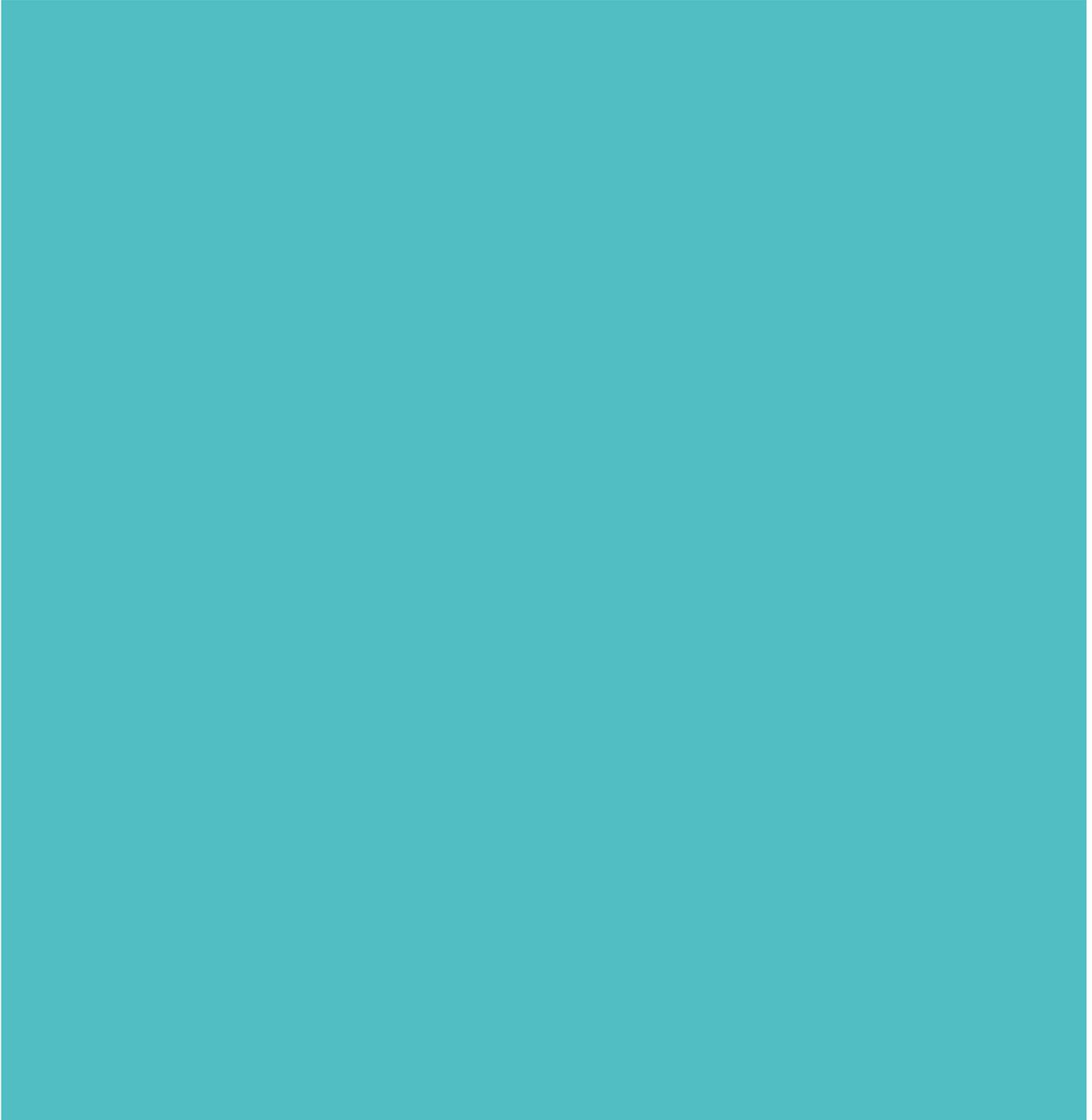


HILL CITY'S

# GOOD NEWS

review



# 2019

has been  
a year for  
the books.



We've seen God move in new ways, lives changed as people come to know Jesus, friendships and relationships formed and deepened, and generous hearts cultivated. There will always be hard things happening around us and to us, but we want to take the time to focus on the positive. Find the little moments of thankfulness, of kindness, of love. **God is still God. God is still good.** We want to pause and remember, so we sent out a survey and asked you guys to submit some of the good from this year. **Here's what you said...**



**REJOICE!**  
**REJOICE!**  
**REJOICE!**

**But I trust in Your unfailing love. I will rejoice because  
You have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because  
He is good to me. PSALM 13:5-6**

# Good

# God

What is something  
that God has done  
in your life this year?



