



Rockfish Presbyterian Church
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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 12

Spreading the Word

December 2024

Happy Advent Season!

What are you doing differently this year? At the church we have been spending time discussing ways to have more quiet time with God, taking time to Sabbath, noticing when your gifts align with Godly work that needs to be done. When that happens, work becomes less work and more joy. Isn't that wonderful? And all of this is true because God is the doer- the One who guides us and accomplishes God's goals through and with us. So how are we going to apply this joyous dependence on God in our life to our Advent season? One option is that each Wednesday evening at 5:30 we will have a 30 minute candlelit service. Let us gather as we spend time listening to the words of wisdom from preachers from the past (like Bonhoeffer below) and spend time in reflection and prayer. Each Sunday we will light the Advent candle and countdown to Christmas Eve when we will celebrate the birth of the Christ child. I hope you will also take the time to read and ponder on the wonderful devotions written by all of you for each of you. I was truly impressed.

I leave you with some words from Rev Dietrich Bonhoeffer from God is In the Manger

“The Advent Season Is a Season of Waiting. Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it? It may strike us as strange to see Christ in such a near face, but he said it, and those who withdraw from the serious reality of the Advent message cannot talk of the coming of Christ in their heart, either. . . . Christ is knocking. It’s still not Christmas, but it’s also still not the great last Advent, the last coming of Christ. Through all the Advents of our life that we celebrate runs the longing for the last Advent, when the word will be: “See, I am making all things new” (Rev. 21:5). The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.”

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Merry Advent Season,

~**Pastor Inger**



On Sunday, December 15, we will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering**, honoring the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sue Nichols	01
Al Simpson	04
Laura Thibault	07
Kathie DeFusco	11
Jane Elliott	12
Marlene Howard	13
Arlie Saunders	13
Jill Averitt	14
Ann Mische	14
Chuck Thornsvard	14
Jeff Wilk	14
Savannah Averitt	16
Lizelle Jacobs	18
Nathan Manthey	18
Bill Iverson	20
Paula Corder	21
Shirley McGatha	21
Betty Wrenn	22
Bev Lacey	24
Peggy Watts Gup	25
Corinne Morgan	27
John Stuart	27
Ron Culberson	28

Inger's Inklings

What does your bedside reading look like?

On my bedside right now CS Lewis *Mere Christianity*- for class, *Momma Love*- for our church book club (READ IT!!) Thomas Merton *The Seven Storey Mountain* (Merton's autobiography of his call), Dallas Willard *The Divine Conspiracy* (Mark Comer keeps quoting him so I want to read on my own) and *Art and Faith : A Theology of Making* (shared with me and it is pretty cool) and of course *The Bible*. And then there is my Kindle....I like suspense.

I am reading all of these willy nilly- whatever strikes me in the moment so I am all over the place. True Confessions I think I am an ADHD reader. I wish I had a brain that remembered all I read. I read A LOT. I was recently reading a book in which I had written notes in and it was like I was reading it for the first time. So frustrating! I even chuckled as I read the notes that apparently "I" had written. Sigh. Oh well- All this being said... at least I AM reading. I think this quote by screen writer Diane Duane might apply to me- "Reading one book is like eating one potato chip." Yep. Bring it on.

So what are YOU reading? Ahhhhhhhh...don't tell me or I may add to my impossibly large pile.

My eyes hurt,

~Pastor Inger



Christmas Eve Worship

On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will have our child-focused service of worship at 4 p.m. Anyone may attend, but it is especially for parents and grandparents with small children. At 6:00 p.m. we will have our traditional candlelight service of lessons and carols. Please come and bring a neighbor.



Reminder: The office is closed December 24-26. The January STW will not be published until the first week in January. Please send to the church office by December 18 any announcements for the first week in January.

