



Rockfish Presbyterian Church
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Pastor: Mary Jane Winter
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Spreading the Word

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March 2011 ~ The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday Service

In recent years Rockfish Presbyterian Church has offered an Ash Wednesday Service, which marks the beginning of Lent. This year we have the opportunity for a joint service with the congregation of Tabor Presbyterian Church in Crozet, where Jewel Ann Parton is the pastor. She is a former member of Rockfish and moderated the Session after David left. This service will be led by both pastors and will provide an opportunity for both congregations to join together in worship. The service is at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 9. Tabor Presbyterian Church is located on Crozet Ave at the intersection with Tabor Street as you enter Crozet from Rt. 250.



Easter Lilies

Easter will be here soon and it is time to order Easter Lilies. The price is \$10.00 per plant and the last date to order is Palm Sunday, April 17th. Forms will be on the little white table in the narthex of the church. Please fill the form out place it with your payment in the collection plate. Pick up date is after the 11 o'clock service Easter Sunday. Thank you for helping us to make our church beautiful on Easter morning.



Bonnie Saunders

Pastor Nominating Committee News Corner

The PNC has begun work! Sue Fulton was elected to serve as moderator. Carson Rhyne, General Presbyter, and Kirk Pilkington, our Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison (from First Church in Charlottesville) attended our first meeting to help describe the tasks ahead. One of our first goals is to complete the Church Information Form. This form includes our mission statement and several questions asking us to describe ourselves as a church. The PNC will rely heavily on the information gathered in the church discussions recently held among the congregation to complete these important questions. When the Church Information Form is complete, it will be reviewed by the Presbytery of the James and the PCUSA. Keywords and phrases in our CIF will be used to match our church with possible candidates, and then the Pastor Information Forms (similar to a resume) will begin to come in from candidates. We have been told to expect upwards of 100 PIFs. Please keep the PNC in your prayers as we continue our journey and discernment.

Judaism at Rockfish Church

You are invited to a discussion of "Judaism, In the Past and Today" at the church on Thursday, March 3, at 7-9 PM. After a brief period of dessert and fellowship we will break into small groups to discuss the Jewish religion, what it is and what it is becoming.

This event is part of our Small Groups program and is a chance for you to explore if such a group is something of which you might like to be part. Please join us! So we might know how much dessert to prepare please let us know if you will be attending and we will also provide you with a brief information guide on Judaism for you to look at before attending. Please phone or e-mail Lynne Carson (361-0037 braemhor@verizon.net) or Bill Nevill (325-9848 WAN@neville.com).

A Combined Worship Service will be held on Sunday, March 27th at 10:00 a.m. Bible study will be at 9:00 a.m.

March Birthdays

Roger Fulton	01
Kathryn Cameron	06
Dwight McCall	07
Charlotte Chapman	09
Matt Simpson	10
Phyllis Savides	12
Dick Humphrey	13
Doug Long	13
Mary Dudley Eggleston	14
Wes Grammer	14
Betty Marker	15
John Grammer	23
Sue McGann	23
Maeve Buni	25
Doug Wood	28
Rosie Roston	29
Pete Osborne	30



THIS PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Shortly after David Cameron became the pastor, he encouraged the development of a seal to represent Rockfish Presbyterian Church. Designed by church member Susan Payne, it was quickly embraced and became widely used on church materials. Key elements of the seal, most notably the open Bible and the flame were drawn from the official seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that also features these elements.

The bottom of the seal is a large V representing the Valley. The words that arc above the flame, "a light in the valley," suggest the identity and mission of Rockfish Presbyterian Church. Our calling is to follow Jesus and to bring light and hope, to offer a visible sign of the new reality that God has made available to all people in Jesus Christ, to serve as a beacon of light for all seeking God's love. This congregation reaches out in concrete ways to bring light, Christ's light to others—meals for seniors, firewood to neighbors in need, transportation for the elderly, prayer shawls for healing, a welcoming embrace to the stranger. It is Christ's light that makes our light possible in the Valley and beyond.

