

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
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E-mail: [admin@rm-umc.org](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)

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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



Bruce D. Tuttle, Pastor

April 2016

## ACOLYTES



### Acolyte Training

(Linda C. Handy, Coordinator)

There will be acolyte training in the Sanctuary Sunday, April 10, 10:00-10:40 a.m.

This training is for any child who is currently in at least third grade or who will be in third grade in the fall.

We are fortunate at RMUMC to have youth acolytes who have served for years and have agreed to be mentors to younger acolytes. We will meet with the youth acolytes who will serve as mentors in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 24, 10:00-10:40 a.m.

### Ferrum College "Collegiate Choir"



For the third Spring in a row, the "Collegiate Choir" from Ferrum College, under the direction of Susan Spataro, will witness their faith in music in worship at RMUMC. Always an inspiration, this year will be no different as they lead us in worship at 10:55 a.m., on April 10.

"If we are not planted in Christ, we'll be uprooted in crisis."

—Unknown

### **Third Annual Golf Tournament at Willow Creek Country Club April 30, 2016**



To benefit:

#### **Little Lambs Christian Preschool A Ministry of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church**

What do we need YOU to do:

#### Plan to play!

\$50/person; \$200/per team starting with lunch at Noon, "shot-gun" tee-offs to follow!

#### Sponsor a hole

(with your own sign or a sign made by the Little Lambs) for \$50

Sponsor a hole AND a team  
for \$230

#### Donate food or prizes

(for goodie bags or contests)

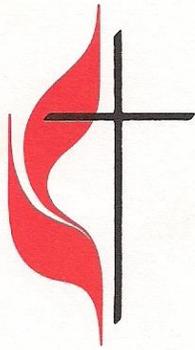
*Donations are tax-deductible;  
please make checks out to  
"Little Lambs Christian Preschool"*

#### Able to help/plan to play?

Sign-up at the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool or contact:

Christina Gibson 915-4311

Jessica Mitchell 588-0669



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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC Members and Friends,

*On the first Easter morn the sorrowing women came to anoint the body of Jesus. They were greeted with the astonishing words of the angel: "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised up" (Luke 24:5-6).*

What marvelous "good news!" The confidence of Jesus in His Father is rewarded with the ecstatic conquest of Easter. Easter is a time of great joy. Christ, our hope, is risen! Imagine the joy of the apostles, the women, the disciples, and of Mary, His Mother. All of them ready to go around the world singing His glory and announcing His message of redemption and salvation. Wow!

Today, we are the children of God—praise God! Today this victory is ours if we embrace with faith the Easter event - Jesus risen from the dead for you and for me. Henceforth, we will be people who are "eastered" through life. In the Risen Jesus, God comes into our lives. God shapes our destiny. God cares for us, loves us, heals us, strengthens us, walks with us on our pilgrim way.

But, with this "good news," there is a challenge: do we want to live in the Risen Christ or not? The life, joy and peace of Easter are ours for the asking—but, we need to ask! So, I invite you to join me to ask God:

- to move us to accept the Easter message into our hearts;
- to make us Easter people - people who are God-centered, people who follow Jesus, people who serve the Church;
- to know the values, the faith and the truth of Easter...and to be convinced of them;
- to make us peacemakers in our homes and in our society;
- to build up the Kingdom of God, which is "justice, law and peace," so that the true meaning of Easter will be realized in the lives of humankind.

This Easter season, the Risen Lord says to each of us, "Peace be with you" (John 20:29). May we know and cherish that peace and love in its vision every day of our lives.

Christ Is Risen! He is risen, indeed!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Bruce T.

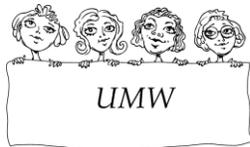
## Graduate Sunday-May 22

Attention:  
Parents of High School and  
College Graduates!



If you have an upcoming high school or college graduate, please let the church office know so we may recognize them. In the May newsletter, we will name our graduates; therefore, please share with us their after-graduation plans—college, work, etc. by April 18.

Please plan to attend the worship service on May 22 as our church celebrates with you this special time in your life.



### United Methodist Women

(Linda Walters,  
President)

Martha Collins gave the Annual Prayer and Self-Denial Program at our March meeting. Afterwards in the tradition of community and fellowship, we enjoyed a potluck salad luncheon in the Atrium.

Who doesn't enjoy a good party? On April 4, our next meeting date, we will carpool from the church at 12:45 p.m. (note time change) and travel to The Hermitage in Roanoke to host the April Birthday Party there. Please plan to join us for this fun event that will include cake, ice cream, decorations, games, and prizes. Don't forget to bring a roll of paper towels for HFSC.

During the month of April, United Methodist Women will be stationed at the doors of the sanctuary handing out empty school bags and supply lists to be completed by individuals and families of our congregation by May 1. These UMCOR kits will be delivered to Annual Conference in June.

The UMW continues to collect Labels for Education, Campbell Soup labels, soda can tabs, and stamps. The box for these collections is in the hall to the left of the narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes.

Our #1 goal for 2016 is to increase membership! We welcome all women to join us the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. If you cannot attend daytime meetings, but would like to be a member, Linda will be happy to communicate all meeting and project information to you by e-mail. We are willing to explore the possibility of an evening (maybe while your children are at Wonderful Wednesday?) or Sunday afternoon meeting for those who work during the week, as well. Please contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004, [lindaw@shentel.net](mailto:lindaw@shentel.net)) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.



### United Methodist Men

UMM

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on April 17 at 8:45 a.m., in the Assembly Room. We encourage all men in the church to attend.

### New Members!

On February 28, we welcomed Anthony and Elisabeth Saldo by letter of transfer from Rehoboth UMC.



On March 6, we baptized Jovie Elizabeth Angle, daughter of Nathan and Callie Angle.



## Our “Sermon-on-the Amount”--Statistics for February

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2015	\$21,377	
Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 2/29/16		\$44,842
<u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 2/29/16	<b>\$41,565</b>	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 2/29/16		\$44,774
Actual Expenses Paid through 2/29/16	<u>&lt;\$40,245&gt;</u>	
Ending Balance, 2/29/16	<b>\$22,697</b>	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 130 (as compared to 136 in February 2015)  
Average Sunday School Attendance = 42 (as compared to 46 in February 2015)
- III. Average Number of Small Groups Meeting each Week = 12
- IV. Total Number of people engaged in missions, to date = 42

What sayeth the pastor? *You are due a “qualified congratulations” after being chastised by this pastor last month! February’s statistics were far more in-line with projections than January’s. That’s the ‘good news!’ The ‘not-so-good-news’ is that we did not recover the loss of 2% of our projected income that happened in January. Thank heavens, our expenses remained below projections, too. Financially, we are OK! However, I remain aghast at what’s happening with our spiritual strength (as indicated by our lack of presence in worship and Sunday school). We stink! For too many, it seems as if attendance is a ‘loose-option’ rather than a high-priority. Take a moment to reflect: what are the ‘Sunday-gods’ you worship that keep you from church (travel, laziness, sports, etc.)? Is there something about what’s happening at church that lessens its appeal for you to attend? Is there anything you need to be telling this pastor? Here’s my ‘deal’ to you: for the next 6 weeks, see how great you feel by honoring God with your presence in church each Sunday! I believe your outlook and attitude will so improve that you’ll want to continue your new ‘you’ for the rest of the year...and the rest of your life! What sayeth thou?*  
—Pastor Bruce T.



### **SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN**

On Tuesday, April 26 and Thursday, April 28, our church is in charge of serving lunch at **Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen**. Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!



## Youth News

(Lindsey Lumley,  
Coordinator of  
Youth and Children's  
Ministries and Joshua  
Banks, Asst. Coordinator)

Hi everyone! Spring is in the air, and we are so excited for the next few months to come! At the same time, we are joyfully reflecting on what an awesome past month we have had! We were blessed to see such a great turnout for the Potluck Lunch, and Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday! We have also enjoyed our recent series on the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," in youth group!

There are also many things we are looking forward to in April, one being an outing to lunch and the Trampoline Park in Salem on April 3! We will leave immediately following the service, and head out for lunch and then go to the Trampoline Park! Reminder: We will not be having youth that night. Youth, if you haven't signed up yet, please do so! It is going to be a great day!

We are also going to be starting a new video discussion series in youth group on April 10, which I am really excited about! And will also be introducing some really fun new games which I am super excited about! Lots to look forward to!

We have also been doing some planning for the summer and a calendar will be coming out soon! Hint: a few things to look forward to are Missions May, Youth Sunday and a fun summer kickoff event, VBS, our summer mission trip to REACH, and Kingsfest! We are SO excited for what is to come, and hope you will be a part of it!

It is a joy and blessing to serve alongside you all,

Lindsey and Josh



## Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music  
Ministries)

Thank you to all the musicians who helped make our Lenten and Easter season so meaningful. The hard work from our bell players, children's choirs, Chancel Choir, instrumentalists, soloists and especially Jeanne Banks really showed in all the worship music!

April worship is filled with special music! On April 3, the **Praise Choir** will sing "Mighty to Save/Alleluia!" The following Sunday, April 10, the Ferrum Collegiate Choir will be our guest musicians for worship. Our **Jubilant Ringers** will be playing "Celtic Grace" on April 17 and the **Celebration Singers/Ringers** as well as the **Carol Choir** are working on special music for the end of the month and Mother's Day in May. Of course our worship leaders, the **Chancel Choir** will bring the message in song each week.

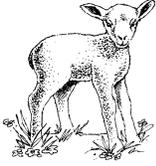
Spring is a time of renewal and celebrating new life in Christ! Make worship each week your way of thanking God for all your many blessings. See you in church!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn

## **Look to Christ**

The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ, the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him.

—A.W. Tozer



## **Little Lambs in the News**

(Jan Mohler, Director)

April will be wonderful at Little Lambs as we learn about spring and prepare for graduation, but let me tell you about what a blessing March was for us! The dads came and celebrated their child's Christian Education with us. For crafts, the threes made adorable leprechaun puppets and the fours made elaborate leprechaun traps. They are such a creative bunch of children and dads! We had a few parents come in and read throughout the month. The children love having new people read to them. We are so grateful for our parents who are able to give some of their time to the children during class time. We ended the month learning about the Easter story. It is such a blessing when you ask a group of children what Easter is all about and the answer you get back is "love." We like bunnies, eggs, and candy too but the children are hearing His story and we praise God for that. Pastor Bruce met with the four-year-olds on Maundy Thursday and after explaining that part of the Easter story he shared communion with the children. We are so grateful for Pastor Bruce.

Our Third Annual LLCP Golf Tournament will be on April 30. Please support our church ministry by either golfing, sponsoring a hole, or donating prizes or food. Every bit helps to keep Little Lambs financially strong. For more information, you can contact Jessica Mitchell, Christina Gibson, or Jan Mohler.

Blessings,  
Jan

"The greatest gift we can give back to our great God is to let his love make us glad."

—Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Bruce Tuttle; Betty Hatfield; Martha Ann Naff; Beryl King; Charlie & Eleanor Easter; Cole Holland; Ken Jones (Taylor Jones' father); Harriett Copeland; Don Applegarth; Lorraine Kuchar; Gabriel Porras; Gabe Valentine; Danielle McPherson; Patricia Perdue; Jennifer Braxton; Lyda Goforth; Jane Stogner; Ethel Dent; Linda Barnhart; Rick Mercogliano; Jesse Roach; and Bernice Fralin.

**Forget-Me-Nots:**

Helen Cottle; Mildred Dillon; Nancy Hamlin; Marion Higgins; Margaret Linkous; Hilda Morris; Eva Prillaman; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.



Family of Jonathan Lavinder who died on February 26.

Russell Damron and Family in the death of his father, Danny Damron, on February 29.

Family of Donny Smawley who died on March 7.

Robin Cooper and Family in the death of her brother, Joel Turner, on March 27.

*"In death, there is the resurrection".*

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

—Martin Luther



Dear Church Family,  
We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support after the death of our mother, Zelma Cundiff. A special thanks goes to Shirley Vaughn and her committee that prepared and served the delicious luncheon, to Bruce for his touching service, to Lynn for the beautiful music and to Rebecca Goransson and Debbie Caulder for entertaining the great-grandchildren in the nursery. We are so blessed to be a part of this loving and caring church family.

Blessings to all,  
Rodney and Pat Cundiff and Family  
Sheila Cundiff Barnhart and Family

To the Congregation of RMUMC,  
Thank you all so much for witnessing to our family during Donny's illness and passing. There is no way we could ever repay you all for the kindness, but we will continue to try to 'pay it forward'. We stand amazed at what a great church family RMUMC is.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay, Peyton and Ethan Smawley

**Heavenly showers**



All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If he gives converting grace, he will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

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35 North Main Street  
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**Open Hearts...**

**Open Minds...**

**Open Doors...**

*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Reverend Bruce Tuttle, Pastor**

**Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries**

**Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant**

**Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist**

**Rebecca Goransson, Nursery Attendant**

**Lindsey Lumley, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries**

**Joshua Banks, Assistant Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday School**

**10:55 a.m. Worship**