when they (Paul and Barnabas) arrived and **gathered** the church **together**. . . (Acts 14:27). "So. . . they went down to Antioch and having **gathered** the congregation **together**. . ." (Acts 15:30). "On the first day of the week when we were **gathered together** to break bread. . ." (Acts 20:7).

The pattern of the New Testament church was to "gather together" for prayer, communion, and encouragement. We pray you will consider re-joining our worship services in-person if you are physically able. We love to pray together, celebrate communion together, and encourage one another each week as we "**gather together**."



Our Worship Arts Ministry will present "**The Hope**" on Easter Sunday at the 9:30 & 11:15 AM worship services.

This Easter program will remind us of God's plan from eternity past to redeem us from sin. It cost Christ's death on the cross, but gave us access to God and salvation. Our eternal hope is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Come and celebrate Resurrection Sunday with us!

"Four things come not back:

The spoken word; the spent arrow; time past; the neglected opportunity."

Chuck Swindoll

"The tongue is the only tool that grows sharper with constant use."

New Prayer Initiative



People in crisis desire to talk to a live person, someone who has a listening ear, is compassionate, and who cares about their unique personal needs. RC3 is partnering with The Prayer & Crisis Referral Network to offer a 24/7 prayer hotline service that will include local resource information for callers.

There will be more information coming soon as to how you can be involved to help those desperately seeking answers.



PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER
APRIL 17, 2021

We are excited to host Lifeway Women's Live Simulcast in April. This will be a day filled with practical Bible teaching with some of your favorite authors. You will not want to miss out on this event.

Featured speakers include: Lisa Harper, Jackie Hill Perry, Kelly Minter, Ruth Chou Simons, Jamie Ivey, & Kristi McLelland. Music by **Point of Grace** and worship leader, Austin Stone.

More information coming soon!



Apples & Bananas

As a toddler, my nephew Kristopher loved bananas. It sometimes took people a while to figure that out, though, because he called them apples.

"I want ahh-ple," he'd say. But when given a shiny red piece of fruit, he became agitated. "No, I want ahh-ple."

"That is an apple," was the typical, bemused reply.

"No, I want AHH-PLE!"

Eventually, by pointing or by trial and error, Kris would get his banana, but by then he was usually angry about it.

We all, of course, tried to correct him. It didn't work; he argued endlessly, stubbornly refusing to change.

One day while he was playing in the living room, I heard Kris muttering to himself. He gradually got louder, and I heard the word "ahh-ple."

I walked into the room to see him standing in front of the television where *The Frugal Gourmet* was making banana bread. Whenever Jeff Smith used the word "banana," Kris would "correct" him, each time getting madder and louder. As his face flushed red I intervened.

When I changed channels the little guy looked up with one last scowl. "Ahh-ple."

It seems silly that a kid, not yet two years old, was debating with one of the most well-known cooks in the world about a piece of fruit, but how often do we argue with or ignore those to whom we should listen?

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was troubled by a dream that he couldn't understand, and he got no help by consulting his magicians, sorcerers and astrologers. The prophet Daniel, however, was able to interpret the dream. Nebuchadnezzar admitted to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings. . ." (Daniel 2:4).

Later when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship a golden image that Nebuchadnezzar erected, the king learned more about God's might when the three survived the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar then decreed that no one could speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 4:24-27).

By this time Nebuchadnezzar certainly knew that Daniel spoke God's truth, but the king clung to his old way. What Daniel warned of did indeed come to pass; Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his people and lived with the animals, eating grass like the cattle while his hair grew as feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of birds (Daniel 4:33). Only after seven years did he raise his eyes toward heaven to praise God, and Nebuchadnezzar was then restored to his throne.

Do you heed the experts God has placed around you? There are many at River Cities Community Church and probably others within close reach, maybe even in your own home. We need to be wary when we go against the advice of those who have demonstrated themselves to possess wisdom.

To refuse the counsel of those God has provided to teach and lead us is something we will undoubtedly one day look back upon as being exponentially more immature and callow even than a little kid arguing with a famous chef about apples and bananas. sc



And we're back.....

Youth Group | Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

DNOW @ SWO
March 5 - 7

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 Philipians. 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



Beginning **April 26th**, this small group will meet on Mondays (time TBD), in-person and virtual options available. The group will be led by Beth Calvert, Mindy Reed, and Johnda Stambaugh who all bring years of personal experience and training to the group.

While this class addresses adoptive and foster parents, it will encourage and equip anyone who loves or works with children who come from hard places to help meet the everyday needs and challenges they face.

The adoption journey does not end on the day a child is welcomed home; in fact, the journey is just beginning. Children impacted by adoption and/or foster care have often experienced early attachment injuries related to loss, abuse, trauma, and/or neglect. There is hope and help. You are not alone.

Topics include: An Introduction to Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), Connecting Principles, Empowering Principles, Correcting Principles, and TBRI & The Gospel.

REGISTER ONLINE @ ROUNDCHURCH.NET
OR ON THE RC3 CHURCH APP.



And we're back.....

Club will resume Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:30 PM.

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.