

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

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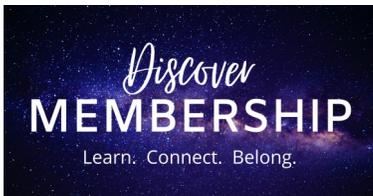
Opportunity vs. Opposition

"A wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me."

These words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 16 is an apt description of where we stand today as a church. God has set before us a great door of opportunity to point people to Jesus! Will we seize the moment or let it slip away? Sadly, along with the opportunities come the inevitable opposition. The evil one will bare his fangs in an attempt to devour. He will do anything to distract, disturb, and destroy God's working. He will even try to use well intentioned, but misguided Christians, to get us side tracked. (He tried that tactic with Jesus, but failed.) Don't be his agent of opposition. We need to be on our guard spiritually now more than ever. We must ask ourselves, *"Do my words and actions draw people to the Savior or turn them away?"*

Considering the wide door of opportunity, where do you see God using you in ministry at RC3? In your community? In your neighborhood? I encourage you to explore the possibilities. One of the greatest joys in the Christian life is to find your niche in serving Jesus.

—Pastor Larry



We refer to our church as *"A place to begin . . . A place to belong."* We believe it is important for Christians to be committed members of a local church. It is Biblical. It is relational. It is practical.

If membership is the next step of your spiritual journey, we invite you to join us for our orientation class, **River Cities 101**. These three sessions will be offered on **Wednesdays at 6:30 PM on October 14, 21, & 28**. We will meet in the Worship Center.

We are excited about what God is doing at River Cities Church and want you to capture that excitement too!



We are excited to welcome our Awana kids back to club on Wednesday, ***October 14th**. The same protocols will be in place as RC3 Kids on Sunday mornings. Everyone will enter at the Red Door entrance and go through screening before checking in. Your cooperation will be important to ensure the safety of each child.

There is a need for more workers. If you are willing and available, contact Alan Yates at al_yates@yahoo.com or 304.654.3180.

***DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Small Groups

Biblical Theology | Community | Outreach

Most of our Small Groups will resume in-person beginning the week of ***October 18th**. 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.

***DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Upward Registration Coming Soon! *(hopefully)*



We are seeking God's wisdom as we proceed with plans for making Upward Basketball & Cheerleading as safe as possible for each child. Changes or a halt to our plans will be implemented based on counsel from medical professionals and leaders from our sponsoring churches. Your cooperation with protocols will be very important to have a successful 16th season for the boys and girls in our community. Our goal is to communicate with you so that you will be well informed as we move forward.



RC3 third quarter financials, minutes, and ministry reports will be available October 18th in the Welcome Center. We will not have an in-person Members Meeting this month.

The 2021 proposed budget and nominations for officers will be presented for approval on December 6th.



Getting Crowned

When I visited friends in North Carolina a few years ago, four-year-old Annie relocated to her sister’s bedroom so I could stay in hers. As I arrived, the introductory hugs were followed immediately by Annie’s instruction to follow her to my quarters, so I grabbed my luggage and we marched up the stairs.

Annie’s bedroom was exactly what you would expect for a girl of that age: lots of pink and purple, and everything Barbie—Barbie dolls, Barbie cars, Barbie jewelry, and Barbie accessories. She had an ample supply of coloring books, crayons and markers, and a princess’ tiara sat on the dresser.

My little hostess had rehearsed her speech and it was delivered with the precision and style of a flight attendant instructing passengers, motioning and pointing for emphasis.

“There’s the closet and some hangers for the clothes you need to hang up. This is your bed and we gave you big pillows. Here’s the dresser and you can put things in this drawer—and if you need a crown, here’s one right here. The bathroom is right across the hall. . .”

We all got a good laugh from Annie’s matter-of-fact assumption that I’d find her tiara useful. To her, donning that crown was as commonplace as putting on her shoes, and she figured it would be the same for anyone else.

When you think about it, Annie was right. Getting crowns should be a part of the daily routine of all Christians. The apostle Paul tells us so in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25: **“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”**

Paul later explained two of the crowns available to us. In his first letter to the Thessalonians he tells of the crown of rejoicing: **“For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?”** (2:19). He described another to Timothy. **“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing”** (2 Timothy 4:8).

James tells us that **“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him”** (James 1:12).

Finally, in 1 Peter 5:4 we learn that for those who are eager to serve and are examples to the flock, **“when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”**

Five different kinds of crowns that not only are available to us, they come to us as what should be a routine part of our Christian walk—and then we will be privileged to lay them at the Savior’s feet.

I’ll bet those crowns will look a lot better than Annie’s tiara does on me, too. sc



Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:3-4



We are eager to get back to in-person meetings! Hopefully we will resume on Wednesday, **October 14th**! Pastor Bryan will post all the details on social media.

Outreach Event

We are planning for an outreach event where students can serve and demonstrate the love of Christ to others. Planning is challenging with the COVID-19 restrictions, but we will share more details as they become concrete.

Christmas Party - December 16th

In addition to our annual white elephant gift exchange, we will collect gifts to share with others who may not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. This will help us live out our theme verse from Philippians **“looking out for the interests of others.”**

The **Purity Retreat** at Snowbird is scheduled for February 19-21. Registration is now open. Your \$50 deposit can be given to Pastor Bryan until the retreat is at capacity and registration closes.

Pastor Bryan Hagley

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

Operation Christmas Child



EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, & MULTIPLICATION!

The journey of a shoebox begins with you and results in the gospel being shared. This WORLDWIDE ministry reaches people groups that we may never meet this side of heaven, but we can have an **eternal** impact by sending a shoebox filled with gifts and the message of hope for a world without Jesus.

This month we ask you to take the small green bottle available in the main lobby at RC3 and fill it with \$9 in quarters to provide shipping for one of the 250 boxes that we hope to ship in November. We will collect the bottles through October 31st.

Contact Mike or Jo Carroll for more information @ mikec41447@gmail.com.

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.