“**Helped me grow** in my prayer life”

“**Taught** me the values of leading people”

“**Blessed me** with an awesome community and friends at Hill City this year”

“The Holy Spirit has been **creating** this feeling of unrest in me; a discontentment with where I’ve brought myself spiritually the last couple of years. It’s been very difficult, but sweet to realize that the negative aspects of my life have been proof that I am not numb to God’s working in my life like I was starting to think.”

“He **makes me more comfortable** with people.”

“He showed me he really does always have a plan and **he was always there** as a shoulder to cry, to rejoice, or to reflect on.”

“**Married** the most amazing woman I know. That’s a 25 year prayer answered right there!”

“**Helped** me find Hill City and **opened** a door to a new job that will hopefully allow me more time with my family.”

“I met my boyfriend at Hill City! Two Minutes To Talk. We go to church together and have a 100% **Jesus-centered relationship**. WHAT a difference that has made from past relationships.”

“**Showed** me grace.”

“This year, I am grateful that God has **allowed** me to go to Latvia and serve Richmond City youth with Camp Hope. The experience helped me refocus on what matters to me and my values and purpose. I had been questioning my role and purpose as a teacher, but meeting the children and leaders in Latvia reminded me that I need to be focusing on loving my students well and serving their needs before anything else.”



“God has really **challenged me** in my relationships this year. He has **revealed** unhealthy habits in my life that have pushed me to walk away from toxic friendships and draw nearer to people I wasn’t close to before. Mostly, He has **shown** me how I can use my skills and influence to build community so that we may build the Kingdom, and then **placed** opportunities into place at Hill City to do so!”

“**Taught** me to trust”

“I have been **challenged** to lead a small group and it has been very fulfilling.”

“Got **promoted** from an instructor to an assistant professor at VCU Criminal Justice and **published** my first textbook, Intro to Policing: Perceptions Versus Reality.”

“God **blessed** me with my daughter and continues to teach me about patience, unconditional love, grace, and asking for help.”

“**Brought** my family to Hill City”

“God has **gifted** us our sweet baby boy Austin through adoption. God is continuing to **transform** our hearts and minds as we navigate this uncharted territory of parenthood and openness with his birth parents. He’s **closed** many doors and has **opened** some, too. It’s been a year of waiting and fulfillment, hardships and unspeakable joy. We are so grateful!”

“Revealed his faithfulness and **granted me a heart of peace** in a time where life has been so uncertain.”



*God's future*  
**FAITHFULNESS**  
*is best seen by His past*  
**PROVISION**

# Good Friends

How have you seen Hill City people show up for each other?

“My small group ladies always show **support and encouragement** to one another!”

“My friends at Hill City show up for me **every single time** I need them to.”

“One of our small group members was going through a very hard time and she only came to small group 2-3 times. **Devin Hunt** kept up with her, remained consistent and steadfast when praying for her, and she organized a self-care basket that our small group contributed to. This small group member felt so loved, and was incredibly thankful for the support we showed her, but it was all Devin’s idea! She has been a **great leader**, and has shown up for all of us.”

“My friends at Hill City show up for me every single time I need them to.”

“Sounds silly, but Lacy and Maddy remembering my name was **really special** to me.”

“**John Horna** always makes me happy”

“Literally my entire friend group (30+ people) showed up by helping to **make our wedding happen**, they showed up for friends by helping them move, put together a gift for my coworker who was critically injured and welcomed our friend, Robert Padilla, who knew no one/ Jesus and then **celebrated him** in the most epic way when he moved.”

“**Audrey was so forgiving** toward me when I totally got my times mixed up the 2nd Sunday I served. I showed up extremely late and she was very sweet and understanding about it.”

“The overall sense of community from the people at Hill City is so awesome. I know this is a broken record, but people being **genuinely happy to see me** on Sundays is so rare and so beautiful.”

“My teammates **helping new families** navigate the unfamiliar when checking into the children’s area.”

“This year, when I was questioning my career, I felt supported by my small group, mentors, and friends to admit that I felt like I was disappointing God. They **spoke truth over me** and encouraged me through the process.”



