

MARCH 2022 | ISSUE 3



ENGAGE

Go beyond to lead people of a hurting world into new life through Jesus Christ.

From the Pastor's Desk

This past year was a turbulent one with many twists and turns. I do sense that we are beginning to normalize (I use that word cautiously) a bit—meaning that we better understand the social and health related dynamics that impact our ministry strategies. Overall, this past year some things worked and were accomplished, and some were not. When reflecting on these goals and seeing how we continue to find our way in this new world, we continue to learn and grow in ways that will hopefully prepare us for this season of life together.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

From the Pastor's Desk
Meet Ebenezer Pentecostal

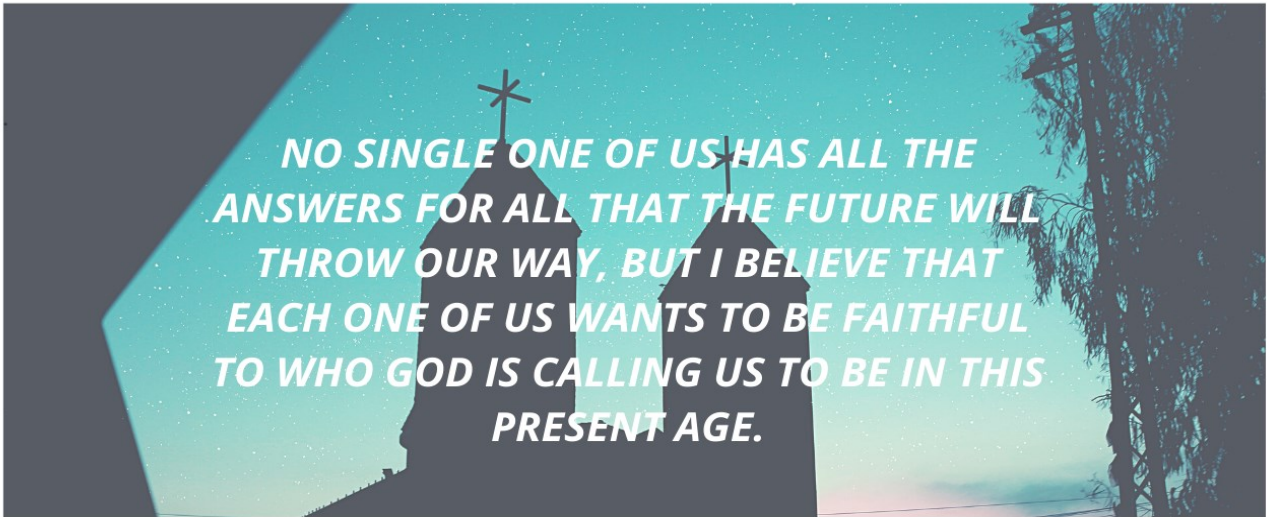


From the Pastor's Desk continued

As we begin this year, we have been using a sermon series to refresh our perspective and help us focus on why our church exists—essentially our core principles that guide our ministry. Sermons don't fix things completely or cover every single thing for our life as disciples but communicating the important principles that shape our identity as a church is a necessity, lest we begin to think only about ourselves and our desires in this present time. We are at an interesting time where there are many decisions that need to be made by our church leadership: are we more interested in preserving the past or building for our future? Shall we stay the way we are, or shall we seek to be the church God calls us to be?

Often times we believe that we honor the past by preserving the past, but truly, we honor the past and rich traditions and history when we are able to understand it for what it is—a very important part of who we are and the foundation for what shall be. Walt Disney almost didn't make it as a success story. Sure, he could have just been the creator of Mickey Mouse. That could have been enough for many people. But Walt Disney took what he had and put it into creating the first full length animated feature of all time, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937). If this movie didn't make it things would have been over for Walt. But it was a smashing success, that paved the way for the second full length animated movie, *Pinochio* (1940). Over the years there were many successes and failures, but Disney wasn't always just a huge media conglomerate. Even as it grew, Walt wanted to make sure that everyone who worked at Disney knew that the past is what made the future possible. So much so, that at Disney headquarters in California, there is a statue of Walt walking hand-in-hand with Mickey (the mouse that started it all), toward the main building that has seven pillars on the front of it that are styled to look like the seven dwarfs. He wanted everyone to remember what made this present and future possible. Honoring the past while we move into the future is an important part of our task as the church in the 21st century.

I believe that it is clear that no single one of us has all the answers for all that the future will throw our way, but I believe that each one of us wants to be faithful to who God is calling us to be in this present age. I believe that God will give us the collective wisdom we need for this current age. I also believe that our answers for the future are grounded in our missional motivations as I shared in the sermon on January 15th: Continual Spiritual Growth leads to our being Christ-centered and embodying Christ-like Love which leads us to welcome the stranger and to hands on mission. But our own growth in God's love and discerning God's will is the beginning for navigating our future as a congregation of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. This is true of any season, but it is always a great reminder.