A key element of the Presbyterian seal and the Rockfish seal is the open Bible. In the denomination's seal, it forms the top of the arms of the cross and is repeated in our church's seal. If we are going to represent Christ's light, then we need the scriptures under us, open and speaking to us. The scriptures and our faith compel us to engage in the issues that confront our lives and to engage in a life-long journey of being formed and transformed as disciples of Jesus, to "read the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other."

One opportunity for this engagement is in intentional small groups. These groups can provide an opportunity to deal with difficult and complex issues, to be honest about the questions that press in upon our lives, to share at a deeper level, and to build relationships that nurture our hearts. You may wish to consider forming a group, perhaps for a limited time, such as Lent (March 9-April 24). There is an opportunity on March 3, at 7:00 p.m. to meet with a group at the church that is already formed and to reflect on their process. Their discussions twice a month focus on a book they are reading together and the topic for March 3 is Judaism. However, a group can determine their own agenda and structure.

What is important for all of us is to keep striving to grow in grace, to be formed in faith, and even challenged, so that we can keep working in our Valley and in the world to embody Christ light for all people and to be a witness to God's inclusive love.

Mary Jane Winter

STW NEWSLETTER :

The deadline for the **April** newsletter will be **Monday**, March 21, 2011

JAMIE HEARD

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Session Notes 2/15/11

The Session meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the Moderator and interim Pastor Rev. Mary Jane Winter. Elder Heard opened the meeting with a prayer and a devotional reading. The Moderator welcomed Presbytery of the James (POJ) Committee on Ministry (COM) member, Kirk Pilkington, to our meeting. Elder Pilkington was visiting at the request of POJ COM which requires a triennium visit. All of his questions about the life of the church were answered positively. Elder Pilkington is also the POJ COM representative to our PNC, met with them at their first meeting, and will be available to them throughout the process.



The Moderator reviewed the Shepherding guidelines with the members. Elder Nevill reviewed and updated the Shepherding lists with each of the members. She thanked the 2010 and 2011 Shepherds for the attention and care given the various members on their lists this past year and to date.

The minutes of the 12/14/10 and the 1/18/11 stated meetings were approved as presented. The minutes of the 1/23/11 Congregational meeting were approved, as well as the email vote of 1/25/11 to approve the replacement of the refrigerator outside the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. The Session approved the Transfer of the Letter of C.W. and Linda Waskey to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. The Session approved the following changes in dates for the following stated Session meetings: from 4/19 to 4/26/11; from 6/21 to 6/28/11; omitting the July meeting; from 12/20 to 12/13/11.

The January 2011 financial statement was received and Elder Nichols, reminded Ministry Team/ Committees to use the vouchers with receipts to be reimbursed and to use the form when turning in money for specific programs. These forms are available in the church office. Elder Nichols brought a recommendation from Stewardship/Finance MT that the "prayer shawl" Ministry be given \$300 to cover expenses if needed each year and will be a line item under the Congregational Life MT. This was approved.

Old Business: The Moderator reported that the mission study meetings have concluded and expressed appreciation for the positive response of the congregation. Questionnaires have been sent electronically to those who are away. The responses

are being summarized by a member of the PNC, and will be used in the development of a mission statement and answers on the Church Information Form.

New Business: Elder Hopkins brought a motion to have an "art exhibit" of artist Ron Fortunato, which his daughter was able to secure, displayed in the Fellowship Hall during Lent. This was approved.

The Worship MT brought the following recommendations for approval: 1) to have a single service 3/27/11 at 10AM; 2) not to offer an Ash Wednesday service at RPC this year; 3) to continue the summer combined worship services at 10 AM will begin 6/5/11 and end after 9/4/11. These were approved.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy R. Nevill, Clerk.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1/23/11

The Congregational meeting was called to order at the end of the combined service of worship at 10 AM by the Moderator and interim Pastor Rev. Mary Jane Winter at 11:05 AM for the purpose of electing the Rockfish Presbyterian Church (RPC) Nominating Committee. The slate presented by Elder Heard, Chair, was comprised of Jane Andrews, Anne Wood, Carolyn Fletcher, Ralph Frink, and Bill Heard, Chair. John Stone was nominated from the floor. The revised slate was then approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer, Tom Fletcher, presented the approved 2011 budget. Clerk of Session, Nancy Nevill, gave a membership update stating that as 12/21/10 our membership was 223 which represents a decrease of 6 members total due to the number of deaths in 2011.