“My roommate moved here in January from Wisconsin. She is not a believer and has expressed no interest in faith, but loves the people from Hill City. My friends from HC have **embraced her** with open arms and openly invite her to everything - birthday parties, pool parties, graduation celebrations, even just getting ice cream. They are showing her Jesus. They are tilling the soil, and I’m so grateful.”

“I have had a really tough year with my health and I have not really been the most positive when I have been feeling “I have had a really tough year with my health and I have not really been the “One of my best friends **Joe Miller** helped me get to the doctor when I was having problems with my knee. Another one of my best buddies **Taz Hines** helped me get to the doctor when my foot was hurting me.”

“Ladies from my small group texting me encouragement totally out of the blue **RIGHT when I needed it.**”

“When I won the UAAB Faculty Mentor Award, Joe Miller **showed up to support me** during the ceremony. It was a pleasant surprise to have someone from my church show up to support my endeavor.”

“My Hill City family has been **overwhelmingly supportive** of my journey to become a parent and has wrapped around my family to speak truth in my and my daughter’s lives. I am often overwhelmed with pride and gratitude that I get to be part of a community that doesn’t just step up for one but recognizes a need and steps up for the many.”

“When **Colleen Kafka** showed up for me on my first day greeting and totally mentored me through the process of working the Lounge with a new person. Special!”

“When we found out we were going to be parents with a day’s notice, our **phones overflowed with love and encouragement** from just about every single person we know from HC. Knowing this community had been praying over this for us since the beginning, it was just an added bonus to feel the support once it happened. We had weeks of diapers, wipes, and so many other essential gifts from our HC friends. It was a huge help and we are forever grateful to do life with so many of our HC people. It’s HC that makes us sure that RVA is where we are meant to be.”

“**Emma Duncan** is a faithful friend to everyone she meets.”

“**I am often overwhelmed with pride and gratitude that I get to be part of a community that doesn't just step up for one but recognizes a need and steps up for the many.**”



“When two people relate to each other *authentically and humanly,* God is the electricity that surges between them.”

- BRENÉ BROWN

# Good

# Words

What sermon quotes have stuck with you this year?

“When we lose the dignity of life we will dehumanize people, justify violence and negate different perspectives. We will then multiply hatred and pain.”  
LIFE | 2019

“The apology from Wags during the sermon on abortion.”  
LIFE | 2019

“When we're looking for loopholes, we ignore responsibility and embrace a lack of excellence.”  
STRONGER | 2019

“By building a fence, you're building an empire, and by keeping people outside of the fence, you're not building the Kingdom of God. Empires work through deficiencies, but the Lord's love is never deficient.”  
PROPAGANDA | LIFE | 2019

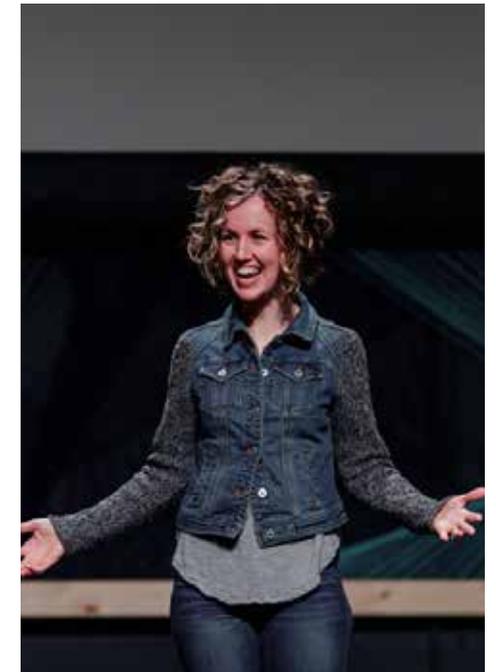
“How many good things have I done for not so good reasons? Whose approval are you looking for? Who do you really think is in control? What is the object of your greatest desire?”  
YOU HAVE HEARD | 2018

“If we can't dialogue, we can't love. If we can't love, we can't show people the presence of heaven. If we aren't showing people the presence of heaven, we are showing them hell.”  
STRONGER | 2019

