

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



Will Waller, Pastor

May 2018

## The United Methodist Women Need YOU, Rocky Mount UMC!



Please join the UMW ladies on May 7 for a church wide mission workday in the fellowship hall. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. and cut, measure, sew, trim, and press until about 2:00 p.m. Come for all or some of the time. We will be working on several projects for international mission and school bags and baby blankets for UMCOR kits. We will find a job for YOU. Bring your sewing machine, scissors, pins, and measuring tapes if you have these items. A potluck salad luncheon will be provided.

*Women's Missions*



*Mother's Day*

## Mother's Day Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will sponsor their annual Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 13, at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All mothers and their families are invited to this delicious complimentary breakfast prepared by the men in honor of all mothers on their special day!

## The Giver

It is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out-give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to him, he will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.  
—Charles Spurgeon

## Samaritan Offering

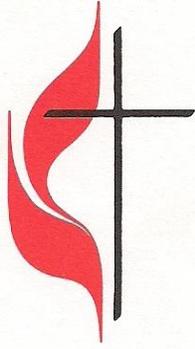
During the weeks between Mother's Day and Father's Day, each of us is called to be the Good Samaritan, caring for one another as Christ taught us to love our neighbors. In the familiar parable in Luke 10:25-37, the Samaritan bandaged the injured traveler and took him to the nearest inn, where he paid the innkeeper to look after the man. The innkeeper was asked to be doctor, custodian, caregiver, protector, and advocate, with the Samaritan willing to cover the cost of any additional care the traveler might need.



Hermitage Roanoke, one of several United Methodist retirement facilities throughout Virginia, embodies the role of the innkeeper to its residents. Now we are asked to step into the Samaritan role and financially assist those residents whose resources have run out through no fault of their own, so that they might continue to live in the security and familiarity of their Hermitage Roanoke home.

Make checks payable to Rocky Mount UMC, with Hermitage Roanoke written on the memo line, and place them in the offering plate or mail to the church.

"The point is not to pay back kindness but to pass it on."  
—Julia Alvarez



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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

Sometimes answering random phone calls is a good idea.

In March, I received a random phone call from a lady here in Rocky Mount asking if I would do a funeral for a man that she barely even knew. It was her friend's father, a man that had lived in far Southwest Virginia for many years, but had some connection to Rocky Mount. This phone call led to another, and then another, as I spoke to his daughter and learned about him.

Richard Greer was the man's name, and his story is as long and full as any 400-page novel. It was an honor doing this man's funeral, after he spent 100 years on this Earth, filling every one of those years with stories.

About a month later, I found on my desk a document left by the Franklin County Historical Society. It was Richard Greer's diary, turned into *My Days: Memories & Recollections*. The document retells his stories from his earliest days living in Rocky Mount during the great depression all the way to his 95th year. The journal fascinates the reader by spinning tales that remind you sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. There are mud ball fights and skinny dipping escapades on the Pigg River. He served valiantly in the Pacific theater in WWII. He traveled the world fishing the great rivers. He finds love, loses love, and finds it again. And he concludes his memoirs with these words: "But my last note for my "journal" is: It's been a ball and I enjoyed it all. Best to you all."

The message to me is simple - sometimes the greatest gift we can offer someone is to listen to their story. To be open to the potentialities of a relationship. To offer your two ears before you offer your opinion. Hearing Mr. Greer's story allowed me the joy of getting to know a man I'd never otherwise meet. And like him, "It's been a ball and I enjoyed it all."

In Christ,  
Pastor Will



## **United Methodist Women**

(Linda Walters,  
President)

What fun we had hosting the birthday party at The Hermitage in Roanoke on April 9! The residents enjoy the party so much! What a blessing they are to us!

Please join us on May 7 for a church wide mission workday in the fellowship hall. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. and cut, measure, sew, trim, and press until about 2:00 p.m. Come for all or some of the time. We will be working on several international mission projects and school bags and baby blankets for UMCOR kits. We will find a job for YOU. Bring your sewing machine, scissors, pins, and measuring tapes if you have these items. A potluck salad luncheon and all other materials will be provided.

