

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

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



Will Waller, Pastor

March 2017



This year we will celebrate Ash Wednesday on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday** is the first day of **Lent** and occurs forty days

before **Easter** (excluding Sundays). Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance.

Traditionally, the ashes are gathered after the Palm Crosses from the previous year's **Palm Sunday** are burned. In the liturgical practice of some churches, the ashes are mixed with olive oil which is then used by the clergy person presiding at the service to make the sign of the cross upon the forehead of each of the worshipers. As he does so, he recites the words: "Remember that from dust you have come, and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe in the gospel."



Again this year during the season of Lent, you are invited to select a **Lenten Friend**. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, March 5, and will contain the name of a church family member who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during Lent. You are asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. Thank you!



Everyone is invited to join in the community Lenten Services. Each service is listed below and will begin at 12:00 noon. A

light lunch will be served following the service, provided by the host church. Also, a love offering will be taken at each service and the host church will choose the charity.

The Host Church Schedule is as follows:

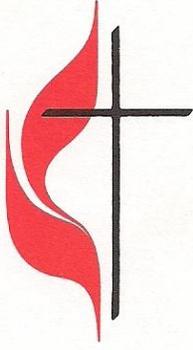
March 8	Rocky Mount Christian Church
March 15	Rocky Mount Church of the Brethren
March 22	First Baptist Church
March 29	Rocky Mount UMC
April 5	Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

An Ash Wednesday prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We're sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions – and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you've shown mercy to us.

In Jesus' name, amen.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

If you're like me, you grew up on Dr. Seuss. He filled your plate with green eggs and ham (even if you told Sam-I-Am that you despised those mis-colored eggs and meat). He sent a cat in a hat to entertain you on rainy days when there just wasn't a thing to do. He stole your heart, which grew to three times its size, with his character the Grinch. You heard a Who alongside your buddy Horton. You read about not just one fish, but two fish; you learned about not just a red fish but a blue fish. Dr. Seuss attained a cherished place on your bookshelf.

His last book published has become *the* book for high school graduations, quoted far and wide with pomp and circumstance in cap and gown. It reached number one the year it was published on *The New York Times* bestseller list and often makes an appearance on the list each spring around the time when uncles and aunts are looking for gifts for nieces and nephews. The book is of course *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* The beloved children's book details someone setting out on a great journey, going somewhere that's full of adventure and challenges. During the next sermon series, each sermon title will be ripped directly from Dr. Seuss's 1990 classic.

We too are on a journey in this upcoming Christian season of Lent. We will be embarking on a journey of our own – a journey of self-reflection, prayer, fasting, and movement toward the cross. It is a journey that we take every year in the period before Easter. We mimic the turn towards Jerusalem that Jesus made as he journeyed towards his death. We begin to travel, with seriousness and gravitas, towards the Holy City. There will be celebrations along the way – Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem – and there will be tears – when he hung from the Cross. The places to go are waiting – we're now taking our first steps toward these places.

Oh, the places you'll go, Rocky Mount UMC. Today is your day. You're off to great places. It's time to be off and away!

In Christ,
Pastor Will



United Methodist Women

(Linda Walters,
President)

At the February meeting, Cathie Cummins of Children's Assistive Technology Services opened our eyes to a great need in our community. Her organization helps to provide adaptive equipment to families of children with disabilities that prevent those children from being sidelined due to disability or want of opportunities those devices provide.

Dates to Remember:

March 4, 9:30 a.m. – Danville District Prayer Breakfast at Oakland UMC, Blairs, VA

March 6, 10:00 a.m. - A musical testimony by Kelly Walters Henshaw and the annual program on Prayer and Self-Denial

April 2-30 - The UMW will be enlisting your support in completing school and health kits to be sent to Annual Conference in June.

April 3, 2:00 p.m. - "On the road" to The Hermitage to host the April birthday party for residents

May 1, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Sherri Krause, President, Danville UMW, and a "UMW Sew-in" at church. We will be making pillowcase dresses and "sani-panties" for women in third world countries. Lunch will be provided.