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Meet Ebenezer Pentecostal

Staci Hissong
Executive Assistant

Have you noticed how nice the outside of the church is looking lately? This is a gift to Colonial Park from our new friends, Ebenezer Pentecostal Church. Who is Ebenezer Pentecostal you ask? Let me tell you, their story.

Ebenezer Pentecostal is a Spanish speaking congregation that began in the Millington home of Pastor Tomas Tax. It began many months ago with a friend asking Tomas questions about the Bible & Christianity. Soon, this gentleman began to bring his wife and children to Tomas' house every Sunday. It turned into several families coming and outgrowing Tomas' home. So, the prayers for a larger space began.

One Sunday morning, Tomas & his wife Yuli, went for a drive. The Lord prompted them onto the interstate and then Poplar and then onto Estate Drive. When they saw the front yard sign of Colonial Park "United Methodists Stand Against Racism" they knew they needed to stop. They approached Pastor Jathaniel and asked if we had any rooms available to rent for their small church.

Tomas came to me just before Christmas and I was delighted to tell them "Yes." They began meeting here in the Chapel on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays every week for prayer & Bible study. His congregation of 12 is so hungry for God's Word that many days they stay for hours, talking and discussing the Bible. They also share meals together and travel to conferences together.

Tomas & Yuli have 4 children, ages 4, 9, 10 and 12. Their church consists of 3 families and their children. The children's ages range from 4 to 15. The church is so grateful for the use of the building they began asking if they could do any work around the property. I was pleased to say "yes" to that as well. After the February ice storms, they cleaned up branches from the Magnolia tree on Estate. They have continued to ask week after week what can they do to help. In the past few days of writing this article, they have trimmed bushes, donated, and mulched the flower beds, power washed the concrete, & cleaned gutters. They are just so grateful to God for a place to call home.

My prayer is that you join me in welcoming Ebenezer Church to our building. They are eager to meet new friends, show the love of Christ, and serve for the good of the Kingdom.

We have asked Ebenezer to be our guests at a welcome dinner in the next few weeks. We will share the date and time as soon as plans are finalized. We hope that you can join us



WILLING

A photograph of three wooden hearts hanging on a string. The heart in the center is in sharp focus, showing its natural wood grain and a small knot. The two hearts on either side are slightly out of focus. The text "SEARCH ME, GOD, and know my heart." is overlaid in white on the central heart.

SEARCH ME, GOD, and know my heart.

The Super Bowl brought back some memories that the further I am removed from the more they seem to make sense. You know, the whys & hows those things we've done start to become clearer.

Back in the day as I seem to refer to things more and more these days, I remember organized workouts that coaches set up for us players. Now, the coaches were not always present for these workouts but, we had check lists to complete. I'm not saying we enjoyed finishing these workouts. However, it was something we all knew we needed to complete.

You could say we were obeying a higher authority! In the 1970s that would really be saying something. Ha Ha. Anyway, we all knew that what the coaches wanted us to do was in our best interest it just wasn't what we wanted to do.

Speaking with one of my coaches years later he informed me that his goal was to have us actually buy in to his program. He wanted us to not just do as he said but have a change of heart to the point that we willingly wanted to do what was best for ourselves and the team.

- Isn't that what being on God's team is really all about? He wants obedience in both conduct and heart. He wants us to do the right thing for the right reason. In fact, obedience that does not flow from the heart counts for very little in the eyes of God. It is what's inside our heart that counts.

Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount that God wants our heart, not just our will. As Christians, we are to listen for and obey God's will while surrendering ours willingly. Only God's love can induce us to do that. Are you willing?

Peace Be With You,
Gary W Vaughn, Director of Outreach Ministries



Were you unable to make our first Equipping Night? No problem! It's not too late to be a part of Equipping Nights.

What exactly is an Equipping Night?

These events are an opportunity for folks to go deeper in and explore their discipleship further. As you know, more often than not, what's talked about in large, church-wide forums is the biblical foundation of discipleship and what we're called to do as individuals and as the church. Equipping Nights provide an opportunity to learn specific tools and practices for discipleship tools anchored in God's mission for the world brought to life in Jesus Christ. We learn, celebrate, stretch, and in the process, grow deeper in our discipleship in community. These evenings are a time of practical, real-life training and support for growing and leading your own life as a disciple of Jesus.

Why should I participate in Equipping Nights?

