



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 278, Nellysford, VA 22958  
434-361-1221 Email: rpcus@verizon.net  
Pastor: Mary Jane Winter

# Spreading the Word

Volume 12 Issue 8

August 2011

## August 2011

### PNC News Corner

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work steadily and meet frequently toward the goal of calling a permanent pastor to RPC. To date 96 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) have been reviewed and rated by the PNC.

In the past two weeks we have held 9 telephone interviews (45-60 minutes each) with candidates, with the possibility of more to be scheduled. Several strong candidates have been identified, and we look forward this month to requesting sermon tapes, checking references, and continuing more in-depth interviews.

While all this sounds great, we are still several months away from a permanent pastor beginning at RPC. The pastor's own timeline, the process with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and the interview process itself may take some months before all is settled.

Thank you for being patient with the committee and the process. It is a blessing that we have our wonderful Interim Mary Jane to guide us through this Interim time. The PNC continues to work hard to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to serve the people of Rockfish Church in the best way possible.

### **Don't Forget!**

**One Service of Worship during the summer  
at 10 a.m.**

**Two Services start September 11, 2011**

### New Elders Sought

Soon Rockfish Presbyterian Church will be electing a new class of four elders to serve on the Session for a three year term. Serving on the Session is both a privilege and a gift to the church in a highly rewarding way. The newly elected elders will receive training and preparation in October and will begin serving in January 2012.



At this time, church members have the opportunity to nominate themselves or another (with that person's permission, of course) for consideration by the nominating team. An elder-nominee must be willing to serve for three years and ordinarily will chair one of our ministry teams during that time. All church members are eligible.

As the spiritual leaders of the church, "elders should be person of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world." *Book of Order* G-6.0106

"It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their ministry in the world, visit and care for the people with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are oppressed." *Book of Order* G-6.0304

The nominating team will present the recommended slate of nominees at a congregational meeting in September or early October.

Please give your nominations in writing to a member of the nominating committee: Jane Andrews, Carolyn Fletcher, Ralph Frink, Bill Heard (chair), John Stone, Ann Wood, or Mary Jane Winter.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS THIS PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**



|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Al Gale</b>               | <b>04</b> |
| <b>Ella Nicks</b>            | <b>05</b> |
| <b>Ilse Steele</b>           | <b>05</b> |
| <b>Mary Gurr</b>             | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Shirley Van de Visser</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Dennis Bryant</b>         | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Jason Wilk</b>            | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Iantha Peterson</b>       | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Ed Misker</b>             | <b>21</b> |
| <b>Dottie Brooks</b>         | <b>22</b> |
| <b>George Marker</b>         | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Rob Ogilvie</b>           | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Anna Day</b>              | <b>25</b> |
| <b>Carolyn Frahm</b>         | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Nancy Small</b>           | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Frankie Brooks</b>        | <b>29</b> |
| <b>Martha Misker</b>         | <b>30</b> |
| <b>Mariah Custalow</b>       | <b>30</b> |
| <b>Pam Grammer</b>           | <b>31</b> |
| <b>Stu James</b>             | <b>31</b> |

Rockfish is a congregation that is known for its commitment to mission, both in Nelson County and around the world. As you read *Spreading the Word* this month, you will notice many ways that this congregation reaches out to others. One group of women knitted sweaters that will go to children in desperate parts of the world. Actually these sweaters will serve as the "packing" in a box with other needed items in the Christmas "shoe box" program. Others of you have given time and creativity to provide lunch, flowers, decorations, and much more to feed a group of seniors each month. Leadership help is especially needed for coordinating either of the two primary teams (decorating and food preparation). The children of our church are involved in mission as well. They pack boxes of food each month to be delivered to the food pantry.

As fall begins, the Mission Ministry Team is inviting the congregation to assist in providing needed school supplies for Head Start children in the county. This is an activity that families or individuals can undertake. In addition there are opportunities for simple ministry and service right here in the congregation, especially as needs arise with individual members. Often it is something simple such as a gift of food for someone dealing with illness or a difficult time. Can you help? "Many hands make light work" and your hands and heart will be much appreciated.

