

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

Website: www.rm-umc.org

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



Bruce D. Tuttle, Pastor

September 2015

Stop Hunger Now

Were you part of the RMUMC "team" that helped package 50,000 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. This year's goal: 55,000 meals! All of the incoming freshmen at Ferrum will be joining teams from churches just like RMUMC! For those who want to take part in the actual work, 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.



Annual Training/Review RMUMC's "Child Abuse Protection Policy and Procedure"

All church staff and volunteers who work with children and youth are respectfully requested to meet on Sunday, September 27, at 4:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, for our annual review and training in our church's "Child Abuse Protection Policy and Procedure." This is a *must-meeting!* Therefore, if you cannot be present on September 27, a duplicate meeting will take place on Sunday, October 11 at 4:00 p.m. Thank you.

"Praise On The Patio"

Ferrum College

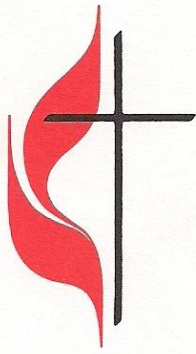
August 31, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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! Please bring your "donations" to church with you on August 30...and leave them in the upstairs kitchen. Thank you!



Building Ministry Update...

Don't get discouraged! We're no longer talking about months-to-completion, but weeks. The carpet has been ordered and will soon be installed; our restrooms are in the final stages of being finished; already, people are using the elevator to move from the ground-floor to the sanctuary; and the coffee-center entrance to our new Atrium looks beautiful, though still a bit "raw!" Get ready: entering the Sanctuary will soon mean passing through new doors! God has so blessed this ministry. Let's keep the faith.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear Rocky Mount UMC Members and Friends,

Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving

I believe “giving” helps us become what God wants us to be! God uses our generosity to reconfigure our interior lives, to create us anew, and to foster in us “the mind that was in Christ Jesus.”

As a church that seeks to form people into followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to think deeply, prepare thoroughly, act wisely, and teach courageously about the relationship between faith and money. How does our giving affect our relationship with God? How does our relationship with God affect our giving? How does being a follower of Jesus shape our behaviors concerning money (how it is earned, spent, saved, and offered to God)?

To help us find answers to these questions, and as we prepare for our annual “Consecration Sunday” (when we make our estimates-of-giving in 2016), we will be using a ministry-model entitled *Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving* by Bishop Robert Schnase (of the Arkansas Annual Conference). It is a high-quality, theologically grounded, effective approach to practicing generosity for the up-building of God’s Kingdom and ourselves. Indeed, it is an agent-of-change as our church family moves from fund-raising to generosity as a core value of discipleship.

Over a 4-week period (September 27-October 18)—with October 18 being our “Response Sunday” (we’ve called this “Commitment Sunday” in the past)—our worship services and my sermons will seek to help us celebrate what is right with our church as YOU tell us: (1) What do you love about your church?, (2) Who in our church family has made a difference in your spiritual life?, and (3) What is your vision and hope for our church? With your answers...and the answers of your RMUMC “colleagues-in-Christ,” we will then be invited to make a prayerful, positive response with an act of generosity on October 18.

I am excited about this new way of looking at, & responding to, our stewardship ministry at RMUMC. I admit: as a word, *stewardship* carries a lot of baggage with it today! So, instead, we’re using the word *generosity*. You see: the practice of generosity describes the Christian’s unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. Indeed, *generosity* is a fruit of the Spirit, a worthy spiritual aspiration. Friends, our spiritual journey is about to get real interesting! Come!

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Bruce T.



United Methodist Women

(Linda Walters,
President)

HAPPY NEW YEAR! This is the beginning of a “new year” for United Methodist Women. The UMW’s year runs from September 1 through August 31 of each year.

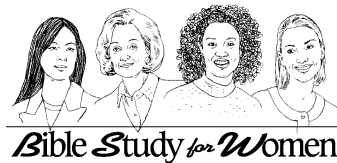
On Monday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room, our regular monthly meetings will resume. Our speaker will be District Vice-President Audrey Daniels, with a program entitled “Where the Money Goes.” We will have our 2016 Pledge Service at this time as well.

Our unit has had a very successful year fulfilling our purpose and attaining our 2015 goals. Now it is time to embark on a new year with new challenges. Our #1 goal this year is to increase 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. We are willing to explore the possibility of a new evening or Sunday afternoon meeting for those who work during the week. Please contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004, lindaw@shentel.net) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.

ATTENTION: All those who are participating in the 2014-15 UMW Reading Program, please get your reading list to Linda Walters as soon as possible whether you have completed a program or not. All reading counts even if a program has not been completed. The deadline to get these to the District Program Resource Chair is September 15.

We continue to collect Labels for Education, Campbell soup labels, 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.



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 3 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. Our study 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) by September 1 if you plan to participate so that enough books can be ordered.



UMM

United Methodist Men

Calling all guys--young and older, handsome and _____!! You are invited to the monthly breakfast meeting of our **United Methodist Men** on September 20 at 8:45 a.m. After years of faithful service as our president, P.D. Hambrick has asked to “retire.” Who will take his place? Please consider your faithful response! See you on September 20! Becca Tuttle will present a program on therapy dogs.



