



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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www.rockfishpresbyterian.org  
Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday

Worship Service on Sunday Mornings at 8:30 and 11:00; Sunday School at 10:00  
**Fifth Sunday of the month Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:00**

Volume 17 Issue 12

## Spreading the Word

December 2016

### It's Beginning to Feel A Lot Like Christmas

**Join us for a celebration of Advent each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.**

**Dec. 7 - The Sounds of Christmas.** Bring your favorite song. We want to hear anything from *O Holy Night* to *I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus* as long as it is special to you.

**Dec. 14 - The Colors of Christmas.** Roger Elliott unveils his newest Christmas creation and then helps us share our own visions of the Christmas season.

**Dec. 21 - The Stories of Christmas.** What is your favorite Christmas story. Is it Luke 2.? Is it the Herdman family? Is it the Christmas Carol? Bring a story to share.

### Join us on Christmas Eve for Communion

**Dec. 24 - 4:00 p.m.** - A service of song, story and joy for the young and old.

**Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m.** - Joseph returns to share the joy and tribulations of being a father.

### Hallelujah! Christmas is on Sunday!

**Dec. 25 - 10:00 a.m.** - Put the turkey in the oven, set the timer and join us for a very informal celebration of the birth of Christ. Songs, poems, stories, and joy will be the order of the day. No bulletin, no sermon, but plenty of fellowship as we celebrate the birth of the Jesus.

### A Special Thanks to All who have Pledged for the 2017 Budget

If you have forgotten, our treasurers have not forgotten you and are joyfully anticipating your contribution. Please place it in the offering plate or send to the church office. We thank you in advance for your faithfulness to God's mission.

A grounds fall clean up is planned for Saturday, December 4, from 0830-1100. Bring rakes, clippers, tarp and wheel barrow and strong backs. Will clean out the beds, trim dead limbs and put up the beds for the winter.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Cynthia Schablein	02
Al Simpson	04
Laura Burns	07
Jane Elliott	12
John Fielding	13
Marlene Howard	13
Arlie Saunders	13
Jill Averitt	14
Ryan Madison	14
Ann Mische	14
Jeff Wilk	14
Taylor Madison	15
Savannah Averitt	16
Carol Lampert	16
Kathleen Connolly	17
Bob Rose	17
Kathy Merlino	19
Shirley McGatha	21
Alice Murphy	21
Bev Lacey	24
Dale Smith	26
Barry Shawley	27
Nancy Nevill	28

***Louie's Musings***

*Longing for Christmas Eve*

The older I become the more I love Christmas Eve. It presents a hush, a tranquility, which silently explodes among the chaos making peace more than just a novel thought.

I would be lying if I said I don't anticipate the dawn, but around midnight, hours before the tango around the tree, we calmly, reverently, give thanks for God's gift.

What if we treated every night as if it were Christmas Eve? Would it lose its magic? Would it be taken for granted? Or would children, young and old, find hope can be a remedy for sorrow.

I never want Christmas to be routine. In fact I want our routine to be more like Christmas. Imagine it being acceptable to greet a stranger with a smile. Imagine it being expected to treat each other with dignity. We might even sing "Joy to the World" in July recklessly proclaiming God is still capable of doing a new thing.

Beyond the star on the tree, the candles in the window, the surprises waiting to be unwrapped, the roasted turkey, the calls to family, there lies a vision.

Those in darkness will see a great light.

The wolf and the lamb will lie down together.

A child shall lead them.

He will be called Emmanuel.

May God be with us.

May God heal our broken hearts.

May God sooth our raging spirits.

May God touch our wounded souls.



**Reminder:** The office will be closed the week of December 26. The January STW will not be published until the first full week in January. Bulletin announcements should be emailed to the office by 9:00 a.m. on December 21 in order to be published in the December 25th and January 1st bulletins.

**STW NEWSLETTER :**

**JAMIE HEARD**

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **January** newsletter is **Monday, December 19.**

**Email:** rpcus@verizon.net **Phone:** (434) 361-1221

## Care Bear Program 2016

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 this year. We will be getting a total of 66 wish lists from the MAACA Head Start Program, Tye River Elementary School, and Rockfish River Elementary School. Gift tags may be selected on by December 4. 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 a.m. on December 11th.



You are asked to limit your total purchases to \$50.00-\$60.00. 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.

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](mailto:francisjane817@gmail.com). If you wish to participate in the Care Bear Program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, you may place your check for \$55.00 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.



The Alternative Christmas Bazaar is set for December 4, 2016 between the services. Meet the groups your Mission dollars support. There will be gifts available for purchase from groups we have sponsored and made by our children and members. We look forward to seeing you there.

On Sunday afternoon 2-4 p.m. December 18, 2016 the church will host a Christmas party for the Head Start children of Nelson County. This is a real chance for us to meet our neighbors in a meaningful way and we hope that you, the church members will turn out for the party. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you can help. Please RSVP if you are attending. There will be a sign up sheet for that as well.



## FISH (Friends In Schools Helping)

You are invited to assist a child in Nelson County Schools. Please join us at a training session on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Library. You are needed. For more information contact Jeanne Lawson at 434 361-2524 or Sue Fulton at 434 361-0030.