This summer, Rockfish was blessed with the two opportunities to engage in God's mission with our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in Mexico and in Guatemala. These trips provide a unique way to participate in God's purpose. They open our hearts and minds. They show us the larger world in which we live, a world with much need and with an important relationship to us. They raise new questions and help us to see ourselves with new eyes. They draw us more deeply to God's people as our brothers and sisters. As Kristin notes, "Kayla showed us God's love is everywhere and for everyone." Mission trips provide a critical opportunity to step back and regain important perspectives about who we are and how God is calling us to live. Those who go return with a greater heart for God and for God's people and also with much gratitude for your support, prayers, and participation.

Whether it is local or global, mission connects us with God and God's purposes. There may be many ministries or mission initiatives, but there is only one mission. It is God's mission. Mission is not a program of the church. It is the purpose of the church. We are all called to mission. Thanks be to God for the many ways we at Rockfish can be a part of God's mission in the world, sharing God's light in the valley and everywhere we go.

Mary Jane Winter



**STW NEWSLETTER :** The deadline for the **September** newsletter will be **Wednesday, August 24th.**  
**JAMIE HEARD** **Email:** rpcus@verizon.net **Phone:** (434) 361-1221  
**Address:** P.O. Box, Nellysford, VA 22958

## Impromptu Concert

Do you ever wonder where the early service choir comes up with those gems like “Sing Me to Heaven,” “Plenty Good Room,” or “Now is the Cool of the Day”? Well, like all good choristers – we steal them!

OK, we really don’t steal them, but they do come to us from other choral groups. In the case of these RPC favorites, they come from an acapella group, based in Richmond, called “Impromptu” which I sang with for ten years.

Impromptu has not given a concert in four years, but, on the weekend of Aug. 19-21, they’re getting together for reunion at Wintergreen.

Why should you care? Because the highlight of their weekend is a free concert to be given at Rockfish Presbyterian Church at 7:30 on Saturday, August 20!

Wait! There’s more! The director of Impromptu, Martha Burford, has graciously invited the Early Service Choir to join them on three or four pieces.

A collection will be taken to support the music resources of Rockfish Presbyterian Church and Impromptu.

Reception in the fellowship hall to follow so you can meet the Impromptu singers.

Hope to see you there. We promise to sing you to heaven in the cool of the day while we assure you of plenty good room.

*Submitted by Dwight McCall*

**iMPROMPTU**  
reunion concert

Join this (spectacular) Richmond-based acapella group  
for their first concert in four years.

Featuring:

**rich four-, seven- and eight-  
part harmonies**      Saturday, August 20  
rendering music from      7:30 p.m.  
**Renaissance madrigals**      Rockfish  
to      Presbyterian Church  
**African-American spirituals**      Highway 151, two miles north  
to      of Nellysford  
**30s jazz.**

Impromptu will be joined on several pieces by the  
Early Service Choir of Rockfish Presbyterian Church

## A Flower Grows in Reynosa

The van slowly bumped, jolted, and rocked back and forth as we made our way down the muddy, pot-holed “roads” of the colonias. We passed many structures that would not be called houses by our American definition, but yet they were in fact homes to thousands of Mexicans who have moved to Reynosa to work in the maquiladoras; hoping for a better way of life. When the bouncing around in the van came to a stop, I looked out the window to see we had arrived at a garbage dump. Not a dump that is run by a municipality, not organized, no recycling program, no control whatsoever. Just a big pond that is surrounded by mounds and mounds of trash and people’s homes placed ever so precariously on top of these mounds. In this part of Mexico, land ownership is granted from squatter’s rights, so people squat wherever they can. But wait, I am getting ahead of myself. Let me back up and start from the beginning.