STW NEWSLETTER :

JAMIE HEARD

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

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

December 15 after the 10 am service we will have our third annual wrapped sock exchange!
BRING A WRAPPED PAIR OF SOCKS; ONE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT
the sillier the better



Red poinsettias to decorate our church will be available for \$12.00. Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please fill the form out and place it with your money in the offering plate **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH**. Pick up time will be the Christmas eve service or any time there after.

Mission News



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets that RPC provided to our local community. Thirty-one Nelson County families will have a better holiday thanks to everyone who shopped, donated, organized or packed for this project. If you have turned in your expense paperwork - thank you. If you have not submitted your expenses, please contact Jill Averitt for assistance.



The Annual Children’s Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 from 1-3 pm. Children from the Community Choir and students from the Head Start programs at the local schools have been invited. We can still use help with leading games, painting faces or supervising crafts. Everyone is invited and there might be an appearance by a gentleman in a red suit.

The next Missions Committee meeting will take place on Monday, December 9 at 4 pm in the library. We will be discussing projects for 2025 and looking at preparations for the Christmas party. New members are welcome.

Submitted by
Dana Ogilvie

Thank you to everyone who donated stuffed animals. The children collected 100 animals so each of the Children’s Food Pantry bags for December will have a special gift.



Ornaments-Many of us gathered to make over 100 angel ornaments for the narthex Christmas tree. These will be offered on Christmas Eve to bring home to decorate your own tree and remember RPC 2024. Many thanks to Connie Underwood for all her work gathering materials and leading our workshops!



Goodness Grows

The garden may be mulched and covered for the winter but it continues to grow with the promise of garlic and asparagus in the spring. We had a mixed year of success. The wonderful butternut squash and abundant green beans helped to compensate for the poor tomato production. In total, we reaped about nine hundred pounds of produce.



Generous donations from the congregation almost doubled this year. Thank you to all! We collected \$910 which has been donated to Heifer International. If you are not familiar with this group please check them out. Animals or seeds are donated to families in need around the world. Not only does it give a family the ability to raise flocks, herds or gardens for their use but also to help their neighbors. With the money raised we were able to donate one water buffalo, two goats, two pigs, six flocks of chickens and a garden of seeds. Sounds like the Twelve Days of Christmas!! In fact, these gifts will assist twelve families directly and countless others indirectly.

We are always blessed just to be able to work in God's creation. As we come to the close of another year, we rejoice that our work and the gifts of the congregation are multiplied into more blessings as Goodness Grows.



🎵 One water buffalo, two goats..... 🎵
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Submitted by
Deb Andrews



Elk Hill- What a wonderful time worshipping together with Elk Hill Baptist! Pastor Mears and I decided we would love to do it again. All praises to God!

Care Bear deadline to turn in gifts is December 15th.
Thank you to everyone who participated.

Session Highlighs for 11/19/24

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 pm with prayer. Elder Dave Lawson opened with devotion and prayer. Prayers were asked for a friend of Sally Bryant who is a police officer in Richmond hurt in a car accident avoiding a deer, Norm Fenton's father passed away, Inger, Nancy Johnson who will be undergoing hip surgery Dec. 23, Sue Fulton's upcoming surgery in January, Ken Engebretson's upcoming cataract surgery.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Inger Manchester announced a Called Session Meeting Dec. 8th for new members wishing to join the church.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved minutes of Stated Meeting 10-15-24. Approved amendment of the Called Session Meeting minutes of 10-13-24 to include Baptism Membership for Eva and Kellan Siebert.** Parents Kendra and Ehren Siebert were approved for membership 10-13-24.
- **Reviewed 2025 schedule of Session Dates and Devotions.**
- **Approved Motion to hold Annual Congregational Meeting on February 2, 2025.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson presented the Monthly Financial Reports, Income and Expense Statement, Balance Sheet. The church continues in good financial standing. 2025 Pledges continue to come in. The following **Motions were Approved: Request that \$100,000 of the unrestricted cash currently held in checking and money market accounts be moved to a temporary restricted fund (Building Contingency Fund), and the request that the unrestricted cash not be allowed to decrease below \$100,000 to serve as a reserve for ordinary operational expenses (approximately 3 months of budgetary expenses).**

NEW BUSINESS: Elders Dave Lawson and Harris Luscomb participated via zoom the POJ Stated Meeting on 10-19-24. The majority of the meeting's discussion related to the continued staffing and budgetary situations.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) presented the following: **MOTION to approve the Baptism of Ben Holmes on Dec. 8th. - APPROVED. MOTION to grant Pastor Inger a vacation day of Jan. 26th, 2025 - APPROVED. MOTION for one service at 10:00 am on Jan. 26th with a supply Pastor - APPROVED.** Advent Services will be held at 5:30 pm on Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th. Poinsettias will be placed in the church after Dec. 15th.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management Team) reported the basement cleanup was a huge success. RPC donated 35 to 40 chairs to a church in Appomattox and 2 truck loads of other items to the RVCC shed. "Rubber mulch" will be placed around the swing set area in the playground. Needed repairs to the front doors are being evaluated.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported all Sunday School classes are well attended. Children's SS continues to pack snack bags and the youth will be preparing disaster buckets in January for the Presbyterian Warehouse. Future ideas include a possible Adult co-ed retreat in the spring and middle and high school youth joining other local Presbyterian churches for mission projects and possible trip to Montreat.
- Elder Sally Bryant (Personnel) reported with the increase in attendance of children and varying ages of the children, the children's Thursday night music program is in need of an additional part-time person. **MOTION to hire a Part-Time employee to help with the Thursday night Children's Music Program** was presented. **APPROVED.**
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry) presented a **MOTION to hold an RPC Spring Yard & Bake Sale. APPROVED.** Details need to be worked out and more information will be forthcoming. The Respite Care program is doing well. Meals on Wheels for Nelson Co. will terminate in 2025 due to lack of clients. The Christmas Sock Party will be held Dec. 15th. Bring one pair of socks per person to exchange. It's a lot of fun. A future idea is to hold another Hope's Legacy Fundraiser. More information to follow.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:00 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting Tuesday, 1/21/2025 at 7:00 PM, in the Library. Elder Jeri Engebretson will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership = Active members – 175
Affiliate members - 14





Thank you Ken, Leslie and Nancy for installing the children's coat rack downstairs. And Thank You, Arlie, for building the coat rack back in the 1990's.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Sunday School for Young Parents 10:00 Worship Service Five Cents a Meal Offering	2 10-2 Respite Care 2:30 Personnel Team Meeting 3:30 Guitar Circle	3 10:00 Christian Ed Meeting	4 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Advent Service	5 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	6	7
8 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Sunday School for Young Parents 10:00 Worship Service 10:30 Pack Pantry Bags for Kids 1-3 Children's Christmas Party 5:00 Pub Spirituality at Brewing Tree	9 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle 4:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting 5:00 Stewardship Meeting	10 9:30 Outreach Ministry Meeting	11 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 3-5 Creating Art 5:30 Advent Service	12 3:00 Worship Comm. Mtg 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	13	14
15 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Sunday School for Young Parents 10:00 Worship Service CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 11:00 Sock Party	16 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	17	18 10:00 Wool and Grace 10-2 Respite Care 11:30 Scripture Discussion 2:00 Where We Are Support Group 5:30 Advent Service	19 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir <div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Spreading The Word Articles Due</div>	20	21 9:00 Distribution at Food Pantry
22 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Sunday School for Young Parents 10:00 Worship Service Emergency Relief Offering	23 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	24 4:00 Family Christmas Service 6:00 Candlelight Service	25 	26 3:30 Rockfish Ringers 4:30 Children's Choir 5:30 Chancel Choir	27	28
29 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Sunday School for Young Parents 10:00 Worship Service	30 10-2 Respite Care 3:30 Guitar Circle	31				