



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
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Pastor: Inger O. Manchester  
Cell: 704 252-0924; E:mail: rpcimanchester@gmail.com  
www.rockfishpresbyterian.org  
Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday  
Worship Service on Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.;  
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Volume 25 Issue 11

## Spreading the Word

November 2024

I love to host a party. I bet that comes as no surprise to anyone who knows me. I love that people get to know one another on a deeper level, find common ground, perhaps even forge new friendships. I know the criticism is that church is not a social club. In one sense that is true - we come together to worship God, to study and learn more about God, to serve God through missions. Yes, yes and yes. However I would argue that getting to know one another on a deeper social level allows us to become the Brothers and Sisters that scripture calls us to be. To know that when I walk into the church I will know people. I will know about their family, their work, what is important to them and what they like to do on their time off. I can say hi. That is also important.

Consider Scripture- that is how Jesus acted. He communed with His people and invited more to join Him. They dined together, laughed together and cried together. Growing in faith means more than being able to quote scripture (although it is super nice to know) and Bible studies (again- wonderful), or deep theological study (Go For It). It is feeling part of something bigger than ourselves. A whole Kingdom of people to serve and laugh alongside - a reminder of how God's family doesn't always think like you do, or look like you do or even act like you do. And isn't that absolutely exciting! So- go to the church socials, call someone new for a lunch with you, participate in the multitude of events at YOUR church, or join in one of the committees which I promise you are well run. I will just keep spinning the plates and opening my heart for more God nudges. Isn't it so much fun??!!

Jamie and I were laughing that it isn't even Halloween yet and we are full on Advent planning. December is so full of activities and that is on top of your personal life so we want to get the news out early! By the way, I am SO PROUD that so many of you are writing the Advent devotions. Absolutely fantastic! They are due Nov 10. Also on Nov 10 we will be gathering at 3 p.m. to make angel ornaments to give out on Christmas Eve. All hands on deck! We will need to make over 100 so each family attending services can have one. Bring a glue gun and scissors. On Nov 24 all are invited to help us Hang the Greens right after the 10 am service. (that service will feature Pastor Mears of Elk Hill Baptist preaching!) Each Wednesday of Advent we will have a candle lit contemplative Advent service at 530 in the sanctuary. Dec 8- Christmas Party for the Community Children - lots of fun to be part of that! And then there is the Adult Famous SOCK EXCHANGE! Dec 15 right after church. So find some funny, silly awesome socks and wrap them up labeled male or female. We will then play the "stealing" game and you will end up with some new socks. Lots of laughter, I promise. Christmas Eve services will be 4pm and 6pm with the children's nativity at 4pm~ both will feature Silent Night with candles. I think Jesus would approve of our month-long celebration of His birthday- all praises be to God!

*~Pastor Inger*



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sophia Ogilvie	04
Stacy Rush	04
Donna Kirk	05
Marty Thomas	06
Cheryl Borgman	07
Leslie Buchanan	12
Gail Hasson	12
Kate Humphrey	13
Dave Lawson	13
Patty Smith	13
Nancy Clark	14
Mike Fisher	14
Ethan Ogilvie	22
Carter Asher	23
Edie Wombolt	29
Liam Yeatman	30

**Inger's Inklings**

On the front page I highlighted some of what Rockfish is doing, ways for all of us to connect and celebrate our faith together. However, I also want to highlight that there is another extremely important aspect to faithful growth and that is one that must be done in solitude. Thomas Merton has written "True contemplation is not a psychological trick but a theological grace. It can come to us only as a gift, and not as a result of our own clever use of spiritual techniques."

We can "do do do" but in order to connect with our Lord we must create space in our lives to hear the Spirit speaking to us. We must quiet our hearts and our busy minds. Christmas Season is such a "do do do" time.