Our mission was simple, at least we thought it was, to go and build one house and complete the roof of another. We had no idea how much more our mission was going to entail. We spent our early mornings preparing and serving breakfast to the 20+ children who visited the medical clinic and lived near the clinic. For some of them, this was their only nutritious meal of the day. After breakfast, we worked on the construction of the house and then went for lunch at the church compound. Each day we had a mother and her 6 year old daughter Kayla come to help prepare our meal and then joined us while we ate. Kayla was a rather quiet, somewhat shy little girl whose smile, if you were lucky enough to witness it, would melt your heart. She bonded with one of the 15 year old girls in our group. They were kindred spirits, neither liked to talk much and neither liked to be bothered much. They were together a lot during those lunches. We all looked forward to seeing Kayla and her mom each day at lunch. As soon as we pulled into the compound, out came Kayla from the lunch room greeting us in her shy, quiet way. She would stand off to the side and watch us remove our cement crusted boots and socks and was fascinated by our water packs and other gear. She was absorbing it all.

Now, it’s time to return to the trash dump. We all tumbled out of the van and started our normal prep of lugging the enormous water cooler out of the back seat, reapplying sunscreen, and making sure everyone has their gloves and hats. We were prepared to see the trash mounds, the emaciated animals, the broken down carts and ramshackle homes but none of us were prepared to see little Kayla and her two tiny brothers come walking out of the shack at our worksite. None of us connected the fact that she and her mother were doing part of the service that families are expected to do when they are receiving a new house from Faith Ministry. I was stunned almost to the point of not being able to move. I grabbed my camera and tried to divert my attention from those three little faces and wandered a bit through the trash covered surroundings adjacent to our worksite. I noticed something bright yellow sticking up from one of the piles in the distance. As I got closer, I saw it was a flower and assumed it was made of plastic or silk because how on earth could there be a flower growing amidst all of this debris. It was in fact not man-made; it was made with God’s hand. It was a sunflower thriving, growing and sharing its beauty in this place where beauty is sometimes hard to see. How can anyone doubt the power and strength of faith when seeing that sunflower and Kayla thriving, growing and sharing their beauty in a place where there would seem to be no hope?

Although the sunflower was a great reminder that God was walking with us as we made our journey to do his work, our true flower in Reynosa was Kayla. She showed us his love is everywhere and is for everyone.

This trip represented Mission work for two Presbytery Purpose Groups – Presbytery Hunger Committee and the Piedmont Mission Group. We are most thankful to both for their support as well as the generous support of First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville and Rockfish Presbyterian Church in Nelson County.

*Submitted by Kristin Jones*





Let me tell you about Dom Beto. First, I apologize for possibly misspelling his name. My ability to speak and write in Spanish is poor at best. I am lucky that very little communication actually relies on words. I am very fortunate that Faith and Fellowship transcend language and culture.

Participants in previous Reynosa trips might remember Beto. He is that taciturn old man that quietly works, even when everyone else is joking or resting or drinking water. He just keeps on laying blocks. He's been doing this for years, as a volunteer for Ministerio de Fe. This year it was decided to build him a house even though he had never placed his name on the list to receive one.

On the first day of work, we poured his foundation and started laying blocks that afternoon. The transition was slow. As the walls slowly went up, so did Beto's interaction with our little group. He quickly adopted the shyest of us. His patience and gestures seemed effective as he instructed on buttering blocks and tying rebar.

We can talk about the danger in Mexico. We can talk about how ineffective these building projects and charities are. We can question why we are spending time and money so far away when so many are in need right here. I would love to have that conversation because I don't know the answers either.

But I have this image of this old man and this fifteen year-old girl working together. I wish I could share the power and glory of that image with everyone. I hope it's enough to think about the gifts they exchanged in their fellowship.



*Submitted by Will Dinwiddie*

### Stewardship Reminder



The summer is a time when many of us take vacation and are away from our regular church routine and historically the pledge income falls off. The church's life and bills continue so please make an effort to keep your pledge payments up to date.

