Spreading the Word

Stewardship Season

Enjoy!
A thousand leaves,
A thousand colors,
A thousand hours,
Of raking,
And blowing,
And bagging.
ENJOY IT ALL!
People will come from east and west,
To view the beauty
Of our hills and valleys.
And all we get to do is rake,
And blow,
And bag.
Who created the leaves?
Who cleans up our messes?
Who loves us.....
no matter what?
Thanks Be To God.

Apple Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale
to benefit BRIM (Blue Ridge Interfaith Ministry)
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015
8:00-11:00am
$7 for homemade apple pancakes, sausage,
baked apples, beverages (coffee, tea, orange juice)

Baked goods for sale. (And if you like to bake, any donations of baked goods for the sale will be most welcome and appreciated.)

Please join us!

Wednesday Evening Meditations
7:00—7:30
November 4 - November 18
Communion Served
Meditations will be based on God's Living Waters
(We will meet in the sanctuary)

You are a Gracious and Grateful People

This Church does not spend a great deal of time convincing you of the importance of giving to God and the work of this church because you have always been generous and faithful in your stewardship. The main reason for our Stewardship Season is to gather your pledges for next year in order that we might spend your gifts wisely in the coming year. What a blessing to serve such a gracious people who are so fully engaged in this community. What we ask of you is to return your pledges in a timely manner in order that we might create an accurate budget. If you give but have never turned in a pledge card, we would love it if you would try pledging this year. This information greatly assist your session in serving God and God's community. Thank you again for your faithfulness.

Be sure to turn your clock back one hour on Saturday, October 31st.
Louie’s Musings

The next national election is a year off. I have tried my best to listen to the debates. I realize I have a bias (as we all do), but I have tried to listen with an open mind to the dozen candidates who are trying to convince me they have what it takes to lead our country. It is November, and I am already discouraged. The debates reflect a culture in which truth has taken a back seat to ridicule. Maybe I am getting old. Maybe I don’t fully appreciate social media. Maybe I am naïve enough to think the reason for becoming a public servant has little to do with self-promotion and everything to do with trust and cooperation in order that we might achieve the greater good.

Each candidate ends their speech with one phrase, “God Bless America.” It is as if they are saying, “Elect me and God will bless America.” I wish they would be more honest and say, “God has blessed America.” This 400 year experiment that began on the banks of the James River has been a turbulent affair marked by wars of independence and self-determination. But it has also been a liberating affair in which each voice has been declared sacred. We have witnessed the liberation of slaves, women, racial ethnics and folks of varying sexual orientations. None of this happened easily. The brave dared to realize the blessings of God were not designated for a particular few. We are all God’s children.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of a new heaven and a new earth. This is a time of hope based on trusting each other as we celebrate the blessing of God. Where is that trust? Where is that hope? I am truly frightened by the harshest voices who claim to be speaking for God. Those claiming to be proponents of Christian piety are vigorously narrowing that which defines the Kingdom of God. They seldom speak of love and warn us that the wrath of God will soon be dispatched if we fail to change our ways. Ironically, the path they would have us follow is one where only a few are blessed and the rest dismissed as deviants, criminals and terrorist.

Not only are fewer people going to church to hear these voices of doom and isolation, I suspect the first person to leave the building was Jesus. Where is the hope? Where is the joy? Where is the message that God has not only blessed America but God has and will continue to bless the whole world?

So here is my word to anyone who desires my vote. I don’t care if you are liberal or conservative, tea party or socialist. I don’t care if you have claimed a spot right down in the middle. If you want my vote, I need you to answer one question. Do you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind AND do you love all your neighbors as you would have them love you?

If so, then act like it!
Care Bear Program 2015

Friends and members of Rockfish Presbyterian Church will again be able to give back to children in Nelson County to make their Christmas a bit brighter and more comfortable. We will be getting wish lists from the MAACA Head Start Program, Tye River Elementary School, and Rockfish River Elementary School. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to select Care Bear gift tags over three weeks from the tree, which will be set up in the narthex beginning November 15. Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: November 15, November 22 and November 29. Please be sure to sign up for the Care Bear tag number you have chosen (located in the top right corner of the gift tag)! Gifts must be returned to the church by 11:00 on December 6th.

You are asked to limit your total purchases to $50.00. Please purchase a clothing item and an educational toy, book or game. Suggestions have been provided on the Care Bear tag, but not all the suggestions need to be purchased. Please do not wrap the gifts, and place them in a sturdy gift bag. No receipts are necessary; you may leave the price tag attached to a clothing item in case it needs to be exchanged. Please securely attach the Care Bear tag you had removed from the tree to the outside of the gift bag.

