

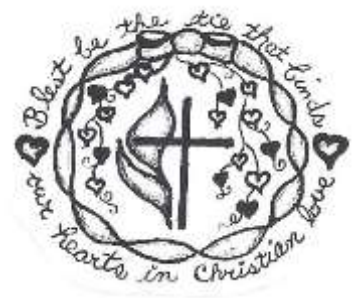
# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
Phone: 540-483-5338 Fax: 540-484-1698

E-mail: [admin@rm-umc.org](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)

Website: [www.rm-umc.org](http://www.rm-umc.org)

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



Bruce D. Tuttle, Pastor

August 2015



## Church Picnic

### Church Picnic

You are invited to our annual **Church Picnic** on Sunday, August 2, at the Furnace Creek Swim

Club (101 Old Furnace Road). Swimming starts at 5:00 p.m. and our picnic at 6:00 p.m. Sharon Angle and our Family Ministries team will have grilled hot dogs and beverages for all to enjoy. Each of the rest of us is asked to bring a side-dish and dessert. If you aren't a member of the Club and want to swim, just let the Church Office know who you are! The church will pay your fee. Come, plan to enjoy each other's company...and a good, summer-style picnic, too!



PRAY  
for our  
Students

### Education Emphasis

#### Sunday

August 9 has been designated "**Education Emphasis Sunday**" at RMUMC!

Parents: please encourage your youth and children to bring their book bags to worship so that they, and their bags, can be blessed. Teachers, Administrators, School Workers: please come and let us pray God's blessings upon you as another academic year begins in our public schools on Monday!

It's hard to believe: our children/youth return to school on August 10. It's right around the corner...but too many

school-kids will be showing up without an expected book bag/back-pack. Why? Their parents can't afford the cost. However, we at RMUMC can! Please be generous as you do your shopping: purchase a couple of these needed items and bring them to church. We'll dedicate your donations on August 9 and deliver them to the School Board in time for children-in-need to receive your gifts. Thank you!

### Stop Hunger Now

Were you part of the RMUMC "team" that helped package 55,000 meals at Ferrum College last year? Want to do it again?!!!! A similar packaging event with the "Stop Hunger Now" ministry is set for Sunday, August 30, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the YMCA/Fitness Center at Ferrum College. All of the incoming freshmen at Ferrum will be joining teams from churches just like RMUMC! Our "Helping Fund" offering on August 2, will be given to help underwrite this year's SHN Food-Packaging event. They need \$14,500 in order to package 55,000 meals. For those who want to take part in the actual work, register on-line & just show up at Ferrum College at 1:30 p.m.



"For I was hungry and  
you gave me food to eat."  
Matthew 25:35



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Telephone No. (540) 483-5338 Fax No. (540) 484-1698  
*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC Members and Friends,

*“Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives we should be living!”  
(2 Peter 3:11 TLB)*

Rick Warren is pastor of the Saddleback Community Church in Orange County, CA. He is also a friend of our church! We used his stewardship model when we conducted our extremely successful capital financial campaign in the fall of 2013. Remember? We called it “Building In Faith.” Are you still paying on your 3-year pledge. Most are!

Dr. Warren was enthusiastic and supportive with his passion and advice when we considered how to make our faithful commitments to the church we love. Just recently, he wrote a short piece about faithful commitments. Here’s a “snippet” of what he said...

*You don’t have to understand all the implications of your decision when you choose to follow Jesus. You simply need to respond to his invitation and make a commitment to follow Christ.*

*Your commitments shape your life more than anything else. Your commitments can develop you or they can destroy you; but either way, they will define you. Tell me what you’re committed to, and I’ll tell you what you’ll be in 20 years, because we become whatever we’re committed to.*

*Every choice has eternal consequences, so you need to choose wisely: “Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives we should be living!” (2 Peter 3:11 TLB) Christ-likeness comes from making Christ-like commitments.*

As we move through August, here are some questions to consider in your quiet-times with Christ...and in the order you have for the priorities you believe are important:

- *Based on your commitments, what might people assume about you?*
- *What keeps you from committing to things that will help you develop Christ-likeness?*
- *How will the urgency in 2 Peter 3:11 affect the way you make your commitments?*

We are together in this thing called faithful-living/faithful-discipleship. I am praying for you and I ask you pray for me, too. Just “let go and let God” be in charge of what we do, what we think, and what we believe. It can be an awesome ride!

In Christ’s Service,  
Bruce T.

P.S. On July 22, Adam and Abigail Bennett resigned from their positions as Co-Coordinator of Youth and Children’s Ministries at church. I know they would love hearing from you as you thank them for their service.