### Church Decorations

Order forms for poinsettias (priced at **\$11.50** each) will be available December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The forms will be on the white table outside the sanctuary. If you want one or more please complete the form along with payment and place in the offering plate. FINAL DATE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>.



## Now For Something A Little Different

It was the night before Christmas and all through the church,  
There was hustle and bustle and everyone in a lurch.  
*Where are the greens that hang on the rails?*  
*Why are there pictures hanging on nails?*  
*Why aren't the parament clothes purple not white?*  
*How will we ever be ready by Christmas Eve Night?*  
*Check the pod, I'm sure I saw them there.*  
*Check the basement, they can't disappear into thin air.*  
*Check with Bonnie surely she knows.*  
*Check with Sam, he is always on his toes.*  
Bill piped in, *I'll buy us some more.*  
*I'll buy enough to cover the floor.*  
Alarmed by the thought of breaking the bank,  
Al hollered, *Not the floor, it's covered in carpet and plank.*  
Then suddenly appearing in a sweatshirt all rosy and red,  
With smoke from his pipe that swirled round his head.  
His whiskers cut so closely and trim,  
We knew for a fact it must be Saint Jim.  
His eyes flashed with light and his smile filled the hall,  
*I bring good news which will be a blessing to all.*  
He opened his hand and we shouted with glee.  
Merry Christmas to all, Saint Jim brought us the key.

If you desire a **key** to the new building,  
Send an e-mail to the church office.  
Santa is generous but Santa is also hard of hearing.  
Verbal request will fall on deaf ears.



## ENJOY A "TASTE OF OLLI" ON JANUARY 6 HERE AT RPC



UVa's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (known as OLLI) will hold a "Taste of OLLI" on Friday, January 6, at 1:00 PM in the RPC Fellowship Hall to introduce its short courses for adults to the Nelson and church communities.

A Taste of OLLI brings together OLLI faculty, members, friends and interested community members in a social setting where ideas (and light snacks) will arouse your appetite for the upcoming spring courses.

Some instructors will speak briefly about spring courses, plus you'll hear about future Special Presentations, unique day trips known as OLLI Outings, and the Winter Session Michie Tavern lunch and lecture series. The Taste of OLLI is open to the public at no charge. RSVP requested, but not required, if you plan to attend.

[olliuva@virginia.edu](mailto:olliuva@virginia.edu) /434.923.3600 or toll free 877.861.9207.

This is OLLI's first opportunity to bring its short-courses for adults to Nelson County – thanks to the hospitality of RPC. In addition to the three classes being offered here, classes will also be held in Charlottesville and in Staunton. Visit OLLI's website at [olliuva@virginia.edu](http://olliuva@virginia.edu) to view the list of classes.

### Church Directory Update

Plans are moving ahead to update the Church Directory. We continue taking pictures and updating information for newer members and friends of the church. Pictures will be taken following Sunday services by Diana Rockwell and John Porter. We will be contacting you to schedule your participation. Your help in this project is very much appreciated. We plan to publish the directory in January 2017.

*Hospitality Ministry Team*

## Session Highlights for 11/15/2016

- The meeting was held in the new Library.
- Opening Prayer and Devotions-Elder Simpson.
- Joys/Concerns shared.
- Minutes of 10/18/16 Session meeting.
- Elected Co-Treasurers Roger Fulton and Sue Nichols.
- Elected Sue Fulton Clerk of Session.
- Called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, 1/29/17 a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday to approve Louie's Terms of Call for 2017, received the approved 2017 budget, and receive the Clerk's report.
- Financial update given by Elder Howard.
- Approved the CE and Mission MT's recommendations to sponsor youth and adult to participate in a mission experience in the summers of 2017 (local or regional) and 2018. Both mission trip destinations to be designated at a later date.
- Announcements were made.
- Next Session meeting 12/13/16 at 7PM.
- Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer by the Moderator.

*Submitted by Nancy Nevill, Clerk of the Session*





## News From the Garden

The community garden now has a name: Goodness Grows, thanks to a vote by the congregation.

While the garden is resting with a crop of winter rye for the winter, the garden committee is busy making plans for getting stakes installed for fencing. Next Saturday for work day we will be mulching leaves to add to the garden soil. Good preparations hopefully will lead to good crops and good community building in the spring.



# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Second Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	<b>5</b> 10:30 a.m. Caregiver's Support Group 7:30 p.m. Mission Team Mtg	<b>6</b> 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group	<b>7</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent	<b>8</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 5-6 p.m. Pub Spirituality Gathering 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 9:00 a.m. Packing Pantry Bags for Kids 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	<b>12</b> 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting 6:00 p.m. Building Committee Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>14</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent	<b>15</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>16</b> Pantry Bag Packing	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Food at the Pantry
<b>18</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Second Service Emergency Relief Offering Christmas Joy Offering	<b>19</b> Spreading The Word Articles Due	<b>20</b> 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group	<b>21</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent Devotions	<b>22</b> 5-6 p.m. Pub Spirituality Gathering 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00 p.m. Family Service 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Combined Service	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> Office Closed 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b>