

JUNE 2022 | ISSUE 6



# ENGAGE

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

As I take a few moments to think and pray about what I would write about for what I believe will be my final newsletter article as the pastor of Colonial Park, I thought I would take a look back at some of my earliest articles that I shared. There is one that sticks out to me. I wrote it in January 2018 for the February newsletter that year. I had been your pastor for a little over 6 months at that point, but here are a few things that I wrote to our church. I have highlighted a few items that I :

...Since the months before I learned that I was going to become the pastor of this wonderful congregation, I have been praying for us and for our life together. I have prayed continually for God to give us a vision for our future together. A vision for faithfulness in these times...times of polarity and division in our society and times of healing and revitalizing in our congregation...We are called to one purpose: to make new disciples of Jesus Christ in order to transform the world. We can't mistake simple for easy. There are lots of great reasons to do many good things, but we are called to do one thing and do it with excellence. That one thing is to make disciples.

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

From the Pastor's Desk  
Spanish with a Mission



# From the Pastor's Desk continued

It's time to rediscover it means to make disciples. Discipleship is more than education. Discipleship is the process of being an apprentice to Christ, learning to be the kind of person Jesus was and do the things that Jesus did. This requires for us to get up close and personal in our discipleship of Jesus Christ-up close and personal with Jesus and with one another...It's time to go beyond ourselves. Jesus came to seek the lost. Jesus took care of his flock so that they would in turn take care of others. The Gospel is double-sided: inside and outside. It is time for us to commit our life as a congregation to establish a healthy rhythm of caring for those beyond the church and then those within the church...It's time to grow. Sometimes when we think about growing we think of what happens way down the line. Maybe you think of numbers. I think of seeds sprouting, breaking the spring ground as young plant fueled by the light to stretch toward the light. Sometimes it takes a little while until a plant bears fruit, but there is a lot of growth that happens to get to that point...I believe fully that the Lord wants this for us so that we may experience a spiritual renaissance of our souls, our lives, our church, and our world. I am so grateful to be on this adventure with you!

While a lot of time has passed since I wrote these words, these words still encapsulate both the hope and the work that we have done together over the past five years. We have a mission that is unequivocally our reason for existing. We have a vision that will lead us to grow deeper and wider as a congregation. We are laser focused on making disciples. And fruit is beginning to develop from our work together. My hope and my prayer is that in the coming months and years, Colonial Park will continue to grow in mission and ministry to our hurting world. I am so grateful to have been on this adventure with you as your pastor. I pray for God's blessing upon you all.

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**It's time for an update on Colonial Park's Outreach Ministries.** I'm happy to say we are rocking & rolling and serving up a storm! There is always room for YOU to join in the fun.

**SIP Community Garden:** We had a fun clean up day in April and the growing has begun. There are a few plots still open, but they are filling up fast. I am learning how much I don't know about gardening and that is no surprise to most. Our Christ-centered team is being assembled and opportunities to plant God's seeds are the mission. Come on out when you are in the area and meet and welcome some new neighbors.

**RITI:** The Christ-centered class that meets on Sundays at 10:00 has been investigating new ways to serve the homeless. What a blessing to have folks that want to move this ministry into possibly a 12-months a year venture. The RITI has many ways to serve and if you are interested, please don't hesitate to join the class on Sundays to find out what they are up to or come find me and we'll discuss opportunities.

**U-Can:** We could use some folks to help in the delivering and putting together of these needed care packages. Can you pack a box? Can you drive? You're totally qualified. We regularly serve 12 families - we would like to step up this ministry, but without your help that's really not possible.

**Mobile Food Pantry:** Wow are we reaching so many families that have needs! The Compass Community School teachers volunteered our 1st week in May and are bringing students to serve in the future. The Health Department will be coming soon to offer COVID shots to our neighbors in line as well as the community at large. There are many ways to help out on these 1st & 3rd Thursdays. You are welcome and needed.

**AAU Basketball Teams:** We have 2 AAU basketball teams practicing in the gym many nights during the week. When school is out for the summer these young men will be serving in many areas of our ministries. They will also be conducting summer basketball camps and hopefully a tournament or two.

In the Hopper: Exploring Community Nights at the church and what that would look like. Hopefully a musical concert on our campus.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

### IT SMELLS LIKE POTENTIAL

In the movie Field of Dreams, there is a pretty famous (and often misquoted) line that says, "If you build it, he will come."

