



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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[www.rockfishpresbyterian.org](http://www.rockfishpresbyterian.org)  
Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday

Worship Service on Sunday Mornings at 8:30 and 11:00; Sunday School at 9:45  
Fifth Sunday of the month Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:00

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## Spreading the Word

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Volume 16 Issue 3

March 2015

### Wednesday Services

Come join us on Wednesday Evenings during Lent. We will be using videos from a favorite play of mine called Cotton Patch Gospels. Imagine the story of Jesus, set in Georgia, and told by music written by Harry Chapin. It will thrill you, have your feet tapping, and remind you just how extraordinary the Jesus story was and still is.

We will meet each Wednesday of Lent at 7:00. The experience will last about 30 minutes except for the last meeting on the 25th of March. That session will be a little longer because I want you to see the whole passion experience at one sitting. Bring a friend. If you like Harry Chapin, you will love Cotton Patch. If you didn't much care for Chapin, I think you will still love Cotton Patch. If you don't have any idea who Harry Chapin was, come see me. He was much more than a guy who wrote about Taxis.

### HOLY WEEK

Easter is April 5th this year. Hopefully the snow will be off the ground. We hope you will join us not only for Palm Sunday and Easter but for our service on Thursday, April 2. We will gather for communion in the fellowship hall. As a group we will make our way to the sanctuary where we will remember the death of Christ. I have found through the years walking those steps makes Easter come alive two days later. Come join us at 7:00 on Thursday and bring a friend. Let us celebrate together the salvation of our God.

### Why Lent?

What a great question. We come from many different traditions. My neighbor is as much Presbyterian as I but during Lent, she returns to the ritual of her Catholic past and faithfully gives something up. I suspect many of you follow the faithful example of Betty. Others of you probably never heard of lent until you began worshipping in a Presbyterian Church. I never remember lent as a child and I have been Presbyterian all my life. So why do we celebrate Lent? Your guess is as good as mine. Sometimes I am much more serious in my discipline. Other years, like this one, I have been very lax. Sometimes discipline is easier than others. But, as we get closer to Easter I will start to seriously think about what it all means. Why the wilderness, why the garden, why the cross, why the death? Why was this the plan of God? Why have we understood this as the plan of God? Notice the difference between the questions. For me Lent gives me a chance to ponder, to question, to marvel and to believe.

*Louie*

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

									
	Roger Fulton	01							
	Dwight McCall	07							
	Charlotte Chapman	09							
	Matt Simpson	10							
	Phyllis Savides	12							
	Mary Dudley Eggleston	14							
	Wes Grammer	14							
	Betty Marker	15							
	Virginia Lambert	19							
	John Grammer	23							
	Sue McGann	23							
	Doug Wood	28							
	Rosie Roston	29							
	Pete Osborne	30							
									
									
									
									

**Louie's Musings**

**Sabbath Keeping**

Canceling Church is something I have done only a couple times in my 30 plus years of ministry. Naming my children was easier than making that final decision to close the church doors. I remember as a child my church awarded pins for perfect attendance. One would attach to the other. Each Rally Day I would head up front to receive the addition to my collection. I remember the Sunday I received my special pin signifying 10 years of perfect attendance. The next time we visited my Grandmother Andrews I proudly showed it off. She smiled, went to her room and returned with her wares. She owned a 50 year pin for perfect attendance and was still counting.

A few years ago my family took a vacation to Utah to ski. The snow was perfect and we had experienced two absolutely wonderful days. But the third day was Sunday. My grown children anxiously awaited to hear the decision concerning the schedule for the days activities. At 6:25 I said, "This is ridiculous. We came to ski, let's ski." At 6:30, 8:30 Eastern time, my cell phone rang. It was my mom. "Louie, I know you are headed to Church so I wanted to call before you left." To this day I don't remember why she called. Obviously she had forgotten we were on vacation. All I know is when I put the phone down my daughter looked at me and said, "We are going to church aren't we?" My son continued, "We checked last night. There is a Lutheran Church just down the hill. Do you think that will work?"

