

## When *God* builds a church



### “When God Builds a Church”

Solomon proclaims in Psalm 127, “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” What a poignant proclamation for such a time as this in the life of the Fairmount Christian Church. For over a year, our latest facility expansion has dominated the terrain and the conversation here on campus. Fairmount’s leadership – and hopefully every person that worships here – knows, though, that God is building something much bigger than a building – He is building a church.

As we prepare for the Grand Opening of our new Worship Center, we want to focus on the building blocks that God uses to construct a church that has maximum impact on the community and on the world. Bob Russell, retired minister of the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY, published a book in 2000 by the title, “When God Builds a Church”. During his time at Southeast, the church grew to over 20,000 people in worship services each week. The building blocks that Bob outlines in his book are Biblical and timeless.

Our late fall sermon series, “When God Builds a Church”, is going to explore these important values – values that will make Fairmount much more than a building. If implemented, these values will continue to form Fairmount into a family that reaches the lost, blesses the believer, and honors Christ – a family that accomplishes its Biblical mission of “loving God and loving people”. As we prepare to open our doors even wider to the community, plan to be here each week of this series as we focus intently on how to be the Church that Jesus wants us to be.

*Special Note: Bob Russell will be at Fairmount on December 4. We look forward to hearing this powerful preacher preach the Word! ■*

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## Explore God

By: Kevin Tucker

What a ride this past seven weeks has been! We, as a church family, tackled some very challenging questions in our Explore God series—some of which could have had their own full sermon series! But we jam-packed these seven weeks with the Seven Big questions from our friends with the Explore God community initiative.

While we have seen Explore God firsthand here at Fairmount, let us be reminded of the much bigger picture. This community initiative has been taking place across the entire Richmond area! Every week, while we discussed the question at hand, nearly 150 other churches in the area have been tackling the exact same question! It's amazing to think of how large the footprint for Explore God has been and even more amazing to think of the seeds that have been planted in the hearts of the thousands of who have explored God together.

We hope that this series helped you Explore God. Whether an unbeliever or a life-long Christian, these are important questions with which we should not only wrestle, but be prepared to discuss with others!

While we may be finishing up a series centered around tough questions, we don't want the questions



to end. When we stop asking questions, we stop being engaged! We never want Fairmount to become a place where people are scared to ask questions about life, faith, and God. In fact, over the course of the coming year, we hope there will be large numbers of new people filing through our doors. Many of these folks will likely bring their own set of questions. Let us always be willing and ready to listen and try to see things from their perspective. May we then be a catalyst – not a hindrance – as these people forge ahead in their own journeys of exploring God.

Explore God may have been the title of a sermon series, but may it also be what we strive to do every day! ■



**Attention All Veterans:** We would like to recognize and honor you with a pictorial presentation on Sunday, November 13th, as part of our Veterans Day worship services. **If you have never submitted a service photo of yourself, please submit one to [cbranch@fairmountchristian.org](mailto:cbranch@fairmountchristian.org) by November 6th, along with your name and branch of service.** You may also bring a photo to the church office to be scanned and returned. If you've submitted a photo in the past, we will use the one we have on file. ■

# IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!!

By: Renae Carter

October 18th, 2016 marks the one-year anniversary of the Bible Memory Station for teens and adults! To date, 33 people have participated in this program, for a total of nearly 600 verses memorized. Have you tried it yet? It's easy!

Here's how it works:

**Step 1:** Memorize any verse from any version of the Bible you'd like.

**Step 2:** Stop by the Bible Memory station in the Library any Sunday morning from 9:15 – 9:45 or 10:45 – 11:15. Recite your verse to the Memory Station attendant.

Not used to memory work? Consider making it a game. Partner with a friend or family member to see who can memorize the most verses in a month. Try different memory tactics like writing out the verse, or reading it out loud into a recording app on your phone or PDA.

We are also very pleased to announce that Tracy Thomas will teach a Scripture Memory Plan class on **Sunday, November 6, 2016, at 6 p.m. in Room 152.** This class will give practical tools for memorizing Scripture – and then keeping it memorized for all time! Join us for this one-of-a-kind event. ■

## To get you started memorizing Scripture, here are ten verses of ten words or less (NIV) to try committing to memory:

- ▶ Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- ▶ Psalm 100:1 – Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- ▶ Proverbs 10:12 – Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.
- ▶ Matthew 5:4 – Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:7 – It [love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- ▶ Philippians 4:13 – I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – Pray continually.
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – Avoid every kind of evil.
- ▶ Hebrews 13:1 – Keep on loving each other as brothers.
- ▶ 1 Peter 4:9 – Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

## Rose Williams to Retire

It is with both joy and sadness that we announce today that Rose Williams will be retiring at the end of 2016. Rose has been our Early Childhood Director – our first one – since September 2014. Before that, she was our very first full-time Children's Ministry Director, serving in that position beginning in January 2001. Under Rose's leadership, Fairmount's Children's Ministry has been one of the primary engines that has helped Fairmount to continue moving forward and growing. Our Children's Ministry has touched hundreds of lives here in Cold Harbor and much farther beyond. Her leadership has inspired young and old alike to deepen their ministry commitment. Rose has also lent her influence in significant capacities at Camp Rudolph and with the statewide Pre-Teen Convention.

Miss Rose, as most people know her, is ready to move on to full-time grandmother duties, and we certainly applaud her decision and support it 100%. As we all know, a follower of Christ never really retires from ministry. We look forward to Rose's influence in our church for many, many years to come.

We will have a retirement reception for Rose in January. Details to follow. But please take a moment and express your personal appreciation to Rose for her commitment, her dedication, and her service. ■



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The mission of Fairmount Christian Church:

To develop followers of Jesus who:

**Love God,**  
**Love People** and  
**Introduce the world**  
to **Christ**



The Forecaster is  
best viewed online @  
[fairmountchristian.org](http://fairmountchristian.org)

## Our Church: October 23, 2016

### Welcome to our Newest Members...

Ken and Diana Horner were baptized on October 18th.

### Wednesday Night Suppers Menu for November 2nd

Roast beef, carrots and potatoes, rolls & assorted desserts

### Serve & Clean Up: Reflections of Him

Sign up for dinner using the yellow supper cards in the pew or chair backs or call the church office **no later than noon on Monday.**

### Attendance & Giving

8:15 Worship Service: 137  
Children's Worship: 5  
9:30 Worship Service: 433  
Children's Worship: 38  
11:00 Traditional Worship: 176  
Contemporary Worship: 171  
Children's Worship: 85

Total: 1,045

Bible School: 581

Budget Requirements: \$41,653

Budget Receipts: \$32,926



New Sermon Series Begins Sunday!

### Your Church Staff:

Rick Raines - Senior Minister  
Chris Santasiere - Associate Minister  
Mike Langley - Associate Minister  
Tracy Thomas - Worship/Music Minister  
Kevin Tucker - Associate Worship Minister  
Ashley Sears - Children's Director  
Rose Williams - Early Childhood Director  
Bob Massey - Business Administrator  
Veronica Brewster - Office Manager  
Jef Powell - Facilities & Grounds Manager  
Barry Will - Technology Director  
Chris Branch - Administrative Assistant  
Carolyn Holmes - Administrative Assistant  
Lauren McCormick - Administrative Assistant  
Morgan McMullin - Administrative Assistant  
Krista Barnes - Youth Min. Administrative Assistant  
Crystal Griffin - Children's Administrative Assistant  
Amber Grubbs - Children's Administrative Assistant  
Kasey Ogden - Children's Administrative Assistant