

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



Will Waller, Pastor

November 2017



## A Bittersweet Goodbye

November 5, Lindsey Lumley, our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries, will be having her final Sunday serving our church. She has accepted a full-time job with Radford City Social Services. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be hosting a reception in Lindsey's honor after worship on November 5. There will be cake and lemonade, hugs and expressions of thanks. Thank you Lindsey for serving the Lord here!

## Danville District Conference

November 5, you are invited to the Danville District's yearly District Conference. Our District Conference will feature speakers and workshops that may be helpful to you. The following ministry partners will be there: Danville AKC, Books for Babies, Danville Cares, Police Hospitality, UMCOR and the Henry Fork Service Center. It'll be held at the Stokesland Community Center in Danville (212 Murphy Circle, Danville) from 3:00-4:30 p.m.



## Stewardship Campaign

You will receive a mailing from the church in early November that will contain a 2018 pledge card. On November 26 we will return our pledge card that states what we believe God wants us to give to the church for 2018. This establishes the base of our annual unified budget at the church. The Finance Committee will then be able to create next year's church budget of anticipated income and expenses.

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held Sunday, November 19, immediately following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The

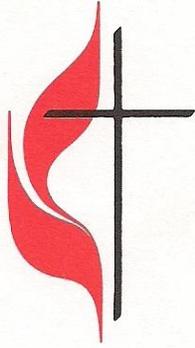


Family Ministries Committee will provide dressing, mashed potatoes, rolls and drinks. The United Methodist Men will provide the turkey. Conrad and Phyllis Lavinder have generously donated various Thanksgiving/Fall paper goods. Thanks to both!! The congregation is asked to bring a dish and dessert or two of your choice. This event promises to be exciting as we have more folks to celebrate and join in our always joyous sharing of good food and warm fellowship. We hope to see you there.

## **Autumn wardrobe**

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.

—Henry Beston



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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

If it bleeds, it leads. That's one of the first commandments of any media mogul wanting to stay on top of the ratings. This means that if the article has blood and guts, if it's bad news, you better believe it'll be splashed on the top fold of your local newspaper or publication.

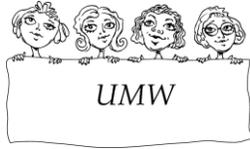
Click-bait is a new term for this - offering a title that drags you into endless clicking on articles. Here is an example from the week of October 16: "Bigfoot reportedly sighted in Northern California, pictures go viral." The point of a title such as this is to worry us ("What if Bigfoot catches a train and hops off at the Rocky Mount station!?!?"). All this makes us scared to head out for a hike...because, you know, Bigfoot might be getting some fresh air too.

In the church, we dig bad news. Many stewardship campaigns operate out of a scarcity mentality - aka, being purveyors of bad news. "WE'RE OUT OF MONEY!" "WE HAVE TO GIVE TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON!" "WE'RE DYING!" Pastors push frantic messages of hopelessness, finance chairs wring their hands, and fraught looks are seen on the worried parishioners' faces. ALL IS LOST!

From where I stand, that is more like clickbait - trying to get people to give out of fear, and not faith. Furthermore, it is neither appealing nor super helpful. God's a giver of all good gifts. If God is for us, whom then shall we fear? For nothing is impossible with God. *This* is more like our God. *This* is more like our story.

So next time you hear doom and gloom, ask yourself, is our God a god of scarcity? "There's never enough!" "Oh my goodness how are we going to pay our bills?" "How will we make our budget???" Whenever feelings of woe wash over, take a deep breath and crack open your Bible. Inside, you'll find permeating the pages a God that looks at stewardship campaigns, like the one we're initiating this November called Thank-full, and says, "I'm a God of abundance. It is well."

In Christ,  
Pastor Will



**United Methodist Women**

(Linda Walters, President)

The UMW met on Monday, October 2. Garrett Smith from The Family Resource Center gave the program. We will be supporting the Family Resource Center with a purse ministry – filling a purse or dopp kit with basic items clients can use when they arrive empty-handed at the shelter.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Please remember to bring your Thank Bank offering and a roll of paper towels for Henry Fork Service Center. The program will be given by Linda Verhoeff. She will be speaking about her medical mission trip to Honduras.