Thank you,

*The Stewardship Mission Team*

### Calling all Volunteers

The newly reorganized Congregational Life Committee needs **YOU!** We are a diverse group and we hope you will find just the right niche to join us and offer assistance in caring for our church members and friends. We are active in the following areas: keeping the kitchen supplied with paper products, preparing and hosting receptions for memorial services, preparing meals or parts of meals for church members and friends experiencing bereavement, illness, etc., knitting and/or delivering prayer shawls to those who need a "prayerful hug," and helping with our fall picnic/event, which has yet to be scheduled. If you're interested in joining our group, please email Sue Fulton at [s.fulton@earthlink.net](mailto:s.fulton@earthlink.net) or call 361-0030. Many hands make light work, and your hands will be much appreciated!



### Lamb's Wool



Lamb's Wool is a non-profit knitting outreach founded by Carol Ely in 1997. Its mission is to provide simple, hand-knitted sweaters to needy children around the world.

Each year, Lamb's Wool donates all of its sweaters to Operation Christmas Child run by Franklin Graham for use in their Christmas shoe box program. Carol Ely came to RPC and picked up hand knitted sweaters that were made by Nancy Clark, Carolyn Fletcher, Sue Fulton, Elizabeth Hopkins, and Jeanne Lawson.

### Help Need in SW Virginia

On April 25, lightning and a resulting fire destroyed the home of Mary and JR White in Clinchco, VA. All their possessions were lost as well. Nothing was insured. JR suffered serious burns.

Mary White is the long time director of the Binns Counts Community Center in McClure, VA. and has helped countless families repair and upgrade their homes. She has coordinated the visits of many groups (including RPC) who have traveled each summer as part of the Southwest Virginia trip to spend a week repairing homes for the people in this mountain community, the poorest county in the state of VA.

Plans to rebuild the home are underway. Epiphany Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, NC, has a skilled construction team that is coordinating and supplying the labor at no charge. The estimated cost of building materials is \$65,000, and approximately \$33,000 has been received.

Ray and I have visited the White's, we are well aware of the needs they have, we will continue our contact to help them thru this disaster. Our Piedmont Purpose Presbyterian Church group are down in Dickerson County this week doing repairs on needed homes in the area and have stressed they will also make time to help the White's as part of their Mission Trip.

For anyone who would like to contribute, a receiving fund line item has been established here at RPC. Checks should be made out to RPC and earmark for White's Disaster.

I am available at anytime for further information you may want or need. I will keep you abreast as I receive reports on the White's. Your continued Prayers are most needed.

If you would like to send a card to Mary and JR White here is their address: 3728 Dante Mountain Rd., Clinchco, VA 24228. They are now living in a 14' camper at their home site and also staying at the Community Ctr. on occasion.

*Submitted by Nellie Koon*

## Senior Luncheon at the Fire House

"THE GOOD OLE SUMMER TIME" was the theme of our latest Senior Luncheon at the Afton Fire House, on July 28th. A good time was had by all, with "big sunglasses", seashell hangings, crazy hats, beach balls, sand pails and all manner of beach things for decoration. Despite the weather, we had beautiful flowers from many, many people; some not even members of our church, but people wanting to do something for the seniors of Nelson County.

One of the seniors said, "On the day Rockfish Presbyterian Church does the luncheon, I wake up excited to find out what the theme of the luncheon will be". Isn't that great that our church can make someone that happy? Every one of you can take the credit for that as you are responsible for the luncheons continuing by way of the Mission Team. A VERY BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!

We had an absolutely delicious meal of barbecued country ribs, coleslaw, baked beans, whole wheat bread and hot fudge sundaes! Our superb volunteers were Karen Asher, Val Batson, Charlotte Chapman, Pat Frink, Betty Mattice and Patti Wiggins.

Make your plans now to volunteer for the next luncheon on August 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Afton Fire House.

*Submitted by Pat Frink*

**URGENT!!!!** Just two people are needed to volunteer to learn the responsibilities of the two team leaders (the setup/decorating team and the meal preparation team) to insure this very successful program of six years will continue. **LIKE ANY SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRIZE, WE MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.** Please call Pat Frink at 434 361-0050 to talk about either team.