We are organizing a collection of coloring books and crayons for the Sheriff's Department. These will be used as a diversion for children waiting while parents are being interviewed. You can give your donations to any of the UMW members.

UMW Day at Ferrum College is Saturday, June 2 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. This is a great day of worship, fellowship, and food! A wonderful musical program is planned with a delicious lunch following. Cost is \$15 for the day. See Linda Walters or Judy Anderson for a registration form. Cash or checks made out to RMUMW may be given to Charlotte Hill by May 10.

Don't forget the UMW annual picnic at the home of Dan and Linda Walters on Monday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. What a wonderful time for fellowship as we break for the summer months. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages, pork barbecue and hamburgers will be provided. RSVP to Linda Walters at [lindaw@shentel.net](mailto:lindaw@shentel.net) or call 540-346-2004.

The UMW continues to collect Labels for Education, soda can tabs and canceled stamps. The boxes for these collections are in the hall to the left of the Narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes.

The UMW will again be getting the congregation involved in putting together UMCOR kits for the June conference. Look for details in the Sunday bulletins in mid-May.

Our #1 goal for 2018 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 a member, Linda will be happy to communicate all meeting and project information to you by e-mail. 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.



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

On Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24, 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!

"Nothing is too great and nothing is too small  
to commit into the hands of the Lord."

—A.W. Pink



Our 2018 college graduates include:  
**Joshua Banks**, Ferrum College  
**Anna Cooper**, University of Virginia

Congratulations and best wishes Joshua and Anna!

### **Graduate Sunday**

Graduate Recognition

Sunday will be observed on Sunday, June 3. We will be recognizing this year's college graduates. Let our graduates know that we are proud of them by your attendance.



### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School will be held in partnership with the Rocky Mount Christian Church from June 25-28. New this year, children who sign up at least 10 days prior to VBS will receive a FREE T-SHIRT! Also new this year, we'll be having a closing cookout at Waid Park with free tubing down the marvelous Pigg River.



On behalf of the NCCUMC, Disaster Response in Lumberton, NC, I want to THANK YOU for the generous donation and for the wonderful and outstanding group of volunteers who came to Lumberton/ Robeson County this past week. I was not able to spend as much time with this group as I normally do the groups coming in but I was able to see them a couple of times before they left and I was able to see all the work that was accomplished on Marvin Street. WHAT A GREAT WEEK OF WORK!!! The amount of work that was accomplished on this home was unbelievable as well as good, quality work. This puts us another step closer to reaching our goal of getting this family back in their home. The men were such a joy to be around, good-hearted VIRGINIA BOYS! They may all not have started in Virginia, but they are Virginia Boys now!

Blessings upon You,  
 Sue Wade

### **Procrastinators**

A pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but many cars were ahead of the pastor at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

“Sorry about the delay,” said the young man. “Everyone seems to wait until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.”

The pastor chuckled, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

### **A taste of God's love**

In *Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise* (Abingdon Press), John Killinger describes a mother’s love – and how it offers a tiny foretaste of God’s love:

“It is stronger than steel, softer than down and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity. I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next.”

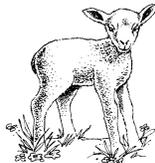


## Vital Congregation Statistics for March

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2017	\$39,986	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 3/31/18		\$72,579
Actual Offerings Received through 3/31/18	\$64,882	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 3/31/18		\$72,669
Actual Expenses Paid through 3/31/18	<u>&lt;\$61,811&gt;</u>	
Ending Balance, 3/31/18	\$43,057	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 122  
 Average Sunday School Attendance = 42
- 



### Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

The annual golf tournament was a HUGE success again. We raised over \$2,500 for Little Lambs. Thanks to everyone at RMUMC who sponsored holes, fielded teams, or helped to do either of those things. We had many Little Lambs families who worked hard to find sponsors or donated money of their own to support our fundraising efforts. A very special thank you goes to Christina Gibson, Martha Sue Gibson, Jessica and Chas Mitchell, Al Angle and Jeff Worley. Golfers have many choices these days for charity golf tournaments to play in. Jeff, Al, the Gibsons, and the Mitchells worked very hard to make sure that ours was one that golfers would want to come back to play in again. They take their mission work very seriously and Little Lambs is so very grateful.