## Sunday School “Kick-Off” Sunday

**COME JOIN US!!!**  
**AUGUST 23**

Our Sunday School program is offered for all ages and grades. Sunday School provides Christian education as well as forms deep and lasting Christian relationships. Our teachers are very caring, committed, and prepared. We will be celebrating our Promotion – Kick-Off Sunday -- on August 23 at 10:00 a.m. Greeters will be available to assist you and/or your children to the correct location for your class. Whether you have considered attending Sunday School or not, **PLEASE GIVE US A TRY!!!**

Promotion Sunday is the day when our children and youth are promoted to the classroom of their 2015-2016 grade in school. In addition, **this kick-off Sunday is for new folks to attend and enrich your Christian life.**

### Sunday School Classes for Children:

- birth to age 3

This class is located in our nursery on the main floor.

- pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class
- 3rd, 4th, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class

These are located in our education wing on the top floor.

### Sunday School for Youth

There is a combined middle school class and high school class. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor below our sanctuary.

### Sunday School for Adults

- The “Branches Class” is for our younger adults, married or single. They meet in our education wing on

the top floor. This class features current topics with Biblical emphasis. They view videos which stimulate active discussions.

- The “Breakfast Club” Class caters to parents of tweens and teens. They meet on the lower level below our sanctuary.
- The “Redeemer’s Class” is for any age adults and they meet on the same level as the sanctuary. Bible related videos and/or written material are used in conjunction with discussions that follow.
- The “Vintage Class” conducts an in-depth Bible Study. They are located on our main floor in the “Parlor.”. Since those of Vintage age are harder of hearing and less quick than those of younger vintage (small "v") they request more time to present their case. This class provides written study notes and encourages discussions relating to current times. You might say they are closer to their “final exam”!!

Now, with all these classes to choose from - **COME JOIN US!!!**

**This is too important to put off for another “time as this.”**

### “Praise On The Patio”

#### Ferrum College

**August 31, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

RMUMC’s hospitality team will host a table at this annual ministry for incoming freshmen at Ferrum College to help them get connected with us. We need “tons” of brownies and homemade cookies to hand out to the new students. Can we count on you to make a platter of your homemade goodies? Thank you. Just bring them to church with you on August 30...and leave them in the upstairs kitchen.





## **United Methodist Women**

(Linda Walters,  
President)

Although the United Methodist Women do not meet in the summer months, we have been really busy this summer.

We thank the congregation for helping us collect and pack 59 UMCOR Health Kits and 10 UMCOR Sewing Kits. Rodney Cundiff took these to Annual Conference in June. If, by chance, you didn't get to hand in your health kit this year, we will be happy to take it for next year.

In June, four attended "UMW Day" at Ferrum College; our unit participated in Old Court Day in Rocky Mount; and we served a pizza supper to the participants during VBS week. On July 27, we provided a lunch for a 27-person mission team at Henry Fork from Jersey Shore, PA. Thank you to all those who participated in any way in these worthy mission projects.

Fourteen enjoyed the Annual Picnic on June 22.

If anyone is interested in attending the District Day Apart/Mission Encounter: A Day of Learning and Service at Henry Fork Service Center on Saturday, August 22, please contact Linda Walters ([lindw@shentel.net](mailto:lindw@shentel.net) or [540-346-2004](tel:540-346-2004)) by August 17.

**ATTENTION:** All those who are participating in the 2015 UMW Reading Program, please get your reading list to Linda Walters by August 31 (whether you have completed a program or not). All reading counts even if a program has not been completed.

We continue to collect Labels for Education, Campbell soup labels, soda can tabs, and stamps through the summer months. The boxes for these collections are on the windowsill near the pastor's old office.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 14 at 10 AM in the Assembly Room. Our speaker will be District Vice-President Audrey Daniels, with a program entitled "Where the Money Goes." We will have our 2016 Pledge Service at this time.

We welcome all women of the church 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 still would like to be a member, Linda will be happy to communicate all meeting and project information to you by email. 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.



**The Beloved Disciple** by **Beth Moore** is a 10-week study on the life of the Apostle John. Having been with Jesus all the years of His ministry, John witnessed miracles, saw displays of power, and experienced more love than he could fathom. In his three letters, John left a legacy of divine love to ignite the passion of future believers. And while exiled on Patmos, John recorded His risen Lord's glorious revelation of victory and hope. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless. This will begin September 8, at 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room (Redeemer's SS Classroom). Books=\$16. Please call Linda Lox (276-614-8017 or e-mail [linda.lox@gmail.com](mailto:linda.lox@gmail.com)) by September 1 if you plan to participate so that enough books can be ordered.