The UMW Christmas luncheon is Monday, December 3 in the Atrium at 10:30 a.m. We will be treated to a musical program given by Don Ranson and Alex Young followed by a delicious lunch catered by Center Stage Catering. Spouses and friends are invited to attend. Cost is \$15.00 per person and checks or cash for reservations may be given to Charlotte Hill or Martha Collins by Monday, November 27.

The UMW wishes to thank all who ordered soup from them. You may pick up your soup on Saturday, November 4, between 12 and 1 p.m. or Sunday, November 5 after worship. All funds raised will be used for UMW mission projects. If you didn't order soup, we will have a few extra quarts and bake goods available after worship as well.

The 2017-18 UMW Reading Program has begun. You may check out any of the books on the bottom shelf labeled UMW Reading Program in the Assembly Room. Please take a brochure to keep track of your reading. Simply sign each book out in the yellow folder and sign it in when you

return it. 2018 titles as well as titles from 2013-2017 are eligible. If you take the children's books, please keep track of the names of the children to whom you read in your brochure. Children count as readers too!

The UMW will continue 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. We can still accept Campbell's labels if they have the small collection sticker on the bottom.

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 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 (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) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.



UMM

**United Methodist Men**

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on November 12 at 9:00 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”  
—Henry Ford

## Lay Visitation

Pastor Will is announcing a brand-new ministry for those called to visitation ministry. Lay visitation is a hallmark of the Christian life. John Wesley once said that "by repeated experiments we learn, that though a man preach like an angel, he will neither collect, nor preserve a society which is collected, without visiting from house-to-house." A society was a sub-group of the church, people focused on growing as disciples within the congregation.

This ministry will involve one-to-one that seeks to utilize laypersons in the visitation of people within and without the congregation. This ministry seeks to empower lay people to provide Christ-centered care to those willing to receive care.

Those receiving care include persons entering divorce, receiving news of a terminal illness, sudden financial straits, ongoing stress at work, care-giving for a family member, or grieving the death of a loved one.

Those serving as lay visitors will:

- Make monthly personal contact with the receiver either at their home or in a public place
- Will invest in the other person's life with Biblical based encouragement
- Will provide a non-judgmental listening ear for the receiver
- Strive to connect the person to ministries within or without the church that would lift their spirits through service
- Be a support for the receiver
- Reevaluate their responsibilities with the pastor every 3 months with lay visitor group meeting
- Have an evaluation of their relationship with the receiver after 9 months



If you're interested contact Pastor Will at [Will@RM-UMC.ORG](mailto:Will@RM-UMC.ORG) or 540-483-5338.

## Family Ministries Committee

(Sharon Angle, Chair)



The Family Ministries Committee will be meeting on November 5 following worship in the fellowship hall. We will be planning the annual Thanksgiving Feast. Family Ministries Committee includes Peggy Santrock, Mike Meeks, Kelly Peterson, Donna Flora, Terri Naff, Robin Cooper, Vicki Bennett and Jessica Mitchell. Please plan to attend this meeting.



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

On Tuesday, November 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!

## Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2018 is here.

Reserve your "special Sunday" now to provide altar

flowers during the worship service. Also, remember that the piano is available for an arrangement should there be two individuals interested in the same date. You will be responsible for ordering the flowers. Call the church office or stop by the chart on the bulletin board that is located at the steps that go down to the preschool) to reserve your special date.





### **Poinsettias**

It is time to order poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary December 10-24. If

you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please complete the enclosed form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 6**. The cost is \$13.00. Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. After December 24, you may take your poinsettia(s) home to enjoy.

### **Getting Ready for Advent**

Many hands are needed as we get ready to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. Monday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. we will be decorating the Chrismon tree and sanctuary. Light refreshments will be provided. Please put this date on your calendar!