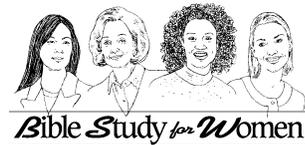
May 7, Following worship - Family Ministries and the United Methodist Women are planning a fellowship potluck luncheon. After lunch and fellowship, Mr. Taiki Sawabe from Ferrum College will present an interactive program for all ages on Japanese culture.

The UMW welcomes your participation in any of these activities.

The UMW continues to collect Labels for Education, soda can tabs, and stamps. The boxes for these collections are

in the hall to the left of the narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes. We can still accept Campbell's labels as long as they have the small collection sticker on the bottom.

Our #1 goal for 2017 is to continue increasing membership. 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 would like to be involved, 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 or Sunday afternoon meeting for those who work during the week as well. Please contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004, lindaw@shentel.net) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.



All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins March 7. We will be studying "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" by Beth Moore. We will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room (Redeemer's SS Classroom). Books will cost \$16 per person. Please notify Linda Walters (540-346-2004; lindaw@shentel.net) or Peggy Hodges (540-483-0771; peggyjhodges@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you plan to participate so we can order books. Invite your friends and family to come too!

The key of the day

Prayer should be the key of the day and
the lock of the night.

—George Herbert



United Methodist Men

UMM

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on March 19 at 9:00 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN

On Thursday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 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!

New Members!

On February 12, we welcomed Wendy Saunders by transfer of letter from Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church and Angela Arthur by transfer of letter from Salem First United Methodist Church.



To my RMUMC family,



While I've been at UVA, I've become an active member of Relay for Life. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser. It allows us to fight back against the terrible disease, as well as celebrate survivors! I relay for family members who've won their battles, friends who have gone on to be with the Lord, and for more birthdays. Last year, UVA students were able to raise nearly \$180,000 for cancer research, treatment, and patient services. I would like to ask for your support (whether you're a Wahoo or a Hokie!) in my fundraising efforts. My personal goal this year is to raise \$2,000, and I would truly appreciate any help. Additionally, I would like to ask for prayers for a successful event, and a world with more survivors. If you would like to donate to my fundraiser, please visit

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/AnnaVCooper> or email me at avc2aq@virginia.edu.

With love,
Anna Cooper



Vital Congregation Statistics for January

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2016	\$15,190	
Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 1/31/17		\$21,804
<u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 1/31/17	\$21,380	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 1/31/17		\$22,678
Actual Expenses Paid through 1/31/17	<\$17,385>	
Ending Balance, 1/31/17	\$19,185	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 148
Average Sunday School Attendance = 48



Youth News

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

Hi friends,

Wow, what an awesome month February has been here for the youth and children at RMUMC! We have been having weekly Sunday School and youth meetings in which we have gotten an opportunity to study 1 Corinthians 13, and lots more. We also got a chance to be a part of the special needs Valentine's lunch hosted by the men's group which was so much fun, and just enjoy lots of time together! Speaking of Valentine's Day, we had a wonderful time having a "Valentine's Day" themed youth group meeting, complete with a "minute to win it" themed valentines candy challenge. What fun! There is always something exciting happening at youth group!

As I write this, we are getting ready to leave to go to Fusion 17 over at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg! I am so excited about this!! At this retreat, we will get to have awesome speakers and worship from the Virginia Tech Wesley Foundation, as well as time for small group discussions, free time to spend as a youth group, and opportunities for service. I am so looking forward to this! I can't wait to see what God is going to do in our hearts this weekend.

March is going to be a wonderful month as well! We will be continuing our weekly youth and Sunday School meetings, as well as having a "Mystery fun day" on March 13. Students will need to be at the church at 12:00 p.m., and we will return by 6:00 p.m. It is going to be an awesome afternoon of wonderfulness and delight! Parents, be on the lookout for an email with details about this event and a list of what students will need to bring!

Also, we will be starting to plan for VBS 2017 in the coming weeks, and I am really looking forward to it! We will be continuing our partnership with Rocky Mount Christian Church, and this year is our turn to host! What an awesome time this is going to be!! Please be prayerfully considering if you would be interested in volunteering with VBS, and what area you would like to volunteer. I would also ask that you be praying for guidance and discernment through the planning process.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and prayers for the youth and children at this church, and if you would be interested in volunteering in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out and we will find a way to get you involved.