Please return your gifts in the gift bag by the 11:00 service on December 6th. They will be distributed to the schools on Tuesday, December 8th and to Head Start on December 9th. If you have any questions about the Care Bear program or would like to help with it, please contact Jane Francis at (434) 361-2585 or by e-mail at francisjane817@gmail.com. If you wish to participate in the Care Bear Program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, please let Jane know that you would like to contribute $50 to cover the cost of a Care Bear child. You may place your check in the offering plate and designate in the memo line “For Care Bear Program.”

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Care Bear program. You can be assured that your gifts will make the holiday much happier for these children and their families.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2015
SUNDAY -- NOVEMBER 15
BETWEEN SERVICES 9:30 TO 11 AM

Please come and browse through our Alternative Christmas Bazaar to learn about the many ways your support gives hope to so many people struggling globally, regionally and locally.

These are just a few examples of the missions we have heard from thus far, who will be returning or are new to us this year:

GLOBAL MISSIONS:
Haiti Outreach Missions: Judy Fisher will be sharing information about this exciting new mission for our church.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL MISSIONS:
- Monticello Area Community Action: Margaret Morton will provide insight into how this agency provides home visits and emergency financial support to improve the quality of life for children and their families in the Nelson area.
- SARA (Sexual Assault Resource Agency) - Another new mission in our area, please come and learn about their work.
- Nelson Kids Care: Gloria Beddow will be presenting this important local outreach to Nelson County schools.
- Covesville Child Development Center
- Human Kind

We look forward to seeing you all there for fellowship and great opportunity to learn about who we support and why. Please mark it on your calendar!
Fall Art Exhibit

Many thanks go to the artists and craft persons who have loaned their artworks for the Fall Exhibit throughout the church. Those included this year are: Karen Asher, Mary Cunningham, Roger Elliott, Ralph Frink, Pam Grammar, Julie Grammar, Susan Holland, Bill Kampmeier, Bev Martin, John Porter, Scott Robinson, Bonnie Saunders, Cynthia Schablein, Barry Shawley, Connie Underwood and Sally Wright. We thank all sixteen artists for sharing your lovely and intriguing entries that decorate our hallways and fellowship hall this season. And, thanks go to Roger Elliott and Virginia Lampert for receiving and hanging of this exhibit.

As a singers need listeners, artists need viewers so please seek out these newly hung gems and let them know how you feel about their works.

Wood Ministry News

Mother Nature reminded us that it was time to get back to work with a couple of early freezes in mid-October. Your Wood Ministers were tanned, rested and ready, and have started splitting and delivering loads of firewood. Blessedly, we have what should be an ample supply for a normal winter.

We continue to receive generous offers of trees that have come down or that folks have had removed. We’ll do our best to get those trees cut up and removed, but our primary focus has shifted to keeping our clients warm. If you are on our list of donors, we greatly appreciate your patience.

In case you haven’t heard, this is one of the most fun and rewarding ministries at RPC. We have opportunities for folks of all skill and strength levels. If you’d like to join us, please contact Sam Alexander.

Calling all Knitters

The knitting group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30–12 noon. We have been making hats and mittens and sweaters for “Operation Shoebox”, the Franklin Graham Ministry at Christmas.

We are currently knitting baby blankets for the hospital in Tank, Pakistan, where Diane and Robert Sampson serve as missionaries. Since there is a great need for these blankets, we welcome any knitters to add to our supply. We have yarn and needles and instructions are available. Contact anyone in the knitting group for further information or join us on Wednesday mornings in the library at RPC.

Nancy Clark, 361-9344
Jeanne Lawson, 361-2524
Sue Fulton, 361-0030
Elizabeth Hopkins, 361-9406
Youth News

Savannah and Paxton Draw Prayer Flags


Zoe receiving Color Guard Award

Mary, Savannah and Taylor pose at the Buggy Races after selling horse treats to raise funds for their Blue Ridge Riders, a 4-H Club RPC helps sponsor.

Congratulations Quinn! Quinn has won the Yoshi Hattori full ride scholarship with the exchange student program AFS. He leaves in March to spend a full Japanese high school year somewhere in Japan. He will receive his host family in December. He will return in Feb of 2017. His proud Grandad and Dad are both former AFS students. Dick went to Argentina in the 60’s and Richard was in Sweden in the 80’s. We are so proud of him!!
Kerry, Danielle, and Henry were a huge success and their concert raised $1164 for the student portion of the scholarships for the 2016 CEDEPCA trip to Guatemala. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT.