Elder Heard then presented the slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This slate comprised of Jane Andrews, Sue Fulton, Pam Grammer, Bill Nevill, Sue Nichols, John Porter, and Al Simpson was unanimously elected.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator followed by a "potluck" lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy R. Nevill, Clerk

Highlights of the 77th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James 2/19/11

The meeting was held at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Your Commissioners were Interim Pastor Rev. Mary Jane Winter, Elder Frink and Clerk/ Elder Nevill.

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing Moderator Peter Ro, from Lord Jesus Korean PC. Interim Pastor Rev. Mary Jane Winter was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the POJ. Elder Frink was introduced as a first time Commissioner of RPC. During the worship service Ruth Brown, a member of Ginter Park PC, was commissioned as a Missionary to the Congo. Following the commissioning, Moderator-elect, Rev. Janet James, was installed as the Moderator of the POJ. The worship service continued with Bible study lead by Dr. Samuel Adams, assistant professor of Old Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

In the business portion, members and commissioners were asked to consider the New Form of Government (nFOG) to the Book of Order. A member of the nFOG Committee, Rev. Dan Williams, had been invited to give a factual presentation of this nFOG. Much discussion occurred, largely in the form of amendments stating that Rev. Williams was PRO nFOG and no one was presenting the CON side of nFOG. The vote, by written ballot, was finally taken on the motion to approve the nFOG. The results were 130 FOR and 140 AGAINST with 4 abstentions. The nFOG as presented from the 2010 General Assembly was defeated. Another highlight was the report of the Search Committee for the POJ Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Following the committee's recommendation of Rev. H. Carson Rhyne, Jr. as the best candidate for this position, the terms of call for his six year contract were approved as well as all recommendations from this committee. Past POJ Moderator and Funding Task Force Chair, Rev. John Storey, presented three alternative funding models that are being considered for the POJ Congregations.

Missionary, Mark Hare, from Haiti presented an instructive overview of his work in Haiti. Mark's work in Haiti is very exciting. His speaking engagements in the presbytery include one in the Charlottesville area.

Respectfully submitted, Elder Commissioners, Ralph Frink and Nancy Nevill.

Make A Joyful Noise—Amen!



A while back we had the pleasure of having Steve Walter in our congregation. (Steve moved to Texas a few years back.) Steve always sat in the rear pews. At the end of any particularly moving moment in the service, especially after wonderful music, Steve would shout "Amen" in a very energetic genuine way. The wonderful thing about this was that Steve expressed for the whole congregation what we as Presbyterians sometimes have difficulty expressing, physical or vocal acknowledgement of the Holy Spirit among us. Absent Steve, we have sometimes taken to clapping after a moving moment in the service. Although definitely not intended by the congregation, clapping gives the unfortunate impression that what just transpired was a "performance" rather than "worship." Several RPC members have expressed their discomfort with this impression of performance. Perhaps when we want to express our appreciation and acknowledgement of the Spirit among us, we can all channel Steve, and instead of clapping, whisper (or shout!) a hearty "Amen."

Pam Grammer

SENIOR LUNCHEON



On February 24th, we celebrated "Presidents' Day" with things red, white and blue; from flags, tablecloths, campaign buttons and red and white flowers.

The wonderful luncheon was prepared by Karen Asher, Charlotte Chapman, Pat Frink, Liz Leukroth, Ila Porter, Shirley Van de Visser and Anne Wood. We sat down to baked chicken with stuffing, grape salad, dinner rolls, vegetables and chocolate ice cream cake which was enjoyed by all!

Our next luncheon will be on March 24th, the fourth Thursday of March.