“Lacy's charge to women during the week on abortion.”  
LIFE | 2019

“Are you killing or cultivating healthy relationships?”  
STRONGER | 2019

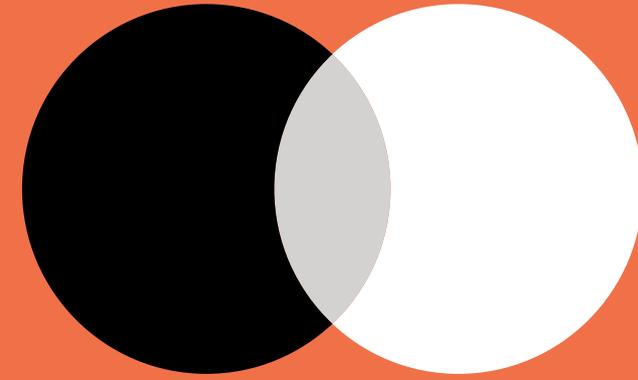
“The standard of our love must exceed merely loving those who love you.”  
CARLOS | YOU HAVE HEARD | 2019



*Want to go back and listen?*  
Visit: [hillcityrva.com/sermons](https://hillcityrva.com/sermons)

# DIVERSITY in THOUGHT

doesn't mean division in community.



## STAY CURIOUS



*Haven't checked out  
the podcast yet?*

Visit: [hillcityrva.com/stay-curious](http://hillcityrva.com/stay-curious)

We've had an awesome year diving deeper into what it means to stay curious and love each other even when we disagree.

We can't wait to see what new conversations 2020 will bring on Stay Curious!

# Good

# Reads

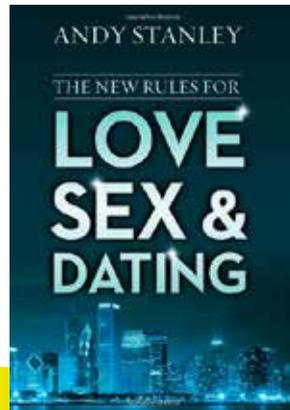
What books have impacted you this year?



“

I just read Francis Chan's latest book, *Letters to the Church*. It challenged me because I didn't initially agree with most of it. I read a lot more books that I don't agree with since coming to Hill City. The idea of being challenged wasn't something I took into account as much before.

”



**Love, Sex & Dating**  
Andy Stanley



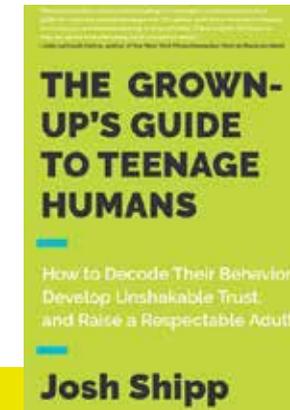
**The Last Arrow**  
Erwin Raphael McManus



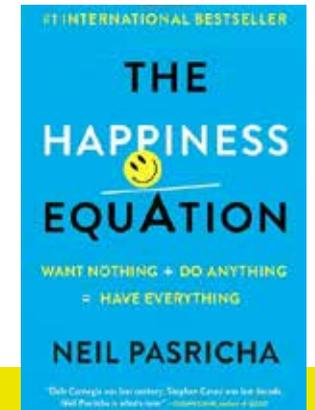
**Refugee**  
Alan Gratz



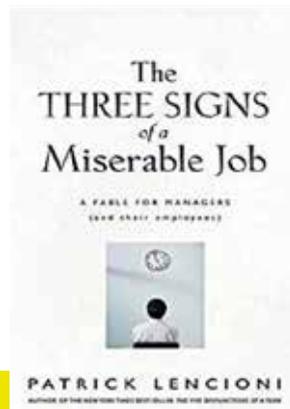
**Kill The Spider**  
Carlos Whittaker



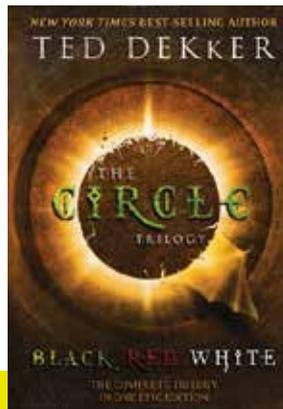
**The Grown-Ups Guide to Teenage Humans**  
Josh Shipp



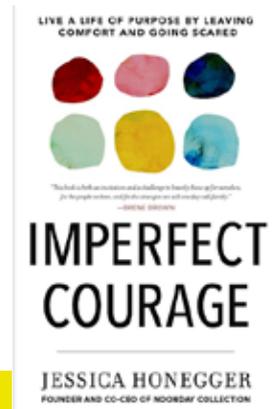
**The Happiness Equation**  
Neil Pasricha