Again this year during the season of Advent, you will be given the opportunity to select an **Advent Friend**. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, December 3, containing the name of a church family member, "*an Advent Friend*," who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during the Advent season. You will be asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. If you know of someone who would appreciate the special-care of this ministry, please notify the church office by Sunday, November 12.

#### **POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Return to church office by Monday, November 6, or you may put form in the offering plate. A payment of \$13.00 for each poinsettia should accompany your order.

**Your Name:**

**Number of poinsettias Ordered:**

**In Memory of:**

**In Honor of:**

### **Christ our feast**

Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.

—Jonathan Edwards



## Vital Congregation Statistics for September

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2016	\$15,190	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 9/30/17		\$196,236
Actual Offerings Received through 9/30/17	\$202,092	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 9/30/17		\$204,102
Actual Expenses Paid through 9/30/17	<del>\$202,546</del>	
Ending Balance, 9/30/17	\$14,736	

### II. Average Worship Attendance = 141

Average Sunday School Attendance = 46



Thank you church for the gift certificate for Peaks of Otter Lodge during Pastor Appreciation Month. We intend to hike both peaks and once we stand atop Sharp Top and Flat Top mountains, we'll offer a thanksgiving prayer for our shared ministry. God is so good to bring us all together for our shared mission to know Jesus and to share His love. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor!

Will & Emily Waller

We are tremendously grateful for your generous donation of book bags and school supplies for our Lee M. Waid students. Starting the school year with brand new materials increases our students' self-confidence and heightens school morale.

We could not have done any of this without you, and we thank you for being a "booster" and caring for our students.

Tressa Camidge, Principal  
Sheree Thomas, Guidance Counselor



### New Logo

Thanks to the hard work of Giant Step Design, Rocky Mount UMC has brand new logos. Each logo is specially crafted, utilizing the unique aspects of both the physical aspects of the church building and the input by you in a logo survey earlier in the year. You are welcome to use the logos in your communications throughout the church one-to-another. Email [admin@rm-umc.org](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org) for one or all of the logos for your use.



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

Hi friends,

How is it already November?? This year sure is going by fast. I look back on the month of October with a smile, as we made lots of memories with the children and youth. We got to dig into scripture, and have some fun during our youth group meetings, as well as attend Scaremare at Liberty University! Our Fall Party and Trunk-Or-Treat was also a great success! What a fun and meaningful time we have had together.

A wise man (also known as Winnie the Pooh) once said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." This is a pretty accurate description of how I feel as I write this newsletter to you all. As you know by now, my time at RMUMC is drawing to a close on November 5, and I will be starting a new adventure. I am excited about my new journey, but am also very sad to leave you all. I want to thank you all for the kindness, grace, and love that you all have shown me over the past two years. Getting to know you all has meant more than I can express in words, and I will look back fondly on my time here. That being said, I want you to assure you that our activities with the youth and children will continue as scheduled. We are working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible, and taking the necessary steps to ensure that these ministries stay strong.

The month of November will be a busy and exciting one as the youth will be having a lock-in on November 4, and are going to be working hard during the month to prepare for the Special Needs Christmas

Party, and setting up the "Angel Tree" in the Narthex. This is always such a joy, and they are really looking forward to getting to fellowship and celebrate with our friends from Piedmont Community Services! Below is the form to make a donation for the Angel Tree.

Once again, thank you all. For everything. I love you all dearly, and I am expectant that God has great things in store for the future of RMUMC youth and children, and the church as a whole.

Blessings,  
Lindsey

***Light Up a Special Needs Adult's  
Christmas***

Each Angel on the tree will represent at least \$15.00 donated to buy special needs adults in our community gifts for Christmas. Please return this form to the church office.

**THE DEADLINE IS 11/12/2017**

**Given by:**

**In Honor of:**

**In Memory Of:**

**Amount given:**

"God gave us five senses; it is sheer ingratitude to worship him with any less."