Now this is all well and good if you are building a baseball diamond in the middle of an Iowa corn field, but if you were talking about Sunday School at Colonial Park, you might be a little bit closer with, "You're going to need a bigger boat." (Jaws)

And by boat.....we mean Teachers! We have kids! Amazing, wonderful, and silly kids that are in need of Sunday School classes which means we need Sunday School Teachers!!! Our two-year pandemic haze has lifted slightly, and our kids and youth are back!!!! You may have heard Jathaniel's announcement recently about our need for Sunday School teachers and thought, hey, I could do that! But weren't really sure what was needed. Well, I am here to give you a clearer picture, and let you know exactly what we need. As it stands now, we have two children's Sunday School classes that need volunteers for 2-3 Sundays a month at 10am or 11am, BUT we also have an opportunity to open a BRAND-NEW Middle/High School Sunday School class at 10am each Sunday!! We have incredibly active and supportive youth kids who would greatly benefit from their very own Sunday School class each week. I have a room just for them as well a set curriculum.....all we need now is you!

I encourage you, any of you who have made it this far, to pray about this. Pray for the opportunity to become a Sunday School teacher and pray for our church as we grow and transition. If you are interested in serving 2 or more Sundays a month, please contact Tommye at [twindsor@colonialpark.org](mailto:twindsor@colonialpark.org).

# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

In our work with the Midsouth Mobile Food Bank over the past 2 years, it has become evident the need and the desire to communicate authentically and compassionately with our guests. Our relationship with Sea Isle Elementary over the past 25 years has also highlighted the opportunity to communicate well and build relationships with our neighbors. We have relationships with Pastor Goya and his faithful work with the Indigenous Pastoral Relief. We have Spanish speaking neighbors who live on the street and are guests of Room in the Inn. We've been a part of the Guatemalan Consulate and will be again in the future. Pastor Tomas and the Ebenezer congregation worship in the Chapel weekly.

Did you know that 6.6% of people in Shelby County are Hispanic/Latino? Some of those are our friends who come through the Memphis Midsouth Mobile Food Bank or RIT! or the Guatemalan Consulate. Did you know that 18% of the students at Sea Isle Elementary are Hispanic/Latino?

What an opportunity this presents us!

Colonial Park has 6 domains of mission on which we focus. These domains, while broad, also challenge us to intentionally go deeper in our missional work within our neighborhood. We're challenged to take personal risk to step out in faith and engage in missional discipleship – to build relationships, transform lives (including our own!), and share the love of Jesus. The 6 domains of mission are:

"My" neighborhood	Homeless community
"My kids" world	Hunger alleviation
Local schools	Cross-cultural bridging

I'm excited to share with you an exciting opportunity that aligns with all 6 domains of mission!



We have a brilliant, creative, and dynamite leader at Colonial Park who has been leading in Children's Ministry for over 2 years – Claudia Irizarry Mendez. This past December, Claudia married her best friend, Alberto, in their home country of Puerto Rico. She is a Registered Nurse and obtained her BSN at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Along with her many gifts and talents, she has a desire to grow with Colonial Park as we become disciples-making disciple makers.

This summer, Claudia is leading 3 three-hour workshops entitled: Spanish with a Mission – June 18, July 16, and August 27. She will use the book of the same name to help guide the class. As an engaged Colonial Parker, she will also impart real-life tools that will be helpful in our Colonial Park context – communication with children at Sea Isle Elementary and Project Transformation, useful phrases at the Mobile food bank, Spanish prayers, or words of comfort, and engaging relationally while embracing language barriers. Each workshop will be a mixture of engaged learning, play, practice, and relationship building. You will receive tools to take home and opportunities to practice Spanish in between the workshops. Food and Fun will be a big part of this!



You can register for individual workshops at \$20 per workshop or register for all three for a total of \$45. You may register via the website, worship bulletins, e-newsletter, Facebook, or scanning the QR code to the left. These workshops will also be made available to our neighbors in the Sea Isle Neighborhood!

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact Tommye Windsor-Cummings at [twindsor@colonialpark.org](mailto:twindsor@colonialpark.org).

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

- soup
- instant potatoes
- peanut butter crackers
- rice
- canned carrots
- snacks (i.e. granola bars, pudding cups, gummy snacks)

## Mark Your Calendars!

6/2: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution  
6/2: Youth & Kids Service Project  
6/9: J.O.Y. Luncheon  
6/9: Equipping Night @ 6:30pm  
6/11: Men's Breakfast @ 8:30am  
6/12: LaunchPoint Lunch @ 12:00pm  
6/16: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution  
6/18: Spanish with a Mission @ 9:00am





5330 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

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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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