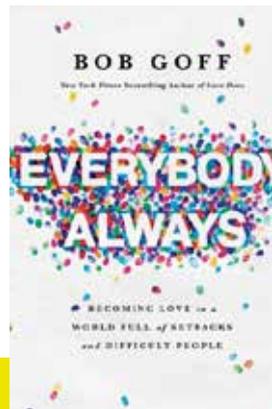
**The Three Signs of a Miserable Job**  
Patrick Lencioni



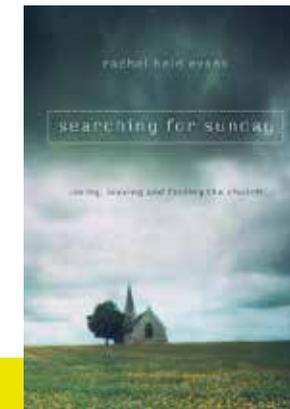
**The Circle Trilogy**  
Ted Dekker



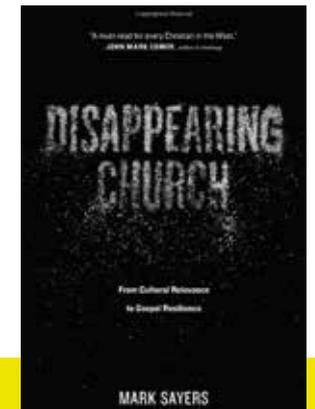
**Imperfect Courage**  
Jessica Honegger



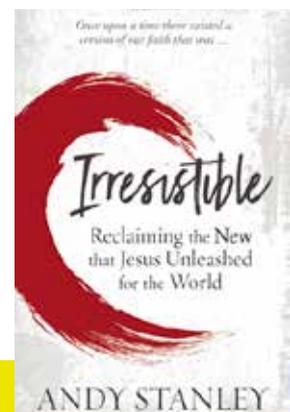
**Everybody Always**  
Bob Goff



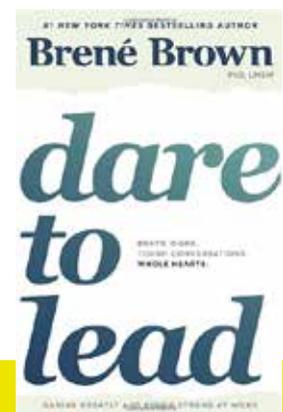
**Searching For Sunday**  
Rachel Held Evans



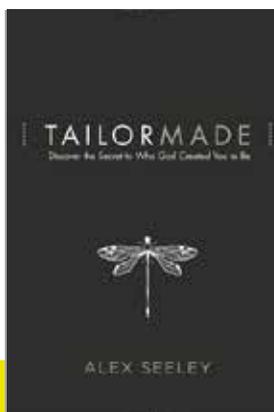
**Disappearing Church** \*  
Mark Sayers