Sunday School Classes for Everyone!

Our new Sunday school year started August 23...and we're "off & running" with a full-complement of classes for all ages and many interest groups! Have you found the right class for YOU & yours? Our classes:

- (1) Ages 3-4-5;
- (2) Grades 1-2;
- (3) Grades 3-4-5;
- (4) Youth; and,
- (5) Adults.

Actually, there are 4 different adult classes:

- A. The "Vintage" class (Parlor),
- B. The "Redeemer" class (Assembly Room),
- C. The "Breakfast Club" class (Preschool Classroom area)—primarily for parents of teenagers; and,
- D. The "Branches" Class (top floor Music-Suite)—primarily for young adults and adults with young children.

Questions? Seek out Jane Roseberry, our Sunday School Superintendent, or Pastor Bruce.



Usher Training

Attention Men and Women: would you like to join our worship ushers? Calling all "rookie" and "well-seasoned" ushers!!!! There will be a quick "training" session for you right after church on September 20. Immediately thereafter, a snack lunch will be served! Smooth-running & safe worship services depend on well-trained ushers. Come; help us reach our full potential as a worshipping church. Get trained on September 20! Thanks!



Annual Charge Conference

Our District Superintendent has set our annual Charge Conference on Sunday, November 15, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at Pleasant Hill UMC (2717 Ruritan Road, Rocky Mount). At that time, all members of our Church Council will submit a series of annual reports and vote on such matters as our 2016 Church Leadership Team, etc. Note: We will not have to vote on our 2016 church budget (that will be handled by the Church Council before 12/31/15). Council members: please mark your calendars!



New Address Directory Being Prepared For YOU!

It's been way too long since we published our last address directory of church members and friends. Keep the faith: we're preparing a new directory that will be ready for pick-up on (and after) September 6. Between now and then, please proofread the draft-copy that's in the Narthex/Welcome Center. Make changes to your contact information that you want published. Thanks!

NOTE: We try to publish an electronic "mini-newsletter" about every week. It's worth reading to find out the "latest" information on ministries and missions of the church. For those who have e-mail, are you getting this mini-newsletter? If not, it may mean we do not have your correct e-address. Please call/e-mail the church office with your correct address. We will update our database immediately (admin@rm-umc.org). Again, thanks!

"God made you as you are in order to use you as he planned."
—J.C. Macauley



College Students Addresses Still Needed

Our Higher Education and
Campus Ministry
Chairperson is Betty Dillon.

Please keep Betty informed of any news concerning our college youth. 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.

New Members!

On August 23, we welcomed George and Annette Board by letter of Transfer. Their address is 1203 Ball Park Road, Rocky Mount.



Also on August 23, we welcomed Bill Collins through profession of faith. His address is 1105 Belle Isle Road, Union Hall.

Can You Step In?

A Call for Help....

I am writing on behalf of a 91-year-old gentleman who lives in the Jubal Early Highway area of Franklin County. He is sharp and independent, but he has some visual impairment and is in need of transportation to help with errands, especially grocery shopping. He believes his needs could be met with an individual who could work with him one or two times a month. If you have interest in this opportunity, please contact me, Linda Albrecht, a caseworker at the Disability Rights & Resource Center: 276-226-1696, or e-mail, lalbrecht@drccva.org.



Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

We are all cleaned up, dressed up and ready to go! "Thank you" to all who came and helped us clean up our classroom from all the construction debris. It would have been so overwhelming for Rebecca and meI to handle on our own. Many hands can get so much accomplished! If you haven't been down to see our space in a while, you should hop on the elevator and take a look! Our blocked up windows have been covered by beautiful bookshelves. I'm talking Presidential library stuff! What a blessing! When Rebecca and I went to a recent training, the instructor stressed the importance of the look and feel of the classroom for the children's learning experience. We have always been proud of the bright and cheery space that the church provides; but now it is even better!

Our enrollment is strong for the four-year-old class. We are starting the year with 14 students. Half of those families are new to Little Lambs so that is exciting. We only have four children enrolled in our three-year-old class so we have some growing room in that class. Most of the new families have come to us because of referrals from past or current families. Please continue to mention our school when you meet families with young children.

Our doors will open Tuesday, September 8 this year. Please keep Little Lambs in your prayers as we begin another fabulous adventure! Thank you.

Blessings,
Jan

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."

—Mahatma Gandhi



Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This time of year is so exciting! I have new music for all the choirs, and the seasonal music has been chosen and ordered, too!

Our Praise Choir, starting back on September 13, is open to youth and adults and will meet each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will participate in worship every 4 to 6 weeks. More singers are always welcome! Come on young adults! If you like to sing and enjoy contemporary Christian music, this is the group for you! I'd love to have guitarists and drummers play with us. We have an electronic drum set for you! If you play and can help, please let me know.

Our first handbell rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. At our 1st rehearsal, we'll begin with a piece to present in worship in October, as well as starting some great Thanksgiving and Christmas music. Remember, I'm looking for adults, middle school, and high school students. I'm hoping for an overflow crowd this year!

Calling mature 4-year-olds through 5th graders! Join us for "Wonderful Wednesday!" Come, enjoy some fun songs and games as well as our Bible story and craft. I hope to see our returning friends, as well as lots of new faces. See you on **September 9 at 5:00 p.m.!!**

It is very important to have an accurate head count for our 1st meeting since we need to plan how much food and how many craft projects to prepare. **If you haven't registered your child yet, don't worry: just let me know as soon as possible if they are coming and also if you can volunteer. We really need more helpers!! You may call the church office (483-5338) anytime.** We're going to have a great year!

New Members/Welcome Back Members Chancel Choir night is September 9 at 7:00 p.m. Since some faithful members have "retired" there are some empty seats we really want to fill!!! We will begin some new pieces, start to look at our Thanksgiving music and Christmas cantata, and have time for refreshments and fellowship. If you enjoy singing, whether you have been in a choir before or not, I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us on September 9. (This choir is open to middle and high school students, as well as adults.) See you then!

All choirs (except Praise Choir) meet upstairs in the Music Room beside the children's Sunday school area. Adults: if you shy away from stairs, take the new elevator to the 4th floor! "Wonderful Wednesday" parents, I would like an adult to come with your child upstairs at 5:00 p.m. as well as pick them up there at 6:30 p.m.

I hope everyone has had a restful summer. I can't wait to see you in choir!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Free Piano!

The church has an older piano that it's willing to give to the first person/family who will haul it away! It plays, though it needs to be tuned and cleaned. Caution: it weighs a lot! Call Lynn at church to let her know you want it (483-5338).

"Don't find fault. Find a remedy."

—Henry Ford



Our “Sermon-on-the Amount”--Statistics for July

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2014	\$55,388	
Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 7/31/15		\$156,856
<u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 7/31/15	\$159,044	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 7/31/15		\$156,093
Actual Expenses Paid through 7/31/15	<\$143,090>	
Ending Balance, 7/31/15	\$71,342	

II. Average Worship Attendance = 131 (as compared to 123 in July 2014)
 Average Sunday School Attendance = 41 (as compared to 47 in July 2014)

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

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

Pastor’s Note: *“Whew! We didn’t exceed our budgeted income by much through the end of July; however, we did, none-the-less! Praise be to God! Thank you for remembering your church throughout your busy summer. During September, we’ll begin to gear-up our focus on our annual “Consecration Sunday” (when we make our 2016 estimate-of-giving to RMUMC). Mark your calendar: this ministry will occur on October 18 and our District Lay Leader, Bobby Thompson, will be our guest speaker. The campaign is named “Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving!” Read more about it in my letter (found elsewhere in this newsletter). On each of the 3 weeks leading up to our special day, we’ll be seeing what you have to say about why you love RMUMC, who has impacted you, and what you pray your church will soon be doing. Get ready: there will be a lot of “testimonies” shared! Thank you for your continued love of the church and your service to God.”*—Bruce T.



Heavenly Manna

Congratulations! We collected 55 pounds of canned food in August for Heavenly Manna. In September, we will be collecting macaroni and cheese.



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Jean Hodges; Julie Watts; Charlie & Eleanor 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; 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; Eva Prillaman; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.

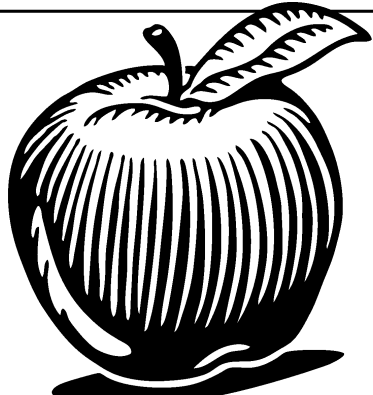


Dan Hale and Family (custodian of the church) in the death of his mother, Barbara Hale, on July 26.

Family of Ron Evans who died on August 6.

Family of Gloria Burnett who died on August 14.

"In death, there is the resurrection".



After-School snack

Enjoy this healthy apple snack after a busy day of learning.

What you need:

- Apple
- Apple corer (optional)
- Peanut butter (or other spread)
- Pecan pieces
- Shredded coconut
- Chocolate chips

What you do:

1. If you have an apple corer, remove the core. Then slice apple into thin rings. (If you don't have a corer, slice into rings first and then remove the core.)
2. Spread peanut butter across one side of each ring.
3. Sprinkle with pecans, coconut and chocolate chips.
4. Enjoy with a glass of milk!

Just for Kids



STAY NOURISHED

Eating nutritious foods such as apples helps keep our bodies healthy. But Proverbs tells us about other important sources of "nourishment."

Directions: Use the words in the apples to complete Proverbs 3:7-9, NIV.



Do not be  in your own  ;

 the  and shun .

This will bring  to your 

and nourishment to  bones.

 the LORD  your wealth,

with the firstfruits of  your .

PROVERBS 3:7-9, NIV

Answer: Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.

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35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.; 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