This program has been very successful over the past 5-6 years, thanks to all of our very faithful and supportive volunteers. At this point the Mission Team has the need for new volunteers to switch off every other month with the current leaders of the two teams that put the luncheons together. The responsibilities are divided between the setup/decorating team and the meal preparation team. The leaders of the respective teams will work with new team leaders until they get the hang of the procedures. THIS ASSURES US OF HAVING SOMEONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO STEP IN, SO THAT EVERYTHING WILL RUN SMOOTHLY, SHOULD SOMETHING UNFORESEEN HAPPEN.

Pat Frink

Wood Ministry

The Wood Ministry is an important part of our outreach to the local community. While other mission efforts are rightly focused on providing a nutritious diet to our less fortunate neighbors, it's difficult to enjoy a good meal when folks are shivering because they can't afford to heat their homes. Many of our clients are elderly and have a risk of hypothermia if the temperature of their homes can't be maintained at a comfortable level.



The past several months have been colder than usual and we've rapidly depleted our stockpile of useable firewood. With the arrival of spring, we'll be shifting our activities from delivering wood to obtaining enough wood to sustain us through next winter. Spring is the opportune time to get additional wood because it's a time when many homeowners have trees trimmed and storm-damaged trees removed.

You can contribute to this important outreach by donating any hardwood that you may have removed, or by telling your friends and neighbors about our needs. We can cut up and take away small and medium sized trees, and we'll work with tree service companies to help them dispose of the larger trees. You can also help if you have a truck or trailer, a chain saw, or just the desire to help. Call Sam Alexander, 361-1608, if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

Knitting Workshop

We had a successful workshop in January knitting and sewing together Duduza (comfort) dolls for the children of Haiti. Another workshop will be held on Monday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m. Please signup to help. The sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall. Knowledge of knitting not required. Contact Elizabeth Hopkins or Nancy Clark for more information.



Good News from the RPC Food Pantry

240 **Children's Bags** weighed in at 1,440 lbs in December at the Nelson County Pantry, 203 were sent from our Church in January, and 220 bags were filled for the month of February, and a carload of **Cheerios** accompanied each month's contributions of foods from RPC.

Our emergency pantry provided food for each person who requested it during the winter, and February found us offering a new SOS response: **Grandmother's Pantry**. We met a Nelson County need by being able to offer a grandmother who had no money to buy meat for the six grandchildren she was raising. Two RPC families silently adopted all seven and saw to it that our **Grandmother's Pantry** was off and running in record time with beef steaks, stew meat, fryers and ground beef.

The **Coat & Jacket Pantry** also opened its doors again this winter, and discovered that RPC is true to course on its mission to shine as much light as possible into this valley.

You Have a Shepherd!

The Session of the church has responsibility for the spiritual and pastoral care of the congregation. They have divided members and friends of the congregation into groups with each elder assigned to serve as a group's shepherd. In the next several weeks, your shepherd will be contacting you so that you know who your shepherd is. The shepherd's responsibilities include fostering communication and assisting in pastoral care. If there are events in your life, prayer concerns, questions about the church, or needs you wish the church or pastor to be aware of, please let your shepherd know. If you do not hear from your shepherd in a timely manner, please contact the church office at 361-1221.



Religious Art Exhibition

We are fortunate to have a religious art exhibition at our church during Lent. Inspired by the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and titled "Heroes of the Faith," it was created by Don Fortunato, a friend of the Hopkins' daughter, Diane Sampson. The exhibition of 10-11 art works will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall.



An artist and a teacher, Don Fortunato is a Norfolk Native who has taught most recently at the Chrysler Museum and Charles Taylor Arts Center in Hampton. He is the sculptor of the "Black Madonna" at the historic St. Mary's Basilica in downtown Norfolk.

Fortunato's teaching has taken him as far away as Sri Lanka. He taught at Old Dominion and Virginia Commonwealth Universities. And he established and taught sculpture for the Blind and Visually Impaired at D'Art Center.

He is known for his portraits of such notable celebrities as actress Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Burnett, Petula Clark, Anne Murray, Beverly Sills and the former President Gerald Ford's daughter, which hung in the White House during his administration.

He is also known for his religious art works including sculptures of "The Risen Christ" and his Bible illustrations and paintings of Old Testament and New Testament stories of faith.

