



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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 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 11

# Spreading the Word

November 2016

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS DURING THIS STEWARDSHIP SEASON**

## Almost Finished

We are within two weeks of the New Addition being complete. We expect to have full occupancy by the 13th of November. Hopefully you will receive a call to action on Saturday the 12th and we can gather to begin to move back in. We are grateful for your patience and your support during the last six months. Many of you have come with suggestions on how we will use our new space. Pray with us as we continue to dream about how we will continue to serve our God and our community.

## Community Thanksgiving Service

November 20, at 3:00, at the Nelson United Methodist Church. The Nelson County Ministerial Alliance, a group of ministers dedicated to justice and racial harmony in Nelson County, will host a community service of Word and Song. It will be followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship. Featured will be a Mass Choir composed of members from Churches in Nelson County. This will be a great time to meet our neighbors and share in the blessings of God's hospitality. Nelson Methodist is located on US 29 south of Lovingston across from the Middle School. Hope to see you there.























## Coming in December

- Dec. 4 - Alternative Christmas Bazaar
  - Dec. 7, 14, 21 (Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.) Advent programs centering on the Art, Songs and Stories of Christmas.
  - Dec. 11 - Virginia Consort
  - Dec. 18 - Christmas Party for Head Start Children. Come and help us celebrate.
  - Dec. 24 - Two Christmas Eve services. The 4:00 p.m. service will be a service of hymns, stories and scripture. At the 6:00 p.m. service, Roger Elliott has agreed to reprise his role of Joseph.
  - Dec. 25 - Christmas day Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Come to One or All of our Special Events during the Holidays



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

									
	Brady Nicks	01							
	Charlie Duncan	02							
	Cindy Hankley	02							
	Bucky Madison	03							
	Sophia Ogilvie	04							
	Ila Porter	04							
	Marty Thomas	06							
	Cheryl Borgman	07							
	Dennis Day	12							
	Gail Hasson	12							
	Dave Lawson	13							
	Nancy Clark	14							
	Brianne Armstrong	19							
	Dan McCarter	19							
	Bonnie Jefferson	20							
	John Porter	21							
	Ethan Ogilvie	22							
	Haywood France	25							
	Susan Holland	25							
	Edie Wombolt	29							
									
									
									
									
									
									
									



**Louie's Musings**

**A special thanks for your prayers** during my attempt to ride a bicycle across the state of North Carolina. I often joke when something goes wrong, "Well at least no one died." Perhaps your prayers were the reason for this. My riding partner kept stubbornly insisting he could complete the ride. After the second day, he finally listened to common sense and abandoned the journey. Two days later a 90% blockage to one of his arteries was repaired. Thankfully he sustained no heart damage. At the end of the first day I was thrown over my handle bars. Only my shoulder and ego were bruised. Again I give thanks for your prayers. A person who saw me fall could not believe I walked away from the accident.

**A special thanks for your faithfulness** during our building project. Thanks to a lot of creativity we have continued with much of our regular programming. Some neighboring churches have assisted with our neighborhood programs. Sunday School has taken place in many strange places, small groups have found new homes and our Mission teams and Session have continued to function. Most importantly, because of your time and contributions we have continued to serve this valley. With our new facilities some new creative ways to be the church will be before us. I am not worried because you have proven your faithfulness is great.

**A special thanks for your love.** This month, because of your generosity two people can resume their lives because their cars have been repaired. One person was able to receive help with dental work. Another was helped in finding a new place to work. We continue to support folks who are in counseling and even in our mess have continued our support to an AA group. Finally, next week we start delivering wood, a task made easier by the second splitter you purchased.

**A special thanks for your diversity in thought.** Remember to vote on November 8. What you believe is important. It is our diversity in thought that is one of our greatest strengths.

**STW NEWSLETTER :**

**JAMIE HEARD**

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **December** newsletter is **Tuesday, November 22.**

**Email:** [rpcus@verizon.net](mailto: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. 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 20. Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: November 20, November 27 and 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.

### News From Your Mission Committee



It's Thanksgiving Basket time. Because of building constraints, we will start collections on **Friday, November 11, 2016 and will need to shop for what we have not received on Tuesday, on November 14, 2016.** It is a short window. For those of you new to the church, the baskets are prepared generally for families in Nelson County who are have children in Head Start or are who recommended by JABA and MACAA. Our donations make a difference to these families. Here is the list of things we need. Home made pumpkin pies are greatly appreciated!!! Basket packing will be on Saturday, November 19. Time TBD. There will be a sign up sheet for pies and helping to pack baskets.

#### Shopping list:

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



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 (time to be determined), December 18, 2016 the church will host a Christmas party for the Head Start children of Nelson County. We will follow up with details. Watch your email. 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.



## Now For Something A Little Different

In 1983, President Reagan designated November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. This story is offered in honor of those suffering from dementia and of their caregivers. This story is also offered in loving memory of my father, Carter R. Allen.