The Alternative Christmas Bazaar will be posted in the Fellowship Hall between services on November 15, 2015. Please plan to attend and meet the people who utilize our mission funds.

We will not be donating to Horizon House this year as a part of the Care Bear giving, as other churches have them “covered”.

On Sunday November 8, 2015 we will begin collections for the Church Thanksgiving Basket Project. Please consider the needy in Nelson County while you are shopping and bring the following items:

Shopping list: Stuffing/dressing in boxes or bags
Broth
Turkey gravy
Stuffing mix
Canned vegetables: green beans, peas, corn, etc.
Sweet potatoes (yams)*
Macaroni and cheese, rice or pasta packages
Soup
Rolls or muffin mix
Potatoes 5#, 10# bags* or boxed potato mixes
Cranberry sauce
Canned fruit
Cookies
Onions*

*do not deliver until the 14th or later as they go bad sitting

Because of the Alternative Christmas Bazaar on November 15th, please deliver your food to the Narthex.

We will also need volunteers to bake or supply pumpkin pies and to help pack the baskets.

Pumpkin pies must be delivered to the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 21.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for basket packing on November 21 at 9:00 am.
Will We Make Budget?

This month we plan the budget for next year. Some will be concerned whether we will make budget or not. Of course, we will! If we didn’t the Session would just cut program and mission spending to meet the actual income. But as we consider our stewardship, that should not be the question. The real question is how our members and friends in the congregation will prayerfully consider how they will respond to the blessings from, and love for, our Lord. Making a pledge respects the need of our staff to plan for the future and helps the individuals manage their own finances. Moreover, we know the need is great and the Lord calls upon us to do what we can to meet it.

---A thought from your Stewardship Ministry Team

Senior Luncheon

The October 22nd Senior Luncheon was held on a bright sunny day, at the Fire House in Afton. Marita Digney planned the meal of beef chili, salad, and rolls. Sue Fulton made delicious Halloween pies for dessert. Besides Marita and Sue, our other volunteers were Fred Hanchey, Virginia Lambert, Gene Varnadore and Pat Frink. Bev Lacey and Charlotte Chapman shared their beautiful flowers with us, from which we made beautiful flower arrangements to be taken home. We celebrated Halloween, with all manner of things, such as of bats, witches, pumpkins, spider webs; from the scary to the "just right-down" cute. We dressed in our black and orange clothing, having loads of fun at our last senior luncheon of 2015.

Thank you one and all, for your support of this needed mission for Rockfish Valley Seniors. Whether you planned a meal, helped cook or serve a meal, provided flowers, money or prayers for our luncheons; you have helped us greatly.

ALL THE SENIORS APPRECIATE ROCKFISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FOR WHAT IT DOES IN THE COMMUNITY! I also appreciate the help you all have provided this year. Thank you!

Submitted by Pat Frink

Session Highlights 10/20/2015

• Devotional/Opening Prayer by Elder McCulley.
• Joys/Concerns shared.
• Approved 9/15/15 corrected minutes.
• Home Communion served to Iantha Peterson at Rosewood.
• Elder Howard gave the Stewardship/Finance update.
• Elder Howard gave the overview of the 10/17/15 POJ meeting at 2nd PC in Richmond a beautiful old building
• Approved calling a Congregational meeting for the 5th Sunday 1/31/16 during the combined service to receive the approved 2016 budget, approve Louie’s terms of call, and to hear the Clerk’s annual report.
• Renovation Committee-Co-Chair Elder Johnson gave an information update only. They hope to be able to bring a recommendation to Session by the end of the year.
• BMT- Elder Wright gave an information update.
• Congregational Life MT- Elder Toms brought a recommendation that was approved to have a “pot luck” lunch after the combined service 1/31/16. Elder Toms thanked Elder Fulton for all of the help she has given to Elder Toms as she assumes the chair position if this MT.
• Hospitality- Elder Frink- announced the next New Member social will be Sunday 11/15/15 at Carolyn and Greg Frahm’s.
• MMT-Elder Mische- gave an informational report only.
• WMT-Elder Savides recommended that the 4th week of vacation for Louie be held over until 2016 when he plans to go to Florida with the 3 Grandchildren. This was approved.
• Meeting closed with prayer by the Moderator.

NEXT SESSION meeting: 11/17/15 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Nevill, Clerk.
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<td>9:30 a.m. Packing Pantry Bags for Kids</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. Building Committee Meeting</td>
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**Thanksgiving Day**