Fortunato has won many best-in-show awards, such as the Artists Choice Award of the Chesapeake Bay Art Association and others.

He attended Old Dominion University and the Peabody School of Art.

Sunday School News

Jill Averitt, mother of Savannah and Quinn Averitt, began her March unit on Noah's Ark the last Sunday in February, following Mary Jane's sermon on the famous Old Testament story. Students were asked which animals they would be leading into the Ark if they were to take only native species from the Virginia Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountain areas surrounding the Rockfish River Valley. Since they would also be taking food for those animals, they have begun researching native flora and fauna that are already interconnected in local ecosystems. Books were made available from the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The last Sunday of March will feature a guest speaker who is an expert on amphibians, and at the end of the class he will lead the students and their families around the pools in Maple Flats, near Lake Sherando, searching for baby Tiger salamanders. Maple Flats is the sole breeding ground for this endangered species. The results of their findings will be presented and posted in the Fellowship Hall in April.

During a needs survey recently, Sunday School Students said they would like to learn about God through nature. The March unit on Noah's Ark will meet that need. So will the new projects on Wildlife and Conservation sponsored by Jr. Master Gardeners. Students also said they wanted to learn from Julia and John Grammer, two of their heroes. Much to their delight, John, a student at Western Albemarle High School and a member of the WAHS Marching Band, will begin an enrichment class March 20 when he meets them in the Pavilion at 9:45 a.m. to begin an introduction to martial arts. Classes continue on April 10th and 24th, May 8th and 22nd.

In 2004 John began training in Chito-ryu Karate-do at Charlottesville Yoseikan under Sensei Linda Gage. In 2010 he was promoted to Ik-kyu by the National Test Board in Kentucky during Black Belt testing. Also in 2010, John was promoted to 4th Kyu in Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu Iaido at the Charlottesville Yoseidan Dojo by Sensei Carl Long. The tenets of Chito-ryu Karate promote the well being of all students by assisting them to achieve a greater sense of health physically, mentally and spiritually through the ideals handed down from its founder, Dr. Chitose, whose standard was always: "Without courtesy, the soul is lost."



Date for the Women's Bible Study has changed to March 8th at 10:00

MARCH 2011

Wed	Mar 2	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Lectio Divinia Devotion Prayer Shawl Ministry Second Service Choir	Thurs	Mar 17	Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Men's Group Lunch Children's Choir to Grades 4 Children's Choir Grades 5-6 Early Service Musicians
Thurs	Mar 3	Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Men's Group Lunch Children's Choir to Grades 4 Children's Choir Grades 5-6 Early Service Musicians	Sun	Mar 20	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Worship Service Sunday School Second Worship Service
Sun	Mar 6	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Worship Service Sunday School Second Worship Service Five Cent Meal Offering and Communion	Mon	Mar 21	1:00 p.m.	Spreading the Word Deadline
Tues	Mar 8	10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Worship Team Meeting	Wed	Mar 23	9:15a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Lectio Divinia Devotion Prayer Shawl Ministry Second Service Choir
Wed	Mar 9	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Lectio Divinia Devotion Prayer Shawl Ministry Second Service Choir Ash Wednesday Service at Tabor Presbyterian Church	Thurs	Mar 24	10-2 Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Senior Luncheon at RVCC Men's Group Lunch Children's Choir to Grades 4 Children's Choir Grades 5-6 Early Service Musicians
Thurs	Mar 10	7:00 p.m. Noon 1:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Mission Team Meeting Men's Group Lunch Stewardship Committee Meeting Children's Choir to Grades 4 Children's Choir Grades 5-6 Early Service Musicians	Sun	Mar 27	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Combined Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering
Sun	Mar 13	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Early Worship Service Sunday School Second Worship Service	Wed	Mar 30	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Lectio Divinia Devotion Prayer Shawl Ministry Second Service Choir
Tues	Mar 15	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Thurs	Mar 31	Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Men's Group Lunch Children's Choir to Grades 4 Children's Choir Grades 5-6 Early Service Musicians
Wed	Mar 16	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Lectio Divinia Devotion Prayer Shawl Ministry Second Service Choir				