Take charge of your discipleship journey! Be an active participant in your continual growth as a disciple of Jesus. And better yet, be prepared to live into Jesus' call for you to make disciples. Learn and explore real-life tools to live into the 3-dimensional life Jesus demonstrated for us: Up, In, and Out. We'll be taking all the discipleship knowledge we've heard and read about and learn tools to live into transformative behavior for us as individuals and in relationship with others. Rather than just talking about it, it's got Christ-like challenge and momentum behind it.

When are Equipping Nights?

Mark your calendar now!

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

March 10

April 28

May 12

June 9

July 14

Aug 1

Sept 8

Oct 13

Nov 10

Dec 8



Curious to learn what you missed at the February Equipping Night?

Reach out to any of our participants. Each one found the first Equipping Night particularly helpful as we unpacked and explored a Discovery Bible Study. I encourage you to reach out to Susan or Gary Vaughn, Amber Braswell, Terry Durham, Janice Jenks, Sally Eudaly, Walter Polk, or Denise McCormick who would love to share their experience with you.

How do you sign up for the future Equipping Nights?

It's easy! Just let Megan Warren know in-person or by email at mwarren@colonialpark.org.



is coming to CPUMC

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Colonial Park United Methodist Church on Friday, March 18, 2022.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

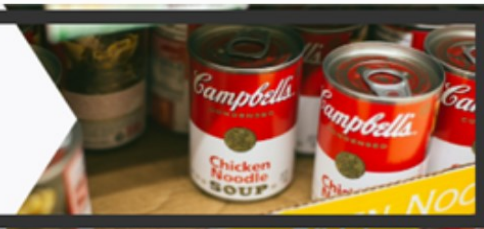
Osteoporosis Risk

An ultrasound is performed to measure the shin bone for abnormal bone mass density. This can help assess the risk of osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle.

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://llsa.social/HSC>

U-Can Ministry



U-Can Ministry will be collecting the following items for the month of March:

- canned soups
- instant potatoes
- crackers
- canned corn



**Don't forget to spring ahead
on March 13!**



Prophecy of Grace

Returning in March!

Prophecy of Grace will resume classes in March studying Revelation. Two class options are available. Wednesdays at 5 pm and Fridays at 10 am. For more information contact Frances Cowden @ 901-216-4496.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hi Everyone!! My name is Tommye Windsor-Cummings and I am the new Director of Family Discipleship Ministries. As I am sure you read last month, I will be guiding our discipleship ministries for children, youth, and their parents, but what does that mean? Well, I am here to tell you!

In my role here at Colonial Park, I will be working with a team of individuals to guide the Children's Ministry as well as equip our families on how to nurture and support the children in their knowledge and love of Jesus throughout the week. Since I am only one person, this team will enable me to collaboratively engage with all children and families for us to meet people where they are at in their relationship with Jesus.

This is a new role here at Colonial Park, so some things may look a little bit different in the coming months, but the goal is the same, to go beyond to lead people of a hurting world into a new life through Jesus Christ.

For the Children's Ministry, we currently have two wonderful Sunday School classes (Pre-K and Elementary). The Elementary students are learning how to care for those around us through stories Jesus shared in the bible. The Pre-K students are going through wonderful interactive lessons each week as well. You can see more details about the current lessons in the weekly children's ministry newsletter.

For the Youth Ministry, the youth group meets each Sunday after The Gathering. They are also working on once-a-month service projects. For our last service project, we worked with James and Staci Hissong to make brownies for Room in the Inn.

I am so incredibly excited to be here with all of you and serving in this wonderful church and in a neighborhood that is so close to my heart. If you would like a chance to get to know me, feel free to email me at TWindsdor@ColonialPark.Org to set up a time to chat.



Every month, we partner with Causely to turn your Facebook check-ins and CPUMC reviews into so much more than a social media check mark. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page and E-Newsletter in the coming weeks to see who we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to for the month of March!

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2 @ 6:30 pm
Sanctuary

Contact Tommye for childcare
for birth to 5 years

Mark Your Calendars!

3/3: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
3/7: Room in the Inn Serve Night
3/10: JOY lunch @ 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall
3/10: Equipping Night
3/12: Men's Breakfast @ 8:30 Fellowship Hall
3/17: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
3/18: Life Line Health Screening
3/20: CP Kids & Youth Family Meeting
3/21: Room in the Inn Serve Night



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Join us Sundays for In-Person Worship at 9:00 am for Traditional Worship, 10:00 am for Sunday School and 11:00 am for Casual Worship. Not ready to be in-person yet? Catch us on Facebook or YouTube at 11:00 am @Colonial Park UMC. Or you may call the worship service hotline at 901-329-6527 to listen from your phone.

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Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to Easy Tithe. This is an easy way to remain faithful to the ministries of Colonial Park.

This is a newsletter of Colonial Park United Methodist Church. The newsletter is published monthly & mailed third class, and e-mailed weekly except holidays.

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