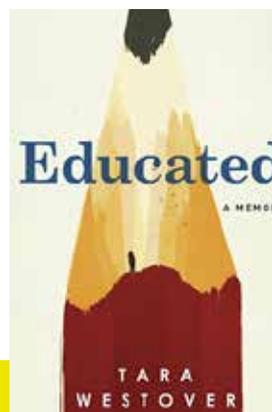
**Irresistible** \*  
Andy Stanley



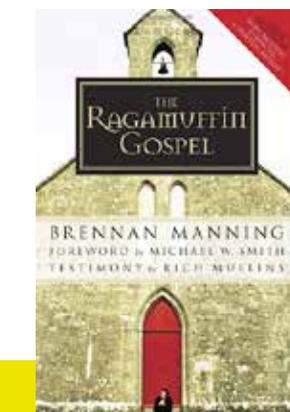
**Dare To Lead** \*  
Brené Brown



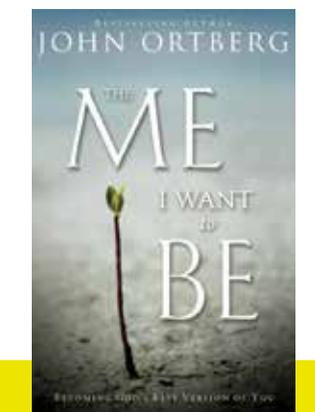
**Tailor Made**  
Alex Seeley



**Educated**  
Tara Westover



**The Ragamuffin Gospel**  
Brennan Manning



**The Me I Want To Be**  
John Ortberg

# Good

# Questions

**What questions have challenged you this year?**



**Are you praying over our (political) leaders (both sides) as much as you complain about them?**

**Where is God leading me? What's my role?**

**How can I continue to share God's message with my non-Christian friends?**

**Do I truly value discussion over winning an argument?**

**What am I supposed to learn during this season in my life?**

**Who do You say I am?**

**How can I show others Christ through my daily actions/interactions?**

**Who in my life can I confess to? How can I be vulnerable/go scared today?**

**Do I believe that I am who God says I am?**

**How can I better use my position as a coach to be a better follower of Jesus?**

**Am I building the Kingdom or my own kingdom through my actions?**

**What's at stake when we don't have healthy relationships?**

**Will my responses or actions show love or invoke fear?**

**What's my motive?**

**How am I continuing to be more generous?**

**How am I living out my faith?**

# Good

# Guides

A few helpful plans  
from this past year for  
relationships and generosity

## Having Healthier Relationships

### 1. Center it around faith first

The more you love God, the more you love people and that includes how you view and love yourself. How will you grow in your faith?

### 2. Focus on boundaries (*calendar, work, relationships*).

You can't do everything, so what boundaries need to be put in place to make sure you are prioritizing the right things?

### 3. Build channels of communication

A. Find someone who can speak wisdom and truth into your life and that you can be vulnerable and transparent with.

B. If dating/engaged/married, set up a quarterly meeting to discuss the following (these are just examples):

**Finances:** How are we spending our money? Budgeting well? Planning to be generous? Where do we need to improve?

**Faith:** How is God speaking to me and where am I feeling challenged?

**Communication:** How are we handling conflict? Do you feel heard? What can I do to make sure you know I am listening?

**Fun:** Are we celebrating well together? What are some fun memories from the past few months? What do we have lined up for the next couple of months?

**Time:** Do you feel like I am making enough time for us? What adjustments do we need to make in our schedules?

**Sex Life** (if married): Do you feel connected? Anything you like or may not prefer? How can we improve in this area?

**Parenting:** What is one thing you would like to improve on as a parent and how can I help? Where are we succeeding and what do we see in our kids that needs to improve?

End each "meeting" with the question: **"What is something I can do to make you feel more loved?"**

C. If single, set up a time with friends to discuss the same categories as listed for couples but with some obvious tweaks in questions and content within the category. End each meeting with friends with the question **"What is one thing I can consistently ask you about that will help you the most?"**





## Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude

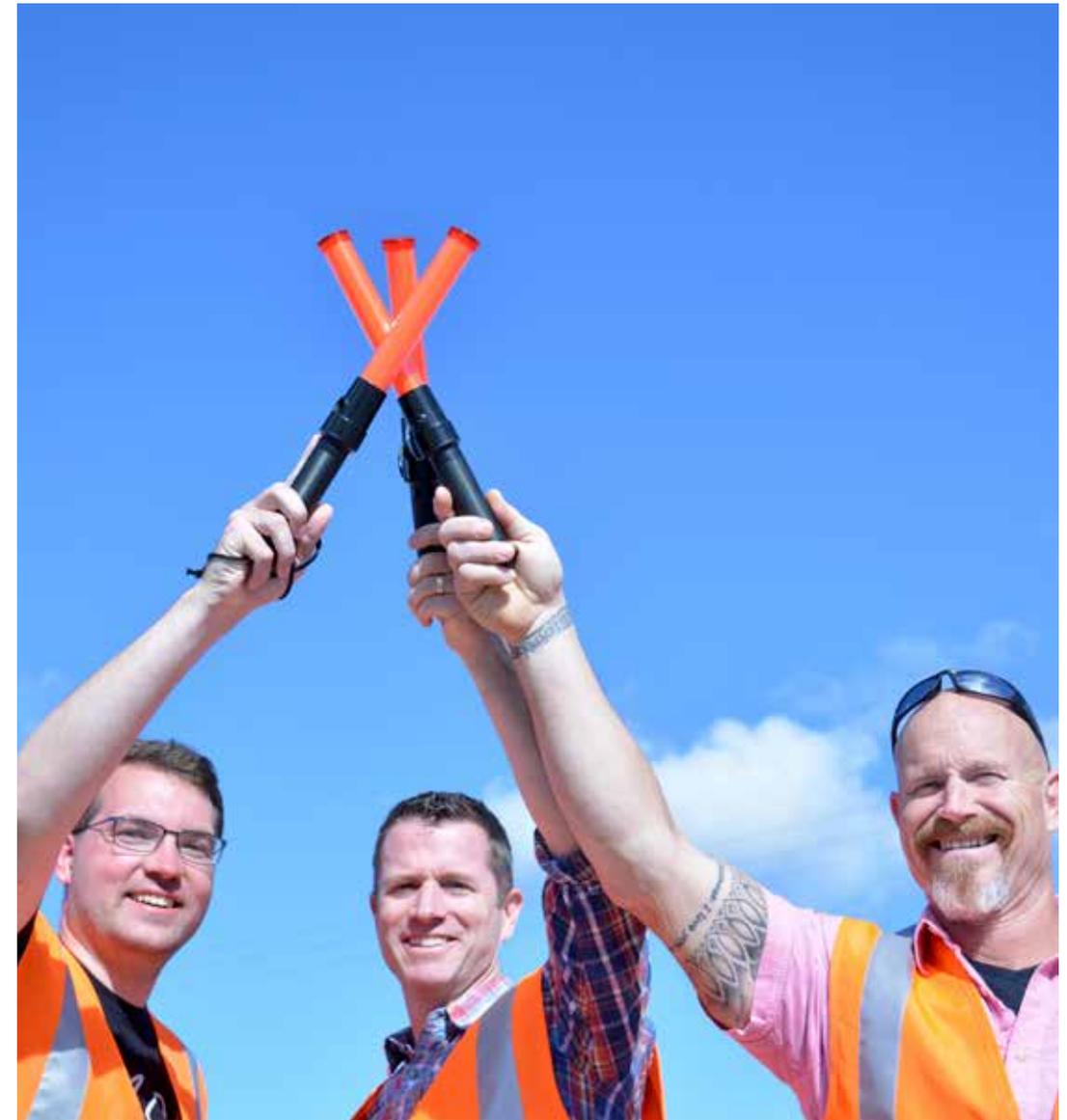
1. Read *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Vos Kamp and/or *Thanks a Thousand* by AJ Jacobs
2. Start a daily thankfulness journal  
begin and end your day with one entry
3. Write one thank you note to someone every week
4. Thank someone face to face every week  
not just a simple "thank you" but going out of your way to thank someone for something specific they have done in your life or even that day.

## Action Plan for Generosity

1. Make a budget  
So you have an understanding of where your money is going
2. Actually write down how much money you give on a monthly basis  
That way you can see how generous you really are
3. Read *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn (takes about 2 hours to read), *The Blessed Life* by Robert Morris or *More or Less* by Jeff Shinabarger

## Identify Spiritual Breakthroughs

1. Write down where you would like to see one
2. Journal how you are connecting to God throughout your generosity plan
3. Detail in your journal how you are seeing life differently
4. Don't just journal, have someone or a group of people you are talking with on this journey



# Good

# RVA

## 2019 wins in the city



### *\*What are food deserts?*

A food desert is an area that has limited access to affordable and nutritious food. They tend to be more populated by low-income residents who aren't as attractive a market for large supermarkets and have reduced mobility. Food deserts lack suppliers of fresh protein sources such as poultry, fish and meat, along with fresh fruit and vegetables, instead relying on convenience stores, which provide processed foods full of fat and sugar.



### More Food

Market at 25th opened in Churchill, providing fresh food and produce to one of Richmond's food deserts\* where easy access to such foods didn't exist. This is especially great for people who don't have access to cars and can't drive to good grocery stores in other areas!