Saturday I watched the predictions. I knew that ice was on the way, an ice that would make travel difficult and an ice that meant many of us could not shovel our cars out until mid-morning. So I picked up the phone and set the cancelation in motion. Members of the First Service Choir had a lot of fun suggesting ways I might celebrate this unexpected day off.

The first thing I did was sleep in until 7:30. That was late for any day and to be honest it felt like I had slept till noon. I looked out side and as predicted the ice had made a mess of all the shoveling I had done the previous day. The tractor had already been by to clear the road creating a barricade between the road and my car. I grabbed my trusty shovel and went to work.

After an hour I went inside to get some caffeine and rest my back. My cell phone rang. My first thought was, "How does Mom know I am not in church?" It was Jim Wright informing me that the Rescue Squad had taken Ralph Frink to UVA. I finished shoveling and headed east. An hour later Pat, Ralph and I were together having church in the Emergency Room, giving thanks to God for Rescue Squads, hospitals and folks that work on Sunday.

"Grandma, if you can hear me, my pin has passed 60 and I'm still counting. Twenty more years and I will pass you."



**STW NEWSLETTER :**  
**JAMIE HEARD**

The deadline for the **April** newsletter will be **Tuesday, March 24**  
 Send **electronic** articles to [rpcus@verizon.net](mailto:rpcus@verizon.net)

### EASTER BASKETS---that time is coming! Message from your Mission Team!

On Sunday, March 8, 2015 we will start collecting food for the church Easter basket project. Please leave your contributions in the Fellowship Hall. Fresh foods like onions or potatoes should not be delivered before Sunday March 22, 2015 as those items tend to spoil before we can deliver them. We will pack the baskets on Saturday, March 21, 2015. If it is easier for you, please donate money and the Mission team will do the shopping for you. Please mark on your check "Easter Baskets" on the memo line. Items we will need are:



- Canned Yams
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Gravy
- Jell-O or pudding

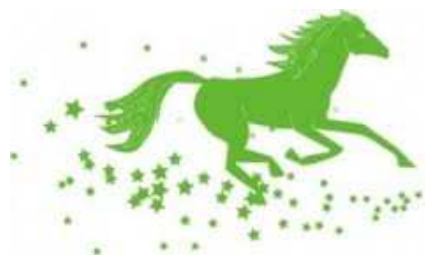
- Onions (3# bag)
- Potatoes (5# bag or boxed potatoes)
- Pasta, Rice or Macaroni and Cheese
- Candy (remember it is **Easter**)

#### Horse and Pony Club Announcement

RPC Congregant Sheila Madison came before the Mission Team last fall, along with teen daughter Taylor, and described the need Nelson County young people had for a horse club dedicated to educating non owners of horses in the care and needs of those majestic and mysterious members of the equine family. She was encouraged to apply for a start-up grant which she received, and with Taylor at her side, is seeking out others who would like to help. Hope's Legacy Rescue Service in Afton will assist with learning opportunities at their barn on Route 151. Please contact Sheila if you are interested in helping to share your expertise. Her number is 434 260-4246.

March 14th an informational meeting will take place at the Nelson Center's 4-H office for all parents and students interested in joining the new Nelson County Horse and Pony Club open to students between the ages of 9 and 18.

*Submitted by Olivia Ellis*



#### Senior Luncheon

Due to snowy weather, the February Rockfish Valley Senior Group luncheon was cancelled.

Please consider planning a senior luncheon. Opportunities are available from June through October. Call Pat Frink at 434 361-0050 or sign up on the blue sheet in the Narthex.

*Submitted by Pat Frink*

On the fifth Sunday, March 29, there will be one Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. A Congregational Meeting will be held during Worship Service to elect 2018 Elders and a Trustee.

I want to thank the ladies from RPC for the very creative and beautiful Valentine cards they sent to me. It was so thoughtful and appreciated.