## Backpack Project

It is that time of year again. The advertising is all about Back To School which means we will once again collect backpacks and school supplies for the Head Start students of Nelson County.

So get out there and find the large beginner pencils and unlined paper tablets before they are all gone. Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, August 7. Supplies will need to be brought to the church by Sunday, August 21.

The shopping list has not changed since last year. It includes: backpack, tablet of unlined paper, large beginner pencils, washable markers, child type scissors, eraser, crayons and a book (optional.)

This is a fun project for Rockfish Presbyterian Church and a time for us to enjoy filling a real need for the children in our community. Thank you in advance for your support.



## Guatemala Team Returns

The team that went to Guatemala has returned and will share reflections and pictures on Sunday, August 7. Their time was spent in Pachaj, a Mayan Quiche village, where they worked on painting a small health post, engaging the children, beginning with them an organic garden, and building relationships with the community. They were hosted in Pachaj by the board of the health post, a remarkable group led by women from the Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic churches. The team wishes to thank all in the congregation and beyond who made this new venture possible. Seeds of hope were planted and God's love shared among a beautiful people who quickly became our sisters and brothers.



All are welcomed to RPC

**AUGUST 2011**

|            |               |                   |                                   |            |               |                   |                                    |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mon        | Aug 1         | 7:00 p.m.         | Nominating Committee Mtg          | Thurs      | Aug 18        | Noon              | Men's Group Lunch                  |
| Wed        | Aug 3         | 7:00 p.m.         | PNC Meeting                       |            |               | 1:30 p.m.         | Stewardship Team Meeting           |
| Thurs      | Aug 4         | Noon              | Men's Group Lunch                 |            |               | 6:00 p.m.         | Children's Choir to Grades 4       |
|            |               | 6:00 p.m.         | Children's Choir to Grades 4      |            |               | 6:30 p.m.         | Children's Choir Grades 5-6        |
|            |               | 6:30 p.m.         | Children's Choir Grades 5-6       |            |               | 7:30 p.m.         | Early Service Musicians            |
|            |               | 7:30 p.m.         | Early Service Musicians           | <b>Sun</b> | <b>Aug 21</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Combined Worship Service</b>    |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>Aug 7</b>  | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Combined Worship Service</b>   |            |               |                   | <b>Food Packing for the Pantry</b> |
|            |               |                   | <b>FIVE CENTS A MEAL OFFERING</b> | Wed        | Aug 24        | 7:00 p.m.         | PNC Meeting                        |
| Tues       | Aug 9         | 7:30 p.m.         | Worship Team Meeting              | Thurs      | Aug 25        | 10-2              | Senior Luncheon at Afton Firehouse |
| Wed        | Aug 10        | 7:00 p.m.         | Mission Team Meeting              |            |               | Noon              | Men's Group Lunch                  |
|            |               | 7:00 p.m.         | PNC Meeting                       |            |               | 6:00 p.m.         | Children's Choir to Grades 4       |
| Thurs      | Aug 11        | Noon              | Men's Group Lunch                 |            |               | 6:30 p.m.         | Children's Choir Grades 5-6        |
|            |               | 6:00 p.m.         | Children's Choir to Grades 4      |            |               | 7:30 p.m.         | Early Service Musicians            |
|            |               | 6:30 p.m.         | Children's Choir Grades 5-6       | Sat        | Aug 27        | 9:00 a.m.         | Food Distribution at the Pantry    |
|            |               | 7:30 p.m.         | Early Service Musicians           | <b>Sun</b> | <b>Aug 28</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Combined Worship Service</b>    |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>Aug 14</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Combined Worship Service</b>   |            |               |                   | <b>EMERGENCY RELIEF OFFERING</b>   |
| Tues       | Aug 16        | 7:00 p.m.         | Session Meeting                   | Tues       | Aug 30        | 6:15 p.m.         | Children's Choir                   |
| Wed        | Aug 17        | 7:00 p.m.         | PNC Meeting                       | Wed        | Aug 31        | 7:00 p.m.         | PNC Meeting                        |