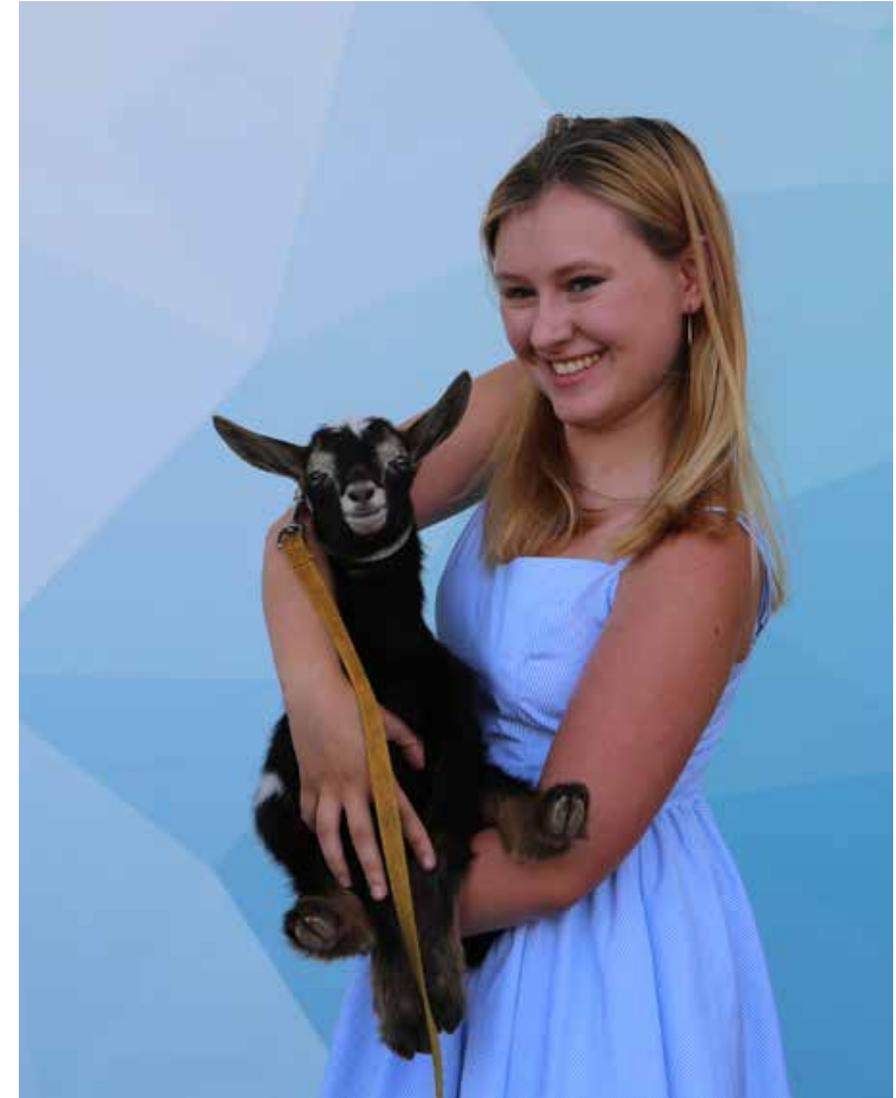


### More Visitors

A study recently released by the U.S. Travel Association saw Richmond travel and tourism spending increase 5% in 2018 when compared with the previous year! Our region saw 7.7 million visitors last year and tourism generated more than \$2.6 billion in local spending.

### More U-pdates

U-Turn increased their tenant community by 50% and have plans to build a non-profit hub that will be able to service 40 to 50 nonprofits. This past year, U-Turn partnered with two for-profit organizations that focus on strategic team building. U-Turn is excited to be smack dab in the middle of the Westwood development plan for Henrico. U-Turn brought on our Events and Activities Director, Khiry Cooper, in 2019. Khiry oversees Front Desk ops, cafe, U-Turn programs, and external and internal community building events. U-Turn also hired a new volleyball director to run U-Turn's girls and boys volleyball program, ODVA.



This year's Father's Day was the G.O.A.T (Greatest Of All Time)

# Good

# Year

## 2019 by the numbers

**1,165**

Average Total Attendance



**207**

Average Kids Attendance

**18**

Baptisms This Year

**130**

Baptisms In The Past 5 Years



**24**

Partners

**\$250,000**

Projected 2019 Giving

**\$30**

Average Weekly Giving  
Per Adult

**\$600,000**

Total Giving In The Past 5 Years  
(including projected 2019 Share Offering)

*I thank my God  
every time  
I remember you.*

PHILLIPIANS 1:3



Thank you for the hard work, the prayers, the showing up, the tough conversations, the grace, the grit, the getting up early, and the love. You all bring unique gifts and strengths to the table and we couldn't be more thankful for the way you serve and love Jesus.

**We are less without you and more because of you.**

Thanks for the best year yet!  
Here's to next year being even better.

*Love, Hill City Staff*