—Martin Luther



## Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

November is a busy time for our musicians. The first Sunday in the month is especially significant for the Chancel Choir since we will celebrate the lives and service of three long time choir members who passed away this year. We will dedicate our anthem *The Family of Faith* to them. On November 19, the Jubilant Ringers will play a dynamic piece, *Joyfully Rejoice* which includes three familiar hymn tunes and the Chancel Choir will sing *My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness* and *Soli Deo* for our 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship Service. This entire month is a time to remember all the wonderful gifts God has given us. Invite family and friends to join us in praise and worship each Sunday!

**CALLING ALL TRUMPETS, CLARINETS, FLUTES, SAXOPHONES, VIOLINS, GUITARS AND PERCUSSION!** If you are interested in playing with the “Joyful Noise”, our instrumental ensemble, please see me (or Charlotte Hill) or leave your contact information with the church office **as soon as possible** to get the music and schedule of practice times (early November!). We hope to accompany the worship hymns on November 20 and to play during Advent!

Along with Thanksgiving preparations, we are working on our Advent/Christmas music. The children are polishing their Christmas play, “Cookin Up Christmas” to be presented December 10 at 6:30 p.m. (We will also sing a “preview” song from the musical at 11:00 a.m. worship on December 10.) ... This year the annual choir Christmas party is stirring up something new. Instead of the party being all about them, the choir members have collected favorite recipes and are cookin’ up some treats to share with the community.

Join Miss Paula Queen, Emerald Lasagna, Betty Rocker, Rachael Day, Bobbie Grey, Martha Steward, Alfred Brown and others as they learn about the real “recipe” of Christmas: God’s love!

The Chancel Choir along with flute, percussion and beautiful piano accompaniment, will present the musical *Night of the Father’s Love* during worship on December 17. Utilizing four narrators from the congregation as well as traditional carols and new pieces, we will tell the wonderful story of the Father’s love: the gift of Jesus Christ. The music is exciting, fresh, and touching. We hope you will be moved to “go and tell the Good News.” Christ is born, Nowell!

Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas are very special times for our music ministries. We hope to see you every Sunday between now and the end of the year! Don’t miss any of our wonderful music as well as the inspired messages. You are going to be blessed!!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



## Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

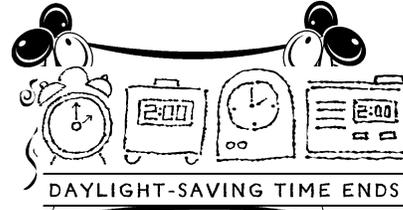
On a warm October morning Pastor Will bounded into our classroom as he often does and shared a simple message with the children that I hope they will always remember. “I am a magnificent masterpiece created by God,” they repeated. That’s why our ministry exists, to provide children with the skills they will need to love learning, to love themselves, and to love their neighbor for their whole lives. We are grateful for our time with these children each and every day.

Our Little Lambs families showed how much they love their neighbors by  
(continued on page 9)

raising \$1460.55 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with their trike-a-thons. What a wonderful example for the children to see how everyone doing a little can add up to something big. Our next service project will be to join the church's collection of soup for Heavenly Manna.

In November, we will feast together as a Little Lambs family. We will prepare for our Christmas play thanks to the amazing Ms. Lynn. And we will continue to learn about colors, shapes, letters, the world around us and God's love for us. We love preschool!

Blessings,  
Jan



*Don't forget to "fall back!" Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5.*



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Jim Henderson; Jennifer Altice; John Cooper; Johnny Guilliams; Marion

Higgins; Jeanette Boles; Ruth Handy Tapscott; Joanne Patterson; Shirley Funk; Bev Thornton; Jacqueline Rudd; Dennis Holland; Jennifer Tatum; Tiffanee Anderson; Martha Williams; Lorrie Williams; Mark Singleton; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; Johnny and Patsy Smith; Patricia Perdue; and Jesse Roach.

**Forget-Me-Nots:**

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



**Family of Charles Easter** who died on October 3.

**Family of Gary Hatfield** who died on October 16.

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
35 North Main Street  
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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**

**Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant**

**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-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.)**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

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

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