As we enter the frantic holiday season of Thanksgiving and Advent, how can you set up a time to just "be"? Is it waking up earlier, or taking a walk in the crisp air everyday, or setting up a place that is your sanctuary? Is the quiet space found in creating art or music or gardening? Is there a scripture study that the Lord has been calling you towards?

This is a personal contemplative decision. Your specific answer (calling) is between you and the Holy Spirit and we are each made uniquely. However one thing is true of all of us- God desires us to be in a relationship with our Creator. We are all made for communion. Our God space yearns to be filled.

So let us take this busy time, slow down and commune just as we are also reaching out to others in fellowship. There is a balance to be found between the quiet and the celebration. May the Lord guide us to each discover our balance this Thanksgiving and Advent Season. Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Amen.

*~Pastor Inger*



**Don't Forget to Set Your Clocks Back One Hour.**

**STW NEWSLETTER :**

**JAMIE HEARD**

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **December** newsletter is **Tuesday, November 19th.**

**Email:** rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221

### Christian Education Ministry



**Children/Youth Education** - We have three children/youth Sunday School classes during a part of the 10:00 worship service. Volunteers have been organized to work with a class on a specific Sunday each month. There is also a substitute list in case a scheduled volunteer cannot make his/her Sunday. **We are still seeking to grow our volunteer list! Please contact Christy Ruta at 848-309-7679 if interested.**

**Practicing The Way Sunday School Class** - October 6th began a new young adults, and anyone else who is interested, Sunday School class at 9:15 in the library. The new class is based on two books by John Mark Comer, 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' and its sequel 'Practicing The Way.' The basic premise is that our entire culture, with its fast pace, reliance on pervasive digital technology, and the negative impact of same on our inability to focus and concentrate, is antithetical to a healthy spiritual life. In fact, statistics confirm this. This class will be facilitated by Susan Luscomb. Day care will be available.

**Adult Sunday School Class** - October 13th began the study "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. This study will continue through the end of the year. This class has shared facilitation and is a discussion-oriented group. The class meets at 9:00 on Sunday mornings in the downstairs adult Sunday School classroom #5. All who are interested are invited to attend.

**Children's Food Pantry** - Food bags are continuing to be filled the 2nd Sunday of each month by the First Learner's and Elementary Sunday School classes. We will once again collect toothpaste and other hygiene products from the congregation to put in bags in the near future.

**Tuesday Night Practicing The Way II** - Each Tuesday through November 19th there will be a similar class for those who are interested in the Comer books but cannot attend the Sunday morning class. Please contact Susan Luscomb if you are interested in attending.

**Each Wednesday 11:30 Scripture study** - Inger will continue to discuss the Scriptures that will be used the following Sunday. There will not be a study on November 27th, the day before Thanksgiving.

Submitted by  
*Jeri Engebretson*, Christian Ed Chair

### Wool and Grace

Wool and Grace will be selling knitted and crocheted items at the Winter Market Sale held at the Rockfish Valley Community Center, November 2 from 8:30 to noon. Proceeds will be donated to the Nelson Enrichment Club.

We will have Fall and Christmas decor, stuffed toys, baby items, and more!



Angel Ornament Making Party on Sunday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

## Notes from Your Stewardship Ministry Team

During November, your Stewardship Team begins the final assessment of our church's financial status for 2024. The conclusion is clear. You have been extremely generous with your treasure. From your involvement and service, it is also evident that you have also been very bighearted with your time, your talents and your prayers. We now look forward to the activities and service in the new year, and we have begun developing an operational budget to fund ongoing and new programs planned by the various Ministry Teams of Rockfish.

You will receive in the next few days a letter about how and when you can make your pledge of support to our church. A card will be included with that letter on which you can indicate your support in both treasure and service. You may return the completed card by mail or place it in the offering plate during church service on any of the first four Sundays in November. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November we will dedicate those pledges. You will also hear from Ministry Team leaders during the church services on November 3 and 10 about plans for the new year and from our Receiving Treasurer on the many options for giving on November 17.

On a separate note, the Stewardship Team really needs a couple of new members. If you are interested in numbers, spreadsheets, accounting reports, budget preparation and analysis, or financial forecasting, you are the person we need. Although we do not discriminate due to age, it would be helpful if you are at least a few years younger than Methuselah as many of us are getting a little "long in the tooth". In addition, we are looking for two people whom we can recommend to the Session to serve as Assistant Receiving Treasurer and Assistant Disbursing Treasurer. The duties would be to do the jobs of the Receiving or Disbursing Treasurer when they (Roger Fulton and Sue Nichols, respectively) are out of town or otherwise unable to do the important jobs they do every week. If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, talk with Dave Lawson or Harris Luscomb or call us at 434-361-2524 (Dave) or 757-254-7700 (Harris).



## Mission Committee News

On Sept. 21, Ann Mische and Dana Ogilvie attended the Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication in Arrington, VA. The celebration of the new home for Kyle and Hunter was a moving ceremony. RPC has been a long time supporter of Habitat for Humanity and was thanked for our support at the ceremony. Work is already underway for another house in Nelson County.



For Thanksgiving the Missions Committee is working on preparing the annual Thanksgiving food baskets for families in our local community who could use some extra help. If you would like to help shop for food for the baskets, sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex Oct. 28 & Nov. 3. (For example buying canned green beans for 30 families.) The Missions Committee has a budget for the food so you would be reimbursed for the cost of the food.

Food would be due back at the church by Tuesday Nov. 19. The baskets will be packed on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 8:30 am to be distributed at 10:00 am. We have found families through the public schools, JABA, sheriff's department and Meals on Wheels. Contact Ann Mische or Dana Ogilvie if you have any questions.

Children's Christmas Party - Mark your calendar!!! Sunday, December 8th 1-3 pm at RPC. We will need people to help with games, crafts, food and face painting. Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex soon. We also need donations of cookies and snacks.

## Care Bear Program 2024



Friends and members of Rockfish Presbyterian Church will again be able to help children in Nelson County by making their Christmas a bit brighter. We will be getting a total of 60 wish lists from the Nelson County Head Start Programs, 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 17th. Gift tags may be selected on the following three Sundays: November 24, December 1 and December 8. 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)!

You are asked to limit your total purchases to \$70.00. Please purchase a clothing item and an educational toy, book or game. Suggestions have been provided on the Care Bear tag, but not all 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 11am on Sunday, December 15th. They will be distributed to the schools the following week. If you have any questions about the Care Bear program or would like to help with it, please contact Wendy Culberson at (703) 307-6382 or by email at [wendy@ronculberson.com](mailto:wendy@ronculberson.com). If you wish to participate in the Care Bear program but are not able to do the shopping yourself, please let Wendy know that you would like to contribute \$70 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 holidays much happier for these children and their families.

Submitted by  
*Wendy Culberson*, Care Bear Coordinator

## The Children Honoring Autumn



### Halloween Trail Party at Pastor Inger's House



### Session Highlights 10/15/24

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Kathy Kristiansen opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for Bobby Rose, Jane Andrews, individuals undergoing medical procedures.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Rev. Inger Manchester presented a **Motion at the request of Mallory Heller to have her daughters Alma, Eleanora and Karena baptized. A tentative date of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> has been set. APPROVED.** Inger also announced she and Lee would be hosting a Halloween Trail for the children on the 27<sup>th</sup> at their home. Volunteers are needed to help distribute candy and join in the fun.

#### CLERK'S REPORT:

**The following minutes were APPROVED:** Stated Session Meeting of 9/17/24, Called Meeting of 10/13/24, ratification of email vote to approve Special Offering for Hurricane Helene victims on 10/6/24.

**APPROVED MOTION to combine Nov.& Dec. Session Meetings to be held on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> with NO DEC. Meeting.**

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE:** Elder Dave Lawson presented the Monthly Financial Reports, Income and Expense Statement, Balance Sheet. The church is in fine financial standing. The 2023 Annual Financial Review was completed by Dave Lawson, Harris Luscomb, Rick Winters and Bill Howard. **MOTION to accept the 2023 Financial Review was APPROVED. MOTION to have two additional people assist the Receiving and Disbursing Treasurers as needed was APPROVED.** The Stewardship Committee would like to recognize Roger Fulton and Sue Nichols for their dedication and hard work.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Elder Dave Lawson participated in a Special Called POJ meeting on 9-26-24 via zoom and reported the meeting was budgetary discussing paid positions of the Presbytery.

#### MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) presented **MOTION to approve two Services on Christmas Eve, Dec.24<sup>th</sup>. One at 4:00p.m. (children focused) and one at 6:00pm. APPROVED.** Upcoming Key Dates: Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, All Saints Day to recognize those who passed away since last year. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> to welcome Elk Hill Pastor Nia (Harold Mears) as guest Sermon speaker. Hanging of the Greens Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 am service. Wednesday Advent Services will be held at 5:30 pm on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a need to recruit additional ushers for Christmas Eve Services.
- Elder Mary Hopkins (Liaison for Christian Life) reported Sue Fulton has ordered a 100 cup coffee maker for the fellowship hour following the 10:00 am service. Volunteers are still needed to help make coffee and cleanup afterward.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management Team) reported the team is clearing out storage areas and has asked committee members to look at the items they have stored and determine if those items are still useful. A clean out day is scheduled for one weekend in Nov. (tentatively set for Nov. 15-16). A **MOTION was made to donate our surplus of 13 extra heavy tables and chairs, and other items from the basement declared as excess, to organizations needing them. APPROVED.**
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported they are organizing volunteers to work with Children's SS on a specific Sunday each month along with a substitute list. Volunteers are still needed (contact Christy Ruta if interested). Practicing The Way, a new SS class for young adults on Sunday mornings, began Oct. 6 and is held at 9:15 am. An additional Practicing The Way SS class will be offered on Tuesday evenings (potluck) beginning Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The classes are based on two books by John Mark Comer, 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' and the sequel 'Practicing The Way.' A **MOTION to approve a small change to the form vetting volunteers to teach Children's SS would have volunteers returning the form to Inger instead of placing the form in the manila folder on the narthex table. APPROVED.**
- Elder Joe Steele (Cemetery Ministry Team) presented a **MOTION that no contractors be allowed to put signage on RPC property advertising their business while performing work for the Church nor can they use the Church as a reference but they can list the Church as a client. The Church will not endorse individual contractors. APPROVED.**

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:10 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 11/19/24 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Dave Lawson will give the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership = Active members – 176  
Affiliate members - 14





# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	<b>4</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle 4:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:30 Outreach Ministry Meeting 10:00 Christian Ed Meeting 5:30 PTW2 Potluck and Discussion	<b>6</b> 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	<b>7</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 10:30 Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 3:00 Making Angel Ornaments 5:00 Pub Spirituality at Brewing Tree	<b>11</b> 10-2 Respite Care 2:30 Personnel Team Meeting 3:30 Guitar Circle 5:00 Stewardship Meeting	<b>12</b> 5:30 PTW2 Potluck and Discussion	<b>13</b> 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 3-5 Creating Art	<b>14</b> 3:00 Worship Comm. Mtg (tentative) 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> Basement Cleaning Day	<b>16</b> Basement Cleaning Day
<b>17</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	<b>18</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	<b>19</b> 5:30 PTW2 Potluck and Discussion 7:00 Session Meeting  Spreading The Word Articles Due	<b>20</b> 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group	<b>21</b> 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30 Thanksgiving packing baskets 10:00 Thanksgiving food baskets distribution 9:00 Distribution at Food Pantry
<b>24</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service Hanging of the Greens Emergency Relief Offering	<b>25</b> 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Day 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>