Sincerely,   
 Ralph Frink

## **Something Completely Different** (The Place for Ideas a Little off the Beaten Path)

### **Some Additional Questions About Renovation and Construction**

In the last edition of Spreading the Word, Dave Lawson offered a very practical list of questions about the renovations/building additions we are considering. As an old left-brainer, I very much appreciate his perspective. I would like to add a few more questions from my perspective:

What needs of God's people in Nelson County and elsewhere do the renovation and expansion serve? How would this renovation/expansion address Jesus' teaching that Christians are enabled by God's love to...

- Feed the hungry and give drink to those who are thirsty?
- Welcome the stranger?
- Feed the naked?
- Visit the sick and those in prison?

The Presbyterian Online Giving Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.org/gifts/all/>) lists 41 needs of God's people around the world, ranging from Rainwater Catchment Systems (\$75 each) to Community Gardens (\$200 each) to Emergency Life Packs (\$125 each) to Emergency Relief Food Packages (\$85). If we use a mid-range figure from the contractor's estimates for renovation/construction, \$600,000, that comes to:

- 8,000 Rainwater Catchment Systems or
- 3,000 Community Gardens or
- 4,800 Emergency Life Packs or
- 7,060 Emergency Relief Food Packages.

The outreach subcommittee is developing means of reaching others in our community. I think this is best done by having some sense of unmet need...which is unlikely to be met by civic organizations (think biblically – “widows and orphans”). When I asked a non-church member in a demographic (parents of young kids) we want to reach out to, she answered without thinking: “Childcare.” If we chose to meet that need, what changes in our physical plant would be required?

The current Building Committee Report listed “Others in the Community” who use our building. Could the Master Gardeners, Square Dancers, Wintergreen Performing Arts, and Rockfish Ruritans not use other facilities – Rockfish Community Center, the fire hall in Afton – leaving us with funds for higher priorities? (The list also includes “Counseling” which, I believe, refers to my seeing local clients at RPC. Thanks, but I'm doing just fine with our current office space.)

If we must do some renovation or construction, may I offer a compromise: Set aside equal amounts of money for RPC renovation/construction and gifts in the Presbyterian Online Giving Catalog or comparable organization to ministering to God's people in need.

*Submitted by Dwight McCall*

## Snow and more Snow!

Looking out at the new fresh fallen snow one is taken by its serene beauty---until you have to go out in it to clear a path to the street! The wise think twice before setting out on slippery streets. It is better to stay home---and what? Suddenly, you have little to do but perhaps read a book or just sit and think about life. Who am I? Why am I here? Is there any meaning to life? Our Christian faith gives answers to these questions: We are children of God. We are placed on this earth to live life more abundantly in loving service for God. This gives meaning to our lives and challenges us to seek out God's unique plan for our life.

*--A thought from the Stewardship Team*

Whew, we didn't see February coming! After a relatively mild November and December and a moderately cold January, we got blind-sided by a frigid February that stretched our Wood Ministry resources to the limit. If it weren't for a group of dedicated 'new' volunteers (mostly women - now seasoned veterans) and a couple of additional trucks we never could have kept up with the demand. We've already exceeded the number of deliveries we made last year and there are still a number of weeks left in the heating season.

So, how do you get eight mature adults (some of us 'very' mature) to come out on a 15 degree day and work like fools to get wood for six deliveries split, loaded, and hauled to beat a coming snowstorm? Just about anywhere else, I suspect, you'd have a real challenge on your hands. If those folks are from Rockfish Presbyterian, you simply ask.

*Submitted by Sam Alexander*

## Session Highlights

2/24/15 (Re-scheduled from 2/17/15 due to weather)

- Devotions and opening prayer by Elder Mische.
- Joys and Concerns shared.
- Approved with clerical corrections the stated meeting 1/20/15.
- Approved the Congregational meeting as received of 1/18/15.
- Approved retroactively the Co-Treasurers, Sue Nichols and Roger Fulton for a one year term from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15.
- Approved retroactively the Clerk, Nancy Nevill, for a one year term from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15.
- Louie thanked the Session for their outstanding help in the many requests during December and January for the funerals and other things that took place during that time. He also told the Session about several person's stories.
- Stewardship MT update was given by the Moderator in absence of Elder Borgman.
- There was no old or new business.
- Approved Mission MT recommendation to solicit contributions for 2015 special offerings as in the past. This will approval will be requested on an annual basis.
- Elder Savides gave an update on the Outreach Committee work.
- Elder Wright gave summary report of the results of the questionnaires/small group meeting held in the last couple of weeks on the possible building expansion. A motion was made and amended to: Form a new subcommittee of Session to be funded by Session with the purpose being to secure an architect to create a set of construction drawings with estimated construction costs for this construction and to return to Session with this information. This was unanimously approved by Session. Three members of Session were asked to be part of this committee and with consultation with the Building MT will appoint with Session approval the remainder of the committee. After this subcommittee is selected the present Building MT will be relieved to return to their many duties. Louie thanked the Session and the 2014 Class of Elders for their leadership of the small group discussions and Elder Lawson for his compilation of the questionnaires.
- Announcements were made including that the POJ meeting was re-scheduled from 2/21/15 to 3/7/15 due to weather; Palm Sunday is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday with a 10AM combined service and a called Congregational meeting to elect the 2018 slate of Elders and a Trustee.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator.

The next Session meeting will be 3/17/15 at 7PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Clerk, Nancy Nevill*

## National Caffeine Awareness Month

(For those struggling with Serious Addictions please ignore this article)

I tasted my first Coke on the 22 of November 1950 at Grant Stadium in Atlanta Georgia. I was less than two months old and licked the nectar off the willing fingers of my father. I was three before I managed to drink a whole bottle. It was the 6 oz. bottle with the name of the bottling companies town on the bottom. By the time I was seven I was drinking a Coke a week., counting every day till Saturday when I got to go down to the store on the corner of MacKnight and Rt. 29 in Greensboro. By high school I was spending my paper route money to supplement my cravings. In college I drank Coke for breakfast and it was my drink of choice during tennis matches.

Then I got drafted and was thrust into the deep dark world of alcohol and drugs. Already having an addiction, I was able to resist the other temptations before me. After the Army, I was on the road glory spending most of my waking hours working in a church. Real Coke has given way to the diet variety but the caffeine still rolls through my veins. Why on earth have I wasted 64 year of my life addicted to such a pathetic habit? So many folks have asked me that questions. An equal number of folks have challenged me to take the three day headache and marvel at what the world is like waking up without the need for a caffeine buzz. For the final time here is why I remain caffeinated.

***I still believe Coke is the real thing!***

Louie

# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Teen Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Second Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering</p>	<p><b>2</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Devotional 10:00 a.m. Caregivers' Support Group Mtg 7:00 p.m. Mission Team</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group</p>	<p><b>4</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Lent Service</p>	<p><b>5</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians</p>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<p><b>8</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Outreach Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Teen Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Second Worship Service</p>	<p><b>9</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Devotional 6:00 p.m. Building Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Worship Meeting</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:30 Knitting and Nurture 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Lent Service</p>	<p><b>12</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians</p>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<p><b>15</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Teen Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Second Worship Service</p>	<p><b>16</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Devotional</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:00 pm Session Mtg 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group</p>	<p><b>18</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Lent Service</p>	<p><b>19</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians</p>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<p><b>22</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Food Packing for the Pantry 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Teen Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Second Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering</p>	<p><b>23</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Devotional</p>	<p><b>24</b> Spreading The Word Articles Due</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:30 Knitting and Nurture 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Lent Service</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10-2 Senior Luncheon at AFH Noon—Men's group lunch 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians</p>	<b>27</b> Pantry Bag Packing	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Food Distribution at Pantry
<p><b>29</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service</p>	<p><b>30</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Devotional</p>	<b>31</b>				