Our year is winding down but the fun is gearing up! We will be traveling to Bounce Roanoke on May 17 for our annual inflatable fun fest. May 18 is the four-year-old graduation at 7:00 p.m. followed by ice cream in the park. The three-year-old class will graduate on Monday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. and yes, they will celebrate with sundaes too! Our school year ends, Friday, May 25.

Enrollment is looking good for next year. Currently, we have ten students enrolled in the four-year-old class and four in the threes with lots of inquiries and visits. Most people come in having been recommended by someone in our church family or our Little Lambs family and we truly can't express how grateful we are for those personal recommendations. In this mission together, we are spreading the love of Christ into the world one child at a time.

Blessings,  
Jan



## Youth News

The youth group has continued meeting, praying, hoping, dreaming, and serving

the Lord. During the season around Easter, they prepared eggs and then on Easter, hosted the kids with an Easter egg hunt. Over 600 eggs were hidden and over 600 eggs have been found (there could be more eggs still hidden at the park for those wanting to still hunt). Tracy Jenkins and others led a conversation around Godly relationships, a conversation we all needed to hear. Melinda Justice spoke on how to share one's faith, which was really well received. The Broom Game has made an appearance, befuddling the youth, and delighting those in the know.

There will be a party at the Gibson's home later in May, a messy game night that will be a MEGA BIG night, and a mission night in Roanoke. Lots of joy, fellowship and service ahead!



## Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

It's hard to believe another school year is almost over.

Wonderful Wednesday is beginning to wind down and as is our tradition, our last meeting until next fall will be a picnic in the park on May 9. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the shelter (weather permitting, if not then in fellowship hall) and end at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. There is a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to help with our picnic food. You don't have to have a child in Wonderful Wednesday to help. If you want to bring something, just have it at the shelter at 5:00 p.m. You don't have to stay for the picnic but we'd love to have you!

"A long time ago in the country where Jesus was teaching and healing, there was a child named Benjamin-the youngest in the family. He heard Jesus was coming near his village and wanted to see him but his siblings said he was too small to come. Benjamin went to see Jesus that day and something great happened..." Come to worship on Mother's Day, May 13 and join the children as they lead the service and preach the word through the musical, "Table for 5000". I'm sure you'll be heaven-fed!

The Spirit is truly at work since the beginning of our church year in Advent. More people have been hearing the Word on Sunday morning. Each month we have been inviting more friends to join us in worship. Let's keep the "momentum" going. Please continue to pray for the ministries of our church and spread the Good News to those you meet. See you in church!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn

## **Just for pun!**

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
  - Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
  - Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
  - A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
  - Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Tim Funk; Ben & Chris Angle; Kim Easter; John Cooper; Marion

Higgins; Jeanette Boles; Erin Tamm; Larry Craig; David Ferguson; Shelley Bird; Essie Wilson; DJ Snider; Ann Davis; Sharon Young; Joanne Patterson; Shirley Funk; Dennis Holland; Jennifer Tatum; Tiffanee Anderson; Martha Williams; Lorrie Williams; Mark Singleton; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; Patricia Perdue; and Jesse Roach.

**Forget-Me-Nots:**

Mildred Dillon; Margaret Linkous; and Ann Robinson.



**Linda Davis and Family** in the death of her mother, Catherine Salese.

**Jennifer Call and Steve English and Families** in the death of their father, Tommy English

**New Baptized Member!**

We celebrate the baptism of Isaac Godfrey. He was baptized on April 8.



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35 North Main Street  
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**ROCKY  
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**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**  
**Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist**  
**Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant**  
**Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.)**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School**  
**10:55 a.m. Worship**