Blessings,
Lindsey and Josh



Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music
Ministries)

Preparations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, as well as our Lenten anthems, are the musical focus for March. This year, the Chancel Choir will present a Good Friday musical, *Come to the Cross and Remember* by Pepper Choplin. Jane Roseberry will direct the drama. (Say yes! when she asks you for help.) The music is beautiful and the symbolism is powerful. I'll share more details next month.

If you are not able to sing with us on a weekly basis but would like to help with this musical, I invite you to join us on Mondays (beginning March 13) at 7:00 p.m. or Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please let me know if you plan to come so that I have a book and folder ready for you!

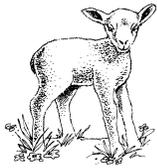
(continued on page 6)

The Jubilant Ringers will play a beautiful arrangement of Pachelbel's *Canon* during Lent and a surprise-filled *This Little Light of Mine* to finish our season in May.

Our Celebration Ringers, (children's bell choir) are working on a special Lenten song for worship. The "Singers" and Carol Choir will also be singing for worship in March and are beginning to prepare for a Children's Sabbath worship service for Mother's Day. More on that next month.

See you on Sunday!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

We are marching right along towards the end of the school year. Sorry, that was corny, but in March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss so we are in "playing with words" mode. The truffula trees have bloomed and rhymes can be heard everywhere. If you have a favorite Dr. Seuss story that you would like to share with the students, we would love you to come read to us this month. Any day, any time from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. is probably great.

Do you have too much stuff? Need to clean out a space? Donate your "treasures" to us and see a happy face. Sorry, Dr. Seuss again. On April 1, Little Lambs is having a yard sale to raise money for the school. This is our main fundraiser for the year. Please consider donating items for the sale. They can be left in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 26. If you need to drop something off in the evening hours, please contact Jan Mohler (588-1684) or Christina Gibson and we will make sure someone is here to open the door for you.

The sale is from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. so tell all your friends to come out and shop!

Blessings,
Jan



Happy Birthday to:

- March 3 Martha Ann Naff
- March 4 Debra Caulder
- March 5 Mark Clements
- March 5 Peggy Hodges
- March 5 Linda Walters
- March 6 Carrie Haynes
- March 7 Gray Hodges
- March 7 Sylvia Hutcherson
- March 8 Jovie Angle
- March 10 Barry Altice
- March 10 Angelina Dillon
- March 11 Molly Hutcherson
- March 11 Rachel Justice
- March 11 Jessica Naff
- March 16 Tatum Newbill
- March 17 Amy Pendleton
- March 18 Emily Meeks
- March 19 Johnny Guilliams
- March 20 Mittie Hambrick
- March 21 Kathy Matthews
- March 21 Sam Rucker
- March 22 Lynn Cooper
- March 22 Charlie Mitchell
- March 24 Meredith Flora
- March 25 Ronald Cooper
- March 26 Elaine Dawson
- March 26 Charles Pendleton
- March 28 Donna Flora
- March 28 Julie McCutchen
- March 28 Evelynne Rash-Davis
- March 29 Casey Hodges



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Mark Newbill; Johnny Guilliams; Charlie & Eleanor Easter; Gary and Betty Hatfield; Martha Ann Naff; Mark Singleton; Martie Byrum; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; Johnny and Patsy Smith; Gabe Valentine; Patricia Perdue; Jennifer Braxton; Ethel Dent; and Jesse Roach.

Forget-Me-Nots:

Mildred Dillon; Marion Higgins; Margaret Linkous; Eva Prillaman; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.



Family of Nancy Harrison who died on February 15.

Cyn Bohn Fisher and Family in the death of her mother, Thelma Bohn.



Thank you church family for your prayers, cards and visits during my hospitalization and recovery.

Linda C. Handy

I would like to thank RMUMC for all their support as I leave the Nursery and embark on a new journey. My seven plus years as your Nursery Attendant have been wonderful, and you have made my family feel like your family, and for that I feel truly blessed.

Rebecca Goransson

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12, 2017

Just for Kids

The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
 because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

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35 North Main Street
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VA 24151

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Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

The People of the United Methodist Church

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Will Waller, Pastor

Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries

Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant

Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist

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:

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Worship