*Mary Dudley Eggleston*

### Dad, Dick and the Highway Man

"Have y'all been waiting long?" It was the third time I'd heard Dad say that in the last two minutes. He didn't know I was in the next room. But Dick and the Highway Man knew. They saw me pass by the connecting door that was left open. They knew I used to work with my father, and that I had come to be with him while his colleague Dick told him he was no longer mentally fit for his job.

I stood in my father's law library in downtown Waynesboro, listening to the conversation going on in his office. The same white stool was behind the island of book shelves. I almost sat, remembering the days when the library used to be my office and Dad still ran the law firm he'd started almost 55 years ago, in 1948. But instead, I paced behind it, pulling the damp part of my blouse away from my underarms. "Have y'all been waiting long?" There it was again. My stomach curled, my breath quickened.

Dick and Dad had been Co-Trustees of the Quesenberry Trust for more than 25 years. The 10 a.m. meeting was called by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) so the Co-Trustees could sign a deed prepared by VDOT's attorney, a cocky, ambitious man who'd been here before. I called him the Highway Man, but not to his face. VDOT was widening Route 250 and taking 18 inches of prime real estate from property owned by the Quesenberry Trust. The taking will narrow its tenant's used car lot, rendering its essential road frontage irrelevant...useless. After the Highway Man left, Dick was going to ask Dad to withdraw as Trustee.

On Monday, Tuesday and again on Wednesday morning I told Dad this was going to happen. "Dad, if you don't withdraw as Trustee, other people will be brought into the picture, like the beneficiaries of the Trust, and that will be more unpleasant. They will write a letter to the judge requesting that you be removed." Each time he glared at me and told me flat-out that he was not going to withdraw.

Dick had called me two days earlier to tell me it was time for Dad to withdraw as Trustee and step-down from his fiduciary duties. Dad was just too forgetful, and Dick worried about liability issues. That was not the first time he'd told me this, but his voice had more conviction this time. The night before, and early that very morning, Dick called again to rehearse what he was going to say to Dad. He told me he was uncomfortable having to say these things to my father. He even asked me to pray for him – but I didn't. I was angry, as if it was God's fault that I was watching my father be rendered as irrelevant and useless as that tenant's remaining road frontage.

Dick was right though. We all knew it. My sisters and I had been trying to persuade Dad to cut back on his work, if not quit all together. But how do you tell your father, whose entire identity is his work, that he should stop working because he's lost his marbles? My sisters were close, but not close enough to bear this kind of witness. I remember asking Dick not to tell Dad a list of things he was doing wrong. I remember asking him to be specific in his feelings but general in his reasons. I remember asking him to please shoot nicely. (I couldn't stand it.)

It took forever for the Highway Man to leave and for Dick to finish going over tax returns and other accounting documents with Dad. I sensed when the meeting was over and walked into Dad's office, reluctantly sitting in the only chair available – his, behind his desk. He and Dick were sitting on the other side. Dad looked up at me and smiled, "Hi Sweetie." I smiled back, "Hi Dad."

Dick's eyes shot me a quick, last plea. I crossed my arms and legs, sighed deeply and put my eyes on the floor. And then he said it, "you know carter due to your medical condition i feel uncomfortable from a liability standpoint with you continuing on as trustee i want you to think about your withdrawing id appreciate your withdrawing because i worry a lot about your forgetting things and theres a liability issue and its time for you to withdraw just think about it but i leave it up to you think about it."

Dad raised his forehead in disbelief, then he composed himself and simply said, "I'll think about it."

## Basking Ridge Oak

I am grieving. My family is grieving. We are losing a steady, faithful member of the family. The oak tree is dying.

For 25 years we worshipped at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church in New Jersey. We did not need stained glass windows in the sanctuary. We looked out and the frames were filled by the branches of the magnificent oak tree in the churchyard.

The white oak tree is over 600 years old and believed to be the oldest in the country. It was growing before Columbus discovered America. George Washington picnicked under it. The church was established there in 1717. The town grew up calling the tree the Holy Oak for its location next to the church and it became the symbol of the town. Many church members are buried beneath its limbs. Over the years the tree suffered and was carefully tended to. The interior of the trunk was filled with concrete. The huge limbs were supported by steel posts and held up by cables.

And now the tree is dying.

Perhaps you have noticed that we like to sit in a pew on the north side of the sanctuary at Rockfish. This affords me a view of the tree in the churchyard here. It brings me comfort and reminds me of the other tree and of the presence of God in our lives; a presence that is steadfast and protective and comforting.

Soon the church will begin a year long celebration with a community-wide service to celebrate the life of the tree. The wood will be saved and used as fallen branches have been in the past. I am fortunate to have a small figure carved from a piece of the tree.

We will remember the tree fondly and realize that in the cycle of life that we each experience, we bear testimony to the will of God.

*Submitted by Sue Nichols*

The tree has attracted national attention. there were articles written in the Washington Post and the NY Times. It was also a segment on CBS Sunday Morning. You can see the story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oJ6GYFbUSo&feature=share> or Google "Basking Ridge Oak".