## Prepping for Annual Charge Conference

By the time “The Tie That Binds” goes to press, RMUMC should know from our District Superintendent the date for our annual Charge Conference. That means we need to get busy drafting a slate of ministry leaders and committee members for 2016, as well as prepare reports and reports and reports about our current ministries, strengths and weaknesses! Please let Pastor Bruce know how you would like to serve the Lord in the New Year. Thank you.



## Construction Continues...We're Almost There!

For those in worship each Sunday, you’ve been able to see easily the progress that continues be made on our Building Construction Ministry. Massive, outside curbing now deflects water-runoff away from the church. Interior doorframes and doors are going up. Floors and plumbing for the new restrooms are getting ready to be set in place. Unfortunately, we were informed by the Town of Rocky Mount that we would not be permitted to erect an exterior digital sign in the front yard of the church (because we are part of the designated “historical district” of the town which does not allow such signage). While we could appeal this matter, the Trustees were of the opinion it wasn’t worth the potential “bad blood” that might occur between our neighbors and the church. Therefore, it’s “back to the drawing boards” to design a new sign that will meet the criteria of the town’s ordinance. Keep praying for the successful and safe completion of our construction-ministry. It’s going to happen!

## Samaritan Offering

### Judy Says, “Thanks!”

Judy Anderson is our “Hermitage Guild” representative. As such, she coordinates our annual offerings in June to the “Samaritan Fund.” Judy wanted you to know that your financial assistance went to older residents in our United Methodist “Hermitage” Homes, especially the one in Roanoke. Many of these residents have outlived their financial ability to afford to live in one of our fine, church-related residences. Because of you, their needs are being met. Thank you.



## Heavenly Manna

Congratulations! We collected 130 pounds of canned food in July for Heavenly Manna. In August, we will be collecting green beans and corn.



Between June 5-September 4, the church office will be closed on Fridays.

## **Prayer — it's in our genes**

I don't think prayer is merely a sociological phenomenon. I don't think it's something we do just to fit into a community or when we've exhausted all other options. I think it's hardwired into our spiritual DNA. God is the inevitability of humanity's search for true meaning.

—Jared Brock, *A Year of Living Prayerfully*



Remember our 15 undergraduates in your prayers as they return to, or begin college life.

**Coastal Carolina University—**

Tyler Peterson

**Ferrum College—**

Joshua Banks

Mariah Banks

**James Madison University—**

Carrie Holland

**Patrick Henry Community College—**

Ashley Dillon

**Radford University—**

Katherine Flora

Molly Hutcherson

**Randolph-Macon College—**

Breanna Bowles

**University of Virginia—**

Anna Cooper

McKenzie Prillaman

**Virginia Tech—**

Jacques Delport

Meredith Flora

Emily Meeks

Tatum Newbill

**Virginia Western Community College—**

Rachel Hall



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Betty Dillon. Please keep Betty informed

of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 483-5573 (or call the church office at 483-5338). Please make sure we have your college student's new or changed address at school. Throughout the year, Betty will send your student cards and exam-survival-kits (also known as \$\$\$ for snacks!). We also want to be sure to include them on the newsletter mailing list and send them a copy of the Upper Room. Good luck and have a great year!

**New Members!**

On July 26, we welcomed Debra Caulder by letter of transfer from Wesley Memorial UMC.



Her address is 200 Knollwood Drive, Rocky Mount.

Also on July 26, we welcomed Abbie Pinckard through profession of faith. Her address is 125 Riverview Street, Rocky Mount.

**Little Lambs in the News**

(Jan Mohler, Director)



As the summer winds done we are gearing up for another fabulous year at Little Lambs. Our four-year-old class is almost full but we still have plenty of room for three-year-olds. Please pass the word about us to parents with three-year and four-year-olds. The threes come on Monday and Tuesday and the fours come on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If families are interested in having their child come all five days, we will entertain that on a child-by-child basis. Both classes attend from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on their respective class days.

We are excited about the new look of our classroom. The new entryway to the stairs is a huge safety upgrade to our facility that we hope we'll never use but now feel blessed to have available. With all the construction however, we have a few things out of place and EVERYTHING has a layer of dust. **August 25 and 26 we will be having "focused cleaning days."** Any of you who could spare an hour to help clean up the classroom would be greatly appreciated. We'll start each day at 9:00 a.m.



## Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

It's hard to believe school will be starting soon and it's time to get those fall schedules made. During the month of August, I'll be making final plans and ordering things for all the choirs. Registration forms for children who will be participating in Wonderful Wednesday this year will be available on the table near the Assembly Room. As always, it will be for mature four-year-olds through fifth graders. Like last year, the older group, 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders will alternate singing and playing chimes during their music time. I would like to have forms filled out for **all children who have attended in the past as well as new children.** This will help me in having enough food and craft projects ready for the first meeting. Registration will continue through Sunday, September 6. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**HELP! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** The continued success of our Wonderful Wednesday program for children depends on volunteers. Two volunteers are needed each week to provide a simple meal for the children and to help with a craft project. I can prepare the craft and teach music but I need your presence! Most of the parents take turns volunteering but that still leaves quite a few Wednesday nights open. **We need church members to help too!** **We need you!** These are precious children. They are part of your church family. As Christians and as members of Christ's holy church, we are called to minister to "the least of these." This is such an easy way to serve God. Single adults, "empty nesters," and grandparents; (We need you men, too!) please consider signing-up to **volunteer once in the fall and once in the spring.** You will surely receive much more than you will be providing. Get to know the children

of our church!! Please sign-up by August 26. Volunteer sign-up forms (blue) are located on the table next to the Assembly Room.

**The Praise Choir** is open to middle school youth and adults who like to sing. Rehearsals will resume Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m.

**The Jubilant Ringers** (handbells) will resume practices on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Do you like to sing? The **Chancel Choir** needs you!!! Weekly rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. with a Welcome Back/New Members Night. This group is multigenerational; middle school students, high school students, and adults. I hope to see **YOU** on September 9.

There are many of you who play instruments; (or haven't played in quite a while) guitar, violin, wind instruments, piano, percussion, etc. If you are interested in getting together to make a "**joyful noise**" I hope you will sign-up on the sheet near the Assembly Room. Whether you're a beginning student (I'd love to have those middle school band members!) or a seasoned player, come give it a try! We have a great time! I'll be contacting those who sign-up to set up a "jam session"!

I am always available if you have questions or need more information on any of our music ministries. Other worship ministries you may be interested in are the **Drama Team** and **The Moving Word**, our liturgical dance group. These are both multigenerational (Older Children through Senior Adult).

Feel free to call me at church (483-5338), or at home evenings (483-9799). I'm happy to talk about how you can use your gift of music and other arts for God.

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



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

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2014	\$55,388	
Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 6/30/15		\$134,448
<u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 6/30/15	<b>\$138,451</b>	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 6/30/15		\$133,794
Actual Expenses Paid through 6/30/15	< <u>\$122,076</u> >	
Ending Balance, 6/30/15	<b>\$71,763</b>	

II. Average Worship Attendance = 131 (as compared to 130 in June 2014)  
 Average Sunday School Attendance = 45 (as compared to 43 in June 2014)

III. Average Number of Small Groups Meeting each Week = 12

IV. Total Number of people engaged in missions, to date = 48

Pastor Bruce Responds: *“Don’t you know that summer is supposedly the time when churches experience “financial stress”??? It’s a time when many of the faithful forget their church with their presence and offerings. Obviously, at RMUMC, that is NOT the case, Praise God! You are to be commended for keeping up with your commitments...and the church is more-easily able to honor its pledges of financial support for the ministries to which it has pledged to support. I remain so proud of you! Thank you.”*



With Sincere Gratitude to the Redeemer's Sunday School Class,

Words cannot express the overwhelming gratitude I felt when I returned home to my church's Sunday School Class to see a beautiful flower arrangement awaiting me. Even more moving was the card that read, "YOU ARE APPRECIATED." What a beautiful gesture. Fellowshiping with this wonderful class of peers is so rewarding to me too. I appreciate each and every one of you, and it has been my pleasure to lead you. God is Good!

Agape,  
 Karla Weaver Pagans





### **Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Jean Hodges; Benny Gibson; Charlie Easter; Johnny Guilliams; Chris & Ben Angle; Wanda Saenz; Cole Holland; Percy & Jeanette Boles; Lorraine Kuchar (Susan Whitesell's mother); Sheryl Ross (Suzanne Ross' daughter-in-law); Gabriel Porras (Stephen & Jennifer Coffey's nephew); Gabe Valentine (John & Linda Lox' grandson); Melinda Taylor; Sandra Shell; Ron Evans; Addie Lang; Danielle McPherson; Patricia Perdue; and Jennifer Braxton.

### **Forget-Me-Nots:**

Helen Cottle; Zelma Cundiff; Mildred Dillon; Nancy Hamlin; Marion Higgins; Beryl King; Margaret Linkous; Hilda Morris; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.



**Family of Eric Ritzen** who died on June 9.

**Family of Reba Taylor** who died on June 18.

**Family of Allen Woody, III** who died on July 13.

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

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
35 North Main Street  
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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**Open Hearts...**

**Open Minds...**

**Open Doors...**

*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Reverend Bruce Tuttle, Pastor**

**Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant**

**Rebecca Goransson, Nursery Attendant**

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

**Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist**

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



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

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

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