### October 27th Senior Luncheon

Our last senior luncheon of the year was held at the Firehouse in Afton on October 27th. Our food was cute Halloween sandwiches, congealed salad, chips and pudding cups with Halloween figures. This was planned by Val Batson and Sue Nichols and carried out by Marita Digney, Pat Frink, Valerie Goodrich, Fred Hanchey and Linda Wilk. The Seniors loved everything!

Our volunteers were dressed in Halloween colors, some in shirts with pumpkins, black cats and all manner of things. All had fun, especially when they got to take beautiful dahlias and cosmos home along with spooky grasses that were provided by Bev Lacy, Charlotte Chapman, and Pat Frink. Decorations were provided by our volunteers, Bonnie Jefferson, Liz Leukroth and Alice Murphy.

I want to thank everyone in our church who provided support, decorations, prayers throughout this year for the Senior Luncheon Program.

*Submitted by Pat Frink*

## Let Us Not Become Pharisees

*(By Dave Lawson)*

It is easy to think we are better than others  
More intelligent, more industrious, more affluent  
With a comfortable home  
And well stocked pantry and frig  
A nice car and a solid bank account  
While the others are just scraping by  
With barely a roof over their heads  
Visiting a giveaway food bank to help feed their kids  
Surely God has not blessed them like us!

And how about all those atheists and unchurched  
Who do not believe in God or his Word?  
Surely they are bound for hell  
Very different from us who attend church every week  
Singing our favorite hymns loudly  
And praying openly and frequently for all to hear  
Clearly we and those like us are bound for heaven  
What God? You say you've seen people like us before?  
Who were they God? Pharisees?  
You mean the ones your Son called hypocrites?

## How much?

What does it take to allow Rockfish to provide worship and education for its people and to be the Light in the Valley in our community? It takes members who are willing to sacrifice their time, talents and treasure. But how much? Paul writes to the church in Corinth: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:7-9) At this time of year we turn our attention to our annual giving to the mission of RPC.

As your annual letter, with a pledge card, from the Stewardship Ministry Team arrives, please prayerfully consider "How much" and Paul's words.

*Thank you from your Stewardship Team*



## Session Highlights for 10/18/2016

Louie took the Session members on a tour of the renovation before starting the meeting. The meeting was held in the incomplete Fellowship Hall.

- Opening Prayer and Devotions-Elder McCulley.
- Joys/Concerns shared.
- Minutes of 9/20/16 Session meeting.
- Louie talked about the scripture from Joel he will be preaching from for this Sunday. He also shared a personal story. Louie stated the renovations are on schedule.
- Lee Goodrich a member of the Stewardship MT gave the financial update. He brought a 3 part recommendation from the Stewardship MT regarding the line of credit for the renovation project. This was approved.
- Old Business: Elder Porter gave highlights of the 10/15/16 POJ meeting.
- MT recommendation for action:
  - Elder Mische brought forth a recommendation to host a Christmas party for the MCAA headstart children and their families. This was approved.
- Announcements were made.

Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer by the Moderator.

*Submitted by Nancy Nevill, Clerk of the Session*

## Church Directory Update

Plans are moving ahead to update the Church Directory. We are starting by 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.

*Hospitality Ministry Team*



Little Visitor Masters a Big Job for RPC's Children's Food Pantry  
(Bev Lacey's Granddaughter, Estrella)





## Youth News

Thirty First-Aid Kits were packed during the 11 o'clock Service as part of Zoe Ogilvie's Senior Legacy Project for Governor's School. They are going to refugee families from Nepal and Afghanistan who have now settled in Charlottesville. Zoe worked with these families during the summer. Cheryl made use of her surplus closet at UVA, RPC Teen families chipped in, and Wintergreen Rescue Station, under the command of Curtis Sheets, rescued the rest of the supplies. Thanks to All who made this worthy mission a meaningful monument to loving your neighbor as yourself.

Left to right: Irene Thompson, Deb Andrews, Sophie Ogilvie, Cheryl Borgman, Manthey Brothers, Zoe Ogilvie, Dana Ogilvie, Kerrie Manthey, Ella Manthey.

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group	<b>2</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>3</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group (at Brian Koster's home) 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</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>7</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina 7:30 p.m. Mission Team Mtg (location Andrews')	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>10</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 5-6 p.m. Pub Spirituality Gathering 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 9:00 a.m. Packing Pantry Bags for Kids 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Second Service	<b>14</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting 6:00 p.m. Building Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Small Group 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>16</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>17</b> Noon—Men's group lunch 7:00 p.m. Small Group (church or Lawson's home) 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>18</b> Pantry Bag Packing	<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Food at the Pantry
<b>20</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Second Service	<b>21</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina	<b>22</b> Spreading The Word Articles Due	<b>23</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Day 7:15 p.m. Early Service Musicians	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 a.m. Early Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Second Service Emergency Relief Offering	<b>28</b> 8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir			